



Ride 'em cowboy: Three volunteers help a child mount a horse at the Springwood Farms riding ring. Photo by Kim Nardelli

Handicapped treated to riding clinic

by Denese M. DeJurf
Special to the Pendulum

Springwood Farms, owned by Kim Nardelli, hosted a horseback riding clinic for handicapped children enrolled at Alamance Developmental Center. "For the past three years I have been teaching Sara Kate Burton on a one-on-one basis," said Nardelli.

Sara Kate has cerebral palsy, a disorder of the central nervous system, which is caused by brain damage prior to or during birth. It's victims usually have defective motor abilities and/or spastic paralysis.

"I would like to get a permanent program set up but it takes a lot of time and money," said Nardelli. "I would like to coordinate a regular system with Elon for students majoring in the Special Ed program."

Nardelli works a great deal with Elon students. She is working with the administration to start a co-op program and internships. She would like to offer these programs to both the recreational majors and business majors.

Ten children attended her clinic. Three people per child were needed. One person leads the horse while two others walk on either side. Therefore, Nardelli's clinic required thirty volunteers.

"Riding is the best form of therapy," said Nardelli. It is referred to as hippotherapy. The natural sway of a walking horse and the heat the horse radiates indirectly massages the handicapped child's arms and legs, allowing them to become less rigid. Although

relatively new in the United States, hippotherapy originated in Europe and Great Britain where it has been successfully used for 50 years.

The fee for the clinic was \$15.00 per student per day. The Trail Blazers, who originated the program in the United States, finances \$540.00 of the expense. The balance was paid by each individual student. Thus, each student paid \$21.00.

The Trail Blazers also lent Nardelli their mounting ramp

which enables wheelchair victims to be level with the horse before being lifted on.

The mounting ramp was the only "special" equipment used. "The ramp is also helpful for small children when they are learning to mount horses," said Nardelli. They all wore hard hats as everybody else and used safety release stirrups as all young children use.

Nardelli said. "In every picture, I noticed, everyone is smiling." Nardelli feels as though the clinic was successful overall.

Centennial Moments

Early curriculum: from classical to practical

When students arrived they were examined to determine whether not they should be placed in the college proper or in the "preparatory" Academic Department. This plan worked well, for a vast difference existed between the qualifications and previous education of prospective students.

The Academic Department offered a two-year program. The first year courses included arithmetic, grammar and composition, geography, history, Latin, and U.S. history. Those offered in the second year included algebra, grammar, arithmetic, Latin, bookkeeping, and commercial law. The last two were electives, but all of the others were required. In the early years of operation, the ages of students enrolled in this program ranged from one of nine years to those in their teens.

At the conclusion of these studies, students were prepared for college. They could choose between a Classical Course, which would result in the degree of Bachelor of Arts, or the Philosophical Course, which resulted in the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. However, little difference existed in the studies required for the two different degrees. Both were designed for completion in four years and included course in English, Latin, Greek, German, French, algebra, plane and analytical geometry, chemistry, physics, zoology, botany, and general history. Only a few requirements varied in the two plans. Students enrolled in this program during the early period ranged from those in their teens to one 43 years of age.

The college was always aware of the practical side of education. In addition to the numerous classical courses, its first curriculum offered a business course, which included bookkeeping, commercial law, penmanship, arithmetic, telegraphy, typewriting, and stenography.

In addition to S.A. Holleman, who was working toward a B.A. while teaching, President Long was professor of biblical instruction as well as natural and social science. He held the M.A. and D.D. degrees. J.U. Newman, who had won Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, was professor of Greek and higher mathematics. James O. Atkinson, who earned an M.A. at Wake Forest College, was professor of Latin and "Moral Science." These three men were all ordained Christian ministers. Emmett L. Moffitt, M.A. was professor of English and modern languages. Miss Lena B. Beale taught music, and Miss Alberta Moring taught typing and drawing. In 1981 the Misses Maud Robbins and Lorena were added to the staff to give music lessons.

NOTE: Excerpted from *Elon College Its History and Traditions*.
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