Methodist College

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METHODOIST COLLEGE ENROLLMENT KEEPS ON CLIMBING

Methodist College student enrollment has increased for the fourth consecutive year with a record 346 in the freshman class.

A total of 764 FTE enrollments, a 53.9% doctoral faculty, and 180% growth rate in continuing education are highlights of the current academic year, according to Dr. Richard Pearce, president of Methodist College.

"We approach this year with an enthusiasm matched only by our students," states Pearce.

Factors contributing to this enthusiasm include physical expansion, facility improvement, church involvement, community service and academic strengthening. In his annual state of the college address, Dr. Pearce enumerated these factors.

"We are a Methodist College. We have a Christian bias."

-Dr. Richard Pearce

- Improvement of physical facilities is seen in the completion of the Eubanks Conference Room; relocation and expansion of the material center, relocation and rebuilding of language laboratory, addition of disco/pong room and the air conditioning of the classroom building.

- The Continuing Education Division has recorded a 180% growth in the past year and continues to serve the community with two campuses - Main Campus and Fort Bragg Campus.

- "Skimester" in Boone, "Fine Arts Tour" to New York, "Scubamester" in Key West—these offerings highlight a 329-course curriculum.

- Over 3000 people visited the Methodist campus this summer, attending various camps, conferences, workshops and seminars. A seven-week orientation program for 160 Japanese exchange students provided an opportunity for cultural exchange in both the college community and the Fayetteville community.

- Foreign students number 50 this year at Methodist and represent over 18 countries, including Iran, American Samoa, Germany, Korea, and Kenya.

- Financial support is strong. The Methodist College Foundation and the Methodist College Alumni Association both surpassed their goals as the United Methodist Church increased its gift.

- Bishop Robert Blackburn (far left) and Dr. Richard Pearce (far right) relax with faculty members prior to the opening convocation of Methodist College's 18th year. Dr. Willis Gates, Mr. Bruce Pulliam and Dr. Lorenzo Plyler share in the conversation.

"We are a Methodist College. We have a Christian bias," declared Pearce, pointing to the support of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church as instrumental in the advancements made on the Methodist Campus.

Bishop Robert M. Blackburn of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church spoke to the Methodist College student body at the opening convocation of Methodist College's 18th year.

"If history is defined by key words, then 'liberation' is the word for this generation," stated Bishop Blackburn.

"Education attempts to liberate people from fear, prejudice and guilt—it is the process of liberation to be the person you are created to be."

Bishop Blackburn also expressed satisfaction at the realization of goals set for the Methodist-supported institution.
Haymount United Methodist Church heeded the words of Charles Wesley who said “Unite the pair so long disjoined/Knowledge and vital piety” in hosting Methodist College Sunday on October 22.

The Reverend Paul G. Bunn of Haymount conducted the service and Methodist College President Richard W. Pearce delivered the sermon on “Christian Higher Education.”

Using as his text the words of Ezekiel, Dr. Pearce called Christian Education an education for the hands, the head and the heart.

“The hands must train for the Christian way of life...the head must tell the hands what to do...and the heart will tell the head what is right and wrong and good and bad,” asserted Dr. Pearce.

“Methodist College must teach its students to serve not only themselves but also others,” Dr. Pearce continued. “If hands only serve themselves, then education has failed.”

In his address, Dr. Pearce also praised the United Methodist Church for its dedication to Christian higher education, noting that Methodists are the largest single Protestant supporter of colleges in the United States. Among the 101 impressive colleges begun by the Methodist Church are the University of Southern California, Ohio State University, Duke University and Southern Methodist University.

“...in this tradition, Methodist College was founded. It is your college--I invite you to visit it,” said Pearce.

Other highlights of the service included special music by the Methodist College Chorus. Under the direction of Mr. Alan Porter, the chorus performed Pachelbel’s “Now Thank We All Our God,” Palestrina’s “Adoramus Te,” and the popular “Joy In The Morning” by Sleeth.

Joining the regular Haymount congregation were members of the Methodist College Board of Trustees and the Methodist College Foundation as well as students, faculty and staff of Methodist.

“Haymount United Methodist Church is representative of the philosophy that Methodist College seeks to live by--devotion to community service and Christian life,” stated Dr. Pearce.

“And their commitment to Christian higher education is exhibited in the Methodist College Sunday they so graciously planned.”

The church--the community--the college: all united in worship and praise at Haymount United Methodist Church on Methodist College Sunday. Charles Wesley would be pleased to see his words at work.

**METHODOUST HAS 19 FOR WHO’S WHO**

The 1978-79 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will carry the names of 19 students from Methodist College, Fayetteville, North Carolina who have been selected as being among the country’s most outstanding campus leaders. Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extra-curricular activities and future potential.

They join an elite group of students selected from more than 1,000 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1934.

Alex Bethune Establishes Scholarship At Methodist

Alex Bethune of Linden has given $8,000 for establishment of an endowed scholarship at Methodist College. The scholarship will seek "to provide financial assistance to worthy young men and women in the Linden, N.C. area, while at the same time supporting the cause of Christian Education and the endeavors of Methodist College in the field of higher education," according to the terms of the Bethune Scholarship criteria.

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of need, scholarship and citizenship in that order.

Priority will be given to residents of Linden, students of Pine Forest Senior High or students of Cumberland County, respectively.

"Mr. Bethune has been a strong supporter of Methodist College since its beginning," stated Methodist president Dr. Richard Pearce.

"We are both encouraged and pleased by this endowed scholarship as a demonstration of his continued interest in Methodist College."

SCHOLARSHIP BEGUN
Alex Bethune presents check to Mr. Bill Lowdermilk for the establishment of the Alex Bethune Scholarship.

Homecoming Queens Bridge Generation Gap

JoAnne Jones of Ellerbe was crowned Homecoming Queen during festivities at Methodist College in October. Ms. Jones, a senior English major at Methodist, was selected by vote of the student body and crowned by Ms. Alice Pearce, Homecoming Queen 1977.

Members of the Homecoming Court were Cindy Edwards of Elizabethtown, Lynn Granger of Fayetteville, Janine Jenerette of Tabor City, and Jewell Absher of Elizabethtown.

A Dingus Scholar, Ms. Jones has distinguished herself in academics while at Methodist. She served as Chief Marshal of 1978 Commencement Exercises, a Methodist College Scholar, member of Alpha Chi and editor of Tapestry, the Methodist literary magazine.

Ms. Jones has also been active in the theatre arts productions and was selected a member of the honorary drama fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Jones and a graduate of Richmond Academy.

A weekend of soccer and Shakespeare, floats and frisbees, tennis and t-shirts, parades and picnics, drawings and dances marked HOMECOMING '78 at Methodist College.

Under the joint sponsorship of the Methodist College Student Government Association and the Methodist College Alumni Association, Homecoming 1978 boasted a variety of activities designed to provide entertainment for students, alumni and guests alike.

There was something for everyone offered in the schedule of Homecoming events. For the sports-minded, Homecoming Week activities included two soccer games during the week, a tennis tournament for mixed doubles, Frisbee and Putt-Putt competition. A nine-hole portable course was available for play, courtesy of Putt-Putt, Inc.

For those interested in the arts, a sidewalk art show was scheduled for Saturday morning as well as performances by the Methodist College Stage Band and the Methodist College Chorus. "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" was the Homecoming production of the Methodist College theatre arts department presented in O'Hanlon Amphitheatre on Thursday and Friday.

Hensdale Chapel was the site for the 11:00 a.m. Homecoming Worship Service conducted by the Reverend Mike Hale '69 of Fayetteville.

Methodist College Awards Medallion To Dr. Charles Speegle

Dr. Charles Speegle received the first Methodist College Medallion for outstanding service to the college and the community during the Summer Graduation Exercises in Hensdale Chapel on August 25.

The award was established by the Methodist College Board of Trustees at their November 17, 1977 meeting. Criteria for the presentation of the medallion reads "outstanding service in the field of endeavor and substantial contribution to the college, the community and the church."

"In awarding this first medallion to Dr. Speegle, the Board of Trustees has set a precedent of excellence for all future recipients," stated Dr. Richard Pearce, Methodist College president.

Dr. Speegle, current holder of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce prestigious Realtor's Cup for community service, is a retired veterinarian and active member of Highland Presbyterian Church. He was instrumental in the founding of St. Andrews Presbyterian College and the N.C. Veterinary Research Center at Southern Pines.

Dr. Speegle received the award citation from Dr. Richard Pearce while his wife, Mrs. Jesse McFayden Speegle, placed the medallion around his neck.

Dr. Speegle has served as a member of the Methodist College Board of Trustees and president of the Methodist College Foundation. His reorganization of the Foundation’s annual fund-raising efforts this year resulted in over $120,000 of community giving to the college.
North Carolinian Thomas Wolfe said "You can't go home again"—North Carolinian Dixon McLeod is out to prove him wrong.

Dixon McLeod, new Dean of Students at Methodist College, has come home - home to his native Fayetteville, home to Methodist College where he began the college career which would culminate in a Ph.D. from prestigious Duke University.

McLeod has assumed duties as Dean of Students formerly held by Gordon Joyner. He will also serve as Director of Guidance and Placement.

A native of Fayetteville, McLeod attended Fayetteville Senior High, graduating in 1965. He completed his undergraduate work at Methodist College and Campbell College, receiving a B.S. from Campbell in 1969.

McLeod holds a M.Ed. and a Ph.D. from Duke University.

Before coming to Methodist, Dr. McLeod was an elementary principal in Hendersonville, N.C. Previously, he had taught at Terry Sanford High School and Hillsborough Orange High School where he coached football, wrestling, track and golf.

While at Hillsborough, McLeod was named "Teacher of the Year."

McLeod has left his coaching days behind but continues to participate in a variety of sports. "Tennis, swimming, softball - any sport is my favorite," claims McLeod.

Duke University awarded McLeod a fellowship for graduate study and he was a member of the Education Honor Society while at Duke. He also served as assistant wrestling coach at Duke.

"I really wanted to get back into a college atmosphere," said McLeod, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Dixon McLeod of 1809 Lyon Road. "I look forward to dealing with students who have elected to get an education rather than those who are forced."

And now Dr. Dixon has come full circle - back to where it all began. Only now he is on the other side of the dean's desk.