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The Mercer Cluster

Windham Delivers Address for Formal Opening of School Year

The official opening of the Mercer University academic year of 1952-53 was held Wednesday, October 1, at 10:00 a.m. in Willingham Chapel.

The program was opened with the academic procession of faculty and guests clad in academic regalia. After the doxology, Rev. Clifton A. Forrester, pastor of the Tattall Square Baptist Church, pronounced the invocation.

Then those gathered for the occasion joined in singing the inspiring hymn, "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past."

The student body, led by Dr. Hansford D. Johnson, joined in responsively reading the litany for students, as printed in the programs. A beautiful rendition by the Chapel Choir of "The Lord's Prayer" followed.

The speaker, Rev. James M. Windham, Mercer alumnus, and pastor of Ingleside Baptist Church of Macon, was introduced by Mercer's president, Dr. Spright Dowell.

Rev. Windham's message, was received with enthusiasm by faculty and students. Following several introductory comments he urged each person to help lead others wisely and emphasize God's concern for our needs.

Following the address, everyone joined in singing the alma mater.

Dr. H. Lewis Baits delivered the benediction. The academic procession ended the program, thus marking the official beginning of the academic year.

HELP WANTED

Anyone who is interested in working on the Cluster, will come to the Cluster office in the Co-op next Monday at 3:00 p.m. We still need people on the writing, circulation, typing, and advertising staffs.

New Faculty Fills Gaps Left by Marriage, Study, Retirement

At the beginning of this school year there are ten new faculty members here at Mercer. Dr. Helen Thornton, who is now heading the Speech Department, comes from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, to take Patricia Petter's place, who has gone to the University of Utah to do graduate study. Dr. Thornton holds an A.B. degree from Blue Mountain College and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Denver. Miss Lucile Pollard, who is also from Sioux City, is in the Physical Education Department, to take the place of Miss Julia Beckman.

Dr. R. E. Moseley is the new head of the Chemistry Department. He comes from Valdosta State College to take the place of Dr. Bernard Bettman, who is doing research work with the State University System at Valdosta. Dr. Marguerite Wordruff comes to Mercer from Mary Hardin Baylor College in Belton, Texas, to work in the Christianity Department. She holds a Th.D. degree from the Southern Baptist Seminary.

A couple are among those new additions to the Mercer faculty. They are Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Ford. Mr. Ford comes to take the place of Mr. G. S. Miller, who has become the head of the Chemistry Department at Bessie Tift College. Mrs. Ford is in the Education Department, taking the place of Miss Mabel Brantley, who is doing graduate work at Columbia Teachers College for a year.

B.S.U. Program Set at Retreat

The plans for the coming year in BSU were made in the annual Baptist Student Retreat held September 26-27. As in past years the retreat was held at Camp Joyelle on the Milledgeville highway.

The meeting began on Friday night and closed with the campfire service on Saturday night.

The program for this year's retreat contained reports and plans of the various members of the Executive Council. The Council members also met with their separate committees and planned each committee work.

Sandwiched in between these reports were inspiring talks by teachers, ministers and friends from town. Dr. McLeod Bryan, Dr. Ed. Johnston, of the Mercer faculty, Mr. Carl Bennett of the Wesleyan College and Ingleside Baptist Church, Miss Catherine Word and Mr. Mickey Henley of Macon were featured on the program.

The leading ministers from the city of Macon were the speakers on the two-day program. Rev. Clifton Forrester, Tattall Square Baptist, Dr. DeWitt Matthews, Vineville Baptist, and Dr. Henry Stokes of the First Baptist Church brought the main messages to the group.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the singing of the group.

In his closing talk BSU president, Fred Barnes, said that he was very well pleased with the number of people who attended and hoped that those present would do their best to make this a banner year for Christ and the BSU on Mercer campus.

Stern Sophomores Hand Down Judgments On Frightened Freshmen At Rat Court



Here Mayor Wilson, of Macon, extends a personal welcome to Freshmen John Preston, Arthur Parrott, Betty Jo Alexander, and Betty Covert.

A most exciting climax to freshman activities was presented on last Tuesday night by the sophomore class in their annual "Rat Court." Homer Lassiter, sophomore class president, was in charge of the program. The occasion was attended by most of the 350 freshmen at Mercer, plus a multitude of spectators.

In chapel Tuesday morning the "rats" had been instructed on how to conduct themselves in preparation for the night's frolic.

An important part of the activities included handing down of verdicts to freshmen who, in one way or another, had invoked sophomore "displeasure" during "rat week." The offenders reluctantly carried out their orders, acts which afforded merriment for those attending.

The cakes were given to the victors in the recent "cake race."

The sophomore council, after much deliberation, awarded the prize for the "ugliest boy" to Bob Green.

Then came the highlight of the evening: The Sophomore Council awarded the freshman beauties. The prettiest girl was then chosen by five members of the faculty. Miss Glendis East received the nod from the crowd, according to the Sophomore Council. She was awarded the prize, which was a loving cup.

Shackleford Named Cluster Editor By Council; Students Add Approval

Alvin Shackleford, senior from Carrollton, was elected to the office of editor of the Mercer Cluster in chapel last Tuesday. The election was held to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Rex Murphy.

Murphy received an overwhelming majority for the office in the election last spring. He had assumed office and had published the paper during the spring quarter.

Murphy at present is employed by The Macon Telegraph, and he felt that his duties there would not allow him to devote the time needed in editing the Cluster.

Student body president Emory Wilson presided in the Tuesday session.

According to the Student Government Constitution, the Student Council has the authority to fill any unexpired terms in the student offices with the approval of the student body.

The Student Council met and nominated Shackleford. In the chapel election no opposition was offered.

Shackleford served as feature editor last year on the Cluster, and was news editor for this coming year.

Amendment Gives More SAC Votes

A new amendment to the Student Constitution was approved in chapel last Tuesday.

The amendment will change the number of students on the Student Activities Committee.

The committee is now composed of three students—two of which are boys and the other a girl—and eight faculty members. The new amendment will provide for six students—three of which may be girls—and eight faculty members.

The purpose of the committee is to decide how the \$14.00 that each student pays per quarter will be spent for the benefit of the student. Included in this are such things as athletics, concert series, Cluster, Cauldron, health, dramatics, cheer club, Bear Day and Law Day.

The amendment will not go to the faculty for their approval.

Alarms Reduce Fire Hazard

Sherwood Hall is no longer a condemned building. The recent installation of the modern Roger Automatic Fire Alarm System satisfies the requirements of the city engineers and fire inspectors.

This system, which can operate on either 110 volts A.C. or 12 volts D.C. is the same kind of system which most hotels use. There is a thermostat in every room, which automatically turns in a fire alarm to the central system located on the main floor. The central system in turn relays the alarm to the city's fire stations.

Upon completion of the necessary final connections there will be briefings and fire drills to familiarize all those living in Sherwood Hall (and Roberts Hall, since one was installed there also) with the system and the most satisfactory procedure of abandoning the hall in the event there is a fire.

Choir Plans for Successful Year

A successful year is in view for the Mercer Choir, according to Dr. Arthur M. Rich, the director.

The choir consists of 125 members, with an outstanding soprano and alto section.

Serving as officers are: President, Hayden Bryant; secretary, Barbara Toward; treasurer, Lois Beazler; technical manager, Mervin Reagen; personnel manager, George Deadyler; stage manager, Dick Bridges; and music chairman, Joe Arnold. A staff of assistants help these officers.

Special engagements of the choir other than their bi-weekly appearance in chapel are: Friday, Nov. 7, Law Day; Monday, Nov. 24, Messiah; Tuesday, Nov. 25, Messiah; and Tuesday, Dec. 2, Messiah.

Announcements From the Dean

Senior Comprehensive Exam will be held Oct. 20, 21, 22 during the afternoon. This exam is for those planning to graduate in December or March. Those planning to take this exam should file in reception office. Dean Burtis states that twenty students have indicated in chapel their plan to finish in December or March, but he thinks there are at least fifty.

On November 3, the Medical College Application Test will be given. Application must be in Princeton, N. J. by Oct. 20, 1952. Application blanks can be secured from the Dean's office.

Mr. Henry Wainock, head of Public Relations and teacher of journalism and speech, will attend the meeting of the American College Public Relations Association in Athens this Friday and Saturday.

Dean's List Made By 19 in Summer

A number of Mercer students braved the hot summer months and came to school. Among the summer students, nineteen made the dean's list. They are: Betty Helen Atkinson, Mrs. Claire Hall Barnett, Ruth H. Bolton, Carolyn Boswell, Skippy Bobjwell, Lamar Brooks, Donald Cline, Mary Joanne Eckles.

Angus Hart, Carolyn Hayes, Lilla Lang, Wayne Mathews, Charles Matthews, Ernestine Moody, Mrs. Clea Mulling, Elizabeth Phector, Dorris Reeves, Jeannette Wheaton and William Jackson Zorn.

Requirements for the dean's list are one A and two high B's.

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