

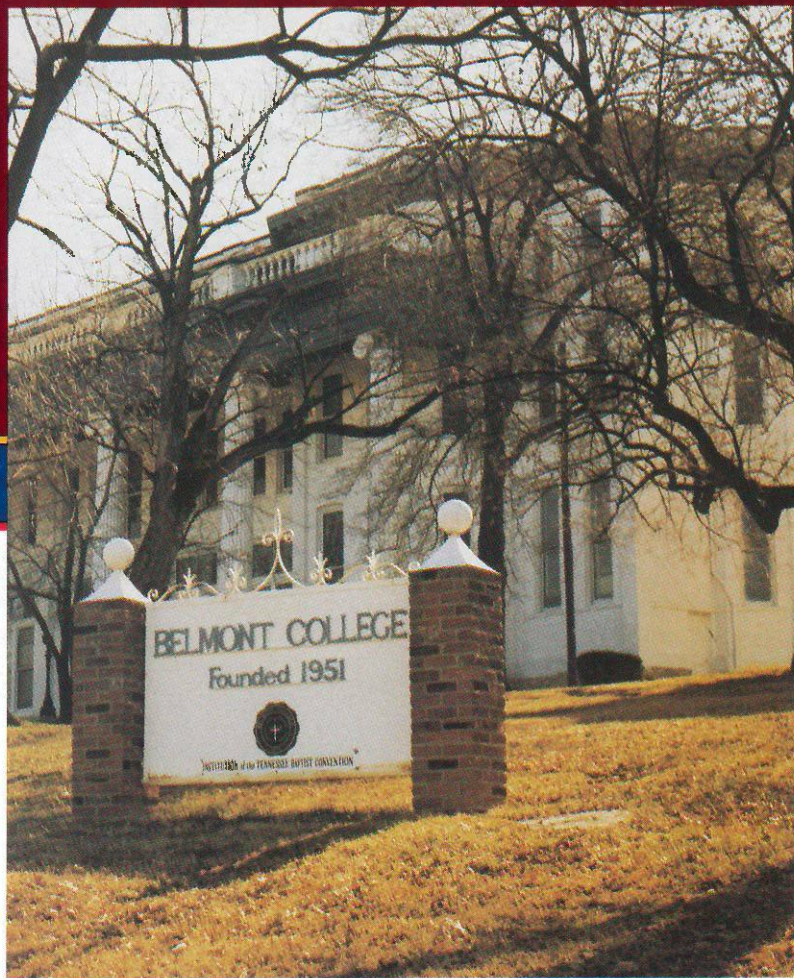
# Belmont College, 1951-today

**"I**n early January, 1951, stockholders of Ward-Belmont, conferring with businessmen who held the mortgages decided that, although Ward-Belmont was a landmark and an asset to Nashville, nevertheless, the demand for an exclusive school for girls had probably come to an end." So stated the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* some 20 years later.

Facing changing times and financial difficulty, the revered school was forced to consider closing and selling the property. A bank representative approached the Tennessee Baptist Convention to suggest that the denominational body take over the assets and liabilities of Ward-Belmont College. According to Charles W. Pope, executive secretary of the convention, operating a school was not a consideration when Baptists acquired the property for a new headquarters space.

A new Board of Trustees was named to decide the future of the school. A question arose about the high school and a committee was set up to study the matter. Controversy arose over the recommendation to discontinue the high school and transfer the Cumberland University School of Arts and Sciences, operated by the convention, from Lebanon to the Ward-Belmont campus. There also was a movement in favor of returning Cumberland to its former owners.

Students of all three schools have passed  
Adelicia's fountain on their way to classes and other campus activities.



The Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board minutes reported from a Special Committee of the Education Commission that, in the event Cumberland should be returned to its former owners, "We recommend that the accredited Junior College be continued at Ward-Belmont, and that it become a co-educational college conforming to the Tennessee Baptist school pattern."

## The Coed College Is Born

The action of that board on March 13, 1951, marked the birth and beginning of yet another Belmont College on the historic site.

The school would become a coed junior college with the fall registration. Plans called for adding a junior year in 1953. The senior year would be added in 1954, thereby becoming a full-fledged senior college.

Fall of 1951 brought 136 students to the campus. Faculty numbered 18—12 full-time and 6 part-time—mostly from the former Ward-Belmont faculty.

School began with its first formal assembly on September 14. Thereafter, chapel convened every day of the school week.

While the first catalogue still sounded very much like Ward-Belmont, for the first time it referred to "admission of veterans." The bulletin listed five academic Divisions: Fine Arts, Language and Literature, Science and Math, Social Science, and Religion and Philosophy.

Tuition that first year was \$250, or \$83.34 each quarter. A room on campus cost \$105, while meals were \$10 a week, or \$333 for the year.