

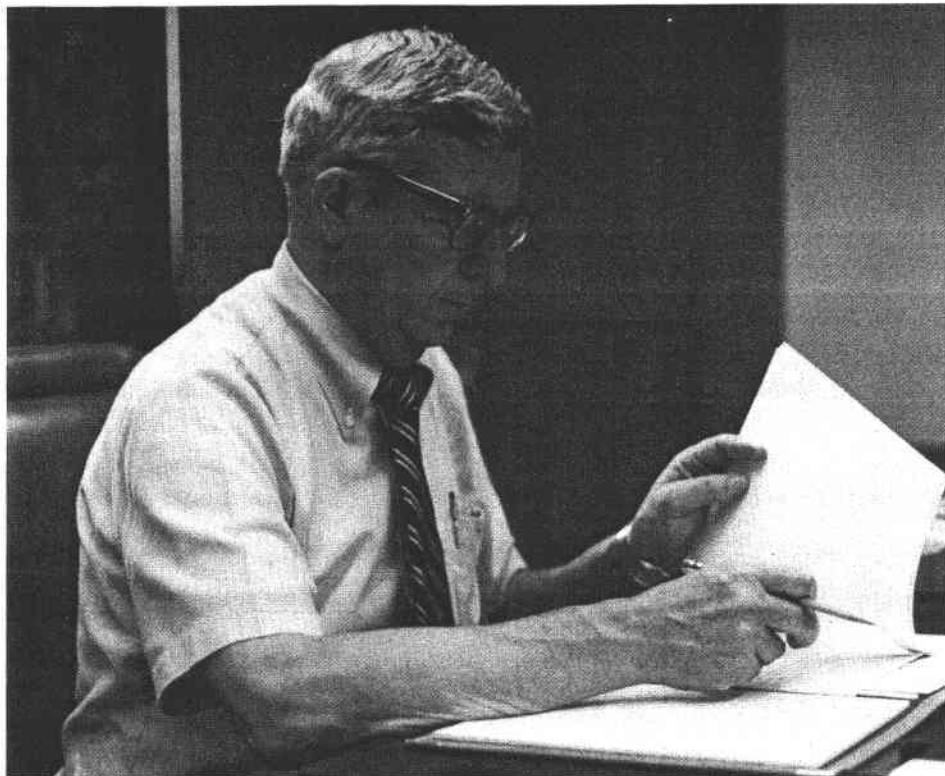
GALLAUDET

Fall, 1983

today



... a new
president
for Gallaudet



Dr. W. Lloyd Johns is Gallaudet's fifth president.

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Carin Storch
Ray S. Parks
Barbara Petterson



An important aspect of Ray Parks' job is interacting with students on an informal basis.



Barbara Petterson works on a one-to-one basis with the students in her art class.

GALLAUDET **today**

Fall/1983

Volume 14, No. 1

Gallaudet Today is the quarterly magazine of Gallaudet College, published by the Office of Alumni and Public Relations. Subscriptions are \$5 per year in the U.S. and \$7 elsewhere; single copies—\$1.25. Life members of the Gallaudet College Alumni Association receive *Gallaudet Today* as part of their membership. College Administration: Jane Bassett Spilman, Chair, Board of Trustees; Dr. W. Lloyd Johns, President; Dr. Leonard M. Elstad, President Emeritus. Editorial staff: Jack R. Gannon, '59, Director of Alumni and Public Relations, Managing Editor; Laura-Jean Gilbert, Director of Publications, Editor; Donna Chitwood, Director of Media and Campus Relations, Contributing writer; Joan Ferguson, Coordinator of Pre-College Public Relations, Contributing writer; Pattie Cinelli, Nancy Connors, Mike Kaika, '72, Barbara Virvan—Staff writers; Laura-Jean Gilbert, Charles Robertson—Layout, design, and art. Charles Shoup, Peter Moran, Frank Werbickas—Photography. Rex Lowman, '40, Contributing Editor-Poetry; Ben M. Schowe, Jr., '42, Contributing Editor-Book Reviews. The opinions expressed by our authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors of *Gallaudet Today* or of Gallaudet College. Third class postage paid at Silver Spring, Md. Published by Gallaudet College, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Gallaudet College is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution. Programs and services of Gallaudet College receive substantial financial support from the Department of Education.



A PRESIDENT FOR THE '80s

W. Lloyd Johns is planning for change.

by Vickie Walter



Dr. W. Lloyd Johns, who officially became Gallaudet's fifth president on October 1, is a man who is comfortable with change. "An institution that decides it's not ready for change is dead," he said in an early campus interview.

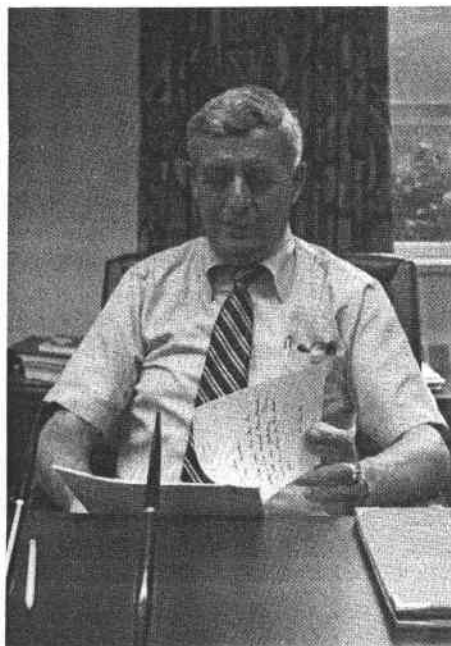
Dr. Johns, who also likes to be "assertive and proactive, not defensive and reactive," has already begun to make changes at Gallaudet. He has set up his office on the top floor of the newly renovated Edward Miner Gallaudet Memorial Building and has centralized some of his administration within that building. Vice President for Public Services Thomas Mayes, Vice President for Administration and Business Jerry Lee, and Vice President for Academic Affairs John Schuchman now have offices on the same floor. He has also reorganized the institutional advancement area at the College and moved Computer Services and College Educational Resources out of the Pre-College Division to Administration and Business and to Academic Affairs, respectively. He expects that the next 12 to 18 months will see even more changes at Gallaudet as he takes a close look at management and planning at the institution.

A straightforward man with a candid style, President Johns explained that he's in so many different settings, speaking to so

many diverse groups of people, that if he were not candid he could not remember what he told which group. "I'm very candid because it's the safest way for me to operate," he smiled.

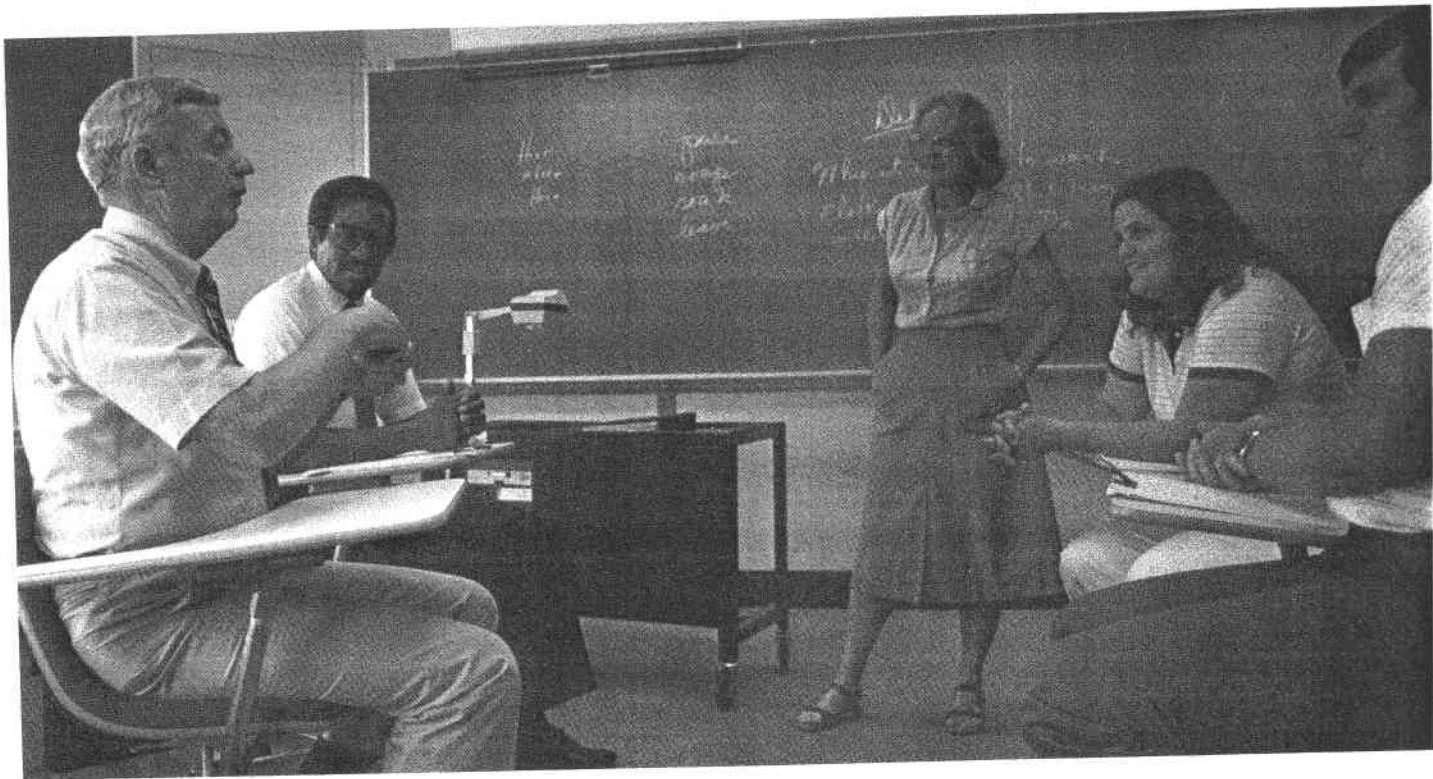
In his typical open style, Dr. Johns explained that the changes he's already made at Gallaudet are actually based not on his brief observation of the campus since he has become president but on almost a year-long study of the institution as well as an intensive orientation to Gallaudet during this past summer. "Some folks think because I'm new here that any change or thought of directing people now is presumptuous," he said, "but I wouldn't come to an institution I didn't know very well. I started learning about this institution last fall when I was nominated for the job." During the ensuing months, he studied organizational charts, read Gallaudet publications, and talked with people in the field connected with Gallaudet. "By the time I walked onto campus July 1, I felt I had a tremendous grasp of the institution," he commented.

Since that first week in July, W. Lloyd Johns has been on Kendall



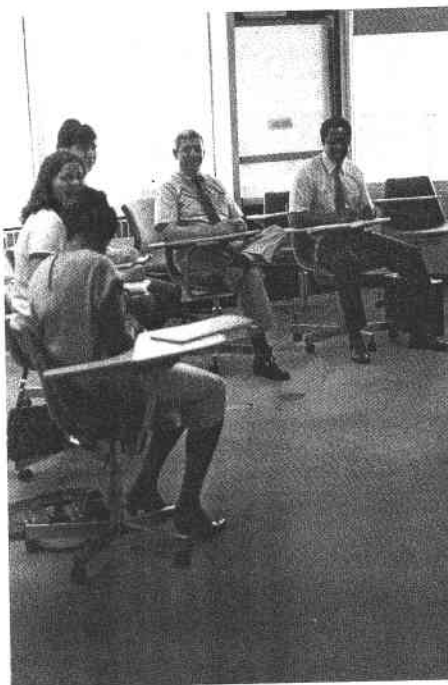
Dr. Johns officially began work as president on October 1. In actuality, he has put many months into the process of becoming prepared for his work on Kendall Green.

Vickie C. Walter now resides in West Virginia. She was formerly editor of *On the Green*, the faculty-staff weekly newspaper at Gallaudet.



"A college and university is not just an academic institution nor is it just a business. It's both...In this day and age, any college or university president who does not run that enterprise as a business is not going to last long. ...By the same token, I don't think you can be so cost-effective that the only criterion is the dollar. ...I think it is incumbent upon me to look over Gallaudet and say what it is we're supposed to be doing here."

President-elect Johns chose to join a sign language class for other new employees rather than have a private teacher. The other class members were, therefore, among the first people on campus to get to know Dr. Johns first-hand.



Green, and at the new Northwest Campus, to "fine-tune" that grasp. With the exception of a few weeks when he returned to California (where he was previously president of California State University, Sacramento) to help his wife, Dorene, with their move to the Washington area, Dr. Johns has spent his time at the College. He has met with a variety of individual and groups to learn more about the institution and to "talk with people about their dreams for the future of Gallaudet."

Dr. Johns has come to Washington with a background of more than 30 years' experience in education and educational administration—many of them in the California state university system—where almost all of his time was committed to doing his job. He appreciated the luxury of being able to spend his first two months learning about Gallaudet before assuming the office of president. "I have been able to surround myself with many things to learn about programs and to learn in a leisurely way—a luxury, because you don't have that time when you become president," he reflected.

During the past few months, Dr. Johns has talked with administrators, faculty, and staff at all levels. He met with Gallaudet's vice presidents and spent considerable time with past-President Edward C. Merrill, Jr. He went off campus to visit the National Association of the Deaf and other organizations. He met with program directors and students on campus. He also had the opportunity to meet many people from off campus who were on Kendall Green during the summer participating in the many programs offered here, such as the Leadership Deaf Training Program, Family Learning Vacations, and Special School of the Future meetings.

"They hold Gallaudet in high esteem and high respect," said Dr. Johns of the people from around the country that he met. But at the same time, he noted, they are concerned, along with many others throughout the nation, with the recent Report of the Commission on Excellence in Education, commissioned by Secretary of Education Terrel Bell, which says that "public education is in a state of needing repair." Dr. Johns also plans to look closely at that report during the coming months.

Among his meetings and discussions, Dr. Johns found time to take sign language classes each morning along with other new Gallaudet employees. "I felt I would rather be in a class for my first experience than have a private tutor," he explained. He shared the observation that he is finding it easier to sign himself than to understand the signs of other people, but is confident that his skills will increase with study and practice.

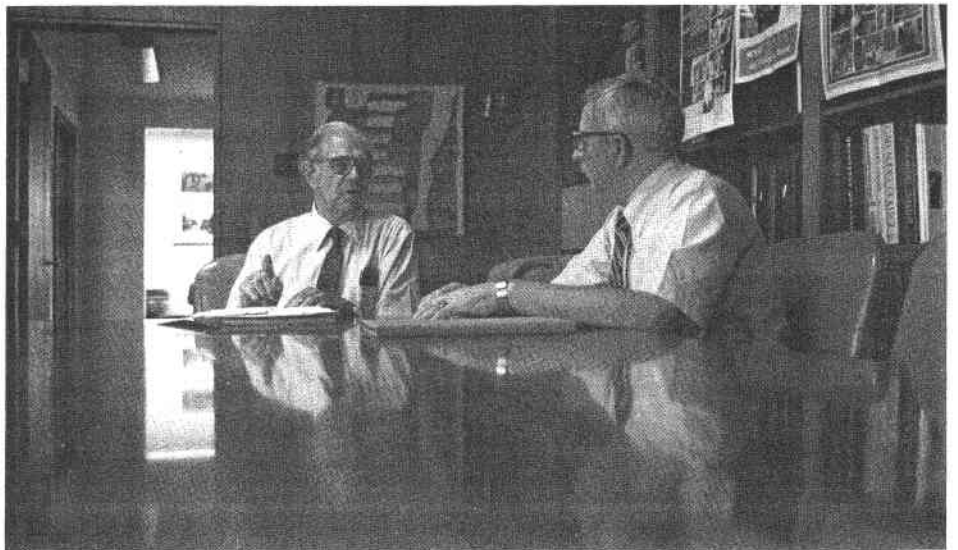
As President-elect, Dr. Johns has also addressed both the College and Pre-College faculties. But he doesn't separate those faculties in his mind: "They need to be concerned about the same things—their engineering of the educational program, objectives, measuring students' progress." He expressed his pleasure in the high quality of personnel at Gallaudet

(continued on page 7)



Dr. Johns confers with his secretary Ms. Lillian Holt. Ms. Holt also served as secretary to the Presidential Search Committee.

"We should make (higher education) as accessible as possible to all who can benefit by it, but we have to maintain standards to make it respectable. Accessible higher education does not mean watering down the standards so that anyone who wants a degree can walk away with one..."



Briefings with outgoing President Dr. Edward C. Merrill, Jr., were an important element of Dr. Johns' first weeks on campus.

Dr. Johns (back row) sat in on sessions with alumni who came to Kendall Green in August to participate in a training for the kickoff of this year's Gallaudet College Fund campaign drive.

