

St. Augustine's Record

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MAY 26, 1937

To the Trustees of St. Augustine's College:

GENTLEMEN:

During the past year, the seventieth annual session of the Institution there has been a total enrollment of 302 students including pupils in the St. Agnes Training School for Nurses and in the Bishop Tuttle Training School for Christian Social Service. About fifty per cent of the students come from North Carolina. The remainder come from twenty-four states and several foreign countries. Texas, Colorado, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Cuba, and the Virgin Islands are among the distant points represented. An increasing number of these students are coming to us from our Negro parishes in various parts of the country, so that at present about fifty per cent of the student body are communicants of our church. This is an important factor in helping to create an atmosphere and maintain standards that make for what a church college ought to be.

In view of the fact that it is now seventy years since St. Augustine's was chartered as a Normal and Collegiate Institute—the corporate title has since been changed to St. Augustine's College—it is well to remind ourselves that the institution was founded as a joint enterprise of the General Church and of the Diocese of North Carolina, which in 1867 included the entire State. The first principal, Dr. J. Brinton Smith, left his position as secretary of the Freedman's Commission of the Episcopal Church, a national church commission, to take up the work at St. Augustine's. Bishop Atkinson of North Carolina was the first president of the Board of Trustees which included such prominent North Carolina churchmen as Dr. Kemp B. Battle, president of the University of North Carolina; Rev. Joseph B. Cheshire, father of the late Bishop Cheshire; General William Ruffin Cox of Raleigh, Dr. A. J. DeRossett of Wilmington, Rev. E. M. Forbes of New Bern, Rev. R. T. Mason, Rector of Christ Church, Raleigh; Rev. Aldert Smedes, principal of St. Mary's, Raleigh; Mr. Richard H. Smith of Scotland Neck, and Mr. John Wilkes of Charlotte. Men of such calibre as these realized then and do now, that only through a trained and intelligent Christian leadership can the great bulk of the Negro people be equipped to meet their opportunities and responsibilities in Church and State. The development of St. Augustine's into the one college for Negro youth that the Church maintains has come as the result of the support given it by both the National Church and the Church throughout the State. For its continued existence and development it must rely on the sympathetic help from these sources as it has done in the past.

During the past year the special topic of study in our own Church as well as in other Christian churches has been the work among the Negroes. This has served to stimulate interest in our work so that there has been more than the usual number of visitors on our campus. We hope that this interest will continue and grow, especially here in the Diocese and State of North Carolina.

As usual the facilities of the college have been used for various meetings and conferences including the State Public Welfare Institute for Negro Workers, the Crown and Sceptre Scholarship Society, extension classes for teachers and several classes in industrial and domestic science subjects conducted under Federal auspices. An interesting conference for Negro clergy was held under the auspices of the Forward Movement Commission. Bishop Penick was the leader of the conference and as one of the topics Bishop Darst discussed Evangelism. In June will be held the annual St. Augustine's Conference for Clergy and Church Workers, including a Young People's Conference.

During the past year twenty-three have been confirmed. The Lenten offering for missions amounted to slightly over \$375, the largest ever made at the college.

As a small college, St. Augustine's enjoys the advantages of affording opportunity for personal contact between students and faculty. We have taken advantage of this situation by instituting an advisory system whereby each student is assigned to a faculty adviser for special conference and help. We are hoping that this method will also make easier the solution of the Problem of Vocational Guidance which is being so much stressed in the educational field today.

Through the aid of the National Youth Administration we have been able to furnish self help work to numerous students who otherwise could not attend college. We are hoping that this aid will be continued as it works to the advantage of both the students involved and of the college.

We are continuing our effort to bring the so-called extra-curricula activities into the general educational program of the college. A student-faculty committee and the student council render valuable service in this respect. This year we have found the Student Council disposed to be helpful in matters pertaining to the welfare of the institution. The successful observance of St. Augustine's Day on May 7 was made possible by the efforts of a joint committee of faculty and students. We feel that as time goes on more and more of the students as well as members of the faculty are coming to feel a definite responsibility for the development and progress of the college. In connection with the strengthening of our academic work we are hoping to work out some plan of co-operation with Shaw University. It seems to us and to the authorities of Shaw, as well as