Admissions Figures Show Salem Is Competitive

Laura Castellanos del Valle

Now that all of us are confirmed Salemites it is only natural for us to look back and wonder, "How on earth did we get in to start with?" Mary Scott Best, director of Salem admissions recently spent an afternoon with the **Salemite** to explain admissions procedures.

After an application is received in the admissions office the staff procures the appropriate transcripts, scores and references. Recently a new policy concerning the references has been instituted where in the applicants are responsible for obtaining their own references, rather than the college writing each reference offered by the girl.

Once an application is complete Mary Scott will review it carefully. She has the authority to accept the "unquestionable" applicants, which represent approximately half of the applications received. The other half is sent to the Admissions Committee which consists of eight faculty members, four students and the Dean of Students. Only the senior student representative is allowed to read applications and voice an opinion. The other students function only in policy-making matters. The committee uses the same criteria as the director and tries for a unanimous decision on each applicant.

The criteria for acceptance at Salem is based on grades, scores, extracurriculars, recommendations and an interview. According to the admissions office no one area is more important than another, however a good deal of emphasis is focused on the interview. There is no difference in the criteria for in-state and out-of-state students. This year 41 per cent of the students were from in-state which represents a decrease from the average 50 per cent. There is a slight tendency to favor students from preparatory schools.

This past year 64 per cent of the students accepted attended public schools and 36 per cent attended prep schools. Historically, these figures are average for Salem.

Board scores and grades are treated very individually at Salem, with no standards and no cut-off points. However, on the SAT scores for acceptances all average to fall between 25 points of 1000. Also, a B average is recommended by the admissions office to all applicants, as well as sixteen academic units. Fifty-four per cent of our acceptances graduate in the upper quarter of their class. Broken down into public and private schools this figure shows that 70 per cent of the public school acceptances were in the upper quarter of their class as were 30 per cent of the private school graduates.

In a student's extracurriculars and recommendations the college is looking for leadership and motivation. Here is the only point in the admissions process where it can honestly be said that there is an "ideal Salem student" in mind.

Family tradition has very little leverage with helping an applicant to become a Salemite. Still, there is a high percentage of students with alumnae connections. Forty-one per cent of the class of 1981 has family ties to Salem.

So far there has been no governmental pressure on the college regarding minority representation among the student population. However it is anticipated in the future. Faculty, administration and the board of trustees are making "strong efforts to increase minority representation." To date, they have had very little success. The criteria for acceptance for minority students is slightly lower. More individualized attention is being given to those applications.

The application procedures for transfers is basically the same and the criteria almost identical. Salem receives very few transfer applications, but is actively trying to recruit more.

Approximately 400 applications are received each year. Roughly 85 per cent of those are accepted. Of that percentage approximately half decide to attend Salem. With regard to acceptances, Salem rates very well competitively with other schools of its kind.

In answer to rumours on campus that the criteria for acceptance had almost hit rock bottom, the Salemite was informed that the slight downslope Salem has experienced is not symptomatic of ills within the college, but of problems nationwide. The movement away from small, private single-sex institutions to larger more occupationally oriented co-ed school is a common problem for all schools like Salem.

The slight fluctuations in application receipt during the past five years at Salem have been so minimal that they can be blamed on chance. Stability and consistency are the keywords for small schools like Salem at the moment, and in both senses Salem is doing very well.

Career Planning & Placement Office

The Career Planning and Placement Office has planned a number of trips for students to visit local businesses and institutions. The first trip will be Apr. 4 from 10 a.m. - noon to Goodwill Rehabilitation Center. Students will have a tour of the facilities and then will hear from various personnel including a social-case worker, rehabilitation counselor and psychometrist.

Did You Know?

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on campus Wednesday, April 5th from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Club Dining Room. Special dinner for all donors.

CORRECTION

The Salemite regrets an error and omission in the March 24 issue in the article 'Editors, Business Managers Named." Liza Ovington, rising sophomore, has worked on circulation and art staffs of **The Salemite** this year. She has been selected by Publications Board to be Business Manager for next year.

the SALEMITE

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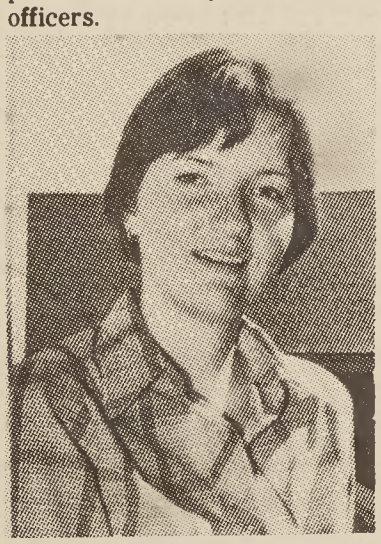
SGA, Honor Council Officers Discuss Plans

Compiled by Beth Howard

March 9, Salem's Student Government Association elected officers for the 1978-79 school year. At the **Salemite's** request, each elected officer submitted a statement allowing her briefly to express what she hopes to accomplish in the following year. The statement is intended also to clarify for Salem students the positions held by the elected officers.



CONNIE CALDWELL

Connie Caldwell, SGA President

I have high hopes for SGA in the coming year. Already, the new Executive Board has begun to discuss specific projects – revamping Legislative Board, establishing an SGA office, scheduling follow-up meeting with the Faculty Task Forces for students to ask questions and make suggestions. We all are eager to start working on those projects, but we also want students to approach us with other ideas. How can Executive Board best serve the whole student body? The answer to this question ultimately must come from the student body itself, rather than from just the five of us who are on Executive Board.

KATE WALLACE

Kate Wallace, SGA Vice-President

After serving as Secretary of SGA this past year, I am really looking forward to jumping into another year of SGA as your Vice-President. There are a few areas that I am especially interested in and plan to work with next year.

First, I believe that the efficiency of the Legislative Board structure has been a major concern of many members of Executive Board and Legislative Board in the past few years. The structure of the board itself needs evaluation and, perhaps, change, in order to insure that it does operate efficiently and within the guidelines of the constitution.

Next, I am interested in seeing Executive Board pick up and follow through on the legitimate concerns expressed this year by groups of students on the P.E. requirements and the issue of the Salem Bookstore. Any issue receiving such overwhelming student support certainly commands attention.

Finally, I would like to work with the chairmen of the Student-Faculty committees next year to insure that these committees are given the support which they need and to insure that they are utilized.

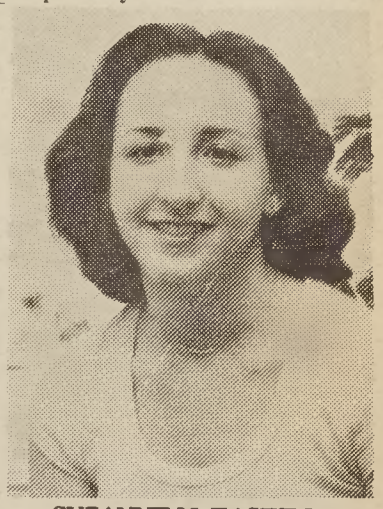
There are many more issues in which Connie and I share similar interests, and I look forward to working with her, Paula, Diana, Suzanne, and the new Legislative Board very much.

DIANA JOLLIFF

Diana Jolliff, SGA Secretary

I am extremely excited about being Secretary of SGA next year! I have one major ambition for next year's Student Government, an ambition which is "as old as the hills." My ambition is for the students to play a more active role in Student government. It disturbed me to see the apparent apathy towards SGA that was conveyed by the uncontested offices during elections.

As Secretary of SGA, I feel I have an opportunity to improve communication and to encourage some enthusiasm for Student Government, but these goals can be accomplished only with the help of my fellow students.



SUZANNE McKASKILL

Suzanne McKaskill, SGA Treasurer

First of all, I want to thank you for voting for me. Second, I would like to ask you to help me to become a wrothy SGA Treasurer for next year. Please feel free to come to me any time with suggestions or helpful criticisms that you may have, because "two

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