



# THE HILLTOP

VOLUME LVII, Number 14

Serving the Mars Hill College Community Since 1926

Friday, May 4, 1984

## OFFSHORE MHC Receives Gift From Grayson

BY JOHN CAMPBELL

Grayson, the retired California financial consultant who gave Mars Hill College \$1,123,206 in 1978 and \$341,596.87 in 1982, has given the college a third major gift which includes \$1,123,206 in cash and \$341,596.87 in stock. The gift was announced last week by college president Dr. Bentley.

Along with several smaller cash gifts and the major contributions, Grayson has given the college a total of \$1,809,000 over the last 5 1/2 years, making him clearly the most generous benefactor in the 128-year history of the Baptist college.

Grayson, a Mars Hill alumna, has contributed an additional \$477,515.50 in stock which makes the couple's total gift to the college nearly \$3 million.

The money has gone to the support of a scholarship program named after an 86-year-old former university professor and government analyst who lives in Laguna Hills, California.

Grayson Scholarships are the most prestigious awards offered by the college, paying full tuition, which will be \$3,635 for the 1984-85 school year. Over a four-year undergraduate career one of the scholarships is worth almost \$15,000.

Currently there are 41 Grayson Scholars, and they are among the most outstanding students, academically and socially, in the 1100-member student body.

"The Grayson Scholarships," explains Bentley, "are making a significant impact on the college. They help us attract outstanding young people who set a challenging pace in the classroom and provide effective leadership in dorm life, student government, student organizations, athletics, and other aspects of campus living. Furthermore, the Grayson Scholars have great potential for the future. They will become effective leaders in business, industry, government and professional life and in their communities, churches and families after they are graduated."

Grayson is a Mid-Westerner and the son of a Methodist minister. He worked his way through undergraduate and

graduate studies at DePaul University in Greencastle, IN, and became an economics professor at the University of Kansas. He later taught at Ohio State and operated a brokerage firm in Ohio before going into government as a tax economist. For 20 years prior to his retirement he was an economist with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington.

A skillful manager of investments, he made his millions in the stock market, accumulating and losing two small fortunes in the 1920s and 1930s before achieving financial success in the late 1940s.

Grayson has been acquainted with Mars Hill College since 1946, when he married the former Pauline Wall, a native of Mars Hill whose uncle, Dr. Robert Lee Moore, was president of the college from 1897 until 1938. His interest in the college has been especially keen since 1978, when he established the scholarship program with a gift of stock valued at \$1,123,206.70. As an expression of appreciation the college awarded him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree

in 1979.

He maintains close interest in the Grayson Scholars, keeping lists of them with class affiliations. He frequently receives letters and cards from them and always answers promptly with a handwritten reply. For the last five years he has been on the campus for the spring commencement in May, offering personal congratulations to each of the graduating scholarship holders.

"But Dr. Grayson's interest is not limited to those students who hold one of his scholarships," Bentley explains. "He has a natural affinity for young people. For example, last fall when I informed him that there were more qualified applicants among prospective freshmen than there were funds for awarding Grayson Scholarships, he pledged \$25,000 extra to enable the college to award \$1,000 scholarships to the students who were not selected as Grayson Scholars."

Bentley has invited the Graysons to attend commencement activities again this year and Dr. Grayson will address the graduating class on May 13.

## SGA Election Results

BY GENA BARONE  
AND DAVID WACHTER

Student Government Association elections were held on Tuesday, April 24, on campus. Chris Harrison won the presidential race with an unofficial 125 votes, against his opponent Gray Smith's 116 votes, a margin of 9 votes.

In only other office in which there was a contested race was for the position of Chief Justice, with Matt Miller edging out Wayne Johnson. Ballot figures were not available for this office.

Gray Barron was unopposed for the position of SGA Vice-President. Also unopposed with no opposition were Deb Phillips, Treasurer, and Alyse Rhinehart, Secretary. No official release was made from the SGA office on the results of class officer elections. Additionally, as of this date (April 30) SGA has made any official release or announcement to the student body regarding election results.

Questions have been raised regarding the election and balloting procedures. Several students approached by the Hill-

top indicated that they were unable to vote in last week's elections. They linked this to things such as no prior publicity regarding the election date, no knowledge of ballot box location, or times the balloting was conducted.

Voter turnout this year was poor, with only 241 students voting. By comparison, this is less than half of last year's turnout of 531 voters. Some of the blame for this low turnout can be credited to student apathy, but most must go to SGA and the manner in which they conducted the elections this year.

Newly elected SGA President, Chris Harrison commented that he was sorry about the low voter turnout, and indicated that students have approached him saying they wanted to vote but were unable to find the place to vote on election day.

Harrison also stated, "Since they (SGA) had already violated the constitution, the election seemed to be hastily done."

Harrison's opponent, Gray Smith stated that he felt "cheated by the

system." Smith also commented that although Derwin Williams stated there was nothing he could do about the violations of the constitution, Williams could have "waited a little longer and done them right." (See Hilltop issue #13 for complete story on SGA violations of the constitution).

Regarding claims about the location of the ballot box, Smith stated, "The ballot box was not available between 4:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m....(and) the box was not placed in a convenient location."

Smith's claims about ballot box location refer to the placement of the box inside the cafeteria itself, and not out in the lobby, where it has been placed the past several years.

When asked to comment, current SGA President, Derwin Williams replied, "No comment."

This year's election has been one of controversy, with SGA violating the constitution on both the date of the elections, and a training period required after the elections. It appears now that

SGA will again violate the constitution by failing to install the new officers on the required date of April 30th.

This new violation comes under Article III, Section 5, clauses A and D. Clause A states, "The term of office of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chief Justice shall be for one (1) year beginning with their installation on or before April 30 of each year." Clause D states, "The outgoing officers shall provide the newly elected officers with an internship of not less than two (2) weeks before the installation date of April 30."

In addition to constitution violations, problems have surrounded this year's elections in the area of publicity and student notification of the availability of petition forms.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The numerical election results in this article are hoped to be correct. The numbers were obtained from unofficial sources, when current SGA President, Derwin Williams refused to release these numbers to the Hilltop. Williams explained his decision stating that it is unfair to the candidates to release the numbers. Williams also stated that he would give the numbers to any student who came by the SGA office, yet he refused to give them to Hilltop reporter, Gena Barone, who in addition to being a Hilltop reporter is also a Mars Hill student.