

FRESHMAN EXTRA



The Mercer Cluster

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Record Number Of Fresh Enroll For Academic Year

A record number of 458 freshmen will register at Mercer today, representing an increase of almost 180 students over last year. "The general quality of the freshman class appears to be the best in recent years," said Dr. Rufus C. Harris, President of Mercer University.

The principle reason for the record freshman class is a large increase in the number of students seeking enrollment, according to Admissions personnel. Last year Mercer's admissions program was greatly expanded and intensified to encourage a larger number of prospective students. "This year's class is one of the largest in Mercer's history, probably exceeded only by the 584 enrolled in the first post-war year, 1946," according to Dean Robert H. Spiro, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

"More than half of Georgia's 159 counties are represented, as are 16 states and several foreign countries. The class was carefully selected and we believe we have an excellent group of entering students," continued Dr. Spiro. There are 518 freshmen and transfer students at Mercer this year, including 55 nursing students. Approximately 750 freshmen and transfer students applied for admission to the university. The total number of students in

the College of Liberal Arts is about 1,200. Approximately 300 students will be admitted to Mercer's Southern College of Pharmacy in Atlanta and the Walter F. George School of Law. The total enrollment at Mercer will be about 1500. The freshmen and new students arrived and began a three day period of orientation and counseling with registration for freshmen today.

The Orientation program began Tuesday morning with a worship program in Willingham Chapel led by Dr. Robert Otto, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Following the worship program, all freshmen took a series of standardized tests covering reading, mathematics, and other areas. Throughout the next two days the freshmen were broken into smaller groups and introduced to many of the organizations and policies of the university. This included orientation to the Mercer Honor System, campus life, student government, a general outline of the purpose and history of Mercer and a tour of the campus and library.

Sorority and fraternity open house was held Monday night, with Rush parties being held throughout the week. Pledging for fraternities and sororities will be on Monday from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.

SGA To Sponsor Film Next Week

Films have been scheduled for showing each quarter of the present school year 1962-63. The film series is sponsored by the Student Government Association, and is offered free of charge to all Mercer Students and Faculty. All presentations are scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on the dates indicated in room 314 of the Connell Student Center.

Chapel Changes Go Into Effect

Change is perhaps the most appropriate word to describe today's Mercer. And not to be excluded are the alterations being made to the chapel program. With the appointment of Dr. Robert Otto, Chairman of the Philosophy Department, as the new Dean of Chapel, a novel approach to this one-half hour period is being initiated. Until this year attendance was required three times each week. Now attendance is required only twice each week. This year the convocation will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Tuesday assembly will be set aside for current affairs and entertainment with the SGA responsible for two or three periods per month. The Thursday chapel will be reserved solely for religious emphasis. Also the students will hear Dr. Otto himself as he is to speak in about two-thirds of the chapels on Thursday. Dr. Otto realizes the difficulty of his job. Not only is he expected to live up to the standards of his predecessor, Dr. H. Lewis Batts, but with an increased budget and greater freedom from classroom instruction he must give to the students a more meaningful program. "Suggestions will be welcome," says Dean Otto referring to a pattern for future chapel programs, since "a pattern is not already cast." Chapel at Mercer is considered an integral part of a student's education and all students, taking two or more courses are required to attend chapel. Outstanding musical, dramatic and political programs are scheduled from time to time in addition to the several formal convocations to be held during the year.



DEAN ROBERT OTTO

Sixteen Named To Dean's List

Sixteen students were named to the Dean's List at the end of the summer quarter. Each of them attended both sessions of summer school and each attained an honor point ratio of 2.58 or better.

The largest number of students to receive the honor were from Macon. They were Gwendolyn Louise Alexander, senior, Cherry Ann Barlow, unclassified, Judith Marie Brewer, sophomore, Charlotte Christine Cook, transient student, Carla S. Daugherty, junior, Mary Councill Gladstone, freshman, Jackie Ruth Martin, junior, John Felix Mash, Jr., sophomore, Steven Clarence O'Kelly, freshman, and Joseph Happ Willingham, a transient student.

Others were Joseph Quenton Davidson, Jr, junior from Columbus, Martha Sue Free, sophomore from Doerun, Allen Byron Gilbert, junior from Augusta, James Hoyt Whitlow, senior from Atlanta, William Wesley English, senior from (Continued on page two)

Frosh Penfield Trip Unique To This Weeks Orientation

Freshman orientation activities this week will be climaxed Saturday by a trip to the original site of Mercer University at Penfield, Georgia.

The entire Freshman class of 458 is required to attend. Transportation will be furnished. Seniors have annually made the trip in April. This year marks the first time that freshmen will do so as a part of orientation.

During the years that Mercer was located at Penfield (tuition was \$1.50 per month or \$2.50, depending upon the student's curriculum. The curriculum included English grammar, geography, history, arithmetic, classical studies, philosophy and mathematics according to A History of Mercer University, by Dr. Spright Dowell, President Emeritus.

During these first years students were required to spend three hours a day working on the school farm and were forbidden to use such words as 'dast', 'dern', or 'doust'. Work in the fields went on under the watchful eye of the school 'steward', whose rank was equal to that of any faculty member. He required that all work clothing be home spun and that students working in the farm wear great bonnets for protection from the fierce Georgia sun.

It was the steward who kept the black book of conduct in which were dutifully recorded such falls from grace as using bad language, other offenses open to a Mercer student included "indignities to dies at millpond," "idleness in school," and "reading a borrowed composition."

Billington Sanders served as principle of the then Mercer Institute and Dr. Dowell tells us he died night and day for Jesse Mercer's "mustardseed." In 1838 the institute became Mercer University and Mr. Sanders became our first president. During this time we had our own theological seminary. Three years of theological work were required for a degree, and no student was admitted without an A.B.

Under this system Mercer flourished until the Civil War, during which immediately after which severe retrenchment was necessary. In 1871 the school was moved to Macon. The annual senior pilgrimage has become a Mercer tradition. University officials hope that the freshman pilgrimage may also do

so. The trip will begin at 8:00 a.m. and return at 3:00 p.m., according to information from the office of the Dean of Men, Joe Hendricks.

How Cluster Got It's Name

Established in 1920, THE MERCER CLUSTER has since been a leader among small-college student weeklies. The name of the paper is somewhat unusual, and deserves explanation to those who may not be familiar with Mercer history.

We quote the following from Dr. Spright Dowell's A History of Mercer University.

He (Jesse Mercer) spent the year 1799 preaching in South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. Because of their respect for his reputation and character, large congregations attended his meetings. There was a lack of hymn books in the new and growing churches and to meet the need he collected and compiled a volume under the title, The Cluster of Spiritual Songs, Divine Hymns, and Sacred Poems; being chiefly a collection. To meet the popular demand seven editions were printed. The first was unbound and was printed in Augusta in 1813. This was followed in the same city by a bound and enlarged edition in 1815 and again in 1816. In 1817, while attending the Triennial Convention in Philadelphia, he published a revised edition. The use was widespread, and other editions followed in 1820 and 1835. By 1839, thirty-three thousand copies had been distributed in Philadelphia alone. The 1835 edition was the fifth to be copyrighted. Thomas, Cowperthwaite, and Company published it in Philadelphia and Collins and Brother in New York. Two copies of this edition are deposited in the Mercer Library.

This book has been permanently enshrined in The Mercer Cluster, the student weekly at Mercer University since 1920.

Period	Hour
1	8:00- 8:50 a.m.
2	9:00- 9:50 a.m.
Chapel, Tues. & Thurs.	10:00-10:37 a.m.
3	10:45-11:35 a.m.
4	11:45-12:35 a.m.
Lunch	12:35- 1:15 p.m.
5	1:15- 2:05 p.m.
6	2:15- 3:05 p.m.
7	3:15- 4:05 p.m.
8A, Mon. & Wed.	7:00- 9:30 p.m.
8B, Tues. & Thurs.	7:00- 9:30 p.m.

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