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# THE HILLTOP

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## Alpha Chi Inducts New Members

Michelle Cathey  
Writer

The North Carolina Epsilon Chapter Alpha Chi held its installation of officers and induction ceremony on November 13, 1989. Alpha Chi is a national honor scholarship society designed to promote and honor academic excellence and exemplary character among students in all academic divisions.

The North Carolina Epsilon Chapter established at Mars Hill College in 1914. Students of junior or senior standing who are in the top five percent of their class and have a grade point average of at least 3.5 are eligible for membership.

The officers for the 1989-90 academic year installed at the meeting are: Emily K. Thomas, President; Vickie Jean Howell, Vice President; Michelle Denise Hutt, Secretary; Janet Rosemaria Staton, Treasurer.

New members inducted were Dana Bridges, Shannon Elissa Goodrich, Rebecca Gay Horner, Michelle Denise Hutt, Brenda Lewis Lisenbee, Lisa Diane Mathis, Russell Scott Mathis, Audra Kay Sprouse, Janet Rosemaria Staton, David Michael Staton, John, and Angela Sue Voss.

In addition to these inductees, new members for this year are Leigh Taylor Allen, Lynn Burkett, Stephen Dewayne Childers, Melanie Dawn Childers, Lynn Anita Christopher, Pamela Lynn Staton, Vickie Jean Howell, Mark Alan

Mares, Timothy Arnold Plaut, Sven Supplies, Emily K. Thomas, and John William Watts.

The official faculty sponsor of Alpha Chi, Professor Winona Bierbaum, has served in this capacity since 1974. The co-sponsors are Dr. Noel Kinnamon and Dr. Jim Lenburg. Professor Bierbaum has served as regional vice president and president as well as on regional and national committees.

On February 22-24, 1990, Region III of Alpha Chi, which covers the Southeastern United States, will hold its biannual convention in Savannah, Georgia. Professor Bierbaum says the North Carolina Epsilon Chapter plans to have a representative there.

Dr. Joseph E. Pryor, the Executive Director of Alpha Chi, visited with Professor Bierbaum and toured the campus on Nov. 13.

Each year the National Council of Alpha Chi awards five H.Y. Benedict Fellowships of \$1500 each for graduate study and five Alfred H. Nolle Scholarships of \$1000 each for undergraduate study. In 1989, for the first time, a Mars Hill student received one of these scholarships. Carol Christopher was awarded a Nolle Scholarship for the 1989-90 academic year. Special recognition was given to Ms. Christopher at the induction ceremony for her outstanding achievement.

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## Caring for Our Earth: MHC Responds to Environmental Crises

Becky Horner  
Co-editor

The environment affects all humans in ways both subtle and overt. Many people do not pay attention to the world of nature until some aspect of the use or misuse of natural resources threatens what they hold dear...or their very existence.

But the present illnesses of the environment will not simply go away if ignored—they are terminal. Even if they do not have a profound impact today, someday they will...and by then, it may be too late to do anything about it.

There is still time to do something about the threats to the well-being of the Earth, and to begin curing the ills of the environment. Beginning in January, environmental issues of local, regional, national, and global importance will be the focus of a new group on campus.

The group, which as yet remains nameless, will meet during the week of January 15 to organize and plan for the upcoming months. Environmental issues will be tackled from two perspectives: first, that of awareness and understanding of the situation and what can be done; and second, that of taking action to remedy the environmental problems.

Issues which may be considered by the group include, but are not limited to, the following: foresting practices and clearcutting, land management, waste management, water quality, effects of nuclear plants, ozone layer depletion, global warming, acid rain, and the depletion of South American rain forests. It is hoped that through programs and discussion, awareness and understanding of these issues will

lead to a more conscientious way of life, and that everyone would grow to a more conscious stewardship of the natural resources of our planet.

One goal of the group is to work toward a campus-wide recycling program accessible to everyone and beneficial to the environment. Other activities might include organized letter-writing campaigns to state and national representatives, on campus awareness programs, and off-campus retreats, workshops, or seminars.

One program which will be offered this spring is a special series of events commemorating Earth Day 1990. The MHC Earth Day celebration will be held on Thursday, April 5 and will include guest speakers and a variety of activities.

The idea of forming a group grew out of a conference, *Peace and the Planet*, which was held in Denver in October. Dr. Don McLeod and students Kevin Byrd (biology) and Becky Horner (mathematics) attended the conference under the sponsorship of the Hester Center for Peace and Justice. They were exposed to a variety of viewpoints concerning the state of the environment and its relationship to global peace, and decided to form a group on campus to address these issues and do something about the problems which the world is facing today.

The group is open to all members of the campus community who wish to participate, and is not limited to scholars or activists alone. For more information, contact Becky or Dr. McLeod.



The New and the Old: New inductees and continuing members of Alpha Chi, along with Dean of Faculty Earl Leininger and faculty sponsors Noel Kinnamon, Winona Bierbaum, and Jim Lenburg gather for a photo during the induction ceremony.  
Photo by John Campbell

## Angels Provide Gifts to Underprivileged Children

Have you noticed the Angel Tree in the Wren College Union and wondered why it is there? The Angel Tree has the purpose of giving presents to special children in the Mars Hill community who may have a limited Christmas or no Christmas at all.

Individuals, groups of friends, fraternities or sororities can pick an angel off the tree and purchase a gift for that child according to the information on the angel.

After purchasing a gift, it is to be wrapped and the angel placed in a visible place on the package. It is impor-

tant that the angel be placed on the gift in order that it may go to the right child.

The wrapped gifts need to be taken to Jay Hirst's office in the Wren College Union, Student Development Office, by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 1989.

The gifts will make a child have a Merry Christmas and give students a warm feeling inside for doing so. If interested, take an angel and go do your shopping. Only take an angel if you really mean it. Thanks and have a wonderful Christmas holiday.