

Alumni Dedicate Wall To Honor Profs



Miss Margaret Wade
1920s



Miss Elizabeth Hoyt
1930s



Miss Rachel Henderlite
1930s



Miss Mary Ruth Cooper
1940s



Miss Elizabeth Wilson
1950s

Carissa Loughhead

During Homecoming weekend, Montreat students both past and present will gather to unveil the Alumni Wall of Honor. The wall, located in the hallway outside of the fellowship hall in Gaither will be dedicated at 10:30 Saturday morning during the Alumni Association Meeting.

The Wall of Honor allows Montreat alumni the opportunity to recognize professors who have inspired the joy of learning in them. Alumni Director Bob Graham states, "these professors have made a lasting impact on generations of students and this is a tribute to them all."

The wall contains the names of at least one professor from each decade who were voted on by the alumni in 1998. Two recent professors, Mrs. Lundblad and Dr. King are honored on the wall, as well as former professor and current adjunct professor Charles Massey for the 1970s.

The Wall of Honor, built by local craftsman Jan Derr, incorporates chestnut lumber in the design, blends well with the chestnut finish throughout Gaither. The display will hold two sections of smaller brass plates recognizing donors for the project.

Peggy Stet, former Alumni Director, originally planned an Alumni Brick Walkway project. Unfortunately, it would have required several thousand bricks to create a sufficient walkway. When Bob Graham took over as Alumni Director in 1996, he suggested the more feasible project of The Wall of Honor to the Alumni Association Board, which unanimously approved the project.

There are currently about 150 individual donor nameplates inscribed on the wall. Anyone interested in having their name added may do so for a gift of \$250 or more to the Alumni Association. Listings may appear either in the name of the donor, "in memory of," or "in honor of."



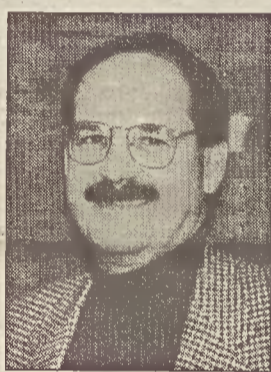
Miss V. Zoulean Anderson
1950s



Mrs. Bonnie Lundblad
1990s



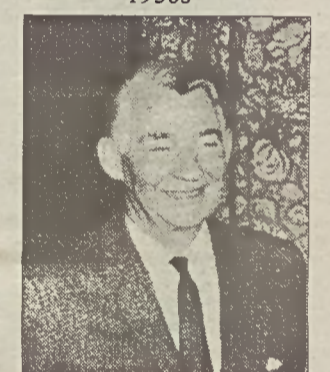
Dr. David Parks
1980s



Dr. Don King
1980s



Mr. Charles Massey
1970s



Mr. Howard A. Kester
1960s

Enrollment Numbers Climb

Kortney Blythe

Despite this summer's upsetting events, total enrollment numbers for the School of Arts and Sciences jumped 5%, from 402 to 421 with a new student count of 154.

According to Interim President Dr. Don King, the Lindberg resignation had "very little impact on new students."

Michelle Weeks in the Admissions and Financial Aid office declares, "four or five concerned parents [of incoming students] called the college and just needed reassurance." She adds, "they didn't know Lindberg so it really didn't matter to them."

Last year, Admissions set out to improve the aesthetics of "the walk" — the path that interested students take while on the campus tour. They worked on making the campus, especially inside Gaither, more visually pleasing.

The new \$2,500 Keystone Scholarship replaced last year's Residential Rebate and also attracted prospective students. This scholarship was handed to any student who applied, was

accepted, and put down an extra \$160 deposit (in addition to the \$100 fee all incoming students pay).

The Cabinet (composed of Dr. King, Dr. Wilmoth, Dr. Cain, Dean Doriani, Dean Lance and Dean Lankford) nearly met their goal of 162 new students,

only falling short by eight.

To meet certain budget criteria "we have to recruit more students. Each student adds a certain amount of funding to the college," says King.

Considering this year's 313 boarding students versus 99 day (off-campus) students and minus certain grants and incentive scholarships, Dirk Wilmoth, Vice President for Advancement and Finance, discloses that the average financial return per student stands slightly over \$13,000.

Retention delivered amazing numbers according to King. He discloses, "The past few years there has been a deliberate effort in retention. It is easier to keep [existing] students than to recruit new ones."

Although freshman retention stayed about the same (a drop from 67% to 66%), juniors skyrocketed from 77% to 96%, and seniors and sophomores rose by 3% and 9% respectively.

Director of Admissions Anita Darby ascribes this increase in part to the initiation program, Freshman First. For the past two years Freshman First embraced a small group of students and rendered good retention numbers. This year Freshman First was blended with traditional orientation and broadened to include most

of the incoming freshman.

Along with retention, the administration continues to keep an eye on recruitment. "Our unofficial goal for five years from now is 625 students. That will definitely require more housing," King says, "If we have 30 more new students next year we won't have room for them. We are looking into more housing, most likely at [The Black Mountain] Campus."

For the 2003-04 school year Admissions snagged 403 applicants. Out of the 403, 320 students were accepted. Admissions received 174 non-refundable \$100 deposits, but a record-high 20 students reneged and forfeited their deposit.

Weeks attributes this to "many random reasons including family problems and they just decided to go to another school." She affirms, "we didn't lose any" over the Lindberg incident.

King concludes, "this year the admissions office did a good job of getting students that fit well with Montreat. I think new students this year understand the goals of the college better than in past years."

*"enrollment...
jumped 5%, from
402 to 421"*

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The Whetstone