



THE HILLTOP

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Mellon Funds Endowment

JOHN CAMPBELL
Advisor

A \$250,000 grant to Mars Hill College from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City has been announced by college president Fred B. Bentley. To be sustained by the college, the grant will result in a permanent endowment fund restricted for faculty and student development and the arts and sciences. The grant will fund current faculty development and sciences and the arts. It will also provide support for the college's commitment to the Appalachian region. Strategies for renewal will be developed as: activities which support faculty renewal; activities which encourage group and support services. Income from the endowment will be allocated as stipends and time for faculty to study, pursue their instructional techniques, attend occa-

sional conferences, and participate with colleagues in seminars and workshops. Consultants and visiting scholars may be brought to the campus with the possibility of a visiting professorship for up to one year.

The funds may also be used for implementing new or revised course offerings, or as a special faculty salary supplement recognizing outstanding teaching ability in the humanities and arts.

Up to 20 percent of the income in a single year may be allocated to expanding faculty members' knowledge of Appalachia and relating this knowledge to course offerings.

Along with the announcement of the grant, it was announced that Dr. Ron Eller, professor of history at the college, will be the Director of the Mellon Endowment.

"Mars Hill has always been known for its strong arts and science curriculum," commented Eller, "and the Mellon Endowment will enhance our ability to maintain that strength. It is rare to find a school the size of Mars Hill which has a \$1 million-plus endowment for faculty development," he continued. "This fund will allow us to stay abreast of the rapid growth of knowledge as well as keep us informed of the new directions in which society is heading."

Eller also acknowledged that the strong points in the traditional liberal arts education are those

which employers find desirable. "Our experience shows that employers are looking for flexibility, the ability to make decisions, and the ability to 'think on your feet.' Companies can train new employees in the specifics but not in these qualities."

"The Mellon Endowment will also provide our students with the opportunity to study with a significant number of nationally known scholars. It will keep our faculty at the cutting edge of knowledge and has already generated considerable enthusiasm."

Bentley agreed that the grant has created enthusiasm among the college's faculty and supporters. "The Board of Trustees strongly endorsed the proposal when it was presented at the May business meeting, and we already have \$25,000 in contributions to be used for the matching portion of the grant."

He also outlined the procedures the college will follow in raising the remaining matching funds. "Our development staff and I have put together a strategy to go into six metropolitan areas with members of our Boards of Advisors and Trustees to raise the matching portion of the grant. With the enthusiasm and commitment of these workers, we believe that we shall be able to begin implementing this renewal program during the 1986-87 academic year."

Choir: European Tour '85



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPBELL

The Mars Hill College choir has received an invitation to participate in a European festival next summer celebrating the 300th birthday of J. S. Bach. The 45-member choir will travel to Vienna for the festival June 12-15, and then give a series of performances in Berne, Switzerland; Strasbourg, France; Munich, West Germany; and Leipzig, East Germany.

To help meet the \$1,500 per-student cost of the trip, the choir will perform a pops concert Saturday, November 17, at 7:30 pm in Moore Auditorium. The concert's theme is "A Night on Broadway," and will include selections from "The Sound of Music," "South Pacific," "The King and I," "Oliver," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Annie," "The Fantasticks," and

"The Music Man." In addition, there will be a variety of group numbers, solos, and instrumentals during the performance.

Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$2 for students, and children under six will be admitted free. Additional information about the tour, the concert, or donations may be obtained from Dr. William Thomas, Choir Director.

Spotlight: The 1984 Marching Band

By PAM KISH
Features Editor

With each pound of percussion that bursts into the stands and interrupts every fan's own heart beat, there is an excitement that envelopes musicians, field performers, football players, and fans as the half time shows begin. Mars Hill marching brigade consists of forty-seven musicians in addition to other field performers including flags, rifle corps, and majorettes. Although the band is small, the sound is superior.

"It's part of the spirit we have here. We just don't have any 'slackers'" comments Raymond H. Babelay, the Mars Hill band director of 17 years.

Breeding spirit and conceiving atmosphere is what Mr. Babelay feels are the main purposes for the band during the football season. Supporting both the school and the football team is comparable to the relationship of a church choir to the church service, according to Babelay. "People don't go to hear the choir, but it sure can help in creating a mood," he states.

Opening the half-time show, the band splashes color over the entire stadium with "Festival Prelude." The musical radiance of the trumpet is displayed in two selections that are included in the show as well. With brilliant gusto, the performance of the entire trumpet section is featured in an arrangement of "Escorpion." On the opposite end of the spectrum, a sensuously mellow trumpet duet is done by Martha Lindsey and Phil Rector in "Over the Rainbow." The pregame show's rendition in-

cludes "Stars, Stripes, and Drums" and "The Star Spangled Banner."

November 3, 1984, the band will travel to Hickory, NC to play for Lenoir Rhyne College's Homecoming pregame show. Olympic gymnast Julian Mac-Namara will perform at half-time as the Mars Hill band plays "The Star Spangled Banner."

Making the transition from marching band to concert band when the football season has ended is a considerable transaction. The band treats each phase of musical performance with a sense of serious devotion and reverence. Every other year, Mars Hill College hosts and performs for the Western Carolina District All-State Band Clinic which involves thirty counties. On the second week-end of February, representatives from three hundred high school bands, divided into three bands, will come to the campus to perform and audition. The Mars Hill band's performance for these musicians and their directors is a "pressure concert" says Director Babelay. It is a tremendous opportunity for recruiting prospective students. This event opens the concert season for the band.

Just prior to spring break the band will present their annual spring concert for the campus and the community. Soon after this concert, the band will begin a series of performances at several local high schools. These concerts will provide exposure for the band as well as promotion for

recruiting.

Correlating the musical entertainment of both, the band and the choir brings special significance to the Pop's Concert, performed the day before graduation, May 18, 1985. This memorable concert is attended by both campus and community.

Due to a rushed schedule and limited preparation time, there will be no Christmas concert this year.

Although he states that superior personnel and proper attitudes are the essential ingredients to making a band good, Babelay notes that "It's an impossible task if the attitudes are wrong. Good players are important, but proper attitudes of pride and motivation are better."

The director's smile of sincerity enforces the relevance of his comment that "the sky's the limit when you have these."

No auditions are held for the participation in the Mars Hill band. Although the band largely consists of music majors, the program is available to all students.

It is evident that Raymond Babelay has established strong ties with the members of the band. His tremendous pride in their accomplishments presents itself in his sensitive affection for all those who have participated in the band or who appreciate the band's performance. From comments made by band members, it is also obvious that this admiration and respect is felt mutually towards their director, teacher, and dream builder.



PHOTOS BY DAVID WACHTER

The Marching Band is under the lead of Drum Major, Sheryl Manske.



Phil Rector and Martha Lindsey is a highlight of this year's halftime show, and from the looks of it no bad for Phil and Martha either.



Although smaller this year, the Band's sound is as powerful as ever.