

New President's Message to Ward-Belmont Students and Alumnae

If Ward's Seminary did not date back to 1865 and if Ward-Belmont's graduates had not for long years been returning to teach, it might be said that the school was becoming of age. Ward-Belmont has, however, been of age for some time now. Two more recent signs of it are that for the first time six years ago the new Dean of Faculty was formerly a Ward-Belmont student and, again for the first time, the new president was one, too.

Consequently, it is with mixed emotions that I come back to the campus. There is the feeling of having completed a long journey and of returning to an old and friendly home, but there is also a sense of newness and of a fresh beginning. So, on the one hand, perhaps I may be entitled to be called an old student and a new one at the same time. Being both is doubly pleasant.

Life and education at Ward-Belmont will continue to be a quiet, even growth. The people and surroundings here will keep on reflecting a fine tradition and kindling a love of those things that underlie gentle and gracious living. Into this setting we are looking forward to welcoming both old and new students in September.

Here is the opportunity for all of us to avail ourselves of the good heritage we have from those who have gone before us and, while treasuring it, to increase and refine it for those who are to come after us.

Dr and Mrs. Burk Honored at Dinner

Forty-nine members of the Ward-Belmont School faculty honored Dr Joseph E. Burk, who recently resigned as the school's president, and Mrs. Burk at a testimonial dinner at Belle Meade Country Club on June 19. After the dinner, a scroll of tribute was presented by Dean Charles P. Hogarth on behalf of the faculty and staff.

Recounting the school's progress under Dr Burk's nine-year tenure as Ward-Belmont dean and six years as president, Dean Hogarth offered the testimonial as follows:

"We know that your love for Ward-Belmont caused you to act with the best interests of the school in mind, and that this affection caused you to perform all your duties with exceptional industry, zeal, and efficiency.

"We deeply appreciate the development that the institution has enjoyed under your administration. Financial advancement, improved grounds and buildings, increased alumnae support, faculty stability, capacity student enrollment, unprecedented student scholastic achievement—in all these and in many other ways you have led the way in making Ward-Belmont a greater Ward-Belmont."

Presentation of a sterling silver tray was made to the honorees by Dean Alan Irwin of the school's conservatory of music on behalf of the group, and messages of appreciation from Dr and Mrs. Burk followed.

The faculty committee on arrangements for the testimonial affair consisted of Dean Irwin, Dean Hogarth, Mrs. Thomas H. Malone, Jr., Miss Alma Paine, and Miss Gertrude Casebier.