



# Dr. Rufus C. Harris Inaugurated President

## Formally Becomes 16th President of Alma Mater



Staff photo by Ward Lowrance

Registrar Arthur Walton places the cape on Dr. Spright Dowell, president emeritus of Mercer, who was Wednesday awarded a doctor of laws degree by the institution he served for a quarter of a century.

## Eight Given Honorary Degrees During Inauguration Ceremonies

Mercer bestowed eight honorary degrees during the inaugural ceremonies Wednesday. One of the degrees was given to a former president, Dr. Spright Dowell, who gave a quarter of a century of service to the institution.

Other recipients were Robert O. Arnold, Walter Dowling, Dr. Dick H. Hall Jr., Dr. Earl Guinn, Ralph McGill, Dr. Clyde Penrose St. Amant and the Rev. Harvey T. Whaley.

The candidates for the degrees were presented by Dr. Paul Mercer, chairman of the honorary degrees committee. The degrees were conferred by Dr. Harris as president of the university. Dr. Harris presented the recipient with the certificate acknowledging their degree and Registrar Arthur Walton caped each of those honored.

Robert O. Arnold, chairman of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, received the honorary doctor of laws degree. Arnold received the GSCW Award for distinguished service in public affairs in 1959 and the Distinguished Service Award from the *Business Magazine* in 1961. Since 1949 he has served as a member of the Board of Regents and as its chairman since 1951. He is a past president of the Cotton Manufacturers Association of Georgia and the University of Georgia Alumni Society. He received his B. S. from the University in 1908.

Dr. Spright Dowell, president emeritus, was given the doctor of laws degree by the institution that he served for 25 years as president. He received a standing ovation from the audience when presented the degree by Dr. Harris.

Previously Dr. Dowell had received honorary degrees from the University of Alabama, Howard College, Baylor University and his alma mater, Wake Forest. A former president of Auburn,

he came to Mercer in 1928 and served as president until 1953 when he retired. Following the death of his successor, Dr. George B. Connell, he was made acting president and served in that capacity until Dr. Harris assumed his duties here.

Dr. Dowell served as many years as secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Commission. He has also served as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and vice-president of the Georgia Education Association.

Walter C. Dowling, the United States Ambassador to West Germany, was given the doctor of laws degree by his alma mater. Dowling was graduated from Mercer in the class of 1925. He began his foreign service career six years later and has served in posts in Norway, Lisbon, Rome, Brazil, Austria and Korea.

In 1959 he became assistant secretary of state for European affairs and in November 1959 he became ambassador to Germany.

Dr. Dick H. Hall Jr., president of the Georgia Baptist Convention

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Mercer inaugurated its 16th president and awarded eight honorary degrees as part of the three-day inaugural program, March 28-30. Also included on the agenda were a reception Tuesday night, an inaugural luncheon addressed by the Chancellor of the University of Georgia system and a Georgia editor and although not a part of the official ceremonies, a dinner sponsored by the school of pharmacy to honor the newly inaugurated president.

Dr. Rufus Carrollton Harris officially became his alma mater's 16th president when J. Milton Heard, chairman of the board of trustees, administered the oath of office to him. Actually, the president had assumed his duties last spring quarter.

The inaugural ceremonies were held in Willingham Chapel, Wednesday at 10:30 p.m. They lasted for two and a quarter hours. In addition to the faculties and trustees of the university and guests, there were more than 100 delegates from learned societies, educational and professional associations, foundations and other organizations.

The induction address was delivered by Dr. Walter Pope Binns, president of William

Jewell College and roommate of Dr. Harris while the two were students at Mercer. Dr. Harris delivered his inaugural address following the induction ceremony.

Following the administering of the oath of office, the university conferred honorary degrees upon Robert O. Arnold, Dr. Spright Dowell, Walter Dowling, Dr. Dick H. Hall Jr., Dr. G. Earl Guinn, Ralph McGill, Dr. Clyde Penrose St. Amant and the Rev. Harvey T. Whaley.

Dr. Henry J. Stokes Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church in Macon and a member of the board of trustees, presided over the ceremonies in the chapel and at the inaugural luncheon.

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Staff photo by Ward Lowrance

Registrar Arthur Walton places the presidential seal around the neck of the newly sworn-in Dr. Rufus C. Harris. The presidential seal was especially designed by Marshall Daugherty of the art department and Dean Otis Knight. The seal, carved of silver and bronze, is a mandorla shaped pendant depicting a tower of the Administration Building, a ribbon, and a stained glass window of Willingham Chapel. Around the seal is the Latin inscription for "Seal of the President of Mercer University."

The proposed constitutional amendments will also appear on the ballot. These amendments have been printed in the Cluster and were discussed before the student body in chapel, March 28.

The proposed changes include the change of the number of faculty

advisors for the honor council, time of fall elections and the procedure to be followed when no one qualifies for a publication editorship.

The qualification procedure is outlined in the student handbook under the SGA Constitution on page 27, article 10, section 2.

### "THE HEIRESS"

The Mercer Drama Department will present "The Heiress" at Willingham Chapel, Thursday and Friday nights at 8:14. "The Heiress" is one of two plays scheduled for the spring quarter.

## Spring Elections Set For April 18; Qualify Tuesday

General SGA spring elections will be held April 18. Candidates interested in qualifying for the spring race must do so by Tuesday, April 4 at 5 p. m.

Not only will there be a vote on SGA officers for the coming year, but also foreign student proposal will be voted upon. Olin Thompson proposed in chapel, March 7, that the one dollar per quarter per student which was taken from student activity fees to pay for the student center be reappropriated to a foreign student fund. If passed, the new allocation will be in effect for five years.