

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The first faculty conferences in the history of New College are taking place on campus this week with the goal of creating the dynamic curriculum for the Charter Class entering in September.

Participating in the conferences are: Dr. John W. Gustad, provost and dean; the college's three divisional deans: Dr. Ross Borden, humanities; Dr. Aaron Sayvetz, natural sciences and Dr. Fillmore Sanford, social sciences.

With them are newly arrived faculty members: Dr. Douglas Berggren, professor of philosophy, from Yale University; Dr. Hiram Evans, professor of biology, from Syracuse University; Dr. William K. Smith, professor of mathematics, from Bucknell; and Dr. Thomas R. Williams, professor of anthropology, from Sacramento State College; and Dr. Corinne Wilson, acting librarian and recently appointed assistant professor of classics.

They were addressed by Dr. George F. Baughman, president, and members of his staff on opening day. Dr. Baughman keynoted the conferences with a statement that: "New College has determined, since its inception, to be an institution that excels."

He pointed to the hundreds of new colleges that have opened in recent years and said that very few of them have had "other than a quantitative impact."

"New College will provide its carefully selected students a qualitative content of unmatched superiority," he said.

Dr. Gustad expanded on this theme by citing the two "principal functions" of liberal arts education. "They are both opposite sides of the same coin-- one is to preserve and increase the sum of human knowledge. The other, to develop the individual to properly use that knowledge.

He pointed out that the tremendous "explosion" of knowledge in recent decades has burdened liberal arts institutions. "Most have responded by adding to the number of courses they give, and necessarily reducing the time necessary to produce a 'well-rounded man'," he said.

"Besides," he declared, "the university is usually better at disbursing facts, while the genius of the liberal arts college lies in the preparation of the individual."

He charged, "The liberal arts college generally has fallen down on the job of teaching the individual how to think."

It is this area in which he challenged the new faculty to create a program of learning to fit young people for leadership in the world of tomorrow.

"We can't teach all knowledge so we must first be selective about what we teach. More importantly, we must teach how to reason, to learn independently, to develop analytical skills, and to identify problems."

He said that the New College curriculum must encourage the individual to the fullest realization of his capacities. "And we must help the student in the acquisition of processes which will enable him to continue his learning processes, independently, throughout life."

The conference was to continue throughout the week, with professors presenting short discussion topics on their approach to their individual fields.

The college will open its doors in September to a Charter Class of some 100 selected young men and women from 25 states and five foreign countries.