



Legacy of Excellence

A continuing history of
Jesuit and Mercy higher
education in Detroit

By
Herman J. Muller, S.J.
Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM
Shari S. Cohen




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Legacy^{of} Excellence

A continuing history of Jesuit and
Mercy higher education in Detroit

 Advancing the U of D Legacy –
University of Detroit, 1978-1990
by Herman J. Muller, S.J.

 A Diadem for Detroit – A History of
Mercy College of Detroit, 1966-1990
by Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM

 University of Detroit Mercy – Renewal
and Change for a New Century
by Shari S. Cohen

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The vision of the Jesuits and the Sisters of Mercy who founded their colleges in the city of Detroit in the 19th and 20th centuries continues to form the foundation of the University of Detroit Mercy today. UDM has proven to be a worthy successor for the heritage of these founding institutions, and indeed, for the vision of the orders of Ignatius Loyola and Catherine McAuley. If these two founders were to visit UDM today, they would certainly find some of the modern incarnations of this University to be perplexing. But one thing is certain—they would recognize the character of the education provided here. In essence, it remains their education, producing leaders grounded in their values.

The turn of the 21st century was a time of significant celebration at UDM. The year 2001 marked the 60th anniversary of the heritage of Mercy College of Detroit (1941) as well as the Tricentennial celebration of the city of Detroit (1701). The following year, 2002, was the 125th anniversary of the Jesuit educational tradition in Detroit that began with the founding of the University of Detroit in 1877. Celebration of these auspicious anniversaries led to discussion of the best ways to recognize and retain these significant moments for generations to come.

Understanding the importance of communicating the past to illuminate the present and future, Herman J. Muller, S.J. and Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM, previously published histories of the

University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit. Recently, both authors, retired for some time but still active in many endeavors, enthusiastically took up the task of revisiting their histories, filling in the years that had passed since the dates of their original books. (*The University of Detroit, 1877-1977* was a centennial history, and *Risk & Hope: An Early History of Mercy College of Detroit* chronicled that institution's first quarter-century, 1941-1965.) For their many contributions to the people of this University, to higher education, and to the Detroit area community, emeritus University historians Father Muller and Sister Sabourin were special guests at the 2002 UDM Commencement, receiving honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

As Father Muller and Sister Sabourin were completing the histories of University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit, freelance writer Shari S. Cohen diligently researched and authored a history of the University of Detroit Mercy from 1990 to 2002. Though not an alumna of the University, Ms. Cohen clearly embraced the University's vital commitment to excellence, and this commitment is reflected in her work. I am personally grateful to all three authors for providing these histories, both for us today and for members of future generations. I am also grateful to the University alumni, faculty, staff and Board members who shared their knowledge and reflections for this project.

I hope that all of you will not only enjoy reading these histories, but that you will be renewed and inspired as you recognize the special charisms of the Society of Jesus and the Sisters of Mercy in the mission of the University of Detroit Mercy. Those charisms include respect and care for the individual student, the promotion of faith and justice, compassionate service to persons in need, and our hallmark of academic excellence. One thing is clear: Our mission, and the way we live it out, is distinctive and life-changing. Numerous men and women have dedicated themselves selflessly to the educational work of this University from its earliest days to the present. Many thousands more have earned their degrees here, and have made a great difference in their communities and the world through embodying and applying this transformative education, which integrates the intellectual, ethical, spiritual and social development of students.

Like all of you, I am very proud of my long association with this wonderful institution and the individuals—sponsors, faculty, staff,

students, alumni, friends—who have made it great. This University has been a transformative force in my life for nearly four decades now. It is an honor to serve the University of Detroit Mercy and its people.

Maureen A. Fay O.P.

Maureen A. Fay, O.P., Ph.D.
President
University of Detroit Mercy





ADVANCING THE U OF D LEGACY

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT
1978 TO 1990

BY HERMAN J. MULLER, S.J.



INTO THE SECOND CENTURY:
THE ADMINISTRATION OF
PRESIDENT MALCOLM CARRON, S.J.

Many Americans have been accustomed to thinking of violence and the taking of human life as the action of radicals, anarchists and lunatics. Americans have expected violence, over the years, from such groups as city gangs, Communist infiltrators, terrorists and so on. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, however, many Americans, faced with social, economic and political situations they could not understand, began to resort to violence in an endeavor to right what they deemed to be wrong. American college students across the country were no exception. In many cases, with evangelical fervor, they adopted a cause and were willing to use violence to see it advanced. Much of this incitement stemmed from the issues surrounding the war in Vietnam, and took the form of protests against the war itself, the draft, military recruitment and ROTC on campus. Race considerations and other campus problems also found their share of demonstrators. An ever-widening crime rate on American campuses, linked at times with drugs, only made the situation more difficult. It is no surprise that college presidents of the time faced a daunting challenge in coping with these problems. Though the University of Detroit was fortunate, escaping without any particularly serious on-campus incidents, it too had its share of

student demonstrations. The man at the helm of the University during these troubled times was its recently appointed president, Malcolm Carron, S.J.

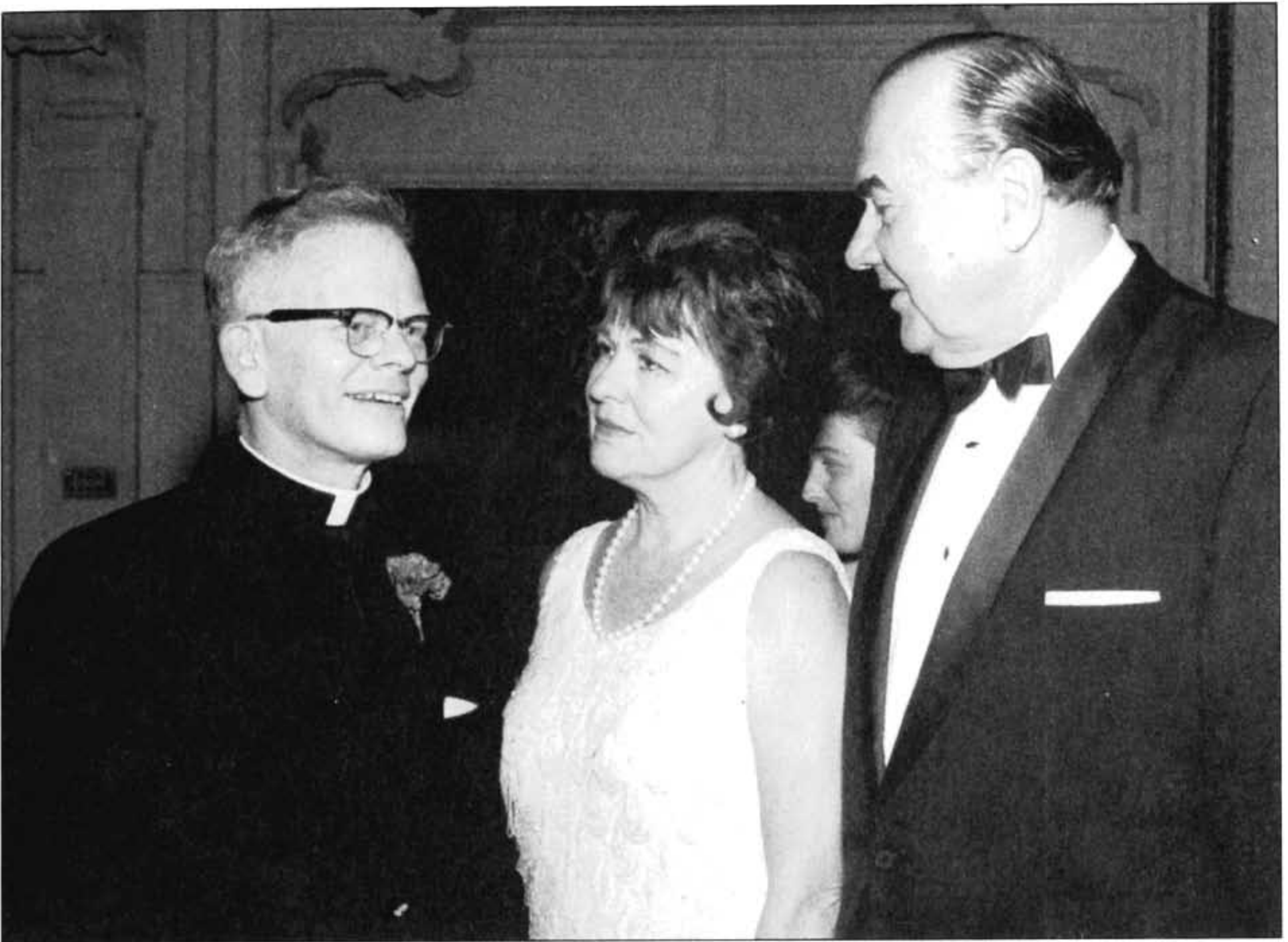
HIGHLIGHTS FROM FATHER CARRON'S EARLY YEARS

Like his three predecessors in office, President Carron was a native Detroiter. The eldest son of Harold and Florence McLeod Carron, he spent his early childhood on Pallister Avenue not far from the Fisher Building. After his first years of schooling at nearby Fairbanks Public School, and at Barbour Hall, a boarding school near Nazareth, Michigan, the next eight years of Malcolm Carron's education occurred at University of Detroit. He first attended the University of Detroit High School beginning in 1931—the year the school moved from Jefferson Avenue to its present location on Seven Mile. Beginning in 1935, he attended the University of Detroit and graduated in 1939 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He had been planning to study law at the University of Michigan, but in the fall of 1939 he found himself on the train heading for the Milford Novitiate of the Society of Jesus.¹

After three years at Milford, Malcolm Carron entered West Baden College, Indiana, where he devoted three years to furthering his philosophical studies. The next phase of his formation in the Jesuit Order included three years of regency, during which he taught English at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland. Returning to West Baden in the fall of 1948, he was soon immersed in the study of theology in preparation for his ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained in 1951 and spent the following year in the study of theology. A subsequent year in Cleveland devoted to the spiritual life concluded his period of formation.²

While at West Baden, Father Carron completed his work for a master's degree in English through Loyola University Chicago. He then gave serious consideration to working toward a doctorate in that discipline. However, at the request of the Provincial Director of Studies, he switched to the field of education. Father Carron chose the University of Michigan's three-year doctoral program, though one of the three years was spent at Cornell University, where he wrote his dissertation on the subject of cooperation between the state and private universities.

Father Carron returned to Detroit in 1956, where he joined the University of Detroit as instructor in Education and Residence Hall



U of D President Malcolm Carron, S.J., (left) with guests at his inauguration, 1966.

Director. He made an impact quickly, and certainly created a favorable impression with President Laurence Britt, S.J. As *The Detroit News* education writer Harry Salsinger noted 10 years later, “Father Britt virtually hand-picked Father Carron as his successor.”³

In 1957 Father Carron was appointed dean of freshmen in the College of Arts and Sciences; he succeeded Father Britt as dean of the College in 1960 when Father Britt became the University’s president. In 1963, President Britt named Father Carron academic vice president—the position he held for the next three years. As President Britt remarked at the time of Father Carron’s subsequent appointment as University president in 1966, “He has already dealt with most of the problems faced by a college president.”⁴

The formal inauguration of the new president on Thursday, October 25, 1966, attracted some 1,200 academic, state, civic and student leaders to the Ford Auditorium. The Most Reverend Joseph M. Breitenbeck, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit, gave the invocation. Addresses of greeting were extended by Governor George Romney, Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh, Lay Trustee Ray R. Eppert, Professor John C. Prevost, Student Government President Steven J. Wall, and Alumni President Carl H. Schmidt. Father Carron

was invested with the Office of President by the Reverend Robert J. Kearns, S.J., secretary of the Board of Trustees, who placed on him the Medallion of the Presidency. The “Charge to the New President” was delivered by William Rea Keast, President of Wayne State University. The combined University of Detroit Chorus and Alumni Chorus with the Detroit Concert Band offered a selection of musical numbers to add color to the occasion.⁵

In June 1966, *Newsweek* referred to President Carron’s dreams of his institution as “one day being a great ecumenical university.”⁶

In his inaugural address President Carron explained what he meant by this: “If the University of Detroit is to live up to its ideal of Christianizing the human intellect,” he said, “and if it is to meet the needs of urban society, it must do so in the spirit of openness, community and renewal that Vatican II has inspired.” He warned his listeners that ecumenism was not an “easy undertaking.” Outsiders might be a bit confused by its dialogue. “There may be those,” he prophesied, “who will think the University has drifted from its moorings. But do not be dismayed. The Church of the Second Vatican Council, and therefore the University encouraged and inspired by it, stands forth as ‘a sign of that brotherhood’ which not only allows honest dialogue but gives it strength and vigor.” President Carron pointed out that too many Americans living in our urban communities are a “sign of contradiction in our so-called affluent society,” since they are “ill-equipped to cope with the demands” of that society. He promised that University of Detroit students would have “increased opportunities to study and understand that man ‘cannot be man by himself.’” President Carron concluded his address by noting: “To the extent that our graduates succeed in achieving these purposes, the University of Detroit will indeed have ignited a ‘most splendid light’ in this community and in the world.”⁷

It will be to President Carron’s everlasting credit that he worked tirelessly to keep his promise to make the University ecumenical as well as urban, while at the same time preserving its Jesuit tradition.

ALUMNI SUPPORT: THE PRESIDENT’S CABINET

In 1967 a group of distinguished alumni and friends under the guidance of President Malcolm Carron, S.J., formed the President’s Cabinet. From the beginning, the three main functions of the Cabinet were “to support the institution financially, to advise the president, and to participate in the University’s social events.” Much

of the credit for its immediate success was due to alumnus Frank Stella, who served as its president for 12 years. Mr. Stella was honored in 1984 with the prestigious President's Cabinet Award for his efforts on behalf of the University.

REVISED BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND UNIVERSITY SENATE

In February 1969, the Articles of Incorporation of the University of Detroit, which had been last revised in 1941, were brought up to date and in part amended. The most important amendment concerned Article VIII, which made it possible to expand the Board of Trustees to include laymen. The Article reads: "The property, business and secular affairs and the educational affairs and policy of the corporation shall be under the control of a Board of Trustees who shall be no fewer than three and no more than 35 in number and who shall be elected or appointed and shall hold office for such length of time as may be provided, from time to time, in the by-laws of the corporation."⁸

The minutes of the Board of Trustees show that the rationale behind the above move had been evolving for several years. President Carron and his fellow Jesuits were convinced that laymen should be added to bring to the Board more expertise in financial matters and development, community relations and academic policies. A first step in this direction was taken in January 1967, when an advisory council of prominent laymen was approved by the Trustees. They were not yet Board members.⁹

A second major consideration in changing the membership of the Board was that it no longer seemed appropriate that administrators such as deans should have a vote on the Board—a common practice in the past. Perhaps more important was the danger that a Board of Trustees made up entirely of Jesuits might present the appearance that the University was controlled by the Order. With the cost of education rising significantly across the nation in the 1960s, it was apparent that government aid at various levels was imperative—and such aid might not be granted to a seemingly parochial institution. The University of Detroit, as well as other American Jesuit colleges and universities, wanted it known that in governance they were no different from other private educational institutions in the United States.¹⁰

Most important to the University's new Articles of Incorporation was the separate incorporation of the Jesuit community, which was

finalized in 1970. Since the institution's founding in 1877, the Detroit College and the Jesuit community had been regarded as a single, unified group. The Jesuits received no salary for their services, and the College supported the Jesuits when it could. During the late 1960s, most Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States had been giving serious consideration to separating the structure and administration of their Jesuit communities from the structure and administration of their educational institutions. As early as September 1968, the Trustees' meeting minutes note that the Detroit Jesuits had been considering "proposed Articles of Incorporation, by-laws and other documents relevant to the definition of their present and future relationship to the University of Detroit." The minutes then added that, since the Jesuits had "contributed so substantially" to the development of the University during the previous 90 years, the Jesuit community wanted to ensure the perpetuation of a close relationship between itself and the University.¹¹

On June 10, 1970, the Board of Trustees was informed that the Jesuit community was ready to proceed to its separate incorporation, and that this incorporation would be followed by "certain agreements between the University and the community regarding their use of Lansing-Reilly Hall and other matters." It was then moved by Louis H. Bridenstine, and seconded by Richard A. McCormick, S.J., that the Board "accept the proposed documents concerning agreements with the Jesuit Community Corporation and recommend their execution by the President on behalf of the University." The motion passed unanimously.¹²

Beginning July 1, 1970, the Jesuits were paid salaries as were their lay colleagues at the University. The money was used to defray living expenses, pay Province taxes, etc., and the remainder was largely returned to the University.¹³

The spring of 1969 witnessed the organization of a new instrument of government—the University Senate of the University of Detroit. The Faculty Council had served its purpose for about two years but it had been composed of faculty members only. It related neither to the student government nor to the administration. Moreover, it did not have the power of a full senate. The idea of such a senate was approved by the Board of Trustees in February 1968, with the proviso that parts of its proposed constitution be clarified.¹⁴

According to the finalized version submitted by the University Governance Committee, the Senate would be "the highest all-

University advisory body, bringing together administrative, faculty and student representatives.” It would have “the right to develop recommendations for presentation to the President and the Board of Trustees.” Moreover, the Senate was to have the right “to discuss and express its views with regard to any matters of general University interest, involving the welfare of the faculty, the welfare of the students, and in particular the academic operation of the University.” In the discharge of its functions it could delegate either councils or individuals to act on its behalf.¹⁵

The first meeting of the University Senate was held April 28, 1969, and continued to function for most of the following decade.

THE ADVENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT PROFESSORS UNION

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, as the University faced increasing costs and a few years of declining enrollments, the administration sought ways to increase its operating efficiency and reduce its budgets. Shortly after President Carron announced a moratorium on wage increases and granting of tenure as part of the University’s financial austerity program in the fall of 1970, a movement for unionization was initiated by the University of Detroit chapter of the American Association of University Professors. The vote to make the AAUP chapter the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for University faculty ended in November 1971, with 206 faculty members against and 168 for the AAUP proposal, with 35 additional votes being contested. In this election, part-time faculty members were permitted to vote.¹⁶

In February 1973, the question of unionization again emerged at the University. An election was held October 12 that year, but official NLRB certification of the election was not forthcoming until March 18, 1974. The final tally, according to the Detroit Regional Director, was 235 votes against unionization, 114 votes for the AAUP proposal, and 32 votes for the University of Detroit Society of Professors.¹⁷

The third stage in the move for unionization came in the spring of 1976. A situation was forming within the University that caused considerable alarm among many faculty members. On February 15, 1974, some 300 faculty were informed that their individual contracts would be renewed on a conditional basis only. Dean of Faculties

Henry Maloney claimed that this action was necessary because further study might determine that a “minimal number may have to be released.”¹⁸ The 34 terminations that followed led to new faculty thinking regarding a union.¹⁹

Although only 205 faculty members were eligible to vote, 219 votes were cast. Thirty-five of these were challenged. With part-time faculty members not permitted to vote, the count showed 98 for the University of Detroit Professors Union, 7 for the University of Detroit Collective Bargaining Agency, and 79 against any form of unionization. It should be noted that the Schools of Law and Dentistry did not vote in this election. The votes were counted May 4, but the results were withheld pending the outcome of the challenged votes. No date was set for the hearing. A majority was needed to determine the outcome.²⁰

Meanwhile, an important change in University administration took place in February 1976. In a letter to faculty, administration and staff, President Carron announced that, in accord with the Budget Planning Committee’s suggestion, an executive vice president would be appointed to assist him in administering the internal operations of the University. President Carron suggested Walter F. McCanna, who had held a similar administrative position at Marquette University, for the new position, and the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation. Beginning February 23, 1976, all major administrative offices at the University were to report to Dr. McCanna, who would then report to President Carron.²¹

A letter from Dr. McCanna to the University Community dated April 19, 1976, pointed out a serious budget problem. The student enrollment report in the fall of 1974 listed 8,879 students. The report for 1975 listed 8,263 students. The projection for 1976 was as low as 7,674 students. The Budget Planning Committee for 1976-1977 had assumed an enrollment of 8,000. If the number actually dipped to 7,674, the revenue shortfall would be \$550,000. Dr. McCanna urged the faculty to do everything possible to retain students. In the end, Warren Cerrone, assistant dean of the College of Engineering, reported a 2.5 percent increase in September 1976, making the total enrollment 8,368.²²

With union affairs finally resolved, the first day of negotiations between the University bargaining team and the union took place in mid-July 1976. A letter from Dr. McCanna to the University community, dated September 14, lists both teams. The UDPU was

represented by faculty members Carleton W. Smith, assistant professor of Sociology (chief negotiator); Seymour Cuker, director of Electrical Engineering Laboratories; R. Garland; K. Gobel (Michigan Education Association); Gene Montague, professor of English; and Donald K. Pemberton, assistant professor of Economics. The School of Dentistry and Law were not part of the bargaining unit, so they did not participate. The University bargaining team was represented by R. A. Maxwell (chief negotiator); Vaughn Adams, assistant professor of Philosophy; Colleen Dolan-Greene; D. C. Hunt, dean of Cooperative Education, Career Planning and Placement; and Terrance J. Kosky, lecturer in Accounting.²³

The areas for discussion included:

1. employee rights,
2. school calendar and contract year provisions,
3. working conditions, including safety considerations,
4. grievance procedures,
5. hiring, promotion and seniority provisions,
6. structure for compensation,
7. workload provisions,
8. student evaluation program controlled by the union,
9. sick leave,
10. union shop and union dues provisions that would make union membership mandatory,
11. terminated faculty provision (which would return those terminated for financial exigency),
12. reduction in personnel, seniority and recall provisions concerning layoff and recall,
13. recognition and union rights, provisions covering relationships between union and University.²⁴

A vigorous disagreement between the union and the University followed. The union felt that the bargaining should have been concluded by Thanksgiving Day 1976. In early December, members of the union staged an "informational picket line" to protest what they believed was stalling on the part of administration. Some 50 faculty members took part in the demonstration. To counter, University bargaining team member Colleen Dolan-Greene reported that in the case of a new union asking for its first contract, national figures showed that, on average, a period of 10 months was required for initial negotiations. She felt that a round-the-clock, 24-hour bargaining session, such as the union requested, would be counterproductive.

“You’ve got to do your homework,” she noted.²⁵

Considerable progress was made during the Christmas break of 1976. Then, in early February 1977, the UDPU announced that a strike was a possibility. The main controversy slowing negotiations was the layoff issue, which still raged in mid-February. In late February, the union again threatened to strike. A contract agreement was finally reached with all issues resolved after a long continuous meeting, March 10-11.²⁶

FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

In the spring of 1967, President Carron had announced that plans were being completed for a new dormitory complex. Within the previous five years the University had been compelled to turn away many qualified out-of-town students because of lack of adequate dormitory facilities. The new complex was to be composed of five buildings. Four of these, arranged in a quadrangle, would house 128 students each. The fifth unit at the center of the hub was planned as a commons building with lobby, lounge, games room, chapel, TV room and multipurpose room. The four dormitories were to be connected with the commons by an underground corridor. The beauty of the arrangement was that, since the four dormitories were separated, they could be used for men or women depending on need. The architectural firm for the new complex was Gene Paulson and Associates, the same firm that designed the Ford Life Sciences Building.²⁷

Ground was broken for the Quadrangle or “Quads,” as the complex was called, on October 5, 1967. The Quads were expected to be completed by August 1968, but it was a year later that students were first able to move into the new units. The Quadrangle was dedicated by President Carron on October 23, 1969. The cost of the new complex was approximately \$3.2 million.²⁸

In January 1968, it was announced that Mrs. Alfred J. Fisher, Sr., had donated her beautiful home in Palmer Woods to the University. Until the time when the home was sold in 1975, the “President’s House,” as it was called, was used for faculty meetings, student gatherings, and various high-level University functions. Unfortunately, zoning considerations somewhat curtailed the use of the residence. When President Carron first learned of the gift, he remarked: “The continued generosity of the Fisher family to U of D has been an inspiring vote of confidence in the works of this University.”²⁹

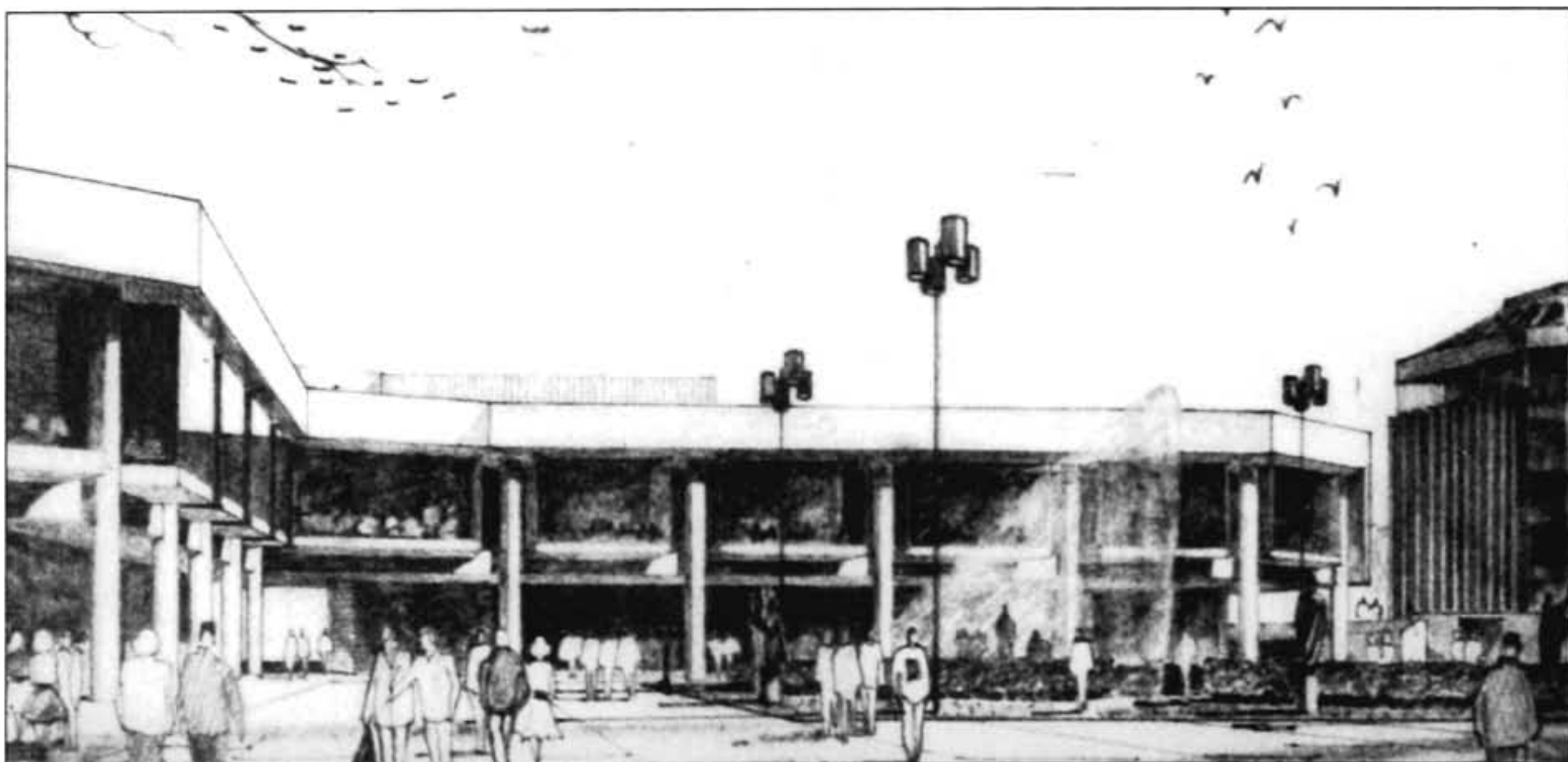


A new dormitory complex, the Quadrangle or "Quads," was opened in fall 1969.

The continuing generosity of the Fisher family to the University was evident again the following fall when Dollie Fisher (Mrs. Lawrence Fisher) bequeathed an estimated \$6.5 million to the University. At its December 1968 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to use \$2.4 million of the gift to finance the new food-service facility—a large addition to the Student Center building. The remainder was to be made available as an interest-free loan to the Current Fund, to help bolster the cash position of the University, and to reduce the need for short-term bank borrowing.³⁰

Ground was broken and construction was begun for the Student Center addition in November 1968. The three-floor, air-conditioned addition is attached to the original Student Center on the north side. The second floor, which is cantilevered over the first, forms an arcade on the Fisher Square side. It originally had three dining rooms, two of which had a capacity of 414 students each, and a third a la carte service room for 110 students.

There is a 5,000-square-foot lounge at ground level with a gallery connecting it to the original Student Center. The basement level contains space for student activities, and originally contained space for a



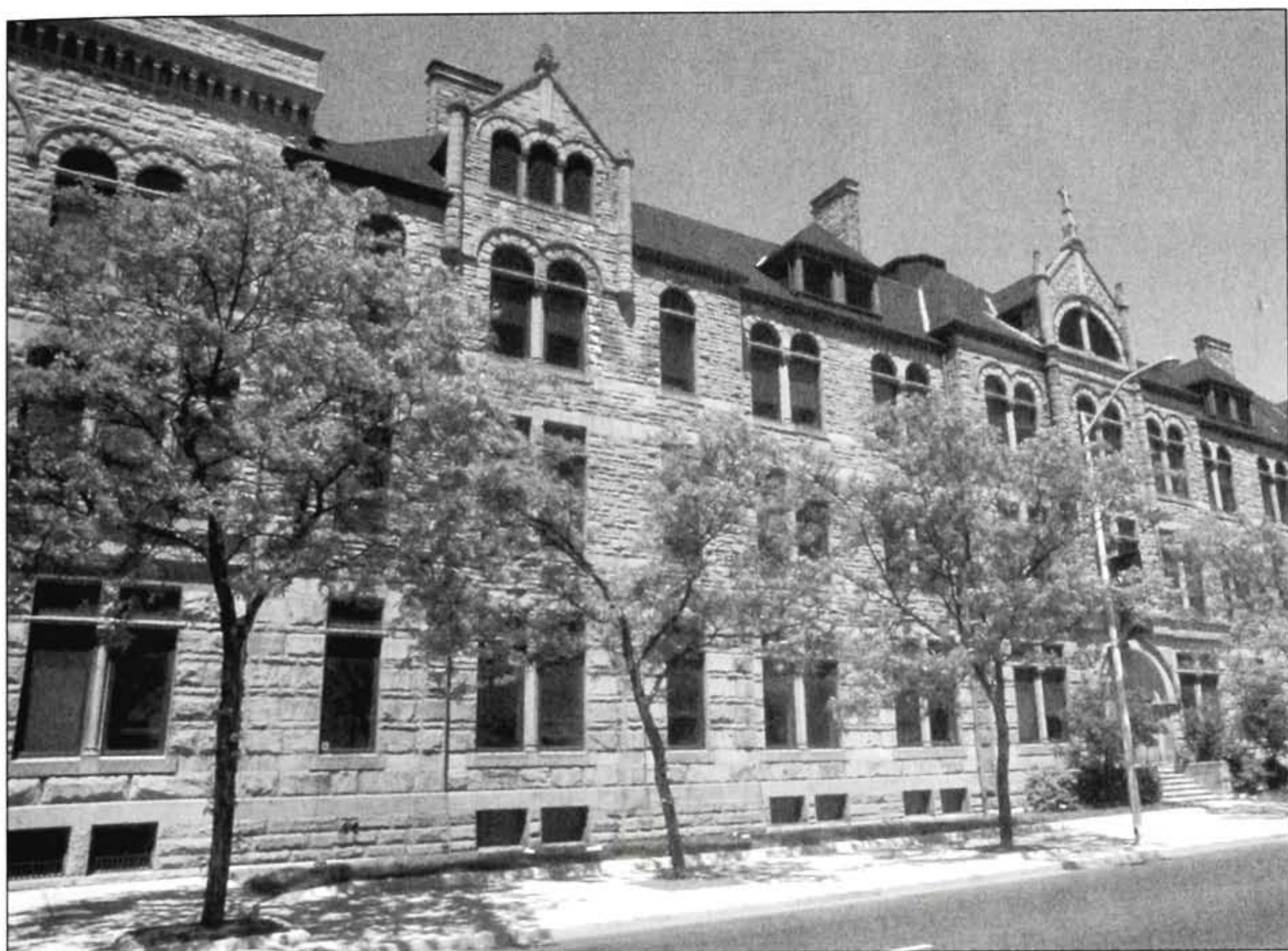
Artist's view of the proposed Student Center.

faculty club. Today, the Student Center serves students with enhanced facilities including a bookstore, credit union, game room, TV room, computing lab, instructional services lab, the International Student Services office, the Leadership Development Institute office, the Dean of Students office, a post office and shipping center, a coffeehouse, dining facilities, lounges and space for a variety of meetings and activities. The grand opening of the new Student Center was celebrated December 1, 1970, with a candlelight dinner for the students. As the *Varsity News* remarked, it was “a meal that must have shot the entire December budget for food.”³¹

THE PSYCHOLOGY CLINIC

Many other campus-area improvements and expanded services were undertaken during this time. The Psychology Clinic on campus, for example, originally dates back to September 1966 when John Muller, associate professor of Psychology, first set up a pastoral counseling program for Protestant and Catholic clergymen. A small house on Petoskey served as the clinic until April 1970. Then, with the addition of a marriage counseling program, and M.A. and Ph.D. programs in Clinical Psychology, more spacious quarters became imperative. In December 1969, the University Board of Trustees approved the purchase of the University Office Plaza at 17350 Livernois, just north of McNichols, “for \$135,000 to \$145,000.”³²

With the opening of the new clinic, the University soon developed one of the best programs of its kind in the country. It was a



Dowling Hall houses the School of Law on Jefferson Avenue.

fully professional clinic, with students providing counseling under the close supervision of instructors in the Psychology Department or other community professionals. The clinic averaged about 130 clients at a time.³³

The Psychology Clinic's ongoing commitment to excellence was partially a legacy of the work of Charles A. Weisgerber, S.J., who died in January 1977. Father Weisgerber had set up the first psychological service center at the University of Detroit. He worked with children at the Sarah Fisher Home before the University had its own clinic. He served as chairman of the Psychology Department 1953 to 1964, and as acting dean of the Graduate School until 1958. He also served on the University's Board of Trustees.

LAW AND BUSINESS

The continuing standard of excellence at the University included many other programs throughout the institution. One example was the School of Law. "For those who use the law as a stepping stone to political careers, University of Detroit Law has been particularly successful," said the editors of *Time* magazine in 1971.³⁴

This statement has proven true throughout the years. Similarly, in the early 1970s at the School of Business Administration, “More part-time students [were] taking business courses at the University of Detroit than at any other college or university in Michigan.”³⁵

Unfortunately, the building that housed both the Law school and the Evening Business program had become entirely inadequate. The building was as structurally sound and attractive as when it had been completed in 1890. But after 80 years of changing pedagogy and student requirements, library space was meager; lighting, plumbing and heating were poor; eating facilities, bookstore, offices and parking were all inadequate.

In March 1973, President Carron announced that the University was ready to build a new 32,000-square-foot law library and at the same time undertake an extensive remodeling of Dowling Hall. He also announced that The Kresge Foundation had contributed \$1.5 million, the estimated cost of the new library, while the McGregor Fund, the Hudson-Weber Foundation, and James T. Barnes, Sr., chairman of the fund-raising drive, had also played major roles in funding the reconditioning of Dowling Hall. Additional funds had already been committed by other friends, foundations and companies. By March 1975, these latter gifts totaled almost \$4 million. The estimated cost of the new project was \$5.4 million.³⁶

On Saturday, January 21, 1977, when the University’s newly-named Renaissance Campus was dedicated, the total cost of the project, including work on SS. Peter and Paul Church, came to \$7.2 million. More than \$3 million of the Dollie Fisher gift was used to cover the additional cost of the Law School library and renovation. For the dedication, School of Law Alumnus Thomas G. Kavanagh, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, delivered the keynote address.

Located a few hundred yards down Jefferson Avenue from the Renaissance Center, the University’s downtown campus was in a very advantageous position. As Henry Ford II, Chairman of Detroit Renaissance, said: “The restoration and expansion of U of D’s Law and Business School facilities will add to the vigor of downtown Detroit. I’m pleased that the riverfront development and the University will be neighbors on Jefferson for many years to come.”³⁷ The grand opening of the Kresge Law Library and the renovated Dowling Hall were planned to coincide with the University’s Centennial celebration.



The U of D Tower underwent a cleaning in 1977.

Around the same time, in the fall of 1977 the University of Detroit Tower was cleaned to be a “symbol of campus hope.” The work was completed by the D. D. Thayer Company, using a technique known as “wet-sandblasting.” The Tower was then coated with a chemical to reduce absorption into the stone, which has helped the Tower remain in good condition for the past quarter-century.³⁸

ACADEMICS, 1966 TO 1979

The decade of the 1960s is sometimes referred to in American education as the decade of curriculum change. The particular task of undergraduate education has always been to establish a healthy balance between

depth and breadth. Generally speaking, American universities have tended to stress the latter, while English and European schools stressed the former. At the University of Detroit, the 1960s were marked by constant study of the curriculum. At the decade’s conclusion, changes were made that would have been expected during that era, but in a few cases, the changes were very much unexpected.³⁹

In the mid-1960s, Jesuit deans and vice presidents from across the nation met to discuss current trends in education, and to decide whether and how Jesuit colleges and universities might address these general trends. The effect of these meetings was first felt at the University of Detroit in the spring of 1968, when the Philosophy requirement was reduced to nine hours. While there would be three required philosophy courses—introductory, metaphysics and ethics—professors would no longer be restricted by departmental guidelines in conducting them. The intent was that students would have the best selection of courses by consulting the professors’ published syllabi.⁴⁰

While theology requirements remained at nine hours for Catholic students, the courses were no longer regimented; students had more options. Within a few years, the number of available courses in the department rose from five to 25.⁴¹ For the particular benefit of non-Catholic students, some courses were taught by Jewish and

Protestant scholars.

In February 1968, Dean of Arts Paul Conen, S.J., announced that a change would be made “from a College or common degree program to a more major or departmentally-oriented program.” Henceforth, each department would set its own degree requirements with the approval of the College curriculum committee. The intent was to create a better coordination between major and non-major, or cognate, courses. At the same time, a pass-fail system was approved in Arts and Sciences whereby a student with a 2.5 grade point average could choose up to 16 hours on a pass-fail basis. Students could then take courses in Hebrew, modern languages, chemistry and other subjects in which they might be interested but in which they had little background, without unduly jeopardizing their scholastic record. They were required to designate such a pass-fail choice at registration.⁴²

In 1970 under Dean John Mahoney, the College of Arts and Sciences was organized into four divisions: (1) Letters and Creative Arts (English, Journalism, Language and Linguistics, Performing Arts, Radio-TV); (2) Thought and Culture (Art and Music History, History, Philosophy, Religious Studies); (3) Natural and Theoretical Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics); (4) Social and Behavioral Studies (Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology). Candidates for the bachelor’s degree would undertake an in-depth study of one subject and at the same time achieve “meaningful exposure” to all four faculties.⁴³

Unfortunately, “meaningful exposure” was not clearly defined. A student, for example, in sociology, could graduate without a single course in philosophy or theology. One factor expected to prevent such an outcome was market competitiveness (i.e., students would be attracted to well-rounded, comprehensive and rigorous academic programs, which would encourage departments to require a comprehensive program, thus leading to highly-qualified graduates). Advisors were also expected to ensure that students’ intellectual diet would be well-rounded.

During this time, a number of special projects punctuated the University’s curricular programs. The University of Detroit became well-known for its open-door policy for veterans in the early 1970s. Project Veteran waived admission requirements and featured special counseling and individually-designed skills courses. To be accepted, a veteran needed only to demonstrate successful completion of high

school requirements, and strong motivation to succeed in college.⁴⁴

A WXYZ radio editorial called Project Veteran a “good move” and asserted that the University “should be recognized for its attempt to help the GI get through school.” At the same time, the editorial cautioned the University “to exercise rigid control over high academic standards” in the course of the program, since no graduate would benefit from a diluted diploma.⁴⁵

On April 15, 1968, a Special Projects Office headed by James W. Woodruff, assistant professor of Education, was established as part of the University of Detroit’s “continuing effort to meet its urban commitment toward the peaceful solution of some of Detroit’s more crucial educational problems.” The Special Projects Office was instrumental in developing nearly a dozen projects and programs designed to meet the needs of high-risk youth who had the potential to succeed in college, but who might otherwise have been neglected.⁴⁶

Particularly successful was the Project 100 program. Project 100 grew out of the University’s Aim High Program, which had been initiated in the summer of 1967, administered by Lawrence Green, S.J., director of Neighborhood Relations and assistant dean of the School of Architecture. Aim High consisted of a non-residential, six-week summer session followed by a four-day-per-week academic year program. It was meant for high-ability, low-achievement high school students and emphasized remedial instruction and counseling. Like Aim High, Project 100 was also intended for high-ability, low-achieving students who would normally not have been able to obtain a college education due to academic or financial difficulties. After a six-week session in the summer of 1968, 100 Project students were enrolled as full-time freshmen at the University of Detroit. During the year these students were assisted by a staff of academic counselors, tutors and study-center coordinators. Initially, the Project was supported by funds from the Holden Foundation and from New Detroit Inc. It also received federal funding between 1968-1978. Since 1978, the University has financially supported the program.⁴⁷

On the occasion of the graduation of the first Project 100 students, the *Detroit Free Press* pointed out that, while at the University of Detroit and colleges generally, only 50 percent of entering freshmen graduated, 62 of the original Project 100 students were soon to receive their degrees.⁴⁸

When Aim High was discontinued in 1970, it was replaced by the

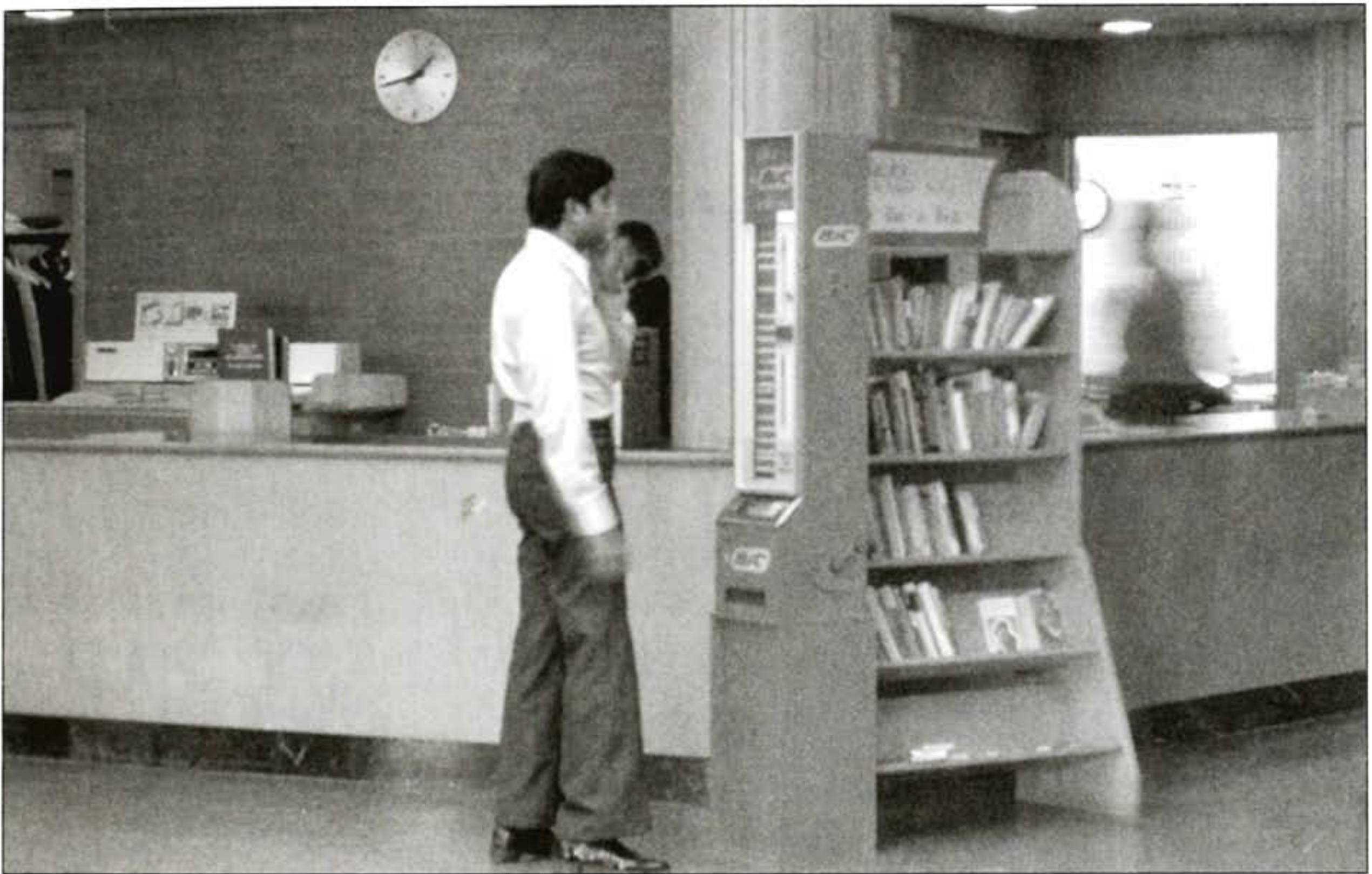
Detroit College Opportunity Program, which was designed to provide remedial assistance, counseling and academic stimulation, particularly for high school seniors. The program offered a six-week summer session prior to students' senior year, along with a 39-week program during that year. The University of Detroit also provided space and facilities, in coordination with Wayne State University and Marygrove College, for the federally-funded Upward Bound Program. From 1970 to December 1975, the University participated in the Career Opportunities Program, which was established to "foster increased levels of employment for adults and paraprofessionals and increased involvement of community persons in school community affairs."⁴⁹

Other programs administered by the Special Projects Office included Project 50 B.A., to prepare minority students in the business professions; a Pre-Professional Project; a Dental School Recruiting Program; a Fourth Grade Parent-Teacher Leadership Training Program; and a National Summer Youth Sports Program, a facet of the President's Physical Fitness Program.⁵⁰

The freshman class of 1971-1972 was labeled "Microcosmic" by the Planning and Priorities report of the University. The class ranged from less-qualified Arts and Sciences students who had responded to a Come-As-You-Are campaign, to honors students at the top of their class. In between were special groups such as the Project 100 students. The Arts and Sciences faculty headed by Dean Thomas Porter, S.J., responded by developing a more "student-centered" curriculum, which included (1) a broader selection of introductory and lower-division courses, (2) a "unique writing program with testing, diagnostics and tutorial services," (3) courses in mathematics ranging from introductory to calculus, and (4) a Religious Studies department newly structured to include courses for the added influx of non-Catholic students.⁵¹

In 1973, in a concerted effort to obtain increased enrollment by top high school graduates, the University initiated the Insignis Program. The program, which continues today, has been highly successful. To compete for one of the 10 full tuition Insignis scholarships, a high school student must be in the top 10 percent of his/her high school graduating class and among the top five percent nationally in college test scores. Applicants who meet these qualifications are interviewed and evaluated by faculty members. Ten winners are awarded a four-year, full tuition and room scholarship. A number of

Insignis finalists, not among the top 10, receive a half-tuition scholarship. Approximately two-thirds of individuals awarded partial Insignis scholarships have enrolled at the University to date. The impact of the Insignis scholars has been very evident. As one way of challenging high-ability students, the faculty has cooperated in developing various cross-disciplinary programs, especially with regard to introductory courses. Today, interdisciplinary programs are pervasive in the University's curriculum.



The circulation desk at the McNichols Campus library, 1970s.

LIBRARIES

A central component of any university has always been a strong library. Student use of the libraries at the University of Detroit is an indication of the continuing importance of library resources. For example, the average student checked out about 15 books from the library in 1960, a figure that increased to 20 books in 1970. During this same decade in the main library alone, 158,000 volumes were added, comprising more than 50 percent of the books available to the students. More than 350,500 patrons went through the library turnstiles in the academic year 1974-1975, withdrawing 107,711 books and periodicals. This does not include books consulted but not withdrawn in the library—obviously a very considerable number. To accommodate the students' growing needs, the number

of professional librarians rose from 11 to 18 in the 1960s; supporting library staff rose from 20 to 28, and student assistants rose from 30 to 55.⁵²

During this time, the library significantly improved the accessibility of its resources by implementing the Library of Congress cataloging system. The library also endeavored to provide the best in photocopying for its faculty and students, installing new Xerox copying machines for the first time in 1961. The library was the first in the city to install a Xerox Microprinter for its growing microfilm and microfiche collection. In the summer of 1975 the Educational Materials Center, established in 1961, expanded to become the Library Media Center. In addition to the original E.M.C. materials, the Media Center housed an audio-visual center for faculty. The Center also set up a 60-seat classroom where equipment for showing films or slides or listening to records or tapes was made available.

The library also implemented new security measures in the early 1970s. The annual cost of replacing materials not properly checked out at the circulation desk had risen to \$15,000 by 1973. That year the main University library installed an electronic screening device as a book-theft detection system. Losses diminished significantly thereafter.⁵³

Much credit for the progress of the University libraries in the years mentioned is due to Director Robert Kearns, S.J., Associate Director Kathleen Uniechowski and their dedicated staff of professional librarians. During the period of 1976-81, Director of Libraries Gary Denué implemented a new organizational structure and established a collection development program that designated a faculty member liaison from each of the academic disciplines to work with the librarians in the selection, evaluation and weeding of libraries collections. The University Libraries made great strides into the world of technology with the automation of numerous internal functions, the development of an online catalog of titles owned by the libraries, as well as online indexes, abstracts and journals. To support student leisure interests, best seller, paperback book, music and video collections were developed. The McNichols Campus library was renovated to create a more welcoming study environment.

More recent accomplishments in the University's libraries are due in large part to Dean of University Libraries Margaret E. Auer, who first came to the library in June 1961. She became Director in 1981 and Dean of Libraries in 1992. She earned several awards, including

the Michigan Library Association Librarian of the Year award and the Wayne State University Library Science program's Distinguished Alumna of the Year award. In 2001 she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Library Association. The award, which is presented as "a true honor recognizing outstanding lifetime achievement in the field of librarianship and active participation at the local and state level,"⁵⁴ is presented only upon approval by special nomination. At the time the award was presented, Margaret Auer was the only practicing Michigan librarian to have earned the honor.

A NEW CONSORTIUM AND THE GROWTH OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

Although some reciprocity between the University of Detroit and the other Detroit area Catholic colleges had been in existence for a long time, a formal consortium between the schools did not materialize until January 1971, when Eugene F. Grewe, professor of English at the University of Detroit, was appointed coordinator of the consortium. As Dr. Grewe explained: "The consortium consists of an agreement among nine Catholic colleges and universities in the metropolitan Detroit area, whereby a student enrolled in any one of these schools may take classes at another college in the group with no tuition costs incurred other than those required by the school in which he has enrolled as a full-time student."⁵⁵

The Schools participating in the program in 1972 were Duns Scotus College, Madonna College, Maryglade College, Marygrove College, Mercy College of Detroit, Sacred Heart Seminary College, St. John's Provincial Seminary, St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake and the University of Detroit.⁵⁶

By the fall of 1971, University of Detroit consortium students were already spending 212 hours a week at Mercy College and 786 at Marygrove College. An estimated 670 students were involved in the program.⁵⁷

The basic purpose of the consortium was to forestall costly duplication of courses on the part of its members. Buses from Marygrove and the University of Detroit shuttled students back and forth for their classes. Rates of exchange for student consortium hours were computed annually by the cooperating schools, and payments were made accordingly at the end of the school year.

Between the University of Detroit and Marygrove College, there was also a strong alliance in three areas of “consolidated departments:” Art, Music and the Performing Arts. Art and Music were centered at Marygrove, the Performing Arts at the University of Detroit. Faculty members from both schools taught in the consolidated departments.⁵⁸

The success of Performing Arts within the consolidated departments was exceptional. In effect, the department by that name at the University of Detroit joined with the Speech and Drama Department at Marygrove College to form the Performing Arts Center. The Center offered a highly concentrated, professionally-oriented program leading to a bachelor’s degree of Fine Arts in Theatre. Students in this program spent two years in concentrated theatre course work. They could specialize in acting, design or direction. Typical courses in acting included scene study, acting styles, acting dynamics, voice and movement, theatre history, stage makeup, publicity and management, stagecraft, directing and dance. The two non-B.F.A. years were spent fulfilling the liberal arts requirements set by the University for graduation. James W. Rogers served as chairman and director of the Performing Arts Center until the summer of 1974. Dr. Rogers had been chairman of Performing Arts at the University of Detroit since 1968. Dominic Missimi succeeded him as acting chairman in 1974.⁵⁹

In June 1971, Marygrove began reconstruction of its traditional auditorium. By November of that year, Performing Arts had a theatre of which it could be proud. The project was conceived in the fall of 1969 while Sir Tyrone Guthrie was in residence at the University of Detroit. The new theatre was designed by Harold Thrasher, a University of Detroit master’s candidate. The students completed all the construction work—some 14,500 student man-hours of it—under the direction of Michael Huesman.⁶⁰

“The Theatre,” as it was called, an open-end, thrust-stage construction that seated 440 patrons, was designed to incorporate the best features of both the Stratford Festival Theatre of Ontario and the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, together with special features of its own. Tanya Moiseiwitsch, designer of the two theatres, remarked: “When I saw the model of your new theatre, I was filled with enthusiasm and admiration for its infinite variety of acting areas, its multiple levels and entrances, and its positive statement of a most original stage that showed careful and inspired planning.”⁶¹

Fundraising leadership for the \$140,000 project stemmed from the University of Detroit with the full cooperation of Marygrove College. The major contributor was the McGregor Fund.

The Theatre opened in February 1972 with *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. In March came *Child's Play* by Robert Marasco and in April *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. After that, as Howie Buten wrote in 1974, "The fare offered by The Theatre over the past two years has been good enough to keep the intimate theatre filled for performance after performance."⁶²

The 1975-1976 season could be considered the most successful. That year the production of *The Me Nobody Knows* by R. H. Livingston and H. Schapiro was selected as one of seven entries from 350 colleges and universities throughout the country to appear in the annual American College Theatre Festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in April.⁶³

The 1975-1976 season also witnessed performances of *Macbeth*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Inquest* by Donald Freed, *Trojan Women*, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, a revised musical version of Shakespeare's comedy, by John Guare and Mel Shapiro.

STUDY ABROAD AND THE GROWTH OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

Although the University of Detroit had sent students to Loyola University's Rome Center and had sponsored many summer credit tours, it had never sponsored a foreign study program of its own until 1968. That year Academic Vice President James McGlynn, S.J., inaugurated a Junior Year in Ireland program in conjunction with University College, Dublin (National University of Ireland). The first year, 12 students departed for Ireland under the direction of Herman J. Muller, S.J., director of the new program. The Detroit students took regular courses and tutorials at University College and, after passing their examinations at the end of the year, received full college credit for their work. They boarded with Irish families and had ample opportunity to travel around Ireland and meet a variety of people. At Christmas, a tour around Europe was a program bonus. Detroit students were invited to participate on the various athletic teams sponsored by University College and to partake in plays, debating teams and other extracurricular activities. Medical services were also provided free of charge, just as for the Irish students. After four years in Dublin, the program was moved to University College Cork, which is

part of the National University in Ireland. Students from all over the United States soon took part in the University of Detroit's Junior Year in Ireland program.

Another very important development on campus was the inauguration of the Campus Ministry program, which dated back to the mid-1960s. As President Carron pointed out, the purpose of the program was "to promote an atmosphere in which varied beliefs and competing worldviews" would be honestly represented, demonstrating at the same time that tensions and disagreements which could separate us can not only be accommodated but can be a true source of growth for all.⁶⁴

As outlined in its charter, Campus Ministry was regarded as a responsibility of everyone in the University. Thus, it was the primary duty of the Campus Ministry team "to facilitate the ministry of others," that is, of faculty, students and administrators who, in their quest for wisdom, would minister to one another as well as to the larger community beyond the University. Moreover, according to its charter, Campus Ministry should be regarded in the full breadth of religious commitment. That is, it was not only to be a pastoral or priestly ministry, but it should also be "prophetic (calling to justice), and governing (re-ordering)."⁶⁵ More specifically, Campus Ministry was responsible for "campus liturgies, pastoral counseling, renewals, prayer-groups, discussion programs and the initiation of Christian social action activities."⁶⁶

QUALITY WITHOUT ELITISM

A proposal from Executive Vice President Walter F. McCanna to the University Community dated October 20, 1978, made a plea for advancement in quality education, which he believed was in jeopardy. Dr. McCanna urged the community to make a strong effort to increase governmental and private revenues, to reinforce the Jesuit character of the University and to be committed to a core of liberal learning for all who earned a University of Detroit degree. His letter stressed the importance of factors such as an education that studies the foundations of humanity; small class sizes; maintenance of high admission standards; and so on.⁶⁷

There was significant discussion of Dr. McCanna's proposal. Some believed that strict adherence to its tenets would jeopardize the University's diversity, because some inner-city students who did not have sufficient pre-college educational preparation might not meet

the entrance requirements. Higher tuition could also disqualify a number of students. Others pointed out that the University's location and mission would not permit its development into an "elite" institution, and that the University's quality was consistently high and required no fundamental changes. Dr. McCanna held firm to his belief that the institution's long-term health required ongoing attention to quality.

The Board of Trustees noted at the time, "Today the University of Detroit chooses to deal particularly with urban problems, interracial problems, cross-culture problems, problems of justice in the city and the world." The Board was concerned that any movement toward becoming an "elite" university would militate against these considerations. Accordingly, Dr. McCanna withdrew his proposal.⁶⁸

The students, for their part, seemed to have mixed feelings about the matter.⁶⁹

A letter to Dr. McCanna from the Liberal Arts Council of Chairpersons assured him that the faculty understood the demands that repeated financial crises placed on him. They stated their willingness to help him in the decision-making process, but argued that the structure of the University at the time would not permit such aid.⁷⁰ Dr. McCanna then wrote to Chairperson Lillian Bauder asking that the Council formulate a plan for participation of faculty in University-wide policy formulation.⁷¹

At the same time, a great deal of curricular enhancement and activities focused on excellence were taking place. First, the Division of Continuing Education was established in October 1976 to expand, improve and coordinate services for the University's adult student population. The program was enlarged by Dean Robert Hasenstab during Fall 1977. Second, by Fall 1976, the *Ask the Professor* radio program, established in 1953 by Bill Rabe, was being carried by 55 stations internationally. Among these were stations in Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Radio Free Europe. Third, with the beginning of the school year of 1977, the Theatre Department was moved from Marygrove College back to the University of Detroit. Main productions would still be staged at the theatre on the Marygrove campus; a new "Studio One Hundred" was added to Shiple Hall for smaller productions. Fourth, on November 18, 1977, the first annual President's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research was presented to Paulinus Forsthoefel, S.J., professor of Biology, who had been engaged in significant research in genetics

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, 1966 TO 1979

After coaching basketball for 21 years at the University of Detroit, Bob Calihan retired in 1969 to devote full attention to his duties as Athletic Director—a position that also included the management of the Memorial Building (later renamed Calihan Hall). Bob Calihan received many awards for his ability as an All-American player and as a coach through the years. In 1971 he was named to the Chicago Catholic League Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. In August 1972 the United Savings Helms Athletic Foundation named him to its Hall of Fame for his “noteworthy achievement in college basketball.” In March 1974 he was given an Award of Merit for his distinguished coaching by the National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States.⁷²

Bob Calihan resigned as Athletic Director and was succeeded by Interim Athletic Director Dale Tucker in January 1977. As student, coach and A.D., Bob Calihan had been at the University for more than 28 years.

Coach Calihan was succeeded as University of Detroit basketball coach in 1969 by Jim Harding. Mr. Harding had coached at Gannon College and at LaSalle, and more recently had been coach of the Minnesota Pipers in the American Basketball Association. He was considered one of the best technical minds in basketball. Coach Harding’s first year at the University saw the Titans at the losing end of a 7-18 record. The loss of All-American Spencer Haywood to professional basketball at the end of his sophomore year had been a blow to the team. However, the next three years brought winning seasons to Detroit with 14-12, 18-6 and 16-9 records. Upon the completion of his contract at the end of four years, Coach Harding resigned to become Athletic Director for the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

With the coming of Richard (Dick) Vitale to the Detroit campus in the spring of 1973, “a new era of basketball excitement” struck the University of Detroit, and in fact the Motor City as a whole. When the Titans started the 1973-1974 season with an 11-1 record, including victories over Michigan, Michigan State and Minnesota, one local journalist remarked that Coach Vitale “spoke the same clichés as countless coaches before him, but somehow they didn’t seem hollow.”⁷³ Known for his recruiting ability,⁷⁴ Coach Vitale started his career at the University of Detroit by recruiting three high school All-Americans to the Titans.

Coach Vitale was a firm believer in the adage that it pays to advertise. His many public appearances on radio and television and his numerous speaking engagements led to a noticeable increase in home game attendance. His pre-season "Day with the Titans," and his Titan Roundball Luncheons during the season helped stimulate interest in the basketball program at the University. Dick Vitale had three winning seasons in his three years as coach. The pinnacle for Coach Vitale was the 1976-1977 season with a 25-4 record, culminating in a trip to the NCAA regionals. The Titans defeated Middle Tennessee in the first round and lost to Michigan, 86-81, in the second.⁷⁵

Dick Vitale resigned as head basketball coach at the beginning of the 1977-1978 season. He cited stress as a reason for stepping down. He was succeeded by David Gaines, who led the Titans to two successful seasons with records of 25-4 and 22-6. The first season ended in a NIT bid, and the second in a NCAA bid. In the NIT the Titans lost in the second round 84-77 to North Carolina State. In the NCAA tournament, the Titans lost to Lamar in the opening round, 95-87.

At the same time, women's basketball received a big boost when Sue Kruszewski was appointed coach before the 1977-1978 season. Coach Kruszewski had been very successful at Dominican High School with a 306-63 record and two state championships. In her first year at the University of Detroit, she posted a record of 18-3. In the 1979-1980 season, with a 25-8 record, the Lady Titans were ranked 12th nationally. They won the "state tournament" with victories over Michigan and Michigan State.⁷⁶

Basketball was not the Titans' only athletic highlight. In the 1960s and early 1970s the University of Detroit had two very successful club teams in hockey and soccer. The Titans competed against



Men's basketball coach Dick Vitale (1973-1977), right, makes a point to an official.

collegiate varsity teams in hockey. In the 1970-1971 season, they tied with Dayton for first place in the Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association. After losing most of their first-string hockey players, the University announced that club hockey would become a recreational sport.⁷⁷

Titan soccer teams were even more successful than the hockey team. Under player/coaches Bob Hamilton and Conrad Maitland, the soccer team was among the top in the state during the early 1970s.⁷⁸

Other extracurricular activities flourished as well. In addition to performing locally, the University of Detroit Chorus did much to spread its good cheer abroad. In the summer of 1969 the Singing Titans toured Europe for two months under the auspices of the USO. In September that year the group made an appearance at the international exposition *Man and His World* at Montreal. During the summer of 1971, the group took a five-week tour of several isolated Navy and Air Force bases in Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland and Iceland. During the Christmas Holidays 1973, the Singing Titans were one of 14 college singing groups out of 215 applicants to be chosen to entertain at various European military bases. In the course of the nine-week tour, the Titans visited Holland, Belgium, Germany and the Azores, where they sang at some 73 performances. They were accompanied by Don Large, who retired as director in 1975.⁷⁹

The debate team was also successful under the leadership of forensic Presidents Carl Marlinga, Robert Agacinski, David Paruch, Carol Egle, Marsha Dombrowski, Michael Lynch, John Cameron, Robert Fonteccio, and Ross McKenzie. In October 1966, the University hosted the First Annual Motor City Invitational Debate Tournament. Co-sponsor with the debate team was the Chrysler Corporation. Sixty teams from 33 colleges and universities took part in the tournament. The following year, 1967, 72 teams from 42 institutions participated. The 1969-1970 season was one of the finest in the history of University of Detroit debating. Among the many tournaments that year were the University of Michigan Warmup, Purdue, Ohio State, Vanderbilt, Loyola, Indiana, Notre Dame and others.

THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

On November 19, 1975, President Carron formally announced that September 4, 1976, would mark the beginning of the 100th anniversary celebration of the University of Detroit, as well as of Jesuit work in high schools, parishes and retreat houses in the Detroit area. The announcement was made at a luncheon meeting in Lansing-Reilly Hall with 55 news, public relations and advertising representatives who had formed a voluntary committee to spread the word about the University's Centennial. At the request of Walter T. Murphy, executive director, Public Relations for Ford Motor Company and chairman of the Centennial Promotion and Communications Committee, the luncheon entree was "Jesuit steak"—beef stew over cornbread, which the Jesuits ate frequently 100 years earlier.⁸⁰

Preparation for the Centennial celebration had been under way for more than a year under the direction of Centennial Coordinator Caroline Roulier, secretary of the University of Detroit and assistant to the President. In February 1975, Ms. Roulier announced the appointment of Bernard F. Landuyt, dean emeritus and distinguished professor in the College of Business and Administration, as Executive Committee chairman of the Centennial. Dr. Landuyt had been with the University for 37 years and, as Ms. Roulier pointed out, his background and experience at the University made him the "ideal person" to chair this great event. President Carron added, "Dr. Landuyt has a great talent for leadership and a wealth of academic and administrative experience. He distinguishes himself in every task he undertakes, and I am confident that he will give excellent direction to our Centennial planning committee."⁸¹

Joining Dr. Landuyt as vice chairman of the Executive Committee was Distinguished Professor Emeritus Francis A. Arlinghaus. Dr. Arlinghaus first came to the University in 1933 after completing his doctoral work in history at Harvard University. Since then four generations of students had lauded his teaching ability. Even as dean of the Evening Division in Arts and Sciences, and later as vice president for Student Affairs, Dr. Arlinghaus taught courses in late modern European history. Friends for almost 40 years, he and Dr. Landuyt provided excellent leadership for the Centennial celebration.⁸²

Other key members of the Centennial team were Edward Dowling, S.J., Centennial archivist; Joan Gartland, Centennial



President Carron cuts the six-tier cake at the Centennial birthday party, September 9, 1977.

reference librarian; Donald C. Hunt, accommodations and hospitality; Walter T. Murphy, chairman of the Promotions and Communications Committee; Theodore Walters, S.J., chairman of the Special Liaison Committee; Helen E. Kean, specific projects for the Centennial Committee; H. Harry Szmant, University mobilization; Leon Hurd, Centennial recorder; Ronald M. Horwitz, financial administration; Margaret Auer, chairperson of the Volunteer and Suggestion Committee; and Herman J. Muller, S.J., Centennial historian.⁸³

Dr. Landuyt announced that the Centennial Year—September 4, 1976, to September 4, 1977—would be marked by at least one special event each month, beginning in September 1976, with a religious ceremony at SS. Peter and Paul Church. This event would be followed later by the dedication and blessing of the new building complex on the downtown campus. Other special events would include a series of three conferences on the topic, “Education for What?” (October) and a second series on “The Challenge of Technology” (January). A variety of events would take place in November “emphasizing originality in musical and theatrical productions conceived, organized and staged by the student body.” In April the colleges of the University arranged events related to their individual disciplines. Also in April, the President’s annual Cabinet Dinner was

dedicated to the Centennial. In addition to a Centennial baccalaureate ceremony, the Newcomen Society⁸⁴ of the United States sponsored a dinner to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the University. During the summer months alumni reunions joined in sponsoring concerts, theatrics, sports and other activities. Then, as it began, the year would close with a formal liturgical ceremony.⁸⁵

As planned, the Centennial year opened officially with a solemn high Mass in SS. Peter and Paul Church on the downtown campus. A hundred clergy and 1,000 guests were in attendance. John Cardinal Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit, celebrated the Mass assisted by President Carron. A 20-voice chorus and a 20-member orchestra performed a symphonic Mass composed by Franz Schubert. A champagne reception followed in Dowling Hall.⁸⁶

In September 1976, the alumni received a formal invitation to attend the Alumni Centennial Reunion on Saturday, October 16, 1976, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn. The evening opened with Mass, followed by a reception, dinner and dancing.

The students took a very active part in "Celebration Week" as well. On November 1 they sponsored a blood drive; on Nov. 2 there was a lecture by William and Marlene Chavis; Nov. 3 was the Stroh's Superstar contest, which included a frisbee toss, bubblegum blowing competition, rope jumping and so on; on Nov. 4 the U of D debate team presented a British-style debate on "Catholic Higher Education"; and on Nov. 5, Vincent Bugliosi, author of *Helter Skelter*, discussed "Crime and Criminal Justice in America."⁸⁷

On September 9, 1977, the University hosted a Centennial birthday party for several hundred students, faculty, administrators, representatives of the Board of Trustees and various city and state officials to celebrate the jubilee's conclusion. A six-tier birthday cake with ice cream, beer and hot dogs was served to the large crowd. The end of the jubilee celebration and the start of another hundred years took place at Gesu Church, Detroit, with a solemn liturgical celebration Saturday, September 10, 1977. The celebrant of the High Mass was the Most Reverend Jean Jadot, D.D., Vatican Ambassador to the United States. Later in the liturgy John Cardinal Dearden reflected on what the Centennial year had meant for the University of Detroit. "I pray," he said, "especially that the spirit infused into the original College will continue to undergird the dynamics of this University, and be deepened and strengthened in the years to come."⁸⁸

President Carron remained as the University of Detroit's leader for two more years, stepping down in 1979. He was succeeded as president in 1979 by Robert A. Mitchell, S.J., Ph.D. Years later, the Detroit Urban League, in its 1993 "Salute to Distinguished Warriors" gave a glowing account of the work done by President Carron.

In part the salute reads: "Over the years, Malcolm Carron, S.J., has worn an amazing variety of hats. A Jesuit priest, Father Carron has served as a teacher, administrator, recruiter, fund raiser, police commissioner and civil rights leader... An exceptionally modest man, Father Carron is nevertheless proud of his efforts to integrate the University of Detroit... Bucking the trend of the time, Father Carron worked hard to break down the barriers that separated people on the basis of faith and cultural heritage. Father Carron has also contributed a great deal to the community outside the academic realm. A founding member of New Detroit, Inc. and the Michigan Biotechnology Institute, he has served on more than 50 civic committees and boards, including Boys Hope of Detroit, Vista Maria, the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, the Economic Club of Detroit and the Race Relations Council of Detroit. Whatever the challenge, this remarkable man is surely up to the task."





PREPARING FOR
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY EDUCATION:
THE ADMINISTRATION OF
PRESIDENT ROBERT A. MITCHELL, S.J.

In a letter to the faculty dated December 27, 1978, Gerald F. Cavanagh, S.J., chairman of the search committee for a president to succeed Malcolm Carron, S.J., announced the members of the committee. From the Board of Trustees were Ronald Ferguson, S.J., Frances Fuller, Roman Gribbs, Richard Measelle and Chairman Gerald Cavanagh, S.J. Representing faculty, students and the Jesuit community respectively were Lillian Bauder, Agnes Dombrowski and J. Richard Dempsey, S.J. Father Cavanagh's letter also asked for faculty input for qualifications and nomination of any suitable candidate.¹ An intensive nationwide search followed.

John A. McGrail, S.J., chairman of the Board of Trustees, announced to students, members of the University community, faculty and alumni on May 9, 1979, that the Board had named Robert A. Mitchell, S.J. president, effective August 27, 1979. Father McGrail also noted the new president's impressive credentials: former provincial of the New York Province of the Jesuits, former president of the Jesuit Conference, former president of Loyola College, Shrub Oak, N.Y., current director of Woodstock Theological Center. Father Mitchell had also served as academic dean of LeMoyne College,

Syracuse, N.Y. Father McGrail called him “brilliant, decisive,” with “an ability to bring diverse groups together to achieve a goal.”²

Robert A. Mitchell grew up in New York City, where he attended nationally-known Regis High School. He obtained his bachelor of arts degree in 1949 and his licentiate in Philosophy in 1950 from Woodstock College, Maryland. His licentiate in Sacred Theology came from the Facultés, S.J. de Louvain, Belgium, and his doctor of Religious Science from the University of Strasbourg, France.

Father Mitchell’s primary reason for accepting the presidency of U of D was, as he reflected, “because the University has a unique combination of traditional values and modern approaches to facing the problems of today’s world. Its position in the city of Detroit allows the University to be of service to the urban community. There are tremendous challenges in the changing patterns of city life. The opportunity to meet these challenges was too good to pass up.”³

President Mitchell’s inauguration took place in Calihan Hall, March 25, 1980. There was an inaugural lunch at noon, a liturgy at 3:00 p.m., and a reception from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Father Mitchell was principal celebrant at the liturgy, assisted by John A. McGrail, S.J. The Gospel and the homily were delivered by Arthur F. McGovern, S.J., professor of Philosophy. At the inauguration ceremony, the invocation was offered by Malcolm Carron, S.J. Greetings to the new president were offered by representatives of faculty, alumni, the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, the Archdiocese of Detroit, the City of Detroit, and the State of Michigan. The investiture was performed by John A. McGrail, S.J., chairman of the Board of Trustees.



U of D President Robert Mitchell, S.J. (right), with His Holiness Pope John Paul II during a visit to Rome, 1985.

In his inaugural address, President Mitchell announced that the University of Detroit would take “an innovative approach to education in the 1980s by offering students one of the most extensive career preparation programs of any university in the nation, and by reaffirming a core group of required courses to provide students with the benefits of a well-rounded liberal education.” He added that the University of Detroit would “continue to nurture its identity as a Jesuit and Catholic institution, and serve the city of Detroit in the renaissance spirit, while striving to provide students with the best education for professional life and personal fulfillment.”

President Mitchell announced the expansion of the University’s cooperative education program and the core curriculum as “cornerstones” of the new direction in education. He pointed out that the times demanded men and women “who have the ability to adapt to rapid changes in society; who can think creatively and critically; who can communicate effectively. The times demand individuals who are prepared to confront the larger questions that face mankind. The times demand students who have been prepared in the humanities.”

President Mitchell further stated that other areas of the University would remain unchanged. He emphasized the fact that the University was primarily an urban institution that had worked faithfully to serve the community, to educate its citizens and many of its leaders. “The University is proud to share in this city’s renaissance,” he said, “above all by its commitment to a renewal spirit of growth and cooperation, which is central to the life of this city.” He concluded by emphasizing that the University would continue to welcome students of all beliefs, but that “we must also be confident of our identity as a Catholic institution and eager to celebrate that identity in as many ways as possible.”⁴

An article in the *New York Times*, Monday, April 7, 1980, mentioned that President Mitchell had begun work with faculty to ensure the long-term intellectual rigor of the curriculum and its effect on the lives of the University’s 7,000 students. President Mitchell noted that sufficient emphasis on developing an “educated person with skills and interests outside work” was as important as developing skills in engineering, architecture, dentistry, law or any other professional discipline.

The article noted the difficulty for private schools in competing with large, well-funded state universities, and the declining enrollment often connected with such competition. President Mitchell was

of the opinion that the U of D could overcome this problem by emphasizing an environment that public universities did not provide. "Students can get closer to their teachers here," he said. "We are much more of a community."

The article concluded by reporting on a U of D student who had transferred from a larger state institution where he felt he was "just another number." On the contrary, at U of D, he said, "all of my professors know me. I can talk to any one of them about anything. We study the same things here as at other places, but I feel I am learning more at U of D."⁵ An article in the *Detroit Free Press* at the time mentioned that the U of D "chief" was focused on basics, and promised a "no-nonsense approach to education."⁶

President Mitchell was fortunate in having Michael P. Walsh, S.J., noted educator and administrator, as his advisor in his new position. Father Walsh at the time was academic advisor to the president of the University of Massachusetts. He had been president of Boston College (1959-68) and president of Fordham University (1969-73). When he came to Detroit, he was chairman of the Board at Georgetown University and a board member of four other universities. He succeeded John A. McGrail, S.J. as chairman of the Board at the University of Detroit.

In September 1980, shortly after President Mitchell's inauguration, an evaluation team representing the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools visited the University of Detroit. The team reacted positively to its Detroit visit and seems to have been favorably impressed by the University faculty, staff, and student body.⁷

The review concluded in October 1980. Some time later, the University received a 10-year extension of its accreditation, the longest term an institution can receive. At the time of the visitation, Sam Barone was dean of Business Administration, assisted by colleagues such as Assistant Professor of Economics Bruce Brorby, Director of the MBA Program Joseph Mansour and Assistant Director of Graduate Business Programs Jean Chesney. The College of Liberal Arts was led by Dean R. Gerard Albright, S.J. He had been a full-time faculty member since 1960 and chairman of the Biology department from 1962-1966, when he supervised the construction of the Ford Life Sciences building. He had also been active in counseling in the residence halls since 1960.

At the time of the accreditation, the North Central team, along with outside consultants and various Trustees, concluded that the

University of Detroit needed “a clearer definition of itself.” To address this need, Father Mitchell initiated a five-stage program of self-evaluation that began in September 1980. Each College was to submit an evaluative report by May 8, 1981. The reports, prepared by committee members specifically appointed to the task, were used to ensure that the University’s strategic and curricular planning efforts would remain true to its character and its mission.

EXPANSIONS AND FINANCIAL CONCERNS

In January 1981, the University received a \$1 million federal grant to expand its cooperative education program. Donald C. Hunt, dean of the co-op program, was instrumental in obtaining the grant and directed the expansion effort. According to President Mitchell, the focus of the expansion program would be to involve more students, especially those in liberal arts and other non-technical fields. Later in the same year, a \$1 million grant was awarded by the Chicago-based Kellstadt Trust to establish a chair in Marketing. Oswald A. J. Mascarenhas, S.J. was the first person to occupy the chair. Under his direction, consumer research on Detroit area market conditions, as well as studies of selected business topics of interest to marketers and consumers, were undertaken. Based on these studies, comprehensive research findings on the metro Detroit economy and consumer behavior were published.⁸

In mid-October 1981, President Mitchell addressed 225 faculty and administrators about the financial status of the University. “I am concerned,” he said, “that we have a significant deficit in next year’s budget, and that if we do not resolve it, we will be jeopardizing our future.” The fiscal year ending June 30, 1981, had shown a deficit of \$850,000. The budget for the year 1982 originally projected a deficit of \$595,000, but through careful and austere planning, this amount was reduced to about \$50,000. For 1983, the budget committee estimated a further deficit of \$2 million.

To resolve the continuing problem, President Mitchell reluctantly mentioned the possibility of faculty layoffs. However, he added that he, together with administrators, would work with “any creative idea that can prevent this necessity.” To this Norman McKendrick, S.J., vice president for Academic Affairs, added, “The last thing the University leadership wants to have to do is lay off anyone.” Dean Gerard Albright, S.J. stated: “We now have a 60-day period to explore with the union, the deans and the faculty every alternative



Colombiere College, Clarkston, Michigan, 1970.

to layoffs.” President Mitchell offered a note of hope: “I remain convinced that, if we work together, we can have a financially sound University for the long term.”⁹

While the University administrators were grappling with financial issues, the professors’ union threatened to strike. The union was pushing for pay hikes and a guarantee that there would be no layoffs. After a long negotiation, administration and union settled for a pay freeze and no layoffs. However, certain administrators were not as fortunate: At the beginning of the 1981-1982 school year, two vice presidents’ positions were eliminated, as was the counseling services department. Campus Ministry took over the responsibilities of counseling services.¹⁰

A major breakthrough in solving the University’s financial difficulties occurred when freshman enrollment rose in the fall of 1981. Liberal Arts increased from 164 to 168 incoming students; Engineering and Science from 109 to 136; Business Administration from 54 to 85; Architecture from 42 to 53. Together this represented a 23 percent increase in first-year enrollment.¹¹

In his President’s Message to alumni and friends of the University in spring 1983, President Mitchell pointed to a fresh spirit of optimism on campus. The reasons he cited included a stabilizing enrollment indicating growth; overall improvement in the University’s financial condition, the opening of the new Colombiere Campus (where the original Colombiere College was established in 1959 for the education of Jesuit scholastics, priests and brothers); improved campus security through the addition of security systems and high-intensity lighting; success of the continuing education program; and

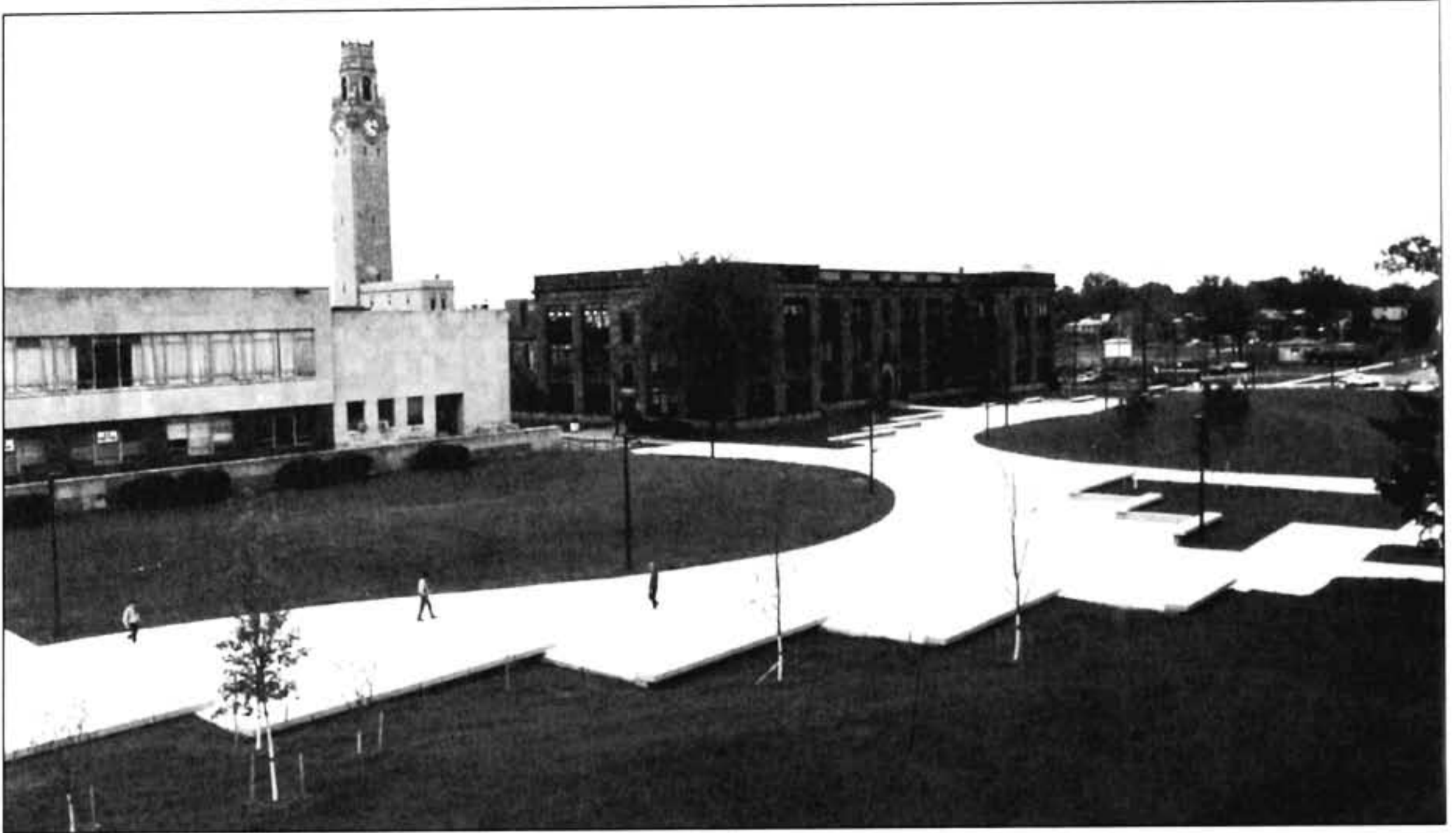
the continued development of the core curriculum. President Mitchell also noted that some weaknesses of the University were being studied and addressed, such as alumni relations, fund raising, public relations and marketing. He concluded by asking the alumni for their continued “help, support and best wishes.”¹²

The plan for the new Colombiere Campus was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 22, 1982, after evaluating market research from the previous summer. The site for the Colombiere Campus in Clarkston was also approved by the Board. The new campus was intended to stabilize enrollment by tapping a potential student market that had been beyond the University’s usual reach. Two programs were open to the students: a B.A. program in liberal arts and a B.S. in business. Students who chose the liberal arts program would also complete requirements for a business certificate; those who chose the business program would take a core foundation of courses in liberal arts. Classes would be held four days a week, Monday through Thursday. They would be taught by main-campus faculty members, 90 percent of whom had doctoral degrees in their field. The faculty-student ratio was estimated at 1 to 16. All main-campus facilities and events were available to Colombiere students. To facilitate a personal atmosphere, the freshman class was initially limited to 150 students.¹³

While the educational programs at U of D’s Colombiere Campus were consistently excellent, the campus did not enroll enough students or provide a “college-like” atmosphere and sufficient student services to support its long-term operation. By Fall term 1988, only 47 students enrolled. Eighteen Colombiere students graduated in May 1989. The University decided to close the Colombiere Campus at the end of the 1988-1989 academic year.¹⁴

CLOSING FLORENCE AVENUE: IMPROVING THE CAMPUS

In his message to alumni and friends on September 26, 1984, and again in the winter that same year, President Mitchell was very optimistic. In the fall he announced that, on April 4, the Detroit City Council had finally approved the closing of Florence Avenue after 17 years of debate. By that time, there were more than 400 cars and 40 buses per hour traversing this thoroughfare that ran through the heart of the University’s campus. The volume of traffic compromised the safety of students and disturbed the serenity of the campus environment. The closing of Florence Avenue would provide



The Lillie B. Kassab Mall was developed in the center of campus after Florence Avenue was closed to vehicle traffic, 1985.

great benefit to the University, and in turn, the University worked to ensure that its relationship with the local community remained strong. University vice presidents Nicholas DeGrazia and Peter Remington, along with other U of D representatives, worked with neighborhood residents to ensure a smooth transition to alternative routes for those who traveled by bus and car around the campus area.

The closing of Florence Avenue had more than pragmatic implications. A generous gift from the Kassab family—Charles, Esther and Harold—led to the creation of the beautiful Kassab Mall in memory of their mother, Lillie B. Kassab. This began the renewal on Livernois Avenue and the kick-off for the University's \$10 million capital campaign. It was also a catalyst for bringing together city officials and stakeholders, including Mayor Coleman A. Young, who participated in the groundbreaking for the Kassab Mall. Other changes to the campus stemmed from the spirit of renewal created by the closing of Florence Avenue: HVAC systems in campus buildings were updated, campus buildings were cleaned externally and sandblasted, and the University took a concerted look at its ongoing bricks-and-mortar needs. By October 1986 when the Kassab Mall was dedicated, other changes included the demolition of Foley Hall. President Mitchell was keenly aware of the need to invest a percentage of the University's resources in maintaining and upgrading its physical facilities, and he worked to engage alumni and community

stakeholders in this effort.

At the same time, President Mitchell announced that Daniel A. Felicetti, senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Southwest University in Washington, D.C., would succeed Norman McKendrick, S.J., as academic vice president at U of D. President Mitchell praised Father McKendrick for his services to the University. He also praised Thomas V. Angott for his leadership in the President's Cabinet, and expressed the highest regard for Richard L. Measelle and Richard P. Kughn and other chairmen of the Board, who did outstanding work on the University's behalf during his administration. He ended his message on a note of inspiration. After mentioning that alumni and friends were stepping forward in growing numbers to help the University, he added: "Their contributions of both time and funds are welcome recognition of the important role that U of D continues to play in offering an education of unparalleled value. Without the generous participation of its people, the University would be mere bricks and mortar."¹⁵

In his winter address, President Mitchell noted a slight increase in enrollment from 6,270 to 6,310, and announced that the fiscal year 1982-1983 ended in the black. The Centennial Fund drive had been completed on June 30, 1983, with \$18 million in contributions. President Mitchell also mentioned several new appointments, and noted that improvements to the University's physical plant had been initiated or completed. He ended his message by saying, "I can assure you that we will be doing all we can in the upcoming year to maintain the exciting momentum which has begun."¹⁶

This momentum was echoed in the *Detroit Free Press* on April 1, 1984. The article, entitled "Jesuit rigor helps renew U-D's vigor," was written by education writer Susan Goldberg. It began with mention of the University's many prominent alumni. It then noted that just three years earlier, the University had faced difficult times when it had to survive a succession of bank loans and a decline in enrollment. It noted that much of the decade of the 1970s had been characterized by financial and curricular uncertainty, but by the mid-1980s the University was on strong footing in every area. The article then mentioned several factors that helped this advance. First, the University was able to end its reliance on small bank loans by judicious borrowing. Also, the enrollment showed a small rise; alumni contributions rose 36 percent; the ACT test scores of incoming freshmen increased to 23 with the national average in 1983 at 18.4; the

revised core curriculum ensured the continuation of a liberal education consistent with the Jesuit tradition. “The University was setting up a challenge to attract suburban students, some of whom feared the University’s location. In this connection, President Mitchell remarked that it wasn’t the school’s location that hurt. ‘It’s what people think of the location.’” Ms. Goldberg noted that the University had “beefed up security patrols and provided more lights, intrusion alarms and closed-circuit cameras” to combat the location bias.¹⁷

RESURGENCE OF THE CORE CURRICULUM

President Mitchell placed the core curriculum high on his list of priorities. “The University of Detroit,” he said, “was founded and its reputation built on the conviction that students should be able to think clearly and express themselves; that they should have an appreciation for the mystery of being human; that they should struggle with questions of value, meaning and right conduct. The humanities and the sciences are the life blood of this University.”¹⁸

Unfortunately, like so many institutions nationwide in the 1960s and 1970s, the University of Detroit’s programmatic initiatives had the effect of diminishing the focus on its core curriculum. In the early 1980s, the core returned as a point of emphasis under the leadership of President Mitchell and Arthur McGovern, S.J., as well as other faculty members and administrators. President Mitchell was successful in obtaining a grant from the Mellon Foundation to assist in this effort, making U of D one of the nation’s pilot programs in reinvigorating its core curriculum. A specific progression in the core curriculum was required of all students who started as freshmen beginning in Fall 1983. Some changes have been made in the ensuing years, but the core’s objectives are essentially the same today as in 1983:

LEVEL 1:

Basic skills and values (beginning freshman year)

- Basic skills (basic speech, writing and mathematical analysis and technology - 6 to 21 credits)
- Basic values (introductory philosophy and religious study courses - 6 to 9 credits)

LEVEL 2:

Intermediate courses (beginning sophomore year)

- Sciences/technological literacy and further skills (courses in

the natural sciences, social sciences and technology - 6 to 21 credits)

- God and human action (philosophy and religious studies courses - 6 credits)
- Understanding cultures (courses selected from languages, art, theatre, English, history and other departments. 6 to 9 credits)

LEVEL 3:

Synthesis courses (junior and senior year)

- Understanding society and its problems (courses selected from social sciences and other departments. 3 to 6 credits)

Three credits are awarded for each course in the core.¹⁴

Other academic highlights under President Mitchell included naming Detroit poet and U of D librarian Dudley Randall as Poet in Residence in 1984 and creating the Academic Exploration Program in 1985 in order to attract “undecided” students. The University also entered into an arrangement with Macomb Community College to offer degree completion courses at the community college in September 1986; this was the precursor to MCC’s partnership with four-year universities and colleges that evolved into the University Center at MCC.

ATHLETICS AT U OF D, 1978 TO 1990

Since the days when Dick Vitale brought his particular brand of basketball excitement to U of D in the early 1970s, the men’s basketball program had enjoyed a resurgent position of prominence at the University and in the city. Vitale was succeeded as coach by David Gaines (1978-1980), Willie McCarter (1980-1982), Don Sicko (1983-1988), John Mulroy (1988, interim), and Ricky Byrdsong (1989-1993). (Byrdsong’s successor is current head coach Perry Watson, who has enjoyed significant success as the Titans’ coach.)

While the Titan basketball teams played with enthusiasm, discipline and competitiveness, they could not match the success of the Vitale era and struggled through a number of up-and-down seasons in the 1980s. In the late 1980s, the Titans’ home games were moved to downtown Detroit’s Cobo Hall, a premier venue in the heart of the city.

As part of a large metropolitan area with a tradition of sports excellence, the University twice hosted the NCAA Men’s Basketball

Division I Midwest Regional at the Pontiac Silverdome: in 1988 and in 1991.

Joining the Midwestern Collegiate Conference proved to be a good decision for the Titans teams, as the U of D athletics program began winning conference championships in 1986 (the number of championships in all sports was 20 from 1986-1999. Softball alone accounted for four of the 20 between 1987 and 1992).

At the same time, the University made a concerted effort to expand its NCAA Division I athletics program, adding women's cross-country and track and field and men's soccer in the 1980s, and women's soccer and tennis in the fall of 1993. The number of varsity sports now stands at 16: eight for women and eight for men. Women's sports include basketball, cheer, cross country, fencing, soccer, softball, tennis, and track and field. Men's sports include basketball, baseball, cheer, cross country, fencing, golf, soccer, and track and field.

THE SCHOOL OF LAW GAINS INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

When the University of Detroit School of Law was founded in 1912, Detroit was beginning to grow into the great industrial city it would soon become. Like Detroit, the law school grew up, and by the time of its 75th anniversary in 1987, it had already achieved considerable respectability. During this period, the School of Law initiated the Health Law Center and the American Inn of Courts programs. By means of its London Law Programme and exchange programs with Canadian law students and with the University of Clermont-Ferrand in France, the law school took on an international character. As Dean Bernard Dobranski remarked at the time of its anniversary: "The world is a much smaller place than it was 75 years ago." He added that, as a result of international programs, we have "a student body much better able to deal with the realities of the 21st century."²⁰

The great success of so many U of D law school graduates over the years reaffirms that the school has been highly successful.

MARKETING THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT

In his letter to the University community of March 15, 1985, President Mitchell announced the launching of a Marketing Communications program. He considered this initiative to be very

important for the University. The program was designed “to build the University’s image in the metropolitan Detroit area and to better communicate the strength of this institution to our key markets: the media, potential students, donors, opinion leaders and influencers, and the public at large.” President Mitchell felt that the marketing program would help student recruitment as well as fund raising. He announced that the program was being developed with the help of seven marketing and communications executives from the Detroit area, working with the University on a pro bono basis during the previous year. Members of the group included:

- Former trustee Anthony Franco, chairman of the board of Anthony M. Franco, Inc. the state’s largest public relations firm;
- James J. Williams, group director for Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac Division of GMC;
- Ray Leinweber, president of Gannet Outdoor Co. of Michigan;
- Barbara Bryant, senior vice president of Market Opinion Research, Inc.;
- Christina Lovio-George, president, Lovio-George, Inc., a marketing, advertising and public relations firm;
- R. Patrick McCarthy, senior vice president for a large advertising firm; and
- Saul Waldman, vice president of public affairs for Detroit Edison.²¹

The committee identified nine characteristics that distinguished the University and that should be communicated and articulated to the five main constituent groups—the media, potential students, donors, opinion leaders and influencers, and the public at large. The nine characteristics were:

- a career-oriented education with a liberal arts core,
- an urban character,
- a diverse student body,
- optimal enrollment size,
- a Jesuit, values-oriented education,
- affordability,
- a commitment to being a valuable resource to the community,
- a commitment to being a valuable resource to business and industry, and

- the success of the University's graduates.

The committee agreed that a very important component of a successful marketing communications program was internal communication. President Mitchell asked for support from the committee and from the University community. A task force had already been formed to facilitate improved internal communication. The task force would comprise three committees: a marketing/advertising/institutional platforms committee; a media relations committee; and a school/community relations committee.²²

There were various reasons for the renewed focus on marketing at the University of Detroit. The first was location—a perceived image problem, isolation of the main campus, the flow to suburbs of the institution's traditional constituents. The second was the educational marketplace—increased competition from within and outside the city. The third was financial—cutbacks in communication, increasing tuition rates, the gap between private and public schools, the struggling economy in southeastern Michigan.

The advertising slogan for the marketing program was: "For the Education of Your Life."

In advancing the University's image, President Mitchell was never hesitant to note the many longstanding contributions of the University to its city, state and region. He pointed to the four justices of the Michigan Supreme Court—Cavanagh, Brickley, Ryan and Kavanagh—who were University of Detroit graduates, the three mayors, half the prosecuting attorneys in the state, two Michigan lieutenant governors, and half the practicing dentists in the state. Industry, business, health care and education throughout the region were filled with U of D alumni. President Mitchell was proud of the fact that in the fall of 1986, education writer Edward Fiske of the *New York Times* listed the University as one of the best buys in education. Fiske selected U of D because of its "solid commitment to quality teaching and high academic standards...and its modest tuition." The University also earned top national honors from the College Advising Association "for the excellence of its academic advising program."²³

In a point of emphasis concerning the University's overall excellence, President Mitchell notified the guests at the President's Cabinet Dinner in May 1985 that the North Central Association had recommended that the University receive a 10-year extension of its accreditation—the maximum term. He concluded his address: "I am

proud, and at the same time humbled, to be the president of our wonderful University.”²⁴

President Mitchell himself had a great deal of impact on the University’s growth and advancement during his tenure. He brought and fulfilled a reputation as an active leader who built consensus through respect, integrity and empowerment. He had previously served in prominent national positions such as Provincial of the New York Province of the Jesuits during the tumultuous 1960s, and held leadership roles on the boards of Boston College and Georgetown University. In Detroit, he developed relationships with community members and business and civic leaders to benefit the city, the region and the University. He traveled extensively and spent time in the public eye to reestablish connections and ongoing communications with many alumni.

While his fiscal and administrative talents were many, President Mitchell also emphasized the importance of spirituality—both curricular and extracurricular. He was a respected theological thinker who understood the integration of spirituality into the fullness of human life. His leadership and direction at U of D were appealing to a number of other Jesuits around the nation, who then joined him at the University and added their vision, energy and substantial intellectual and spiritual gifts to the environment.

GROWING FINANCIAL SUPPORT: THE PRESIDENT’S CABINET

During the first 20 years since the creation of the President’s Cabinet in 1967, the Cabinet grew from 60 charter members to 700 members; annual giving increased during that period from \$50,000 to more than \$1 million. Perhaps even more important was the overwhelming enthusiasm for the University, which spilled over into the greater Detroit area, enhancing the University’s reputation. President Mitchell did not hesitate to avail himself of the expertise found among Cabinet members, and he worked diligently to build and maintain relationships with this group and with alumni and friends in general. The 35-member Cabinet executive committee met with him quarterly. Other officers of the University also took the opportunity to contact Cabinet members for help and advice on various occasions. The President Cabinet’s annual social in the spring and the President’s Holiday Party in December became two of the most prestigious events in Detroit.²⁵

CONSOLIDATION: THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT AND MERCY COLLEGE OF DETROIT ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

Certainly one of the most momentous decisions in the history of the University of Detroit, and of Mercy College of Detroit, was the decision to consolidate as the University of Detroit Mercy in 1990. This decision was undertaken after a great deal of study, consultation and consideration of U of D and Mercy College's mission, history and future. While the details of consolidation and its results are chronicled in the University of Detroit Mercy section of this volume, it is important to note that both the University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit bequeathed their richness of character in the educational enterprise to make the new University of Detroit Mercy an even stronger institution than its individual predecessors. The Detroit Province of the Jesuits contributed its more than 11 decades of experience in educating and serving the people of metropolitan Detroit, and the Detroit Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy contributed half a century of educational and service excellence in the city and beyond.

The consolidation of the two institutions set the University on track to accomplish the vision that President Malcolm Carron, S.J., articulated in 1977: "By the year 2000, this University should be peopled by a thriving community of students who enjoy an intense and stimulating intellectual experience as they educate themselves in the liberal arts and sciences and at the same time prepare for the business and professions which need them so badly." The University was in a unique position to manifest the Jesuit ideal, as identified by President Carron and others, to "live on the borderline where the Church meets the world and the world meets the Church, so that we may eagerly embrace the future with hopeful hearts."





ADVANCING THE U OF D LEGACY · UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT 1978 TO 1990

INTO THE SECOND CENTURY:

THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT MALCOLM CARRON, S.J.

- 1 Jean Maddern Pitrone, "Our New President," *Alumni Magazine*, Fall-Winter 1966-1967, 4-7; *Varsity News*, Oct. 19, 1966, 3-4; *Alumni News*, Sept. 1966, 2.
- 2 Pitrone, loc. cit., *Michigan Catholic*, Mar. 24, 1966; *The Detroit News*, Mar. 19, 1966.
- 3 *The Detroit News*, March 19, 1966.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 The University of Detroit Presidential Inauguration-1966 has a 16-page list of the dignitaries present at the inauguration.
- 6 *Newsweek*, June 27, 1966, 85.
- 7 The "Presidential Inaugural Address" is presented in full in *Alumni Magazine*, Fall-Winter 1966-1967, 19-21.
- 8 *Trustee Minutes*, Sept. 28, 1969-June 2, 1970, 520-521.
- 9 Ibid., Jan. 7, 1967; Cf. *Michigan Catholic*, Jan. 26, 1967.
- 10 Three laymen—Louis H. Bridenstine, Merritt D. Hill, and O. B. Hardison—were appointed to the Board of Trustees as of Feb. 7, 1970. G. Mennen Williams became a member in June 1970.
- 11 *Trustee Minutes*, Sept. 29, 1968, 420.
- 12 *Trustee Minutes*, Sept. 1969-June 1970, 706. (June 10, 1970).
- 13 Treasurer's Office, Jesuit Community, Record of Salaries 1970-1976. For some years prior to this time, the Jesuits were assigned salaries for the purpose of determining their annual contribution to the University endowment fund. There was no actual exchange of funds.
- 14 *Trustee Minutes*, Feb. 11, 1968; *Varsity News*, March 19, 1968.
- 15 Constitution of the University Senate as proposed by the University Governance Committee, Feb. 24, 1969.

16 *Varsity News*, Oct. 15, 1971, 1.

17 *Varsity News*, Mar. 26, 1974, 1; Review, Sept. 24, 1973, 1; Nov. 13, 1973, 1.

18 *The Detroit News*, Feb. 15, 1974, Sect. A, 3.

19 It is not possible to cite all the documents concerning the terminations here. Their number is substantial. In the process, the Board of Trustees concluded that a condition of financial exigency be declared. A subcommittee of Academic Affairs, chaired by Margaret E. Auer, agreed that such an exigency existed, and that the declaration of the same was motivated solely by a desire to remedy the financial plight of the University and for no other reason. Ms. Auer pointed out that the review on terminations would have to be examined by the Board of Trustees. On December 31, 1975, the Review Committee gave its report in condensed form.

This was followed by a full review of the subcommittee's findings, which included the number of full-time faculty to be released, methods of deciding which faculty should be released, criteria for decisions in each College, etc. These criteria were set at the University level by Henry Maloney, vice president and dean of Faculties, after consultation with the College deans, the University's legal counsel, and the Academic Affairs Council of the University's Senate. Considered on a point basis were scholarship, length of service, terminal degrees, teaching effectiveness, and publications. Normally the dean of each College made the recommendation for termination. This stage of the process took place December 29, 1975. The rationale for allowing the deans such power came from Henry Maloney, who felt that the dean as a professional was presumed to have the evidence necessary for such decisions. A committee that followed was not satisfied with the criteria and felt that the deans should have been assisted in this decision making. Actually there was considerable variation concerning assigning of points and quite a number of errors in the process. The Review Committee of the Academic Affairs Council reviewed each petitioner who asked for reinstatement, and several of these were subsequently reinstated. It should be noted that the Review Committee, chaired by Margaret Auer, did an exceptionally thorough job. For a full study of the above cf. Academic Affairs Council Review Committee Report. Passim. U of D Archive.

20 University of Detroit News Release, May 4, 1976.

21 Letter of President Carron, Feb. 23, 1976, U of D Archives.

22 Letter of Walter McCanna, April 19, 1976, U of D Archives.

23 Letter of Walter McCanna to University Community, Sept. 14, 1976.

24 *Ibid.*

25 *South End Reporter*, Dec. 6, 1976.

26 *Varsity News*, March 18, 1977.

27 *Alumni News*, April-May 1967, 8.

28 *Varsity News*, Oct. 24, 1969, 5.

29 *Varsity News*, Jan. 26, 1968, 3.

30 Trustee Minutes, Sept. 28 and Dec. 13, 1968.

31 *Varsity News*, Dec. 4, 1970; *Detroit News*, Dec. 2, 1970.

32 Trustee Minutes, Dec. 18, 1969.

33 Telephone interview with Psychology Clinic personnel, Thursday, May 6, 1976.

Also cf. *Varsity News*, Jan. 25, 1972, 5.

34 *Time*, Aug. 23, 1971.

35 Taken from the Twenty-third Biennial Survey of Universities by Delta Sigma Pi,

- National Professional Business Fraternity.
- 36 Review, April 23, 1973. *Today*, Oct. 1973 (special issue). News releases, March 13-14, 1973. In the summer of 1976, The Ford Fund and General Motors Corporation also presented significant contributions.
- 37 "Renaissance," University of Detroit Brochure, 12. Ground was broken for the new library on March 1, 1974 by President Carron, assisted by the Deans of Law and Evening Business Administration. Review, Mar. 1, 1974, 2.
- 38 *Varsity News*, Oct. 7, 1977, 4.
- 39 "College of Arts and Sciences Program of Studies 1970-71," University of Detroit Brochure.
- 40 *Varsity News*, March 1, 1968.
- 41 *Varsity News*, March 21, 1969, 4.
- 42 *Varsity News*, Feb. 9, and March 12, 1968.
- 43 University of Detroit Bulletin, 1970-1971, Arts and Sciences, 27-28; *Today*, July 1971, 3.
- 44 Army Times, June 3, 1970.
- 45 WXYZ Editorial, April 27, 1970.
- 46 Special Projects Office, Programmatic Review, March 14, 1972, 13.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 *Detroit Free Press*, April 23, 1972, 18-C.
- 49 Special Projects Office, Programmatic Review, March 14, 1972, 10.
- 50 Ibid. Also cf. Trustee Files, 885-892. "Synopsis: The Programs Administered by the Office of Special Projects."
- 51 Memorandum from Dean T. E. Porter, S.J. to members of the Board of Trustees, Dec. 19, 1975, 4-5.
- 52 University of Detroit Libraries 1960-1970, Special Memorandum, 3. Recent statistics come from Kathleen Uniechowski, Associate Director of Libraries.
- 53 Note to the writer from Robert Kearns, S.J., director of Libraries. Review, Nov. 11, 1975, 1.
- 54 Michigan Library Association Awards Committee release, rev. February 2000.
- 55 Review, Nov. 15, 1975, 2.
- 56 St. John's Seminary and Maryglade soon withdrew from the consortium. Maryglade students attended the University as full-time students. Since St. John's students were mostly at the graduate level, the consortium was not of much help to them.
- 57 *Varsity News*, Jan. 25, 1972, 8.
- 58 Review, Nov. 15, 1972, 2. Art and Music were discontinued as consolidated departments in January 1976. University of Detroit students taking these subjects after that date took them through the consortium.
- 59 Fact Sheet, Performing Arts Center, 1. Performing Arts, U of D/Marygrove brochure. Howie Buten, "Drama for Detroit: How Kids and Pros Made a Winner of 'The Theatre,' Detroit (*Detroit Free Press Magazine*), Sunday, Jan. 6, 1974, 14-15
- 60 Fact Sheet, 3 to 5. Buten, 17.
- 61 Performing Arts, U of D/Marygrove brochure.
- 62 Buten, 14.
- 63 News Release, Dec. 24, 1976; March 2, 1976.
- 64 Future Directions of the University of Detroit, 1971, 8. Campus ministry was first known as Religious Affairs and later as Religious Activities.
- 65 Charter for Campus Ministry at the University of Detroit, 1. Principles as in

- Report to the President and the Jesuit Community, March 1, 1976, Appendix.
- 66 Future Directions, 1971, 8.
- 67 Letter of Walter McCanna to University Community, Oct. 20, 1978.
- 68 *Varsity News*, Nov. 17, 1978.
- 69 *Varsity News*, Dec. 1, 1978.
- 70 Letter to Dr. McCanna from the Liberal Arts Council of Chairpersons, Feb. 22, 1979.n
- 71 Letter dated May 9, 1979; to Chairperson Lillian Bauder.
- 72 University of Detroit Basketball Yearbook, 1975-1976, 9. Review, Sept. 8, 1972, 2.
- 73 Sports Release, University of Detroit, April 1, 1974.
- 74 University of Detroit Basketball Yearbook, 1975-1976, 6.
- 75 Titans Basketball Media Guide 2000-2001, 115.
- 76 *The Cutout*, 1980, 44-45.
- 77 *Ibid.*, Oct. 15, 1971.
- 78 *Varsity News*, Nov. 19, 1971, 6. Nov. 14, 1972. The team was made up largely of international students who graduated that year. Interest in the sport waned in subsequent years.
- 79 *Varsity News*, Oct. 14, 1969, 11; Nov. 19, 1971, 5; Nov. 27, 1973, 7; Feb. 5, 1974, 5. 5.
- 80 Review, Nov. 24, 1975, 1.
- 81 Review, Feb. 24, 1975; *Today*, May 1975, 11.
- 82 *Today*, May, 1975, 11; Review, April 21, 1975, 1.
- 83 *Today*, September, 1975, 7-8.
- 84 The Newcomen Society is an educational foundation for the study and recognition of achievement in American Business and the society it serves. For information, see www.newcomen.org.
- 85 Review, November 24, 1975, 2.
- 86 *Tower*, 1977, 126-127.
- 87 *Varsity News*, Nov. 9, 1976. Also cf. News Release, Public Relations, Oct. 29, 1976.
- 88 *Varsity News*, Sept. 13, 1977, 1 and 4. Also see program in archives.

PREPARING FOR TWENTY FIRST CENTURY EDUCATION:
THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT ROBERT MITCHELL, S.J.

- 1 Letter, G. Cavanagh, S.J. to Faculty 12 27 78. Mitchell files, UDM Archives.
- 2 Letter, J. McGrail, S.J. May 9, 1979, Mitchell files, UDM Archives.
- 3 News Release, May 9, 1979. Mitchell files, UDM Archives.
- 4 Review, Apr. 7, 1980. Complete text of address in Mitchell files, UDM Archives.
- 5 *The New York Times*, Monday Apr. 7, 1980.
- 6 *Detroit Free Press*, March 26, 1980.
- 7 Review, Apr. 7, 1980. *Varsity News*, Sept. 24 1980.
- 8 *Varsity News*, Jan. 28 and Sept. 23, 1981.
- 9 *Varsity News*, Oct. 28, 1981.
- 10 Dear Diary, 1982, "The Year in Review," 100.
- 11 *Varsity News*, Nov. 4, 1981.
- 12 *Tower*, Spring 1983. Complete address printed on p. 3.
- 13 *Today*, Spring 1983, 9 & 10.
- 14 *Varsity News*, Oct. 19, 1988.
- 15 Copy of address in U of D archives. Mitchell files: speeches.

17

16 *Today*, Winter 1984, 2. Copy in archives, Mitchell files, UDM Archives.

17 *Detroit Free Press*, Sunday April 1, 1984.

18 *Today*, Spring 1985, 4-5.

19 *Ibid.* See the University's catalog for broader, more specific details.

20 *Today*, Feb. 1988, 75.

21 *Today*, Winter 1985-1986, 8-9.

22 Letter of President Mitchell to the University community, March 15, 1985.
Mitchell files, UDM Archives.

23 Letter to Rev. Edward, S.J., Sept. 25, 1986. Mitchell Files, UDM Archives.

24 President's Cabinet Dinner remarks, May 18, 1985. Mitchell files, UDM Archives.

25 *Today*, Winter 1987, 23-25. At the time of this writing in January 2001, the
President's Cabinet comprised approximately 1,000 members.





A DIADEM FOR DETROIT

A HISTORY OF
MERCY COLLEGE OF DETROIT
1966 TO 1990

BY MARY JUSTINE SABOURIN, RSM



DEDICATION

To the city of Detroit, with which I have had a constant love affair since 1941, and in memory of Dudley Randall, Detroit's Poet Laureate, who died August 5, 2000, and who inspired many prominent African Americans to write of the American experience.

Cities have died, have burned,
Yet phoenix-like returned
To soar up livelier, lovelier than before.
Detroit has felt the fire
Yet each time left the pyre
As if the flames had power to restore.

First, burn away the myths
Of what it was, and is-
A lovely, tree-laned town of peace and trade.
Hatred has festered here,
And bigotry and fear
Filled streets with strife and raised the barricade.

Wealth of a city lies,
Not in factories,
Its marts and towers crowding to the sky,
But in its people who


Possess grace to imbue
Their lives with beauty, wisdom, charity.

The Indian, with his soul
Attuned to nature's role;
The sons and daughters of Cervantes' smile;
Pan Tadeysz's children too
Entrust their fate to you;
Souls forged by Homer's, Dante's,
Shakespeare's, Goethe's, Yeats' style.

Together we will build
A city that will yield
To all their hopes and dreams so long deferred.
New Faces will appear
Too long neglected here;
New minds, new means will build a brave new world.

- Excerpts from "Detroit Renaissance"





FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

So often when one deals with the evanescent quality of education, one experiences the futility of asking questions with no answers. Is it at this point that co-workers lend an integrity to the author's plausible interpretations.

Of inestimable importance to the writing process of this manuscript was the limitless service of the primary reader, Sister Elizabeth LaForest. She proved herself at times not only a painstaking grammarian but also a dedicated prose stylist and a reliable spectator of long ago facts and events. If *A Diadem for Detroit* and its preceding volume, *Risk and Hope*, find a place in history, much credit will be due to the assiduous reading and suggestions of Sister Elizabeth.

Of great importance was the personal and generous assistance of Sister Mary Flocella Schulist who, day after day, researched files and set out pertinent data for the author's scrutiny. Much gratitude is appropriate for the fine condition and ready availability of the archives and to their most effective caretakers, Sisters Mary Michaeline Lewandowski and Geraldine Near, at the Sisters of Mercy, Regional Community of Detroit Archives, and Matthew Daley at the University of Detroit Mercy Archives.

Extreme gratitude is due to Sister Linda Werthman who, with undying determination, was entirely responsible for the published reality of Mercy College of Detroit's early history, *Risk & Hope*.

Sister Linda also persuaded a most proficient computer typist to lend her assistance to this current project. Through the year Sister Bernadette Mary Frank exemplified unusual patience and insight in dealing with the demands of the manuscript.

It was a consummate joy to share notes and experiences in interviews with two past presidents of Mercy College of Detroit—Agnes Mary Mansour and Maureen A. Fay, O.P.—who survived the strenuous yet exhilarating ordeal.

There were so many people working behind the scenes day after day—Sister Mary Generose Kubesh who relayed telephone messages, Nancy Wojcik who arranged for drivers to transfer envelopes and messages, and drivers who not only made frequent trips to the Outer Drive and McNichols campuses but also moved the weighty boxes of archival materials to an adjacent room for my convenience. Nor can I ever forget the generosity of my nephew Michael Sabourin and his wife Anne, who not only gave up a prized holiday to pack up all the archival material, but also stowed it in their car and transported it back to the Archives at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Finally, profound appreciation to my dear editor and publisher, Rhonda DeLong, who saw me through good and bad days dispensing professional advice and loving solicitude along the way.

Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM





SISTER MARY LUCILLE MIDDLETON'S FINAL YEARS AS PRESIDENT

The era was the 1960s—a decade of extremes. The decade stood witness to the vengeful construction of the Berlin wall; to Vatican II and its ensuing controversy; to the illusory days of the American Camelot and to the heart-wrenching assassination of a president; to the passage of long-sought civil rights legislation and to the courage of the man who dared to publicize his dream and ultimately give his life for it; to the diversifying effects of the Detroit riots, the Vietnam War and the Kent State tragedy; to Woodstock and the flower children; and to the heroic astronauts who made the moonscape an integral part of our lives.

It was a time of restless hearts, vague fears, eccentric freedoms, lost times and a multiplicity of opportunities. Needless to say, the culture of the times spilled over onto life—all life, even academe.

In 1961 a new Board of Trustees at Mercy College, by virtue of ecclesial law, took responsibility not only for the physical and spiritual welfare of the Sisters of Mercy community in Detroit but also for the welfare of the College. The members were Mary Justine Sabourin, RSM, president; Mary Maurita Sengelaub, RSM, vice president; and Mary Raymond O'Leary, RSM; Frederic Ryan, RSM; Coralita Ellerbrock, RSM; Florence Salatka, RSM; and Marietta Hogan, RSM. Whenever the agenda dealt with College matters, President Mary Lucille Middleton, RSM, joined the Board as secretary.

President Middleton recognized the urgent need for expanded physical facilities to ensure Mercy College's successful future. She also understood that a significant developmental program would require direction, expertise and skill in planning, finance and law. Therefore, with the blessing of the religious Board and drawing from the pool of 22 prominent Detroit business leaders in the Fathers' Club, she invited five of the most influential men to become members of the Mercy College Board of Trustees. These men were Earl G. Ward, retired vice president of Ford Motor Company; William C. Pine, former mayor of Ann Arbor; Louis J. Colombo, a well-known Detroit lawyer; Louis C. Miriani, former Detroit mayor, and Alan J. Powers, director of Development for Mercy College. This was the first Board of Trustees of Mercy College comprising both religious and lay members—a change that had been encouraged by the North Central Association in 1951.

Plans for an expansion program for the College began in earnest on January 4, 1964, with groundbreaking for three buildings, utilizing 50 percent of the previously-established fund-raising goal of \$15 million: a student center, a student residence hall and a power plant. Among the guests at the groundbreaking were Michigan's governor, George Romney, and the lay and religious members of the Board of Trustees.

By April 1966, the campus boasted a new power plant that provided central heating and cooling systems, as well as two distinctive new student buildings—Manning Hall, with space for 254 residents; and a new student center containing a ballroom, dining hall, meeting rooms, bookstore, coffee shop, game room, post office and faculty lounge. That month, too, began the administration's *dies irae* (judgment day)—comprising a substantial financial burden while there were still incipient plans for an expanded library and a new science and health building.

The blessing of these new facilities was one of the highlights of the College's twenty-fifth anniversary. The entire year of 1966—beginning with the Silver Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving on January 6—was filled with special activities, including seminars, a campus open house, dinner and Mass on Founder's Day, September 24, plus concerts and plays.

Meanwhile, an accreditation review was under way. The College received the report of the North Central Association in May of 1965, and the report reflected the Association's concerns about the



Manning Hall lounge, late 1960s.

College's operations. The conclusions of this North Central report were a matter of considerable anxiety for President Middleton, since the report reflected not only a number of evident weaknesses in administrative organization, but also the growing dissatisfaction of some members of the College's faculty with the administration and with one another. The 1965 report was quite different from the positive tone and hopeful conclusions of the first North Central report in 1951.

Typical of positive observations in 1965 were the allusions to faculty appointments and services, including salaries and teaching loads, faculty-student relations, faculty preparedness and accountability, freedom to teach without undue interference, and a willingness on the part of the administration to discuss problems with candor.

Areas of concern included a profusion of divisions and departments and the consequent abundance of committee chairpersons for such a small college. Of paramount significance was the unrest of key chairpersons displeased with what they expressed as a limited opportunity to participate in the decision-making process for academic policy and faculty services. Also of concern were insufficient depth in some majors, a lack of music and art in the general education program, the urgency for more flexibility in the nursing and teacher education programs, a minimum of options in non-Western

studies, and the lack of a five-percent budgetary allocation for increased library holdings.

Most disheartening of all was a critical statement from the North Central Association that “The intellectual climate of the campus cannot be termed vigorous.... Only a minority seems really interested and involved in this vital process. Great efforts need to be made to develop the spirit of inquiry and to involve students in the mainstream of intellectual life.” Repeatedly, President Middleton had attempted to imprint upon the faculty and students her central philosophy of teaching and learning: “See not what we have made of them, but see how they have grown.” It was her trust in this imperative that gave substance to the value of the first honorary degree eventually conferred by the College.¹

The North Central report had a shattering effect on President Middleton. How could she resuscitate the College’s vitality? How could she reenergize risk-taking and hope in administration, faculty and students? President Middleton was also aware of a serious financial crisis looming for the year 1966-67 due to a decline in admissions and transfers, as well as the number of students who had graduated or had not returned for the academic year. She spent days of difficult meditation, and presented the following letter to the President of the Board of Trustees on October 3, 1966.

Dear Mother Mary Justine,

May I respectfully present, for many valid reasons, my resignation as the President of Mercy College of Detroit, effective as of May 8, 1967 or at any date deemed to be more in the interest of the College by the Provincial Council of the Province of Detroit and the Board of Trustees of the College.

I extend to both groups, the Provincial Council and the Board of Trustees, my abiding gratitude for their support, encouragement and advice.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Mary Lucille Middleton, RSM

There is no mention of the president’s resignation on the Board’s agenda of October 4, 1966. According to Board member Earl Ward: “Let us ignore the letter by not making it a matter of record. In the meantime, we will do everything in our power to help Sister Lucille affect the changes she believes necessary for an A-one institution.” Clearly there was consensus among the Board members that



Aerial view of Mercy College of Detroit campus, 1966.

President Middleton should continue her role of leadership in the College.

For the year 1966-67 the College enrolled 1,130 students, including 66 men. These enrollment numbers were encouraging both academically and fiscally. Sixteen new faculty members joined the staff.

Mary Christa Miriani, RSM, newly appointed dean of Student Personnel Services, designed a new department to coordinate all non-academic concerns—student activities, College life, health, financial aid and spiritual and cultural affairs. Assisting her were Nina McKenny, dean of women and John Thomson, dean of men.

There were indications of administrative, faculty and student overtures to generate spirited dialogue on many subjects: night activities for campus residents, attendance at foreign art films and noontime speakers, interlibrary loans, improved audio-visual service, better and more expansive living arrangements for male students, and community, religious, and political ethics and responsibilities. Above all, the College community considered the question, “Are we a community of scholars?”

There were areas in which no one had to prod the students to vigorous dialogue. Students voiced concerns about inconvenient parking, lack of electives in professional fields, and a perceived apathy for scheduled enrichment.

Meanwhile, after two years of research and interviews, the committee on the Silver Anniversary Honors Program presented its findings and recommendations. Fifteen top students from the freshman class were chosen to enter a program that would compare with the

Great Books program of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland—one of the best in the nation.

President Middleton must have taken heart when these lines appeared in *Outer Echoes* following the annual Oktoberfest:

Viva La Presidente

The enthusiasm with which the students greeted Sr. M. Lucille Middleton at the Oktoberfest convocation was spontaneous and sincere. If many things are taken for granted on this campus, the president is not one of them. While other institutions suffer from an absentee figurehead, we are fortunate in having an administrator who actively participates in student affairs and displays an overwhelming concern for vital and interested student life on the campus.

Appreciation is not as frequently expressed as other sentiments, nor does it often receive the volume it did “that weekend in October.” But no one could deny its presence in the hearts of the student body.²

On April 3, 1967, a letter arrived in the Office of the President. It mirrored the anxiety of virtually every Catholic institution in the area: How long would each survive? Was there too much “I” and not enough “we?” The letter remains as a partial harbinger of the future. Edward J. Robinson, executive director of the Community Affairs Department at the University of Detroit, proposed a study be undertaken to examine the feasibility of merging the four Catholic schools in the area: Mercy College, Madonna, Marygrove and U of D. Mr. Robinson's interest stemmed from his concern to maintain the vitality and development of Catholic higher education. He invited the presidents of the four institutions to a luncheon meeting to discuss the possibility.

Apparently, the spring of 1967 turned out not to be the right time to study a merger. However, the meeting did result in the Detroit Area Consortium of Catholic Colleges for two years, during which all four Catholic colleges “allowed the students of each institution to avail themselves of the cooperating schools' course offerings without exchanging revenue.”

In light of remaining an independent college, the following institutional appraisals were undertaken in the interest of improving the College:

- Fostering the inclusion of the laity in governance and management. Eventually the College established a ratio of religious and laity to increase Board membership.
- Taking calculated financial risks for facilities development.
- Promoting the admission of male students and offering programs to fulfill men's career aspirations.
- Initiating intermittent institutional self-appraisals.
- Creating or encouraging complementary programs of interest to the larger community (e.g., pre-college program, foreign exchange program, institutional exchange program, etc.).
- Focusing on the need to pray both publicly and privately for the needs and success of the College and to be concerned with its specific mission to the city of Detroit and surrounding areas.

Even with these initiatives and successes, the pressure on the president was unrelenting. Claire Irwin, assistant to the president, regretfully resigned. Yvonne Lofthouse reinvigorated her prior campaign to have the division of Teacher Education designated a separate school accountable only to the Board of Trustees. Mary Jeanne Salois, RSM, academic dean, indicated more than once her ongoing desire to relinquish her College role and return to her former responsibilities as supervisor of schools. Faculty tenure, advancement and retirement presented recurring challenges. From time to time President Middleton was subtly reminded of the AAUP's continuing censure related to the departure of the former assistant academic dean, Austin Shelton, in 1960. Additionally, a substantial source of ongoing concern was the impending shortage of funds—too urgent for peace of mind, even though on April 10, 1967 the Sisters of Mercy had announced the cancellation of a debt of \$1 million plus interest owed them by the College.

On July 14, 1967 President Middleton submitted a second letter of resignation to the new chair of the Board of Trustees, Mary Raymunda Crownhart, RSM. Again, the Board was reluctant to accept the president's resignation, but this time she was adamant in her determination to transfer her responsibility to a successor. She recommended that her successor be Mary Karl George, RSM, who served as chairperson of the faculty senate. On July 21, 1967, after notifying the North Central Association of the change in administration, President Middleton quietly left campus.

No words are more representative of the spirit of the departing

president of Mercy College of Detroit than her message on the 25th anniversary of the College. Nor is there any tribute to her memory more eloquent than the students' farewell salute. Both appeared in *Outer Echoes*, the College newspaper, on April 22, 1966.

First was the farewell authored by Edith LeCroix, editor-in-chief of the student newspaper:

A Deserved Salute

As we proudly celebrate the achievements of Mercy College of Detroit and read the various accounts of the growth of its various departments and facilities, it becomes apparent that one single person is largely responsible for the major portion of this development—our President, Sister Mary Lucille.

For nearly two-thirds of her 25 years here, Sister Mary Lucille has served in this capacity. Most of the progress that has taken place in the past 14 years can be directly or indirectly traced to her office.

This outstanding woman has earned the love, respect and admiration of students, faculty and the community-at-large, which culminated this year in the honor of being selected as one of the Top Ten Working Women of Detroit.

A natural leader with the inherent qualities of a true executive, Sister Mary Lucille has guided Mercy College of Detroit through the years with initiative, originality and foresight.

Her fame is not limited to the campus. When Sister Mary Lucille promoted the first Jewish-Catholic dialogue that was ever held in this area, she began a tradition. Community reaction was tremendous, and through this program inter-denominational understanding has been fostered to a degree not seen before. As a member of the Detroit Round Table of Christians and Jews, she had extended this rapport with other faiths.

Sister Mary Lucille's work in the field of education has brought her additional recognition, and she is a noted authority in the field.

But what of her as a person? Hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't mention a particular instance of her personal warmth and understanding. Never inaccessible, she is readily available to listen to problems and answer questions.

Her personal encouragement has helped faltering students regain their equilibrium, has smoothed over misunderstandings and has demonstrated her keen empathy and intuition. Truly, she is a prime example of all that is implied in the name of her order—the Sisters of Mercy.

Functioning at a pace that would slow down many younger people, this amazing woman permits no obstacles to impede her progress. Following an illness that would have grounded most people, she bounced back to receive the honor bestowed on her by the city and to carry out the completion of the greatest year of progress MCD has yet seen.

Our pride in Mercy College of Detroit is overshadowed only by our pride in its great president—Sister Mary Lucille Middleton, RSM.³

Sister Mary Lucille's own words on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary assured her of a memorable and loving place in the history of the institution:

Mercy College of Detroit has gloriously and faithfully fulfilled the commission placed upon her by Catherine McAuley, the creator of the Mercy way of education; has fulfilled the charge given to her by her forebears: Mother Mary Carmelita Manning, the foundress of Mercy College of Detroit, and Sister Mary Patricia Garvey, its first president. Mercy College has fulfilled their dream to provide superior teaching and to maintain high intellectual purpose...

As we live our anniversary year, Mercy College has a place that is secure. She has proven herself an indispensable agency for good in the Church, the city and state, the nation and the world.⁴

Sister Middleton returned to the College on two different occasions: to accept an award from the Fathers' Club on March 31, 1968, for her 15 years of dedicated service, and to attend a testimonial banquet in the Student Center ballroom arranged in her honor by President George on May 24, 1970. Commenting on this honor, *The Detroit News* credited Sister Mary Lucille McGee Middleton, 71, with "guiding Mercy College of Detroit through a period of change, expansion and modernization" and "for spearheading the change from a women's college to the present co-educational four-year

college with an enrollment of 1,200.”

The Middleton Lounge of the Student Center was dedicated as a permanent memorial to President Middleton, and the Middleton Scholars Endowment Fund was established for outstanding students.

On the College Coat of Arms impressed within the pages of the testimonial program were inscribed these words: “As I look at my class, I think—if I do this job right, these 78 students, as teachers and as parents, may be able to open young minds and hearts to truth, beauty and wonder—to humanity, to man.”

Just three years later, on July 22, 1973, Sister Middleton died of congestive heart failure in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her cousin, the Reverend John McGee of the Grand Rapids diocese, celebrated the Mass of Resurrection on July 26. Several College faculty, graduates and students from all over Michigan formed the honor guards. A memorial Mass for her eternal peace was celebrated on November 3 in Mercy College chapel.





MARY KARL GEORGE, RSM, BECOMES PRESIDENT

The brilliant weather of September 1967 augured a new beginning for the College. Mary Karl George, RSM, was named acting president of Mercy College of Detroit and secretary to the Board of Trustees. The Board's decision was based on a quick survey that found that Sister George enjoyed the support of both religious and lay faculty. Moreover, as chairperson of the faculty senate, Sister George had extensive experience with faculty issues. Although only 36 years old, she demonstrated exemplary qualities of leadership and scholarship. All Board members concurred that there should be an immediate news release for the faculty, the students and the public of President Middleton's "resignation with regret" and President George's appointment.

At the end of its first meeting, the Board determined it could function effectively with only eight members for the time being.¹

Unfortunately, that number was reduced to seven when Mr. Ward resigned on July 21, 1967.

MARY KARL GEORGE, RSM

Sister Mary Karl George was born Emily George in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She graduated at the top of her class from Mount Mercy Academy. As a child, she earned a reputation as a

direct, honest, kind and concerned young woman with a quixotic sense of humor that endeared her to those who knew her.

After earning an undergraduate degree and joining the Sisters of Mercy, Sister George earned her doctorate in history from St. Louis University and joined the faculty at Mercy College in 1963.

Shortly after the Board of Trustees had made their decision to appoint Sister George president, Mother Crownhart relayed the decision to Sister George, conveying the Board's hopes that she would have a healing, calming influence on faculty and students. At first Sister George objected that she had little administrative experience, and was best prepared for her existing role as a teacher. However, she agreed to accept the task with energy and dedication.

President George's first task was to define her role as "acting" president. "The Board of Trustees," she emphasized, "is free to search for a permanent president at any time, but there is no mitigation of authority. The Board and the individual [acting president] may also agree on making it a permanent position.

"Although some of my ideas are in an amorphous state," she continued, "the role of the College in my mind is well defined. This is an urban-oriented college. Most people here, even if they are from the suburbs, return to the city to staff its hospitals and schools. For this reason the attitudes and curricula must be shaped by a metropolitan influence. Our students are professionally oriented, but we want them to be liberally educated to humanize their professional life."

At the opening convocation of the school year, President George jolted the students with a challenge "to suffer:"

"If you are to be a fully alive and responsive person, you must care for what surrounds you on campus, you must read voraciously, you must pray unashamedly, and only then will you be happy." In short, President George looked for intellectually concerned students. "I think I'd rather have a revolt than apathy. Then I know you're alive. Sometimes, the students who revolt are those who really care."

That fall the freshman class numbered 476 students—one of the largest in the history of the College—despite increasing admissions standards. The total enrollment was 1,266 for the first semester.

Also that fall, the Education department was one of two in the nation that pioneered the Waldorf System for elementary education. Children were exposed to foreign languages from first grade through the eighth. Great attention was given to aesthetic training. Werner

Glas, a graduate of London Academy of Music and Art, directed the experimental program for one year.

THE MATTER OF TENURE

At the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 16, 1968, President George reported “pertinent data that mark ups and downs during my first few months.” The most startling information was the number of withdrawals at the end of the first semester—183 students. These were not failing students; they had at least a 2.0 average. The Board considered this a serious matter. President George assured the Board that her first priority would be to investigate and analyze the situation and report her findings.

It has always been the practice of the College to give tenure² to lay faculty who met the qualifications of the faculty committee on Promotion and Tenure: fulfillment of 10 years of service, high quality of instruction, and dedication to the growth and promotion of the College. However, on January 12, 1968 a letter was received in the Office of the President from James Foote, chairman of the Promotion and Tenure committee, in which 10 faculty members were proposed for tenure. Among them were seven Sisters of Mercy. This was the first time Sisters had been on the tenure list, and this was a cause of concern to President George. On December 16, 1969 she sought the advice of William P. Fidler, deputy secretary general of the American Association of University Professors. On January 22, Mr. Fidler responded as follows:

The Association has not yet developed a policy position on the issue of tenure for religious orders, but a number of requests for guidance on the subject have been received, and unofficial opinions have been expressed by staff members in the light of the Association’s experience in related matters.

Practical problems in this area, which have arisen or can arise, have been called to our attention, and we are thus aware of actual and potential difficulties involved. On the other hand, we are aware of cases of faculty members who in good order have discontinued as religious, and who have retained their academic positions. We are also aware of the fact that a growing number of Catholic colleges and universities, after having considered this question, have adopted regulations on tenure, which include religious and clerical

faculty without reservation.

Information has reached members of our staff that the following Catholic Universities do grant tenure to priests: St. Louis, Notre Dame, Catholic University of America, Georgetown, Fordham, DePaul and San Diego.

On March 30, President George wrote the following to Mother Crownhart in her role as Mother Provincial of the Province of Detroit:

Would it not be well for us to think of giving the College Sisters tenure? That there is risk because of the Sisters who might leave, I well recognize. I know as well that neither the American Association of University Professors nor the American Association of Colleges has a policy on tenure for religious faculty, although the AAUP would like one. The benefits according this professional recognition, however I believe, outweigh the disadvantages. I am more convinced of this since I spoke to Sister Mary Christopher O'Rourke of Providence College, which does grant tenure to Sisters. We need increasingly to close the gap between our religious and lay faculty. We need, in particular, whatever professional recognition is at our disposal to dispel the myth that our Sisters teach at the College because they save us money and not because they are qualified and competent professional women. As faculty exchange becomes more viable among the Mercy colleges, and even more so as our Sisters begin applying for positions in state institutions, they should have every mark commensurate with their professional standing.

On January 20, 1969, Mother Crownhart gave tentative approval to tenure for the Sisters, suggesting further study before final referral to the Board of Trustees.

THE BOARD, NORTH CENTRAL AND THE AAUP

President George informed the Board that three members of the North Central Association had visited the College in April 1967, and had sent an encouraging report on July 17. After its meeting on August 4, the Executive Board of the Commission on Colleges and Universities "voted to continue the accreditation of Mercy College of Detroit as a bachelor's degree-granting institution."

It also voted to schedule a revisit within five years.

Clearly the Board noted the congenial relationship between the AAUP and the North Central Association. The latter had recounted a visit that one of its members had made to the Washington office of the AAUP at which the 1960 censure of the College was discussed. Although Mercy College of Detroit had agreed to a \$10,000 payment to Dr. Austin Shelton as punitive damages and received from him a "release," the AAUP said such "redress could not be conceived as an essential condition for removal from censure." However, Board member Louis Colombo, who had presided at the meeting on December 3, 1960 with Dr. Shelton and his attorney, declared that "the release closed the matter."

Since the censure had been such an overriding presence for a number of years, President George preferred to wait until she received word from William P. Fidler, executive agent of AAUP, about the continuing status of the College. It was another step toward freeing the College from the chilling state of an institution preserved in wondering and waiting.

The acting president suggested that Board membership be increased to 13 or 15 members, with the Sisters of Mercy in the majority. She recommended that the selection of Sisters be from those with an interest in higher education, and that they could be from a different province or even outside the Sisters of Mercy of the Union. At that point President George recommended the immediate inclusion of Congresswoman Martha Griffiths and Mrs. Ford Mudgett, an interested alumna donor, both of whom agreed to serve. Accordingly, the Board voted to change the bylaws governing the number of Board members.

PROPOSAL FOR A NAME CHANGE

Irrefutably, President George had undertaken her responsibilities with energy, wisdom and enthusiasm, and was providing the leadership the College needed. In the midst of President George's efforts to move the College in the directions supported by the Board, a group of administrators presented a proposal to change the name Mercy College of Detroit to Manning College. The reasons stated in the proposal were varied and called into question "the [continued] healthy growth of the institution." Primarily, the signers of the proposal argued that having "Mercy" in the name of the College was a deterrent to male students because of its strong

feminine associations. In keeping with her views on open communication, President George opened the debate to all members of the administration, faculty, students and alumni.

On March 25, the academic dean convened an assembly to bring open discussion on the issue of the name change. After an hour of discussion and controversy, it was difficult to draw any firm conclusions. Apparently no action was taken by the Board of Trustees on this issue.

On February 10, word was received that Earl G. Ward had died at his winter home in Florida. He was 67 years old. When Mr. Ward retired as vice president of Purchasing from the Ford Motor Company in 1965, he came to Mercy College as one of the first members of the Lay Advisory Board and offered his services in financial matters. "In this area he organized the biggest expansion program the school had seen since it was opened in 1941." In his capacity as Board member, he revised the corporate structure of the College.

In 1966 Mr. Ward was named chairman of the Silver Anniversary Fund. Three buildings on campus show the influence of his leadership—the student center, now named "Ward Conference Center" in his honor, Manning Hall, and the power house.

Because of his failing health, Mr. Ward had retired from the Board of Trustees in 1967. Those who knew him commented that "the dream he started is now a beautiful and memorable reality."

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS DURING 1967 TO 1968

The Consortium for Development of Research Potential in Education (CORD) was a federally-financed project in its second year in Michigan, open to both faculty and students and offering up to \$500 to accepted projects.

CORD was a four-school effort including Mercy College, Madonna College, Michigan Lutheran College and Marygrove College. Headed by Mercy College's Caroline Mary Gillin, RSM, the purpose of the project was to promote research in colleges of educational technique and method.

Michigan's CORD project had been named the model CORD project by the financing federal agency. Any college that wished to obtain similar funds would model itself on the Michigan project headed by Sister Gillin.

In her annual report to President George, the dean of Student

Personnel Services enumerated some of the Education Department's strengths, including the students' attitude toward the department and the way in which personnel worked to address student welfare and concerns. In her report, she also noted the need for the Board of Trustees to empower the department to impose disciplinary sanctions upon students when the need arose and her desire for greater integration with other areas of the College. Finally, she urged President George to allow the department to establish student educational programs addressing issues such as drugs and alcohol.³

President George acknowledged the strengths and weaknesses, which were part of the growth of student development as an individual function. However, in her 1968 report to the chair of the Board of Trustees, President George stated that there were two prime areas of concern: the faculty and finance.

"The faculty," she wrote, "are concerned about a number of things: their salaries and fringe benefits, their participative role in decision making, their relationship to the Board of Trustees. Participative government has been the most vocal faculty demand... More work needs to be done by the faculty themselves in the internal organization of the Committee on Promotion and Tenure and the Committee on Merit Increases."

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

The status of the College finances also continued to be a grievous problem. For 25 years student expenses had been kept unrealistically low at the College. Mother Mary Carmelita Manning, RSM, foundress of Mercy College of Nursing, was a renowned nurse and hospital administrator. Those who knew her best could hear the echoes of her voice, "We must make it possible financially for young ladies who desire to be professional nurses. Since we will expect these nursing students to attend classes during the first year and give service under supervision throughout their second and third years, we must not price them out of their career." Even when Mercy College of Nursing changed its location and its charter and became Mercy College, Mother Manning, then president of the Board of Trustees, approved the continued minimal charge for all students—even those in liberal arts, though they had little required service as part of their curriculum. Mother Manning considered this benevolence "getting off to a good start."

At first, the majority of students were in nursing, and the \$300 for

both room and board actually covered an entire year and derived from the time of daily service to patients. By 1968, service to the hospital was no longer a part of the nursing curriculum. The student nurses were accompanied into their various experiences by a clinical supervisor, usually with a ratio of one supervisor for four to six students. This emphasis on supervised experience rather than service made for a costly but productive program.

Consequently, a more realistic chart of expenses was introduced in the year 1966-67 and prevailed for the next several years. Room and board was increased from \$300 to \$500, or by 63 percent. Tuition was calculated at \$21 per semester hour, an increase of 74 percent.

With the approval of the Board, the administration had attempted to upgrade faculty salaries of 1968-69 according to the AAUP scale. This instrument specified the following averages for a nine-month contract: full professor, \$13,600; associate professor, \$10,400; assistant professor, \$8,580; and instructor, \$7,140. Attempts to meet these demands placed a fiscal drain on the budget, but the administration believed it must keep pace in a highly competitive talent market.

The projected budgetary deficit for the College in 1968 was nearly \$100,000; for the next year, \$130,000. Rise in salaries, increased difficulties in soliciting unrestricted funds from corporations and foundations, the leveling off of student enrollment, and the ever-present debt payments accounted for this shortfall. President George suggested, "One long-range program that could partly allay the financial difficulty is closer collaboration among the Catholic colleges in the area—something analogous to the Cleveland model—the Catholic University of Greater Cleveland."

Further, the College believed it should seriously assess its relationship to the civic community, particularly to minority groups. Currently only five percent of the student population was African Americans; efforts were being made to increase that percentage.

Although the acting president reflected some of the anxiety of the time, her final paragraph in her first year's report to the members of the Board reflected her consistent pattern of optimism.

There remains, nonetheless, much to look forward to. This summer the administration hopes to take a long backward look at the College to see where the future might be tending. As said above, it is the dream of this administration

that all the Catholic colleges of the area will have the courage to appraise realistically what Catholic higher education must be in the light of Vatican II.⁴

At the final meeting of the Board for the year 1967-68, William Pine proposed that the acting president, Mary Karl George, RSM, be designated president of Mercy College of Detroit and that the Trustee committee which was selected for the acting president meet with the faculty senate and advise them of the Board's action. Subsequently, appropriate plans should be made for a proper inauguration.

Consequently on May 12, 1968, for the first time, a dual ceremony—the conferring of diplomas on 196 seniors and the inauguration of the College president—took place on the campus green.

The inaugural luncheon was attended by distinguished guests, among whom were the Honorable Jerome P. Cavanaugh, mayor of Detroit, and faculty, alumni and representatives of the class of 1968. Mother Crownhart invested the third president of Mercy College of Detroit with the mantle of academic responsibility. President George responded with an inspiring message, concluding with these memorable words, "You can be assured of my total cooperation in something in which I have invested my heart."





RESPONSES TO CHANGE

The academic year of 1968 began with a new president, a new acting dean, 19 new faculty members, a newly revamped Theology department, a new Crusader coach, a new parking lot, new judo classes and thousands of summer memories.

To fill the position of academic dean left by Mary Jeanne Salois, RSM, President George prevailed upon the registrar, Mary Victor Korb, RSM, to add the dean's duties to her already full schedule until a committee could be established to search for a permanent dean.

The newly formed Business Administration program was enlarged with three instructors. In the new Theology program, students were introduced to specific problems in four theological areas: Scripture, Dogma, Christian Response and Church History.

An international presence was notable on the College campus as well. Of the total enrollment of 1,155, many students were from foreign countries and states other than Michigan, giving the campus a cosmopolitan flavor.

Prior to the September 1968 Board meeting, President George had written to the AAUP inquiring about its policy regarding the inclusion of religious faculty in planning for tenure, retirement, and other benefits. Using their suggestions and after some research suggested by Mother Crownhart, the president noted that the majority of long-standing colleges and universities under religious auspices treated all faculty alike, whether lay or religious. Accordingly, the

Board of Trustees proposed a resolution to include all religious faculty for tenure as of July 1, 1970. This resolution supplemented the one recently enacted on July 1, 1968: inclusion of all Sister faculty in the Province Retirement Plan.

SEEKING FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

The financial position of Mercy College of Detroit at the end of the fiscal year was not robust. In fact, the financial resources of the College were predicated on the continued commitment of the Sisters of Mercy of the Province of Detroit. Since 1941, when the College was founded, the commitment by the Province of Detroit to the College had been very generous. The property was deeded to the College at no charge. The Province continued to contribute approximately 14 percent of the College's total educational and general fund cash revenues, in addition to contributed services comprising an additional 17 percent of the total revenue. Also, during the previous several years, the Sisters of Mercy had been donating approximately \$50,000 to \$75,000 annually to provide for major physical plant improvements.

It was apparent, therefore, that fund development was one of the College's primary areas of concern. Although alumni giving was up, parental donations were low, and corporation and foundation gifts meager. Diane Beauchamp, the newly appointed director of Public Relations and member of the class of 1968, looked to greater alumni efforts and interest.

On the whole, maintenance costs mounted during the year, particularly with facilities constructed early in the development of the 28-year-old campus. Moreover, the underground heating system was causing great difficulties that would be rectified only through considerable expenditures.

EFFECTS OF THE DECADE OF UNREST

During the late 1960s, most college campuses experienced student unrest with demonstrations, protests and other activities. At Mercy College, one student campus activity that was not well accepted was the emergence in 1968-69 of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). The SDS activity at Mercy College was catalyzed by faculty disenchantment with the administration and was also fed by the SDS movement on the University of Detroit

campus. Ancillary to this activity was the publication of an underground newspaper whose “reporting” was clearly irresponsible to the point of libel, but which was published anonymously and therefore immune to disciplinary action. This publication had a polarizing effect on President George.

Subsequently, President George met with the student leaders of the SDS and made clear her preference that the leaders, rather than the administration, effect the cessation of their activities. She made the students aware that the purpose and activities of the SDS were antithetical to the mission and activities of Mercy College of Detroit, and that there were no conditions under which the College would agree to a chapter of the national SDS organization on the Mercy campus.

However, before the end of the school year a small cadre of students—about 30 or 40, with the help of the chapter of SDS from the University of Detroit—attempted to formulate an in-house SDS chapter independent of the national organization. Such a limited group would concern itself mainly with academic and social reforms. “We have no set goals,” stated one of its members. “We have no definite membership, but the majority rules.” Aware of some violent outbreaks on other college campuses, the dean of students posted a letter stating, “Student violence and/or disturbances will not be tolerated on the campus—only peaceful demonstrations and pickets are allowed, providing traffic and class schedules are not disturbed.”

Eventually President George took a countermeasure. She loved history; she doted on the unpredictable and subtle movements of history’s great moments. She was quite in tune with Winston Churchill when he once observed, “Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all other forms that have been tried.” Although she was relentless in her pursuit of excellence, President George believed in the “rule of the people—in democracy.” So, to offset the form of government SDS proposed—with its vitriol and mounting violence—she was prepared to offer a substitute.

On the first Friday of March, President George spontaneously canceled all 11 a.m. classes and summoned the students to McAuley Auditorium to discuss the formation of an “ad hoc committee” to act as a forum to raise and solve questions pertinent to their welfare. This committee and this forum would endure as long as the faculty and students felt it necessary. And—if they wished, in the interest of expediency and good form—they could select a faculty moderator. To ensure the success of the forum, President George named John

Sullivan, psychology instructor, to act as resource director to the ad hoc committee.





A "COOL" CULTURE AND CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITY

As one student defined it, Mercy College of Detroit opened in the fall of 1969 with a "cool" culture. The registrar was "cool," and the registration procedures even "cooler." The new academic dean gave strong evidence of doing something new regarding basic studies—a "cool" move. And coolest of all—a senior at MCD was placing Mercy College of Detroit not only on the Detroit map, but also on the Michigan map, and subsequently on the map of the United States when she became "Miss America." Pamela Eldred, a major in Speech and Drama and a minor in Dance, won the "Miss Michigan" title, which made her eligible to compete in the areas of talent, personality and wholesomeness in Atlantic City. Commenting on the time she spent developing her personal gifts and the hours teaching not only her younger sister Melanie, but also Melanie's friends—all of whom were in a special education program—Pam said, "Everything I do is fun. I'm a disciplined person. I believe in working hard for things in which I believe. Besides, I do things with my family. My family is very important to me. And I date."¹

Campus housing was undergoing changes. Bethesda Hall rented its single rooms to male students for the first time. William Wall, director of Development, was named resident advisor and football coach, thus adding another athletic program for men. Students remarked on the newly painted classrooms, student lounges, the



Students prepare for Homecoming, 1969.

mile-and-a-half green fence and the lined spaces in the parking lot.

For President George, there was the ever-present problem of balancing the budget. In fall 1969, Robert Sage, president of the Sage Foundation, became a member of the Board and was very supportive in this effort. However, the Board was able to approve the following annual salary scale for the year 1970-71: Instructor \$7,200-\$9,000; Assistant Professor \$8,500-\$11,000; Associate Professor \$9,500-\$12,500; Professor \$11,500-\$16,000.

CURRICULAR CHANGES

The year 1969-70 changed the contour of the College forever. Both faculty and students liked the new look—the new curriculum—because they had participated in forming it.

For the previous several years students in all fields had expressed a reluctance to sign up for the basic requirements designed to provide a theological, philosophical and aesthetic base for all learning. This traditional core curriculum had been unchanged for many years. However, the value of basic requirements increasingly surfaced as a matter of contention in student and faculty counseling sessions.

Accordingly, a committee was formed to determine how best to evaluate the basic studies program. The committee members worked

directly with each department in an effort to develop specific proposals. Finally, a new curriculum was defined in early February at a meeting convened by Sister Mary Christopher Steele, Academic Dean. The student members of the committee made an impassioned plea to the faculty to allow them to make choices within the flexible patterns proposed for each major. They implored the faculty to be present to answer their questions, yet give students the freedom to validate their selections and allow them to make the occasional mistake.²

Permitting more flexibility, but remaining true to the fundamental principles of the liberal arts curriculum, Sister Steele responded:

In order that the Mercy College Student may grow toward a mature human life, as well as acquire a foundation for further study and professional work, he plans with his counselor a program that acquaints him with the major fields of knowledge and experience: the arts, history, language and literature, the natural sciences and mathematics, philosophy, the social sciences and theology.

The faculty believes that the aim of the curriculum is the growth of the student, and that a program resulting from shared responsibility is the best way of achieving a liberally educated person.

The faculty further believes that in order to accomplish the objectives stated above, the student must demonstrate a proficiency in the written and oral expression of the English language.³

The academic dean concluded the meeting by detailing the policies that had not changed, namely the number of credit hours required for graduation, the number of credit hours comprising a major and a minor, the limitation of credit hours in a single subject or in any two subjects, and the optimum number of credit hours a student might take per semester without the express exemption of the dean. She identified the distinctions among the bachelor of arts, the bachelor of science and the bachelor of science in Nursing.

She closed the meeting by announcing that the new curriculum and related academic policies would be implemented in September 1970 for all students matriculating on that date. Previously enrolled students had the option of continuing to fulfill requirements under which they had begun, or they could choose the new program with

the related policies.

The College left another footprint on the sands of the future when it requested from the State Board of Education in Lansing the authority to grant associate degrees.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

During the spring semester of 1970 President George was approached by a representative of the Detroit Police Commissioner to provide classroom space for a course in “Police Patrol Administration” from April 8 through June 24.

The course would give enforcement personnel three college credits and the necessary training to improve on-the-job performance. Topics included were constitutional law, criminal law, community relations, defensive tactics, search and seizure, and so on. President George granted classroom space on campus for what was to become the Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP). The esteemed teacher for the course was Johannes F. Spreen, who had a long, distinguished career in metropolitan policing and was also a colorful and articulate spokesman for police professionalism, police-citizen rapport and total community involvement in the war on crime.

On March 25, 1971, President George informed the Board of Trustees about the State Board clearance for Mercy College of Detroit to award the associate degree, particularly in connection with the Law Enforcement Education Program. The Board advised further discussion with the faculty and with the North Central Association. President George also reported on highlights of the 1969-70 academic year to the Board.⁺





THE 1970S BRING A NEW ERA TO CAMPUS

Throughout the Mercy College campus, there was evidence that President George had left her mark of vital interest and concern. In the September 8, 1970 issue of *Dateline* she welcomed 288 new students and 24 new faculty and staff.

President George subsequently granted an interview to one of the newspaper staff to explain the role of the Board of Trustees in the life of a Mercy College of Detroit student. An excerpt from the article follows:

The Board of Trustees of Mercy College is the legal body for the College.... The Board, which meets four times a year, currently has 10 members. The President of the College is always an ex-officio member. All members are elected for a three-year term, and incumbent members vote for their successors. Mercy College bylaws contain provisions that spell out the responsibilities of the Board. Individual members do not have power, but the Board as a whole does.

Mercy's President said the Trustees should represent a cross section of public opinion to determine how far and how fast the College can and should move in the direction of educational change. We are the representatives of the public. We insure that Mercy College is fulfilling its social duties as well as following a sound educational path.

Trustees have a wide range of responsibilities. Legally, they hold all property, authorize the budget and budget changes, and set policy. They are responsible for the size of the institution, the general admission requirements, the campus and buildings, the scope of the work, and policies affecting the faculty. Further responsibilities are the library, the chapel, scholarships, student activities, athletics, fraternities and sororities, residence halls, the placement of students and graduates, and alumni relations.

The duties of the Trustees are not all directly related to the campus. Additional activities most often involve raising money for the College and publicizing it with parents and other student groups.

“To sum it all up,” Sister Mary Karl concluded, “overall, the Board of Trustees occupies a vital position in the operation of the College.”¹

Shortly after the start of the 1970 fall semester, President George, with Controller Vincent Portelli, held a forum on finances for the campus community. More than 200 faculty and students attended.

Together, the president and the controller explained the expected cost of tuition: \$550 for a full-time student carrying 12 to 17 semester credit hours; \$400 for part-time students. There would be no increase for room and board. Mr. Portelli, using graphs, explained that the most significant percentage of each dollar, 43¢, went toward faculty salaries; 15¢ went for operations and maintenance. The rest would be used for telephone (\$2,000 per month), electricity (\$3,000 per month) and other regular expenses.

Mr. Portelli explained that there were too few sources of income. The most important was the students' tuition, or 66.4 percent of the College's revenue. Gifts and grants constituted 10 percent. Both monetary and contributed services from the Sisters of Mercy made up about 16 percent of the total. But these percentages did not last. By March 30, 1971, the tuition per semester was increased to \$625.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES, ARTS AND THEATRE ON CAMPUS

In an effort to “lessen the fragmentation of interests,” the officers of the student council introduced a Union Board to address the social, recreational, religious and cultural needs of the students. This 20-member board was designed to relieve the student council

of many former duties so it could concentrate on academic concerns. Other student leaders were responsible for arranging a well-rounded lecture series with many prominent speakers, including Leonard Weineglass, famed lawyer for the Chicago 7. The drama season opened with "America Hurrah" and the music department added to the wealth of creative experiences for students by arranging for the Symphonic Metamorphosis to perform.

INNOVATIVE ACTION

Innovations were under way in programs and plans that would create the best possible future for Mercy College of Detroit students. The program called "Grad" was among these innovations. In conjunction with neighboring University of Detroit, Mercy College of Detroit set up Grad as a placement office to assist seniors in obtaining better opportunities in the workplace. Although Grad was directed mainly to seniors, it encouraged all students to take advantage of its services.

Another collaborative effort with the University of Detroit was Mercy's participation in the program, "Bus It!" Created by the University of Detroit student affairs committee, "Bus It!" provided for student transportation and the scheduling of off-campus social experiences and recreational activities for the Detroit Area Consortium of Catholic Colleges.

Fortunately, some activities on campus had a life of their own. Selective student interest gave impetus to both men's and women's athletics, to civil rights awareness ventures and to student participation in standing faculty committees.

STUDENT PROTEST

On March 5, 1971, a boycott-and-picketing demonstration by students on campus was intended to support the demands of the League of Black Students (LBS). The demonstration was in the spirit of the heroic but serene action of Rosa Parks, whom many recognize as the mother of the civil rights movement. On December 1, 1955, Mrs. Parks was tired, her feet hurt and her weary body needed rest. "God said He loves the least of us. To Him we are all the same," she said. Quietly and politely, she refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus. She had a serene but resolute spirit. The next day, the Montgomery (Alabama) Blacks supported

her in a wholesale boycott of the city. The LBS crusaders at Mercy in 1971 were more confrontational. They had a song to sing and a message to convey, and they pursued it with vigor.

At a meeting in the Student Center, the officers of the LBS presented Mercy College with a list of demands which included removal of the editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper (*Dateline*), the addition of Black faculty and administrators directly proportional to Black student enrollment, and a complete course in Black American history among others.²

Commenting on the possibility of the demands not being accepted by the College, LBS President Don Softly, said, "We will just have to initiate some other kind of action." The group did not pursue any other on-campus action of note in the ensuing period.

Still, it is clear that the administration did take action on at least one of the items on the LBS list. There had been an increasingly critical, and even strident, tone in the columns of *Dateline* regarding all aspects of life and education on campus. Aware of the publication's increasingly contentious tone, the administrative council appointed an ad hoc committee to study the issue of the campus newspaper. The committee comprised experienced newspaper and publications professionals and was chaired by Jack Martin, *The Detroit News* Sunday editor. Committee members were charged with two duties: 1) to examine charges made against the editor, Maurice McCabe, and to recommend action on the demand of the LBS for his dismissal; and 2) to recommend a system for the future operation of *Dateline*.

After a series of five meetings, the ad hoc committee determined that Mr. McCabe's role was too broadly defined. He was warned that "care must be taken that the one remaining issue this academic year be representative of no particular person or faction and that the editor be specifically cautioned against injudicious comments and criticism."³

The ad hoc committee further suggested the establishment of a Board of Student Publications. The board would consist of two full-time undergraduates elected by the student council, two representatives from the faculty or administration selected by the Administrative Council and one from the community at large, preferably a professional journalist. Among the first duties of the Board for 1971-72 would be to establish an editorial policy for *Dateline*; to define the roles of moderator and chief editor; and to review past

financial arrangements in order to establish a valid system of fiscal accountability.

THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

One of the most valuable departments on campus was the Learning Resource Center (LRC) with its broad collection of elementary and secondary textbook collections, its complete audio-visual department, and the latest in graphic production machines and materials.

Another memorable accomplishment was the Federal Bureau of Health Manpower Education's grant of \$94,339 to the Nursing department. Elizabeth Mary Burns, RSM, had masterminded the extensive planning into the preliminaries of applying for the grant to convert part of the fourth floor of the administrative building into a "mini-learning resource center." The director of this project would work closely with Dr. Douglas Kolb in the LRC.

A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

Every three or four years the Sisters of Mercy in each of the nine provinces in the United States held a chapter meeting to elect a leader or, as it was then called, "a Provincial." Such an event took place in Detroit in January 1971. The candidates for election were approached by a nominating committee who inquired about their willingness to serve. President George, believing there was little chance of being elected, allowed her name to be entered as one of the candidates. On January 15, she was elected Provincial of the Province of Detroit. Accordingly, on January 28, 1971 she wrote to the Board, offering her resignation as president of Mercy College of Detroit:

Dear Sisters and Members of the Board:

The most enriching years of my life have been spent at Mercy College of Detroit. First, as a member of its faculty, and second, as its president. At the end of this academic year I will have been president four years. It is time for me to move on.

I respectfully ask that you accept my resignation from Mercy College of Detroit effective June 15, 1971. I would also ask that, in virtue of my new position beginning June 19, 1971, I be permitted to remain on the Board of Trustees as

one of its members. This would enable me to continue to serve with you, the finest people I know, the College of my first attachment.

Respectfully yours,
Sister Mary Karl George

On January 28, President George's resignation was accepted with regret and gratitude. President George proposed that Dr. Dawson chair the search committee for a new president. Eugenia Marie Golden, RSM; Miles O'Brien; and William Lutz also joined the search committee. Mr. Lutz, feature editor of *The Detroit News* and newest member of the Board, had been welcomed with great enthusiasm.

On March 25, Dr. Dawson presented the report of the search committee to the newly elected chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Lutz. The Board approved the selection of Agnes Mary Mansour, RSM, as the new president of Mercy College of Detroit. At the same time, the Board established and presented the following resolution regarding the tenure and future of Mary Karl George, RSM:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Sister Mary Karl George, RSM, has for the past four years, served as President of Mercy College of Detroit, and whereas she must now resign her presidential duties in order to serve the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Province of Detroit, in a new capacity, this Board of Trustees desires to enter the following resolution into the minutes.

RESOLVED, That we recognize the enlightened and scholarly academic leadership which Sister Mary Karl George has provided during her presidency. We feel that she has had the respect and cooperation of the College's students, faculty, and other administrators, as well as of those of us who have served with her on this Board. She has strengthened in great measure the ties between the Detroit community and the Mercy College of Detroit campus, and has brought the College to a position of recognized leadership within the academic community of Catholic higher education in this city.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That in recognition of her service and leadership during these past four years, she be granted continuing membership on this Board of Trustees during her term of office as Provincial Administrator of the

Religious Sisters of Mercy, Province of Detroit.

Members of the Board of Trustees
March 25, 1971

A PRESIDENT DEPARTS

For the final time, President George conferred degrees on the graduates. His Eminence John Cardinal Dearden, D.D., presented the degrees, then spoke a few words of congratulation and blessing.

The departure of President George from Mercy College of Detroit was met with happiness for her new position, but sadness at the loss of her leadership on campus.[†]

Mary Karl (Emily) George, RSM, continued her work in service and scholarship until she was killed in an automobile accident, December 6, 1984 on her way to continue a scholar/research position at the University of Notre Dame.





THE FOURTH PRESIDENT BEGINS HER TENURE

Albert Schweitzer, noted theologian, philosopher, missionary, physician and music scholar, once said, “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The only ones among you who will be really happy are the ones who have sought and found how to serve.” Agnes Mary Mansour, RSM, fourth president of Mercy College of Detroit, had found how to serve. She was the right person at the right time, in the right place. *Detroit Free Press* columnist Judd Arnett called her the “College President USA who could balance a budget.” Balancing a budget was just one of her many talents.

Agnes Mary Mansour was the youngest of four daughters born to Marie and Said Mansour on Detroit’s East Side. She received her elementary and secondary education at St. Charles Borromeo School, where she graduated with highest honors and an extensive activity record. In September 1949 she enrolled at Mercy College, from which she graduated cum laude in 1953 with another wide-ranging activity record: president of the Student Council and the Salmagundi Club, All-around Athletic Award, basketball coach in her senior year and recipient of several scholarships.

In September 1953 she entered the Detroit Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy. She completed her novitiate in August 1955. She left immediately for her juniorate at the general motherhouse in

Bethesda, Maryland. While there, she attended the Catholic University and earned her Master of Science degree in Chemistry. In 1958 she returned to Mercy College, where she joined the faculty in the Chemistry department. At the same time she served as educational coordinator for the Medical Technology program and supervisor of Clinical Laboratories at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital. Beginning in 1959 she lectured in the Nurse Anesthetist program, and chaired the Chemistry department from 1959-60 and the Division of Medical Associates from 1960-61.



President Agnes Mary Mansour, RSM

After earning her doctorate in Biochemistry at Georgetown University (1961-64), Sister Mansour was named chairperson of the department of Physical Science and Mathematics (1964-71). In the ensuing years she took advantage of several National Science Foundation Institutes in Chromatography at Kansas State University; in Scientific Mathematics at Harvard University; in general topics of Chemistry at Emory University; in Nuclear Reactor Theory and Experimentation at Reed College. Her scholarly record, together with several scientific publications, culminated in 1970-71 in a much-coveted American Council on Educational fellowship in Academic Administration at the University of Kentucky at Lexington.

As she began her tenure of leadership at Mercy College in 1971, President Mansour summarized her philosophy of education to *Detroit Free Press* columnist Frank Angelo:

We want the corner of Southfield and Outer Drive to be truly a college of Mercy. We want to prepare students who are intellectual, competent, deeply compassionate and committed to serve their God and their fellow man. We want them to learn enough so that it all flows into their profession.

I don't feel that the goals of education should be limited to preparing people to be intellectually competent or to be professionally proficient. We must be concerned about the whole person. Educators have a perfect opportunity to make this point with students, to help them achieve a feeling that what they finally do is right for them.

A young person under peer-group pressure often gets caught up in the counter-culture because he or she doesn't want to feel excluded. Some people can absorb the impact of such exposure, but some are destroyed by it.

"When she speaks of students," the article continued, "one gets the feeling that she hasn't quite separated herself as former student from present administrator, and that became clearer when she explained that she still coaches the girls' basketball team."

I wasn't going to do that once I became president, because some people might think I was playing a role. But I enjoy basketball, and I have to be me. Besides, it's a wonderful form of relaxation.²

EVOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The first meeting of the Board during President Mansour's tenure occurred October 14, 1971. President Mansour believed the most pressing business of the Board was the inception of five working committees:

- Executive - To assist in the business of the College
- Finance - To focus on fiscal and financial operations
- Promotional Affairs - To focus on promotional, developmental and government relations, and to plan for the future of the College
- Academic and Student Affairs - To evaluate educational operations in terms of academic excellence and the goals of the College
- Physical Plant - To promote an attractive, functional physical environment for the College

The president happily announced the largest enrollment in the history of the College—1,622 students. There were 390 male students (24 percent) on campus.

NORTH CENTRAL PLANS A REVIEW

On September 3, 1971, a letter from Joseph J. Semrow, associate executive secretary of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, a section of the North Central Association, had informed President Mansour:

We are now making plans for the reexamination of your institution in the spring of 1972. I am enclosing a copy of the latest statement on the reexamination program. The procedure for preparing the institutional profile is described on the first pages of the statement.

We have recently completed the revision of our Basic Institutional Data forms and are enclosing two sets for your use....

We shall soon be selecting the members of the team, which will reexamine your institution, and their names will be sent to you as soon as the team has been completed.³

The North Central Association visit took place on March 27-29, 1972, as scheduled, with the results to be reported to the College later in the spring or early in the summer.⁴

GROWTH IN ALLIED HEALTH

Without doubt, the most visionary and enterprising move of the new College president was the announcement of alternative curricular plans for students in allied health. President Mansour, assisted by Marvin Schumann, assistant director of the Hospital Council in Michigan, and by Dr. Merrill DeLong, chief of Allied Health Division of HEW,⁵ explained the new program before the local press at the Detroit Press Club, September 2, 1971:

Students unable to complete a four-year degree in the allied health field will have numerous alternatives under a new plan. In Allied Health sciences, Mercy College offers four-year programs leading to degrees for medical technologists, dietitians and medical record librarians. Under the step ladder approach, an associate degree will be offered at the end of two years for students wishing to become medical laboratory technicians, medical record technicians and dietary technicians. These degrees would form the building

block for the student to continue his education to become a medical technologist, a medical record librarian or a dietitian.

Mercy also expects to offer a one-year course leading to certification for a laboratory assistant, which would be a stepping stone to the two-year associate degree for a laboratory technician and to the medical technology degree at the end of four years.

A student under the new program would have the option at each step of continuing his education or seeking employment on the basis of his recently attained skills. Students would also have the opportunity to move from school to work and back to school again in order to achieve a four-year degree.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare approved the proposal and authorized a \$445,000 training project grant for the plan. Sister Agnes Mary's proposal to receive federal money for the program was one of the best presentations of the many colleges applying, according to Dr. DeLong.

Essential to the success of the five-year plan would be an institutional planner, who would not only oversee the project and coordinate activities, but also would plan and direct local and regional allied health conferences with hospitals, community colleges and universities. By December 6, the president was pleased to announce the appointment of Harriet Gales as coordinator-planner for Career Mobility Programs in Allied Health Education at Mercy College of Detroit:

Mrs. Gales' chief responsibility will be to administer the grant recently received from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. One facet of this project is to organize and direct an allied health consortium in the state of Michigan.

Coming from a diverse and broadly-based educational and professional background, Mrs. Gales has gained national recognition for her work as director of the Community Health Education Project (CHEP), an innovative manpower training program geared to developing auxiliary health personnel in health education and community organization.

Subsequently, she directed a feasibility study throughout Michigan on the expansion of the CHEP concept. This was administered through the Michigan Heart Association on a grant from Michigan Association for Regional Medical Programs.

In addition, Mrs. Gales has directed programs at Wayne State University, Merrill-Palmer Institute and the Detroit Board of Education. She is a Fellow of the American Public Health Association, has published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, and is presently the editor of the *Patient Education Newsletter*.

THE INAUGURATION

After weeks of preparation by the Inaugural Committee, the Board of Trustees announced that the official installation of Agnes Mary Mansour, RSM, as fourth president of the College would take place February 26, 1972. The representatives of more than 25 colleges⁶ and universities, as well as Mercy College of Detroit faculty, administrators, alumni, parents, friends and students attended the luncheon at which William Lutz, chairman of the Board of Trustees, read citations that were presented to the president. After the luncheon, academic personnel prepared for their procession to McAuley Auditorium. Congresswoman Martha Griffiths introduced the speakers including representatives of the governor, the mayor and the alumni. After the closing formalities, the academic procession and guests returned to the Student Center for a reception.⁷

THE FIRST YEAR COMPLETED

At the final Board meeting of academic year 1971-72 on May 25, the president recapped the highlights of her first academic year.⁸ The North Central report was not included in the president's annual report, as the report from North Central did not reach the College until well into the summer, June 29, 1972. In the experience of that first year of success after success, the administration of the College was stunned by the report. All who reviewed the combined comments of the visitors considered the report too negative, and believed it represented a visit limited by time and depth of analysis and by lack of sufficient discussions with knowledgeable persons on campus. The competence and interest of the North

Central reviewers was even called into question. After a careful study and discussion of the 20-page report, President Mansour sent a 22-page reply not only to Dr. Semrow, but also to the review committee and to each member of the examining team.⁹

A subsequent meeting at the Association's headquarters in Chicago involving Dr. Semrow and Mercy College president and academic dean resulted in the postponement of accreditation until the following fall, at which time the North Central Association agreed to a second visit by a different group of Association members. In a letter dated August 2, 1972, Dr. Norman Burns, executive secretary of the North Central Association wrote that Mercy College retained its continued accreditation but that a supplemental visit would be scheduled the following year.





MUCH THAT IS NEW

Entering the 1972-1973 academic year, the president was pleased with the work of admissions. Enrollment statistics showed 1,822 students—1,273 full time and 549 part time. The full-time equivalent was 1,526, up 11.6 percent over the preceding year. The distribution was 28 percent male and 72 percent female. These statistics did not include the 163 Consortium students taking courses at Mercy College.

The Rev. John Young was appointed the first full-time chaplain and director of Campus Ministry at Mercy College of Detroit. His role would include: liturgical leadership, pastoral counseling, assisting the campus community in fulfilling its role as a Catholic College and as Christian witness of social and moral issues. He would direct participation in religious aspects of the work of the administration, faculty, students, alumni and parents.

Father Young was certainly not the first full-time priest on campus. From the very beginning, in 1941, Mercy had two full-time priests living in a suite on the east end of the second floor of the College. They were Viatorians from St. Viator College in Illinois: the Rev. Leo M. Weiland, CSV, who taught religion and German; and the Rev. John J. Williams, CSV, who taught social science and religion. The Rev. Arthur Reckinger followed from 1944 to 1954 and served full time. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas J. Bresnahan, who lived on the campus but divided his time between teaching theology and counseling at Mercy College and his apostolate, "The

Christophers.” The Rev. Patrick Cooney, who worked part time for the Archdiocesan Office and part time for Mercy College, preceded the Rev. Young.

ACCREDITATION REVISITED

The report of the North Central Association was a serious concern to the Board of Trustees, so on July 19, 1972, Mr. Lutz, chairman of the Board, felt compelled to react to its uncomplimentary review in a lengthy letter to Dr. Semrow, associate executive secretary of the North Central Association:

As chairman of the board of directors of Mercy College, I have just read the report of the examining team of the North Central Association, written as the result of a visitation March 27-29, 1972.

Trained as I have been in the art of reporting factually, I must express my dismay and exasperation at what was, I am sure, a sincere effort on your part to do an honest and intelligent job of studying and reporting the college's position in a number of areas.

I am thoroughly versed in all the areas of the college reported upon; I have been personally involved in redeveloping and bolstering a number of these which the NCA team found wanting. They found these areas wanting, because from the reports that have come to me from the faculty, the team's search fell dismally short of being adequate. Many faculty members complained that they were not interviewed, although the team later was to report on their departmental efforts.

In finance, rather than moving to a worsening position, the institution is stronger than ever; in fact, it is the only private college in the metropolitan area operating in the black. To bolster its financial position, Harry S. Rudy, senior vice-president of the Detroit Bank and Trust Co., one of the nation's premier financial institutions, was added to the board of trustees more than a year ago. He immediately took an active role in examining the college's financial situation, found it healthy, and charted an even stronger structure. His interest was so strong that last month, after retiring from D.B. & T., he joined the college as consultant to the

president. With Mr. Rudy on the finance committee is James Cameron, committee chairman, who is purchasing director of the Ford Motor Co. The expertise of these two men gives the college a most unusual stance in the area of business methods and investment-an expertise many institutions must find outside their campuses.

Mr. Rudy, who served for years as a member of the bank's solicitations and charitable committee, volunteered to head Mercy's development committee at the board level more than a year ago. He has worked on almost a daily basis with the paid development staff, organizing this department efficiently and in a manner that is already bringing new gifts to the college, including a recent grant from the Kresge Foundation of \$50,000.

In the last year the academic committee has been organized at the board level, headed by Miles O'Brien, who holds a master's degree in law and is a respected Detroit businessman. This committee also consists of Dr. John Dawson, president of Adrian College; faculty and student members; and fully reflects the needs and aspirations of faculty and students. Federal Judge Damon Keith, the man who made school bussing a national issue with a precedent-making decision two years ago, also serves this committee and is a valuable resource in the matter of race relations and civil rights. Rep. Martha Griffiths (Dem.) lends her governmental knowledge to the total board, often assisting the college by intervening where appropriate in Washington.

In the field of allied health sciences, Mercy holds the premier position among Michigan's small colleges. A Health, Education and Welfare grant in allied health sciences of almost \$500,000 was recognition in the last year that the college, indeed, had something to offer that warranted the government's investment. Indeed, Mercy's allied health program is unique in the nation and has been recognized as such in national publications. I am shocked at the committee's irreverent appraisal of the college's position in this field.

Coupled with these innovative developments, a strengthened financial position and increased enrollment (reflecting the college's strong academic program over rivals), it is a mystery to me how so many constructive, strong attributes

could be overlooked, or worse, twisted out of context with reality.

I have been involved in education as a graduate student, a reporter of the collegiate scene, lecturer and board member, for more than 15 years. I cannot believe that the NCA will accept the committee's report without delving into how it was developed. The real report is that Mercy is a college that is on the move upward in a time when many are heading the other way.

In October, Dr. Joseph J. Semrow from the North Central Association in Chicago wrote to inform President Mansour that another team would revisit the College on November 29, 30 and December 1, 1972. The reexamination during the second North Central team visit was apparently low-key, unobtrusive but still substantive. President Mansour relished the memory of the examiners' positive summarizing session just before their departure. On January 5, 1973, Dr. Norman Burns, the executive secretary of North Central Association, wrote as follows:

The Executive Board of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association at its meeting on December 13 and 14, 1972, continued the discussion of Mercy College, Detroit, Michigan, as a Bachelor's degree-granting institution with the stipulation that a representative of the Commission be appointed to visit the college in three to five years. The exact date for the visit is to be arranged with the executive staff of the Commission.

The action of the Executive Board was based upon the report of the evaluation visit, the discussions before the committees of the Commission at its meeting in Chicago, and the follow-up report to the Executive Board of November 29 to December 1.

We wish to express our thanks to you and your staff for your cooperation in the examination. A copy of the report of the follow-up visit to the Executive Board of the Commission is enclosed at your request.¹

Enclosed was this concise report, Summary of Institutional Strengths and Areas of Concern at Mercy College of Detroit:

Attention is directed to the following institutional strengths as judged by the team:

1. The rather phenomenal access to consultants of considerable competence in the various administrative areas.
2. The quality of the new appointments in "middle management" in recent years.
3. The very real concern of faculty and staff for students and sufficient persons to validate this concern by making themselves available in both the student and academic affairs area.
4. The services provided by the Learning Resources Center, which are made available to all students.
5. The enriched curricular offerings afforded by membership in the Consortium.
6. The growing enrollment and the financial stability this has afforded.
7. The willingness to move quickly to seek solutions to weaknesses and problems and the efforts which seem to be working in the area of self-improvement.
8. The enhanced counseling resources available to students.

Three major areas of concern seem evident in the view of the team. Note is taken that the college is aware and making efforts to cope with these problems at the present time.

1. The college needs to intensify and extend on a comprehensive and continuing basis an ongoing institutional planning effort to ensure that the highest priorities of the college are indeed those to which it continues to allocate its resources, both human and material.
2. The college needs highly competent, professional assistance in the area of development/fund raising to assist in securing an increasing volume of support from the private sector in the Greater Detroit area. There is presently available to the staff some knowledge of the sources of the support, but there is not the staff and competence to coordinate an organized effort on an ongoing basis to win this support.
3. The college needs to continue its plans for providing new Library/Learning Resources Center space. The present facility is not sufficient to house these important functions, and such an addition will doubtlessly enhance teaching and learning at Mercy College.²

The letter stated that Mercy College would continue to be a

“Bachelor’s degree-granting institution with the stipulation of another visit from the North Central Association in three to five years.” There was no mention of the disparity of the reports received at the North Central Association office from the March and November examiners. Instead of becoming a precise and defining moment for the president, the letter multiplied questions in her mind. Dissatisfied, she felt compelled to write again to the Commission on January 17:

Thank you for your letter of January 5, and a copy of the follow-up visit report that I had requested in my earlier phone conversation with Dr. Semrow.

I would appreciate clarification regarding the term of accreditation. Is the accreditation period for five years, ten years, or what?

May I also ask for more information regarding the purpose and functions of the representative to be appointed to visit the college in three to five years. Along with this would you please distinguish between a North Central representative and a North Central consultant.

As you may have sensed, I am still deeply concerned about the decision of the Executive Board. I find it difficult to understand how the action could be based upon two reports that counter each other, and a committee discussion that reviewed only the first report which we challenged strongly. Likewise, the second chairman, Dr. Shilling, had no opportunity to verbally present his side before the committee, which was not the case with the first chairman, Dr. Nobles.

In my telephone conversation with you on August 23, 1972, you indicated that a supplementary visit was not uncommon when there was dissatisfaction expressed by a host institution. You indicated that there were explicit contradictions between the Examining Team’s report and the College Response, and that the second team would concern itself primarily with these contradictions. It was my impression after speaking with you that this follow-up visit and report would supersede the first. I know that was also the impression of Dr. Shilling.

With the above stated concerns, I look forward to your reply, and any additional comments that might assist my

understanding of the Executive Board's action.
Thank you for your assistance.³

Dr. Semrow, instead of Mr. Burns, provided clarification in the following letter to President Mansour:

Your letter to Norman Burns was referred to me for reply. With the action of the Executive Board at its meeting on December 13 and 14, 1972, Mercy College of Detroit was placed on the ten-year periodic review cycle of member institutions. This means that the next regularly scheduled evaluation of the institution will occur in spring 1982. The Executive Board of the Commission voted to send a representative of the Commission to the College in three to five years to review developments at the College in the light of the report of the evaluation visit of March 27-29, 1972; the response of Mercy College to that report; and the report of the follow-up visit of November 29 to December 1, 1972. This is a customary course of action of the Executive Board when there has been a considerable amount of variance in the views held by the institution and the members of the evaluation teams with respect to the results of the on-site visit.

The report of the follow-up visit chaired by President Shilling was in the nature of a special report to the Executive Board of the Commission in view of the evaluation report of March 27-29, 1972, and the institutional response to the report. The report was called for specifically by the Executive Board for its information. In considering the report of the follow-up team chaired by Dr. Shilling in conjunction with the report of March 1972, the Executive Board of the Commission did not conclude that the two reports counter one another as suggested in your letter. Rather, it was concluded that the reports reflected differing degrees of emphasis among areas of concern to which attention was directed in both reports.

I hope these remarks will assist in clarifying your concerns about the recent evaluation visit. If I can help further, I would be happy to meet with you at our offices in Chicago or at Mercy College in Detroit to review this.⁴

Apparently the College considered the matter satisfactorily

resolved at this point, as there is no further indication of communication between the College and North Central in the ensuing months.

NEW GOALS FOR 1972 TO 1973

At the final meeting of the Board in May 1972, its members approved the serving of alcoholic beverages on campus under conditions controlled by the dean of students. The use of alcohol in dormitory rooms was postponed until there would be sufficient opportunity to observe the results of serving alcohol at social functions. Apparently the guidelines set by the dean of students had worked satisfactorily, so at its first meeting on October 12, 1972 the Board modified the College's insurance agreement relating to "bodily injury and property damage liability to include a person or organization engaged in serving alcoholic beverages."

Space allocation was also a matter of concern. President Mansour spoke to the Board of the renovation taking place at Marian Hall as one of the major attempts to provide more adequate office space. At the same time she pointed out the immediate need for additional library facilities and asked the Board for a commitment or suggestions. Upon consideration, the Board recommended a space utilization consultant who suggested a new facility rather than renovation of the present site. Development of a library facility was to be given immediate attention.

It gave the President great satisfaction to inform the Board that the College was awarded a \$75,222 contract from HEW to prepare physician assistants in primary care. This contract was among just 30 awarded nationally. Additionally, the Mercy College of Detroit educational program was among the first of 17 to be formally accredited by the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education. This approval was provisional until the first class of students graduated.

Finally, the president articulated goals for the year which included filling Board vacancies, reviewing College budget procedures and reporting, evaluating computer usage and the possibility of extending into additional administrative and academic units, and determining the long-range goals for Mercy College of Detroit.⁵

Consequently, a placement office was created to provide vocational counseling, including assistance in selecting job positions and career opportunities, constructing resumes, handling job interviews,

and making contacts with prospective employers.

THE EMERGENCE OF THE PA PROGRAM

Mercy College began its Physician Assistant program on September 5, 1972 with an enrollment of 20 students. Most students had several years of health-related experience as ex-military corpsmen, registered nurses and from other medical fields. Medical directors of the program were Dr. John Moses and Dr. William Montgomery of Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital, while the College Center for Allied Health Education was under the direction of Harriet Gales.

A Physician Assistant (PA) is capable of evaluating the patient, collecting historical and physical data, organizing the data, and presenting it so the physician visualizes the medical problem and determines the next appropriate diagnostic or therapeutic step. The PA also assists the physician by performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and coordinating the role of other more technical assistants.

Usually the PA functions under the general supervision and responsibility of the physician. The PA is employed by the physician, not the hospital. According to Mrs. Gales, "We're trying to extend the services of physicians by giving them a highly-trained professional who can perform any of the routine tasks that the doctor presently performs and places him/her in an area that has traditionally been short-handed."

Mercy's Physician Assistant program sought to attract persons with a sense of commitment to the role of the health field in improving the quality of life. "The potential is there," said Mrs. Gales, "to do a really professional job, and have the opportunity to be idealistic."⁶

FURTHER COMPONENTS OF A COMPLETE EDUCATION

Both the administration and faculty of Mercy College of Detroit made a continual and concerted effort to enrich students' understanding of beauty and truth through drama, music and art. A series of speakers and presentations focused on the African American experience, as well as other topics related to the Pontiac bussing issue and social unrest.

In terms of music, dance, theatre and lecture opportunities, Speech and Drama offered performances of *A Thurber Festival* and

Carnival. In the arts, student exhibits and noted artists displayed their works at the College. Student creative poetry and prose was published in *Dateline* during the second semester.

To round out the education of the whole person, there were men and women's basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, skiing, snowmobiling, skating and dancing, as well as spiritual retreats and interdenominational chapel services. Hospital field trips, business administration workshops and a student teacher conference helped to expand students' academic experience.

"THE WAY IT DESERVES TO BE"

Just after President Mansour had finished her second academic year in leadership at Mercy College, she was interviewed by Judd Arnett of the *Detroit Free Press*. He had many things to say about "this uncommon nun who was handling an uncommon job:"

Sister Agnes Mary Mansour is the president of Mercy College, which happens to be one of our more solvent institutions of higher learning, and the other day she consented to spend some time with this backslid Methodist. Speaking as the party of the second part, it was a very interesting experience.

In the first place, Sister Agnes did not fit my preconceived notion of how a college president should look, even though I have been around long enough to realize that they come in all shapes and sizes. She is very young, not at all the type you would expect to find dealing with 1,800 students and a \$4 million budget.

But then, she came to this responsibility by a somewhat circuitous route, having been trained first of all as a chemist, with a later doctorate in philosophy.

Her administrative ability was what you might call a "latent development," blossoming as the result of her chairmanships, or chairwomanships, of several departments, and all at once she was running the whole shebang. Scouts report that she is very good at the job, knowing the value of money and insisting that Mercy stay out of the clutches of the interest takers. It is a growing college that manages to make ends meet even though tuition charges are below many other private schools, so perhaps we should keep her

in mind for future consideration in the public sector. Imagine having a president, U.S.A., who could balance the budget.

There being a little of Bobby Riggs in all men, the temptation could not be resisted to challenge Sister Agnes on the matter of women's liberation. After all, she made it, and others are making it, so what is all of the yowling about?

She is defensive of her kind, insisting that only in recent years has there been anything approaching equality of opportunity; and in the process she uses a time reference to her youth—"my day"—which is too ancient to square with the facts. After all, she was still a senior at Mercy in 1953, which was only yesterday. "My day," indeed.

Still, when the battle of the sexes is over, when peace has been declared throughout the land and everything is flat-out equal, she doesn't want women to compete against men. A woman should run for political office, she believes, not on the basis of "so many women and so many men," but rather from this attitude: That a woman's viewpoint would be beneficial to that particular office or to society at large. This, a male chauvinist will tell you, is slicing it thinner than it will be when the dear ladies finally attain the pinnacle of equality, but they are short on compassion.

In contrast, her compassion extends in all directions, reaching out to include a nationally-known priest who has just announced that he will join a former nun in matrimony. What will happen to him when the roll is called up yonder, I wondered? Her answer went something like this: That no mortal knows the extent of God's mercy, or the degree to which He will support changes in attitudes. You start out as one thing; you switch because of circumstances or altered convictions; God will not necessarily, or automatically, abandon you. There is solace in there for many of us, and hope.

If there is an average student at Mercy College, then he or she (co-education began in 1963) comes from a hard-working, feet-on-the-ground, middle class family, 75 percent Detroit oriented, 90 percent from Michigan, 70 percent Catholic, about 15 percent Black. There have been a few pot smokers among them, Sister Agnes suspects, but by and large the campus has always been quiet, orderly, serious-

mindful, work-oriented, perhaps even dull by Ann Arbor standards. You enroll, you cut the mustard, you leave, you do something worthwhile, perhaps in the area of health services—that has been the rather unspectacular story of Mercy College. You do not read much about it in the newspapers, unfortunately, but it prospers nonetheless.

We talked, finally, of faith, of commitment, of “what it is all about,” a dialog in which I always come out as the searcher, the seeker, the grasper at straws. Not many of us face life with serenity, and that is where Sister Agnes Mary Mansour has it all over us, which is the way it deserves to be, come to think of it.⁷





A YEAR OF GROWTH FOR THE COLLEGE

Two important bills that affected the College were signed by Governor William Milliken in late 1972. One bill had increased the per capita state tuition grant for private colleges from \$800 to \$1,200 a year. Even so, with much regret the president sent a letter to each student¹ on April 6, 1973 providing notice of increases in College expenses.

The full-time tuition and general fee increased from \$735 to \$780 per semester.

On July 26, 1973, President Mansour announced receipt of a grant of \$65,250 from the National Science Foundation to be used for an evaluation of policy research in education for the disadvantaged. Mary Janet Mulka, RSM, chairman of the Sociology department, directed the study.

“We will evaluate thoroughly the body of policy-related research to determine the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of such policies to provide a more sound basis for future research projects in this area,” explained Sister Mulka. “We will make the appropriate research more usable and accessible to policy-makers.” She believed the study would bring the researcher and policy-maker closer together in evaluating alternative programs for disadvantaged students in higher education.

BEGINNING THE YEAR WITH REMEMBRANCE AND PRAYER

In the midst of countless activities before the beginning of classes, the president believed a few hours of recollection were appropriate to honor the memory of Mary Patricia Garvey, RSM (1941-1951) and Mary Lucille Middleton, RSM (1952-1967), former presidents of Mercy College. She planned an evening beginning with a liturgy, followed by a buffet supper. Entertainment was provided by the Detroit Symphony 1973 Summer Music Theatre. An overflow crowd attested to the loving and loyal remembrance of the former presidents of Mercy College of Detroit.

The first Board meeting of the year 1973-74 was held September 20. Mr. Colombo agreed to continue as legal counsel to the Board committees. He also reported on an ongoing dispute between Ellerbe Architects and the College concerning the substructure of faulty piping for cold air and heat. The question: was Ellerbe negligent in recommending Perma Duc, and were proper borings taken?² The issue at this time was unresolved.

A few days after the Board meeting, Mr. Lutz, with President Mansour's concurrence, expressed in a letter to Sister George as Provincial Administrator, several strongly argued reasons why there should be a larger membership on the Board of Trustees.

I have delayed in answering your letter detailing the provincial council's decision against enlarging the Mercy College of Detroit board of trustees from 15 to 20 members for several important reasons. The most compelling reason was to give the current board and administration time to reorganize its efforts in planning and development for an institution which has grown sharply in recent years to an enrollment this fall in excess of 2,000.

I believe the board is on solid ground in seeking an increase in its membership, considering the work ahead and the areas of influence which must be reached if the college is to achieve financial independence, a goal put forth by the provincialate itself. As you know, most college boards by necessity have members who often act in absentia. We have three such members, Martha Griffiths, a congresswoman, Dr. Michael Brennan, president of the Michigan Cancer Society and Federal Judge Damon Keith, the only Black representation on the board. We value the membership of all three and

each has contributed when asked in the areas of his or her expertise.

Since my tenure as chairman, the board has suffered from a lack of members able to serve on board committees which now, more than ever, must play an important role in the College's future. At the board meeting of Sept. 20, Robert Connors, controller for nine Chrysler Corp. plants, and responsible for some \$4.5 billion in sales and projects, was nominated for your approval. A fifteenth board member, Theodore Mecke, vice president of public relations, Ford Motor Co., has been asked to fill the current board complement. He is awaiting Mr. Ford's approval.

Mr. Connors will join Mr. Rudy, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Cameron on the finance committee. Mr. Mecke would join Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Brennan and Mrs. Dolan and Mrs. Griffiths, on the planning and development committee. You will note that two of these committee members act largely in absentia. The rapid growth of the College and its aim to become financially independent demands that this committee be enlarged to include people of wealth and influence in the community. I might mention that our development consultant, who is nationally known, has recommended the board be enlarged to 25 members—not an uncommon number—to give it the strength needed to achieve future goals. He believes new members ought to be added in the planning year so that they are familiar with the college and its programs as it moves into an active fund-raising campaign. Often people of this caliber are persuaded to join such a board when names of other important community figures will be fellow board members.

Sister Agnes Mary and I respectfully ask that the membership be raised to 20. If the decision is negative, we plead for a chance to present our rationale in an oral presentation to the council.³

Apparently, Sister George and her council found these reasons compelling, and expressed their agreement September 24. "Would you consider Article IV, Section 1 of the Bylaws to be reworded as follows," she wrote. "The affairs and business of the corporation shall be managed by a board of no more than *twenty-five (25)* members, each of whom shall serve for a term of three years with the possibility of

re-election. *One-fifth of the Board shall be Sisters of Mercy.* The Board of Trustees shall nominate and select a President of the College who shall become eligible to serve and assume the position when approved and certified by the membership of the corporation.”⁴

FUND-RAISING, FINANCIAL MATTERS AND STABILITY

On October 1, another message from the desk of the president to faculty and administration again stressed development as it related to general and specific goals. This message was sent during a time of financial stress, yet the president forged ahead, hoping to establish a base for continued financial development. In the face of a scarcity of supplemental funds, the president was exercising trust in a higher power.

WORLD EVENTS AFFECT THE COLLEGE

Events in the world are inseparable from college life. In the early 1970s Americans were experiencing a gasoline shortage and were paying \$1.50 or more per gallon. In 1973 natural disasters (such as the flooding of the Mississippi and surrounding area), coupled with Russia-China wheat deals, created a grain shortage. Meat producers reduced their herds. Since the cost of feeding the cattle was greater than proceeds from the sale, the result was a beef shortage.

At the same time, students were seeking ways to address the increasing cost of living. The federal government continued to provide aid to college-age students, but the much-needed federal loans prohibited students from seeking part-time work on campus. The government felt that providing both loans and jobs was “over-rewarding.” This placed a hardship on some students who were quite capable of working part-time.

Meanwhile, the Nixon administration had not been effective in mitigating public concern over food and fuel shortages and the lack of available jobs. Anticipating the difficulties seniors faced in the job market upon graduation, placement director Dorothy Hope called all interested seniors to a senior seminar. She hoped to dispel some of the dismal media prognostications, and urged all seniors to complete placement forms as soon as possible so that interested companies would have reference materials. She also pointed out the variety of openings for majors in business, math and the technical and medical fields, as well as for teachers in out-state school districts. She

suggested that liberal arts majors could consider opportunities in civil service.⁵

Placement offices of both the University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit announced that final arrangements were made for the U of D and MCD seniors to conduct job interviews at either campus during the fall and spring college recruiting seasons.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, JANUARY AND MARCH, 1974

By January 31, 1974 there were 10 laymen on the Board of Trustees and four Sisters of Mercy. The president was pleased to announce that the Development office was preparing for fund raising for the upcoming campaign, "Mercy '76." The office's first task was to find a suitable general campaign chairperson and special projects chairperson.

At the March meeting, President Mansour reported to the Board that Coopers and Lybrand believed the College, rather than Saga Food Service, was responsible for sales tax liability resulting from catering services.⁶

The first order of faculty business by the Board concerned Elizabeth LaForest, RSM, who requested a one-year extension of her current leave of absence, during which she planned to continue her work in Africa with the Peace Corps.⁷

The Admissions director noted that the College was slightly above the national average on ACT scores, and that freshman applications were constant while transfers were increasing. The president, referring to a study recently completed by the director of Placement, reported that 95 percent of the 1973 graduates were employed or in graduate school.⁸

During the closing months of the Vietnam War, President Mansour had made a concerted effort to encourage all on campus to cooperate with President Richard Nixon's plea to save energy. She notified the Board and the campus of the numerous steps under way at the College.⁹

An important matter for the Board's consideration was the issue of student fees. Student fee projection was usually based on an assumption of steady enrollment. However, due to a decision by Grace Hospital not to enroll its first-year nursing students at MCD, the College faced a revenue shortfall of \$160,000. Accordingly, the College proposed a tuition increase of 6.67 percent, or \$50 a semester. The College also hoped that new programs in early childhood

education and health administration would draw additional students.

In addition, Mercy College was awaiting the Governor's signature on the Degree Reimbursement Bill. This would result in \$400 per bachelor's degree and \$200 per associate degree for each graduate, or approximately \$100,000 for Mercy College based on its 1974 graduates. Also reflected in the budget was the Federal grant of \$68,000 for nursing students. With these sources of revenues and expenses, the projected budget still included a deficit of \$117,000 for the coming year. Motions were approved to raise tuition to \$800 per semester; sisters' salaries were increased to the Archdiocesan level.

Other projects were moving ahead. Board discussion of the building project (Library and Learning Resource Center) focused on the choice of an architect and the importance of taking sufficient time in the planning stages. The departure of several sisters to alternate living quarters, freed up an entire wing on the third floor of the Administration Building for College use as of July 1, 1974. This relieved the pressure for an immediate decision on the building project.

BOARD MEETING, MAY 1974

The final meeting of the Board for the academic year 1973-74 was held on May 9, 1974. Financial matters captured primary attention. Utility costs had increased; salary expenditures had increased due to cost-of-living adjustments and staff additions; the increase in sisters' salaries decreased contributed services by the Sisters of Mercy community. Still the Board was pleased with the projection that the College might break even in fiscal year 1974-75 through careful planning and conscientious stewardship.

President Mansour presented the report of the search committee for the new academic dean, indicating that Dr. Milton Snyder was the preferred candidate. He also had received student support and was the first choice of the greatest number of the faculty as well as receiving a strong endorsement from the faculty senate.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the proposed library expansion project. As a result of the Board's approval, Mr. Lutz contacted Philip Meathe of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls Associates. Robert Sage, president of the Sage Foundation and Board member, suggested Andrew James Smith from Smith, Hinchman and Grylls

Associates as the overall supervisor of the project. Mr. Smith recommended Tivadar Balogh as the architect. A contract was subsequently signed with Mr. Balogh.

On May 14, the president sent the following message to faculty, administrators and staff:

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Milton Snyder has been appointed Academic Dean of Mercy College of Detroit, effective July 15, 1974. Dr. Snyder was the preferred candidate recommended by the search committee for the position of Academic Dean. This recommendation had my full support, knowing it reflected the preference of the College community.





THEMES AND RENEWED COMMITMENT

Two themes were memorable and prominent in 1974-75. One concerned the expansion of the library and nourishment for the mind; the other concerned Saga Products, Inc. and nourishment for the body.

THE LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT

After the architect's detailed presentation in August 1974 concerning the library expansion, the executive committee of the Board met to discuss the options and financial considerations. The meeting concluded with a motion proposing a library expansion project of Plan B (inner-court extension and four-floor building) plus a modified Plan A (mezzanine approach and linkage of inner-court extension with present building). The library expansion was not expected to exceed 7,300 square feet.

College architectural consultant A. J. Smith (Smith, Hinchman, and Grylls Associates, Architects) and Tivadar Balogh (Tivadar Balogh and Staff Architectural Firm) were the architects of choice. Plans were made to present preliminary sketches to the entire Board at the September 30 meeting. Total expected costs for the project amounted to \$801,833.

At the same meeting President Mansour presented several reports to the Board concerning enrollment trends at independent,

community and public institutions. A comparative study demonstrated that tuition at Mercy College of Detroit was less expensive than most independent or private colleges. It further demonstrated that Mercy was on an upward trend—gaining students rather than losing them.

THE COLLEGE TAKES OVER THE FOOD SERVICE

The year's second theme concerned the most necessary but undramatic subject "food." Actually, one of the meanings of the verb "to board" (as in "room and board") is "to grapple with, to commandeer, to storm." For at least the previous four years, *Dateline* had grappled with the concept and issues of "board." Through its pages students had apparently shown considerable dissatisfaction with the food service on campus: its appearance, nutritional value, general quality, quantity, selections. It was also clear that, by comparison, "Mom" was going to win, regardless of any changes that were made to the institutional food service. The big question then became: Were the articles in the campus newspaper reflective of the College community at large, or was this a "cause" taken up vocally by a few who had access to the columns of *Dateline*? To consider the issue, an ad hoc committee was formed.

One of the first solutions presented was to separate room and board. The previous year, the students had been given a choice of three food plans at variable costs. This turned out not to be the answer. Saga Products, Inc. bore the brunt of continued disparaging news items in *Dateline*; James Mathias, director of the Conference Center, bore the constant impact of bad publicity and harmful remarks toward food service on campus. With mutual agreement, Saga and Mercy ended their partnership in June 1974, and the College assumed the challenges of ever-changing and diverse culinary appetites.

Since *Dateline* had avidly reported the "bad" news over the years, it avidly reported the "good" news of the College's decision, and the early returns on the decision. In the same September 23 edition, a major story on the change in plan was accompanied by a complaint column entitled, "Tasteless Food Still Remains." The College redoubled its efforts to accommodate students' wishes regarding the food service.

FACULTY CHANGES PRESAGE THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

On the educational front, changes were also being made. Shortly before she left the position of academic dean, Mary Christopher Steele, RSM, clarified the initiation of the word “adjunct” as applied to the faculty for allied health for the first time. Sister Steele made a proposal to the president and Board of Trustees dated March 26, 1973. The proposal included recommendations and compensation for adjunct faculty at all levels.

Meanwhile, an attractive booklet chronicled the efforts and activities of Mercy College of Detroit from 1971 to 1975. It was called the President’s Report, and presented the significant highlights of President Mansour’s first four years.¹

FACULTY REPRISÉ

Teachers and mentors change people’s lives in distinguishing ways. For this reason, in 1974-75 a list was published of the entire Mercy College of Detroit faculty and staff. This list is available in its entirety for interested readers.²

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BUILDING A LIBRARY AND SEEKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, OCTOBER 1975

Harry S. Rudy, chairman of the finance committee, reported that \$923,412 was available for capital investment. This amount did not include a \$180,000 Religious Sisters of Mercy (RSM) contribution for 1975-76, a \$100,000 Kresge grant (contingent), a \$100,000 State Graduate Capitations grant (retroactive), and \$100,000 in expected fees from enrollment increases. After a review of the 1975-76 budget revision, the committee projected an improvement in operating results: Revenues would exceed expenditures by \$161,900. Therefore, \$1,738,400 was available for operations and capital investments.

President Mansour reported that the cost of the Library Phase I expansion had risen from \$900,000 to nearly \$1.2 million. Mr. Rudy emphasized the importance of containing costs, but believed there was a good safety net for the College to proceed with examining bids for the library expansion.

At this point the architect, Tivadar Balogh, and a member of his staff, Terry Sargent, joined the Trustees with Joe David, senior buyer of Ford Motor Company and Leo Smith, director of Physical Plant. The winning bids were: J. A. Ferguson, architectural and structural; Mechanical Heat and Cold Company, mechanical; Post Electrical,

electrical. Mr. Balogh noted that completion time would be 11 to 12 months and 5 percent would be a reasonable contingency.¹ He also suggested that Mr. Ferguson should act as general contractor. Mr. Smith determined that the operating cost of the new space (18,500 sq. ft.) would be \$31,500 annually.

A building committee was formed. On October 7 the Board of Trustees met again to review the library expansion bids and to conditionally approve the selected contractors with instruction for the architect to continue to explore ways to reduce costs prior to signing final agreements.

ENROLLMENT GROWS TO A NEW LEVEL

Statistics for 1975 revealed the largest enrollment in Mercy College's history, 2,219 students (1,368 full-time, 851 part-time): freshmen (730); sophomores (407); juniors (352); seniors (274); post-degree and guests (152); unclassified and special (249); consortium (54). Thirty-five percent were male and 23 percent Black.

Early in the 1975 academic year, Mercy's security department became the Department of Public Safety. Qualifications for public safety officers became more stringent. In addition, Mercy College was striving to prepare its public safety staff better by arranging its attendance at the Criminal Justice Institute to obtain 480 hours of law enforcement training.

On December 1, 1975 the president announced that the College had decided to enter into an arrangement with C. W. Shaver and Company, Inc., to secure capital funds for a building program and new endowment resources. C. W. Shaver would also assist the College in a search for a permanent Development director.

BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 10, 1975

At the December 10, 1975 meeting the Board of Trustees felt that the engaging of the Shaver Company was a positive move. Mr. Doty, vice president for C.W. Shaver and Company, noted several priorities of the plan:

- 1) Completion of funding for library expansion:
- 2) Planning of a capital campaign for the Science and Health Center.
- 3) Development of a program that would bring about greatly

- increased endowment sources for the College;
- 4) Building a system that would include an enlarged core of people working to bring about a major increase in annual giving for operating purposes.

One of the most urgent steps would be to recruit interested people with the capability to help either directly or through their knowledge of the community and state.

Mr. Frederic Marblestone, a Development consultant with C.W. Shaver and Company, commented on the fine job done by the College and its strong sense of purpose, however, additional leadership would be needed to reach the top pools of wealth. One way of doing this would be to use the President's Council concept.² This would involve the recruitment of key corporate leaders or well-known individuals in the community who have access to wealth and to corporate policy makers.

President Mansour reported on several matters:

Status of the library project. As requested by the Board, Joe Davis, A. J. Smith and T. Balogh worked with the contractors to reduce costs where possible; \$17,000 was cut from the cost, most of which was in the structural aspects of the project.

Status of Litigation - MCD vs. Ellerbe Architects. Because President Mansour and Mr. Colombo still felt there had been negligence on the part of Ellerbe, Mr. Colombo presented the depositions and the report to his own expert for review. The opinion remained: negligence. Mr. Colombo urged the College attorneys to move on the case.

Awaiting a response from the attorneys, President Mansour learned that Ellerbe had requested that the case be dropped because of the statute of limitations. The judge ruled in favor of Mercy College, saying that if the College could prove it was a contract case and not a malpractice case, the statute of limitations had not been exceeded.

NEW IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Marblestone of the C. W. Shaver Company proved to be a valuable addition to the College's endeavors in the library project and in Development. On January 20 he reported to the Board on progress regarding appointments with persons who might be interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, or on a

Development Council.

At the same meeting, two excellent proposals were made concerning the development of programs on alcohol treatment and hospice care for cancer patients. These initiatives would serve to increase the visibility of the College in the eyes of the Detroit community and of Detroit business.

Mr. Marblestone reported on his activities toward a project that would galvanize any group of Christian workers: prevention and treatment of alcoholism. He had met with representatives from Ford Motor Company regarding an alcoholism prevention program. The meeting was very encouraging; Ford suggested that Mercy College could play a role in the areas of education and preventive services.

Trustee Michael Brennan, M.D., suggested that Mr. Marblestone speak to Dr. Russell Smith, who was associated with Guest House, Brighton Hospital and Maxey Training School for Boys, and also Mrs. Marty Mann, co-founder of the National Council on Alcoholism.

It was agreed that an advisory committee should be formed to consider and define the problems, the corrective measures and what could be done before moving forward with a program on alcoholism.

Dr. Brennan also suggested that contact first be made with Mel Glass, U.A.W. Health Department, for an endorsement of the program. He advised the College administration to allow at least six months of preliminary planning. The Board approved the program.

Dr. Brennan and Mr. Lutz also proposed developing a hospice program since federal funds were available for the care of dying cancer patients who no longer required surgery or therapy but did need nursing care. In collaboration with the Michigan Cancer Foundation, Mercy College would be in a strong position to "provide a place for the training of persons to work with these people and would also provide a very much-needed facility. The general nature of Mercy Center³ would seem to make it suitable." A copy of Dr. Brennan's written proposal was distributed to the Board for review.

At the March 25th Board of Trustees meeting, the Board continued to consider the potential of Mercy Center as a facility for training/treatment/evaluation in the area of alcoholism. However, President Mansour felt strongly that there was a need to study the situation in light of a variety of alternatives. President Mansour also noted that a proposal to use Mercy Center for these purposes must

first be submitted to the Sisters of Mercy, indicating exactly what use was intended.

Fund raising for the library project was an ongoing concern of the Board. Mr. Marblestone reported that he did not believe significant, broad-based support would be forthcoming from corporations until there was an opportunity for them to be better acquainted with the College and more directly related to its work through programs such as the alcoholism project.

Mr. Marblestone also explained the need for a maturation period for development of key gifts, and indicated that specific expectations on timing and dollar amounts for fund raising could not be determined at that time.

The Board discussed the issue of the Dinner Theatre's debt to the College. The Finance Committee recommended that the president notify the Dinner Theatre promoters that all funds due the College must immediately be paid in full, or arrangements must be made for specific payment of the debt. Otherwise, immediately after the performance of February 19, 1976, the Theatre would be closed. The Dinner Theatre made a counter proposal to pay the college \$500 each Monday prior to the weekend performance, in addition to the part of the revenue from each performance that the College would customarily receive. The Board agreed.

To keep up with ever-increasing expenses, the Board authorized the College to increase 1976-77 tuition \$80 per semester, bringing full tuition to \$900 per semester, and to make moderate increases in other appropriate course fees. The Board also authorized incremental salary increases for staff and faculty.

BOARD MEETING, MAY 1976

Mr. Marblestone reported progress in the Development area. The alcoholism project had received the endorsement and support of ALMACA, a group of counselors affiliated with industry locally and nationally, and OSAS (Office of Substance Abuse Services).

The College administration had reconsidered the possibility of using Mercy Center in connection with the project. There was a concern that too much emphasis was on the facility and not enough on the program. The program would focus on teaching personnel about the treatment of the alcoholic on an outpatient basis. This form of treatment could be provided at one-fourth the cost of in-patient treatment without sacrificing quality of care. Mr. Marblestone would

continue to discuss the project with the potential partners.

The Dinner Theatre had proposed staging a new “one man” production, to start on May 22. Tentative approval was given pending the president’s review of a rehearsal performance and a continued understanding that payments were to be kept current and that the Theatre would work to reduce the prior debt.

The president also reported that she had spoken with architect Balogh about halting further architectural service on the building project, phase II until the architect communicated specific costs on the further development of the science building.

PRESIDENT MANSOUR CONCLUDES ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH

At the close of the academic year, the president presented a summary of students, faculty and finances for 1976.⁺





ENROLLMENT GROWS; THE NEW LIBRARY OPENS

At the September 29, 1976, Board meeting Mr. Marblestone, director of Development, reported that the current financial environment in the Detroit area was positive. It would be possible to raise \$1.5 million for Phase II of the building program, but a pivotal factor would be securing a challenge grant of up to \$500,000. The College had a strong case, and the Development office was optimistic about meeting the goal.

Mr. Cameron, the newly appointed chairman of the Finance Committee, indicated that the Board at its January 23 meeting had authorized President Mansour to proceed with architectural drawings for the proposed science building (Phase II), indicating that Mr. Michael Wise, director of Business & Finance, had presented positive financial projections. Emphasizing the urgent need for a science building, the president suggested further analysis on the availability of funds and the debt load that the College could reasonably sustain. It was also suggested that there was a possibility of private placement of the debt with an insurance company.

Mr. Wise indicated that the annual cost of the building project would range from \$60.87 to \$104.67 per full-time student. He also estimated that fixed costs would be approximately \$72,300, or \$42.53 per full-time student.

At the December Board meeting, Phase II moved forward

considerably. Mr. Wise had been working on the financing study with A. G. Becker, administrator of the Michigan Higher Education Facilities Act. The draft report from this agency concluded that it would be feasible to finance the science building. Accordingly, proper documentation was prepared for both the Board and Canonical approval.

ENROLLMENT REACHES RECORD LEVELS

Mercy College continued to grow. Statistics from the Registrar's office for 1976-77 noted a 6 percent increase over the previous year, making it the largest enrollment to date. The total head count was 2,364, with a breakdown of 1,436 full-time, 861 part-time and 67 Consortium students. The full-time equivalent was 1,837. The enrollment included 33 percent male, 24 percent Black and 91 percent in degree-oriented programs.

The programming board of the Student Council offered a number of events in the fall of 1976: a self-defense class for women; a weekly movie; the annual Red Cross blood drive; a concert in November that included three bands and a combination of soul, jazz and rock. The National Poetry Press announced the opening of the 1977 spring competition. The Office of Financial Aid announced that the Detroit Urban Corps had part-time jobs for work-study students. The women's volleyball team was extremely successful and won almost every match.

The increasingly successful men's Crusaders basketball team began the 1976-77 season by winning the Holiday Basketball Tournament.

CURRICULAR REFORM AND A NEW LIBRARY

All too often in life what seemed to be "the old" returns later in a different form as "the new." This was true at the College in 1977. The MCD administration formed a Curriculum Committee to examine development in the liberal arts and professional education programs. The classical scholars lamented the lack of foreign languages and other required courses as components of a well-rounded liberal education for all students. They advised the addition of two courses in a foreign language, one in mathematics and one in natural science as requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree; one course of a foreign language and one course of mathematics or science as requirements for the bachelor of science degree. The



The first floor of the new Library, 1980.

Curriculum Committee believed that students generally were not equipped to select a curriculum of adequate depth and breadth. They also believed that while exposure to broad areas of study did not guarantee a well-educated adult, it did provide opportunities for diversification. The task of integrating subjects had been the responsibility of the faculty, especially those teaching in the general studies program. "We believe," said the committee, "that total elective freedom is not necessarily a positive educational value, and we are concerned to protect genuine student elective power in the selection of courses within area requirements." The committee left the question open for discussion and a vote.

Meanwhile, the new library had opened. An informal open house was held on February 1, 1977, to provide a closeup look at the library for students, parents, friends and faculty. The formal dedication for the \$1.2 million structure took place February 13 with the Board of Trustees, faculty, alumni and friends of the College in attendance. It was an opportunity to express appreciation for the one who had shepherded the project and had brought the concept to fruition: President Agnes Mary Mansour, RSM. Ed Grima, head of the Student Council, predicted, "The new library will inspire a passion for truth, a passion for learning."

The setting for the dedication was the library courtyard, complete with chamber music and contemporary art. After a warm welcome and a word of thanks from President Mansour, William Lutz, chairman of the Board of Trustees, proceeded to acknowledge all responsible for their contributions and added, "Due to the efforts of one determined lady, the new library has been renamed 'Phase I.'" Mr. Lutz expressed the sentiment that all shared in appreciation of the continual attention and diligence President Mansour had dedicated to the project.

The formal dedication was made by the Honorable Martha Griffiths, long-time MCD Board member and U.S. Congresswoman. Drawing from her personal experiences, she emphasized "the importance of early exposure to the library for continuing enrichment." Architect Tivadar Balogh then gave a brief explanation of the library's design and construction and was lauded for his unique work.

For the occasion, a faculty grant made possible a sculpture entitled "Afterward." The artist, Professor Lloyd J. Radell, chairman of the Art Department, explained the meaning of the sculpture. Five paintings by Renee Radell, assistant art professor, were also exhibited in the courtyard. The Most Rev. Thomas J. Gumbleton, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit, gave the benediction, followed by a performance from the Chamber Music Workshop of Detroit.

NURSING ON THE CUTTING EDGE

From the earliest days of the College, the Nursing Department always had the largest enrollment of any single department or program. Also from the beginning, the Nursing faculty were on the cusp of new developments in the profession. Mary Immaculata Lamey, RSM, assumed the title of dean in the 1960s, because nursing was the College's signature program. (Albert) Marie Flick, RSM, chairperson of the Nursing department in the 1950s and early 1960s, had been one step ahead of the accrediting agencies, evolving from a three-year program to a five-year program, and finally to a four-year program that optimally served both the students and the profession. In the early 1950s she had tested the winds of change in the nursing curriculum, and had been a vanguard of progress in the profession.

Another innovator, Elizabeth Mary Burns, RSM, took responsibility for the nursing program and brought it into the 1970s among the

avant-garde of nursing programs. A medical newspaper led with the headline, "MCD nurses in right place at right time." At this time the American Nurses Association began stressing the Bachelor of Science degree over diploma or non-degree programs. Sister Flick and Sister Burns had stressed the four-year program for years, always allowing for the essential integration of the liberal arts into the program. Wayne State University had the only other bachelor's degree in nursing program in metropolitan Detroit. Mercy continued to educate a cohort of more than 400 nurses in its program each year. One hundred new students entered the program annually and were assured places in clinical laboratories—an essential experience within the curriculum. Restriction of the number of graduates also guaranteed professional placement in hospitals, clinics, etc. The nursing program continued to be a strength and a source of pride for the College throughout its history.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS, MARCH 1977

The first item on the agenda for the March 25 Board of Trustees meeting was the Development report:

Mr. Marblestone reiterated his feeling that a challenge grant in the amount of \$500,000 would be key to the success of the Capital Development Campaign. From an earlier meeting with the Development committee, there were opinions expressed by some Trustees that MCD should request \$750,000 or \$1,000,000 from the Kresge Foundation. Martha Griffiths was asked at that time to seek the counsel of George Russell, Trustee of the Kresge Foundation. Mrs. Griffiths recommended to President Mansour that we should not ask for a matching ratio but simply state our goal and request \$1,000,000 in our proposal.

Mr. Wise indicated that the budget included a tuition increase. President Mansour mentioned that Mercy College ranked 15th from the top of similar private institutions in tuition charges. She requested that the Board consider an \$80 to \$90 increase in tuition per semester fiscal year 1977-78.

The president informed the Board that the academic dean had resigned effective July 1, 1977.¹ The president also announced that Sister Emily George was being considered for the new position of vice president for Academic and

Student Affairs. Sister George would leave her present position as Provincial Administrator on June 19, 1977.

President Mansour reported that she had met with Ed Connors, president of the Sisters of Mercy Health Corporation. Both agreed to recommend to their Boards a strong working relationship between the Health Corporation and Mercy College of Detroit in development and implementation of educational programs in the health fields.

Mr. Cameron reviewed action of the Finance Committee regarding a recommendation to allow the College to proceed with a parking and paving project to a maximum of \$350,000. In the light of recent developments, the Board decided to table this discussion pending the president's report on the building program and the development committee's upcoming meeting with the Kresge Foundation.

President Mansour reviewed the background of the Science Center project, including necessary paving and parking. Prior to the Development Committee's meeting with Mr. William Baldwin, many felt that a recommendation to proceed with parking and paving could be separate from the recommendation to proceed with the Science Center. This could allow for more time to develop the financing plan for the total project, and yet move ahead with expanded parking through the summer. This latter task could not be delayed until the fall because of problems that would result when the full student body returned to campus.

The Board of Trustees held its final meeting of the academic year on May 10, 1977. The Board approved the Administration's recommendation to proceed with Phase II of the construction program in accordance with the plans and drawings of the architect, Tivadar Balogh, at a maximum cost of \$3,240,000.

Staff member Dick Enright reviewed the history of the recommendation to arm the Public Safety officers. Trustee Sid McKenna distributed his report and conditional recommendation to authorize the arming of certain Mercy College security personnel. His recommendation was made with reluctance. In view of the total information submitted in the report, and setting aside his personal views, he recommended that the Board conditionally approve the arming of

selected, properly trained security personnel. His recommendation was based largely on:

1. Sheriff Spreen's recommendation;
2. Support by the Detroit Police Department;
3. Support by the student government;
4. The perceptions of some students that the threat of serious incident was clear and present; and
5. The decision of other colleges and universities in the city of Detroit and surrounding area, including Wayne State University, University of Detroit, Eastern Michigan University and Oakland University.

Conditions would include the number of guards to be armed, the type and frequency of training, the time and circumstances under which they would carry firearms, ownership and custody of firearms, etc. Mr. McKenna further emphasized the necessity of establishing strict controls and the importance of selective recruitment and continued training of personnel. The Board approved the recommendations. However, President Mansour and Sister Emily George requested that the record show they cast a negative vote on the motion to arm the Public Safety officers.





KEEPING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN REACH

The fall of the school year 1977-78 began with the blessing of raindrops in the form of steady sprinkles, drenching deluges, foggy mists and downpours. More cars than ever arrived to fill the newly paved parking lot, which cost approximately \$300,000 and provided spaces for 332 additional cars. Other physical improvements had been made to improve accessibility on campus: marked parking spaces, ramps and inclines to aid the physically disabled. Policy notification statements had been mailed to all employees and pre-registered students informing them that "It is the policy of Mercy College of Detroit not to discriminate on the basis of handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities."¹

President Mansour could do nothing about the weather, but she was anxious to form an ad hoc committee of "handicapped persons to volunteer their services to examine MCD's current policies and practices and to identify physical obstacles that limit accessibility in facilities."²

For the academic year, Campus Ministry initiated a 15-minute prayer at 10 a.m. daily. Students also participated in walk-alongs to aid a variety of causes. Students also had the opportunity for internships during spring semester in congressional offices, executive and judicial agencies, and public interest organizations in Washington,

D.C. In collaboration with the Washington Center for Learning Alternatives (WCLA), students would receive credit for the internship from Mercy College based on evaluations from WCLA faculty and staff.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, SEPTEMBER 29, 1977

Thelma Riccardo, vice chair of the Development Committee, reported on the Committee's progress. Proposals had been submitted; a sequential solicitation plan was being followed. Mrs. Riccardo also mentioned the preparation of a capital campaign brochure by the advertising firm Ross Roy. Clarification was presented regarding the Kresge grant: the grant was contingent upon Mercy College's ability to raise all the funds needed to complete the project by February 1978.

Dr. Robert Wiencek reported that an initial meeting of the Alcoholism Advisory Committee was held September 1, 1977. A draft of curriculum for a four-year baccalaureate degree in alcoholism studies was to be reviewed by the committee at the next meeting. The committee would also consider the possibility of inviting members of the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse to Detroit to view the facilities and curriculum and offer suggestions.

Tivadar Balogh, architect, reviewed the contracts and bids received for the new Science Center project. Winning bids were as follows: general contractor, J. A. Ferguson, \$1,602,642; mechanical, Page Plumbing & Heating, \$437,800; electrical, Gillis Electric Inc., \$183,900. Together with added miscellaneous costs, the total was \$3,240,000.

Approval had been received to finance a \$2 million long-term debt, leaving a balance of \$1,240,000 to be obtained through other sources. President Mansour reviewed the \$400,000 in commitments obtained to date and reminded the Board of the letters and proposals already sent out to various foundations and corporations. The \$900,000 balance of funds must be identified by February 1978 to meet the qualifications required by the Kresge grant. Unrestricted money (\$600,000) was available while continuing the development effort. Mr. Wise felt that no more than \$300,000 of the general fund should be lent to this project until philanthropic sources could be obtained. Trustee Dr. Dan Sarapo felt that at least 80 percent of the cost should be in-pocket before groundbreaking.

President Mansour emphasized the inadequacy of the current science facilities compared to the health programs offered at Mercy College, and the need for new facilities to ensure continuing quality academic programs. She expressed confidence in the successful completion of the project. The Board approved proceeding with the construction of the Science Center.³

Following the Board meeting, the president remained convinced that God was tracking the temporal and spiritual efforts of the College, to raise money to build facilities that in the long run would multiply many times the goodness in the world.⁴

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, FEBRUARY 9, 1977

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 9, 1978, discussions and motions centered chiefly on availability of funds for the Science Center and salary increases for faculty and staff. Trustee Thelma Riccardo reviewed the total summary list of contacts with corporations and foundations.

Several recommendations were made that funds from certain foundations be earmarked for the Science Center. Mr. Rudy stated that the Herrick Foundation wished its gift of \$200,000 to be restricted to the construction of the Science Center, as did The Kresge Foundation, whose contribution was dependent upon the fulfillment of other pledges for the financing of the Science Center.

At the same time, the curriculum, approved by the Alcoholism Advisory Committee, for associate and baccalaureate degrees in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies was presented. Chairman of the committee, Bob Sage, indicated that the program was designed so the first two years would have a strong "people" orientation. Supervised clinical experience working directly with alcoholism rehabilitation centers, industry, medical institutions, etc., would be investigated. Dr. Wiencek noted that General Motors was willing to take students in this area, and that there was enough interest by program directors to place a sufficient number of students.

Dr. Brennan stressed that the intent of the College was to keep education within the reach of those with lesser means. President Mansour stated that serving the needs of the metropolitan Detroit area would remain the primary concern of MCD. Reaffirming the Philosophy, Mission and Goals statement of MCD, the president noted that it was the intent of MCD to keep tuition reasonable, but that the College had one of the lower tuitions for private colleges in

the state. The president also indicated that there was new Michigan legislation, the Ryan Bill, which granted \$500 to each new freshman entering a private institution, regardless of need.

To conclude the meeting, President Mansour suggested a social occasion during which the Trustees could meet the Sisters of Mercy who were members of the Corporation: Helen Marie Burns, RSM, president; Mary Rebecca Lorenz, RSM, vice president; Rachelle Harper, RSM; Mary Maurita Sengelaub, RSM; Mary Camille Kelley, RSM; Mary Judith Rapin, RSM, secretary; and Mary Kelly, RSM, treasurer.⁵

Following the Board meeting, on February 28, 1978, the president announced that Mercy College had submitted a Title III proposal to HEW requesting financial assistance of nearly \$2,000,000 over a five-year period. Eleven distinct activities were proposed under the headings of Planning and Management Systems, Academic Programs, and Special Programs.⁶

NEW FACILITIES FOR HEALTH AND SCIENCE PROGRAMS

By October of 1977, the Allied Health programs were in need of additional space, so the recently vacated fourth floor of the Administration Building was renovated for offices and classrooms for the programs.

The new Respiratory Therapy program was initiated in November. Seventeen students studying to become registered respiratory therapists were scheduled for a 30-month course, which included classes at Mercy and clinical work at Sinai Hospital under the direction of Thomas Crawley.

To coordinate all Allied Health programs—Physician Assistant, Medical Records, Respiratory Therapy, Medical Technology and Dietetics—Dr. Norman Cates joined the Mercy College faculty. Dr. Cates was originally from New York with a doctorate in Biology from Fordham University and several years of experience in Allied Health administration. His most important role was to develop new programs in Allied Health fields at Mercy. A new program established in January 1979 was Gerontology. Dr. Cates observed that, “Mercy should be proud of all its accomplishments not only in academics but in its emphasis on human values.”

At the same time, curricular revision was an ongoing responsibility of the Nursing faculty in an ever-changing world. In the fall of 1977 two new courses were incorporated at the freshman level to



Mercy College President Agnes Mary Mansour, RSM, with Detroit Renaissance President Robert E. McCabe breaks ground for the new Science Center.

make students more aware of nursing as a profession and to help them decide that nursing was in fact the right career for them.

“Dynamics of Nursing” was a new, one-credit-hour course. “Nursing Process” was a three-credit-hour course to teach students organized methods of planning and analyzing patient care. Human anatomy was moved to the first year, and pathophysiology to the second year. Virginia Ann Skurski, O.S.F., chairperson of the Nursing department with more than 400 students, emphasized the importance of seniors having experience in several clinical areas in order to choose the area of highest interest in their final year. She also considered “Research in Nursing” invaluable as a process for the future.

In view of the changes and growth in the health-related programs at Mercy College, Karl Payne, *Detroit News* staff writer, authored the following under the headline, “Mercy College top nun pilots tractor, aids drive for health-science center.”

Students peering through the windows of Mercy College’s new library were amused, but probably not surprised, to see a spirited little nun don a hard hat, climb aboard a tractor and drive away.

Sister Agnes Mary Mansour is their school president, a



The building model for the new Science Center.

magnetic person who has won a reputation for ‘stubborn persistence’ in tackling often difficult projects.

And the project that began yesterday—the construction of a \$3.24 million health-science center—is one of the biggest ever undertaken by the College.

It took a few moments of fidgeting, and ‘a little’ instruction, but Sister Agnes Mary braved the bone-chilling wind and slight mist of rain to move the first bit of soil with the tractor’s scoop and thus launched a \$2.2 million public fund drive for the center.

‘How do you turn it off?’ asked the nun before stepping down from the driver’s seat. Then as she jaunted briskly over the muddy ground, she added, ‘I think it’s easier being a college president.’

The press conference held for the occasion was attended by Detroit Renaissance President Robert E. McCabe, Mercy College Board Chairman William W. Lutz, Fund-Raising Drive Chairman John S. Pingel and Vice Chairperson Thelma Riccardo.

Mr. Lutz remarked that his prediction of a returning ceremony voiced nine months ago at the Library dedication (that the Health-Science Center would be started within a year), was more than accurate. He credited Sister Agnes Mary for all her work in making such quick progress.

Robert E. McCabe stated that his reason for interest was that he felt that the Detroit Renaissance does not begin and

end at the Detroit River. Detroit as a whole is what the businessmen are looking at and MCD is highly regarded in this picture, representing progress and in meeting the future health needs of the community.

The Health-Science Center building, a two-story structure, will contain Hematology, Biology, Anatomy and Microbiology labs and storage areas along with all the Physical and Chemistry laboratories.

A gallery will be located on the lower level, under a sloping glassed roof, with a large planting area and will be visible from the first floor. Also included will be a lecture hall seating 235 students, and two classrooms.

A beautiful glass-walled corridor will connect the Science Center with the Activities Center. A skyscope will be built above the foyer, and will be made of a sloping metal roof enabling one to look out above, as with a periscope.

The new Health-Science Center is expected to add to Mercy's excellent reputation in the field of Allied Health.⁷

Health education was not the only area supported by government and private grants. Cooperative Education, which had existed at Mercy since 1973, received a Federal Department of Education Title VIII grant, with the possibility of expansion in a program called the Center for Cooperative Education. The idea of uniting students with employers and alternating duties between classroom work and on-the-job training offered an opportunity to integrate theory and practical application. Previously, the emphasis of Cooperative Education had been on the technical, engineering and computer fields. The program was trying to incorporate other subjects such as mathematics, business, sociology and psychology and possibly the future involvement of liberal arts and nursing. Employers participating in the project included Ford, Chrysler, and the Social Security Administration, among others.

ATTENTION TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Attention to services and access for the physically disabled was a recurring theme throughout 1977 with very good results: A meeting between MCD personnel and handicapped students took place November 31. Some of the topics discussed were ice and snow removal from walkways and steps, the limiting of direct access

routes from parking lots to buildings, restrooms for handicapped students, building ramps, entrance to the Library on the second and third floors, illegal parking in handicapped zones, establishment of handicapped student parking areas in the east lot, and academic counseling for handicapped students.⁸

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS, MARCH 16 AND MAY 11, 1978

On March 16, Mr. Lutz introduced Helen Marie Burns, RSM, Provincial Administrator, and asked her to explain the relationship of the Membership of the Corporation with the College.

Sister Burns noted that although the number of Mercy institutions grew, the number of community members had decreased. It became necessary to determine how best to use the influence of the Sisters of Mercy on the institutions and schools they sponsored. In the past, sponsorship had developed through individual persons and energies; in the future, it would have to evolve through collaboration with lay and other religious groups. It would be necessary to allow lay persons to become more involved in the ownership of Mercy institutions and to welcome their influence as a mutual service and ministry.

A definition of the word sponsorship was resolved by the Community: "Support of, influence on, responsibility for, and public identification with a project, program or institution which furthers our own goals." To determine if an institution furthered the goals of the Sisters of Mercy, the General Chapter, the highest legislative body of the Community, proposed the following questions: What is the institution's connection with the Church and with the Christian community? Is it a visible link with the Sisters of Mercy's own history with the sick, poor, uneducated? As an example, Mercy College of Detroit, bearing in part the name of the Sisters of Mercy and allowing some influence from them, helped further the goals.

The Members were also considered members of a legal Corporation. They delegated authority to the institution's Board of Trustees, who, in turn, reported to the president. There were, therefore, three areas of relationship with the College: collaborative, sponsorship and legal.

Following Sister Burns' presentation, comments were made on the quality of the curriculum and faculty and the goals of the College. President Mansour reiterated the Sisters of Mercy

commitment to serve the poor and uneducated. Quality programs must provide equality of opportunity to people who have not had opportunities in the past to develop their potential. Sister Sengelaub⁹ noted the importance of quality of management in utilizing available resources efficiently.

Dr. Brennan asked whether the Sisters of Mercy would continue their financial contributions to the College. Sister Burns noted that the Community not only subsidized MCD, but also other institutions. She explained that a financial advisory committee was establishing priorities and developing long-range plans, and that a two-year commitment to Mercy College was forthcoming. President Mansour pointed out that although a subsidy was received from the Community, the College had been self-sufficient, and the money had been put back into building programs. She stressed that endowments would be important in the perpetuation of the institution.

At the May 11 Board meeting, Mr. Cameron moved that the Board reaffirm its approval of the resolution passed on February 9, 1978 to allow the College to borrow \$2,215,000 through the Michigan Higher Education Facilities Authority to defray a part of the costs of the Science Center. The total cost of construction for the Science Center was expected to be \$3,240,000.

President Mansour reviewed the minutes of the Development Committee meeting of March 29, 1978. The progress report on the Science Center campaign reflected a pledged amount of \$960,700 with \$721,550 received to date.

There were three additional and notable milestones during the 1977-78 academic year. First, the Weekend College project was piloted during the spring term with significant success, and Mercy College decided to continue to pursue the project. Second, the Ara Food Service was replaced in October by the Mache Company after considerable research found extremely positive comments from administration, faculty and students regarding Mache's innovative orientation to colleges and universities. Third, the College was able to establish a post office on campus.





LOSSES AND GAINS

Once again, the 1978 fall semester brought a record enrollment—2,376 students. Including Consortium students, MCD reached its peak enrollment that year with 2,444 students. In 10 years MCD had more than doubled its student body. Registrar Monica Hoefer, RSM, attributed the increase to the College's response to changing times: "The changes and additions in our curriculum that now offers new and vital programs are answering academic and career needs of students. Also, the strength of existing programs has stood the test of time and has proven successful in careers after graduation. Our students' influence in encouraging potential students to consider MCD has been beneficial as well.¹

To meet the needs and interests of a growing student body, the College continued to expand its curricular offerings. Three new programs had been added in the fall of 1977: Respiratory Therapy, Administration Assistant and Forensic Science. In 1978 four new programs were initiated: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies, Nurse Anesthesia, Industrial and Institutional Security, and a revised program in Business Administration primarily designed to serve the needs of government in the metro Detroit area. This latter program would help students gain a thorough understanding of urban and regional problems and the competing values and ethical principles surrounding them.²

On August 11, 1978 President Mansour distributed a letter to the faculty, administration and staff full of both good and bad news. The

President regretfully informed the faculty that Sister Emily George would not be returning to the College, but instead would be working in a leadership position in religious community governance.

President Mansour also conveyed that the College had received several grants to support a variety of programs and initiatives, including:

- a \$1,000,000 grant under the Title III Advanced Institutional Development Program (AIDP) to establish a computer center and an Office of Institutional Research to improve planning, management and evaluation systems, as well as the expansion of Weekend College and the initiation or advancement of several academic programs.
- a \$31,074 cooperative education grant from HEW for the continued growth of the cooperative education programs.
- a \$50,000 grant from Robert Sage and the Sage Foundation for the implementation of a new Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies program.

President Mansour also noted that the College had resumed full management of the Conference Center, including all food service functions and that the Science Center was scheduled for completion in May 1978. In addition, Mercy, as the first private college in the State, recently completed a \$2,215,000 bond issue financing under the Michigan Higher Education Facilities Authority.³

THE COLLEGE LOSES A TREASURED FACULTY MEMBER AND FRIEND

Except for Mary Patricia Garvey, RSM, first president of Mercy College of Detroit, there was probably no other person at the College remembered with more affection than Mary Marguerite Butler, RSM. She was only in her early thirties and the College was brand new when she organized a staff and produced the first issue of the College newspaper, *Outer Echoes*, planned and scheduled the first artists series, and announced auditions for *Hamlet*, the 1941 fall production. For Sister Butler the “process of education” was not an obscure science but a world of beauty, music and art. She assigned to herself Speech 101-102, Voice and Diction, which was required in every program at the College. Thus, in the early years she met every student and impressed upon them the importance of voice control and accuracy of enunciation, as well as the ease, fluency and styles

sued to conversation, group discussion and argumentation. What the students remembered was her unrelenting energy and encouragement, and above all her charm, humor, compassion and disarming curiosity about the world around her. Her first European tour was an award from the University of Michigan to gather materials for her doctoral dissertation in Gandersheim, Germany. Typical of Sister Butler, her itinerary took her to Ireland, England, Scotland, France and Italy on her way to Germany. Her European tours for college students during the 1950s and 1960s left lasting impressions due to the impeccable planning and unparalleled variety they included. Those who knew her best knew she loved to travel, so shortly before her final illness, a close friend took her to some of her favorite spots in the East—Philadelphia, Bucks County, Beach Haven on the Atlantic shore, the cobbled streets called Brandywine, and Levittstown, the village that had sprung up overnight to support an industry. All were reminiscent of family and friends. Sister Marguerite Butler died several months later, August 2 at Mt. Mercy Convent, Grand Rapids. A Resurrection Mass was celebrated for her eternal rest on October 14, 1978 in the College Chapel followed by a reception in the library courtyard. To know her was to remember her always.

ELIE WIESEL KEYNOTES LECTURE SERIES AT MCD

The academic year of 1978-79 was a time of shadows that tended to blur young hope—the lingering blight of the controversial Vietnam War, President Richard Nixon’s resignation and the surrounding turmoil, society’s unpredictability in the face of changes and tensions, political and social instability including such difficulties as fractured families, limited energy resources and covert violence.

The College initiated a fall lecture series under Carol Rittner, RSM, on “Violence and the Violated.”⁴ Keynote speakers included Elie Wiesel, world renowned Jewish author and lecturer who survived the Holocaust during World War II; Dr. Daniel Maguire, noted Catholic ethicist; Dr. Grant Friley, director of the Law Enforcement Education program at Wayne County Community College; Werner Glas, director of the Waldorf Teacher Training Institute at MCD; and Dr. Emmanuel Tanay, well-known Detroit psychiatrist.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, SEPTEMBER 21, 1978

President Mansour chaired the Board meeting September 21 because of the absence of Mr. William Lutz. The planning details of Phase II of the building project were virtually complete, so the president determined to examine and update the legal documents—bylaws and mission statement—of the College.

Other business of this first 1978 meeting included the report of the Development Committee indicating pledges received amounting to \$1,275,450, and the report of the Alcoholism Advisory Committee that successful advertising had elicited 241 responses to the program. Finally, President Mansour indicated that the Science Center financing had been successfully completed at \$2,215,000 tax-exempt bond issue financing under the Michigan Higher Education Facilities Authority with the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago. She then distributed the second draft of the Philosophy and Mission Statement of the College. Not only did the president update the bylaws of the College with the aid of the Board, she also commissioned the same advisory committee⁵ to assist in an examination of the philosophy, mission and goals of the College. The result was an extensive analysis of a design for planning.

Between the September and January Board meetings the President asked legal counsel to review the bylaws. Several minor changes were made. The Bylaws⁶ were then signed and finalized at the January 30, 1979 Board meeting by Helen Marie Burns, RSM, chairperson of the Religious Members, and William Lutz, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Several of the reports at the Board meeting concerned the Development Committee: 1) the phasing out of the Science Center Campaign as it neared the \$1.5 million goal, 2) the transference of development efforts to increase operational, endowment and scholarship funds, and 3) the hiring of an outside firm to do a feasibility study hoping to identify a market of potential donors and a design with strategy and timing for an effective fund-raising campaign.

Finally, the president presented the final draft⁷ of the Philosophy, Mission and Goals statements⁸ to the Board, which rendered a decisive approval.

Mr. Sage reported for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies Advisory Committee on plans for a special banquet featuring Dr.

Joseph Pursch, former chief of the Navy Rehabilitation Service, as speaker. The purpose of the banquet would be to introduce the problem of alcoholism to company executives and labor leaders and to introduce Mercy's program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies.

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT AND NEW GRANT PROJECTS

With the Phase II building project, plans had been made to revise the landscaping on campus. According to architect Tivadar Balogh, the landscaping scheme, especially in front of the Administration Building, should be "casual and picturesque." It would include thick grassy berms, a variety of shrubs, evergreen and oak trees, flowering trees along a flagstone walkway and ivy for the dignified walls. Glass-enclosed directories would be set at key points to assist students and visitors in locating facilities. Funding for the landscaping project came from an anonymous friend (\$10,000), and also from the class of 1978 student council and alumni. Mr. Balogh worked with the Vidosh Brothers Landscaping Co.⁹

Generous Federal grants bridged the gap between hopeful vision and accomplishment. From its \$1 million Department of Education Title III grant, the College initiated nine programs. Planning, management and evaluation systems already available were expanded and remodeled, and a plan for a computer center was designed to aid management, research, development, academic and student services and instruction.

The College developed new areas of study and new programs with grant funds:

- a Center for Administration of Justice, which would include



The Administration Building on the Mercy College of Detroit campus.

the existing Law Enforcement and Protection program plus Industrial and Institutional Security and Legal Assistant-Court Administrator;

- Gerontological Studies, which offered a minor leading to a certificate in Aging Services;
- Multicultural Education, which included a Minority Leadership program which would work hand-in-hand with the Weekend College;
- a comprehensive Student Development program which would provide a year-long orientation for first year students;
- a Nursing Role Transformation program to assist RNs who were returning to College to complete their degree.

Three grants from the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW) assisted the College to expand and develop its programs in Allied Health and Nursing. A Minority Recruitment grant of \$134,445 was used to plan an outreach program that demonstrated the work opportunities in Allied Health to students in public and private high schools. The grant funded a summer program for 30 high school students. Morning sessions were devoted to reinforcing academic skills; afternoons to visiting local hospitals to obtain an overview of the duties and responsibilities of various allied health professionals.

A second grant of \$171,406 was used to redesign the Medical Records program, and a third grant for \$80,437 enabled the Nursing faculty to implement new teaching methods in Nursing based on the modular teaching program.

“Because of its ability to respond to new initiatives,” said J. Price Foster, director of the office of Criminal Justice Education and Training, Mercy College was awarded a \$396,091 federal grant by the Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) for the 1978-79 school year. Such initiatives included support for students who planned to teach in the criminal justice field and also for those who would work in state and local law enforcement and correction agencies. Mercy College placed special emphasis on the recruitment of women and minority pre-service students.

ACTIVITIES ON AND OFF CAMPUS REMAIN VIBRANT

Basketball and volleyball players were blossoming under the challenge of fine coaching. Dr. Michael Akerman, assisted by a new assistant coach, Ed Manderfield, provided depth to the

women's volleyball team through various developmental exercises and a new offensive scheme. The men's basketball team would begin its season with a new coach to replace Stan Pniewski, who had been varsity basketball coach for six years with an overall winning record of 95-72.

At the tenth anniversary dinner of the Interfaith Centers for Racial Justice held at the Student Center, the featured speaker was Coretta Scott King. Rosa Parks spoke of the Black leadership role in the Birmingham bus boycott; Avery Cohn, vice chairman of the Board of Police

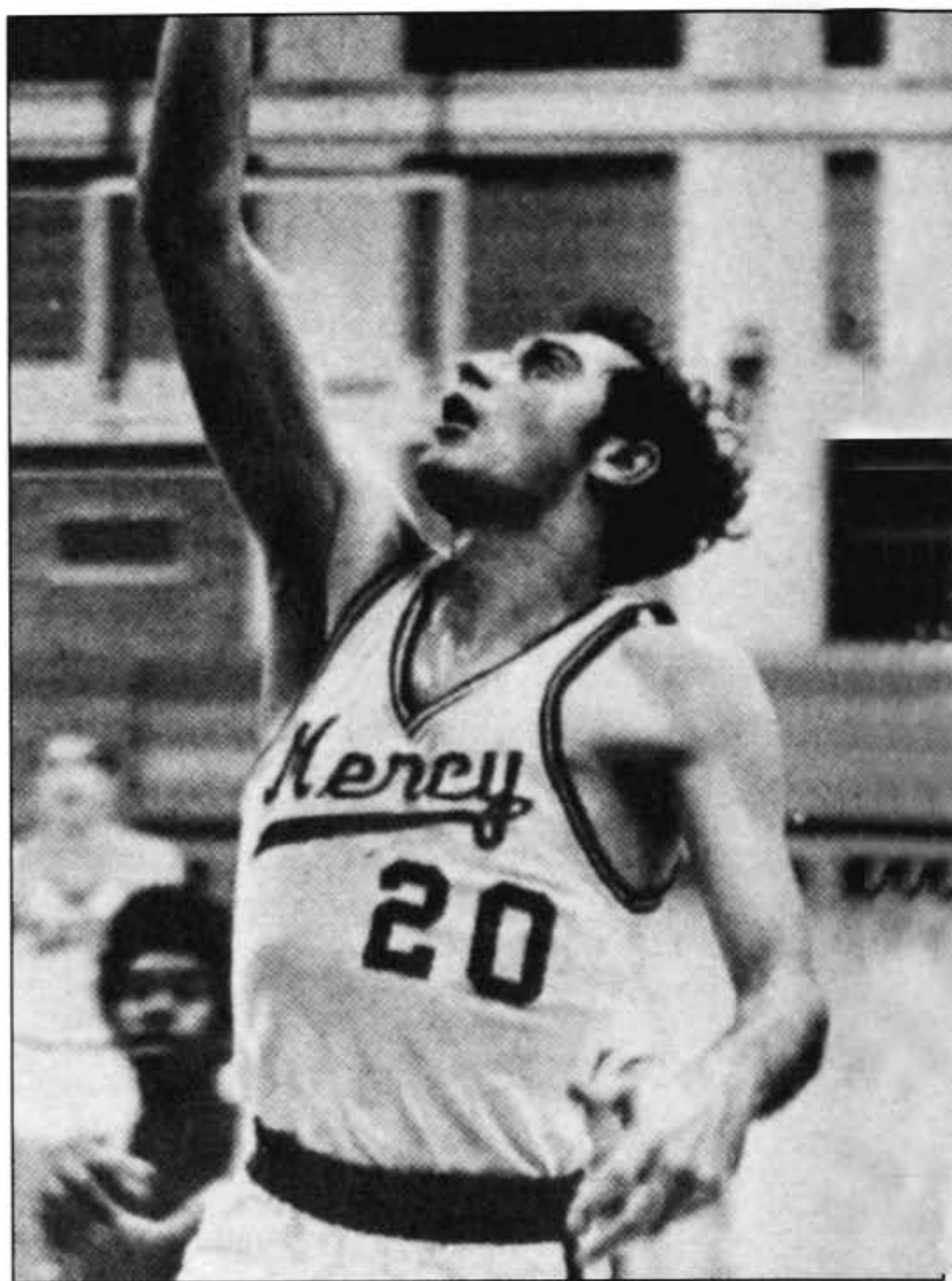
Commissioners, the Rev. John

Nolan, pastor of St. Rita's parish and William Downs, executive associate dean of Wayne State University, spoke of their supportive relationship with the Interfaith Center during the past 10 years. "I feel that you are some of the good people in society who have made a difference at the community level, because Interfaith is more than lip service." Mrs. King complimented the audience, describing it as a "flower garden" because it was such a "well-mixed group." She made the point that "groups like this do not happen much in the North, and it pleases me to speak to such a group."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS, MARCH AND MAY 1979

Three items were the primary focus of the Board of Trustees meeting March 13, 1979: the Works of Mercy Dinner, salary and tuition increases, and the Dow Foundation competition for endowment grants.

The first Works of Mercy Dinner was held June 3, 1979. Its purpose was to identify the problems of alcoholism to leaders in business, industry, government and labor, and indirectly, to introduce



The men's basketball team at Mercy College began in 1966-67.

Mercy's program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The program featured Dr. Joseph Pursch, Director of the Navy Alcohol Rehabilitation Center, Long Beach, California. John Riccardo, Thomas Murphy and Philip Caldwell were honorary chairmen of the event, which drew about 350 attendees.

The Board agreed that tuition and general fees would increase seven percent, to \$1,200 per semester, and part-time tuition would be \$84 per credit hour.

At the invitation of the Dow Foundation, Mercy College competed with 11 other private colleges in Michigan for endowment grants. To participate, the College prepared a 10-year profile and a seven-year projection in various areas of college operations.

The final meeting of the Board of Trustees for the year occurred May 10, 1979 and dealt primarily with the nomination and election of a new Board chairman to replace William W. Lutz. Mr. Lutz had served as Board chairman through eight of the most progressive years (1971-79) of the College's life, and clearly deserved the significant resolution offered unanimously for his service. Dr. Robert G. Wiencek was nominated the next Board chairman by the Executive Committee and was unanimously approved. Mr. Colombo recommended several prominent Detroiters for future Board membership. Among them was Thomas Angott, who had agreed to begin his term of service in October 1979.

