

Fouts resigns as vice-president

By KELLY WINTERS
News Herald Staff Writer

George Fouts, executive vice-president at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, will leave that position July 1 to resume teaching English at the college.

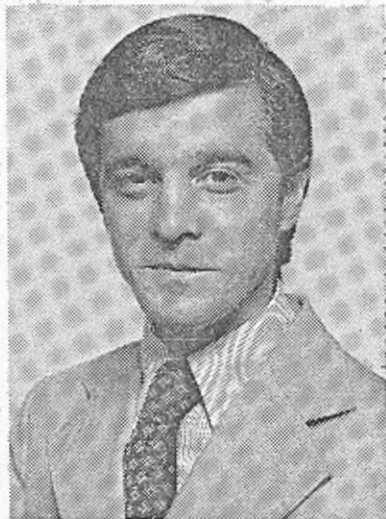
Jim Richardson, president of the college, announced the decision to the college's academic deans Tuesday.

"Jim (Richardson) and I have been talking about this for four or five months," said Fouts this morning. "I have wanted to go back to teaching for some time now, and when a position came open to begin July 1, we decided that it was the right time to do it."

Fouts said he felt that he had made all the contributions that he could to the college as executive vice-president.

"I was a full-time teacher here until 1981, when Jim came to the college," said Fouts. "He asked me to serve as vice-president for academic affairs in 1981, and at that time we projected several things that we wanted to get done. In 1983, I became executive vice-president, and we again talked about certain things that we wanted to get done."

"I feel that those plans have been accomplished, and I appreciate the time that I have had at Western Piedmont in those positions. I am also grateful for the opportunity to



George Fouts

go back into teaching."

Fouts will resume teaching as an English professor July 1 and will continue as executive vice-president until then.

Richardson said that he must talk with the college's board of trustees before beginning a search for a new executive vice-president.

"I really can't comment on it at this time because I haven't had much of a chance to think about what we're going to do with filling the position of executive vice-president," said Richardson.

"As for George going back to

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teaching, I feel it is time to honor his request," said Richardson. "I think teachers get a lot out of the interaction between them and their students, and George's first love is teaching.

"When he first started here as an administrator, we discussed what we wanted to accomplish and made some future plans, such as broadening program offerings to service this area, developing a planning and evaluation process, which we didn't have at the time, and a way of maintaining quality."

"I feel, and George does also, that we have achieved those goals. Since 1983, we have established 18 new programs, enrollment has increased 33 percent and plans for the learning resource center are in the works.

"It's time for us to honor his request of going back to teaching. We're not really losing him; he's just going to be doing something different at the college. We're delighted that he's going to be staying with us. I'm supportive of whatever he wants to do, because everything that he does he does well," Richardson said.

"He's done a tremendous job for us as executive vice-president, and I know he'll do the same as a teacher here," he added.

Born in Thomasville, Fouts joined the Western Piedmont staff in 1973 as an instructor in English and philosophy. He later became director of the Division of English and Social Sciences.

He served in that position until 1981, when he was appointed vice-president for academic affairs by then executive vice-president Richardson. He then filled that position when Richardson was appointed president of the college in 1983.

Fouts' educational background includes graduating magna cum laude with a degree in philosophy from Catawba College and receiving a master's degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He was also one of 22 people from across the nation who attended an institute on writing at the University of Iowa in 1979.

Fouts is a member of four North Carolina associations: the Association of Instructional Administrators, the Association of Colleges and Universities, the Conference of English Instructors and the Association for Developmental Studies.

He is also an active member of the Morganton community being involved in the Morganton Rotary Club, the Morganton Chamber of Commerce, the Burke Arts Council and several other local organizations.