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Ford Foundation Grant of \$455,700 Unexpected Climax to Alma Mater's 125th Anniversary

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ALMA MATER'S 125th ANNI

Frederic William Boatwright Memorial Library

THE FORD FOUNDATION'S grant of almost a half million dollars to the University of Richmond came as a benediction to Alma Mater's observance of her 125th anniversary.

The \$455,700 allocated to the University of Richmond consists of two separate grants — a basic grant approximating the 1954-55 payroll for instruction in the liberal arts and sciences—and a supplementary grant of approximately half this amount.

U. of R. was among 126 sharers in this supplementary grant which was made to those institutions "which have led the way in their regions in improving the status and compensation of American college teachers."

The income from the basic grant will be used exclusively for increasing faculty salaries. The supplemental, or "accomplishment grant" as it is referred to by the Ford Foundation, may be used for faculty increases or for "other pressing academic needs."

The University's share of the \$260,000,000 melon in which 615 of the nation's privately supported colleges and universities will participate is approximately equal to the *total resources* of the institution when Frederic William Boatwright became its third president in 1895.

Over a period of 60 years the University's total physical worth has grown from a half million to almost \$12,000,000, of which more than \$4,000,000 has been added over the last decade, during the administration of President George M. Modlin. This does not include the \$2,700,000 bequest of A. D. Williams in 1952.

The Ford Foundation's dramatic announcement of the largest total gift ever made to education by any organization followed by less than two months the first of three formal convocations at which the University celebrated its century and a quarter of growth. At this convocation, G. Keith Funston, president of the New York Stock Exchange, said that organizations such as the Ford Foundation, corporations, and individuals must increase their giving to private institutions of higher learning. At the same time, he said, alumni throughout the land must increase their giving. If each of the 4,500,000 graduates of private colleges in America would give only \$25 a year, he pointed

out, the total would amount to more than \$100,000,000 a year.

Alumni Receive Degrees

The convocation, which was marked by academic pomp and ceremony, was the occasion for awarding eight honorary degrees, including Doctor of Science degrees to two distinguished alumni: Irving May, '11, Richmond businessman, who for many years has been closely associated with Alma Mater, and T. Coleman Andrews, '22, former United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue and now chairman of the board of the American Fidelity and Casualty Company.

Both Funston and Colgate W. Darden, Jr., former Governor of Virginia and now president of the University of Virginia, received the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Other degrees: H. I. Willett, superintendent of Richmond's public schools, and Samuel M. Bemiss, Richmond businessman and civic leader, Doctor of Letters; Leslie Cheek, Jr., director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Doctor of Fine Arts, and the Rev. Reno S. Harp, Jr., rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Doctor of Divinity.

Just as the spotlight had been on the University's friends in Richmond, particularly the businessmen of the community,

at the opening convocation, the focus shifted to the institution's oldest constituency—the Baptists of Virginia—for the principal celebration on November 1 when the Frederic William Boatwright Memorial Library was dedicated.

Baptists Attend Dedication

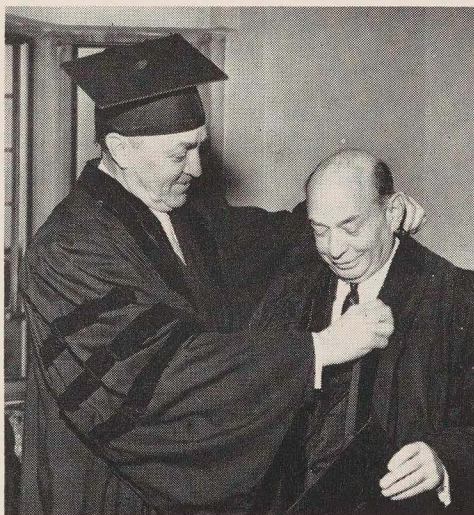
Scores of official delegates to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association in Richmond were among the hundreds who crowded Cannon Memorial Chapel to capacity and overflowed onto the lawn outside. Here amplifiers carried to the audience the stirring tribute of the dedication speaker to the memory of a great president.

The speaker was Dr. Vernon B. Richardson, '35, pastor of University Baptist Church in Baltimore, whose friendship for Dr. Boatwright dated back to his student days.

"It is important for us to remember," said Dr. Richardson, "that Dr. Boatwright was 'not only an educator, but an educated man.' His principles of education, woven into the University he built, stemmed from his own experience as a scholar and from his outlook on life. They were not so much theories as convictions. He brought to his side men of his own integrity, concerned not only with the subject of their teaching, but with its object; men whose own lives inspired students to neglect not the gift within them. He realized that it is the men who command the classrooms that give a college its character."

Library . . . Universal Laboratory

Commending the Baptists for their gifts which made possible the erection of the \$1,000,000 building, Dr. Richardson said it was appropriate that the finest and most beautiful building on the campus should be a memorial to Dr. Boatwright. On one occasion Dr. Boatwright had said: "The library is the most vital building in a University . . . the universal laboratory where every student and every teacher does his work. Especially has the library become more important in the last half century as the emphasis in college education has shifted from teaching to learning. The quality of education provided by a college is directly dependent upon its library, and the educational value of an institution will rise or fall as its library is strong or weak."



T. Coleman Andrews, '22, Adjusts Gown of Irving May, '11. Both received Doctor of Science Degrees.

VERSARY

Dedicated

(The complete text of Dr. Richardson's dedicatory address will be found on Page 4.)

Dr. Reuben E. Alley, editor of the *Religious Herald*, Virginia Baptist publication, and chairman of the committee that raised the money for the library among the Baptists of the State, shared the speaking program with Dr. Richardson. Dr. Alley referred to President Boatwright as "a religious man, with positive convictions about God and keenly sensitive to honor and right conduct."

After luncheon, at public exercises at which the library was officially opened, two granddaughters of Dr. Boatwright—Frederica Boatwright Lynch and Donna Boatwright Lynch—unveiled a memorial plaque in the foyer of the library. The inscription pays tribute to Dr. Boatwright as "scholar, master builder, crusader for Christian education, loyal churchman and wise administrator."

Historical Wing Dedicated

At the same service, Mrs. Lester L. Knight of Portsmouth, president of the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia, presented the Virginia Baptist Historical Society wing which was constructed with more than \$100,000 raised by the WMU.

Among other speakers was Dr. Garnett Ryland, '92, for many years secretary of the Historical Society and author of the definitive work, *The Baptists of Virginia*, which was published a few months ago. (Dr. Ryland, professor emeritus of chemistry, has been succeeded as the Society's secretary by one of his former colleagues on the faculty, Woodford B. Hackley, professor of Latin.)

For the last of the three days of formal celebration the spotlight shifted to Alma Mater's sons and daughters who came back a thousand strong for a joint Homecoming celebration. The principal attraction was a convocation in the Chapel at which Dr. Jay B. Hubbell, '05, professor emeritus of American literature at Duke University, discussed *Contemporary Southern Literature*.

The address, which won plaudits from the alumni and also from the public press, was the first of the Frederic William Boatwright Fine Arts Lectures which will be given annually as the result of a substantial gift by an anonymous alumnus.



At Library Dedication. Dr. Vernon B. Richardson, '35, (left) who delivered the dedicatory address, with Dr. Reuben E. Alley, '22, chairman of the committee that raised the money for the erection of the Boatwright Memorial Library. They stand beside Dr. Boatwright's portrait in the new library.

Among the great writers who came out of what he termed the Southern literary renaissance, Dr. Hubbell cited William Faulkner, James Branch Cabell, the late Ellen Glasgow, and the late Douglas S. Freeman, '04.

Hubbell Praises Glasgow

He reserved the glossiest laurel wreath for Miss Glasgow who, he said, "gives us a more accurate account of Southern life in the past as well as the present than one can find anywhere else in Southern fiction." She alone, he said, has paid sufficient attention to "the great middle class."

While Miss Glasgow also portrays the "poor-whites" and the "good families" of Virginia, she gives her major attention to "the good people" who, Hubbell said, "must be carefully distinguished from the good families."

He was outspoken in praise of Faulkner

and defended him from those critics who object to the class of people about whom he writes. "When the serious Southern writer deals with degenerates and perverts, poor-whites and illiterate Negroes, he says to us in effect: 'Here are people living in the South whose very existence you do not like to admit. Here they are, and you ought to do something about them.'"

He had no kind words, however, for Erskine Caldwell, author of *Tobacco Road* and other stories dealing with depravity among the poor whites.

Ruffy Plays Carillon

At the close of the convocation, the alumni and alumnae, who had registered together earlier in the day on the terrace of the new library, lunched together in Millhiser Gymnasium before going to the football game, the concluding feature of the Homecoming

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Alma Mater's

(Continued from page 3)

program. (Richmond 19, Davidson 0.)

As they left the chapel they heard the bell-like notes of the University carillon high in the tower of the library. At the keyboard of the electronic carillon sat Hilton Ruffy, associate professor of music at the University and carillonneur for the World War I Memorial in Byrd Park.

Whereas the cast bells in Byrd Park can be played only with great physical exertion, the electronic carillon can be played at a standard keyboard in the fashion of a piano or organ. As a matter of fact, the carillonic "bells" are not bells at all but rather rods of varying lengths. When struck they give off notes that are electrically amplified. Although the maximum amplification is 10,000,000 times the original volume, this volume is modulated so that the bells can be heard only in the area of the campus.

Twice each hour they summon the students to classes and dismiss them with little melodies written by Ruffy and synchronized with a master clock which plays them automatically.

Like church bells that call the faithful to worship, the carillonic bells call the students across the campus to their appointed tasks. From their tower they sing the praise of him who gave a lifetime to the University and whose name is engraved above the entrance to the library.

They sing of Edward Baptist and Dunlora Academy, they sing of Robert Ryland and the Seminary and the College and the University. They sing of George Modlin and his leadership. They sing of a past that every alumnus can look backward to with pride and thanksgiving, and a future to which every alumnus can look forward with faith and confidence.

The Boatwright Memorial

(Continued from page 4)

his conviction that a true University is where teachers and students are comrades in the search for truth; where they walk together in an atmosphere that makes inquiry an exciting and fruitful adventure; where the teacher is ever the learner and again and again carries the student out of the well-ordered precincts of his own accumulated knowledge and off into the untrammelled country where neither has yet explored and each may feel his kinship with the other, in a fellowship of scholars.

This library then, is an honored gift to faculty as well as to students, and will stand ever on this campus as the central deep from which all may draw wisdom.

It may well be that the library, while always in the past above fad and fashion in educational methodology, will be even more vital in the teaching program of the University of the future which as never before must foster individualized research.

Growth Brings Problems

The problem of size of the student body



I Crown You Queen Gwen. Dr. Theodore F. Adams, pastor of Richmond's First Baptist Church and president of the Baptist World Alliance, places the crown on the head of Homecoming Queen Gwen Haley at the coronation ceremony between the halves of the football game with Davidson.

in the university of tomorrow is a thorny one and highly controversial. Educators tell us that colleges must be ready by 1960 for the thunder at their doors of students seeking admission in unprecedented numbers and by 1970 the college population of the nation is expected to double the present enrollment. . . . The shortage will be in physical facilities, classrooms, laboratories, living space and especially in available teachers.

Each institution will meet the situation as it deems best, but all will be faced with the fearful responsibility of whom to let in and whom to keep out. The trend is increasingly competitive between individuals. Where will the lines be drawn? How may we be fair to "late developers" who do not hit their stride in scholarship until after high school but who may be ruled out by higher college entrance requirements? To what degree is higher education the natural right in our society of those qualified to receive it? Denied admissions may mean denied opportunities. These and other questions each university must examine in the light of its basic purposes, whether it aims to train the privileged few, the aristocracy of the competent, or to afford education to the many for the uplifting of the community. In any event, no University can allow size alone to be synonymous with quality. Smallness is no more a guarantee of quality than bigness is an opponent of it. A small class with a small teacher is no improvement over a big

class with a big teacher. As someone has put it, "Better to be 50 feet from a great professor than two feet from a mediocre one."

It is entirely possible that the library will be the key to resolving the dilemma. Perhaps the answer is in fewer classes and fewer lecturers and a stronger stress than ever on the functions of a splendid library to which students will be sent under the inspiration of creative teachers and where they will be guided in individualized study by equally, although differently, gifted scholars with capacity to aid research.

"New occasions teach new duties." The library may fulfill a role never yet performed in American education in enticing us to revised methods of teaching demanded by our times.

More Education Needed

Our society, increasingly technological and fraught ever with tension, requires more educated persons, not fewer. No college can rest merely on its answer of denied admissions. That institution will be most prepared to serve the age that is best equipped to make its library the core of its curriculum. Almost certainly the library will be the deciding factor in answering not only the question "who will go to college?" but "who will stay there?"

All of this adds significance to the occasion of the hour.