

Southwestern News

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SUNSHINE IS A TRADITION AT SOUTHWESTERN COMMENCEMENT

109th Class Graduates

Under the arched greenery of age-old forest trees, 1958's graduates approached the logeum of Fisher Memorial Garden June 3 to receive their diplomas, along with six distinguished recipients of honorary degrees.

Benign clouds cast ominous shadows over the morning's prospects but, true to tradition, a sun dappled scene awaited the academic procession as it moved in full regalia from Palmer Hall.

For it simply doesn't rain on Southwestern's commencement. Once in the twenty-two year history of outdoor commencements the threat of rain forced removal of the exercises to Idlewild Church. But these fears proved unfounded and when the appointed hour arrived, the garden was bathed in sunshine.

Dr. Ernest H. Volwiler, chairman of the board of Abbott Laboratories and a nationally distinguished chemist, told Southwestern graduates, "You are starting in an era when broad world problems overshadow the domestic ones. Your future will be at once affected by the world situation, and you will be actors in the world drama.

"That may sound ominous," he went on, "but the fact is that you will apply your abilities and your basic philosophy of living to world affairs just as your predecessors gave almost their whole attention to the domestic scene."

Seniors Number 98

A class of 98 seniors and hundreds of their friends and families heard him evaluate the impact of this year's major scientific developments.

"We must agree that our national policies and intentions have been undergoing a deep scrutiny ever since Sputnik I jolted us out of our smug complacency. It caused our nation to re-examine its scientific competence and to take stronger steps to encourage education in science and mathematics, as well as in other fields such as languages, social science and mathematics, and the humanities.

"The feelings of disappointment and elation were both exaggerated. The United States apparently is behind Russia in satellites and certain missiles, but we are ahead of them in many other fields of science and technology. We must agree that Russia has had great success in putting her efforts into a "crash" military program. If Russia should decide to transform the cold military war into an economic war in a contest with the western world for foreign trade, she might well cause us great trouble.

"Our greatest needs, it seems to me, are for
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Pictured with President Peyton N. Rhodes, third from right, wearing their new honorary degrees just after commencement are left to right, Dr. Wesley Halliburton, Dr. H. Clinton Parrent, Jr., Dr. W. Chester Keller, Dr. A. K. Burrow, Dr. Ernest H. Volwiler, and Dr. Alexander Hunter.

Davis, Queener, Add Academic Flavor To Alumni Day's Rich Ingredients

That wasn't stardust glittering over the campus on Alumni Day. That was pure gold—25 years accumulation of it dumped into the college coffers as tribute from the most financially underprivileged class the college ever graduated.

The class of '33 wore their silver reunion badges proudly as they foregathered 38 strong for fun, fellowship, and philanthropy — for it became their happy privilege to endow the college with rich profits from a small sum which they set aside as seniors for a class gift.

Returnees, ranging from the class of 1896 to 1958 and bringing with them husbands, wives, and adult sons and daughters, numbered near a thousand during the full day of activities.

Dapper Don John Henry Davis drew a goodly crowd for the first event of the day—a coffee hour in his honor in Burrow Library where he was surrounded by admiring students from his 32 years of teaching at Southwestern.

The occasion, seized upon by Albert Johnson, librarian ('30) was recent release of Dr. Davis' book, "The History of St. Mary's Cathedral." Another former student, Mrs. Joe Patten, Jr., (Betty Wells, '39) who takes an active interest in the Episcopal Book Shop, was on hand dispensing copies and the sale was brisk.

Dr. Davis, assisted in greeting friends by another former student, Mrs. Davis (Louisa Harrison, '31) wore his honors with customary grace and modesty but one concession to the magnitude of the occasion was observed—a pure white shirt.

By 11:30 the campus was swarming. Some were content to visit and swap reminiscences

—some browsed in the library or visited the art show in the Treasure Room.

Those seeking mental stimulation found it in abundance at the Alumni Conference cooked up by Dr. Alfred O. Canon ('44) and featuring Dr. E. Llewellyn Queener, chairman of the psychology department and teacher of one of the city's largest adult Bible classes for couples at Second Presbyterian Church.

Queen — Queener

"The Queen of the Sciences," viewed as an authoritative tyrant is at best a shrew and a bore, Dr. Queener began, with an explanation that the medieval term, "Queen of the Sciences," refers to theology.

"But when approached as the vastest perceptual sweep of which the human mind is capable, she becomes a queen full of promise and never quite understandable.

In a typically Queenerian progression of ideas, couched in terse, well molded, and often humorous terms of reference, he went on to prove that (1) being a human being is a most impractical and challenging arrangement but (2) you wouldn't want to be
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