

Happiness Is Holidays - Enjoy 'em



the Mars Hill College

Hilltop

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

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Foundation Grant Finances New Political Science Course

A grant of \$21,375 has been made to Mars Hill College by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem for the inauguration of an innovative program in political science and sociology, Dr. Fred Bentley has announced.

The grant will finance the first year of a new course in community development which will be offered to juniors and seniors majoring in the social sciences. The course is designed to give students first-hand encounter with community agencies and leaders.

The students will study socio-economic and political problems in the classroom and then be assigned as interns with a governmental or community action agency.

Pledges of cooperation in the new program have been given to the college by City Manager Weldon Weir of Asheville; Ora Spaid, executive director of the Madison-Buncombe Opportunity Corporation (OEO); and the board of commissioners for Madison County. Cooperation from similar agencies and organizations elsewhere in the immediate area will be sought before the program is initiated.

"The City of Asheville is complimented that Mars Hill College desires its assistance with the interns in this course in community development and we are pleased to cooperate," Weir said.

"The proposal to develop a course in community development is of special interest to us," said Spaid. "We will be delighted to cooperate in any possible way, including providing placement for training of students and making members of our staff available to the college as teaching consultants."

"The Board of Commissioners of Madison County will be more than pleased to help in this new program and will solicit the cooperation of all its related agencies," said W. B. Zink, clerk of the board.

The new course is an effort by the college to offer its social science students a better education.

"Critics of higher education have suggested that students have few opportunities to relate classroom theory to live issues," college officials wrote in their proposal to the foundation. "This course will be a step in answering such criticism."

Richard L. Hoffman, assistant professor of political science formulated the new course. "Its design," he explained, "is to involve the students with those organizations and agencies directly engaged in the problem-solving processes of community life."

"Hopefully this will have sev-

eral effects," he said. "It will help the students become catalysts for changing the intellectual climate of the campus by raising new issues and challenging traditional approaches to the educational process."

He said the experiences provided by the new approach should also encourage more students to prepare for careers in one of the many facets of public life and should encourage more of the graduates to involve themselves in efforts to solve the socio-economic and political problems of the communities in which they settle.

In seeking funds from the foundation of college cited itself as a developing senior college situated strategically in an important geographic area.

"The value of our project is enhanced," the college's application stated, "by the location of the college in the Southern Appalachian Region. Appalachia has become the focus of the present 'war on poverty' and provides an ideal laboratory in which to test and apply newly developed social science techniques."

A former project director for the Madison Community Action program under the Office of Economic Opportunity, Hoffman will be director of the new program at the college. Two other faculty members will be given part-time assignments in the project.

Plans call for the course to be offered for the first time during the 1968-69 school year. Initially only about 25 students will be admitted.

"Once the coordination of the field work is assured," Hoffman explained, "the number of participants will be expanded to include all upper level students with a major interest in the social sciences."

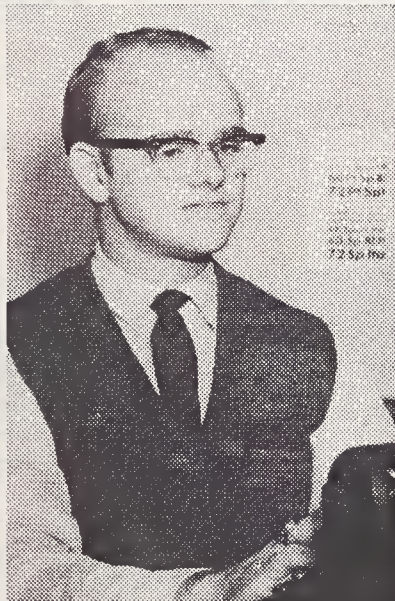
Epiphyllae Interest MHC Biology Graduate

Lois Jane Watts, 1967 graduate, is chasing epiphyllae at the University of Georgia.

If that sounds as though Janie has flipped, don't believe it. She's doing research. A graduate student at the U. of G., she has begun laboratory exploration that may eventually produce good results for farmers everywhere.

She is trying to determine whether or not algae on certain tropical plant leaves can be treated and used as fertilizer. If successful, she will save farmers a lot of time by helping prove it possible for them to produce good crops by fertilizing only once during a growing season.

Janie, who has an assistantship and serves as instructor for a freshman botany lab class, is do-



Editor Stancil

'Corny' Akers Selected As 'Miss Laurel of 1968'

Lovely Cornelia Brooks Akers — better known on campus as "Corny" — was chosen as "Miss Laurel of 1968" Monday night before a crowd of approximately 900 persons in Moore Auditorium.

The dark-haired sophomore beauty from Stuart, Va., was crowned by her immediate predecessor Beverly Cansler. As she paraded down a special runway into the audience, a wave of applause and cheering greeted her. Backstage moments later after the curtain had fallen, tears of joy rolled gently down her cheeks.

The new campus beauty queen received a congratulatory hug from boyfriend Bob Wood and other affectionate gestures from fellow contestants, relatives and friends. Cameras flashed and the stage became a pandemonium of joy.

Such was the climax to the annual pageant, sponsored by the yearbook, to select a beauty queen both for the campus and the publication. It was an exciting finish

Stancil Will Assume Editorship of Hilltop

John Stancil, senior accounting major from Asheville, will assume the editorship of the Hilltop beginning next semester, the advisor, Walter Smith, announced this week.

A member of the student newspaper staff for the last three years, Stancil was sports editor during the 1966-67 school year and during the current semester.

He also has been president of the Business Honor Club during the fall term and vice president of the campus chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Management. New officers will

be elected in each of these organizations next term, freeing Stancil to become editor of the paper.

The new editor will continue to work part-time for the athletic department, handling basketball press releases.

"I appreciate the opportunity to edit the Hilltop," Stancil said. "It will be a challenging and educating experience for me. Although it is supposed to be a student newspaper, the Hilltop has not had much real support from the student body during the first semester. I hope this situation will change drastically next term. The Hilltop can be a big factor in improving our college. It can be the voice of responsible students."

"I am confident John can handle the job and do it well," Mr. Smith commented. "He is a dependable man and has been more than merely a sports editor during this fall semester."

"Few persons on this campus realize what a demanding task the editorship of the student newspaper is. It calls for more patience than any one person ought to have. It requires long, late hours; and it subjects the conscientious person to many anxious hours of soul-searching. Unfortunately, expressions of thanks are few and far between, but the satisfaction of doing a job well is exceedingly rewarding."

The paper has operated throughout the fall semester without an editor and with only a small staff. During the coming term a journalism class (English 29) will be taught by Mr. Smith and will be utilized in the production of the paper. The first issue is scheduled for January 27.

The class will be officially scheduled from 3 until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays; however, according to Mr. Smith, some of the class periods will be used in outside work on the paper, including the gathering of information, the writing of news stories and features, editing and makeup, and proofreading.

The paper, which was founded in 1925, is printed by the letterpress process at Biltmore Press in Asheville. It is financed by a budgeted appropriation out of college general funds and by income from the sale of advertising and subscriptions. Approximately 200 copies of each issue are mailed out to high schools, other colleges and to former students.

The paper is affiliated with other college newspapers through membership in the Associated Collegiate Press. In 1964-65 it won "All-American" rating, highest ranking among the nation's collegiate papers.

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