



the Mars Hill College

Hilltop

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

December 2, 1967

Senior College Accreditation Is Gained

The accreditation of Mars Hill College Wednesday by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools culminated an eight-year process of transition from junior college.

The Baptist State Convention, which controls the school through the appointment of trustees, adopted a recommendation in May 1959 that Mars Hill "proceed to convert into a senior college as soon as it seems desirable and possible to do so."

Three years of careful planning by the faculty and administration preceded the addition of the third-year curricula in September 1962. The senior year's courses were added a year later, and the first degree were awarded in May 1964 to 146 students.

Southern Association rules in effect at the time required that Mars Hill graduate at least three such classes before making application for accreditation as a senior college.

In the meantime Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, who has been president since 1938, announced his intention to retire in mid-1966. The trustees chose Dr. Bentley, then an assistant dean at the University of Louisville, as his successor in December 1965 and he assumed office on July 1, 1966.

During the 1965-66 session the faculty conducted an extensive self-study of the college and compiled its findings into a two-inch thick volume, which was submitted to the Southern Association.

tion in September 1966.

Last April a committee of administrators from other accredited senior colleges visited the campus for a three-day inspection. They made recommendations for certain changes with regard to the curriculum, fiscal policy, faculty preparation, the library and student affairs.

Dr. Bentley and his staff, the heads of departments and other faculty members immediately set about implementing the suggested changes. In October they filed a supplementary report with the Southern Association, describing their efforts; and early in November Dr. Bentley went to Atlanta to appear before the Association's admissions committee.

One of the points at which Mars Hill had its greatest problem was in academic preparation of the faculty. The Association requires that 30 percent of the teachers hold an earned doctor's degree and 60 percent have at least three years graduate study beyond the baccalaureate degree. At the beginning of the current school year Mars Hill had only 22 and 40 percent respectively. A program of faculty improvement financed by federal funds was planned and its implementation was approved Nov. 14 by the Baptist State Convention meeting in Asheville.

Another problem area for the college was indebtedness for capital outlay. The college has a short-term note of approximately half a million dollars on its huge new physical education complex. Paying off this indebtedness and still having sufficient funds to finance sharply increased expenditures for the academic program posed a serious threat to accreditation. In May, however, the trustees greatly relieved the situation by agreeing among themselves to raise \$350,000 of the money needed to retire the debt.

The accreditation, a sign of the professional acceptance of Mars Hill College by its sister institutions, is expected to make it easier for Mars Hill graduates to enter graduate and professional schools. It should also open new avenues of potential financial resources among foundations, industries and other supporters of higher education.

Dr. Bentley flew to Dallas Sunday with Dean Lee but returned unexpectedly Tuesday. He was elated when Dean Lee called Wednesday with the news.

"We are pleased to see that many years of hard work have brought this recognition to Mars Hill College," he said.

"The excellent administration of Dr. Blackwell, during which the beautiful campus was built and turned over to me debt-free, has allowed us to concentrate on the senior college program. The trustees, also, are to be commended for their dedication, hard work and financial support," he said. "In fact, we owe our thanks to the entire community and to alumni and friends everywhere."

New Home Ec Officers Set

The MHC Chapter of the American Home Economics Association elected officers for the spring semester at a meeting Monday night and chose Martha Bruce as its new chairman.

Others elected were Nancy Clements, first vice chairman; Susan Lyday, second vice chairman; Claudette Cooper, secretary; Vicky Brannan, treasurer; Brenda Cummings, reporter; Emma Jean Pegg, historian; Lynette Vaughan, publicity chairman; Dianne Mahon and Ann Wilson, refreshments co-chairmen; and Sandy Spencer, devotional chairman.

In addition to electing new officers the chapter members heard Mrs. David Walker of Weaverville discuss her experiences as a missionary in Africa. Mrs. Walker's husband is a new member of the faculty in the Department of Education.

On Thursday (Dec. 7) from 1 until 6 p.m. the House Furnishings Laboratory Class, assisted by the remainder of the Home Economics Department, will have open house for all campus students and for some students from high schools in the surrounding area.

Class members will display their own works of refinished furniture, crystal glass, draperies, dripping candles and Christmas decorations.

Beyond the current events the chapter members are looking forward to the spring when they will be hostesses to the college chapters section of the North Carolina Home Economics Association. Sally Spaulding will serve as program chairman for the state-wide meeting.

Recently coeds from the department and members of the faculty participated in a state home economics convention in Asheville. During the conclave Helen Kugley was elected reporter of the college state chapter for 1968-69.

Job Hunting?

The Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and the Personnel Association of Greensboro will sponsor a special event Dec. 28 to help inform college graduates and potential '68 graduates about job opportunities in the greater Greensboro area.

Approximately 20 firms will be represented and students may talk with as many as they wish. Applications to participate in the event, which is similar to Western North Carolina's "Native Son" program, may be obtained from Thomas L. Pickard, Box 3246, Greensboro.



The quartet of candidates who campaigned for the presidency of the freshman class congratulate each other in a pose made before the votes were counted Thursday. The ladies are Betty Boyd (left) and Linda Baldwin; the men are Tom Reece (left) and Johnnie Lamb. The men will have a run off.

'Impossible Dream' Coming True for Beauty Contestants

With the eventful night just a little more than a week away plans for the annual "Miss Laurel" Pageant are taking final shape.

Rehearsals begin the 7th and continue through the 10th. The colorful beauty contest—forecast by several of its Laurel staff planners as "the prettiest yet"—is scheduled for Monday night, Dec. 11.

The serious task of judging the various contestants for the campus beauty queen title begins on Sunday afternoon, the 10th, when a get-acquainted reception will be held in the faculty lounge of Memorial Library.

Lovely Pam Culler, a former "Miss Laurel," and singer Bill Gardner will serve as mistress and master of ceremonies for the pageant, which will center on the theme "Impossible Dream."

Contestants will display a variety of talent in the competition, ranging from piano solos to a dramatic reaction skit, from singing to ballet. Music for the various events of the evening will be provided by the MHC Stage Band.

The audience will have a better-than-ever opportunity to do its own judging of the lovely contestants. A ramp will be installed over the orchestra pit and the coeds will parade before the audience at close range.

Laurel Editor Mike Swaim announced this week that Howard Williams of Asheville, who has previously agreed to be one of the judges, had withdrawn from the panel. As manager of the current "Miss Asheville," Mr. Williams found it necessary to withdraw when an engagement was scheduled elsewhere for "Miss Asheville" on the same night as the "Miss Laurel" pageant.

Mike was attempting to secure another judge when the Hilltop went to press Tuesday.

The other two judges are Mrs. Wallace Hyde and Tuck Gudger, both of Asheville.

Mr. Gudger has judged the "Miss Illinois" and "Miss South Carolina" pageants; Mrs. Hyde, a former resident of Mars Hill, has judged many pageants throughout the state.

One contestant, Mary Belle Lawton, who was to represent Melrose Dormitory, has withdrawn from the contest due to previous engagements, Swaim reported. This leaves 17 girls to bid for the title now held by senior Beverly Cansler, who will be on hand to crown her successor.

Although there have been numerous Miss Laurels in previous years, only four have been chosen in pageant competition. In addition to Miss Cansler they were Jo Wells '64, Jean Miller '65 and Pam Culler '66.

Clubs Active

Honor clubs have a variety of activities scheduled within the next two weeks.

Monday (Dec. 4) the Scriblerus Club will hear an address by Dr. Guy Owen of Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone, who is the author of the movie "Flim Flam Man" and who is featured in the November issue of State Magazine. Dr. Owen will remain on campus to speak in chapel Tuesday.

Club sponsor Paul Sorrells has announced that the officers are working to get the club affiliated with a national honor society.

Plans for raising money to finance a special project will occupy the discussion time of the December meeting of the International Relations Club. The club needs funds to endow, through CARE, a school room in one of the backward countries of South America.

A Christmas program is planned for the meeting of Logothia Honor Club Monday night in the faculty lounge of the Fine Arts Building.

Members of the Business Honor Club will have their Christmas party Dec. 12 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chapman. As has been the custom in years past, the members of the club will exchange gifts. The president, John Stancil, is expected to MC the affair for the second straight year.

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