

Agnes Scott College
Decatur, Georgia

The President's Annual Report
To The
Board of Trustees



June 4, 1937

**THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1936-1937**

June 4, 1937.

The Board of Trustees,
Agnes Scott College.

I have the honor to present herewith my annual report as President of Agnes Scott College for the session 1936-1937.

Trustees

Since the last meeting of the Board, we have lost by death two of our members—Mrs. Bessie Scott Harman and Mr. William A. Bellingrath. Committees have been appointed to bring in memorial sketches for these, but a brief mention concerning their activities in connection with Agnes Scott College seems appropriate.

Mrs. Harman has been connected with the College practically all of her life. She attended Agnes Scott when it was an Institute and made a good record in her work, particularly in English and History. She was elected a Trustee on October 17, 1917, and for twenty years has been an active and efficient member of the Board. Both of her daughters received their education at the College, and through all the years she has been a loyal and active member of the Alumnae Association.

She assisted personally many of the girls who have attended the College from time to time, and she raised all of the funds for the first Korean student who came to Agnes Scott. She certainly carried on well the spirit of her father who was the founder of the College and of her grandmother in whose honor it was named.

Mr. William A. Bellingrath was elected a Trustee of Agnes Scott College on October 9, 1922, and served continuously until his death on March 11, 1937. During this period of fifteen years, he showed his interest in many ways. He contributed generously for the financial support of the Institution. He was ever ready to give time and effort for its advancement, and he was an unusually wise and helpful counsellor on all important affairs. He was pleased that his oldest daughter became an Agnes Scott graduate, and before his death he arranged for his youngest daughter to enter here.

The fact of Mr. Bellingrath's connection with the College was a distinct recommendation of the Institution to a great many people in Alabama and helped to win support and patronage for the Institution. He will be greatly missed.

The unexpired terms of Mrs. Harman and Mr. Bellingrath will be brought to the attention of the Nominating Committee, of which Mr. J. K. Orr is Chairman.

The terms of the following members expire at this meeting: Mr. W. C. Vereen, Miss Mary Wallace Kirk, Dr. D. P. McGeachy, Mr. John McMillan, Mr. George Winship, and Dr. J. A. McClure. All of these are loyal and helpful members of the Board.

On account of the fact that our Trustees are very busy people and widely scattered, it is not possible to have frequent meetings. The officers of the College do appreciate greatly the opportunity of consulting with individual members from time to time and of working through Committees of the Board. The Trustees often do not realize that their connection with the Institution gives a degree of prestige and confidence on the part of people who are acquainted with the individual Trustees and who may become patrons or supporters of the College.

Buildings and Grounds

The most significant event since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees was the opening of our New Library and its dedication in December. The building has proved to be all that we expected and hoped for, and it has created widespread interest and comment.

It was dedicated at the same time that Emory University was celebrating its Centennial, and we had the opportunity of bringing to our campus for the occasion the most distinguished group of educators from all parts of this country and Canada that we have ever had on our campus at one time. These included representatives of nearly three hundred institutions of high rank.

By vote of the Executive Committee, the building formerly used for a library was completely remodeled and equipped and named in honor of Honorable Charles Murphey Candler, Sr., who was for forty-six years a devoted and an effective Trustee of the College. This building was dedicated in April, and it is proving to be one of the most valuable assets of the College. It is in great demand by student organizations, and has become the center of the student life of the campus.

During the last year, the College has been able to acquire seven lots fronting on College Place and Hancock Street. These lots are heavily wooded, and the College was anxious to protect the original forest trees against developments that might not be satisfactory. It is the hope of the Athletic Association to erect a hut and an outdoor kitchen in the woods thus acquired so that our students may have a very convenient retreat for conferences and for recreation.

The College has also been able to acquire the house and lot on the corner of South Candler Street and Dougherty Street. The house is being remodeled, and will be occupied by Professor S. G. Stukes. This lot is quite large, and there is ample room on it for the development later of an apartment house for teachers whenever this seems to be practicable and desirable.

The enlargement and beautifying of the Alumnae Garden has been a very interesting and attractive development on the campus during recent months. The Alumnae have been of great assistance to the College in this work, in the equipping of the Murphey Candler Building, and in numerous other activities.

Faculty

Miss Margaret T. Phythian has been on leave of absence this year for the purpose of completing her doctorate in French at the University of Grenoble in France. She finds that it will be necessary to continue this study for another year, and an additional leave of absence has been granted for this purpose. The College is most gratified that the General Education Board has awarded a fellowship to Miss Phythian for the purpose of enabling her to continue this study. The amount of the fellowship will be approximately \$2,000, and is a distinct honor to the College as well as to Miss Phythian herself. During her leave of absence, her work has been carried on by Miss Helen Carlson, B.A. Grinnell College, M.A. Columbia University, who has almost completed her Ph.D. work.

In the Biology Department, we had resignations of Dr. Thomas W. Whitaker, Miss Helen Mar Miller, and Miss Carol Griffin. Their places have been filled by Ernest H. Runyon, Ph.D. University of Chicago, Miss Mary Linda Vardell, B.A. Flora Macdonald College, M.A. University of North Carolina, and Miss Frances L. McCalla, B.A. Agnes Scott College. The Departments of Latin and Greek have been strengthened by the addition of Miss Narka Nelson,

B.A. Western College, M.A. Smith College, Ph.D. University of California.

The opening of our New Library has necessitated the enlarging of our staff, and we have added Miss Josephine Nunnally, B.A. Westhampton College, B.S.L.S. Columbia University, and Miss Elena V. Greenfield, B.A. Agnes Scott College, B.A.L.S. Emory University.

In Chemistry, Mrs. Margaret Whittington Davis resigned as instructor, and her place has been taken by Mrs. Lucy Goss Herbert, B.A. Agnes Scott College, M.S. Emory University.

On account of the illness of one of the teachers in the English Department, Miss Virginia Prettyman, B.A. Agnes Scott College, has been serving as Assistant in the Department during the last two quarters of the session.

While the staff of the Alumnae Office are not chosen by the College, yet they do mean so much to the well-being of our Institution that we are always concerned with the personnel of that staff. Miss Dorothy Hutton, who has been the Alumnae Secretary, resigned; and her place has been taken by Mrs. Fannie G. Donaldson, B.A. Agnes Scott College, who formerly served very effectively in this work, and Miss Nelle Chamlee, B.A. Agnes Scott College, has been transferred from the Bookstore as Assistant Alumnae Secretary. Her place in the Bookstore has been taken by Miss Ruby Hutton, B.A. Agnes Scott College.

The College is greatly blessed in its officers and faculty who work together with unusual devotion to the Institution and with harmony among themselves. The President of the College has been connected with the Institution twenty-two years, but all of the major officers, including the Dean, the Registrar, Business Manager, and Treasurer exceed the President in their length of service with the College. Their experience and loyalty make for smooth administration and a very effective college organization.

The Faculty have been operating this year on the quarter basis instead of the semester program. This division of the year was adopted in order to cooperate more closely with the University Center program of the Atlanta institutions. On the whole, it has proved to be very satisfactory. There are some aspects of the schedule which will need to be improved and refined, but there are fewer difficulties than we anticipated.

The Faculty is also experimenting with a "cut system"

so as to regulate the attendance on classes by the students. While the plan is purely experimental in its present state, it is anticipated that probably it will be made permanent. The system was requested by the students, but the faculty have felt that it will not interfere seriously with the work of the classes in view of the strict limitations which are imposed.

Students

All the dormitory rooms were filled this year, and it was necessary for us to take over the Sturges Cottage for faculty members and to use Boyd Cottage for students so as to take care of the number who were applying for admission.

Our 491 students may be classified in various ways as follows:

Geographical Distribution

Alabama	26	South Carolina.....	43
Arkansas	3	Tennessee	23
Florida	28	Texas	3
Georgia	272	Virginia	18
Illinois	1	West Virginia.....	8
Kentucky	6	Foreign Countries	
Louisiana	5	Africa	2
Mississippi	4	China	5
Missouri	1	England	1
New Jersey.....	1	France	1
New York	2	Japan	1
North Carolina	31	Mexico	1
Ohio	1		
Pennsylvania	4	Total.....	491

Class Enrollment

Senior Class	88
Junior Class	92
Sophomore Class	133
Freshman Class	162
First Year Irregulars.....	5
Second Year Irregulars.....	1
Unclassified Students	2
Special Students	8
Total.....	491

Residence

Boarders -----	309
Day Students -----	182

Denominational Distribution

Presbyterian -----	199
Methodist -----	114
Baptist -----	86
Episcopal -----	40
Jewish -----	16
Christian -----	11
Catholic -----	8
Christian Science -----	3
Congregational -----	2
Church of Christ -----	2
Lutheran -----	1
Ethical Culture -----	1
Plymouth Brethren -----	1
Union Church of Manila -----	1
United Brethren -----	1
Unknown -----	4
Reformed -----	1

491

The various organizations on the campus have cooperated well this year in maintaining the ideals and high standards of the College. Student Government Association has made unusual efforts to emphasize and interpret individually the Honor System of the College.

Current Expenses

The report of the Treasurer will give general information in regard to this topic. The increase in the cost of living has been very noticeable in the purchases which the College makes. It is becoming a definite factor with which we must reckon in making up the budget for the year. This fact is a matter that also concerns the faculty, officers, and other employees of the Institution. There should be some increase in the remuneration for these groups, but it is uncertain as yet as to whether or not any increase may be made for the next session. This will have to be determined when we can tell more accurately the prospective income for the session 1937-1938.

The emphasis on Social Security which is manifest throughout the country reminds us afresh that we have not been able as yet to establish any pension plan for our staff. It will be unquestionably necessary for us to do this in the near future. Important as it is, we feel that it must wait until we are able to restore, to some extent at least, the salary cuts which were made previously.

Semi-Centennial Plans

All friends of Agnes Scott should keep in mind the fact that in 1939 we will be ready to celebrate the Semi-Centennial of the College. The Board of Trustees will doubtless wish to appoint at this meeting a Committee to make definite plans for that occasion. We have already adopted some general financial and material objectives, and these will need to be refined and elaborated.

We are anxious for the occasion to mean fully as much in the mental and spiritual growth of the Institution as in its financial well-being. All these matters will need the careful attention of the Trustees, and it is hoped that each member will be ready to make suggestions in regard to this and other matters that will be presented.

The various Committees will doubtless bring definite recommendations which may be a basis for discussion and final action.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. R. McBain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the President.

President.