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Recommended Citation

Southern Missionary College, "SMC Southern Columns Spring 1979" (1979). *Alumni Newsletter*. 168.
https://knowledge.e.southern.edu/alumni_newsletter/168

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COLUMNS

Volume 21

Collegedale, Tennessee

Spring 1979



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Message from Minon...



Dear Alumni,

Thanks for another opportunity to chat with you about SMC and our mutual concerns.

I was thrilled once more last October when hundreds of you demonstrated your continued support of our college by coming for Alumni Weekend. We had a wonderful time together, with fine music, inspiring messages, and great fellowship. The weather cooperated with a glorious weekend, all sunshine and gold, setting off the autumn brilliance of the hills.

We felt the mini-seminars were a great success, the beginning of what we hope will be a rewarding tradition. About a hundred students participated, more than we'd dared hope for on a first try. We're planning for eight to ten seminars next October. Please pass along suggestions on how these short courses could be arranged more conveniently. And let us know what subject areas interest you and your friends. We are planning what we believe are exciting topics, and there's time yet to arrange those you suggest.

The most recent Alumni satisfaction I've enjoyed was the presentation in late November (in your name, of course) of a \$200 scholarship gift to 17 students. Most of these people are seniors, and all have worked extremely hard to meet their expenses. One is a lady who is putting herself through nursing and caring for her five children at the same time. It gave us a warm satisfaction to help these people who are sacrificing much, and we're looking forward to helping another 17 in the spring, before the funds available are exhausted.

One of the persons who received a check wrote a beautiful letter of thanks the very day she received the gift. She said in part, "You have given me far more than \$200 for my school bill; you have given me a sense that somebody cares, that what I'm doing matters to someone besides myself. In return, I want to dedicate my time and efforts more than ever, determined to matter to SMC, to reward your trust."

My first personal New Year's resolution for 1979 was to give monthly to the Worthy Student Fund, so more people can be helped.

Please write to us and let us know what you are doing.

Minon Hamm

ABOUT THE COVERS

Most of the pictures in this issue of SOUTHERN COLUMNS were taken by Richard Perry '70. He is a professional photographer who is a supervisor at McKee Bakery. Whenever we are "desperate" for a picture, we call on Ric who obliges with an outstanding job. The front cover shows Elder and Mrs. Frank Ashlock, '24 and '46, with a young couple they met in India. John and Ileen Rathnam and their young daughter, Michelle, decided to come to SMC to finish their education. John works in the computer center here and graduated in the spring with a degree in theology.



SMC
Southern

COLUMNS

Volume 29

Spring 1979

Official Magazine of
SOUTHERN MISSIONARY COLLEGE

Alumni Association

Collegedale, Tennessee 37315

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Published quarterly by Southern Missionary College, Collegedale, Tennessee 37315. Second class postage paid at Collegedale, Tennessee. POSTMASTERS: Send Form 3579 to SMC SOUTHERN COLUMNS, Collegedale, Tennessee 37315. (USPS 420-400)

Trustees Of SMC OK Record Budget

The Board of Trustees of Southern Missionary College in Collegedale voted a record-high academic budget, granted graduate study leaves for several faculty members and conferred emeritus status on two retired professors at its recent annual meeting.

The approved budget for academic operations showed a rise to \$5.24 million for the coming year, up from \$4.88 million the previous year.

Tuition was increased approximately seven percent for full-time students, and faculty salaries were also increased by about as much.

Graduate study leaves were granted to Catherine Knarr, instructor of nursing; Mrs. Ann Clark, assistant professor of English; Helmut Ott, assistant professor of religion; Mrs. Betty Garver, instructor of nursing; Dr. Bruce Ashton, professor of music; Dr. Floyd Greenleaf, professor of history; Steve Zimmerman, assistant professor of behavioral science, and Mrs. Sue Baker, associate professor of English. All the leaves were for the summer, except for Ms. Knarr's, which was for one year.

Overseas travel was approved for John Durichek, Mrs. Charlene Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Orlo Gilbert, Dr. Robert Sage, Mrs. Sue Baker, Ms. Mary Elam and Mrs. Joyce Cotham.

The board also voted to employ the architectural firm of Klaus Nentwig to complete plans and specifications for the new music building.

Mrs. Dorothy Ackerman, associate professor of music, and Dr. K. M. Kennedy, professor of education, were granted emeritus status by the board. President Frank Knittel gave a tribute to the two retiring faculty members at the Faculty-Board-Committee of 100 banquet on Thursday night.

Dr. Kennedy has served Southern Missionary College for 28 years, with denominational service of 45 years, and for many years was chairman of the Education Department.

Mrs. Ackerman, who served SMC for 27 years and the denomination for 39 years, was director of choral groups and featured contralto solo-

ist for many musical events throughout the South, as well as in Collegedale and the Chattanooga area.

Mrs. Jane Brown, retiring executive secretary for five presidents at SMC, was also honored at the banquet.

She had served SMC for 25 years.

Plaques were presented with letters of commendation from the board, to Charles Fleming, former general manager and now consultant on development to the college; Dr. H. H. Kuhlman, current chairman of the Biology Department, and C. F. W. Futcher, retired academic dean.



The Sabbath morning speaker, Elder Alfred V. McClure, '28, told the Homecoming audience "God's Remedy for Sin." Many who heard this address declared it to be "the finest sermon we have had for Alumni Weekend in many a year." Elder McClure is retired now and living in Highland, California.



Dr. Minon Hamm, Alumni Association president, introduces Friday night mission speaker Pat Horning, '68, who used as her subject "Sent Into the World." She told of her mission experiences while teaching at the Far Eastern Academy and traveling in Indonesia.

Dorothy Ackerman Retires

by Vanessa Greenleaf Henson
(English/journalism major)

Being affectionately called anything from "a good ole gal" by those who knew her from earlier years to "Mrs. A" by her more contemporary students to "a legend in her own time" Mrs. Dorothy Evans Ackerman has truly become a lively and well-loved institution on the SMC campus.

And now she is retiring after a total of 27 years of lessons, classes, tours, choral groups, and directing at SMC. She has a total denominational service of 37 years. Why would she want to retire?

"It's smart to stop while people still want you to stay!" she laughs with her usual easily detectable twinkle in her eyes tattle-taling her sense of humor. "Seriously, I'm retiring now because I don't want to wait till I'm 65—and can't do anything. I'm sorry, of course, I won't get to be in the new music building. But we plan to stay here for awhile. Collegedale is home to us."

"Us," defined as Mrs. A and her husband, Jim, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary December 27 of last year. Dr. James Ackerman was SMC's Director of Admissions and Testing for many years.

"The years have really flown by," she reflects, glancing at a picture of Professor Harold Miller hanging on the wall in front of her desk. "Professor Miller had a big influence on me. He wrote several songs for me and though a hard teacher, he had a terrific sense of humor."

To many people in the Collegedale area, it seems like Mrs. A has **always** been around SMC. But she hasn't.

Young Dorothy Evans grew up in Ohio, but when she moved to Atlanta along with her parents, the South

became her home. "We never felt like we were northerners!"

She first came to SMC in 1944 and stayed till 1949.

"Those were some years," she grins. "There was a whole group of us who lived upstairs in the old church school building. I believe we had a sink on either end of the hall and two bathrooms. We knew about communal living long before it was even popular as it is now in the 70's!" Mrs. A described the "spacious" living quarters and how close the residents of the church school grew to be.

"We all had a good time. I never will forget one incident. Olive and Brad Braley were a part of our happy family at the time. Brad was away during the weeks studying and then he would come home for the weekends. One weekend, he forgot to bring home his pajamas. What a sight he made, tearing down the hall to the bathroom in one of Olive's nightgowns! Of course, we all had a good laugh. Even though we had so little, we had a lot of fun!"

As far as her teaching career during those years, Miss Evans taught up to 70 lessons a week! "But I was young," she adds as if that should make any difference for the heavy load.

Miss Frances Andrews, an alumnus and current teacher at SMC who knew Dorothy during those early years, remembers her friend as the one who "straightened us all out—a good counselor. She was and still is one of my best friends."

A former voice student of Miss Evans in the latter 40's

Dr. Minon Hamm, Alumni Association president, reads the proclamation which makes Dorothy Ackerman an honorary alumnus of SMC, as her husband, Dr. James Ackerman, and President Frank Knittel look on. Mrs. Ackerman joins other honorary alumni B.F. Summerour, and Charles Fleming, and Frank Fogg.



Mrs. Carol Herrell, recalls her friendship with the young teacher. "We were very close friends other than on just a teacher and student basis. I would often go to her apartment, use her car for quick errands, and sometimes, we would go out to eat. I always felt like Dot was very interested in every facet of the student's life. She always seemed to have good advice." Mrs. Herrell also recalls that her teacher-friend also enjoyed having a good time. One time in particular was when a group of four, made up of Miss Evans, another faculty member, Carol and a friend, went to the county fair.

"There was a shooting gallery and Dorothy just had to go. I can't remember what all was supposed to be shot down, but whatever they were, Dot really surprised us all by shooting every one of them down! We asked her, 'Where in the world did you learn to shoot?' She replied, 'Oh, shooting squirrels when I was a little girl!'"

As far as Dorothy Ackerman's role as a musician and teacher, Mrs. Herrell feels like "she is one of the top musicians in our denomination. She is a **real** musician, very capable and knowledgeable yet she is so unassuming, and I doubt Dorothy has ever realized how competent she really is. One thing that impresses me about her is her appreciation of so many types of music—she can get up to sing anything from 'Mama's Little Baby Loves Short'nin Bread' to the contralto solos in the **Messiah**. And then to top it all off, she has such a rapport with her audience, identifying so well with her listeners. Dorothy Ackerman can make music live!"

Miss Evans left SMC in 1949 only to return in 1957 after becoming Mrs. Ackerman, teaching at Columbia Union College, working as a medical secretary, being secretary in the Southern Union office, plus working as soloist for Faith for Today on weekends. Mrs. A feels like the singing she did for the broadcast was a boost to her talent—learning to sing for an audience who wasn't there.

"I gave up teaching twice, but always came back," she said referring to her return to SMC.

What would SMC be like if she hadn't?

Fortunately, nobody has had to answer that question.

Just to show Mrs. A's quick adaptability to situations, this year, the Die Meistersingers (male chorus) suddenly were without a director because of illness of Dr. Marvin Robertson. So, as Mrs. A puts it "I was taken out of the mothballs of directing and asked to take over for the rest of the semester. I had not conducted for 12 years! But the boys are very kind to me!"

From the comments made about Mrs. A by students, being kind to her does not prove to be too difficult a task. Not only is her singing loved but also the **person**, Mrs. Ackerman.

"What am I going to do next year?" one voice student lamented upon hearing of the future retirement. "The school is going to have a pretty rough time finding someone who can replace her. Well, I don't know if you want to print this but I'll say it anyway—they **won't** be able to find anybody who could. Now, the school can find someone to come and take over her lessons, but never replace her!"

Dr. Marvin Robertson, chairman of the music department, also realizes "she is going to be hard to replace because of her personality and abilities. She is interested in her students; she is a superb teacher and performer. She's been, I guess, the main stay of the music department . . . always well-liked by her colleagues, not only on the SMC campus, but also all throughout the east and south. If there is one teacher



Frances Andrews '49, editor of the **SOUTHERN COLUMNS**, presents a corsage to Dorothy Ackerman as she is named an honorary alumnus of Southern Missionary College after announcing her retirement from teaching. William H. Taylor, director of Development and Alumni Relations, looks on.

students come back to see at the music department, it is Mrs. Ackerman."

I remember when she was out for a semester. The following semester a sign was up in the hall of the music department "Happiness is having Mrs. A back."

I also remember desperately trying to locate sheet music for a particular vocal number I wanted to use in my wedding. **None** of the stores in the area had it. Eventually, all it took was a simple phone call to Mrs. A and I had the music in my hands in two weeks.

I will never be able to forget her ability to literally capture the audience with her singing.

A Saturday evening program was nearing conclusion in the college gym. As usual, people were beginning to gather their coats, children, and belongings to get an early start out the door, trying to beat the heavy traffic. Then Dorothy Ackerman stepped into the spotlight. Her voice pacified the shuffling and whispering. **Nobody** moved. There really need not have been a benediction for Mrs. A had sung it all. Her song—"God Bless America," a cappella.

We in the Collegedale area, at Southern Missionary College, and perhaps all throughout the east and south, can say Dorothy Ackerman has blessed us by making music come alive.

Since she will remain in Collegedale for the time being, Alumni may wish to write to her at Drawer 1, Collegedale, TN 37315.

O. D. McKee — ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

by President Frank Knittel



Dr. Minon Hamm and President Frank Knittel present to O. D. and Ruth McKee the award of Alumnus of the Year. O. D. McKee represented the 50-year class at Homecoming ceremonies.

How does one express appreciation to people who are friends, benefactors, loyal supportive Christians, successful parents and just plain big-hearted and warm-feeling friends. This is only the second time in the history of Southern Missionary College that the Alumni Association has selected an "Alumnus of the Year." I am very happy that the association has given me the privilege of presenting this tribute to O. D. McKee who has been selected by your alumni as "Alumnus of the Year."

It is true that when we choose an alumnus of the year, we choose a single individual from a specific class; however, the Bible tells us that when a man and woman marry, they become one. It is not possible, therefore, to select O. D. McKee as "Alumnus of the Year" without also recognizing his wife, Ruth. In this tribute I place them together as they are truly one in marriage, in family and in business. This is O. D.'s 50th year class as he is a member of the Class of '28. On the other hand, it is O. D. and Ruth's 50th year of marriage. It is also the year of the 25th anniversary of the McKee Baking Company. Add all that together and we have 125 years of something rather special and wonderful.

O. D. McKee is a charter member of the Committee of 100. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Southern Missionary College for many years and even now is a member "emeritus" of the board.

O. D. and Ruth McKee considered the needs of Southern Missionary College and the students here and subsequently moved their baking plant to Collegedale in 1957 in order to help Christian education. Subsequently, the McKee Baking Company has helped thousands of young people get a Christian education not only by providing work in the McKee Baking Company, but also by means of the McKee Scholarship Fund. They also have assisted students by providing the major portion of the present student endowment fund which amounts to something in excess of \$300,000. Two buildings on our campus very specifically are here only because of the keen interest which O. D. and Ruth have in Southern Missionary College. The first of these is Ledford Hall and houses our Industrial Education Department. Second, is our library which is the crown jewel of our campus.

What has fascinated me also so

very much about this family is that—the family. I see the children which O. D. and Ruth raised and I see how God with the help of godly parents can bring children into society who are a credit to their family, to their church and to their God and their country. Although both O. D. and Ruth McKee have for many years worked very long and hard hours at the bakery, the quality of their family life was solid and vital and the lives of their children and their children's children testify to this.

I make a further personal testimony to this as president of this college. It has been no secret through the years that the McKees have been very generous in their financial support of Southern Missionary College. For this I am very deeply grateful. I want to make it very clear, however, that never once in any manner whatsoever have the McKees ever come to me trying to tell me how the college should be run. I frequently seek their counsel and they are very open with their responses. I appreciate this very much. I value their counsel and consider it both confidential and helpful. I hope they will continue to respond to my inquiries, but they have not and do not attach themselves to their gifts, and in this world of selfish giving, this kind of unselfish benevolence is indeed rare. Their life and unselfishness cannot be summarized. It is too vast. Their help to Christian education cannot be measured, it has been too expensive. Their love for all of us has not been contained, it is too inclusive. I can simply say we love you and we always will.

And, O. D., it is a real privilege for me to express before this group the tribute which the Alumni Association expresses by voting you the citation of "Alumnus of the Year."

(Ed. Note — The following talk was made by President Knittel at the last Alumni Homecoming as the Association presented to O. D. McKee, Chairman of Board of McKee Baking Company, the Alumnus of the Year award.)

HEFFERLINS TRAVEL IN SOVIET RUSSIA

Monthly letters from the Ray Hefferlin family attest to the fact that they are having a once-in-a-lifetime experience with the scientific community in Soviet Russia. They expect to return in July and we promise a full report on their experiences.

He writes, "The experiment on lifetimes of Dysprosium atoms and ions has been completed and I have been transferred to another group using other methods to determine lifetimes of calcium atoms. I gave an hour-long report to scientists of the Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute (the first ever given in Russian by an American.) They asked very significant questions, including philosophical ones. As a result of the lengthy preparation for the talk, of the questions, and of material sent by Dr. Henry Kuhlman, significant insights have been gained which will be helpful in future work. Students in Physics 499 will have lots to do in this frontier research next year!"

Ray says his children are attending a Russian school and both they and Inelda are using the Russian language more and more. "We shop almost exclusively in local stores. Hence we are, as American Indians say, wearing the other's moccasins."

Communication Grads Work In Florida

Bob Wade, '72, director of hospital relations at Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida, since December, 1972, has been elected as president of the Florida Hospital Association Public Relations Council, a non-SDA organization of 130 hospital public relations directors statewide.

Last September he was elected to be the Region four board director for the American Society for Hospital Public Relations. Region four, one of nine Regions across the country, is made up of six southeast states plus Puerto Rico. Bob goes to Chicago two to three times a year where national objectives and goals for hospital public relations are set. ASHPR is the largest professional organization for hospital PR directors in the country, with 1300 plus PR directors in it nationally. The big

issue currently is communication pertaining to cost containment.

In March, 1979, Bob was elected president-elect of the SDA Hospital PR Council, which is the denominational PR group. He served a communication internship at Florida Hospital from June, 1971, to August, 1971, before finishing up his communication major at SMC in December, 1972.

The communication department of SMC is highly represented, and spoken well of, in Florida, mainly in Orlando, with James Closser, '79, coming in as communication intern at Florida Hospital, where he will be receiving two years of intensive, broad-range, hospital PR training; Milford Crist, '71, as assistant director for Audio-Visual and Media Production at Florida Hospital; and Pat Batto, December, '77, as Florida Conference communication director. Three-fourths of the hospital relations department at Florida Hospital is made up of SMC communication graduates.



Michael Foxworth

SMC ALUMNUS NAMED PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR AT PORTER

Michael E. Foxworth, a 1970 graduate of Southern Missionary College, recently was named director of public relations at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver.

He is responsible for news media contacts, hospital publications, and other events and programs affecting hospital community relations. He has held various public relations positions in the hospital since 1972.

Prior to joining Porter, Foxworth was a public relations assistant at United Medical Labs in Portland, Oregon. He was graduated from SMC with a bachelor of arts degree in communications.

He and his wife, Dee Dee, have two children, Suzanne, age 5, and Andrea, 2.

Greg Rumsey, '75 graduate, also works in public relations at Porter Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Bill Dysinger Serves in Tanzania

Dr. Bill Dysinger, '51, and family are in Tanzania for a year under Loma Linda University auspices and a USAID contract, where he is utilizing his public health and preventive medicine background in serving, and the Mother and Child Health consultant to the Ministry of Health. This program has been given high priority by the government and Bill enjoys his relations with the top decision makers in health matters in this East African nation.

Bill writes to the Alumni office: "There are many challenges, and few, if any, SDA church projects have had greater opportunity to assist an entire nation than this project provides."

His wife, Yvonne, keeps busy managing the household. She writes, "We enjoy serving as a guesthouse for the SDA church here in the capital city. We are the only American SDA's in Dar es Salaam. More often than not we have company." All the Dysinger children are with them and are enjoying the schools.

"The needs and opportunities in this situation are unlimited. Apart from our church involvement, we are enjoying some thrilling experiences as we associate with an interdenominational Bible study and prayer group of Christians of many nationalities. Surely there is no joy like that of sharing the love of Jesus with others. Please pray that we will be the witness for Christ that we wish to be."

JOSE BOURGET TEACHES IN IVORY COAST, AFRICA

Jose Bourget, '78 editor of the *Southern Memories* for that year, writes that he has been working as a special services appointee at our



Jose Bourget

school in Bouake, Ivory Coast, West Africa. He teaches Spanish to 8th and 9th graders, and physical

education to 6th grade, making a total of 250 students in six "little" groups. He says, "I've been working as repairs man on campus doing lots of little things: carpentry, plumbing, painting, electrical work, you name it!"

He says he leaves Africa in May and will spend several weeks in Europe before he returns to his country, Dominican Republic. He accepted a call to teach at our academy and junior college there. "I graduated from there several years ago, and it will be a real thrill going back to teach," Jose says.

He requests that all his friends write him at home: Jose Ramon Bourget, Ave 1 RA 7, Jardine, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

LOREN PHIL HUNT

Loren Phil Hunt, assistant professor of nursing at Southern Missionary College, has recently been hired as Nursing Administrator at

Washington Adventist Hospital in Washington, D. C.

Hunt received his bachelor's degree in nursing from Southern Missionary College and holds a master of education with a major in Medical-Surgical Nursing from Columbia University in New York City. He has taught nursing at SMC since 1975.

Prior to that, Hunt worked as a staff, emergency room and intensive care unit nurse at Erlanger Hospital. He was also an instructor of nursing at Staten Island Community College. Hunt received the Calkins Award in 1974 and was voted an Outstanding Young Man of America in 1978. He is a member of the National League for Nurses and the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Nurses.

Hunt assumed his responsibilities at Washington Adventist Hospital the end of January.

New England Forms SMC Alumni Chapter

The New England chapter of the SMC Alumni Association was organized recently with some 15 members in attendance.

Elder James Boyle was elected president of the new chapter, and Dr. and Mrs. Lynn Sauls served as host and hostess for the group.

Mr. William H. Taylor, director of the Alumni Association, showed color slides of the campus and told about the Fine Arts campaign, the first building of which will be the music building.

Others present were as follows:

- Dr. Lynn and Helen Sauls
- Elder and Mrs. James Boyle
- Elder Herman Bowman
- Mrs. Rochele Kilgore
- Mrs. Leslie Pendleton
- Dr. Margarita Merriman
- Mr. and Mrs. John Baker
- Elder Dean Davis
- Elder James Valentine

SMC's Fifty Year Graduates—1928

Left to right: O. D. McKee, Nellie Ferree, Charles A. Boykin, Alfred V. McClure



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