

Vassar Miscellany News

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Committee Announces Detailed Report Of Events For Centennial Celebration

by Doris Russell

Chairman of Committee on Intra-Mural Events for Centennial Celebration

The purpose of this report is to inform and to involve you. You do not need to be reminded that in view of the important changes within the framework of a new college calendar, next year will be a highly experimental year. Hence the various committees responsible for making plans have tried to evolve a program which will fit smoothly into what will inevitably be an unusual college year. Here is the plan as it now stands.

September 14, 1960, College Convocation

Speaker: Miss C. Mildred Thompson, professor and dean emerita of Vassar College. This will be for the college only, functioning, as Convocation normally does, to open the college year.

November 4-5, 1960, Conference on the Natural and Social Sciences

This will be a cooperative undertaking of the departments of natural and social sciences.

February 24, 25, 1961, Festival of the Mid-Nineteenth Century

The plan here is to offer an historical reconstruction of the social and intellectual climate at the time of the founding of the college. The view will be roughly limited to a decade on either side of 1861, a period which includes both Darwin and the Civil War, not to mention important landmarks in literature, art, and music. For instance, one project already under way is an exhibit on Samuel Morse, artist, scientist and member of the first Board of Trustees. The design for this conference will be analogous to that of the earlier conferences on the Renaissance and Baroque periods.

March 19-25, 1961, The International Conference

This will take place on the campus during part of Spring vacation. A group of highly distinguished women, representing different countries, will be invited as speakers and panel participants. The keynote address and panel discussions will consider problems brought about by a changing and increasingly interdependent world in economic and social development, in political relationships and in the arts. In each area the specific implications for education will be discussed. Members of the college, both faculty and students, who are interested in the sessions of this conference will be invited to attend them.

April 1961

A new opera in four acts by Robert Middleton. It is entitled "Keyboards and Crowns" and has to do with a diplomatic embroilment resulting from Queen Elizabeth's gift of an organ to the Sultan of Turkey. The four leading roles must be given to singers with some operatic experience, but a small chorus of women's voices could come from the college.

June 5, 1961, Commencement

This will be combined with regular class reunions. All alumnae will be invited to come to the college for one day. There will be an

alumnae parade, a luncheon, a program of intellectual offerings as yet not clearly determined — i.e. an art exhibit, a concert, department open house with opportunities to talk with faculty, etc. A dramatic, outdoor production tentatively called "Vassar Cavalcade" is being written by Muriel Rukeyser. Miss Rukeyser hopes for strong faculty and student support for dance groups, soloists, choruses.

October 12, 1961, Academic Convocation

Here the emphasis will be scholarly with representatives of learned societies and educational institutions invited to honor Vassar. The Convocation may possibly be followed by a conference on education, held either here or at Arder House.

November 3, 4, 1961, Conference on the Arts

This will be the last event in the Centennial Year. It is timed to relate to the celebration at the opening of Lincoln Center in New York. The general orientation will be toward the future of the arts.

Other Activities

There are a great variety of these, ranging all the way from the encouragement of scholarly publications to the creation of a Vassar rose.

Library Exhibits

The Library is planning to participate in a number of ways in the events of the year. Exhibitions will be related to the programs of the second semester and the Alumnae Festival. Miss Plum, Centennial Archivist for the year, and Mr. Dowell have compiled a highly interesting "Vassar Chronology" for the use of committee members.

Alumnae Magazine

A special issue is planned to honor a hundred years of achievement by Vassar women.

Newsletter

This will be combined with "From Vassar" and will appear three or four times between February 1960 and December 1961. The first issue will announce the over-all design of the Celebration.

Journal of Undergraduate Studies

This has been revived under the editorship of Miss J. B. Ross.

Films and Slides

An old movie, "The Vassar Girl," is to be refurbished with a new sound track and exhibited on Alumnae Day. Mr. Howard Green has already assembled a highly interesting series of slides on college events. Mr. Green will also record in slides and photographs the major events of the year. Tape recordings of important events will be made.

Television programs based on programs here are being explored.

Colloquium on Mathematics

This has been arranged by Miss Asprey as a seminar course for Mathematics 300b. Approximately once a month a distinguished mathematician will be invited to speak at Vassar.

Student Elections Held For Centennial Planning

Nominations for members of the Student Centennial Committee will be held today in all houses. The whole college community is asked to nominate three people from each of the three classes—freshman, sophomore and junior. The final elections will be held early next week.

This Student Committee will be the steering committee that will be consulted for the over-all plans for the Centennial and will make the necessary student appointments. Throughout the year, however, other students will be asked to participate in the Centennial plans. Student assistance will be needed, for example, in preparation for the International Conference and the Conference on the Natural and Social Sciences.

Senior Job Interviews . . .

Wednesday, Feb. 17
Mrs. Edmondson, Personnel Director of Bonwit, Teller, will be at Vassar to talk with seniors interested in the Executive Training Program. Mrs. Edmondson will also talk with juniors about summer positions in the College Shop. Thursday, Feb. 18

Miss Mary Vorse of J. Walter Thompson will be at Vassar to talk with seniors interested in jobs in advertising. Tuesday, Feb. 23

Miss Williams of New York Life Insurance Company will be at Vassar to talk with seniors about positions in the Research Division and in the Group Insurance Department. Starting salary is \$75.00 per week with free hot lunches. No specific college major is required but courses in economics, mathematics, history, sociology or English are helpful. Wednesday, Feb. 24

Miss Williamson of the Polaroid Corporation will interview seniors interested in positions at Polaroid. Thursday, Feb. 25

A representative of the American Red Cross will be at Vassar to talk with seniors interested in positions with the Red Cross. Some assignments may be to overseas posts after an initial training period in the United States.

(Continued on page 2, col. 4)

College Is Recipient Of Foundation Grant

Vassar College is the recipient of \$1500 from the Shell Companies Foundation to be used in 1960 for faculty development. President Sarah Gibson Blanding has announced. This is the third year Vassar has been invited to participate in the Shell Assists Program.

The gift is divided into three grants of \$500 each, one to be administered by the Department of Chemistry to make possible new activities in the personal professional development of individual faculty members. The other two grants will be used at the discretion of the President and the Dean.

The Assists Program is part of the Shell Companies Foundation long-planned, structured support to education which embraces scholarships for future high school teachers, high-quality seminars for in-service high school teachers, fellowships and grants, and support of national associations furthering the needs of education.

Retreat Opens Doors Again Offers New Food, Comfort

by Elinor Grossman '61

At last! The Retreat is open! That ominous, green barricade has been removed, and students, scholars, snackers, coffee-fiends, gossips, idlers, and under-fed intellectuals can once again sneak down the back corridor of first-floor Main to the same, but very much remodeled site of the College Retreat.

"Why, you'd hardly recognize the place . . ."

The dingy wooden floor has been replaced by tile, new offices and fresh bulletin boards line the opposite corridor, and the alcoved wall of the Retreat "houses" a variety of new vending machines. One can buy anything from cigarettes, to drinks: chocolate, orange, milk, coffee, soda, pastries, and candies, before even entering the interior.

"And once inside . . ."

Colorful chairs, arranged in intriguing patterns around multi-shaped tables, give the old Retreat a new and lively atmosphere. Not only is it beautifully decorated, with recessed lighting, tile floor, individual alcoves . . . ; but the size!

"Why it's doubled!" The increased seating capacity of 140 means room for everyone — even the 10:30 a.m. "corridor sprawlers." When the weather is warmer, an outdoor patio will add even more room.

As in the past, the Retreat will operate on the self-service system. Students are expected to clear their own tables and to place trash and waste in the proper containers.

"Food!!!"

Here comes that "freshman ton" again, and its invasion might prove disastrous to all classes, especially the "fortunate," Main-dwelling, seniors. In addition to the former Retreat delicacies: sandwiches, pastries, fruit drinks, coffee, the new counter is equipped with a soda fountain, a deep-frier, and grille. This means sodas (all flavors), sundaes, milkshakes, hamburgers, hot dogs, french-fried potatoes, soups, and salads. Certainly there will be a "tasty" answer to any and every hungry student.

For those not interested in food, or perhaps interested in both food and periodicals, magazines will be on sale at the cashier's stand. The rack itself, will display magazines through a glass window on the corridor side of the Retreat.

"Hours for indulgence":

The Retreat will be open, as in the past; weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Hamilton To Preach At Sunday Service

The Reverend Professor William H. Hamilton, Associate Professor of Christian Theology at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y., will be guest preacher at the Chapel service next Sunday. Dr. Hamilton will speak on "Christ From the Underground." The service will begin at 11 a.m., with music provided by the Vassar College Choir under the direction of Donald M. Pearson.

Dr. Hamilton received the B.A. degree from Oberlin College and was graduated from Union Theological Seminary with the B.D. degree. His graduate work was done at Princeton University and at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where he received the Ph.D. degree in the field of systematic theology. Before becoming a teacher at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, he was Dean of Chapel at Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y. and served as a faculty member of the Department of Religion there. He has spoken on many college and university campuses and has served as moderator and host of the CBS television series, "Look Up and Live."

Soloist Haefliger Gives German Lieder Tonight

The tenor Ernst Haefliger will give a concert of German Lieder tonight at 8:30 p.m. in Skinner Recital Hall. First recognized for his work in oratorio, Mr. Haefliger is also acclaimed today for his performances in opera, as a recitalist and as soloist with American symphony orchestras.

His performance as the Evangelist in Bach's "St. John Passion" brought him great success in Europe. Already a well-known soloist in oratorio and orchestra works six years ago, he then tried opera and since that time has been a member of the Staatsoper in Berlin. Although Mr. Haefliger made his American debut only last summer, his fame has preceded him because of the many recordings released here.

Studying first in Switzerland where he was born, Mr. Haefliger taught singing while he developed his own voice. He made his first appearance as a concert artist in 1942 after a year of intense study under Julius Patzak.

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VASSAR MISCELLANY NEWS

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Letters We'd Like To Receive

by Dorothy Spiegel '61

Dear Junior Prom Committee:

Thank you very much for your invitation to be a waitress at Junior Prom, but they're paying better wages at Ho Jo's.

Thanks anyway,
Bea Trayed

Dear Junior Prom Committee:

Help is urgently needed!!! I accidentally sent my white formal to the Vassar Laundry and it won't be returned in time for the Prom.

Sincerely,
Ima Post

Attention All Juniors!!!

Who spiked the punch?

Alumnae House

Proms Of The Past

How They Promenaded Back in the Gay '90's
(From an article in the Miscellany News of February 14, 1925)

"The dancing at these entertainments thirty years ago was very different from what it is now. The faculty allowed square dancing but no round dancing. Square dancing differed from round dancing in that partners were always several feet apart. Round dancing was the old polka, waltz and two-step. Professor Mills said that it was a perpetual source of regret to the students not to be able to have round dancing. . . . He said that it was some time before the majority could be made to see that round dancing was not improper or indecent."

Miss Palmer Tells How Prom Developed
(Miscellany News, February 18, 1925)

"At my first faculty meeting ten years ago" she said, "I asked that Prom men be allowed to come back on campus on Sunday. Up to that time the Prom had ended at twelve o'clock on Saturday night; after that the men were not supposed to see the girls again even to escort them home. This petition broke a tradition of long standing, for before 1915 no man was allowed on campus on Sunday unless he was a fiancee or a brother; in that case he was not allowed to speak or even to bow to any girl but the one to whom he belonged."

Senior Jobs . . .

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

Thursday, Feb. 25

Dr. Mount, Manager of the Mathematics Section of Bettis Atomic Power Division, will talk with senior mathematics majors or with students who have taken courses in mathematics through differential and integral calculus and theory of equations.

The Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory is a research and development laboratory working on classified nuclear power reactor projects for both naval and commercial applications.

Friday, Feb. 26

Mr. Walther of A. T. & T. will be at Vassar to talk with seniors about positions as Engineering Assistants and Programers. Major in mathematics or the physical sciences desirable but not essential. Mathematics through calculus, however, is required. Starting Salaries: \$348-\$380 per month.

Appointments for interviews may be made at the Vocational Bureau.

Schedule For Junior Prom Weekend

Saturday, Feb. 13

3:30-5:30 p.m. Cocktail Party at Alumnae House.

Dinner-Dance in Main Dining Room. Doors open at 5:45. Doors close at 6:15.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Demi-Tasse in Main Parlors.

9:30-2:00 a.m. Prom in Students' Building.

10:30 p.m. Grand March in Students'.

Sunday, Feb. 14

Brunch at Alumnae House.

2:00-4:00 p.m. Milk Punch Party at Alumnae House. Entertainment by Yale's Bakers Dozen and Vassar Night Owls.

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