

The Hilltop



Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

Vol. LII., No. 11, April 13, 1979

New Chaplain Appointed

The retirement of a long-time faculty member and the switching of another from part-time to full-time teaching duties has led to the hiring of a new college chaplain with a new title and expanded responsibilities for Christian ministry on the campus.

Dr. David Bruce Smith, an alumnus from the Class of 1969 who is currently campus minister at Wingate College, will assume the same title at Mars Hill on June 1, succeeding Dr. Robert Melvin, who will be assigned full-time teaching duties in the Department of Religion.

Dr. Melvin, who has taught at the college 21 years and has been College Chaplain since 1963, decided to assume a full teaching load when H. H. Kendall announced plans to retire at the end of the current academic year. Mr. Kendall, Past Professor of Religion and former chairman of the department, has been a member of the faculty 40 years.

Dr. Smith will be the first staff member ever assigned full-time responsibilities in the area of campus-wide ministry. The new title, expanded time allotment and new job description are in keeping with a new college commitment to the spiritual atmosphere of the campus.

Dr. Richard Hoffman, vice president for academic affairs, was enthusiastic about Dr. Smith's acceptance of the position.

"The appointment of David Smith is one of the most significant made at Mars Hill in recent years," he said, "because of his strong commitment to building a faith and learning community. Making the job a full-time position (free from teaching duties) will allow him more time to become involved in the many facets of college life."

Dr. Smith entered Mars Hill in 1965 and received a BA degree in history in 1969. During those years he proved to be an outstanding campus leader as well as an excellent student. He was a college marshal, was president of his junior class, served as president of the state-wide Baptist Student Union, and was selected for inclusion in the national publication "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities."

From Mars Hill he went to Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. While there he married Janice Margaret Rowland of Marion and was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Marion. After completing the Master of Divinity degree at the seminary in 1973 he became associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of Washington. During two years there he took professional training in pastoral counseling at Memorial Hospital of UNC-Chapel Hill.

In 1975 he was named campus minister at Wingate, Baptist junior college near Charlotte. That same year he began work toward the Doctor of Ministry degree, which was awarded by Southeastern Seminary in 1978.

The Smiths have been active in the Wingate Baptist Church, and he has worked in United Way campaigns and has been active in the Charlotte Track Club.



Seth, Janice, and Dr. David Smith

At Mars Hill Dr. Smith will join at least five members of the '69 class who are members of the faculty or staff: the former Diane Eubanks, now Mrs. Dennis Hill, director of the Counseling Center; John Hamrick, director of financial aid; the former Brenda Cummings, now Mrs. Gary Spence, assistant professor of home economics; Dr. Smith Goodrum, Jr., assistant professor in the Education Department; and Jerry Gault, adjunct professor of physical education in the Continuing Education Program.

Dr. Smith's appointment was the culmination of several months of serious work by a search committee appointed by Dr. Hoffman. In addition to Dr. Hoffman and Dr. Page Lee, chairman of the Religion Department who served as committee chairman, seven members of the faculty and staff and two students served on the committee: Dr. John Hough, dean for continuing education; Jane Holcombe, dean for student development; Dennis Hill, associate dean of admissions and enrichment; Gwen Fish, chairman of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages; Dr. Thomas Sawyer of the Religion Department faculty; Sue Fitzgerald, director of the Center for Christian Education Ministries; Linda Toth, senior social work major from Badensboro; and Wright Culpepper, senior English major from Fort Valley, GA.

Continued on page 3

Commencement Schedule

Community Meetings Attract Large Crowds

Mars Hill College is a school based on community effort. Its basis is evident on a stroll around the beautiful campus; there is a friendly and caring atmosphere. In retrospect with this theme a series of Community meetings have been introduced to the faculty, students, and staff throughout the spring semester. The purpose of the Community meetings are to share common experience through worship, to focus attention on common community issues, and to raise sensitivities for the need to build community, and to do so within the framework of freedom and authority.

There have been four such meetings thus far this semester. President of the college, Dr. Fred Bentley spoke at the first one, Dr. Robert Seymour spoke at the second, Dr. Charles Boddie spoke at the third, and Dr. Cecil Sherman spoke this past Tuesday on the topic of "Tol-

Continued on page 3

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, May 18

4 p.m. Art exhibit opens, Fine Arts Building

Saturday, May 19

10 a.m. Board of Trustees meets
12 noon Joint luncheon for trustees and advisors
5:30 p.m. Banquet for graduates, parents, and other guests
7:30 p.m. Pops Concert

Sunday, May 20

11 a.m. Baccalaureate Service
Speaker: Dr. Harold Bennett
Executive Secretary, Southern Baptist Convention
2:30 p.m. Student recital
3 p.m. Graduation exercises

MARS HILL - Approximately 275 seniors will receive their degrees Sunday, May 20, as Mars Hill College brings to a close its 123 academic year.

Commencement weekend will officially start on Friday afternoon, May 18, with exhibition of student art on the mezzanine of the Fine Arts Building, which will begin at 4 p.m.

On Saturday, May 20, the Board of Trustees will hold their semi-annual business meeting. During the course of their meeting the trustees will approve new faculty appointments, increases for the coming year in tuition, and approve an overall budget which is expected to exceed \$7.8 million. They will also elect new officers for the coming year and elect new members to the Board of Advisors.

The trustees and advisors will be addressed by college president Dr. Fred B. Bentley during a joint luncheon. Dr. Bentley will report on the capital campaign's progress as well as other aspects of the school's year.

A banquet for the seniors, their parents and friends will be held in the college gymnasium Saturday evening. Mars Hill separated the traditional alumni activities from the commencement weekend last year so that the emphasis could be placed on the seniors and their families and friends. Saturday's activities will be brought to a close with a "pops" concert by the music department in Moore Auditorium.

On Sunday morning, the college community will be joined by the congregation of the Mars Hill Baptist Church to hear Dr. Harold C. Bennett, Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, deliver the Baccalaureate sermon at 11 a.m. in Moore.

There will be a student recital by seniors Edward Kearney and Craig Cansler in Moore beginning at 2:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. the seniors will begin receiving their diplomas from Dr. Bentley. The weekend's activities will be brought to a close with Dr. Bentley's traditional address to the graduates and their guests.