

Agnes Scott College
Decatur, Georgia

The President's Annual Report
To The
Board of Trustees



June 3, 1938

NOTE

We are enclosing as a part of this Report a Development Plan for Agnes Scott, indicating the items that we need most at this time. The Report of the Treasurer is sent as a separate brochure.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

June 3, 1938.

Board of Trustees,
Agnes Scott College.

I have the honor to present herewith my annual report as President of the College. It is the fifteenth such report that I have had the privilege of making. You will remember that we are closing the forty-ninth session of the institution.

University Center Developments

For several years we have seemed to make relatively little progress in cooperation between Agnes Scott, Emory University, Georgia Tech and other institutions of the vicinity. The last few months have seen a great deal of activity in the subject. This is partly due to the fact that we are beginning to overcome some of our local difficulties, but there are also some other events which have hastened our activity.

Last winter the General Education Board decided to appoint a Southern Advisory Committee for this year, and I was requested to serve as a member. It seemed important for our local institutions to make their petition to the General Education Board before I should become active on the Committee because I would feel some hesitancy in pressing our claims after my semi-official relations should begin. Accordingly Emory and Agnes Scott requested the officers of the Board for an opportunity to present our case. This was granted and April 8th was set for the date. We had an excellent opportunity to tell our whole story and present such maps, statistics, and other data as might be desired. We received a most cordial and friendly reception, though there was a very distinct understanding that the Board might not make any contribution at all and was very likely not to make a grant of such size as we were requesting.

We have also felt encouraged because the General Education Board invited a group of representatives from the various institutions around Atlanta to go at the Board's expense to visit Cornell University, Rochester University, and Toronto University, all of which have developed along lines

which may be suggestive and helpful to us. This generous action on the part of the Board likewise was with the full understanding that it would not necessarily lead to any gift.

We also had interviews with the Carnegie Corporation, the Rosenwald Fund, the office of Mr. E. S. Harkness, and others who may be friendly if our program develops in an encouraging way.

It has become increasingly evident that to develop a great university we will need the cooperation of all our forces in this part of the state. It is particularly worth while for the University of Georgia, Georgia School of Technology, Columbia Seminary, and perhaps other institutions in the general vicinity to unite in eliminating unnecessary competition and in providing resources for meeting needs that have as yet been scarcely realized.

For your information we are giving here a summary of the report which Agnes Scott made to the General Education Board in presenting our case:

Letter

You have shown such continuous and vital interest in Agnes Scott College that we are encouraged to lay before you now some of the opportunities and responsibilities which seem to lie immediately before us. May we recount briefly the grants which you have made us?

Conditional Offers

1. No. 044. October 27, 1908. An offer of \$100,000 provided \$250,000 should be pledged as a supplemental sum by December 1, 1909, with a final limit of collections December 31, 1911. The terms of the grant were very unusual for that day and most generous in the wide scope of service for which the money might be expended.

2. No. 174. June 25, 1919. An offer of \$175,000 provided a supplemental sum of \$325,000 should be subscribed by December 1, 1921, with a final limit of collections July 1, 1924. All of this was for endowment.

3. No. 200. January 26, 1921. An offer of \$100,000 provided a supplemental sum of \$150,000 be subscribed by January 1, 1923, with a final limit for collections

March 31, 1926. The whole sum thus provided was to be used for increases in salaries for teachers. It was quite unusual for the Board to make a second offer before an outstanding one had been met, but an exception was made in our case.

4. No. 409. June 24, 1929. An offer of \$300,000 provided a supplemental sum of \$600,000 be subscribed by July 1, 1929, with a final collection date of July 1, 1932. This grant was very unusual in several ways. It was made after the general policy of grants to colleges had been severely curtailed. It was accompanied by another offer to run concurrently. The purposes of the expenditures for the total sum were most varied and generous.

5. No. 411. September 18, 1929. An offer of \$200,000 provided a supplemental sum of \$400,000 be subscribed by July 1, 1931, with a final date of collections July 1, 1934. This grant was also particularly helpful in that the purposes allowed were varied and flexible.

6. No. GI-2298-B (A modification of No. 411). December 13, 1934. An offer of an additional \$100,000 on condition that the supplemental sum required under Grant No. 411 be collected in full by July 1, 1935. On account of the economic conditions in the country an extension of time from July 1, 1934, to July 1, 1935, had been previously allowed by the Officers of the Board.

Value of This Aid

When the General Education Board began its aid, Agnes Scott was a new and weak college, with high ideals and severe standards as its main assets. Its total financial resources were less than \$325,000, with a considerable debt. No one can possibly estimate the benefits that have come from the repeated offers of the Board. They have provided a definite stimulus for the other friends of the Institution.

The Board has contributed \$975,000; but the College has been able to secure from others more than \$2,000,000 additional, very largely indeed on the strength of the conditional gifts of the Board. The College has been able to meet **on time** the requirements as to securing the subscriptions for the supplemental sums; and, except in 1934 when an extension of one year was asked, it has been able to show **on time** the collection in full of those sums. Agnes Scott's friends have taken pride in helping to meet promptly the opportunities offered to the College.

When the Board made its first conditional grant, there were in the South at least a score of private colleges for women that had stronger financial assets than Agnes Scott and perhaps equal educational recognition. The aid received has enabled the College to take the lead in financial strength of all such institutions between Baltimore and New Orleans, though far from being adequately provided.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of the General Education Board to Agnes Scott College has not been the money given, but rather the confidence which the Officers of the Board have shown in the College and the constant encouragement that has meant more than anything merely material could stimulate. The Board has been by far our greatest partner in the educational task which we are trying to accomplish; and your approval has been more valuable than you can realize.

Need for a University Center

The Board is well aware of the general conditions in the South. The remarkable book by Howard W. Odum entitled, "Southern Regions of the United States," has shown conditions in many fields so clearly that there is no need of repetition here. In order that there may be improvement, we are convinced that there must be **cooperation** by states and by educational institutions and by group agencies and by individuals. We feel sure that **better standards of education** are essential. In the University Center Program which we are trying to establish in Atlanta, these two objectives are combined and emphasized.

Emory University is setting forth in its presentation the need of a Graduate School. We believe that this is the most pressing obligation which the University Center can meet; but we agree with Emory and with the group of distinguished educators who made a study of the situation in Atlanta and in the South that it is unwise to try to build a graduate school until the "under-pinning" college program is improved and well supported. As one of the colleges upon which the superstructure of graduate work is to rest, Agnes Scott realizes keenly its need for strengthening.

Agnes Scott's Responsibilities

As a cooperating unit in the University Development of the Southeast, Agnes Scott feels that its first responsibility is to set and to maintain **high standards of intellectual work**. It is hard to realize how difficult this is in the South. Agnes

Scott had last year nearly 2,700 inquiries about freshman admission. Not all of these could have been secured if the College had wanted them, but possibly 500 would have come if they had been accepted. After a thorough sifting of the group, the College finally took only 174. We think these are far above the average for most colleges in the South, and we can understand something of the problem that a State school must have when it feels obligated to take the "run of mine" graduate into its Freshman Class. More than anything else, in our judgment, our section of the country needs an **insistence on quality** and the discipline of thorough work.

While Agnes Scott is an earnest seeker after quality in its students, and while it draws its faculty from more than 25 states and from more than 40 universities or colleges in an effort to get breadth of experience and of understanding, it falls short of being a first class institution. The professors, with one or two exceptions, receive only \$3,500 or less. The College does not have any retirement plan or arrangement for sabbatical leave. It is not able to subsidize research or to finance many investigations which it would like to make as to its own program. It has never had sufficient sums for the purchase of works of art or of adequate books for the library.

The College is even further behind on its living quarters for students and faculty than on its academic facilities. It wishes to emphasize the value of residence on the campus rather than having a large number of day students; but its dormitories are further out-of-date than those of any other college in the state.

In the allocation of duties in the University Center plans, Agnes Scott has been charged with the working out of improvement in the **Fine Arts** for the whole southern area. Very little has been done in this field around Atlanta. The offerings in Music, Art, Architecture, Sculpture, and the like are very scanty and not well organized. It is felt that the Fine Arts ought to be developed from three viewpoints: (1) For college students who may count the work as a part of their degree programs; (2) For the adults who do not care for degree credit, but who may profit by the training and culture that may be made available; and (3) For those who plan to use the training for vocational or professional purposes. Not all of these emphases can be provided at once, and it is felt that the offerings for the undergraduate college students are the most important just now.

Another item in the allocation of responsibilities for Ag-

nes Scott is the development and promotion of training for **Home Making**—not the customary department of Home Economics, but a comprehensive Department of the Home. This would gather together from the curriculum many important courses or parts of courses that have bearing on the modern home; such as, the physiology of human beings, the coming of children, child psychology, elementary education, dietetics, budgeting, home decoration, household architecture, and the like.

Semi-Centennial Plans

In September of 1939, Agnes Scott will be fifty years of age; and it is hoped that this anniversary may be used for concentrating efforts on meeting some of the responsibilities above outlined. The Board of Trustees has made a two-year study of particular needs and objectives for this occasion; and these are herewith summarized:

Fine Arts Building and Auditorium.....	\$	150,000	
Additional Science Hall.....		200,000	
A New Dormitory.....		150,000	
Modernizing Present Dormitories.....		100,000	
Faculty Apartments		50,000	
College Infirmary		50,000	
Additional Land and Improvements.....		90,000	
Equipment, Art, Music, Laboratory, etc.....		85,000	
Additional Endowment:			
Department of the Home.....	\$	150,000	
Upkeep of Buildings.....		300,000	
Better Salaries		675,000	1,125,000
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TOTAL			\$2,000,000

Agnes Scott has a remarkable record for achieving its results within the budgets or estimates made. However, it will certainly be true that some adjustments as to amounts for particular items may be advisable from time to time.

The Agnes Scott Request

The College authorities believe that, in a general public campaign for the University Center Development, special emphasis should be given to the need of Graduate Work to be centered primarily at Emory University. This will necessarily restrict the constituency to whom Agnes Scott may appeal. In our last general campaign, there were more than 12,000 individual contributors. It is hoped that we may be able to enlist many more than that number for the whole

Emory project, but the Agnes Scott list would be relatively small in number.

Another factor about raising money for Agnes Scott is that the friends of the College have very recently been subscribing over a period of years, and they likely will feel that they have had a very brief period of respite. We cannot afford to press too hard those who have stood by us loyally through the depression days.

We believe that we ought to be able to raise \$500,000, after making due allowance for the factors just mentioned. That means that we are more dependent than heretofore on a gift from the Board if we are to attain our carefully studied objectives.

We are confident that the General Education Board **desires to help us**, that you believe in the sincerity of Agnes Scott and in the contribution to education that we are making in a strategic center, and that you realize that the development of a University Center in Atlanta would serve the South most effectively.

May we submit for your consideration two requests:

1. That you give us outright the sum of \$1,000,000, to help us in our present program, somewhat by matching what the College has done in raising funds under the first six conditional offers from you.

2. That you offer us an additional \$500,000 on condition that we raise an equal amount.

If you choose to make such awards, we believe you will be raising Agnes Scott to a place where it may not only be a sound integral unit of a University Program, but a really **first class** college for service particularly in the South. We would not completely attain the objectives as listed, but we believe that we can get the balance needed through legacies or special gifts within a brief period.

We are fully aware that such donations are not within the regular program of your Board, and that they could be easily declined by rule; but in the past you have been able to make some exceptions to your rules in order to help us with special opportunities, and we hope the way may be found to do this just now.

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As we proceed with further plans, it is evident that it will be wise for Emory University to discontinue the tak-

ing of women in undergraduate work unless they are registered at Agnes Scott. It is likewise important that they make it possible, in theory at least, for women to attend their medical school.

Considerable progress has been made in getting rather large gifts for Emory; and some plan ought to be worked out so that gifts, large or small, which may be contributed to the University Center project, may be divided among the institutions on some agreed ratio.

We have certainly never had a more interesting problem on which to work. There are great possibilities for good. We are determined that Agnes Scott will maintain its status as an independent institution and safeguard its character as a Christian school of high standing. We believe that by uniting our efforts with those of other institutions a greater service may be rendered to our section and to the South.

Semi-Centennial Plans

As you are already aware, Agnes Scott will complete fifty years of service at commencement of next year. We are very anxious indeed that our semi-centennial may be celebrated in a way that will be a blessing to the College itself and to all who are associated with it. The very able committee which was appointed by the Board last year have been studying the situation and have formulated some general ideas. It is their thought that probably commencement of next year will have some references to our celebration, but that these will be of an introductory nature.

It is thought that at the opening of College in September, 1939, at a home coming celebration in the fall of that year, on Founder's Day (February 22nd) in 1940, at May Day, and again at commencement of 1940, we may have interesting celebrations or events which will keep up a degree of interest throughout the entire year.

We are getting out this year a complete directory of all the students who have ever attended the College with their present addresses, and we are hoping to publish a brief story of the College which will bring up to date some of the materials previously gathered.

One very interesting feature of the celebration will be the collecting of as many mementos as possible of Mrs. Agnes Scott and of Col. George W. Scott. Since we now have fire-proof buildings in which we can safely keep relics, we are hopeful that we may get from the family and other friends

many articles of great value from a historical standpoint. We will be glad to have as many of these as possible as gifts, but we will be glad to keep for the family as loans any other articles which may be available.

We are very anxious to have a celebration of such a nature that all the friends of the institution can participate in some way. Suggestions from the trustees or from others who may be interested will certainly be welcome by all members of the Committee.

Financial Program

In comparison with the earlier days of the institution, Agnes Scott has made rapid progress during the last decade, but it still has a great deal to attain in order to rank in resources with the outstanding colleges for women in our country. I am listing herewith the latest comparative standing of Agnes Scott with the "Seven Sisters" in the East who have been making very good progress indeed in the development of their institutions:

Institution	Endowment, Build- ings, Grounds
Barnard -----	\$ 9,526,000
Bryn Mawr -----	10,450,000
Mt. Holyoke -----	8,821,000
Radcliffe -----	6,342,000
Smith -----	13,262,000
Vassar -----	16,800,000
Wellesley -----	16,699,000
AGNES SCOTT -----	3,345,000

We should not be discouraged, but at the same time we must realize our comparatively lowly position.

I do not feel that we are yet ready to announce a formal campaign. The objectives which we presented to the General Education Board I think we may well pursue. If we can secure a conditional offer, it would assist us very much in determining the size of campaign which should be projected, provided it is deemed wise to have one at all. We believe that some money can be raised. For the first time in our history, we have a program which is sufficiently important to invite large givers to form a **partnership** with us rather than to make donations to us. I hope we can make a real distinction just there in the presentation of our cause in connection with the whole university center project.

Progress in our development can be promoted greatly through wills that are made in favor of the College. Agnes Scott was named along with the Georgia School of Technology and the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta in the will of Mr. George W. Harrison, Jr. We will receive approximately \$20,000 as our share of the estate. It is thoughtfulness and cooperation of this kind which will enable us to go forward steadily.

If I were to name the greatest single need at the moment in the development of the College, I would list a new dormitory and dining room. Our facilities in this field have been long outworn, and all of us in the administrative work of the College feel that it is extremely important that we make improvements here. It will be economical and likewise educationally helpful if we can have **one** attractive dining room which will house all of the college community. It will certainly be more economical also if we can serve our whole group from one kitchen.

As a part of this report we are enclosing a development program in colors which I hope will indicate some of the improvements which we hope to make.

Current Finances

The year has been a very satisfactory one though not spectacular in any sense. Mr. Tart, our Treasurer, has collected his accounts 100%, and is due the hearty congratulations of the Board. There are many expenditures which have been requested and which we need, but which we have had to deny in order to live within our budget.

Much of our equipment is badly out of date. Almost our entire lot of pianos will soon need replacement. This summer we will renew a considerable part of our insurance. Many of our buildings need painting and quite a number of our steam lines will need replacing. Since we do not charge depreciation against these various items, we offset this plan of procedure by making these replacements or improvements out of current expenses. I have mentioned only a few items as illustrations of things which would be done immediately if our income were not strictly limited.

The 1937-1938 Session

The current college year has been one of the most satisfactory which we have ever had. The health of the community has been generally good, and we have had very few cases of serious discipline.

The religious life of the College has been unusual this year in its interest and effectiveness. We have had two series of religious meetings. The first of these in the fall was led by Rev. Wallace M. Alston. The second, which came in February, was under the leadership of Dr. Robert E. Speer. Both were helpful to the entire college community.

We have been interested and yet somewhat concerned at the organization of denominational groups on the campus. The Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists now have such organizations. There are distinct values in these, and yet there is a danger that the religious leadership of the campus will be drawn apart and their energies divided. In order to tie our various groups together, we have organized **The Christian Association of Agnes Scott College** which replaces the Y. W. C. A. and which is particularly planned to bring in the denominational groups as integral factors in the whole campus religious life. A special committee of the Christian Association will keep in touch with the national Y. W. C. A. so as to conserve any helpful suggestions or activities, but we will not have it as our official organization.

Board of Trustees

We have had so quiet a year with so few problems and so little necessary in the way of changes that we have not taken much of your time. We know that all the Trustees are fully occupied with personal matters, and we hesitate to call on you unless it is very important. As you will see from the foregoing suggestions in this report, the approaching meeting will be very significant indeed, and it will be a great help if we may have your advice and cooperation in the various matters that come before us.

The terms of the following members expire this year: Dr. J. Sprole Lyons, Dr. R. O. Flinn, Mr. J. J. Scott, Miss Mary Wallace Kirk, Dr. E. D. Brownlee, Mr. J. B. Campbell, and Mrs. Frances Craighead Dwyer. They have all shown continued interest in the College, and the fullest possible cooperation in every matter affecting the Institution.

Faculty

The Faculty are giving a good deal of attention this year to curriculum reorganization and to a careful study of the requirements for the degree. A great many changes have taken place in high school curricula, and these are reflected in the preparation of the students who apply to us for ad-

mission. Since we have more than forty first class universities or colleges represented in the training of our faculty, we are able to profit by many viewpoints and experiences when we undertake to study situations or to consider changes.

The loyalty of the Faculty to the College and their cooperation for its welfare and the interest which they take in the students help the Institution to maintain its standards and yet to show a kindly spirit in dealing with students and with patrons.

Miss Nannette Hopkins, our beloved Dean, has had a remarkable health record. During the last nine years she has not missed a day until the beginning of this session. During the current college year she has not been able to carry on her regular office routine, though she has contributed to the work of the College through duties which she could perform in her room; and she has showed remarkable interest and cooperation in all that has occurred on the campus. She is completing her forty-ninth year in the service of the Institution. We are hoping very much that she will be able to be in her usual good health for next year. During her absence from the office, Miss Carrie Scandrett, Assistant Dean, has handled the work quite effectively, and in this she has had the loyal and effective aid of the other assistants in the office.

While Dr. Mary F. Sweet has retired from regular service, we have retained her in an advisory capacity. The active part of her duties have been carried on by Dr. Florence L. Swanson, B.S., University of Oregon; M.D., University of Washington. The work of Miss Louise McKinney, who has become Professor Emeritus of English, has been carried on by Miss Virginia Prettyman, who was an Assistant in the English Department last year.

Miss Margaret Pythian is completing the work for her doctorate in France. Her dissertation has been so highly recommended by the University that the General Education Board has furnished the money for its publication. During her continued leave of absence, Miss Helen Carlson has handled her duties. Miss Martha Crowe, of the French Department, has been on leave of absence this year, and her place has been temporarily filled by Miss Virginia Gray, a graduate of Agnes Scott, who has been teaching in the Belgian Congo for the last three years.

Miss Laura Colvin, Assistant Librarian, has been on leave during the session for further study, and her position has

been filled temporarily by Miss Laura Cummings, B.A., Toledo University; B.A.L.S., University of Michigan. Mrs. Sarah Rodes Graham, B.A., Western College; B.A.L.S., Columbia University, has been added to the Library Staff.

In Biology, Miss Mary Linda Vardell resigned at the close of the last session, and her place has been filled by Miss Mary Ann McKinney, B.A., Agnes Scott College, M.A., Columbia University; M.D., Tulane University. Miss Lucy Goss resigned as an Assistant in Chemistry, and her place has been taken by Mrs. Mary Walker Fox, B.A., Agnes Scott College.

In Music, we have attempted to work out some cooperation with the Atlanta Conservatory by having the Director of that organization give our work in violin. He is Mr. Georg Lindner. We have also added Miss Mary Evelyn Wall, B.A., Agnes Scott College, as an accompanist in Voice.

Students

Our dormitory rooms were filled rather early this year, and they have stayed as full as practicable through the session. The indications are that we will have a capacity enrollment for the session 1938-1939.

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

Geographical Distribution

Alabama -----	29	Pennsylvania -----	6
Arkansas -----	3	South Carolina -----	45
Connecticut -----	1	Tennessee -----	22
Delaware -----	1	Texas -----	2
Florida -----	26	Virginia -----	22
Georgia -----	245	West Virginia -----	8
Illinois -----	2	Africa -----	2
Kentucky -----	12	China -----	3
Louisiana -----	5	District of Columbia ---	1
Maryland -----	1	France -----	1
Massachusetts -----	1	Germany -----	1
Mississippi -----	8	Japan -----	1
Missouri -----	2	Mexico -----	1
New York -----	4		
North Carolina -----	31		
Ohio -----	3	Total -----	489

Class Enrollment

Seniors -----	87
Juniors -----	96
Sophomores -----	120
Freshmen -----	174
First Year Irregulars -----	2
Second Year Irregulars -----	1
Unclassified Students -----	3
Special Students -----	6
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Total -----	489

Residence

Boarders -----	324
Day Students -----	165

Denominational Distribution

Presbyterian -----	196
Methodist -----	116
Baptist -----	82
Episcopal -----	39
Jewish -----	22
Christian -----	11
Roman Catholic -----	6
Congregational -----	2
Church of Christ -----	2
Unitarian -----	2
Christian Science -----	2
Moravian -----	1
Lutheran -----	1
Evangelical -----	1
United Brethren -----	1
Reformed -----	1
Non-members -----	4
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	489

The various committees will doubtless bring definite recommendations which may be a basis for discussion and final action in regard to most of the points mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted,



President.