



the Mars Hill College

# Hilltop

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

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If a man does not keep pace with his companions, it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away.  
—Thoreau

## Administrative Changes Confirmed by Dr. Bentley

It's now official; Dr. Bentley has confirmed the rumors that have been circulating on campus for the last two weeks: Dean William Lynch will become director of counseling and Dr. Bill Sears will become dean of students.

The changes will become effective with the opening of the fall term.

The double-pronged announcement also indicated that a Counseling Center will be formed to assist students with personal, social, academic, moral and emotional problems. Further, the Center will offer aptitude and vocational testing and will stock all sorts of career literature.

Dr. Bentley said the changes are another effort to strengthen and improve the total program of the college.

"When Dean Lynch joined the college staff in 1956," Dr. Bentley explained, "he was primarily interested in counseling; however, over the years his duties have drawn him more and more into policy-making and administrative responsibilities, diminishing his opportunities for counseling. Now, with the formation of the Counseling Center, he will be able to devote himself almost entirely to counseling."

College Chaplain Robert Melvin and the Rev. James Long, pastor

of the Mars Hill Methodist Church, will be affiliated with the new Counseling Center, Dr. Bentley explained.

An ordained Baptist minister, Mr. Lynch specialized in counseling at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and did a year's internship at the School of Pastoral Care, which is affiliated with the Baptist Hospital and Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem.

As dean of students he exercises supervision over the dormitory hostesses, the dean of women, the chaplain and the college infirmary. He also is the chief administrative officer dealing with student government, and all phases of student life. In addition he is associate professor of psychology in the Department of Education. As director of counseling he will relinquish all of those duties except the teaching.

Dr. Sears, who joined the faculty last summer, is assistant professor in the Department of Education. His teaching specialty is educational psychology, but he is also director of the student teacher program and of the department's placement service. His wife is associate director of the college's Upward Bound Program. (See feature on Dr. Sears below.)

## Class of '69 and the World Awaiting MHC Commencement

The Commencement Exercises of the class of 1969 will highlight the activities for May of this year as a host of seniors, who have successfully gone through the grind, will be launched into the world of 1969 with all its promises, disasters, problems, and hopes that these students have studied for the past four years.

Are these students ready for the world? The proper question would be, rather, "Is the world ready for them?" The answer: Yes, the world is more than ready; it has been waiting for centuries for them. This graduating class represents the potential of all success, or even failure, that society is capable of having. It is the end of a long trail of toil and sacrifice, but it is just the beginning of an endeavor of even greater sacrifice and commitment. Truly deserving are these students of the honors and festivities bestowed upon them during their week of commencement.

Friday, May the Ninth, will mark the opening day of the Commencement Week at 4:00 P.M. with an Art Exhibit in the Fine Arts Building. The Board of Trustees will meet the following day at 10:30 A. M. followed by a Joint Luncheon Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Advis-

ors. A Business Meeting of the Alumni Association will meet in Moore Auditorium at 3:30 P. M. followed by the Class Reunions of 1904, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1924, 1929, 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, and 1964 at 4:00 P. M. Highlighting the evening will be an Alumni Banquet at 5:30 P. M. with Mrs. Rachel Crawley (Class of 1939) as guest speaker. At 8:00 P. M. the Dramatics Department will present the play "She Stoops to Conquer" by Oliver Goldsmith, in the Fine Arts Building.

The Alumna of the year will be Dr. William H. Plemmons, retiring President of Appalachian State University in Boone, N. C., and the Alumna of the year will be Miss Flossie Marshbanks, a native of Mars Hill and a retired attorney, who was formerly affiliated with the State Department of Public Instruction as Assistant to the State Superintendent. Both will be honored at the Banquet on May 10th.

On Sunday, May the Eleventh, at 11:00 A. M. the Baccalaureate Services will begin at Moore Auditorium. Dr. R. Eugene Owens, Pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina will deliver the Baccalaureate Sermon. An Organ Recital will be held at 2:30 P. M. in the same

building. The Commencement Weekend will be climaxed by the Graduation Exercises at 3:00 P. M. at Moore Auditorium.

For Academic Dean Ralph M. Lee, who is retiring at the end of the summer session, it will be the final occasion on which he will read out the names of the graduates and present each to President Bentley, who will award the degrees and shake hands with each graduate.

## Two Editors Are Named

Editors for two of the major student publications have been appointed for 1969-70, according to the advisor, Walter Smith.

Linda Baldwin has been re-appointed to the editorship of the student newspaper, The Hilltop; and Hayes Goodrum, rising junior from Myrtle Beach, S. C., has been named editor of the yearbook, The 1970 Laurel.

"As far as I know," Mr. Smith explained, "Linda may be the first student ever to be named editor of the newspaper for two consecutive years. She certainly is the only person so named during the 15 years I have worked at the college."

She is a rising junior from West Columbia, S. C.

Hayes was a member of the staff of the '69 yearbook and will bring some valuable experience to his new position. Tentative plans for the '70 edition — mostly technical matters — will be formulated during the summer, but the organization of the staff will not begin until the fall term starts late in August.

Selection of an editor for the third student publication, Cadenza, the literary and art magazine, is the responsibility of the chairman of the Department of English.

"No one knows better than I," Mr. Smith elaborated, "how much responsibility and hard work the editorships of these publications demand. I appreciate Linda and Hayes being willing to accept the duties, and I look forward to working with them during the coming year. We all have learned much during 1968-69 which will help in the future."

"It might be well at this point to re-state some basic facts: First of all, these are student publications, intended to reflect student viewpoints and student abilities; they are not promotional pieces designed to boost the college. Readers among the faculty and staff and off-campus should keep this in mind. Likewise, students must remember that these publications will serve best when used responsibly and constructively rather than as weapons."

## Mars Hill Hospitality Impresses 'Dr. Bill'

By Mike Mills

An unusual quality of friendliness and personal concern was a major factor in bringing Dr. William J. Sears to our campus this school year. Dr. Sears commented that he had immediately felt right at home in the family-type atmosphere "and this was just an interview," he smiled. After gaining a favorable impression of the school, Dr. Sears was finally won over by the opportunity he found waiting at Mars Hill.

"Dr. Bill", as he is often called, is a new addition to the Education Department where he teaches educational psychology. He joined the faculty last summer and worked as associate director of the Upward Bound Program, heading the recreation activities and serving with his wife as dormitory counselor. Mrs. Sears, the former Judy Hudson from Salisbury, continues in Upward Bound, filling her husband's shoes as associate director and visits the schools every week as a follow-up function of the summer program.

Growing up in the small community of Olar, South Carolina, Dr. Sears attended Olar High. He found the struggle for academics difficult when he attended Clemson. Appalachian State Teachers' College, where he met his

lovely wife, provided his next step as he finished there with a masters degree in education. After a couple years of high school teaching, Dr. Sears decided to finish his long educational process by gaining his doctorate degree from the University of Alabama. It was a long, hard road for a small-town boy, but with perseverance and hard work he attained the high mark of achievement.

Dr. Sears holds a special interest in sports and at one time coached in Hartsville, South Carolina. He may sometimes be found running around the track or playing tennis to keep himself in shape.

Reading is also a favorite pastime when his schedule permits, and he and Judy like to pair off as partners in a friendly hand of bridge. They also hold dear those times when they can get away from the grind and enjoy an outside picnic or excursion.

On the more serious side of his interests, Dr. Sears leads Sunday seminars for the young people at the Mars Hill Methodist Church. A recent topic of discussion has been concerned with love, courtship and marriage. Although he attends the Methodist Church, he is not denomination-prejudiced and exercises much dedication to all young people in his religious life.

A new set of responsibilities awaits him since he recently ac-

cepted the offer of Dean of Students for Mars Hill College, beginning next year. He is very concerned and thoughtful about the new position and remains open to all helpful suggestions from students in how to carry out the purpose of his office. Recognizing that Mars Hill is definitely in a transition period, Dr. Sears hopes the students will not need a heavy hand of authority to accomplish the work he thinks they should do themselves. He intends to



Dean Sears

work with the students and listen attentively to their needs, while exercising his role of office in conjunction with the new Student Activities Director.

When asked why he picked Mars Hill to serve in the education field, Dr. Sears responded that he and his wife wanted to find a place where they could teach, supervise, or administrate — and perhaps a little of all three. He sees Mars Hill as offering that kind of diversity because of its present period of growth and transition. The faculty is young, friendly, and deeply involved in the structure of the college, unlike many other larger institutions where it is difficult to make acquaintances.

The location served as another factor in choosing Mars Hill. The Seares love the mountain area of North Carolina and appreciate the beauty of the campus and its surroundings. Again Dr. Sears emphasized the type of reception they received as one of the big reasons for their decision to come here.

Friendliness, academic achievement, and personal concern are the attributes that attracted Dr. Sears to Mars Hill. He reflects these qualities himself and fits into the community life, hoping to help make Mars Hill a better place in which to work and live.