

NEWS

The Evergreen State College

Olympia, Washington 98505



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 1972

Charles J. McCann, a onetime naval officer and department store buyer-merchandiser, will be inaugurated as the first president of The Evergreen State College during special April 21 ceremonies at the new Olympia institution of higher learning.

Governor Daniel J. Evans and Mrs. Neal Tourtellotte of Seattle, chairman of the college Board of Trustees, will join President McCann as featured speakers during the program, which features the dedication of Evergreen as well as the inauguration ceremony.

McCann came to Evergreen in 1968 to direct the planning of the new college, which was founded by act of the 1967 State Legislature and which opened its doors to approximately 1100 students last September. Prior to assuming the Evergreen presidency, McCann had been Dean of Faculty at Central Washington State College. He also had been a professor of English, chairman of the Department of English and Assistant to the President at the Ellensburg college.

A native of Manchester, Connecticut, McCann received his bachelor's degree in naval science at Yale University in 1946. Following service as a naval officer in 1946 and 1947, he attended New York University, where he took a master's degree in merchandising. He then spent several years as a department store buyer-merchandiser before he entered teaching.

He attended Trinity College briefly, then taught in Hartford, Connecticut junior and senior high schools and at New Haven Junior College. He received his master's of English from Yale in 1954 and his doctorate in English from Yale in 1956. McCann taught at Canisius College until 1962, when he joined the faculty at Central Washington State College.

Formal Inauguration/Dedication ceremonies will begin at 12:00 noon either in the

Dick Nichols, Director
Information Services

main lobby of the Daniel J. Evans Library Building or in the outdoor academic plaza, depending on the weather.

The day's activities, presented in the motif of a Renaissance Fair, will begin at 11:00 a.m., with a general gathering on the academic mall or in the library building, again depending on the weather. The hour prior to the Dedication/Inauguration ceremonies will feature performances by student dramatic and musical groups. The dramatic production will be entitled "Shakespeare's Search For An Ideal Leader", and will feature six vignettes from four history plays. Musical performances will feature the 40-member Evergreen Chamber Singers and the 20-member Evergreen Jazz Ensemble.

Following the formal ceremony, which will run from 12:00 to about 12:30 p.m., an informal complimentary luncheon--prepared by college food services personnel and students--will be served either indoors or in the mall area. Strolling players, singers and dancers will perform during the luncheon, which will be served from 12:45 to 2:00 p.m.

Official festivities will close at 2:00 p.m., followed by visits to academic program areas for viewing of student project displays; art exhibits; campus tours; the showing of student-made films in the Lecture Halls Building; and informal conversation.

Students, staff, faculty, and townspeople will serve as hosts and hostesses for the day. Campus parking will be free of charge.

* * *

The Evergreen Dedication/Inauguration affair is a genuine "do-it-yourself" project, with the time and talents of many students, faculty, and staff being poured into the planning and execution of various activities.

Faced with a trim budget, the task force setting up the day's events has looked almost entirely to college resources to get things done. For instance, silk-screened invitations and programs for the affair were hand made by a group of students and staff, with the assistance of an Olympia artist. This included everything from design, lettering, securing of paper, silk-screening, cutting to size, folding, sealing, address labeling mailing.

Students are busy constructing a special stage for various performances during the

day's program. Other students will help prepare the luncheon that will be served during the afternoon. Talent for the various musical and dramatic productions will be provided by Evergreen students under the direction of two faculty members.

Tours of the natural campus will be conducted by the Evergreen Environment study group. Internal tours will occur on an "open house" basis, with all visitors receiving printed (on campus) guides. Dozens of staff, students, and faculty members have volunteered to serve as hosts and hostesses and question answerers for the day.

Production mechanics--including installation of both indoor and outdoor sound systems and placement of special indoor lighting--are being handled by students and faculty in the Communications and Intelligence study team and by staff in the library's media section.

And students and faculty have been very busy getting special displays together so that campus guests can get some idea of the kind of academic project work that has been happening in this Evergreen's first year of operation.

You name it and members of the college community have been pitching in to make the special program a success.

The entire project is under the general supervision of Academic Dean Charles Teske, who has explained the day's activities this way: "This event is planned as an occasion for the gathering of the entire Evergreen community and guests from around the state to celebrate the opening of the college. We hope that everyone who attends--everyone is welcome--has an enjoyable time and learns more about Evergreen and gets to know its people and processes."

####