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THE HILLTOP

Volume 62, Issue 7

Mars Hill, North Carolina

Wednesday, February 8, 1989

Freshmen Triumph in College Bowl

From Staff Reports

A freshman team from one of the scholar groups triumphed last semester in Mars Hill College's first College Bowl, winning the competition over scholar groups from all upper classes.

The winning team consisted of Rob Cothran, Tom Naumann, Phil Stroud and Tammy Condrey.

The sophomore team--Nancy Debord, Lynn Carringer, David Vaughn and Jonathon Lubkeman--placed second, with the senior team--JoAnna Deaton, Jon Diego, Cindy Farmer and Lisa Rhodes--taking third. The junior team was fourth.

The competition consisted of 30-minute rounds of questions drawn from general knowledge that would be expected of well-rounded college students. Preliminary rounds were held during fall semester, with the final competition on Saturday, Dec. 3.

The winners were awarded an all-expense-paid dinner at the City Club in Asheville. "The best part of the experience was definitely the reward, because the breast of duck was really good," Stroud said.

The College Bowl was set up this year as a competition among the 14 scholar groups on campus to emphasize varied learning experiences, especially those in general studies areas. Last year, a team from Mars Hill won the College Bowl competition in the Collegiathon, which is sponsored by schools in the SAC-8 conference.

"Our experience [at the Collegiathon] had been such that the students enjoyed it, the staff enjoyed it, and so we said, 'Would it not be desirable to have a similar academic college bowl on this campus?'" said Donald Anderson, director of the scholars program.

Members of the committee named to develop and direct the college bowl program were Deanna Dillingham, director of the media center; Cynthia Peterson, research librarian; and J. P. Schubert (chairman), professor of English.

"We met last spring and talked about how to stage it, what kind of judges we needed, and how to solicit questions. We made several appeals to the faculty for questions," Dillingham said.

Seven faculty members helped the committee by submitting questions, but more support in the future is needed

in order to accomplish the purpose of the competition, that is, "to judge how well we are equipping students who are coming through our general education program," Dillingham said.

Dean Earl Leininger proposed that the committee follow a technique used last year for the Collegiathon where they "contacted people in various disciplines one-on-one, as opposed to a general appeal, saying, 'Would you submit X number of questions relating to your discipline?'"

Not only does the competition need more faculty support, but more student support as well.

"I was very impressed with the freshmen. They had support groups there, and once I had to ask them to hold down the cheers so as not to waste time," Schubert said.

"There was more support as a whole from the freshmen. They were more enthusiastic than the sophomores. I don't think there was the interest level from the juniors and seniors from the beginning. I was not at all surprised to see a freshman team win," Dillingham said.

"Another question that came up was whether non-scholar groups were going to compete. The committee is planning ways to give other organized teams the opportunity to challenge the scholars," Schubert said.

Several difficulties did arise during the competitions, such as problems with the buzzer system and some challenges to the answers given to a few questions.

"We have room for some improvements. This semester was like a trial run that proved very successful. Overall I was pleased with almost all of it," Dillingham said.

Dr. Anderson agrees. "I thought Dr. Schubert and his staff did a fantastic job in just staging it. They had to get all that paraphernalia, all the buzzers, and all the questions together. The organization was superbly done," he said.

"I thought it was a lot of fun. The questions were fair and varied so that one type of person couldn't answer all of them. It took a team to answer them," Rhodes said.

Naumann, a member of the winning team, rated the College Bowl as "a good program and a learning experience. I liked the excitement of the competition!"



Freshman Team: (left to right) Phil Stroud, Tammy Condrey, Tom Naumann and Rob Cothran

MHC Receives Generous Gift

A gift valued at more than two and a half million dollars has been given to Mars Hill College by the Robert L. Merrill family of Brevard. Merrill, his wife Lois, and their children, Dr. Robert L. Merrill, Jr., of Asheville, Debbie Merrill Stout of Horse Shoe and Beth Merrill Hamilton of Winston-Salem, made the gift of income-producing property to the college's unrestricted endowment. "Bob and Lois Merrill have been

richly blessed," said college president Dr. Fred Bentley, "and they share these blessings freely with others, several major contributions to Mars Hill College numbered among them. Their gifts have included leadership on our boards, inspiration to the young people entrusted to us, scholarship endowment, and this new, major gift to our unrestricted endowment. Surely they, and their children, exemplify Christian stewardship at its finest."

Hilltop Info

Copy deadlines and publication dates for Spring semester.

(Copy deadline)	(Publication Date)
Feb. 9	Feb. 17
Feb. 23	Mar. 3
Mar. 9	Mar. 17
Apr. 6	Apr. 14
Apr. 20	Apr. 28

Copy is due by 5 p.m. deadline date in the Hilltop office or in my hands. Any exceptions must be approved by me in advance. All contributions are welcome. Thank you for your continuing support.

Becky Horner
Editor-in-chief