



Trustees Pay Tribute To Mercer President

The Board of Trustees of Mercer University Thursday (Jan. 26) paid tribute to Dr. Rufus Carrollton Harris, president of Mercer, at a luncheon following the regular January meeting of the Board.

Federal Court Judge W. A. Bottle of Macon, a Mercer trustee, read a resolution at the luncheon commending Dr. Harris for his "distinguished leadership in university education in the nation, and especially to Mercer University where his leadership continues unabated and undiminished, fuller and richer through accumulated experiences."

Dr. Harris, president of Mercer since 1960, was presented with a copy of the resolution signed by all members of the trustees present. Prior to being named president of Mercer he was professor and dean of the law schools at Mercer and Tulane University and was president of Tulane for 23 years.

Responding to the tribute, Dr. Harris said: "The distinction of a university does not alone reside in its past, however bright its past may have been. It exists as much in the ability of the university to renew its strength, to revitalize its basic purpose, and to comprehend the eternal change taking place in the world so that it may effectively and dutifully assume the new obligations and involvements which change requires. A university must be relevant to the generation which

it serves. It must be honest, flexible and courageous enough to engender new human responses to the new human needs. Mercer's past has been noble and her present-day life is good. It is her future that constitutes the real concern of everyone here."

At the trustee session, T. Baldwin Martin, a prominent Macon attorney was named chairman of the executive committee of the Board, succeeding Dr. J. Maurice Trimmer, pastor of the Highland Hills Baptist Church of Macon.

The trustees also approved changes in the University's summer school program and gave approval to a program to strengthen the University's relationship with the Baptists throughout the state.

Mr. Martin, a Mercer alumnus who last June was recipient of an honorary degree from his alma mater, this year began a new five-year term on the Board. He was first named a trustee in 1946 and has previously served as chairman of the executive committee, the last time in 1965.

The trustees approved other committee chairmen, including Dr. Joe S. Holliday, Milledgeville, education; Jack W. Worley, Bremen, development of the University; Guyton G. Abney, Macon, finance; Hugh H. Hill, Macon, buildings and grounds; Bert Struby, Macon, honorary degrees; and Carlton Henderson, Atlanta, Pharmacy School advisory committee.

The trustees gave approval to shorten the annual summer session and offer a nine-week term which will begin this year on June 12.

Dr. Harris said that a major reason for the change is to offer a shorter session which can be attended by public school teachers who must complete their studies in time to return to their regular teaching jobs.

Dr. Harris told the trustees that he has been deeply concerned because so few people share concern

over the main problems which face Mercer.

"Universities frequently find it difficult to be understood and approved by their many publics," he said, pointing out that a program already is in progress to improve Mercer's relationship with the "grass roots Baptists" of the state.

"While it is true that Mercer is a university dedicated to the correlation of learning with the Christian faith to provide leadership yet it must be realized that this endeavor should be undertaken within the context of the overall meaning and idea of a college," he said.

Dr. Harris went on to say that while better understanding is sought between the University and its public "it must be remembered that an institution of higher learning has a distinct, clearly perceived obligation and role-concept by which it must live, however unfortunate and meager its rapport may be with any segment of people."

"Unfriendly segments may neglect the University, abandon it, or even destroy it," he added. "But if permitted to exist, it must live and function in accord with the practices imposed on educational institutions by the great educational tradition of the Western world."

Dr. Harris pointed out that "ideas, goals and values in the academic community are frequently in advance of those of the so-called 'grass roots' segment and the exploding world of knowledge and technology widens the gap."

He said that finance is the most severe problem facing Mercer, and pointed out that financing of the science building which currently is under construction is only a small part of the total problem.

The Mercer president went on to say that "education today is different than it was ten years ago and that denominational colleges are just not adequate."

(Continued on page 4)



DR. RUFUS CARROLLTON HARRIS

PAST VIETNAM ASS'T. SPEAKS AT MERCER

Frederick W. Flott, former special assistant to Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge in Vietnam and career Foreign Service Officer, spoke at Mercer University on Wednesday, Jan. 25. He discussed Vietnam with interested students and faculty in the Connell Student Center.

Mr. Flott is one of three State Department officers who were in Macon on Jan. 25 speaking before educational and civic groups. The visit was sponsored by the Macon Council on World Affairs.

Mr. Flott recently returned to the United States after serving for three and one-half years in Saigon, first as special assistant to Ambassador Lodge and then as a First Secretary in the U. S. Embassy in Saigon. Since he speaks fluent French, Mr. Flott occasionally was called upon to serve as interpreter for American officials visiting in Southeast Asia, including Vice President Humphrey, Secretary of State Rusk, and Secretary of Defense McNamara. He is also fluent in Russian, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. Mr. Flott has traveled extensively in the Soviet Union and in Latin America, and has just completed a trip to some 20 Asian, African and European countries in connection with the U. S. presence in Vietnam.

He is a native of Chicago and was graduated from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn. He served three years in the U. S. Army during World War II, after which he received the M.A. degree from the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D. C. He entered the U. S. Foreign Service in 1947 and was assigned to the American Embassy in Paris, France, where he served until 1952. After a Department of State assignment in Washington, D. C., he served at embassies in Iran, Germany, and at the U. S. Mission to the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. While at Geneva, he was a member of the U. S. delegation to the International Conference on Laos.

cerning the United States in South Viet Nam. He briefly outlined American policy and then went into a question and answer period. To the question — We entered the war at the request of which government? — Mr. Flott said it was the government in power at the time and that the government there has changed course just as do personalities. He also mentioned that eighty per cent of the U. N. voted support in the last referendum.

Unfortunately, Mr. Flott was limited by time and could not or would not answer the question fully. There seems to be a reluctance by the State Department to state the United States' true objectives, partly because the government itself does not know what the objectives are. The government that initially requested our aid (Dien regime) has now fallen by a coup. The course of the government has indeed changed. Premier Ky is now in control because he controlled the South Viet Nam Air Force during the last coup. Mr. Flott mentioned that of course the present government is legal: But who pronounced it so? He mentioned that in the elections of South Viet Nam last year about seventy per cent of the registered voters voted. This figure seems impressive until one remembers that Premier Ky's instructions were that the only people in the future to receive ration cards would be those who had posted a ballot. Why could Mr. Flott not say that the United States is in South Viet Nam to prove that it is no "Paper Tiger", to protect its SEATO promises, to encourage its ally Australia who is rich in natural resources, to stop Red China's ideology as a proof to emerging African nations, to produce an American-dominated Southeast.

(Continued on page 5)

Rich Opens Pianoforte Concerts

Miss Ruth Anne Rich, concert pianist and artist in residence at Mercer University, presented the first in a series of five historical concerts Sunday afternoon at Mercer University.

The series, Literature for the Pianoforte, comprises a survey on the development of piano literature from the period of the clavichord to contemporary times. They will be held on alternate Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. in Willingham Chapel on the Mercer campus, and the public is invited.

The first concert included works by composers of the Baroque Era — Johann Sebastian Bach, Jean-Philippe Rameau, Francois, George Frideric Handel and others.

Miss Rich returned to Macon after two years' residence in Europe, where she studied in Paris, France, and London, England. She gave concerts in Paris, Geneva, Lisbon and other European cities.

She is a native of Macon and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Rich. She studied with Edward Kilenyi at Florida State University and was graduated with honors with the degree of Bachelor of Music. She was the first student at Florida State to be awarded the Ernst von Dohnanyi Citation for outstanding achievement, and the first student of its School of Music to graduate under its Honors Program. She received the degree of Master of Music from Peabody Conservatory of Music, where she studied under Leon Fleisher.

(Continued on page 4)

Diana Heppner Is New Battalion Sponsor

Diana Heppner, a junior from Orlando, Florida, is the new battalion sponsor of the Mercer University ROTC Unit.

The title was conferred at the battalion's annual military ball last Friday at the Warner Robins Officers Club by Miss LaRose Powell, immediate past Battalion sponsor.

Miss Heppner, secretary of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, was chosen by a secret ballot election held among members of the Mercer unit. Her presentation climaxed the 1967 awards program during the intermission, which consisted of the presentation of the Senior class and their dates, the sponsor's court, and new pledges of Scabbard and Blade.

Cadet Capt. James Melvin Cayce, commander of Commander of Company H, 9th regiment of Scabbard and Blade National Military Honor Society, tapped fifteen pledges into the organization. These honored fifteen are Mike Carlton, Dicky Childs, Tom Coley, Don Hawkins, David Hudson, Jerry Masada, Jerry Moore, Tom Ulbricht, Bill Wehunt, Leo Deas, Larry Cardin, Leslie Wilkinson, Arden Kelly, Steve Sherwood, and Bobby Sikes.



The military ball Friday also featured the presentation of the Battalion Sponsor's Court. The court this year consists of Jean Harrison, Debbie Dick, Sandy Carroll, and Cissy Farnell.

The ball, attended by approximately 350 persons, was provided entertainment by the nineteen-piece Continental Air Command Band.