

The Salemite

serving the salem college community since 1920



Patricia Sullivan

Something Special ... Dean Stresses Academics

by Amanda Mays

"Something special exists here, and something special happens to students here," said Academic Dean Patricia A. Sullivan. Sullivan comes to Salem most recently from Texas Women's College in Denton, Texas, where she was associate professor of biology. Prior to that, she taught at six other institutions of higher education.

She is impressed by the openness of people in welcoming her on campus, as well as the way faculty and students care about each other and get involved in Salem.

Sullivan, 41, is a cum laude graduate of Notre Dame College of St. John's University in New York, where she obtained a degree in biology. She earned her master's degree and doctorate in physiology and cell biology at New York University. She has held various fellowships including: New York University Teaching fellowship from September 1961 to August 1964, and a NIH Post-doctoral Traineeship, Upstate Medical Center, from November 1968 to June 1969.

Sullivan plans to put the academic part of her education to work in the biology department at Salem by next year. She plans to teach a bioethics course.

Personal Appeal

The Dean came to Salem because of its personal appeal to her. It is a woman's college, it is a small college, and as a result, it is more personal than a large university. Finally, it is an

institution with philosophical, stylistic, and academic programs which are consistent with her personal philosophy.

She has been interviewing Salem's different departments and putting together information about them. She wants to insure that careful planning goes into the curriculum of each department.

Sullivan has also been examining January Term, which she feels "offers exciting possibilities." She wants the program to be a balanced blend of travel and courses to meet student needs.

A Good Look at Goals

She also wants to take a good look at the goals of students and to devise academic programs to meet these goals. She believes that internships offer good preparation for students, but is worried in some cases about how an internship is tied to the academic program.

As far as immediate goals are concerned, Dean Sullivan would like to see more recognition of academic quality in a public way. This is the reason for the academic awards presentation at the SGA meeting held Tuesday.

Another area of concern to Sullivan is communications between the students and the administration. She encourages students to visit her with their academic problems. Appointments may be made with her secretary, Dorothy Cannady, at 721-2617. "I am willing to listen and want to help," Sullivan says.

Brian Meehan's Book of Poetry To Be Published

Plainsong, a book of poems written by English professor Dr. Brian Meehan, will be published in the spring of 1982.

The poetry in Plainsong "is not nature poetry," said Dr. Meehan, but rather "an attempt to understand and analyze motions." He continued, "The poems deal with important topics--the ordinary, common experiences to all humanity."

Dr. Meehan has previously written poetry for the winter, 1972 edition of the Southern Review literary journal. In Plainsong, he said, he tried to explore the form of poetry, in an attempt to use rhyme and rhythm to create an unforced, natural speech pattern. Dr. Meehan explained that in his poems he attempts to achieve extreme precision and clarity by carefully using the skill and craft of poetry writing, resembling, in this respect, the poetry of the 18th century.

Dr. Meehan added that he follows the Yvor Winters school of poetry, which was begun by the American poet Yvor Winters in the 1930s. He said this is a highly moral school of verse that is predominant in the West Coast, and which is also followed by several modern poets such as Charles Gullans and Turner Cassidy.

Copies of Plainsong will be available in the Gramley Library shortly after the book's publication in Los Angeles by Publisher Charles Gullans of the Symposium Press.

Interclub 1982

Weekend Begins at 4 p.m.

Interclub Weekend, sponsored by Big Four, begins this afternoon at 4 p.m. with a scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt starts in the area between the Science Building and the Refectory.

At 9 p.m. a Halloween carnival and tape show will be held in the Refectory. Prizes will be awarded to those dressed in the best costumes.

Tomorrow afternoon from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. a kickball game will be held on the hockey field behind the Refectory.

Academic Council Makes Proposal

On the basis of a faculty-wide survey, Academic Council has considered the possibility of instituting plus and minus as part of the formal grading policy of Salem College. Academic Council is further considering that the plus and minus be calculated in the student's Q.P.A. The student's Q.P.A. prior to the institution of this policy will not be changed.

Academic Council is interested in the student opinion regarding this policy. This is not a policy making ballot, but will be taken into consideration by the faculty when they review the policy. All changes of policy in academic regulations are the prerogative of the faculty as a whole.

This issue was brought to the attention of Academic Council last year by a student. After further examination of the matter, a faculty survey revealed that an overwhelming majority of the faculty use plus and minus in reporting final grades, (only five faculty members do not use plus and minus).

In response to the student body request for more detailed information, Academic Council has compiled the following list of pros and cons:

1. Incorporating plus and minus into the Q.P.A. will put Salem on a nation-wide system for colleges and universities that list plus and minus on student transcripts.

2. This raises the question of whether there would be a change in the student's eligibility for various Salem honor societies.

3. This will more accurately portray the student's level of academic achievement. If chosen to be utilized, the pluses and minuses would be a better indication of the professor's evaluation of the student's work.

4. For students considering graduate work at institutions that use the plus and minus system consistency in giving plus or minus among the faculty will be helpful; however, the student's Q.P.A. would be susceptible to being recalculated.

Even though a student's Q.P.A. at Salem does not reflect plus or minus grades, when transcripts are forwarded to graduate schools, plus and minus notations are carried. Graduate schools using a numerical system that incorporated plus and minus notations will recalculate a Salem student's Q.P.A. according to their own system. Therefore, if a student is entering graduate school, or taking a graduate course, the plus or minus notation on her transcript is significant.

Students are reminded that the final decision will be made by the faculty. Student opinion, as revealed by a questionnaire being placed in student boxes today, will be considered in making the final decision.

Will Oscar's Close?

by Barbara Meskill

The rumor that Oscar's is closing is dead. So says Mark Vlasis, owner of the popular local bar on Bethabra Road which opened in June of this year.

The rumor that Oscar's has city zoning problems is "nothing that can't be handled," said Vlasis in a recent interview with this newspaper. According to Vlasis, Oscar's will remain open and will continue to sell beer for 75 cents.

A 1981 graduate of UNC at Chapel Hill, Vlasis saw a market for a place like Oscar's in Winston-Salem. He commented that he did not expect the crowds Oscar's has been drawing, though it is extremely satisfying to see the success of his venture. He finds his clientele intelligent and describes his Salem patrons as "fun" and "pretty wild."