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Mars Hill College
Mars Hill, N.C. 28754



The Hilltop

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Internship Experiences Highly Valued

by Tom Carr

According to Ken Sanchagrin, Director of the Experiential Education Center, an internship is "any experience that involves completing a set of tasks having learning value." Moreover, this experience is not class-room based and is "usually less formal than a regular course."

The Mars Hill College Internship Program is designed as an opportunity for students to meet the needs of both personal and professional development. Each internship student, working closely with a faculty advisor and/or supervising agency, is given the chance to assume new levels of responsibility and thus apply his own classroom learning to a "real-life" situation. Furthermore, there is an even more practical advantage for the intern: the experience is directly related to today's job market in that many employers are giving preference to persons with past internship experience, and in some cases, requiring some type of internship experience for employment.

The faculty at Mars Hill College has never thought it "odd" that students could be "student-teachers" themselves. In fact, the concept of internships is very much related to that at medical schools, where all students are required to meet standards as an Intern. The present Internship Program at Mars Hill College is an out-growth of a Community Development course taught in 1968 by Dr. Richard Hoffman and a home-based tutoring program under the leadership of Mrs. Ellen Price.

In these beginning stages, students from Mars Hill College first went out of the classroom to become involved in community/social services. Mr. Smith Goodrum, currently the Director of Gifted Childhood Education at Mars Hill, was one of those first students to participate in the new program.

The internship experience expanded quickly from those simple beginnings. The Religion Department was the first to offer academic credit for the service-learning intern through the Community Development Institute (1971). By 1974, the college had received a Co-Op Education Grant to set up a program for students to work in business/industry, and presently, the Internship program and its staff is funded by Title III. The current Program is run by four staff members, who are Ken Sanchagrin, Director; Jill Mannisto and George Peery, Co-ordinators; and Wilma Coates, Secretary.

The Program Director, Mr. Sanchagrin, states there is something "magical and sacred" about Internships, and apparently many of the students at Mars Hill College think so too. Running from Fall Semester 1977 through the end of January Term 1978, 196 students initi-

ated and fulfilled Internship requirements. Moreover, for the Spring Semester 1978, 36 more students are registered to receive academic credit for their work.

The offerings of an internship can range from a television assistant to a student recruiter, and all the students (past Interns) interviewed by this writer undeniably admit they've profited from their respective experiences.

Bonnie Shaw, a Mars Hill Junior, spent three weeks this past January at WLOS-TV and assisted in the production of the program "Montage." This experience was Bonnie's first internship, and she adds that it was "an excellent opportunity to determine my career objectives."

As a Religion major, Paul Haywood spent three summers in the Baptist Youth Corps serving as a youth minister. Paul's program encompassed leadership in all phases of church life, including Bible Study, fellowships, and Day Camping, and he states the experiences was "a chance to put theory into practice." Paul received 8 hours Religion credit through the Internship Program for his efforts.

Linda Wells, is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Student Hearing Board, and she and her staff elected to petition for academic credit last semester. They received their credit, and now, through the efforts of George Peery, Internships Co-ordinator, and Steve Webb, Student Government President, a full-time Judicial Internship has been drawn-up and established.

Internships are designed to meet needs in a variety of areas and that is what appealed to Brad Tilley, a rising Senior at MHC. Brad is a Business Administration major; however, he was able to receive academic credit in Education as a result of working as a student recruiter for the college. Brad spent a semester traveling to high schools throughout Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida representing Mars Hill College, and he states "it was a very rewarding experience for me personally."

The primary task for Ken Sanchagrin and his associates in the Experiential Education Center is to coordinate Internship experiences for students, and a large part of this work is in investigating new internship possibilities and perfecting the existing program. The Mars Hill College Internship Program has definitely "come a long way" since its beginnings in a Social Science course in 1968. However, the basic concept remains the same, and that is to create a stimulating and refreshing environment for the personal and professional growth of the Mars Hill College student.



Newly elected SGA officers: President: Brad Tilley, Vice President: Richard Heaton. Chief Justice: Linda Wells, Secretary: Dean Dalrymple and Treasurer Kirk Bomar. A scene from the SGA campaign speeches held in the cafeteria Friday, March 10.

Photo by Archie Jones

SGA Elections Bring in New Leadership

The results of the March 13th Student Government elections are in. President is Brad Tilley, Vice President is Richard Heaton, Chief Justice is Linda Wells, Secretary is Dean Daleymple, and Treasurer is Kirk Bomar. The Student Government Association is in strong hands.

It was a very tight race between both the office of President and Vice President. Because there was no majority for Vice President, two run-offs had to be held, the first between all four candidates, and the second between two.

On a vote of 495 to 24, the new constitution was passed. The three main revisions under this new constitution are: precinct elections for the senators, dorm fees placed under the senate, and a more direct voice of the students.

There was a large and encouraging turnout in voters. 669 students participated in the first election. This percentage proves the students of Mars Hill College really care.

Class elections are scheduled for April tenth.