



NEW BCW PRESIDENT: Dr. Salwa Nassar receives the mace, honorary symbol of the office of President from Mr. Farid Fuleihan, chairman, Board of Management, at her inauguration Friday night in Irwin Hall on the campus of the Beirut College for Women. Dr. Nassar is the fourth president of BCW and the first Lebanese woman to hold this position.

BCW Inaugurates President Nassar in Solemn Program

By DARLA BROOKS

Dr. Salwa Chukri Nassar, fourth president of the Beirut College for Women was officially inaugurated in a solemn program Friday evening on the stage of Irwin Hall.

In her inaugural address, the new president stressed the importance in this age of scientific advancement "when Gemini, at an altitude of 300,000 meters is brought to within three meters of its twin satellite, guided by human genius, and human courage; ... when the new methods of communications are such that the thinking of millions of people on one side of the earth may be swayed by a picture, or a speech being delivered on the other side; ... when knowledge is increasing exponentially — and man is becoming more intelligently conscious of his creator through his own self-realization, it is imperative that educational institutions undergo constant self-examination."

She continued by saying that it is logical that the university should examine and re-evaluate its programs and procedures with the objectives of the university and the characteristics of the community in mind.

Pointing out that the successful role that BCW has played in the community is demonstrated by the achievements of its graduates, Dr. Nassar explained that "BCW is primarily a liberal arts college that believes in the education that prepares young women for responsible living, while remaining fully conscious of the community it serves."

"The most important ingredients continue to be the human element," said Dr. Nassar, "the faculty and students. Thus one of the primary intents of the BCW is to maintain the standards of its faculty at the level necessary to cope with its objectives."

The President said that the College will intensify its search

for gifted students. As proof of their policy, she said that it was recently decided to double the funds of for scholarships and grants. "These funds, of course, will be in addition to the gracious gifts the College receives from educationally and socially minded individuals for the same purpose.

In outlining some of the specific plans for the College in the near future, Dr. Nassar said that is "both necessary and desirable" that Lebanese studies be incorporated into the academic program. A few have already become a part of this year's course offerings.

She added that a good collection of source material will be necessary in connection with the Lebanese studies and that the College will seek the assistance of others in the country to realize this aim.

The College is also considering a program of "continuing education," for women

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who only started their college education or completed their secondary school work when they got married. "Modern society can ill afford to overlook this valuable source of woman power," said Dr. Nasar.

Several other extension programs are being organized and the President said that "it is reasonable to contemplate the addition of a fifth year to culminate in an M.A. degree."

In closing, the President thanked the "distinguished audience who have come here to honor our College and the presidential post which is the symbol of its unity, and to express their faith in higher education for women."

"It is indeed highly gratifying to observe that the College does not live in isolation from the local, the regional or the international bodies of higher learning," she continued. Now, more than ever before, close collaboration will be sought with other colleges and universities, and will be undertaken with the

conviction that this interaction will result in more efficiency, greater creativity and the development of the best possible atmosphere for the self-realization of our youth, for their attaining wisdom and happiness."

The distinguished audience included representatives from at least 70 colleges and universities around the world. The inauguration of the Beirut College for Women's first Lebanese president was under the auspices of President Charles Helou who was represented by George Hakim, foreign minister.

Dr. Farid Fuleihan, chairman of the Board of Management presided over the program which included addresses by a representative of the Minister of Education and Mrs. Matta Akrawi of the Alumnae Association. Musical selections were presented by the BCW Chorale under the direction of Dr. A. A. Bulos and by well-known Lebanese pianist, Miss Diana Taky Deen.

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