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This Week

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The Ribbon Is Cut! Pittman Dining Hall Becomes Official

By Rhonda Baity
Hilltop Staff Writer

After 8 years of planning and work, Ganelle Pittman cut the ribbon and unveiled a plaque, dedicating Mars Hill College's new Pittman Dining Hall, Sat., Dec. 4.

The ceremony began with the concert band entertaining over 150 guests with their selections of Christmas music. Dr. Fred Bentley, president for the college, continued the welcome with recognition of important guests, including James and Ganelle Pittman, for whom the dining hall is named; their children; the Board of Trustees and Advisors; and various workmen for the project. The College Choir performed a variety of Christmas songs.

Expressions of appreciation followed, given by various officials of the school, boards of trustees and advisors, and student government.

Andy Thompson, president of the Student Government Association, extended his thanks to all involved with the project, especially the Pittman's, and reflected on the beginning of the building experience from the student's point of view. "I remember coming down Men's hill and looking to my

right where there were two posts and a sign hung between. That sign read, 'If you build it, they will come,' and here we are today," Thompson said.

Dr. James Lenburg represented the faculty, talking about what people encounter in a dining hall, "more advising than what goes on in the professors' offices," and expressed thanks for the "nourishment of the institution."

Dr. Earl Leininger said the building was "tangible evidence of the concern for the total well-being of our students," during his appreciation comments.

The proclamation of the naming of the dining hall was given by Ed Beach, chairman of the board of trustees. The decree described James A. Pittman as having "ultimate devotion and loyalty," he is a "true steward," and one of Mars Hill's "chief ambassadors." Mrs. Pittman was described as being "totally supportive of her husband, Mars Hill College, her church, and community."

An emotional James Pittman responded to the decree with a thank-you to all who helped make the dream a reality. He said he hopes that the dining hall will not only be a place for physical food, but



Ganelle Pittman and husband James cut the ceremonial ribbon to dedicate Mars Hill's new cafeteria Saturday.

spiritual food, also. Pittman explained that Mars Hill College has given him values that have guided and blessed his life and work. He said he is

happy to share his part of what God has given him. He said he felt it was an honor to place his name on the new dining hall. After the ceremony,

guests were allowed to roam the building, touring new kitchen facilities and conference rooms.

Mars Hill Lions Win Basketball Home-Opener

By Erik Barlik
Assistant to Sports Information Director

Lees-McRae won the opening tip, and just two seconds into the game, took a 2-0 lead. This, however was their largest lead of the entire game as the Lions outmanned, outsmarted, and outplayed the Bobcats, ending the game with a 95-59 victory.

Mars Hill started quickly when Steve Arkansas hit a 3-point basket just 25 seconds into the game which gave MHC a 3-2 lead. Mars Hill trailed only once more at 5-7,

before they darted out to a 25-point, 56-31 halftime lead.

During the second half, Mars Hill never led by less than 22 points. The Bobcats lost their composure after their head coach was awarded a technical foul with 7:17 left in the second half. The technical broke a mini-run in which the Bobcats had cut MHC's lead to 24 points.

Lamont Jones had a big first half, scoring all of his 16 points (6 for 6 on free throws) and grabbing 7 of his 8 rebounds. Arkansas chipped

in 13 of his game-ending and career-high 21 points during the Lions' first half spurt. (Arkansas hit three 3-point shots for the game.) Guard Glen Hayes put down 7 points and 4 rebounds during the second half, and redshirt freshman guard James Barber also put in 5 points. Starting center Cedric Mansell pumped in 13 points highlighted by two spectacular slam dunks, and also chipped in 6 rebounds. (Mansell had 2 blocks.) Starting forward Stanley Wheless was perfect

from the free throw line, making 4 of 4, all during the first half.

The real story of the game was found in Mars Hill's tenacious defense which allowed only 22 of 58 shot

attempts to reach the bottom of the net - that is only 38% shooting. For the game, MHC shot 34 of 64, which is 53%. Mars Hill also hit 22 of 29 free throw attempts (76%), 12 were hit (out of 12) in the first half.

Paw Prints

Assistant Coach David Conrady put together some wonderful warm-up music for the team. You could tell the fans enjoyed it, too, by their cheering and excitement. The warm-up music featured selections from Steven Curtis Chapman's *The Live Adventure*, *The Spin Doctors' Pocket Full of Kryptonite*, and *Michael English's Hope*.