

VOLUME II

No. 2

BULLETIN OF
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
IN ANNAPOLIS

REPORT OF
THE PRESIDENT



ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
JUNE, 1950

Founded as King William's School, 1696. Chartered as St. John's College, 1785

Volume II

JUNE, 1950

Number 2

Published quarterly

Entered as Second-class matter, February 18, 1949, at the
Post Office, at Annapolis, Maryland, under the Act of August
24, 1912.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS AND GOVERNORS:

The academic year just ended has been one of consolidation and stabilization for St. John's College and of education and apprenticeship for its new president. It was on September 17, 1949, that the Visitors and Governors did me the honor of electing me as the eighteenth president of the College. It was a month later that I was able to sever my connections with the Department of State, and early November before Mrs. Weigle and I undertook our residence in Annapolis. All this has inevitably produced a certain sense of frustration as I have been forced simultaneously to orient myself, to learn the program, to resolve certain pressing problems of the College, and to inform the public and the alumni on the plans and purposes of the College.

For me personally, the year has brought a deep and abiding commitment to the basic principles upon which St. John's unique educational program is based. Participation in a freshman seminar and observation of the many facets of life on the campus have convinced me that the liberal arts education at St. John's is a vital and necessary force on the American educational scene. As I have traveled around the country and talked with leaders in business, the professions and government, my convictions have been strengthened, for everywhere there is a demand for college graduates with broad perspective and the ability to reason and to think. It is my earnest hope that the influence which St. John's College has already exerted in contributing to a new emphasis upon general education in the colleges and universities of this country can be extended to the establishment of a number of liberal arts colleges throughout the country with St. John's as their prototype.

The aim of the College, as stated in the current catalogue, well expresses the ends we have in view: *'Through direct contact with the great minds of Western civilization and through rigorous exercise in language, mathematics and the sciences, St. John's College seeks to develop free and rational men with an understanding of the basic unity of knowledge, an appreciation of our common cultural heritage, and a consciousness of social and moral obligations. St. John's considers that such men are best equipped to master the specific skills of any calling and to become mature, competent and responsible citizens of a free state.'* At a time when a great open clash between ideologies is taking place on the battlefields of Korea, the education of free men becomes of even more vital significance.

The Faculty

The success of St. John's College can best be measured at any particular time in terms of the quality of its faculty, the vitality of its curriculum, and the excellence of its student body. In all truthfulness it may be said that the St. John's faculty is a remarkably good one, but its constant recruitment and education remain one of the greatest problems facing the administration. Approximately half of the tutors may now be said to be well versed in the entire program, compensating for individual shortcomings by their considerable skill in handling seminars, tutorials and laboratories, and by their understanding of the nature of learning. Others handle subject matters competently and efficiently, but lack a certain feeling for the intangibles of the learning process. Constant strengthening of the faculty remains one of our primary tasks.

The faculty-student ratio over the past year has been one to seven, which represents an extraordinarily expensive type of education. Four new tutors joined the faculty: William A. Darkey; Joseph F. Holly-wood, Jr.; James W. Johnston, Jr.; and Bert Thoms. Of these, Johnston remained only until December 31 when he resigned to accept a position in Washington. John S. Kieffer and Raymond N. Wilburn were on sabbatical leave, and Ulrich S. Allers and William I. Harper on leave of absence. For the coming academic year, Raymond N. Wilburn; L. Harvey Poe, Jr.; and Curtis A. Wilson were granted leave of absence to continue their graduate study; and Ford K. Brown was given sabbatical leave. Claude S. Leffel, Jr., who this year headed the laboratory work leaves the college to complete his graduate work. The faculty will be strengthened this fall by the return of John S. Kieffer from his sabbatical leave and by two new appointments, those of Wiley W. Crawford, a biologist, and J. Wray Smith, a physicist.

I should like at this point to make particular mention of the able manner in which Jacob Klein has fulfilled his duties as Dean of the College. His vast knowledge of the program and his comprehensive understanding of student and faculty problems have made him a source of great strength to a new president.

The Curriculum

Certain changes in the curriculum have been effected by the Instruction Committee, of which the Dean is Chairman. Most important of these has been a revamping of the laboratory work, so that it may truthfully be said that the laboratory functioned better this year than in any previous year. The single exception was in the field of biology and it is expected that this will be corrected during the coming year. A new schedule has been approved for the coming year, dividing work in the various

sciences into segments stretching over one and one-half terms each. The new arrangement will provide a definite continuity and consistency of the exercises and will lighten somewhat the burden on the students. It will make the work in physics, biology and chemistry more meaningful in terms of the entire program. Further revision of the sheets used in the laboratory is projected for the summer.

Under the effective leadership of the Director of Music, Victor Zuckerkandl, a voluntary chorus has been held one period per week throughout the year with attendance averaging from one-fourth to one-third of the student body. The Instruction Committee has decided to institute this fall an obligatory music tutorial for freshmen, to be conducted partly in collaboration with the laboratory. The aim is to promote musical literacy among the student body and to improve the activities of the chorus. It is planned to continue the concerts by outstanding artists and to introduce two formal Friday night lectures on great pieces of music with suitable auditory preparation and subsequent extensive discussion.

Two changes were made in the general area of examinations. The Enabling Examinations, which have previously taken place in September at the beginning of the senior year, are now being given in two parts. The three written examinations in language, mathematics and laboratory theory, and the examination in laboratory practice were this year taken by the Class of 1951 in June. Of the thirty-eight candidates, all but four passed and will take the second or oral part of the Enabling Examinations in September. The two advantages expected to flow from this new arrangement are the elimination of cramming during the summer months and the greater ease of transfer to other colleges for those students failing to pass. It is anticipated that the Enabling Examinations will now be subordinated to the natural learning process that takes place within the four years. A decision was also reached to make the rather superficial Reading Knowledge Examinations in two of the three languages studied more serious. Mention should likewise be made of the decision of the Instruction Committee to emphasize the acquisition of better writing skills on the part of the student through more frequent essays and individual conferences between student and tutor.

The list of books read in seminar was the subject of constant discussion and revision throughout the academic year. The major problem still facing the Instruction Committee is that of holding the work load of the students within reasonable limits and of distributing it properly among the divisions of the program. The new laboratory schedule is an important initial step in this direction. Revision of certain texts used in the mathematics tutorial will likewise contribute materially toward this goal. Each student must have sufficient time to digest the tremendous amount of material with which he is confronted and must also have

sufficient time to participate in extra-curricular activities, whether athletic or otherwise.

The Library

At this point it is desirable to take cognizance of a successful year in the College Library. An increase was noted in the per capita circulation of books. A small Library Committee proved itself active in advising and assisting the Librarian with book purchases and other matters. The music collection was considerably enlarged and certain notable acquisitions of books were made, among them *Commentaria in Aristotelem Graeca*, fifty volumes of Migne's *Patrologia*, Voltaire's *Complete Works*, Laplace's *Mecanique Céleste* translated by Nathaniel Bowditch, Sargent's *Silvae of North America*, and Bailey's *Standard Cyclopaedia of Horticulture*.

Enrollment

Enrollment figures have followed the national downward trend from the peaks reached immediately after World War II. Total enrollment for the year was 196, as compared with 233 in 1948-49. The entering freshman class in September 1949 numbered seventy, of whom thirty-one represented a substantial backlog, mostly veterans, dating from as far back as May 1948. The average age of the entering class is rapidly approaching that of prewar days. It should also be noted that fewer of the entering students are married. The College continues to maintain a wide geographical distribution of its students, the Class of 1953 coming from over twenty different states.

For the first time in many years, an active procurement campaign was conducted throughout the academic year with Louis Graff handling the work as Director of Admissions and concurrently serving as Assistant Dean. Previously activities concerning solicitation and admission of students had been distributed among the various administrative offices and the members of the faculty. During the year Mr. Graff visited more than eighty high schools and preparatory schools in twelve states and the District of Columbia. A special effort was made to awaken the interest of Maryland boys in the unusual scholarship opportunities at the College. To some extent these efforts were negated this year by the establishment of a state-wide twelve-year elementary and high school system, which meant a minimum number of graduates from Maryland high schools this June. Systematic procedures were established for interesting prospective students and for processing applications. It is too early to predict the success of the Admissions Office, since this type of work can be judged only over a period of years. It is apparent, however, that popular interest in the College at secondary school levels has been definitely increased.

The rate of casualties among St. John's students continues high, although not appreciably above the national average. Of the entering freshman class, seventeen left during the course of the year, four for failure to submit to the academic discipline of the College, one for personal reasons, and two for obvious incapacity. Seven others are not expected to return in September, principally for academic reasons. It is interesting to note that of the thirty-five freshmen and sophomores lost during the year or not expected to return next year, seventeen or approximately one-half were holders of State Scholarships. This would seem to imply a responsibility on the part of the College to examine more carefully Senatorial appointees, and to acquaint prospective students more fully with the St. John's program. The suggestion has already been made by the College to the State Superintendent of Education that the examinations for State Scholarships be held in March rather than in May to permit additional time for the processing of scholarship applicants. This should make it possible for prospective students to acquaint themselves more fully with the St. John's program before accepting a scholarship appointment.

Of the thirty seniors who completed the year, twenty-eight graduated and one other is expected to receive his degree upon completion of certain work this summer. Of this group, eleven expect to enter graduate or professional schools; one will do a year of pre-medical work; three have teaching appointments; one plans to farm; two or three will enter family businesses and the others expect to enter some phase of business or industry.

The Student Body or Polity has functioned smoothly under the Constitution which was adopted during the preceding academic year. Members of the Executive Committee have met with the administration each week to discuss common problems. I have made it a point to consult with the Executive Committee on many College matters, whether or not of direct concern to the student body. Certain of the extra-curricular student activities have flourished, notably the Boat Club, which is now participating in intercollegiate racing, and the Film Club. The intra-mural athletic program has likewise been widely participated in by over three-quarters of the student body. In other areas there has been a discouraging apathy. Neither the studio of the artist-in-residence nor the shops have attracted the students as in other years. The King William Players were characterized by moribundity, and the Cotillion Board found difficulty in stimulating widespread interest in the dance. The Executive Committee of the Polity was likewise unable to muster sufficient votes to institute a Polity Budget Bureau, which would have gained autonomy for the Polity in the budgeting and expenditure of the funds of the student organizations. It is true that the small size

of the College and the relatively large percentage of married students militate against active extra-curricular student organizations. Perhaps there was a lack of vigorous student leadership in some organizations as well.

The Infirmary

The College maintained an unusually good health record during the year. As usual the College Infirmary operated smoothly under the guidance of Miss Elizabeth S. Hopkins, R.N. There were sixty-three bed patients and one hundred forty-five students treated in the dispensary during the year. Dr. Oliver Purvis, a graduate of the College in the Class of 1900, served generously and well as College Physician. I should like at this time to express particular appreciation for his efforts since he is withdrawing in favor of Dr. Frank Shipley who not only will act as College Physician, but will likewise participate as a tutor in the seminars.

Administrative Personnel

Among the administrative personnel at the College there have been a considerable number of changes during the current year. Capt. Walter D. Sharp, (S.C.), U.S.N., Retired, served as Treasurer until his resignation on December 31, 1949. Capt. Sharp made an invaluable contribution in putting order into the Business Office. His place was taken by Henry Barton who has proved himself an able successor. Thomas Fulton, a graduate of the College in the Class of 1946, completed his term of service as Assistant to the Treasurer at the end of the academic year. His broad knowledge of the various activities of the College and his cooperative spirit will make him exceedingly difficult to replace. Miss Harriet Rich, who had become an integral part of the Alumni Office, resigned in January to accept a position in New York and her place was taken by Mrs. Rosalind Merriken of the Business Office. Mrs. Robert Parslow performed excellent work in setting up a publicity office for the College. She resigned April 15 for family reasons and was succeeded by Mrs. Virginia Hefner. Others who completed their contracts with the College were Mrs. Faye Bortell of the housekeeping department, Mrs. Dorothy Hammerschmidt in the book store, and Mrs. Evelyn Tucker of the telephone exchange. To all of these, I should like to express the appreciation of the College. Unfortunately, three of the College employees died during the year, Vinton F. Puckett, painter and plasterer; William Parker, groundsman; and Roy Richardson, fireman. The sympathy of the College community has been extended to the families of these men.

Mention should be made of the appointment of George Van Sant, a

graduate of the College in the Class of 1947, who has been most successful in setting up the College printing shop. By means of a new varityper and multilith offset press, he has been able to handle most of the College's requirements for printing texts, laboratory sheets, programs, forms and other items. With the departure of Mrs. Hammerschmidt, it was decided to consolidate the operations of the book store and printing press under Mr. Van Sant's direction.

Administrative Stability

At the time I undertook the presidency, it was apparent that the three greatest immediate needs of the College were administrative stability, an improved financial situation and a vigorous public relations program with respect to all segments of the College constituency. I am happy to be able to report a measure of progress in each of these fields. All bear on the future success of the College. It will also be recalled that the first two of these problems were cited by the Committee on Accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools on the occasion of its visit to St. John's in early 1949.

The principal achievement in the field of administration has been the evolution of a polity or constitution defining the responsibilities, functions, and working relationships of the various component parts of the College. This study was initiated by a Faculty committee which recommended a polity to the Faculty. The document then approved by the Faculty was submitted to the Board of Visitors and Governors. A polity committee of the Board studied it and added appropriate sections dealing with the Board, recommending the revised polity to the Board for adoption at its July 8 meeting. (Since this report was written, the Board has put this polity into effect.)

Regulations concerning staff employment were worked out by the Administrative Council and put into effect. Similar regulations are now projected for grounds, dining hall and other College employees. With a view to creating a greater sense of security among members of the faculty and likewise with a view to relieving the College of financial responsibility for individuals who have attained retirement age, the administration worked out an overall retirement plan with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of New York City. With few exceptions, all members of the faculty have agreed to participate. It is expected to make such participation obligatory on the part of all new faculty appointees. Similarly, a plan for collective, decreasing life insurance is being considered. Finally mention should be made of the continuing weekly meetings of the Administrative Council, consisting of the President, the Dean, the Treasurer, and the Assistant Dean, at which miscellaneous problems are resolved in satisfactory fashion. The decision was reached by the Council to invite faculty representation on a monthly

rotational basis commencing in the fall. It is believed that this will contribute to a better understanding on the part of the faculty of the administrative problems facing the College.

Financial Stability

The College operated this year on a budget which anticipated a deficit of over \$40,000. I regret that I cannot report the closing of the books without a deficit. Fortunately, however, the deficiency amounted to only approximately \$12,000, with sufficient cash carried over from the previous fiscal year to meet most outstanding bills. Certain economies of operation have been effected, most of which will not make themselves felt in appreciable size until the year 1950-51.

The size of the staff in the Business Office was reduced from five persons to three. The College switchboard was removed and all telephones put on the city dial system with a considerable resultant saving in operators' salaries and fixed charges. A comprehensive study of the College insurance has been completed. An acceptance of the recommendations embodied in the report submitted will provide far more adequate fire and liability protection at a minimum additional cost to the College. Mention has already been made of the consolidation of the book store and the College printing office under the direction of Mr. Van Sant. The College printing office has made possible substantial savings over the past year. Efforts will be continued to effect economies wherever possible in the operations of the College.

Another aspect of the financial program for the College is to broaden the base of support and to obtain substantial gifts from interested friends. In this connection, the annual Alumni Giving Campaign has resulted in contributions to date of \$4,042.00 from 218 alumni as compared with \$4,404.50 from 212 alumni through October 1949. A total of \$695.00 was contributed by 41 friends who have been among those on the mailing list for the Bulletin of the Friends of St. John's. Certain monies were likewise realized on the collection of delinquent accounts, principally through an arrangement established two years ago with the American Credit Bureau. With few exceptions, these accounts have now all been returned to the College which will probably write them off in view of the impending financial campaign.

It is planned to launch upon a major endowment campaign sometime during the fall, setting as an initial objective the raising of \$2,000,000 for the permanent funds of the College. Preliminary approaches to certain individuals have already been made and it is hoped that the successful completion of this financial effort prior to June 30, 1953, will provide the College with a greater degree of financial stability and security for the future.

Public Relations Program

A necessary prerequisite to any financial campaign must be a vigorous and intensive public relations program with respect to the City of Annapolis, the State of Maryland, and alumni and friends of the College throughout the country. As a step toward this end, a publicity office was established in the College during the course of the winter making use of the outstanding talents of Mrs. Robert Parslow, the wife of one of the students. A determined effort was made to provide releases to newspapers in the State of Maryland and to send appropriate articles to the home town papers of St. John's students all over the country. The Bulletin of the Friends of St. John's was published throughout the year and sent to the 200 names on its mailing list, all of whom had expressed some positive interest in the College. The Adult Education program, under the leadership of Ford K. Brown, prospered with seminars being conducted by members of the College faculty in Washington, Baltimore, Annapolis, and Easton. A series of eight radio seminars were likewise conducted during the spring over the FM Continental Network on the general subject *'The Background of Democracy'*. Mr. Ranlet Lincoln, a member of the Class of 1950, arranged for and produced the programs on which distinguished guests participated with members of the faculty and the student body. Finally mention should be made of a small new publication, *'... about St. John's'*, which is to appear ten times during the year and will be sent to a mailing list of approximately 5,000, principally in Annapolis, Baltimore, Washington, and the State of Maryland. This small pamphlet was conceived by a group of students and Mrs. Virginia Hefner who succeeded Mrs. Parslow in the publicity office, and two issues have already appeared.

I have attempted to follow a policy of reintegrating the College in the life of the community and of the State. Accordingly, I have accepted membership on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Community Chest. I have also joined other civic organizations and have filled a number of speaking engagements in Annapolis and throughout the State. I am happy to report that there is perceptible improvement in the relations between the College on the one hand and the town and the Naval Academy on the other. We have consistently encouraged visits to the College of anyone interested in learning about the program. The major effort in this regard was an Open House for Maryland educators, including County Superintendents, high school supervisors, headmasters and high school principals. The long term results of this policy will be apparent only as able students in increasing numbers apply for admission to the College and as more people throughout the State demonstrate in this and other ways their favorable disposition toward St. John's.

It is my firm belief that the alumni of the College constitute one of its greatest sources of potential strength. Through the activities of Homecoming Day in October 1949 and through alumni dinners and meetings in Baltimore, Washington, Easton, Hagerstown, Cumberland, New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Chicago, considerable progress has been made toward informing the alumni of the College's educational program. It is noteworthy that a petition has even been received by the Board of Trustees of the Alumni Association for the Charter of a Northern California Chapter of the Association in Palo Alto, California. Edward F. Lathrop of the Class of 1938 has done a most commendable job as Alumni Secretary. He has edited the Alumni Bulletin, published quarterly by the Alumni Association, and has built up the mailing list of active alumni from less than 1,000 names to the present total of 1,154. Robert Otis Jones, of the Class of 1916, has provided stimulating leadership to the Association during the year and has initiated a number of projects, among them the Alumni Award of Merit presented this year to Dr. Amos F. Hutchins of the Class of 1906. It is my plan to continue to work closely with the alumni and to foster their active interest in the affairs of the College.

Building Plans

It is my hope that funds can be obtained in the near future for the completion of the physical plant of the College. In order to handle adequately what is generally considered to be an optimum enrollment of 300 students, four new buildings are necessary, a new heating plant to replace the dangerous boiler now located under Koogle House; a first-rate modern laboratory building to house the entire science program of the College; a beautiful and practical auditorium for lectures, concerts, plays and moving pictures, as well as the music and art work of the College; and a dormitory for approximately ninety students with adequate social room facilities for the entire student body. James R. Edmunds and Son, architects, of Baltimore, Maryland, have already completed preliminary drawings of the heating plant and the auditorium. Detailed drawings of the heating plant are now in process and it is expected that bids can be obtained and ground broken on or about November 1, 1950.

Gifts to the College

I should like at this point to express the appreciation of the College for the following gifts received during the year:

A gift of \$300,000 for a new heating plant by the Old Dominion Foundation.

The design of a die and the striking of ten silver medals by Mr.

Graham Carey of Fair Haven, Vermont, these medals to be awarded annually by the Visitors and Governors to the Senior with the highest standing;

A gift of a dinghy to the St. John's College Boat Club by Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Mitchell;

A gift of a dinghy to the St. John's Boat Club by the members of the faculty;

A first edition of the Great Books of the Western World published by the *Encyclopedia Britannica* in collaboration with the University of Chicago by Mr. Paul Mellon;

An oil portrait of Henry Lyon Davis, the third President of St. John's College, by John T. Harrison, of the Class of 1907; J. Vincent Jamison, Jr., of the Class of 1905; William Lentz, of the Class of 1912; Dr. Amos F. Hutchins, of the Class of 1906; Mr. Richard F. Cleveland, and Mr. Carleton Mitchell, all members of the Board of Visitors and Governors;

A gift of paint for the shop building from Mr. Bromwell Ault, a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors.

Numerous gifts of books to the College Library, including sixty volumes from the Talbot County Free Library of Easton, Maryland, among which are beautiful editions of many of the books in the St. John's program.

* * *

Finally, I should like to express the deep appreciation of Mrs. Weigle and myself for the cordial reception extended to us in our new position. It is a tribute to faculty, students, Board members and alumni alike that all should have contributed so materially to the well-being of the College during the past year under the presidency of a newcomer upon the St. John's scene. By all the laws of chance and vagaries of fortune, St. John's College should by this time have survived more than its proportional share of vicissitudes and tribulations. I look forward with confidence to the years ahead. I remind the Board that this College is the possessor of a vital and challenging idea. This idea is no longer an experiment, but has demonstrated clearly its vitality and its importance. A physical plant and an endowment cannot fail to follow when the heart of the College is so basically sound.

RICHARD D. WEIGLE

Annapolis, Maryland
July 8, 1950

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

St. John's College is a non-governmental, non-sectarian college deriving its income from students fees, from a limited appropriation by the Maryland General Assembly, and from the gifts of its friends and alumni. The type of education for which St. John's stands is exceedingly expensive and it is impossible to establish student fees commensurate with the overall cost. The gap between income and expenses exceeds \$150,000, which the College hopes some day to provide for through a substantial permanent endowment.

All planning for the future has been based upon the conviction that the College enrollment should not exceed 300 students. To provide an adequate physical plant for this student body, there will be required certain renovations to existing structures.

The College invites gifts and bequests to its current budget, its building program, and its permanent endowment funds. Inquiries may be addressed to the President or the Treasurer. Bequests may be made in a form similar to the following:

"I hereby give and bequeath to the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College in the State of Maryland, an educational corporation existing by Charter of the General Assembly of the State of Maryland and situated in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, in said State, the sum of _____ dollars."

If bequests are made for specific purposes, such can be fully stated. Attention is invited to the fact that Federal and State income tax deductions resulting from such gifts may mean a cost to the donor of only a fraction of the value of the gift to the College.

