Gaines S. Dobbins is remembered as an outstanding educator and denominational leader. Born on July 29, 1886 in Langsdale, Mississippi, he was the son of a farmer. Having developed a love of writing at an early age, he became a printer's devil at age 12. By the age of 17, he was foreman, city editor and Associated Press correspondent for South Mississippi. From 1904-05 he served as editor of The Saturday Evening Eye, one of the largest weekly newspapers in Mississippi.

Dr. Dobbins earned degrees from Mississippi College, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Columbia University. He continued his love of writing by editing Home and Foreign Fields from 1916-1932. For 36 years he served Southern Seminary in a variety of ways. In 1920 he began at Southern as Professor of Church Efficiency and Sunday School Pedagogy. He became the Basil Manly Jr. Professor of Religious Education in 1946, and from 1953-56 he served as the first dean of the School of Religious Education. Additionally, Dr. Dobbins served as publicity director, development officer, treasurer and interim president.

From 1956 to 1966 after his retirement from Southern, he taught as distinguished professor of church administration at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. During the same time he served as co-chairman and chairman of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Bible Teaching and Training, as well as conducting numerous mission tours. In 1966 he was honored by being presented the Mullins Award for Distinguished Denominational Service by Southern Seminary.

In 1975 Dr. Dobbins returned to Louisville to teach at Southern Seminary and Boyce Bible School. A prolific author in addition to other responsibilities, he wrote 32 books and more than 4,900 articles. On September 22, 1978, he died and is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham, Alabama.

Convocation and Founders' Day
February 6, 1990
Ten O’Clock
Alumni Memorial Chapel
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

February 6, 1990

Presiding, Roy L. Honeycutt, President

ORGAN PRELUDE
Praeludium in C Major, Bux WV 136
Praeludium in a minro, Bux WV 153 ....... DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE
Boyd M. Jones, II, Organist

*PROCESSIONAL
Crown Imperial ..................................(SIR) WILLIAM WALTON

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 45
“We Praise Thee with Our Minds, O Lord” ...............CLONMEL

INVOCATION. ......................................Dr. C. Anne Davis
Dean, Carver School of Church Social Work

RESPONSIVE READING No. 518 ..........Dr. William B. Rogers
Dean, School of Christian Education

INTRODUCTIONS. ...................................Dr. Roy L. Honeycutt

CONVOCATION ADDRESS. ......................Dr. Findley B. Edge
Professor Emeritus
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“Gaines S. Dobbins, A Forward-Looking Innovator”

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN
“Believers All, We Bear the Name” .............................EDGE

*BENEDICTION ......................................Dr. Daniel Aleshire
Professor of Psychology and Christian Education
Director of Professional Studies

*RECESSIONAL AND ORGAN POSTLUDE
Concerto in b minor
III. Allegro ..........................JOHANN GOTTFRIED WALther

*Congregation standing. The Congregation will please remain in the chapel until the
Academic Recessional is completed.