

Macdonald to St. Andrews

Convocation a success

by Amanda Willoughby

The St. Andrews Centennial Convocation came off with a little less fanfare than expected, given the dreariness of the weather but despite the close confines of Avinger Auditorium, both old and new members of the SAPC community came out to help celebrate the founding of Flora MacDonald College. Guests included, as promised, David MacDonald, the great-great-great-grandson of Flora Macdonald, Peggy Harris Cleveland '47, Charles McCoy '42, and Billy Howard '77, as well as the head of Scotland County Board of Commissioners, who thanked St. Andrews for the additional sales taxes it brings in.

Featured speaker and honoree, former Canadian cabinet member Flora MacDonald, spoke of the ever-changing world power structure, and emphasized the importance of education, as well as involvement, saying, "You cannot criticize a game in which you are not a player."



The Centennial Convocation brought many alumni back to SAPC for a couple of days to honor their alma mater.

Photo by Rooney Coffman



Dean Schulz looks on.

Photo by Rooney Coffman

have, to endure. I admired the sweetness of Curtis Mayfield's face, and smiled, perhaps a little bit smugly, at Billy's admission that a one-legged water skier could best him any day of the week.

When I did manage to ask an "interview question," I learned that when Billy Takes on a project, whether it be photographing homeless people, AIDS patients, or children with cancer, he does so because he has hopes of shattering stereotypes, and breaking down barriers, even barriers of my own." Howard credits the people in these pictures, and St. Andrews, in part, for helping him learn the importance of liking or disliking a person without looking at the outside."

"It's okay if you like somebody, it's okay if you don't, but not if you

feel that way because they're in a chair, or because they have crutches."

While he is working to break down walls between people, Howard has no thought that his work can change the entire world. "I'll be honest. I'm selfish. Most of the impact is on me." Even so, proceeds from all of Billy Howard's books go to help the various causes to which they're dedicated, and in the back of each book, there are names and addresses of organizations with which readers can become actively involved.

My final big question, the one that inspired Billy to make Mike Wallace jokes, was, "Why is St. Andrews giving you an honorary degree?" He responded with a puzzled laugh. "I don't know. I'm totally

humbled and embarrassed by it...I guess I'm accepting for all these people I meet and photograph, who can't speak up for their own behalf,

and won't get the chance to take it..."

What is so clear in Billy Howard's life and work is that he has, at his center, a deep respect and admiration for the people he photographs. His camera treats them

lovingly, and with dignity, and we are fortunate that he is skilled enough to introduce us to so many everyday, extraordinary people.



Alumnus Billy Howard accepts his honorary degree from president Warren Board.

Photo by Rooney Coffman