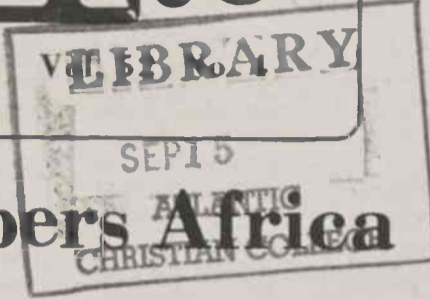


The Collegiate

September 16, 1981



Hobgood Remembers Africa

By Marty Williams

At Convocation a couple of weeks ago, one member of the faculty stood out from all the rest because of his colorful robe.

Donning his blue gown trimmed with leopard skin was Dr. Ben C. Hobgood, business manager. The robe came from Africa, where Hobgood had resided for a great deal of his life.

The country where Hobgood lived is Zaire, formerly known as the Belgian Congo. It is the second largest nation in Africa and is located in the central portion of the continent. It is bordered by 12 other nations, so it is noted for its diversity of people.

Hobgood was born in Zaire and lived there until he was 15. His parents, who were missionaries there, brought him back to the U.S. where he completed his high school and college education. He returned to Africa upon completion of his graduate

studies and served as a missionary himself. While there, he undertook many activities ranging from sponsoring a soccer team to working on the establishment of a Protestant university.

Commenting about the differences between the educational processes here and in Africa, Hobgood noted that college admissions are much easier here in the U.S. Because high school graduates in Africa must take a national examination to enter college, only 10 to 15 percent of them attend college. The examination is somewhat comparable to the SAT, but is more difficult. This process tends to eliminate unmotivated students entirely. The African government pays all expenses for students who are admitted, including room and board.

Zaire has only one political party which all college students must join. They are required to

attend all political functions as well. Hobgood pointed out that this political party cannot be criticized by the people. He said that on one occasion, a group of students staged a protest rally against the government. As a result, the college was closed for one year and the participating students were drafted into the military.

Hobgood feels that one of the greatest aspects of Africa's culture is its art. Vivid colors and forms in African art have influenced many renowned Western artists, one of whom was Picasso. The people are very proud of their art.

Hobgood's office is practically an African gallery. It features paintings both traditional and modern, hand-carved furniture, and hand-carved ivory figurines, all done by native African artists. Hobgood adds to Atlantic Christian's rich mixture of culture, a bit of Africa.



Capping Ceremony is a highlight of a nurse's training.

Nursing Program Ranked No. 1

Ranked number one among the 11 baccalaureate degree nursing programs in North Carolina including Duke, East Carolina and Chapel Hill, is ACC's nursing program.

Thirty-two of 36 ACC nursing graduates (88.9 percent) passed the State Board Examination to become registered nurses, bringing this distinction to ACC for the first time. Since 1977, the graduates have risen from seventh place to first place in North Carolina.

Several factors have contributed to this success. In fall, 1977, nine faculty members, including a departmental chair, joined the nursing faculty at ACC. Since then, the nursing curriculum has been completely revised and a sophomore-level course instituted. The faculty turnover rate has decreased to the point that only one faculty member left the department at the end of last spring semester.

Student retention in the nursing program has also improved greatly. These factors have contributed to a stable, high quality nursing program.

Other contributory factors are the Wilson community, which has provided financial assistance for the program, and its citizens who have participated in student learning experiences.

The college administration and non-nursing faculty have also been very supportive, even when being a nursing student or faculty member meant having exceptions made. Most of the credit, however, belongs to the graduates of 1981. They are the ones who tried so hard to achieve the goal of becoming registered nurses. They are the ones to be congratulated and thanked for helping to make this year such an exciting one.



Photo of the Week

"The Collegiate is sponsoring a weekly photo contest this year. The contest is open to all ACC students. Photos should be submitted to the Publications office for judging by noon on Tuesdays. The winning photo will be posted at the Publications office and will be printed in "The Collegiate".

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