

# DEVELOPING

Much of the educational development of Montreat-Anderson College in the past two years has been related to special activities funded by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 provided for the funding of imaginative, soundly conceived programs of educational improvement in colleges classified as "developing institutions," colleges that are isolated in some ways from the main stream of higher education, but that show potential for development into excellence. The Act requires that the activities funded draw upon another educational institution to cooperate with the developing institution. Teachers College of Columbia University agreed to serve as the cooperating institution for us, and Dr. Walter Sindlinger, Chairman of Teachers College's Department of Higher Education, has been serving as Teacher College's coordinator for the project.

Although students have not been directly involved in most of the activities of this project (and probably should have been involved more), it has had a significant effect on the nature of their educational experience at Montreat-Anderson College. After groundwork was laid during the summer of 1967, the project formally began with a faculty retreat-workshop at High Hampton Inn, Cashiers, North Carolina, in September, 1967. At the workshop three major objectives were set: (1) to clarify and articulate for the entire college community the purpose of the college, (2) to conduct a program of institutional research that would clarify the main characteristics of the college - its student body, its faculty, its administration, and its intangible environmental characteristics of attitude, value and ethos - and (3) to improve faculty understanding of the learning process with a view to the improvement of teaching and learning in the college.

The effort to clarify the purpose of the college led to considerable discussion in the faculty, administration, and board of trustees, that resulted in the trustees adopting, in February of 1968, a revised statement of purpose for the college. This statement of purpose emphasizes the college's intention to provide an excellent program of liberal education for students of average ability, this program to be strongly rooted in the Christian faith, to which the college is committed.

The program of institutional research involved a variety of efforts to get a clearer understanding of the characteristics of the college. A "Committee of Nine", made up of nine students, was established to help the faculty get a direct knowledge of student views through conversation with these students about matters of importance to them. An extensive questionnaire to former students who attended the college during the past several years provided a picture of their thinking about a wide variety of phases of the college experience. The program provided for use of the University of Alabama's computer center to tabulate and correlate responses to the questionnaire, and a faculty workshop in the fall of 1968 was devoted to studying these responses and considering their educational implications. The 1967-68 student body and faculty took a standardized test (the College and University Environmental Scales, or CUES) that gave us a picture of how the current college community saw the college. The result of these studies is that the faculty and administration now have a solid base of factual data about the college, to serve as a foundation for educational planning.

The effort to improve faculty understanding of the learning process and to utilize this improved understanding to produce better teaching and learning was implemented by having consultants work with the faculty in on-campus study sessions and in a spring 1968 retreat-workshop at High Hampton. Faculty members from Teachers College visited Montreat-Anderson College and informed us of nation-wide developments in teaching and learning, and an Agnes Scott specialist in learning, Dr. Lee Copple, spent several days in Montreat and conducted a number of discussions of learning theory with our faculty. At the workshop several very stimulating consultants led the faculty in a consideration of how they attempt to help students learn in their courses. They dealt with questions of what sort of learning faculty members expect students to do in their courses, how they help them do this learning, and how they construct the kind of tests that will actually determine the extent to which the students have learned what they are expected to have learned.

The 1968-69 project was designed to build upon the activities of 1967-68. The fall faculty workshop (mentioned above) at the Green Park Inn in Blowing Rock was devoted to a study of the results of the institutional research conducted last year. In an effort to increase the value of the out-of-class experiences of Montreat-Anderson College as a resident liberal arts junior college, an intern in student activities, Mr. Elbie Conard, was provided in the grant; and funds were provided for the dormitory tutors, who were chosen to help individual students with their academic problems, to try to improve the overall academic atmosphere in the dormitories, and to provide some of the intellectual stimulus to freshmen and sophomores that upperclassmen provide in a senior college. To provide a strong base of administrative support for the educational plans being developed by the faculty the 1968-69 grant provided for consultants to be provided by Teachers College in all areas of academic administration to visit the college and confer with our administrative officers, and for Montreat-Anderson College administrators to visit other colleges and study their administrative procedures.

The grant proposal for 1969-70 calls for a new approach in cooperation. Rather than continue to rely on an outstanding institution like Teachers College, we propose in 1969-70 to enter into a program of joint planning with other junior colleges in the region (Lees-McRae, Brevard, North Greenville, and Spartanburg) to develop cooperative programs that will be of value to all the member colleges. The project requests a full-time planning coordinator for the group, to be called The Western Carolinas Junior College Consortium. Unofficial reports from Washington indicate that this program will be at least partially funded.

These activities have added and are adding dimensions to Montreat-Anderson College's development as a college that would never have been possible without the financial assistance provided under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Every student now attending the college has benefited, at least indirectly, from the "Developing Institution" programs, the main highlights of which have been described here.

Choruses of "Elijah", Mendelssohn, will be presented. Modern selections include "My Shepherd Is The Lord", Gelineau; "The Paper Reeds By The Brook", R. Thompson; and "Alleluia", R. Thompson. (Selections of American Folk Music concludes the program at the high school concert.)

The Choir is directed by Lawrence M. Skinner. Well known among Presbyterians in North Carolina, he has taught at Flora Macdonald College, and St. Andrews Presbyterian College. He holds the B.S., B.M., and M.A. degrees from Ohio State University and has done post-graduate study at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

The following officers have been elected by the College Choir and will serve for the rest of this semester:

Pat Sheehan, President;  
Jim Sutton, Vice-President;  
Marty Plank, Secretary  
treasurer; Mickey Thompson,  
Tour Manager; Elizabeth Bass,  
Assistant Tour Manager; Mike  
Thompson, Librarian; Cheryl  
England, In-Charge-of-Robes;  
Meg Grote, Chaplain.

Linda Armstrong is Accompanist  
and Stebie Wells, Assistant  
Accompanist. Carl Ballard is Student  
Conductor. The Choir is under the  
direction of Lawrence M. Skinner.

# HUNNICUTT BROOKS

The curtain came down on the 1968-69 basketball season at Montreat when the Cavaliers were honored with a banquet on March 13 at the Lake Tahoma Steak House near Marion.

Sharing the honors with the varsity cagers were many of the team's loyal supporters from the faculty and the local community.

Athletic Director Walter Hughes began the post-meal ceremony by introducing the various guests and supporters. Coach Jim Halstead then introduced each team member and presented varsity letters to them and to the managers.

Coach Halstead announced that Bob Hunnicutt had been selected by the coaching staff as the team's most valuable player. Hunnicutt, the team's leading scorer and rebounder and the only player to start in every game throughout the season, was presented a game basketball decorated to signify his award.

Curtis Brooks, the team's second leading scorer and a season-long stalwart, was named by Coach Halstead as honorary captain of the 1968-69 team.

The banquet was concluded with a surprise presentation in which that team members gave handsome plaques to both Coach Halstead and Coach Hughes in appreciation of their efforts.

The Cavaliers finished the season with a record of 12-12, the best record in Montreat-Anderson's brief basketball history.