

## The President's Newsletter

### February, 1977

During the weekend of January 8 and 9, the Agnes Scott faculty held a conference at Unicoi State Park in north Georgia on the theme "The Liberal Arts Tradition and the Changing Status of Women." Approximately eighty people attended. It was the aim of the conference to bring the faculty together to reflect on a traditional commitment of the College in the light of a new and central challenge. Liberal arts colleges have generally educated the leaders. If women are becoming leaders where they have not been leaders before, a college for women should take the opportunity to reflect on its purpose and to affirm the essential and the enduring in order to incorporate the new and challenging. If one may judge from the attendance and the spirit of this conference, much of what was aimed at was accomplished.

There were four panel discussions. The first panel, entitled "The Liberal Arts Tradition," was composed of our own faculty. Miriam K. Drucker was the moderator; Elizabeth G. Zenn spoke on the liberal arts tradition in antiquity; John L. Gignilliat, on the liberal arts college at the founding of the American republic; Constance Shaw, on the beginnings of the liberal arts college for women. Commentators were Alice J. Cunningham, David P. Behan, Lawrence R. Hepburn, and John A. Tumblin. With the exception of the moderators, the second and third panels were composed of panelists from outside our faculty. The first of these, entitled "The Changing Status of Women," was moderated by Lone Murphy and was made up of Eva C. Galambos of the Southern Regional Education Board, Faith M. Willis, formerly of our faculty and most recently doing a study on the roles of educated women for the American Association of University Women, and Eliza King Paschall Morrison, '38, of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The panel on Saturday evening was entitled "The Liberal Arts Tradition and the Changing Status of Women at Sister Institutions." The panelists were Julia T. Gary, moderator, Doreen E. Boyce, Provost of Chatham College, Joan F. Ciruti, former Dean of Studies and presently Chairman of the Department of Spanish and Italian at Mount Holyoke College, and Judith T. Gatlin, Coordinator of a Faculty Development Project for Career Planning and Programs for Women at Furman University. The fourth and final panel was entitled "The Liberal Arts Tradition and the Changing Status of Women: Agnes Scott College." Michael J. Brown was the moderator, and the other panelists were Constance A. Jones, Ronald L. Byrnside, Alan J. White, Mary B. Sheats, Marvin B. Perry, Jr., and Julia T. Gary.

Members of the faculty are already engaging in a series of discussions growing out of the conference. In my judgment the weekend that we spent together at Unicoi is one of the best "happenings" that we have had at Agnes Scott in a long time.

For the fourth consecutive year the Association of Private Colleges and Universities in Georgia has honored an Agnes Scott person at its annual awards dinner. These recognitions are given for service to higher education in the state. In 1974 G. Lamar Westcott and in 1975 George W. Woodruff were honored. Both of these men served for many years as trustees of Agnes Scott. In 1976 Ida Brittain Patterson, '21, a charter member of our President's Advisory Council, received a citation. This year the College was signally honored in that Alex P. Gaines, presently Chairman of the Agnes Scott Board of Trustees and grandson of the first president of the College, was the recipient of one of the Association's special awards. It was my privilege to read the citation honoring Mr. Gaines, part of which I quote here:

Mr. Gaines has made a telling impact on education in Georgia not only as a trustee of Georgia colleges but also as a trustee of four Atlanta foundations. For many years he has participated in major decisions of (1) the John Bulow Campbell Foundation of which he is chairman, (2) the Charles Loidans Foundation, (3) the J. M. Tull Foundation, and (4) the Vasser Woolley Foundation. These foundations have invested heavily in education in this state, and Mr. Gaines has been a moving and directive force in each decision. Institution after institution can call itself blessed because of the interest and leadership of this man who epitomizes quality in Georgia's higher education.

In addition to the four just mentioned, John A. Sibley, also a long-time trustee of Agnes Scott, received a similar recognition several years ago.

Our Founder's Day Convocation this year is on February 23. It is a real pleasure to tell you that President Emeritus Wallace M. Alston is the Convocation speaker.

Two long-time Agnes Scott faculty members will retire at the end of this academic session. The first of these is Margret G. Trotter, Professor of English, who joined our faculty in 1944. In addition to her highly effective teaching, Professor Trotter has found time to write short stories, review books, edit publications, and inspire many young Agnes Scott writers to try their skills. Her scholarship is of the first order, and her creative literary powers are extraordinary. She will be greatly missed. Also retiring this year is W. Edward McNair, Associate Professor of English and Director of Public Relations. Professor McNair has served Agnes Scott with total devotion and uncommon skill for twenty-five years. He has been at once a popular and demanding teacher, the historian of the College, Director of Public Relations, and a loyal and efficient assistant to the President. We are happy that he will continue his work on the College history, but we shall miss him sorely at his other posts.

Our 1976-1977 Focus on Faith Week was from January 23 to 26. The speaker was the Reverend J. Randolph Taylor, pastor of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, and formerly minister of the Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. While in Atlanta, he served as chairman of the following groups: (1) the Atlanta Community Relations Commission, (2) Literacy Action, Inc., and (3) the Metropolitan Atlanta Housing Conference. Dr. Taylor is presently chairman of the joint committee on Presbyterian Union and is a trustee of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, of St. Andrews Presbyterian College, and of Johnson C. Smith Seminary. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Davidson College, received his theological training at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and earned his doctorate at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. The overall theme for this year's emphasis was "Who are you, Lord?"

The Career Planning Office at Agnes Scott is almost daily increasing in importance. Under Miss Lone Murphy, Director, Office of Career Planning, this activity seeks to do much more than help a student get a job after graduation. Career planning is the process of a student's clarifying her values, determining interests, setting life goals, and exploring the world of work to find those careers that will help her meet personal goals. Only after a student has gone through these processes is she fully capable of searching for a specific job. Early in her career at Agnes Scott a young woman may participate in a Life Planning Workshop. Once she has pinpointed several related interests and careers, the student is ready to enter a summer internship or to become a part of the College's Shadow Program — an arrangement which matches a student with an alumna or some other person working in a career which the young woman may wish to explore. Once a student has gone through the various steps available in the Career Planning Program, she is hopefully better prepared for job interviews, resume writing, and the effective presentation of her skills to a prospective employer.

Pulitzer Prize winning historian Oscar Handlin, Pforzheimer University Professor at Harvard, was our Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar for this academic year. In mid-January Professor Handlin spent several days on campus meeting informally with students and faculty and conducting seminars. His well attended public lecture was entitled "American Minorities Today." Professor Handlin is the author of eighteen books and of numerous articles. We were greatly honored to have him at Agnes Scott.

  
Marvin B. Perry, Jr.

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## The President's Newsletter June, 1977



Agnes Scott's 1977 Writers' Festival was planned to honor Professor Margret G. Trotter on the occasion of her retirement after teaching here for thirty-three years. Unfortunately Professor Trotter died on March 28, less than two weeks before the celebration that was to honor her. The occasion was continued as a tribute to her and to her devotion to literature and literary creativity. Three distinguished writers were on campus as participants. Pulitzer prize-winning author Eudora Welty read from her works to a capacity audience in Gaines Chapel. One of her selections was about a teacher in her novel *Losing Battles* and was read especially for Professor Trotter. Other guests who read from their writings were Guy Davenport, poet, critic, illustrator, translator, and short story writer of the University of Kentucky; and Josephine Jacobsen, poet and honorary consultant in American letters to the Library of Congress. Many young writers were also on campus. During the Writers' Festival two cash prizes — one for poetry and one for short stories — are awarded for the best entry in each category. The contest is open to any student enrolled in a college or university in Georgia. Manuscripts must be submitted by February 1 and are first screened by members of the Agnes Scott Department of English. The final winners are determined by the guest writers who are brought to the Festival. The Festival this year was the sixth such occasion at Agnes Scott since 1972.

On Alumnae Day, April 30, we dedicated a handsome flag pole and flag in honor of Professor Henry A. Robinson, who was chairman of our Department of Mathematics for forty-four years (1926-1970). The flag pole stands on the highest point of the campus, midway between Buttrick Hall and the Colonnade. Professor Robinson has long been active in military circles, serving in World War II and achieving the rank of colonel. It is highly appropriate that this flag pole and flag, located in the main quadrangle, honor him.

The Phi Beta Kappa convocation this spring was on April 20. Dean Julia T. Gary gave the address, pointing out the gap that has developed between the sciences and the humanities and stressing that the demands of the last quarter of the twentieth century require a closing of this gap. Elected to membership-in-course from the Class of 1977 were the following seniors:

Jasemine Choi-Yin Choy  
Anne Davis Callison  
Carla Joy Cunningham  
Elizabeth Rachel Doscher  
Corine Sue Jinks  
Kathryn Louise Kussrow  
Eleanor Anne McCain  
Eva Katherine Oates  
Susi Lang Pedrick  
Susan Smith Perry  
Susan Patricia Pirkle  
Lynn Galen Wilson

North Point, Hong Kong  
Asheville, North Carolina  
Blackstone, Virginia  
Houma, Louisiana  
Panama City, Florida  
Valparaiso, Indiana  
Panama City, Florida  
Madisonville, Kentucky  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Decatur, Georgia  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Gainesville, Georgia

Early in May I received a generous check from one of the earliest of our "return-to-college" students. It was gratifying to know that this person was so impressed by the instruction that she received at Agnes Scott that she requested that her gift be used to start a scholarship fund for "older" students like herself. This gift establishes our first specific scholarship fund for "return-to-college" students. Until now scholarship assistance for these students has come from general scholarship funds. Some sixty non-traditional students have been enrolled in this program during the 1976-1977 academic year.

Our baccalaureate preacher on June 5 is the Reverend James D. Newsome, Jr., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Paducah, Kentucky. A graduate of Millsaps College and Columbia Theological Seminary, he received his Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1973. In July of this year Dr. Newsome will become the Director of Advanced Studies at Columbia Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Suzella Burns, '57, who is a trustee of Agnes Scott.

It gives me pleasure to announce that the Board of Trustees at its meeting on May 13 approved the recommended promotions of the following faculty members, effective with the 1977-1978 academic year:

- Ronald Lee Byrnside from Associate Professor of Music to Professor of Music. Professor Byrnside will continue as chairman of the Department of Music.
- Edward C. Johnson from Assistant Professor of Economics to Associate Professor of Economics.
- Leland Staven from Assistant Professor of Art to Associate Professor of Art. Professor Staven will continue to serve as curator of the Dalton Galleries.
- Marylin Barfield Darling from Instructor in Physical Education to Assistant Professor of Physical Education.
- Janet Stewart from Instructor in Music to Assistant Professor of Music.

Our excellent Director of Admissions, Anne Rivers Payne Thompson, '59, was married to Dr. Richard G. Hutcheson, Jr., on May 21, 1977. Fortunately for us she will continue in her administrative post at Agnes Scott.

We are planning to have a number of visiting groups on campus again this summer. Already six such groups have been booked — three of them returning for the fourth consecutive year.

The third annual Alumnae-Admissions Representatives' Conference was held on Sunday and Monday, May 1 and 2. Ten Alumnae-Admissions Representatives (AARs) returned to campus for the conference. An AAR is the official liaison between the College's Admissions Office and her hometown. Each AAR is invited to return to the campus on a rotating basis so that she may update her knowledge of the College and represent it accurately to prospective students in her area. While on campus, the AARs met with students and administrators, attended classes, spent a night in the dormitories, and observed campus improvements such as the newly renovated library. The AARs found the two-day conference to be a time of renewing old enthusiasms for Agnes Scott and gaining fresh insight into the College as it is today. We are deeply indebted to these alumnae for their assistance in our admissions program.

Faculty members who have been awarded Agnes Scott grants for study and research during the summer of 1977 are as follows:

Augustus B. Cochran, III	Assistant Professor of Political Science
Alice J. Cunningham	Associate Professor of Chemistry
Edward C. Johnson	Assistant Professor of Economics
Theodore K. Mathews	Associate Professor of Music
Terry S. McGehee	Instructor in Art
Mary B. Sheats	Professor of Bible and Religion
Albert D. Sheffer, Jr.	Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Thomas E. Simpson	Associate Professor of Biology
John A. Tumblin, Jr.	Professor of Sociology and Anthropology
Robert F. Westervelt	Associate Professor of Art
Alan J. White	Assistant Professor of Chemistry

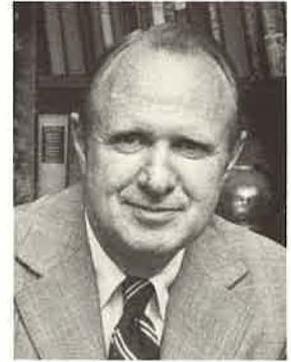
  
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## The President's Newsletter

September, 1977

It is my privilege through this *Newsletter* to introduce you to five new Agnes Scott trustees who were recently elected by our Board. They are all distinguished persons in their respective fields, and it gives me great satisfaction to welcome them into their new relationship with Agnes Scott.



**G. Conley Ingram** served from 1973 to 1977 as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia. He recently resigned this post to enter the Atlanta law firm of Alston, Miller and Gaines. Born in Dublin, Georgia, Justice Ingram is the husband of the former Sylvia Williams who graduated from Agnes Scott in 1952. They are the parents of three children. Justice Ingram is a graduate of Emory University and received his law degree from the same institution. He has served as city attorney for both Smyrna, Georgia, and Kennesaw, Georgia, and has been judge of the Juvenile Court of Cobb County as well as Superior Court judge of the Cobb Judicial Circuit. Justice Ingram is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and of the American Bar Association. He is a former member of the State Bar Disciplinary Board. He holds memberships in and affiliations with many organizations. In 1961 he was selected by the Georgia Jaycees to receive the State Distinguished Service Award; in 1970 he was given the Public Service Award from the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, and in 1973 he received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the City of Marietta, Georgia. He is an honorary life member of the Georgia Congress of the Parent-Teacher Association and is a past lay leader of the Atlanta-Marietta District of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.



**Harriet M. King** graduated from Agnes Scott in 1964 with a major in economics. She received her LL.B. degree from Vanderbilt in 1967 and her LL.M. from Harvard in 1973. During the period 1967-1971, she was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she engaged in the private practice of law (1967-1969) and later was deputy director of the Milwaukee Legal Service (1969-1971). She became a teaching fellow at Harvard in 1971 and in 1973 joined the faculty of the Vanderbilt University Law School. From this position in 1974 she came to Emory University where she is currently Associate Professor of Law. Professor King is married to Michael Wasserman. They have two children.



**J. Erskine Love, Jr.**, is an Atlanta businessman — the president of Printpack, Inc. He is a native of Gastonia, North Carolina, and graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1949. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of Columbia Theological Seminary and is a trustee of the Westminster Schools and of the Georgia Tech Foundation. He is a director of the National Data Corporation, of the Redfern Foods Corporation, and of the Atlanta Citizens and Southern National Bank. Mr. Love serves as a member of the Executive Board of the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and is a board member and past president of The United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Rotary Club and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Love is very active in the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Atlanta where he is an elder and chairman of the Board of Trustees. He is married to the former Gay McLawhorn and is the father of six children.



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**Horace Holden Sibley** is a lawyer, a partner in the Atlanta law firm of King and Spalding. He is the son of John A. Sibley who was for many years one of Agnes Scott's most distinguished trustees and who is now an honored trustee emeritus. Mr. Sibley received his B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University and took his law degree from the University of Georgia. He also has a master's degree in business administration from Georgia State University. He holds membership in Omicron Delta Kappa. From 1965 to 1968 he served with the rank of captain in the infantry of the United States Army. He is married to the former Beverly Bryan and has three children. He was a founder of Interfaith and is a past president of this organization. He is vice chairman of the Board of Directors of Atlanta's Butler Street Y.M.C.A., is a board member of Goodwill Industries of Atlanta, Inc., and serves as a trustee of the Henrietta Eggleston Hospital for Children, Inc. Mr. Sibley is also a director of the United Way of

Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc., and is an elder in the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. He likewise holds membership in the Atlanta, Georgia, and American Bar Associations.



**John Randolph Taylor** is pastor of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Born in China of missionary parents, he is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Davidson College. He continued his education at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, where he received his B.D. degree in 1954. He was awarded his Ph.D. degree in 1956 by the University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland. During his senior year at Davidson, he was president of the student body and was elected to Omicron Delta Kappa. Dr. Taylor's first pastorate was at The Church of the Pilgrims, Washington, D.C., where he served from 1956 to 1967. In 1968 he became pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta where he remained until 1976. While in Atlanta he served as chairman of the Atlanta Community Relations Commission, of Literacy Action, Inc., and of the Metropolitan Atlanta Housing Conference. Since moving to Charlotte in 1976, he has become vice chairman of the Community

Relations Committee and has been named a trustee of Davidson College. Dr. Taylor is presently chairman of the *Ad Interim* Committee on Presbyterian Union of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. He is married to the former Arline Johnson and is the father of five daughters.

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The official audit for the 1976-1977 year has been completed, and I am happy to report that Agnes Scott has continued to operate without a deficit. Also the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees has approved a balanced budget for 1977-1978. The Trustees and I are determined to keep Agnes Scott fiscally sound, for financial integrity is the best undergirding that academic excellence can have.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin B. Perry, Jr.".

Marvin B. Perry, Jr.



## The President's Newsletter December, 1977

As our fifth Christmas at Agnes Scott approaches, Mrs. Perry and I send to members of the College family throughout the world our affectionate and grateful good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Once again the music and lights of Christmas remind us of the star of Bethlehem and the angel chorus which heralded the birth of God's son, the Prince of Peace whose coming brought fresh hope to a troubled world.

We are thankful for our blessings through another College year, and we cherish this opportunity to greet the Agnes Scott family at Christmas 1977. May your holidays be merry, and your hearts full with the love and joy of God's blessed Son!



The Christmas season officially opened on the campus on Sunday evening, December 4. The Agnes Scott Glee Club conducted by Professor Ronald L. Byrnside, gave a beautiful concert of Christmas music featuring Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols." Following the concert, the College Christmas Tree was lighted in the main quadrangle, with brief Christmas greetings from the President and the reading of the Christmas story from Luke's gospel. From the quadrangle, we moved on to Winship Hall for a merry Christmas party, complete with Santa Claus, eggnog and carols!



This year the Class of 1981 comes to Agnes Scott from twenty states and Puerto Rico, and eight foreign countries. Sixty-four percent are from states other than Georgia. Academically, seventy-one percent ranked in the top one-fourth of their graduating classes. We are especially pleased that this year's class includes Georgia's Star Student, Ila Burdette, of Hogansville.

As part of Freshman Orientation, the well known Southern author, Reynolds Price, came to the campus to discuss his novel, *A Long and Happy Life*, which was one of the books chosen for discussion at freshman orientation. During his visit, Mr. Price gave a reading and a lecture which were open to the public.

## Honors Day

Honors Day activities were again a highlight of fall quarter. Dr. Hugh Gloster, president of Morehouse College, was the guest speaker at our annual Honors Day Ceremony in October which recognized 56 Honor Roll students and six scholarship winners. President Gloster spoke on the progress, problems, and prospects of the modern college woman.

Named this year's Stukes Scholars are Emily "Mimi" Holmes, '78, from Jacksonville, Florida; Lynda Lynne Harris, '79, from Decatur, Georgia; and Dorothea "Dottie" Enslow, '80, of Stone Mountain, Georgia. Each student earned the highest average in her class.

Other awards announced at Honors Convocation were the Rich Prize, the Kathleen Hagood Gambrell Scholarship and the Jennie Sentelle Houghton Scholarship. Recipient of the Rich Prize was Susan Landers, '80, of Dunwoody, Georgia, for outstanding work in her freshman class last year. Paula Starr, '78, from Camden, Alabama, received the Gambrell Scholarship, awarded to an outstanding student planning a career in Christian education and ministry. Shirley Kam-Yeap Chan, '78, of Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada, received the Houghton Scholarship given to the student who demonstrates exceptional promise in terms of character, personality and scholarship.

The Class of '78 won the Class Scholarship Trophy for the third consecutive year. The trophy, established by the Mortar Board Chapter of 1956-57, is awarded each year to the class which has earned an academic average that is highest in relation to the three preceding classes of that level.

## Senior Investiture

Senior Investiture, a tradition almost as old as the College, was observed during the first weekend of November. Dr. Michael J. Brown, Charles A. Dana Professor of History, spoke at the ceremony in which 112 students were granted senior status. Following the ceremony, students, parents, faculty and friends of the College gathered at Winship Hall for the Deans' Brunch. Dr. Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez preached at the Sunday Investiture Worship Service, the other major event of the weekend. Dr. Gonzalez is Professor of Church History at Columbia Theological Seminary.



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## Cultural Events

The Fall Cultural Events Calendar at Agnes Scott was filled with exciting and enriching performances. Again this year, the world renowned Guarneri String Quartet performed on campus to a capacity audience. Their annual visit is the only performance they give in Georgia.

The Atlanta Chamber Players, praised by Atlanta music critics during their debut season last year, began their second year in residence at Agnes Scott. The seven-member ensemble gives three performances on campus each year as well as a number of public appearances throughout the state.

The Agnes Scott Department of Theatre, under the direction of Dr. Jack Brooking, presented a "Salute to Anton Chekhov" in November. Blackfriars performed Chekhov's "The Three Sisters" and sponsored the filmed stage production of "Uncle Vanya."

Le Tréteau de Paris, a professional theatre group from France, returned to the campus for their twelfth visit to perform two French plays. The troupe's visit here was jointly sponsored by the French Department and the Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta. Le Tréteau de Paris is touring the United States under the auspices of a cultural exchange program between the United States and France.

The College welcomed Professor Jean Méral, from the University of Toulouse, France, as visiting Associate Professor of French during the fall quarter. On the Chloe Steele Visiting Professor Fund, M. Méral is teaching courses in advanced and intermediate conversation, French civilization, and Camus.

## Student Advance

The Student Admissions Representatives and the Admissions Office sponsored an "Advance," November 10-12, for junior and senior high school students considering Agnes Scott as a possible college choice. The largest group ever to attend an event of this kind at the College, 166 students, came to the campus from 11 states and Venezuela to take an advance look at college classes and dormitory life. They met faculty members from each department, as well as the Directors of Admissions, Financial Aid, and Career Planning; discussed various aspects of "Advances in Self Awareness" in clusters lead by faculty, students, and alumnae; toured "Atlanta by Night" on buses; attended either the Atlanta Symphony, the Blackfriars production, or an Atlanta Hawks basketball game. The final event of the Advance was an informal question and answer session with the President after which the prospective students were invited to visit the President's home.

## Focus on Faith

Again this year, Focus on Faith will feature a week of religious activities January 15-19. Dr. John William Lancaster, of the First Presbyterian Church of Houston, Texas, will be the visiting minister on campus. Dr. Lancaster is the father of Christiana ("T") Lancaster, president of the Sophomore Class. The theme this year is "Worship: Our Response to Him," focusing on the many ways we respond to God with the creativity He gave us.



The next project in our plan of campus renovation is the modernization of Buttrick Hall, our central classroom and administrative building. Completed in 1930, Buttrick is a handsome structure, the largest of our college buildings. Plans call for modern lighting and furnishings, additional seminar space, faculty and staff lounges. More than half of the estimated cost of \$650,000 has already been raised. We are most grateful for recent grants of \$200,000 from an anonymous foundation, and of \$75,000 from the Kresge Foundation, the latter contingent on our receiving the additional necessary funds.

Marvin B. Perry, Jr.