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Southern Notes

Southern Illinois University Office of Alumni Services

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"Education is an act of faith"

"The object of education is to supply the reason for things. Among the most important things for which it seeks to supply the reasons are morals and religion," declared Robert Maynard Hutchins in the commencement address of the 1951 graduation ceremony held in McAndrew stadium June 10 at which time 402 students were granted degrees.

"The most truly human being," he continued, "is the man who has most fully developed his moral, intellectual, and spiritual powers. The object of education, in particular of higher education, is to help him develop his intellectual powers. This is accomplished by persistent inquiry into the reason for things.

"Persistent inquiry into the reason for things is likely to be disquieting . . . Large and influential groups in America have therefore always sought to limit the independence of the university's thought and the scope of its inquiry. Sometimes these groups have operated in the name of religion: but more often they have carried on their subversive activities, as they are doing now, in the name of patriotism . . .

"The fact is, of course, that a society that limits independent thought and free inquiry must die: and the rulers of the Soviet Union will yet learn this to their cost. Charles Malik, delegate from Lebanon to the United Nations, recently made an analysis of the East and the West from the standpoint of one who stands between the two, and concluded that the great superiority of the West over the
Charles E. Dickerman of Carbondale, Imogene C. Beckemeyer of Carlyle, and Darwin D. Davis of Salem were graduated with “high honors” at the June commencement.

Dickerman and Davis received LAS degrees, and Mise Beckemeyer received a E. S. degree in education. “High honors” is granted to those students who maintain a four year university average of 4.75 or above (5.0 equals A).

East lay not in the military and technological power of the West, but in the fact that in the West the church and the university were free.

There is reason to think that the greatest calamity that has yet befallen our country, the Civil War, might have been averted if the colleges of the South had been allowed to be centers of independent criticism.

By the same token there is some reason to think that the Danes have maintained their position and achieved a high order of civilization because the educational revival that began in Denmark seventy-five years ago and because of the freedom of their institutions of higher learning.

But when all is said and done, education is an act of faith. It rests on the assumption that rational animals can become more rational, and that, if they do, they will be more likely to control their animality. In the case of individuals, it seems self-evident that all men seek to be happy; and it is likely that, whatever the minor, secondary ingredients of happiness, the one indispensable ingredient is the sense of developing one’s highest powers. The life of the mind is the most satisfactory, as it is the most indestructible, life there is.

“The American contribution to the theory of education is that all men can live the life of the mind, though they may not all be able to live it to the same extent... Eminent critics have lately held that universal education, instead of improving mankind, has promoted its degradation by supplying wicked men and wicked governments with a means of reaching vast numbers and using them for their own wicked purposes. The remedy is not to abandon universal education, but to make it truly education, a process that aims to make men better by making them more reasonable.

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Banquet Highlights

From all points of the compass, Idaho, Ohio, Colorado, and Chicago, Southern’s alumni came home June 9 to be present at the reunions and the alumni banquet.

Oldest alum present at the banquet, a Southerner of three-score-and-ten years ago, Mary Roberson, gave this toast, “The scenes of my school days are very dear to me. To each of the alumni, ‘Greetings’ and to our Alma Mater that has fostered such a splendid group—may she receive the credit she deserves, and may she get our support.”

The banquet itself was unusually entertaining with original songs written by Wayne M. Mann and Ruth Barkley Mann and sung by students Jean Niernmann, Sue Smith, and Jim Trigg. Arrangements were done by Robert Mueller of the music faculty.

A pantomime ball game was presented by interpretative dance by students William Franklin, Libby Mars, and Helen Nance. The class of 1951 was presented to the Alumni Association by President of the class, Paka Nordmeyer, and the class was accepted by retiring
Alumni Association President, W. W. Vandeveer.

Master of ceremonies was Carl McIntire of the class of 1941, who is presently announcer for KSD television station in St. Louis, Mo.

Resolutions Presented

Resolutions were offered by the Alumni Association board which expressed appreciation to President W. W. Vandeveer, commended Dr. Orville Alexander as past Director of the Alumni Service, complimented Wayne M. Mann on the aggressive and creative manner in which he has taken over his duties as Director of the Alumni Services, expressed gratitude for the continuing good will and interest of the emeritus faculty members, expressed appreciation for the manner in which the Board of Trustees has served the University during the difficult two years of trial status, expressed appreciation for and confidence in the president, administrative staff, and faculty of the University, and expressed wholehearted appreciation to all members of the 67th General Assembly and its various Commissions and Committees.

A Silent Tribute

A moment of silence was observed “as a tribute to the great personalities whose lengthening shadows have extended themselves across the years and served for us as guide posts that we too may contribute something for posterity in these days of turmoil and unrest,” in accordance with a request of William B. Westbrook, E 1931, of Harrisburg. He was unable to attend the banquet.

Officers of the Alumni Association were elected to the following positions: Lowell E. Roberts, D 1915, of Chicago as president; William H. Carruthers, E 1929, of Murphysboro as vice-president; and Mrs. Eliza-

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"Jim, you rascal, you haven't changed a bit," might be one of the typical remarks overheard during the reunions and get-togethers held August 9.

Alums found their classmates had more children, more pounds, less hair, better stories, and new experiences to relate. They found quite a different University from the one they left just a few years before. Former roommates greeted each other to talk over the old times, and many of the alums looked up former professors and teachers.

In the upper left hand corner are members of the classes of 1881 through 1901 and including the class of 1916. Reading clockwise around the double page are the classes of 1926, 1921, 1931, 1911, and 1906.
Education is an act of faith

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The test of any program that is labeled educational is how much thought it requires of those who teach and those who learn.

"I suggest that:
All men are capable of learning. Learning does not stop as long as a man lives, or a man atrophies in those powers where learning is not going on.
Freedom is nasty, brutish, and short if it is attempted without provision for the free, unlimited acquisition of knowledge.
Truth is not long retained in human affairs without continual learning and re-learning. Man is a rational political animal: his politics are tyrannical if they are not rational."

Foundation Board Increases
Membership to Twenty-one

Directors of the Southern Illinois University Foundation Board met at the office of the Board of Trustees for the annual meeting June 9.

Scholarships, housing of men students in the newly erected barracks, proposed changes in the constitution, and acquisition of property were discussed by the Board.

New members named by the Alumni Association Board of Directors to serve on the S. I. U. Foundation Board of Directors are John K. Feirich of Carbondale; L. Goebbel Patton of West Frankfort; Clyde D. Harris of Cape Girardeau, Mo.; C. A. Robertson of Paducah, Ky.; and John Searing of Carbondale.

Present officers were re-elected for the following year. They are Glenn Brown of Carbondale as president; John Leonard East of Chicago as vice-president; Edward V. Miles, Jr., of Carbondale as treasurer; and Mrs. Lois Nelson of Carbondale as executive-secretary.

It was decided that since the membership of the Board of Directors of the S. I. U. Foundation has been increased from 20 to 21 by amendment of the constitution that W. W. Vandeveer of Rocky River, Ohio, be retained as director until a qualified person be selected.

Vandeveer, retiring president of the Alumni Board of Directors, otherwise would automat...
ically leave the membership of the S. I. U. Foundation Board of Directors. His present term of office under the amendment will expire in 1952.

New Method Studied For Electing Officers

A committee was appointed to study the possibility of choosing a new method for the nomination and election of officers and directors of the Alumni Association during a Board meeting held June 9 in the Board of Trustees house.

At the present time the Alumni Association Board serves as a nominating committee for the Association officers and appoints members to the SIU Foundation Board.

Resolutions to be presented at the Alumni banquet were drawn up, and Wayne M. Mann, director of the Alumni Services gave a detailed report on the accomplishments of the Alumni Service since last September.
Summer Graduation
To Be August 3

Approximately 200 candidates will be granted degrees at the summer commencement to be held in McAndrew Stadium August 3 at 7 p.m.

A sharp increase in the number of candidates for the master's degree is noted this year over last, as indeed the graduate school has increased in size and prestige every year of its existence.

In case of rain the graduation ceremony will be held in Shryock Auditorium.

Air Force ROTC
To Be Compulsory

Participation in the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps will be compulsory for all physically fit male students in the freshmen and sophomore classes starting September 10 with the beginning of the fall term.

It had previously been announced that the AFROTC program would be on a voluntary basis, but a recent announcement from the office of the dean of men states that only those freshmen and sophomores who are not physically fit will be excused from the program.

No AFROTC program has been set up for junior and senior males except in the case of veterans for whom participation will be voluntary.

Banquet Highlights
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Beth Harris Lewis, E 1932, of Carbondale as secretary-treasurer. New members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors are Troy Hawkins, D 1918, of Mt. Vernon; Guy Karraker, 1913, of Dongola; Mrs. Mabel Pulliam, director of S. I. U. housing office, of Carbondale; and Dr. Clyde M. Brooks, D 1922, of Carbondale.

Bust Almost Busted

Highlight of the banquet festivities was the unveiling of a gold-tipped bronze bust of W. W. Vandeveer. Sculptured by Adella Mitchell Mills of the class of 1929, the bust had a hectic time before arriving in Carbondale for the unveiling.

First it was doubtful if bronze would be available because of government restrictions on that scarce metal, but the order just got under the wire. A sitting could not be arranged with Vandeveer until May of 1951 and a final rush was necessary to complete the work of art. En route to Carbondale, the car carrying the bust was upset in an accident and the heavy bust—including its tall base of bleached walnut and slab of rare Botticini marble—finished the trip to Carbondale via bus. To add a final touch, stage hands at the banquet, unaware of a slight change in the program, started to unveil the bust before the presentation speech had been made.

A resolution was passed by the Alumni Association directing that the bust be placed on display in the campus offices of the Alumni Service.

Class toasts were presented to the more than 300 banquet guests by members of the reunion classes of 1881, 1896, 1911, 1916, 1921, 1926, 1931, 1936, and 1941.

Little Theatre Presents
"Family Portrait"

"Family Portrait," — a three-act story of Christ's family — has been chosen as the summer play to be presented here on the tentative date of either July 25 or 26.

Taking for its theme Christ's words, "A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin and in his own house," "Family Portrait" elaborates in the terms of an ordinary family which acts and speaks as people do today. It is a simple and reverent picture of the family of Jesus.

The play, sponsored by the Little Theatre and directed by Dr. Archibald McLeod, has a cast of 29 characters.

Enrollment for the summer term, according to the Registrar's office, is 1,714. The enrollment fell short of last summer's record number of 2,044.

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Don't Forget Your Alumni Dues