

Alumni Message

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The 1947 Commencement season of Asbury Theological Seminary was marked by a number of important "firsts" which furnish further indications that the seminary is "coming of age." Of the most immediate consequence of these was the fact that this year's class was the first to be graduated with full accreditation by the American Association of Theological Schools and approval by the University Senate of the Methodist Church. Another significant step was the awarding of the first of the Master of Religious Education degrees to three candidates, in addition to twenty-nine who received the Bachelor of Divinity degree.

Two other "first" honors were both received by the Rev. Don A. Morris, alumni association president. Elected to membership on the seminary board of trustees, he became the first graduate of the seminary to hold such a position; and at the commencement exercises he became the first graduate of the seminary to be honored by the seminary with the Doctor of Divinity degree, and thereby the first to hold two degrees from the seminary.

A change in commencement procedure is the inauguration this year of a graduation service at the end of summer school in addition to the regular spring exercises. Six degrees are to be conferred at the end of the current summer session.

A real treat of Seminary Alumni Day was the Alumni Day address by Dr. Clyde W. Meredith, president of Taylor University. By special arrangement, this address has been prepared for publication and appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Seminarian*. Be sure to read this challenging article.

The Seminary Alumni Banquet honored Dean Emeritus and Mrs. F. H. Larabee. Dr. Larabee is retiring from the faculty after thirty-two years of service in Asbury College and Asbury Theological Seminary. Ninety-nine guests crowded the seminary dining hall for a fine dinner and a special recognition service for the Larabees.

Three hundred seventy-three alumni have now received degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary. This means an increasing alumni association membership and consequently an increasing opportunity for the alumni to be of service to the seminary. Be an *active* member by keeping your annual dues paid or by becoming a Life Member. Then add the weight of your prayers, contributions, and influence to enable the seminary to fulfill its responsibility to the world.