

The Salemite

Volume IX

WE DO NOT APOLOGIZE
Salem College, Winston-Salem, N. C., Monday, October 11, 1976

Number 1

Dr. Cuninggim Joins Salem

By Beth Kinney

We have seen quite a bit of Dr. Merrimon Cuninggim since his selection as President of Salem Academy and College, such as listening intently to his Opening Convocation speech and challenging him to "drink chug-a-lug" at breakfast on Founder's Day. But what are his thoughts and feelings now about the Salem community? How does he see us, and how does he want us to see him? Bearing in mind that he is still a newcomer here, we can not expect specific answers to broad questions. He can evaluate in light of impressions only.

Many of us are concerned about the usefulness of the "single sex" college. Dr. Cuninggim sees no reason to disregard the "time honored decision" for Salem to be a women's institution. The push for colleges to become co-ed was about ten years ago, and we are sufficiently over the hump.

He cited a few arguments pro and con, and concluded that each is invalid. For example, the argument that men and women need to be together in order to have normal relationships does not hold because we are such a mobile society. A women's college can not keep men and women apart.

Another pro co-education stand is that the sexes "learn better" through being with each other. Co-education provides more challenges. Dr. Cuninggim feels that in our society we are able to furnish challenges for people to

learn with only one sex.

A point in favor of remaining a single sex institution is that women are provided more of an opportunity to exercise leadership potentials. Dr. Cuninggim feels that the trend to give the lead to men is still with us, and we are prone to appoint women as token leaders. Yet, he does not see this as a life and death principle; and is prepared to look at the status of men, women, and Salem at any time and be guided by those factors. At present he holds that "Salem has a good thing going," and wants to make it better.

What changes need to take place in order to make Salem better? Instead of the word 'change' Dr. Cuninggim prefers the phrase "continue to grow." The word 'change' implies that we would have to disavow our past and embark on a new and different direction. Instead, we are to use the past in examining shaping, and reshaping the direction we choose. He added that we should shift in degree rather than kind. As far as he could tell, there is no situation presently needing surgery, although again he emphasizes continuing development. January term is a case in point. Dr. Cuninggim likes the 4-1-4 flexibility but is not sure if we have an undergirding philosophy for the interim between semesters. He is sure that some experiences have been valuable, then again some seem to be merely fillers.

Included with January term evaluation, Dr. Cuninggim would like to examine the total curriculum to see if we have a proper proportion of on and off campus learning. He emphasizes though that the academic dean has the most responsibility here. Also, he does not want to appear like "some joker from outside" saying that he has all the answers.

Some Salem students feel that areas needing adjustment are rules and the honor system. Dr. Cuninggim believes that people will always be restive but this does not necessarily mean that rules need to change. Concerning the honor system, Dr. Cuninggim is delighted that we have an honor court in charge and that students and faculty are involved. We have no excuse for abolishing the honor system just because other institutions have.

Concerning the college's financial situation, Dr. Cuninggim again emphasizes his 'impressions only' stage. So far, he sees that we have a surplus although we are still in somewhat tight straits. He predicts a touch and go year, one reason being that we do not have as many boarders as wanted.

When asked what he thought about Founder's Day his first reaction was that he wanted to take a nap. Somehow he managed to get a full day's work done while waving his magic wand in Never-Never Land. He saw Founder's Day as more than just an easy fun time. Inviting the residents of Old Salem to the picnic lunch gave all a measure of good will and helped the community in terms of relationships. He stated that "poor taste took a beating" with our sense of taste and style although there were some "excesses of expression."

In conclusion Dr. Cuninggim was asked about what he felt he could do for Salem. In return, he asked this reporter what she could do for Salem. He proceeded to say that he did not know what he could do, and even if he did he couldn't tell us. Why? Because telling us now would decrease his chances of getting anything done. He felt that this type of question invited the answer "I want to do my very best" which is the political chatter of our time, and he does not want to sound as if he's campaigning.

In order to discuss issues in more detail and get some feedback from students, Dr. Cuninggim would like to plan to set aside evenings for discussion in his home.

Interclub Weekend

Nov. 5-7

WRA Picnic

IRS Dance

see photos page 3



Dr. Cuninggim joins hockey field partiers.

New Salem Faculty

By Jettie McCollough

Salem College hired five new full time faculty and administrative personnel this fall, Dr. Bea Ackenbom, and Dr. Todd Fay, the Department of Psychology and Education, Diane Dailey, Assistant of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jerry Pubantz, the Department of History and Political Science, and Dr. Craig Miller, the Department of Chemistry.

Dr. Bea Ackenbom received her Ed.D. from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and teaches Introduction to Learning Disabilities and Developmental Psychology and supervises the Learning Disabilities interns. Dr. Ackenbom believes in an eclectic approach to Learning Disabilities, combining the best aspects of the various teaching methods.

Dr. Todd Fay, originally from La Porte, Indiana, received his Ph.D. from North Western University and taught at the University of Western Ontario before coming to Salem. At Salem he teaches Introduction to Psychology, The Exceptional Child, and Theories of Personality.

Dr. Fay is currently studying the sexual psychology of women and its relationship to androgeny. He and his family bought an old house on the west end of Winston-Salem which they are enjoying remodeling. Because his home is close to Salem, he walks to class.

Diane Dailey, a 1971 graduate of Salem College from Frankford, Kentucky, received her Master's Degree at North Carolina State University and worked at Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as an administrative intern before coming to Salem. Before receiving her master's degree, Diane worked on a farm in Switzerland for a year and also as a Travel Agent. She loves golf and tennis, especially golf, and said, "If

anyone wants a golf partner, tell them to let me know!" Diane is planning informal daily discussion with small groups of students so that she can get to know Salem students better.

Dr. Jerry Pubantz, originally from Chicago, received his Ph.D. at Duke University, and taught at Converse College before coming to Salem. Dr. Pubantz teaches Western Civilization to 1850 and Modern International Relations. He is interested in enlarging the interest in Political Science and in the semester programs at the United Nations and in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Pubantz is also the chairman of the Lecture Assembly Committee and is interested in encouraging more student involvement in the lecture series and the Symposium.

Dr. Craig Miller, originally from San Francisco, received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and taught at the University of Wisconsin before coming to Salem, where he teaches Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Dr. Miller finds "Students very willing to learn, and less disillusioned than those on the large university campuses because there is less organizational hassle at Salem to discourage the students."

Other faculty changes this year include the addition of Ann Wooten, a part-time professor for the Block Program in Education, and Sally Boyd, a part-time professor in Home Economics.

New department heads are Dr. Alono Villarino, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages, Dr. Nancy Gilliland, the Department of Sociology and Economics, and Mr. Jordan, the Department of English and Drama.

Salem College has also hired a new Administrative Intern, Mary Margaret MacLaughlin.

Founders' Day 1976

By Linda Joynes

At 6:30 a.m. a band of Peter Pans swooped down on the sleeping dormitories of Salem College with shaving cream, hammers, and pots and pans. The Seniors began Founder's Day festivities by waking up the underclassmen: the Seniors were welcomed with buckets of water, greased door-knobs, and various obstacles: water and toilet paper covering the stairs in Babcock and a barricade of chairs in the middle of second floor Gramley. Escaping relatively unharmed, the Seniors strolled by Dr. Cuninggim's house and serenaded him until he came out and politely but very distinctly told them that breakfast was not until 9:00. He made the best of being awakened at so early an hour by directing the Seniors in singing the Alma Mater and watching them return to their dorms for showers and cocktails.

During breakfast the Refectory vibrated with songs, cheers, and toasts. Each class wore colorful T-shirts and gym shorts. The Seniors made a grand entrance into the Refectory wearing their graduation gowns and singing the Peter Pan peanut butter jingle. At the signal, "Seniors of '77, Strip," they ripped off the gowns and dramatically revealed their Founder's Day uniforms. They looked like a troop of Boy Scouts.

After breakfast each class entered onto the hockey field; the traditional game of red rover followed. When word filtered through the crowd that the Juniors won the Entrance, after congratula-

tory cheers, the red rover game broke up and girls wandered back to their rooms and more cocktails to wait for lunch in the Square. At lunch the Archways and Dansalems provided entertainment, and Jim Barrett, Nan Ruffy, and Frank Lazarus contributed to the enchantment of the scene by dressing up as Captain Cook, Tinkerbell, Peter Pan. The games began at 2:00 and became a contest between the seniors and sophomores. Victory hinged on the volleyball game; it was close, but luck was with the Seniors who won the games for the first time in four years.

Skits and class songs were a teary conclusion to a happy day. The Freshmen recreated the Cinderella story with the aid of Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys. The Sophomores and Mother Goose recited Salem's nursery rhymes. The Juniors had a Mickey Mouse Revue with all the Disney characters on parade. Finally tear-jerker time drew near when the Seniors put on their skit. Caroline Gehrken dreamed in songs and dance of Salem's history from the 1700's until the present. Along with the Seventies came the tears. It was planned that way, but the Seniors were supposed to wait until the class song was over, that was asking too much. The Seniors won Founder's Day and with laughing and crying the crowd left the Gym for the Club Dining Room to groove to disco music. The enchantment would last a few more hours, until Tuesday morning.