

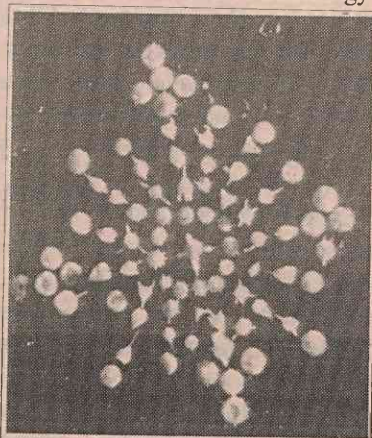
300-year evolution McCormick to look at microscope progress

Dr. James B. McCormick, well-known in the histotechnology field, will speak at the Yeager Recital Hall Monday, March 6, at 8 p.m.

Dr. McCormick will present a rare look at how microscopes and microscope slides evolved from a form of art into a tool of science during the past 300 years.

The presentation is being co-sponsored by the Carolina Biological Supply Company of Burlington and the Biology Department of Elon College.

The one-hour program, "Three Hundred Years of Histotechnology:



Polycystina shells arranged in a radial design, as viewed through a microscope. The slide includes more than 50 shells and seven varieties of the shell family. Mounted by W. Wasson, circa 1870.

An Art Form of Natural Science," will feature a wide-screen slide presentation of antique medical instruments and microscope slides.

Dr. McCormick's presentation shows how early microscope technicians, such as Robert Hooke, used microscope slides to make minutely detailed engraving and works of art.

Early technicians prepared the intricate microscopic slide designs using components such as butterfly eggs, single-cell structures, and scales from insect wings to create microscopic mosaics and fine works of art.

Examples of art formed by these early slide arrangements include snowflakes, Venetian glass bottles, and cornucopias with butterflies hovering over them.

Contests were held to see who could create the prettiest slide.

"But in the process," Dr. McCormick commented, "they developed techniques for mounting and viewing that are essentially unchanged today." Dr. McCormick's collection includes thousands of 18th and 19th century slides representing works of art. Most of the slides are in mint condition.

Dr. McCormick said, "Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries there was little general awareness of the discoveries made with the microscope, but there was

a great appreciation for the aesthetics of microscopy."

"They didn't know what it was," Dr. McCormick explains, "but they knew that a particular beetle was pretty, so they collected the beetle for its artistic appeal.

When the technicians, or preparators as they were then called, worked at their benches preparing slides, they were more concerned with the beauty than they were with the content of the subject."

Howard H. Edgerton, Head of the Plastomount Department of Carolina Biological Supply Company, said, "Dr. McCormick is extremely well-known for his work in histotechnology, and we're pleased to co-sponsor his program at Elon College. His program will be very interesting for everyone. It's not just for those individuals who work with microscopes."

Dr. McCormick is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Swedish Covenant Hospital, a 325-bed community hospital on Chicago's northwest side. He is also chairman of Pelam, Inc., a Chicago-based company serving industry through computerized health evaluation systems.

Dr. McCormick earned the B.S. degree at the University of Notre Dame and the M.D. degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine.



James B. McCormick, MD

Internationally speaking London students write home

By Kelly Potter
London Correspondent

Greetings from the U.K.! London is fabulous! After orientation activities, settling in and becoming accustomed to our surroundings, all 42 of us are making a place in London and loving life!

Our flats are located in the northwestern part of the city near Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park.

The television here is hysterical! Most of us can only get four channels. The news runs constantly and is interesting. Our ears perk up at the slightest mention of the U.S.

The night life is out of this world! Pubs and clubs are on every corner. Beer, or Lager, as they call it is sold for under \$2.20 per pint. The nicer the pub you go to, the better the beer and the more expensive it gets.

Movies and popular groups and bands that have everyone's attention in London are *Die Hard*, *Cocktail* and *Dead Ringers*. Gloria Estefan and The Miami Sound Machine, Tracy Chapman and Debbie Gibson are the hottest things around. As you can tell, London is running a bit behind the U.S. in this category.

Some exciting news to report is that a majority of the group escaped to Edinburgh, Scotland for a weekend excursion. Some then found Bed and Breakfasts to stay in

while the others discovered and explored Youth Hostels.

The Millfield Guest House Bed and Breakfast was just like, "Going to Gramma's for the weekend," said Jill Hall.

Others like Eric Pollin and Tim Thomas braved the Youth Hostels and remarked that, "It was the best nights sleep we've had since we've been here!"

Barri Greenberg could not actually believe that she was in Scotland. "It was breath-takingly beautiful"

Tim O'Brien and Brian Walters hit the jackpot when they went to Parliament. They met the Sargeant of Arms who gave them two passes, usually impossible to get a hold of, to sit in on Parliament and actually hear Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher speak.

Tim said that, "Even though I was only there a short while, it was interesting to actually see how the British Government works."

With each new day, we're not quite sure what will happen next. We're only going to be here a short while and we want to make each moment count. London is an incredible and fascinating place, full of adventure and excitement. We miss everyone at Elon and hope all is well, but for now we'll just say, "Cheers!"

What's inside...

Centennial time capsule to be opened

On July 19, 1889, a crowd between one and two thousand assembled to witness the laying of the cornerstone in Old Main, the first building to be constructed on the Elon College campus. The impressive ceremony was conducted by the Masons of Bula (or Beulah) Lodge.

According to Durward T. Stokes' *Elon College: Its History and Traditions*, a number of articles were deposited in the cornerstone: a Bible; copies of the *Alamance Gleaner*, the *Burlington News*, the *Christian Sun*, and the charter of Elon College, names of the architect (now unknown) and the builders, a volume entitled *Facing the Truth*, various coins, and other miscellaneous documents and publications.

Old Main burned nearly to the ground in 1923, but the present Alamance Building, which was built on its site, contains a cornerstone bearing the 1889 date, the

Masonic insignia and the name of Old Main's building contractor, John W. Long.

Is it the original cornerstone? Are the contents intact? Or did they, in the intervening years, fall victim to the fire, the ravages of time, or the ingenuity of students ever seeking the ultimate prank?

On Thursday, March 9, 1989, just two days before the 100th anniversary of its charter date, Elon College will open the 1889 cornerstone during the weekly College Coffee. All interested friends are invited to attend. (There is no truth to the rumor that Geraldo Rivera will be present for the occasion.)

No matter what the outcome of the cornerstone opening on March 9, a new time capsule will be begun. Coordinated by the students group Writers Bloc, items which best represent the Elon of 1989 are being collected.

They will be sealed for posterity - perhaps Elon's bicentennial in

2089. Saturday, April 29, the college will host a campus-wide Open House featuring lectures, demonstrations, activities, food and entertainment for the entire family.

The public is invited to "go to college free for a day" and experience the variety of exciting educational opportunities available at the Elon College of today.

The Open House will climax a final 10 days of celebration in honor of Elon's 100th birthday. On April 21-23 a special musical revue based on events in Elon's history will be performed.

The revue was written by N.C. Jazz pianist Loonis McGlohon and will feature his jazz trio in performance. On Tuesday, April 25, at 8 p.m., the former President Jimmy Carter will deliver the keynote address for a three-day symposium entitled "Reaffirming a Tradition of Service."