A History Of Kennesaw College

A visitor to the Kennesaw Junior College campus would not suspect that less than forty years ago the area that houses the building complex of the college was part of a cotton farm. What we see today is markedly different from what one would have seen at that time. The beautifully landscaped campus, the modern classroom and lab facilities, and the highly qualified faculty afford students in the Northwest metropolitan area outstanding education facilities.

The Board of Regents established Kennesaw Junior College, which was given its present name in 1963, to serve the area in which the institution was to be built, before the college received its present name. It was called everything from Kennesaw Mountain Junior College to Big Shady 0.

The responsibility of blasting and preparing the land for construction of the college was turned over to Cobb County. At a cost of $100,000 Cobb officials bought the land that is now the site of KJC. An additional $2 million raised by Cobb County through a bond issue and an $800,000 federal grant covered the cost of buildings and equipment. The county deeded the land to the Board of Regents on July 24, 1964. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in November of the same year, and construction was begun in October of 1965.

While construction was underway, recruitment began for an administrative staff and faculty. Dr. Horace Burris, appointed president of the new college, in July, 1965, temporary offices were set up at Southern Tech in Marietta. The faculty was recruited from other colleges, secondary schools, and graduate schools. The minimum requirement for the faculty was a master's degree in the teaching field.

The first office was filled that of the Dean of the College. Glen Derrell Roberts was appointed to the post on January 1, 1966. The offices of Controller, Registrar, and Director of Admissions were filled by March 2, 1966. The library was added to the staff April 1, and the office of Dean of Student Affairs, Guidance and Counseling, and the divisional chairs were filled by July 1, 1966.

When the school opened on September 26, 1966, the facilities of the college had not been completed. Steel worker and plumber strikes had delayed the construction of the college during the previous year. Even so, KJC opened in temporary quarters with offices at Southern Tech, Roswell Elementary School, and the Marjorie Housing Authority at Marietta Place. By January 1, 1967, enough of the buildings were completed on the one hundred fifty-two acre tract that the college was able to move to its own campus.

KJC is a commuter college, designed to provide a two-year transfer program for those within a 40-45 mile radius of the campus. Students from Cobb, Cherokee, Bartow, Paulding, and the northern part of Fulton counties, plus students from Cobb and the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem, find their educational needs met at this institution.

Educational opportunities are excellent for the student. Eleven programs are offered, ranging from Liberal Arts to Pre-Engineering. Beginning with Fall quarter 1966, a nursing program will also be offered.

Quality instruction is the major emphasis at the college. A master's degree in the field of instruction is the minimum requirement for any instructor. Of the faculty, 60 per cent have a year beyond the masters degree and 20 per cent have earned the doctor's degree. But classroom instruction is not considered to be the entire focus of education at KJC. Other facilities are covered in the curriculum. An outstanding intramural sports program is sponsored by the school with 25 percent of the student body participating. This is 15 per cent above the national average.

The cultural events program at the college has been of exceptional high quality for a school so young. A committee composed of students and faculty recommended these activities for the students, since the beginning of the college, such nationally known groups as the Wayfarers, the National Opera Company, and the Bevans Family Singers have appeared in concert before Kenesaw Junior College students. Just over a month ago, approximately 3000 people packed the college gymnasium to hear a concert given by the Norman Luboff Choir. Later this quarter, the Paul Winter Jazz Ensemble will appear before the student body.

Many clubs have been established on campus. These clubs include the Circle K, Collegiate Civitan, Baptist Student Union, Methodist Student Movement, and the Music Club. One of the more unusual clubs is the Fifty Mile Club. Members of this group pledge themselves to travel at least fifty miles during a quarter.

The library, located in the center of the building complex, is anticipated to have 20,000 volumes by Fall of 1966, and plans are to have over 40,000 volumes by 1970. Study rooms, typewriters, microfilm, and recordings are also available to students.

When I-75 is completed, it will pass within a few hundred yards of the campus, making the college easily accessible to more students.

Even with this outstanding variety in the field of the student's education, the faculty and administration are by no means allowing the college to remain static. Many improvements and additions are being planned and enacted for the future, by Fall Quarter 1966, there will be eight new lighted tennis courts on campus. The next building to be added will be a Fine Arts Building. This will house an auditorium for cultural events and lecture and display rooms. A program is also being discussed to initiate a film program, making available a series of the best in European and American films.
KJC Curriculum Covers Physical Education, Natural Science, Humanities, Social Science

Biology students use modern equipment for laboratory experiments.

Learning laboratories, located in Divisions of Humanities and Social Science, are used to teach music appreciation, languages, and other subjects.

Open stacks are a feature of the library which has a goal of 20,000 volumes by the end of this year.
GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING is available for students at the college.

WEIGHT LIFTING is stressed in physical education program.
Religious Speaker, Two Concerts Planned For Spring Quarter

In accordance with its desire to seek the ultimate in quality education, Kennesaw Junior College has correlated an excellent series of cultural activities and religious emphasis programs with its academic curriculum.

On Tuesday, April 23, the third speaker in the series of religious emphasis programs at Kennesaw Junior College, Dr. William Pinson, Professor of Christian Ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will address the student body on the topic entitled "Religion and the New Morality." Dr. Pinson will speak before the day students at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude his day on campus with an address before the evening students and the general public at 7:30 p.m.

One of the foremost jazz groups in the nation, the Paul Winter Ensemble, will bring an outstanding musical event to the campus on May 5. This internationally known sextet will present a series of contrasting moods and exciting rhythms that are unique to the music.

The highlight in cultural entertainment for spring quarter will be the performance of the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club on May 1. This glee club which has been acclaimed by many as the outstanding college glee club in the nation will perform for the Kennesaw Junior College student body and the general public.

Soon after its beginning, Kennesaw Junior College initiated its cultural series with a performance by the Beers Family on February 24, 1967. This group of three folk musicians who accompanied themselves on authentic, hand-carved instruments, delivered an outstanding two-hour program in the Marietta Fine Arts Auditorium for the benefit of the Student Body.

On July 27, 1967, the cultural entertainment for spring quarter was the Percy and Jess Singers, who performed a varying program of musical arrangements for an audience at the Marietta Fine Arts Auditorium.

The second year for Kennesaw Junior College continued the excellent cultural and religious emphasis programs. On November 17, 1967, the American Classical Theatre presented Shakespeare's "The Tempest" at the Marietta Fine Arts Auditorium.

The first in the series of religious emphasis programs was presented on November 25, 1967, by William Holmes Borders, Pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, delivered an address to the entire student body entitled "Religion and the Social Revolution." This address was followed on February 6, 1968, by the second religious emphasis program in which Mr. Thomas Howard, author of "The Tiger," spoke to the entire student body on the topic entitled "Which Way Society: Agnosticism? Atheism? Christianity?"

To diversify the cultural activities at Kennesaw Junior College, the Sentinel staff presented on February 19, 1968, Mr. Eugene Patterson, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, who directed a question-and-answer period with the student body concerning the conflict in Vietnam and its effects on mankind.

Society has always been reflected in its art. It is hoped that the cultural and religious emphasis programs at Kennesaw Junior College will instill at least a small part of the proper educational, cultural, and spiritual values which are required in the foundation of every college student.