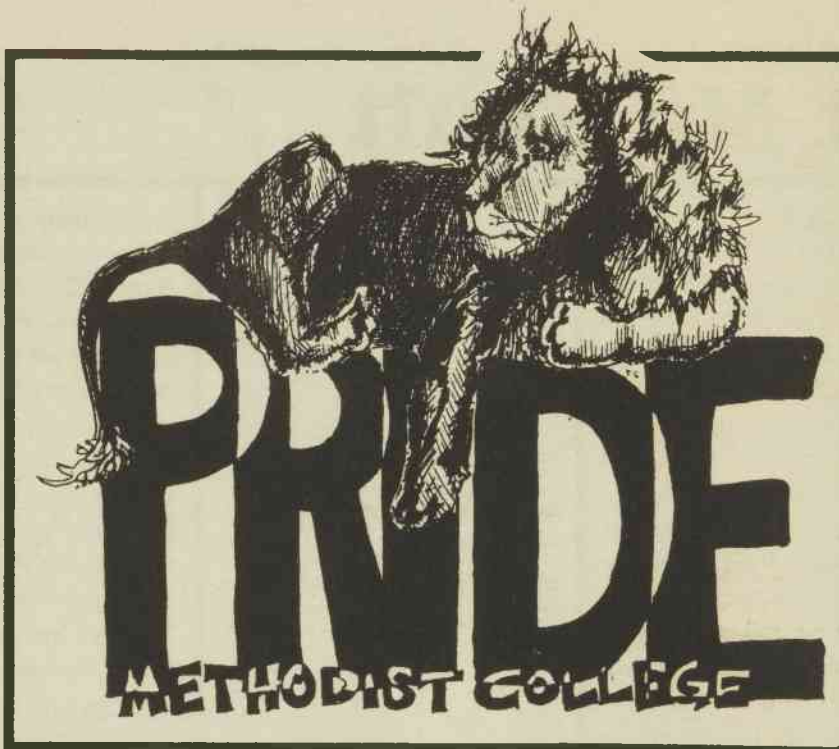


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Fayetteville, NC 28311

## "Expanding the Vision" Campaign Underway

by Jodie Owen

Methodist College is striving to modernize the campus and accommodate the growing number of students by constructing three new buildings on campus as part of the "Expanding the Vision" campaign.

The main goal of the present campaign committee is to search for contributors and raise as much money as possible in order to begin construction. At the present time, a completion date has not been set.

The first of these buildings will be the Library Annex, with a price tag of 1.9 million dollars. The Annex will be located south of the existing library. A second building, the Academic Complex, priced at one million dollars, will be located further south of the Library Annex at the site of the soccer practice field. The third building, the Science Building Annex, at a cost of another one million dollars, will be constructed west of the existing Science Building.

The goals for this building program are as follows: base goal, \$4.6 million; challenge goal, \$1.95 million; and total goal, \$6.55 million. Ongoing support (tuition and fees) and endowments (funds for scholarships) will be used to help finance this campaign.

Dr. M. Elton Hendricks is excited about the new additions to the campus. He is "confident that through the various constituencies: trustees, faculty and staff, alumni, parents, the United Methodist Church, foundations, corporations, and friends, we will accept and meet this challenge."

## MC Debaters Win Championship

The Methodist Debate team finished a great year with a by taking the title of champions in the Novice division of the American Debate Association. The team travelled to Boston College March 10-12.

Going into the tournament, the novice team of Julie Kahl and Ha Quach won the George Mason tournament in February. They finished the preliminary rounds in Boston with a 5-3 record. Clearing to the eighth seed, Kahl and Quach faced the number one seed, their greatest rivals, from George Mason. After a resounding 3-0 decision, the team proceeded to defeat James Madison University in semi-finals, then beat the second seeded team from Liberty in a 2-1 final round.

The Junior Varsity team of Todd Lyden and Thomas Wooldridge ended their season the way they began it with an even record of 4-4 in preliminaries which did not qualify them to clear to quarterfinal contention.

Throughout the year, the entire team has consistently performed well. In the novice division, the team was ranked fifth out of twenty-one according to the ADA point ranking system. In junior varsity, the team was ranked ninth out of twenty-five entering the tournament. On the national level, the team has fared well in the National Debate Tournament rankings. Methodist debates in District 5 of the NDT which includes seven states. In the district, the team was fourth proving capable against such large schools as Florida State University, University of North Carolina, Wake Forest University, Emory University, and the University of Kentucky. In the overall NDT national rankings, Methodist came out 28th in a field of 78 schools from all over the country.

Coach John Humphreys says, "This has been a great year for each team member and the school on the national debate circuit. I have been more than pleased with the way the teams have performed. Our competitiveness on the national level is surprising because we do not attend as many tournaments as our larger competitors do. However, on the tournament level our competitiveness has been shown. We can beat nationally recognized schools." Coach Humphreys urges all students interested in participating in debate to see him in the debate office in Reeves or call him at 630-7612.

## Lassiter Receives Research Grant

Submitted by Public Relations  
Dr. Donald Lassiter, assistant professor of psychology at Methodist, has received a federal research grant to study the effects of age and experience on the performance of general aviation pilots in the Cape Fear region.

The National Institute for Aging, a division of the National Institutes of Health, awarded Dr. Lassiter a \$50,000 grant last October. He and a team of assistants have assembled a research lab on campus which features a computer-based flight simulator. Forty-two pilots have volunteered to serve as research subjects for the year-long study.

The pilots participating in the study will fly "courses" presented by the computer software while their performance is monitored by a second computer. By varying the difficulty of the courses and adding other tasks, Dr. Lassiter hopes to manipulate the mental workload demands placed on the subjects such as short-term memory, monitoring (or vigilance), and reaction time.

Dr. Lassiter said he got the idea for the project from a colleague at the University of Central Florida. He submitted the grant proposal in October 1993 and was approved a year later. He was "elated that the project passed muster, noting it was his first grant proposal and that Methodist College is a relative newcomer in the field of psychological research.

Members of Dr. Lassiter's research team include: Gary Hinson, assistant professor of computer science; Michael S. Miller and David Z. Hambrick, recent Methodist graduates in psychology; and John Demos, a current psychology major.

Dr. Lassiter plans to submit additional grant proposals based upon the results of the current project. These future aviation psychology studies will investigate the relationships among age, expertise, and mental workload more thoroughly.