



the Mars Hill College

Hilltop

SLED is not
Something to ride;
It's something to push.

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

March 21, 1969



A check for \$5,000 from the CIT Foundation is presented to Dr. Fred Bentley by Les Fisher of Charlotte, field representative of Tuition Plan, Inc., an affiliate of the CIT Financial Corporation.

CIT Foundation Contributes \$5,000 to Capital Improvements

A check for \$5,000 has been presented to the college by the C.I.T. Foundation of New York, Dr. Fred Bentley, president of the college, announced yesterday.

Similar gifts to 11 other recently accredited colleges in the form of matching grants were announced this week by the foundation, bringing to 112 the number of institutions thus helped during the last nine years.

L. Walter Lundell, chairman of C.I.T. Financial Corporation and the Foundation, reported that the total amount raised through the program is \$1,370,000. This includes \$495,000 in C.I.T. grants and \$875,000 in matching funds contributed to the colleges by alumni, local businesses, and other supporters.

The other colleges receiving grants included Alvernia College, Reading, Pa.; Windham College, Putney, Vt.; Bentley College of Accounting and Finance, Boston; Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, Mich.; New College, Sarasota, Fla.; Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn.; Molloy Catholic

College for Women, Rockville Centre, N. Y.; New England College, Henniker, N. H.; Sacred Heart College, Wichita, Kans.; the University of Corpus Christi, Tex.; William Woods College, Fulton, Mo.

"The C.I.T. program is designed as a form of recognition and encouragement for colleges which have achieved accreditation as a further step in helping them to meet the ever-increasing need for higher learning," Lundell said.

"The gift is doubly welcome," Bentley added, "because it has produced more than \$10,000 which we will use in our capital improvements."

The 111 other institutions which have received such grants have realized double benefits also, Lundell explained.

"The stimulating effect of the challenge grant is indicated by the fact that the colleges thus helped have raised total matching funds amounting to twice the total of the foundation contribution."

The grants are awarded annually to private, four-year, liberal-arts

colleges and universities which have been accredited or re-accredited during the previous year by one of the six regional U.S. accrediting associations.

Formerly a junior college, Mars Hill gained full accreditation by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges in November, 1967 and soon thereafter made application for the C.I.T. grant.

The C.I.T. Financial Corporation is a highly diversified company with interests in commercial and industrial financing, banking, insurance, and manufacturing and merchandising. In addition to the matching grants program for newly accredited colleges the company — through its foundation — sponsors scholarships and grants through the National Merit Scholarship Program and provides support to the National Fund for Medical Education, the National Scholarship Service & Fund for Negro Students, the United Negro College Fund, National Achievement Scholarships, and the Independent Schools Talent Search Program.

New SGA President Pons Elaborates on His Platform

Recently elected Student Government Association President, Bill Pons, had four major planks in his platform. 1) More student participation, 2) Better lines of communication, 3) Activate the present court system, and 4) More students on representative committees.

This platform, buttressed by a sense of urgency, impelled students to "take the initiative", support the SGA and "sacrifice to make Mars Hill better." His theme was change and his four major points were where it was most necessary. In the following interview, President Pons elaborates on the new SGA.

Are there any major policy changes planned by the SGA?

Right now my one major change is letting the Student Activities Committee select the movies for the year. At present there are other things that should be changed, such as a more informative means of communication, and training within the attorney's staff. What I'm doing now is seeing if these changes are feasible, and seeing if they can be put through when the new senators take over.

Do you think the recent election will supply you with the leadership to achieve these aims?

Yes, I do. There are a lot of students capable of good leadership on this campus, a lot of new faces were brought into Student Government. Most of these people that I've talked with personally are willing to work and this is what we are going to have to have a better Student Government — people who are willing to work.

SGA's of the past have often talked about broadening the base of student participation. Does your administration have definite

plans for this?

Yes, (we plan) to have people not officially affiliated with SGA to be put on various committees. We should bring these independents in, to see their opinions, and maybe by discussion we can help settle both ideas.

Do you see any good in this student power organization, SLED?

Yes, I see a lot of good in it. Most of the people in it are people who want to see change come to Mars Hill College. The SLED program is good. I agree with their ideas but not with a lot of action that was taken in the chapel boycott. I think that now since a lot of these have been elected to SGA offices, I think their prime interest is to keep Student Government rolling, and to bring up new matters for us to vote on, for the betterment of Mars Hill College.

Recently, we've heard quite a few complaints about closed channels. Does SGA plan anything for this?

All of the Senate and Commission meetings are open, unless otherwise posted in the "Announcer" or on the Cafeteria bulletin board. This is the only means we have. I hope we can get more student participation there and also invite Faculty and Administration to come and listen to what's going on in these meetings.

You have been talking mainly about student affairs. Do you plan to venture into matters involving the Faculty, curriculum and other business of the college?

The Students for Liberal Education is working on a "Curriculum Evaluation" that will help the incoming students see what teachers are best on the campus and (it will) also guide the administration in selecting teachers in the coming year.

Thomas Sparks Drama Program

James Thomas is director of theatre in the drama division of the English Department. Reared in McDowell County, he received his B.A. in English at Western Carolina University and his M.A. in Dramatic Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He taught in the public school systems of Charlotte and Raleigh before coming to Mars Hill in 1962.

Mr. Thomas will be leaving Mars Hill College next fall in order to work on his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. He will be replaced while on leave by Dr. Virgil R. Gray, formerly of Indiana State University.

The B.A. degree in dramatic arts is offered by the division on drama. The drama major is composed of 32 semester hours in courses in theatre history, design and other basic production courses; 12 hours in dramatic literature and 12 hours in laboratory and workshop areas.

Mr. Thomas feels that the drama division has three major areas of responsibility at Mars Hill. First, the drama major should have an opportunity to develop professionally and academically. A consistent effort is made, then, to provide the major with wide experiences in the theatre arts, as well as to give him an understanding of the history of theatre and an appreciation of its literature.

Secondly, Mr. Thomas says, any liberal arts school should provide its students an opportunity to participate in the performing arts. Last year, for example, over 75 percent of the persons involved in drama productions on campus were non-drama majors.

The third responsibility of a college drama department is to provide its audiences with meaningful theatre experiences. The plays produced by the theatre should not only be entertaining but intellectually stimulating. The theatre should address itself to pertinent problems faced by its audience — social, political, or more personal problems. With this aim in mind, the Mars Hill College Drama Division has performed such varied works as THE WIZARD OF OZ, NO EXIT, and MACBETH!

Mr. Thomas feels the efforts of the people involved in dramatic activities on this campus have met with some degree of success. He points out that the senior college drama program had a strong base to build on, with the strong heritage in drama sustained by Mrs. Elizabeth Watson, now of the English Department, for a number of years.

Although many of the department's recent productions have met with criticism and have been the object of much controversy, Mr. Thomas feels that constructive criticism and controversy can be healthy on a college campus. He has expressed that he is glad to listen to constructive criticism and would be happy to consider suggestions for production from anyone on campus.

Members of the department went to Chapel Hill Mar. 13, 14, and 15 to present Tim Ellmore's "The Starr-Crossed Lover." Tim recently won first place in a playwriting contest sponsored by the senior college division of the Carolina Dramatic Association. It is through participation in activities

like this that Mr. Thomas hopes to recruit students to the college. Individuals like David Jones and Terry Lindsay came to MHC after seeing off-campus productions.

The next production of the department will be "She Stoops to Conquer." The farce of character and situation by Oliver Goldsmith will be presented in Moore Auditorium Apr. 25 and 26. It will also be presented at commencement.

Beta, Beta, Beta Begins

Ceremonies formally establishing a Mars Hill College chapter of the national biological society Beta Beta Beta were held on campus Tuesday evening.

Dr. L. M. Bertholf, former national president of the society, presented a charter from the national organization. Also on hand for the ritual was Dr. I. W. Carpenter, regional director of the society, who teaches at Appalachian State University in Boone.

The new chapter, designated "Kappa Eta Chapter," was launched with 29 charter members. The original slate of officers includes Reid Wilson Laney, junior from Sarasota, Fla., president; Gordon Plumblee, senior from Burlington, vice president; Stuart Caudill, senior from Winston-Salem, secretary; and Mrs. Sarah White Lunsford, senior from Murphy, treasurer and historian.

The students inducted into the new chapter have been members of the Science Honor Club and will continue to hold such membership.