

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA
FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

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SARASOTA--A professor of theology at Colgate Rochester Divinity School has been named professor of religious studies at New College.

Appointment of the Rev. Dr. William H. Hamilton to the new post was announced today by the college. It was also disclosed that the Danforth Foundation has agreed to assist in underwriting a share of the cost of this faculty position.

Dr. Hamilton will institute the first formal work in religion at New College. The program of religious studies will be offered in the Humanities Division.

Appointed to the Colgate Rochester Divinity School faculty in 1953, Dr. Hamilton was named the William Newton Clarke Professor of Christian Theology and Ethics there. He also was a professor of religion at the University of Rochester.

Before joining the divinity school faculty, Dr. Hamilton was dean of chapel at Hamilton College and a member of the department of religion there.

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Concerned with contemporary religion as well as with classical theology, Dr. Hamilton has recently centered his interests around radical theology. He is one of the leaders in the examination and advocacy of concepts stemming from this theology. His other fields include systematic theology, ethics, religion and literature, and the history of Christian thought.

In his contemporary interests, he has been associated with the so-called "death of God" theology and is considered one of the moderate advocates of this relatively new intellectual approach to the understanding of religion.

An ordained Baptist minister, Dr. Hamilton was graduated from Oberlin College, earned his bachelor of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and then was awarded his doctorate in philosophy at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

For more than five years, Dr. Hamilton has worked with the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Council of Churches on religious television. He has appeared on more than 40 "Look Up and Live" programs and has done a number of television program scripts.

New College President John Elmendorf said that the appointment of Dr. Hamilton to the first faculty position in religious studies was particularly significant.

"At this stage in the growth of New College, the professor of religious studies must be a person with a well-founded background in theology," said Dr. Elmendorf. "Because today's students are searching eagerly for their own values, he must also be prepared to help them in this quest.

"Dr. Hamilton was recommended highly to New College by his academic colleagues, by leading figures in the United Church of Christ, and by his own record of teaching, research, and writing," said Dr. Elmendorf.

The Danforth Foundation has agreed to share in the support of the new faculty position for a three-year period. The foundation was created in 1927 by the late Mr. and Mrs. William H. Danforth of St. Louis and its purpose is to strengthen education, through its own programs and through grants to schools, colleges, universities and other educational agencies.

Dr. Hamilton has been a prolific writer in recent years. Best known of his works is his book, "The New Essence of Christianity," an exposition of radical theology.

He has frequently had articles published in such journals as Christian Century, Nation, Christian Scholar, Theology Today and Journal of Religion.

Married and the father of five children, Dr. Hamilton is a member of the Society for Religion in Higher Education and the American Theological Society.

Dr. Hamilton will join the New College faculty in September.