

Honors Day: Our Standards

Honors Day is a time when we focus on our standards.

Honors Day Convocation is the time when the academic community singles out those who have achieved the highest levels of intellectual and personal development. It is also a time when we thank the many donors who make it possible for the college to make meaningful scholarship awards.

Twelve years ago, when I presided over the first Honors Day Convocation, the college had a few individual scholarships worth several thousand dollars. This year, through the generous gifts of many friends, over 200 scholarships are awarded worth nearly a quarter of a million dollars and several millions of dollars in endowments to the college.

This kind of commitment by friends and alumni has enabled the college to enhance significantly the quality of the academic programs and the enrichment of the total academic community.

Mars Hill is particularly interested in scholars who prize and affirm a life of service. They begin that service by providing leadership for *The Hilltop*, the *Laurel*, the *Cadenza*. They serve in Student Government, in the honor societies, and they make a significant contribution in the larger Appalachian community. They model wholeness as persons and remind us that achievement is not a gift, but the reward of the committed and the dedicated.

What better model of a committed and dedicated servant than this year's



Richard Hoffman, Vice President

recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award: Mrs. Gwyn Fish, Chairperson of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and present Vice-Chairperson of the Faculty. In her years of service she has distinguished herself as a person responsible in her assigned tasks and as a person always reaching out to those who hurt, whether in the college or community. An excellent model of the blending of skills and values which made Mars Hill College great.

Honors Day Convocation is one of those special events in the life of a college which affirms our commitment to excellence in intellectual and personal growth and service to people and to community.

Mrs. Fish Named Outstanding Teacher

Gwyndola Pierce Fish, chairman of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Professor of Spanish, has been named the R. S. Gibbs Outstanding Teacher for 1981 at Mars Hill. The award, made during Honors Day Convocation, consists of a plaque and was established by R. S. Gibbs, and his family to honor R. S. Gibbs,

Carolina and completed her master's degree at Columbia University. In 1962, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Universidad de Valladolid in Burgos, Spain, and in 1969 continued her studies at the Universidad Internacional in Saltillo, Mexico.

A native of Lenoir, she graduated from Happy Valley High School. In ad-



Dr. Hoffman and Mrs. Fish, Outstanding Teacher 1981


A life-long resident of Madison County, R. S. Gibbs, Sr. was mayor and alderman of Mars Hill, a member of the school board, a deacon in the Mars Baptist Church, a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the Mars Hill, and a trustee of the college. He owned and operated a general store in Mars Hill most of his life.

Mrs. Fish first joined Mars Hill's faculty in 1946, and has been a member continuously since 1952. An alumna of Mars Hill College, Class of 1943, she earned her undergraduate degree from Women's College of the University of North

Carolina and completed her master's degree at Columbia University. In 1962, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Universidad de Valladolid in Burgos, Spain, and in 1969 continued her studies at the Universidad Internacional in Saltillo, Mexico.

In making the award, Dr. Richard Hoffman, academic vice-president of Mars Hill, noted that "Mrs. Fish has distinguished herself as a person committed to Mars Hill College and the students it serves. In this capacity she has served as a model teacher always promoting the study of language as a vehicle for personal growth and cross-cultural understanding."

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The Hilltop

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Appalachian Scholars

The Appalachian Scholars Program awards half-tuition scholarships to incoming freshmen and a limited number of upperclassmen who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement; leadership potential through activities in their schools, churches or communities; personal character development in courage, honesty, and integrity; and sensitivity in interpersonal relationships as well as community issues and problems.

The program was originally funded by the largest gift in the college's history, \$1,123,000, given by Dr. J. Wesley Grayson of Laguna Hills, California, as an annuity trust in 1978. "The significance of this gift cannot be over-emphasized," stated college president Dr. Fred B. Bentley, "Mars Hill College

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J. Wesley Grayson

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