

Retirement ends 20-year love affair

Retiring after 20 years as dean does not mean that you have anything important or useful to say in a column like this, but it does give you the opportunity.

If I were 45 again and were offered this job, I wouldn't take it. With a good faculty, good students, good facilities and support, it wouldn't be a challenging situation for me.

I have always fancied myself as a builder, and for the first ten years after I became dean we were in a building mode, adding faculty, getting a new building and putting a recruitment system in place.

The challenge for the new dean will be much different. He will need to work on the quality of the various programs and add new programs, such as a mid-career program in which professionals could come back to school for further training. These people would also do some teaching while they were here.

We are now at the time and place in the history of the college to begin a Ph. D. program. There are several excellent reasons to pursue this.

It is easier to recruit academic faculty because publishing scholars like to work with advanced graduate students.

In addition, a doctoral program would give the college a pool of advanced graduate teaching assistants and research assistants. With this pool of advanced graduate students around, we could offer many more services to the media than we are able to at present.

So the new dean will have entirely different kinds of challenges than the ones I had.

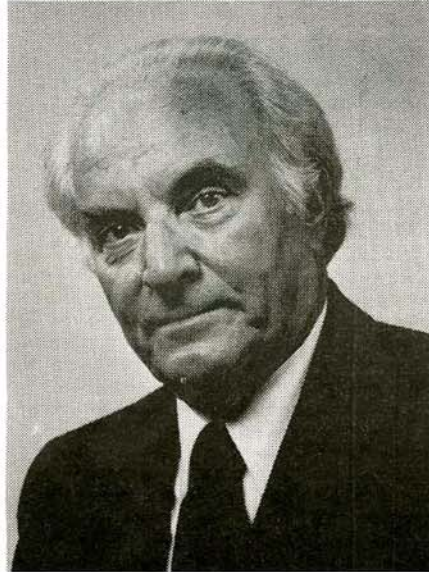
I want to say a word about our faculty and staff, who are hardworking, dedicated and loyal academicians and professionals. Not once in 20 years have I ever had to be concerned that they were plotting, or intriguing, or planning a palace revolt.

For their support, for their devotion to the goals of the college and to the profession of journalism, I salute them, collectively and individually.

As was pointed out recently at a major seminar, our faculty has a fierce pride in our college, our students and our alumni.

And to our alumni, many of who are daily distinguishing themselves, I want to tell you that we have monitored your progress with great pride and interest.

I am proud (although surprised) to have been the dean of more than 90 percent of



PHOTO/Joak Hillwig

Dean Albert T. Scroggins

all the graduates of this college since its founding in 1923.

I want to thank our central administration, President James Holderman and Provost Frank Borkowski, for permitting this college to have some national impact on journalism education. During some years when state funds were in short supply, they helped us maintain our high quality of instruction and public service.

I salute our friends and supporters in newspapers, broadcasting, advertising

and public relations who have shown such interest in the college these past 20 years. We have always been able to depend upon them for those scholarships, internships, research grants and other services that provided that extra margin of quality for our students. We trust we have returned to them dedicated, professional graduates.

To the academy, to our colleagues, the other deans and faculty on campus, I want to say thank you for working our students hard, and for your support and cooperation.

I especially appreciate the patience, love and understanding of my wife Lilla and daughters Pam and Deb, and their husbands Greg and Mark. They have made many sacrifices over the years.

My 20-year love affair with the College of Journalism and its people is coming to an end. For me, this experience has indeed been "An affair of the heart."

Thomas Wolfe, who lived up the road a piece at Ashville, N.C., and who was the author of such soul-searching novels as *Look Homeward Angel* and *You Can't Go Home Again*, once wrote that he had eaten of the lotus and dreamed too deeply. Colleges like this, institutions like the University of South Carolina, are the things that dreams are made of — or perhaps it is the other way around.

My dream in coming here 20 years ago was to develop a college of journalism of national prominence, one whose graduates would command respect in their chosen professions, and who would be sensitive to the needs of society.

With the help and faith of so many caring people, this dream became a reality. The success of our college — and our graduates — has been my great good fortune, and I am very proud.

Best wishes,
A.T. Scroggins

Speaker stresses role of change, priorities

Dr. Douglas Ann Newsom, president of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and chairman of the journalism department at Texas Christian University, delivered the J. Rion McKissick Lecture April 24 at Media Day.

Newsom was the first woman to head a journalism program in the United States, and the second woman to be president of AEJMC.

Setting priorities and reacting to change were the major themes of Newsom's speech.

"There is no certainty in the professional world," she said. "The

rule is change, and you must meet that change with candor and courage."



Dr. Douglas Ann Newsom

Newsom said professionals need to be accepting of change, and to be sensitive to people and events.

"When you see change, you need to find out what's going on and what the effects are likely to be," she said.

"Do the best job you can always, but don't be afraid of change," she added. "The best way to deal with change is to learn how to learn. Learning to learn keeps you flexible."

"Something related to change is pace," she said. "You hear about how fast-paced the professional world is."

Newsom said professionals must learn to pace themselves, and warned against becoming a workaholic.

"If you feel that when you are off the job, you are nothing, you will see that you are always on the job," she said.

Newsom said professionals must learn to be long-distance runners, not sprinters, in order to stay in the race.

She also advocated mentoring. "Mentoring means being open to the abilities of others whether they are like you or different," she said. "Give them growing room, and take inspiration from them. Take risks with other people, which means taking some responsibility for how the world turns out. That takes courage."

In search of a dean . . .

The committee charged with finding a replacement for retiring dean Al Scroggins has looked at some 55 resumes and has interviewed several candidates, but has yet to nominate a successor.

Dr. Perry Ashley, chairman of the committee, says the search has been extended indefinitely, and if a successor is not named by the time Dean Scroggins is scheduled to leave (June 30), an interim dean will be named.

INTERCOM

Vol. 17, No. 2

Editor Sharon Carroll

Adviser Mary P. Caldwell

Photographers Clark S. Brookstone, Stephanie Klein

Intercom is edited and produced by the University of South Carolina College of Journalism, and is published in the Fall and Spring of each year.

Intercom welcomes articles from alumni and faculty. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and mailed to: Intercom, College of Journalism, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.