



FOCUS | Spring 2010

Griggs Hall was well-loved, evident in the multiple letters received. But the outline of Buller Hall is now redefning the familiar landscape where Griggs once stood. New memories will soon be made on the same spot for future generations to look back on.

Running reminiscence

The story on my former Hebrew teacher was not only touching but brought back fond memories. She was not only a dynamic instructor, but had an unusual sense of humor. I recall in one class as she was moving briskly through the lesson for the day, one of my fellow classmates pleaded, “Dr. Running, can you please slow down!” With a twinkle in her eyes she responded, “I can’t, I’m running. She was not only a great teacher, but a warm caring person.

Carl R. Rogers (MDiv '69)

Practical education

Magazine racks are convenient receivers of journals that arrive at times when they must be laid aside for reading at a later date! On August 31, I pulled from one of my three magazine racks the Winter 2010 edition of FOCUS (at least I hadn’t tossed it in file 13!). I was overjoyed to read the small article on page 7 about the milk production at the Andrews Dairy and the opportunity it afforded students for earning toward tuition plus the blessing it is to the institution.

Allow me to explain. In 1926, I was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in that cement jungle where cows were not part of the environment. The first “cow” I saw was a life-size cardboard cut-out of Elsie, the Borden’s cow, standing behind a big vat of milk on the platform of a warehouse where my brother and I carried our little tin one-quart pails to purchase milk as it was dipped out of the tank for 5 cents a quart during the Great Depression. I have always been a “milk-drinker” and thankful for it.

Years later I married a southern farmer and we ran a dairy farm in eastern North Carolina. We also had high-producing black and white Holsteins with a couple of Guernseys and one Jersey blended in with the herd. I learned to appreciate God’s creative power much more as I worked with these special creatures.

In the 60s and 70s when many of our educational institutions were phasing out their dairies, I was very sad because I knew what was being lost in student industry with good work-training habits and appreciation as well as income for the school.

Alice R. Voorheis (MA '79)

Leadership training vital

I reacted in the predictable human fashion with pangs of sentimental nostalgia re Griggs Hall. I experienced some tough challenges within those walls.

But I was ecstatic to read “Why Teach Undergraduate Leadership?” by David K. Ferguson. Bravo David! During 22 years of pastoral work I was blissfully unaware of how woefully unprepared I was to lead. It was only after I was dropped from employment by the denomination and began working with secular organizations that I became aware of the whole universe of leadership development. Since then I have dreamed, and when the opportunity presented itself, ranted, about how necessary and fundamental this type of training, and particularly mentoring, should be to the preparation of ministerial students.

I believe leadership courses and ongoing mentoring should be a required core part of the ministerial preparation, from college freshman through seminary. Add to that expository preaching practicum. Every quarter of every year. Young ministers could do a lot more good for the people and the churches if they would come into the field with less theological academics and more well-honed leadership and preaching skills. Again, well done prof. David K Ferguson. Keep up the good fight!

Patrick Stevenson (BA '75)



Thanks for writing

Letters to FOCUS are always welcome. To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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