1-1-1931

Wofford College Bulletin, Alumni Issue, January 1931

Wofford College. Alumni Office

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/alumnibulletin

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/alumnibulletin/11

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus Publications at Digital Commons @ Wofford. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alumni Bulletins by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Wofford. For more information, please contact stonerp@wofford.edu.
making of Wofford an ideal College of the Liberal Arts and Sciences, and in so doing to serve the best interests of Church and State.

The legal ownership of the College is in the Board of Trustees, its control belongs to the two Conferences, its educational administration is in the hands of a faculty, but it is owned, controlled, and administered in the interest of the students who come to it. It exists to train men intellectually and spiritually, and the men who are so trained by the residence on the campus and by the instruction they receive,—these are its children always, having been transformed from Wofford students to Wofford Alumni. To them the College also belongs, and they to it. Do they, thinking about this peculiar two-sided ownership, ever raise the question of the duty of joining together, and by a great co-operative effort continued over a term of years, meet in a financial way the needs of their Alma Mater, so that its future will be characterized by a much richer service than its past?

The Proceedings of The Anniversary In response to a general demand, the proceedings of the exercises connected with the Anniversary will be published in bound form. The volume will include the program, a list of the delegates, and a full report of all addresses. It will be a volume not only of historical importance, but also of real significance as a contribution to present-day educational thought. Every Alumnus should have a copy, as well as every one interested in certain trends and movements in higher education. It will be offered at cost; that is, at fifty cents per copy. Those desiring a copy should send this amount at once to President Snyder.
The Alumni and the College

HE President of the Alumni Association, L. L. Hardin, 1900, is very much concerned about the development of Alumni interest to the point where they will be able to make definite contributions to the progress of the College. To this end he has called into conference other alumni, and out of these conferences he would make the following suggestions:

1. The formation of a sort of Alumni Council of perhaps ten men which will really function in carrying forward whatever programme the Association may set up.

2. The completion of the Alumni record so that it will contain the names, addresses, occupations of every man who has even been a student at Wofford.

3. More frequent meetings of county or district chapters for the purpose of maintaining the Wofford touch, of hearing from the College through visiting professors, and of co-operating for creating a Wofford sentiment in the county or district.

4. The publication of a College Bulletin devoted rather exclusively to matters of Alumni interest, with particular reference to College news and activities.

5. The preparation of definite plans for doing something specific for the advancement of the College.

6. If possible, the employment of an Alumni Secretary, who shall give his full time to furtherance of such plans as the alumni may adopt.

Here is a programme that has in it the elements of a real contribution on the part of the Alumni to the progress of Wofford, and both the Alumni and the authorities of the College are naturally ready to join with President Hardin in seeing to it that his programme is made practically effective.
College Dividends

A College, its resources in endowment and equipment, is just an investment of so much capital in faith in the potential value of human beings. Like all investments of money, a return is expected, dividends. In the case of the College, the dividends expected are in terms of the men whom it trains. This only means that it justifies the money invested in it in proportion to the quality of the men it turns out. And Wofford need not hesitate to be measured by this test. Some recent occurrences make quite real the fact that the College is declaring some substantial dividends.

Among them is the late Professor Daniel Allston DuPré. When he passed away in the early days of last September, everybody knew that a princely gentleman had left us. Brought in 1853 as a nine-year-old boy to the home in which he died more than seventy years later, he was essentially a Wofford product. Graduating in 1869, after having seen service as a Confederate soldier for a few months, with the exception of three years' teaching at Georgetown and at Asheville and a year of graduate study in Europe, he spent his entire life on the Wofford Campus. When his father, Professor Warren DuPré, left in 1875 to become President of Martha Washington College, in Virginia, Professor "Dan" succeeded him in the chair of the Natural Sciences. First, he taught Physics, Chemistry, and Geology; then, Physics and Geology; and at last, only Geology. Many generations of students found in him a genuine scholar, a wise counsellor, a sympathetic friend, and above all, a model of what a Christian gentleman ought to be. He was a kind of "dividend" of which any institution might be proud. Wofford counts him among her most worthy sons. The faculty and students have placed on the walls of the Cleveland Science Hall a bronze tablet as a grateful memorial of his life and service.

Another Wofford man of the same type passed away at Palo Alto, California, on the first day of January, 1931,—Dr. James Perrin Smith, Emeritus Professor of Palaeontology in Leland Stanford University. Dr. Smith was a student of Professor DuPré's in Geology, and chose this as his own special field of study. Graduating at Wofford in 1884, he spent a year at Vanderbilt, and then went to Germany, receiving his Ph. D. at Gottingen. He was at once called to Stanford, where he remained until his retirement in 1930. In his specialty, that of Palaeontology, a department of Geology, Dr. Smith was among the outstanding world authorities as a research scholar, and his contributions to a knowledge of his field are permanent and valuable. It should be noted that Dr. J. P. Smith was a brother of Dr. Charles Forster Smith, Wofford '72, Emeritus Professor of Greek of the University of Wisconsin, and of the late Professor Landon C. Smith, Wofford '74, of Lander College,—together they constitute a distinguished group of scholars coming from the same institution.

In far away Brazil, a great son of Wofford has been called to a position of high service. During the past year the Methodist Church of Brazil was set up as an independent church, and the first Bishop elected to preside over the destinies of the new Church was the Reverend J. W. Tarboux, who graduated at Wofford in 1877. For fifty years Bishop Tarboux has labored as a missionary in that distant field, and it is due to him more perhaps than to anybody else the building of that great missionary enterprise. It was quite appropriate, therefore, that when the time came for an independent Brazilian Methodism, he should be chosen as its first Bishop. Another worthy dividend! It might be noted, too, that Bishop Tarboux is a brother-in-law to two Wofford men,—the late Reverend A. C. Walker, '75, and Chancellor J. H. Kirkland, '77, of Vanderbilt, and that his daughter, Miss Marie V. Tarboux, '04, is among the few women who have received a Wofford degree.

When the Honorable I. C. Blackwood took his place as Governor of South Carolina, he was the third Wofford man to hold that high position. After spending his first two college years at Furman, he took the last two at Wofford, '96-'97 and '97-'98. A very successful term as Solicitor of the Fourth
District brought him into prominence as excellent material for the governorship. After a close and exciting campaign, in which his chief competitor was another Wofford man, the Honorable O. D. Johnston, ’21, Mr. Blackwood’s candidacy was approved by the electorate of the State. He goes into office at a particularly trying time, but he will bring to its duties intelligence and character, the equipment of long experience in public service, and a patriotic purpose to do his best for his native State.

***

The first Governor called from the ranks of Wofford Alumni was the Honorable William H. Ellerbe, of Marion County. He also spent only two years at Wofford, ’79-’80, ’80-’81. His administration was in every way worthy of the fine integrity of the man. Two of his sons are honored graduates of Wofford, Henry I. Ellerbe, ’12, lawyer of Bennettsville, and Frank R. Ellerbe, ’18, planter of Latta.

***

Thomas G. McLeod, ’92, was the second of the Wofford Governors, and he gave a good account of himself in the administration of the affairs of the State in the difficult, confused post-war conditions. It is probable that the McLeod family has had the largest family representation among the Wofford Alumni. In addition to his son, T. G. McLeod, Jr., ’26, the Governor has had three brothers to receive Wofford diplomas—D. M., ’90; F. A., ’96; and D. C., ’09—and the following close kinsmen: W. M. McLeod, ’21; W. J., Jr., ’26; H. M., ’28; J. M., ’29; and E. M., ’30, with still another who is a member of the present senior class, a nephew, J. G. McLeod. The Wofford roll also shows eight others of the McLeod “Clan” that did not graduate.—F. H., ’84-’85; W. D., ’87-’88; W. T., ’89-’92; W. R., ’91-93; M. F., ’05-’07; P. B., ’13-’14; and W. T., Jr., ’16-’18. If they will include the collateral branches, the McLeods by themselves could form a large chapter of the Wofford Alumni Association.

***

B. Hart Moss, ’83, has been serving with distinction as Judge of the Orangeburg County Court. Another Wofford man has been appointed as the first Judge of the recently formed Spartanburg County Court, the Honorable Miller C. Foster, ’07. The calling of these two worthy sons of Wofford to these important new positions causes one to think again of the significant contributions that Wofford has made to the administration of the law in South Carolina during the last half century through its graduates who have served as Justices of the Supreme Court of the State and as Judges of the Circuit Court. The roll call makes up a list of the State’s most distinguished lawyers,—Woods, Gage, Hydrick, Stabler, Dantzler, Prince, Klugh, Bowman. Besides, Judge C. A. Woods served on the United States Court of Appeals as Judge J. Lyles Glenn, Jr., is serving now on the Federal Bench.

Some Wofford Scholars

The Modern Language Association of America is made up of the most important scholars of the country in the field of the Modern Languages, including English. At its annual meetings only those papers are accepted for the programme that are of the nature of original contributions to the subjects discussed. At the recent meeting of the Association in Washington four Wofford men furnished papers on the programme,—R. A. Law, ’98, Ph. D. (Harvard), Professor of English at the University of Texas; W. C. Curry, ’09, Ph. D. (Stanford); Professor of English at Vanderbilt; J. H. Nelson, ’18, Ph. D. (Cornell), Associate Professor of English, University of Kansas, and L. B. Wright, ’20, Ph. D. (North Carolina), Assistant Professor of English and Associate Editor of “Studies in Philology,” University of North Carolina.

Each of these men has some interesting Wofford connections: Wright’s father, T. F. Wright, graduated at Wofford in 1892; Nelson has had five brothers at Wofford,—F. L., ’21; G. M., ’22; T. M., ’24; C. A. will graduate the coming June, while J. D. is temporarily out of college, expecting to return to finish his course. They are the sons of a Spartanburg physician, Dr. A. M. Nelson, who, in thus giving his boys a chance, is also...
making a substantial contribution to the kind of service they will render. Dr. Curry's older brother, I. E. Curry, was graduated from Wofford in 1904, and as professor in Lander College at the time of his death was giving promise of an educational career of unusual achievement. R. A. Law is the son of Dr. T. H. Law, of Spartanburg, a Presbyterian minister, who sent his five sons through Wofford,—W. A., '83; J. A., '87; T. H., '92; A. M., '96; and R. A., '98. It is worth noting that Dr. Law's grandchildren are coming on,—J. A. Law, Jr., '27, and W. S. Law, '29, sons of J. A. Law, '87. As long as Wofford can get men from such homes, the high quality of its "dividends" is assured.

**The Present Session**

The enrollment for the present session in the college classes is 347, fifty-three fewer students than were enrolled last year. The chief shrinkage is naturally in the Freshman class, there being thirty fewer Freshmen entering this year than last. Of course the main reason for this loss may be given as the financial conditions by which we are all surrounded and under which everybody suffers. Over a period of twenty-five years we have found that the student enrollment has been sensitive to such conditions. In this connection it should be noted that student enrollment throughout the nation shows an increase over that of last year of only one and one-half per cent, and this increase is mainly made up by the large urban institutions like Harvard, Columbia, Chicago, and the University of California. It is the smaller institutions that chiefly show losses. Whatever the explanation, however, it will be nothing less than tragic if a continued depression should further limit the educational opportunities of capable and ambitious youth. Conditions call for a resolute facing of the situation and for strenuous efforts still to give youth its chance.

However, there is some gain in what seems a loss. It is the almost universal testimony of college authorities that the present year so far shows no little improvement in the quality of student work and in the character of their conduct. They are apparently more serious than usual, and are less inclined to the extravagances and stupidities that make up that fringe of waste called college life as opposed to college work.

**College Athletics**

In the field of athletics the football season was far from satisfactory. The explanations for it are of sufficient variety to indicate the probability that no one knows just why the team did not measure up to what was expected of it, and the guess of the distant expert is about as good as the opinion of those who were close enough to observe at first hand the failure of the team to develop. Some of its games, notably those with William and Mary, Duke, Furman, and the Citadel at least suggested that it had a potential power, skill, spirit, and coordination, which it failed to show with any degree of consistency. It is possible that on its schedule were too many teams rather out of its class, and this did not help in building a team morale.

College athletics is now up for no little discussion, with football as the center for most of it. Football is a great game, and its best features must be protected and preserved, but it is not the whole of the matter of college athletics. Colleges must keep in mind that the goal of college athletics is essentially educational, that is, its contribution to mind, body and morals is to not be lost sight of. And this is the objective of the efforts at Wofford. With the Andrews Field House, and the new outdoor playing fields and stands furnished by Mr. W. A. Law, both adequate and appropriate in every way, the College can now for the first time in its history offer proper training in the physical welfare of its students. A certain amount of physical training is at present compulsory for every student at Wofford with the exception of the Seniors, with them it being voluntary. Some are receiving it through the military drill, others are members of various teams,—football, tennis, basketball, and baseball, while the rest are required to take directed exercise in the Field House. Thus a reasonable emphasis is placed upon the importance of a healthy body, to
which is added the educational values of play and wholesome recreation.

Commencement

An especially strong program is being prepared for the Commencement in 1931, the dates being May 29-June 1. The effort will be made to signalize it by bringing to the campus an exceptionally large gathering of the Alumni. All will be invited, but as usual, emphasis will be placed on those classes whose graduating years end in "1,"—that is, '71, '81, '91, '01, '11, and '21. Included with these will be the thirty-five, the twenty-five, the fifteen, the five year and the three and one year classes,—'96, '06, '16, '26, '28, and '30. It is planned to have as many as possible of each of the classes represented at Commencement, and thus make the occasion a noteworthy one.

The Choice of a College

Of recent years colleges have been investigating why students chose the college to which they go. These investigations seem to show that comparatively few students select a college on account of its paid advertisements or general publicity. Their reasons for going to a particular college are more personal. They go to it because their friends are going, or because they have friends already there, or because of its graduates, or because somebody interested in it called their attention to it. In other words, prospective students are transformed into real students by something like the personal touch in the interest of an institution,—old students, graduates and friends.

The B. S. Degree

Beginning next session, Wofford will offer a course leading to the degree of B. S. in Engineering, Civil and Electrical. Already through the Department of Applied Mathematics the basic elements of such a course have been given for a number of years, and it seemed to the Faculty that the addition of certain other subjects would be in answer to a demand and at the same time enlarge the educational service of the College. Two foreign languages of two years each are at present required for the A. B. degree. The B. S. degree will require only one foreign language, and will substitute for the second language courses in the sciences, particularly those that are related to the field of Engineering.

Finis Viae—"The End of the Road"

About six miles east of Asheville, N. C., literally at "the end of the road," nestling in the very heart of the big mountains, is the home of Dr. F. A. Sondley, Wofford, '76,—an ideal place of tranquil retirement, from which one can look out on the procession of life free of much of its noises and confusions. After a long and distinguished career at the bar, Dr. Sondley, calling his beautiful home appropriately "Finis Viae," has chosen this spot for study and quiet thinking, companioned by his books and congenial friends. And what a collection of books he has! They represent the intelligent gathering together of the best that has been thought and said in the world,—a collection which only an understanding and devoted lover of books could have made,—fine editions, exceptionally complete groupings in special fields, and rich and full collections concerning almost every department of general literature. Housed in a section of his home built for the purpose, three stories of shelves constitute what is among the largest private libraries in the South. A noteworthy achievement, then, in the way of collecting and using the intellectual treasures of the world is thus to the credit of Dr. Sondley, and he accomplished it as a kind of side-line to a busy and crowded life in the profession of the law.