# MONTHLY REPORT

FEBURARY 1995 PRESS RELEASES

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Bill Billings
Director of Public Relations

#### METHODIST COLLEGE PRESENTS 'BAREFOOT IN THE PARK'

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Monarch Playmakers at Methodist College will present the Neil Simon comedy *Barefoot in the Park* February 23-26 in Reeves Auditorium.

Performances are slated for February 23, 24, and 25 at 8 p.m. and February 26 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and children. A matinee for school groups is set for February 24 at 10 a.m.; for group reservations call 630-7483 from 1-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Barefoot in the Park chronicles the hardships faced by newlyweds Paul and Corie Bratter as they try to adjust to: each other, their New York City apartment, an overprotective mother-in-law, strange neighbors, and an elderly Don Juan who lives in the attic.

Summer Brock, associate vice president for development at Methodist, is the director. Ms. Brock directed the Playmakers last spring in a production of Noel Coward's *Fallen Angels*. She majored in theatre at St. Andrews Presbyterian College and is the former board chairman of Encore Community Theatre in Laurinburg.

The cast includes Pamela Thibodeau as Corie, Robert Devlin as Paul, Amanda Post as Ethel Banks (Corie's mother), Sam Williams as Victor Belasco, David Teague as Harry Pepper (the telephone man), and Michael Thrash as the Lord and Taylor deliveryman.

The crew includes: Paul Wilson, technical director; Camisha Bell, assistant director; and Dwight Lawing, designer.

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### METHODIST COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Dr. Donald Lassiter, assistant professor of psychology at Methodist, has received a federal research grant to study the effects of age and experience on the performance of general aviation pilots in the Cape Fear region.

The National Institute of Aging, a division of the National Institutes of Health, awarded Dr. Lassiter a \$50,000 grant last October. He and a team of assistants have constructed a research lab on the Methodist campus which features a computer-based flight simulator. Forty-two area pilots have volunteered to serve as research subjects for the year-long study; the subjects vary widely in both age and amount of flying experience.

The pilots participating in the study will fly "courses" presented by the computer software while their performance is monitored by a second computer. At times, each pilot will have to perform an additional task while flying. By varying the difficulty of the courses and presenting the additional task, Dr. Lassiter and his research team hope to manipulate the mental workload demands placed on the subjects. The mental demands specifically addressed in the study are short-term memory, monitoring (or vigilance), and reaction time to make a decision.

Dr. Lassiter said he got the idea for his research project from a colleague at the University of Central Florida. He submitted the grant proposal in October 1993 and was approved a year later. He said he was "elated" that the project passed muster, noting that this was his first grant proposal and that Methodist College is a relative newcomer in the field of psychological research.

Members of Dr. Lassiter's research team include: Gary Hinson, assistant professor of

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computer science; Michael S. Miller and David Z. Hambrick, recent Methodist graduates in psychology; and John Demos, a current psychology major. Others who have assisted in the research effort include Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, president of Methodist College; Dr. Anthony J. DeLapa, vice president for academic affairs; and Dr. John F. Campbell, head of the Psychology Department.

Dr. Lassiter plans to submit additional grant proposals based upon the results of the current project. These future aviation psychology studies will investigate the relationships among age, expertise, and mental workload more thoroughly.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill Billings

February 8, 1995

Public Relations Director

#### CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR BUSINESS AWARDS

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—The Center for Entrepreneurship at Methodist College is now accepting nominations for three business awards to be given at its 18th Annual Stock Market Symposium Thursday, April 6.

An Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur Award will be given to a North Carolina resident who owns, has established, or manages a small business. The Award Committee will consider the individual's creativeness, innovativeness, and personal contributions to and involvement with the community.

A Small Business Excellence Award will be made to an outstanding small business employing fewer than 500 persons with annual revenues of less than \$15 million. The Award Committee will consider the creativity of the business, the uniqueness of the product, the employees' welfare, and the contributions of the business to its community.

The Silver Spoon Award, traditionally given at the Stock Market Symposium, will be continued. This award is given to a person who, "though not born with the proverbial silver spoon in his/her mouth, has originated and built a successful business recognized for its uniqueness in planning, production, or some other aspect of its operation."

March 16 is the deadline for submitting nominations for any of the three awards. Persons wishing to make nominations should submit official forms (available from Dr. Sid Gautam) and supporting material to the Center for Entrepreneurship, Methodist College, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28311. For more information, phone Dr. Sid Gautam at 486-1627.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 1995

Bill Billings

Public Relations Director

#### STUDENT WRITERS RECEIVE AWARDS

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—The Methodist College English Department presented awards to ten area high school students at Writers' Day January 27.

The winners were: *Poetry*—First Place: Perry Horton, Lee Sr. High; Honorable Mention: Angela Bullard, Cape Fear High; *Writing for Visual Media*—First Place: Bradley Smith, South View High; Honorable Mention: Rhett McLaughlin, Harnett Central High; *Business Writing*—First Place: Clay Langdon, Harnett Central High; Honorable Mention: Rachel Bennett, Seventy-First High; *Writing for Newspapers and Magazines*—First Place: Laura Long, Cape Fear High; Honorable Mention: Collins Bullard, Cape Fear High; *Fiction Writing*—First Place: Alicia Hawley, Triton High; Honorable Mention: Gene Thompson, Seventy-First High.

The Fayetteville Rotary Club provided \$300 in prize money in five categories. First place winners received \$50 and honorable mentions received \$10.

Over 100 high school students spent the day at Methodist attending writing workshops and lectures by poet Betty Adcock and novelist Richard Krawiec.

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February 16, 1995

# WILSON YARBOROUGH JR. TO CHAIR 1995 FUND DRIVE FOR METHODIST COLLEGE

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Wilson F. Yarborough Jr., president of Yarborough Motor Company and Continental Rent-A-Car, will chair the 1995 Community Loyalty Campaign for Methodist College. A kickoff breakfast will be held Tuesday, February 21 at the college.

Once a year, the Methodist College Foundation asks local citizens to help the college strengthen its educational programs by making a donation to the annual fund. The goal for the 1995 Community Loyalty Campaign is \$250,000. All receipts will be used for either debt retirement or current operations at the college.

"Wilson Yarborough and his family have been very supportive of Methodist College since its inception," said Dr. C.T. Daniel, president of the Methodist College Foundation, "I know he will give strong leadership to our fund drive."

A Fayetteville native, Yarborough is a past president of the Methodist College Foundation, the Fayetteville Area Chamber of Commerce, the West Fayetteville Rotary Club, and the Fayetteville Area New Car Dealers Association. After graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in business administration, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

"Methodist College is a source of pride for our city, as well as a cultural and educational resource..." said Yarborough. "Every year thousands of visitors attend conferences, plays, concerts, art shows, and athletic events on campus."

The 1995 chair also noted that Methodist has a significant economic impact, with an annual budget of \$17 million and an enrollment of more than 1,900 students. He also observed, "We are seeing more and more Methodist graduates giving back to the community as leaders in our local government, business, and civic organizations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bill Billings

February 20, 1995

Public Relations Director

## METHODIST COLLEGE ADDS PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Methodist College will add a physician assistant program to its curriculum this fall.

Mr. Ron Foster, a physician assistant currently employed by Methodist College, will be the program director. Dr. Christopher Aul, of the Hope Mills Family Medicine Center, will be the medical director. An assistant director will be hired in the near future; adjunct medical faculty will be added later.

The faculty approved the program last May, following a feasibility study authorized by the Methodist College Board of Trustees in February. In addition, the trustees' Building and Grounds Committee has authorized the design of a 13,000 square foot allied health building and family medicine clinic to be built on the campus. The building will be located just south of the main entrance to the college and will face Ramsey Street.

"This is an important undertaking for Methodist College and for southeastern North Carolina." said Dr. Elton Hendricks, college president. "We are grateful for the strong support from the local medical community. Our program will place special emphasis on the recruitment of minority students and students currently residing in medically under served areas who are willing to return to those areas after graduation."

The new program includes an 82-semester hour pre-professional phase (two or three years) and a professional phase (two years) in which students receive basic medical education and do clinical rotations. Admission requirements will be rigorous.

Methodist will launch the professional phase of the program in June 1996. Students admitted to the professional phase—either current Methodist College students or transfers—must have completed the 12 prerequisite science courses plus the core requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree and be otherwise qualified. As currently envisioned, the program will be able to accommodate 30-40 students.

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