

MONTHLY REPORT
MONTH OF: SEPTEMBER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT OF RELEASE</u>	<u>PREPARED BY</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>
Sept. 5	Methodist College Begins 29th Year With Record Enrollment		
Sept. 8	Dr. Scott Peck Will Conduct Seminar at Methodist College		
Sept. 8	Methodist College to Break Ground for Physical Activities Center		
Sept. 12	Elderhostel Opens Sunday at Methodist College		
Sept. 14	Methodist College Theatre Department Announces Offerings		
Sept. 15	Jane Berry to Teach Acting Class at Methodist College		
Sept. 15	Methodist College Releases Summer Dean's List		
Sept. 15	Methodist College Releases Summer President's List		
Sept. 26	Methodist College to Stage Reeves Auditorium Commemorative Concert/Seminar		
Sept. 26	Drama Club at Methodist to Stage "Equus"		
Sept. 26	Methodist College to Observe Homecoming October 3-9		

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1. OBSERVER AND TIMES
 2. LOCAL RADIO
 3. SURROUNDING COUNTY PAPERS
 4. REGIONAL PAPERS (CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER)
 5. HOMETOWN PAPER



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PUBLIC INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill Billings

Sept. 5, 1988

News Bureau Director

METHODIST COLLEGE BEGINS 29th YEAR WITH RECORD ENROLLMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, NC--Methodist College enrolled a record 1,527 students for the fall semester, an increase of six percent over last year.

The college began its 29th academic year with 955 students in the day program and 572 students in the Evening College. The day enrollment increased 14.6 percent over Fall, 1987, while the evening enrollment declined six percent. A total of 441 students are living on campus, 23 percent more than last fall's 359.

The college enrolled 417 new freshmen and transfer students. Of that number, 157 are residential students and 260 are commuting students. The students represent 25 different states and five foreign countries.

Aside from more students, Methodist has recruited better students for 1988-89. The average SAT score for the freshman class is 907, up 70 points from last year. The college received a record 1,249 applications for the fall semester, up 35 percent from last year.

College President Elton Hendricks attributes this year's quantitative and qualitative gains to increased visibility for the college, a growing reputation for excellence, improved retention of students, and "hard work by the admissions staff and all who recruit for Methodist College."

At an opening dinner for college personnel Aug. 19, Dr. Hendricks said that 1988-89 will be remembered for a marked gain in residential enrollment, construction of a \$3.2 million Physical Activities Center (now under way),

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METHODIST COLLEGE BEGINS 29TH ACADEMIC YEAR

and a self-study for reaffirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He also expressed his pride in the college faculty and staff, saying he would be proud to entrust his own son or daughters to them.

The self-study to which Dr. Hendricks referred at the opening dinner is required every 10 years of SACS members. The Methodist faculty and staff began working on the new study in 1986. A committee of college educators will visit Methodist April 10-13, 1989 and then offer its recommendations to the college and the full association regarding reaffirmation of accreditation.

President Hendricks said the self-study "requires that we take a serious look at ourselves and evaluate our facilities, programs, and processes." He said an "outcomes assessment" approach is a new element in the self-study process, one that "requires measurement of the impact of what we do on students." He also noted that more attention is being given to long-range planning.

Dr. Garland Knott, chairman of the faculty Steering Committee for the self-study, said the process will help Methodist "become the best it can be." He also stated, "I'm very confident we will be reaffirmed (for SACS accreditation) and that we will benefit greatly from this study."

During an opening convocation Sept. 2, President Hendricks urged Methodist students to use their time in college to read, reflect, worship, and think about becoming better human beings.