

25 Years Under Name Loras Brought Greatest Progress

The last 25 years of the history of Loras College began on April 19, 1939, when the college changed its name from Columbia to Loras. In May of 1964, as the college observes its 125 years of service to the midwest, Loras finds itself in the midst of the third great expansion program in its history.

The first major program began in 1912 with the building of the gymnasium on the lower campus. Two years later, in 1914, Keane Hall was built on the top of Loras Boulevard, together with the dining hall, now called East Dorm, and the college power plant.

In 1916 the old science hall, called Hennessy Hall, was purchased for the college, and the college gymnasium and infirmary were added in 1924 and 1928.

The second era of expansion began in the difficult years of the Second World War when the war effort prohibited any advance except to think of the future when the post-war years would bring its tremendous surge in enrollment figures. A special story on the war years is found on page 21. The Rock Bowl Stadium had been constructed in 1940 and 1941, but all further development had to wait until 1946 for the construction of the Chapel of Christ the King as a memorial to the chaplains and service men and women from the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The memorial chapel was built to seat about 400 and included a downstairs auditorium, studios to house the music department and the chapel of the twelve apostles for the use of the college priest faculty.

A campaign was begun in the archdiocese to raise funds for the new expansion program. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. Fred Kriebs, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Dubuque, was appointed executive chairman of the Loras expansion fund. The fund grew to \$1,017,000 under his chairmanship.

This period of expansion also saw the renovation of the lower floor of Keane Hall and Hennessy Science Hall and the construction of Rohlman Hall, living quarters for ecclesiastical students, completed in 1953.

The present period of expansion has so far seen the construction of three more buildings and plans for another dormitory in the near future. The Wahlert Memorial Library, the first separate library building in the history of the college, was dedicated in 1960. The library, long known throughout the midwest for its extensive holdings, has increased by 52,000 volumes since 1939, and currently lists 137,000 volumes and 600 periodicals.

Beckman Hall, a residence accommodating 248 lay students and five proctors, was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1961. Due to the recent increase in the number of students interested in art, a portion of the ground floor of Beckman Hall is now in use as an art center, and further expansion of this department is planned for the future.

The focal event of the 125th anniversary celebration at Loras College this week was the dedication of the St. Joseph Hall of Science. Construction of the \$1,000,000 building was begun in the fall of 1961 and opened for use in the fall term of 1963.

The hall is a three story and basement structure designed to conform with the other buildings on the Loras campus. It is also of red brick. St. Joseph's Hall of Science was dedicated last Tuesday.

A special memorial for the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Howell, former head of the department of biology, was set up for the new science hall. Over \$10,000 for the purchase of new microscopes was raised for the memorial. Total gifts to the science building have amounted to almost \$800,000 to date.

The St. Joseph Hall of Science at Loras brings to 13 the number of major buildings on the 60 acre campus. A special feature on the new science building will be found on page 16.

Other recent construction on the Loras Campus includes the Grotto of Lourdes in Keane Oaks, a power transmission station east of the dining hall, and the first seismographic station in the State of Iowa, located at the extreme northwest corner of the campus.

In 1957, the student section of the college dining hall was converted to cafeteria use. In 1960 and 1961, the cafeteria was renovated and a separate dining room was installed for ecclesiastical students. Alterations on the upper floor provided dormitory space for 44 students.

In 1959 a modern, air-conditioned, 28 booth language laboratory was installed in the classroom section of the chapel building, making available to the students a new technique in the learning of modern languages. In addition, the chapel sanctuary was carpeted, a sound system was provided and the entire building was air-conditioned.

St. Joseph Hall, the oldest building on the campus, became a residence hall for engineering

students in 1955. Subsequent to the discontinuance of the academy department in 1959, sixteen additional classrooms and a number of faculty offices were made available to the college staff. In 1956, the St. Joseph Auditorium was completely renovated.

The purchase of several parcels of land has increased the size of the Loras campus to approximately 60 acres. Seven residences adjacent to the campus have been purchased. Two of these have been converted for public relations bureaus. The remaining residences have been either used for faculty housing, or have been razed to provide space for future expansion.

Smyth field has been greatly enlarged by leveling the north edge of the property. It was dedicated as the new baseball field in ceremonies Wednesday afternoon.

The 1939 catalog lists 48 instructors, several of whom are parttime. Today the size of the faculty has doubled, it consists of 46 priests and 58 laymen. The enrollment in 1939 was just under 500. Since that time, the number of students has nearly tripled. September of this year found a total of 1409 students on the campus.

The Midwest Branch of the

Lay Faculty Has Been Part Of Loras Since Beginnings

Dr. Robert Brady is chairman of the history department at Loras and has been on the faculty since 1954. He is currently updating the History of Loras College for the past 25 years.

By Robert L. Brady

As early as 1840 Bishop Loras included on his faculty a layman with the designation of ordinary master. Before the first decade of the institution's history had passed, two more were added to the staff. These first three men of Loras were George C. Collins, John J. E. Norman, and Dennis A. Mahoney. They established the foundations of a continuing tradition of intellectual leadership by laymen at Loras College.

Through the often difficult years down to the turn of the century, the teaching staff regularly included laymen. The advent of the twentieth century began a period which, to the present, has seldom seen a year without a lay professor on the faculty. The standards of their academic and administrative performance have been the highest, and their dedication to the school and students has not been questioned.

Although the achievements of the past have been great, none reflect more clearly the college image than the work of three men of this century. In 1907, Edward J. Schroeder, D. Mus. joined the staff as an instructor in music and director of the orchestra. Dr. Schroeder's abilities as a teacher, organizer-conductor of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, and Supervisor of String Music for the diocese are well known. His books on Violin technique are classics in the field. This man's contributions to culture are a source of pride to the college and the community.

Dr. Heitkamp

In these days of celebration, a deep cloud of sorrow has overcast the college with the death, May 3, 1964, of George W. Heitkamp, Doctor of Science, KSG. In 1914 Dr. Heitkamp joined the faculty as an instructor in the fields of physics, geology, and meteorology. His contribution to the development of scientific studies at Loras has been beyond measure. The first layman to become a departmental chairman, and the first active faculty member to be named a Knight of St. Gregory, Professor

Heitkamp was the symbol of the layman's potential in Catholic education. Many remember him as the hard-driving Director of Athletics and President of the Iowa College Conference, others for the precision of his work in the sciences. Most will remember him as Catholic gentleman. To his colleagues he was affectionately known as the Dean of the lay faculty and was the constant reminder of devoted service and integrity.

Another example of the high caliber of lay leadership at Loras has been C. T. "Mike" O'Dowd, KSG. The highest administrative position achieved by a layman at Loras is held by Mr. O'Dowd, Assistant Business Manager from 1939 to 1952, and Business Manager since 1952. He became vice-president for Business Affairs in 1957 and Treasurer of the college in 1958. Nationally Mr. O'Dowd was president of the Central Catholic College Association in 1961. The same year he was named a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope John XXIII. Indispensable to Loras, this man among men has been a distinguished contributor to its prestige.

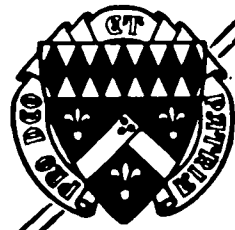
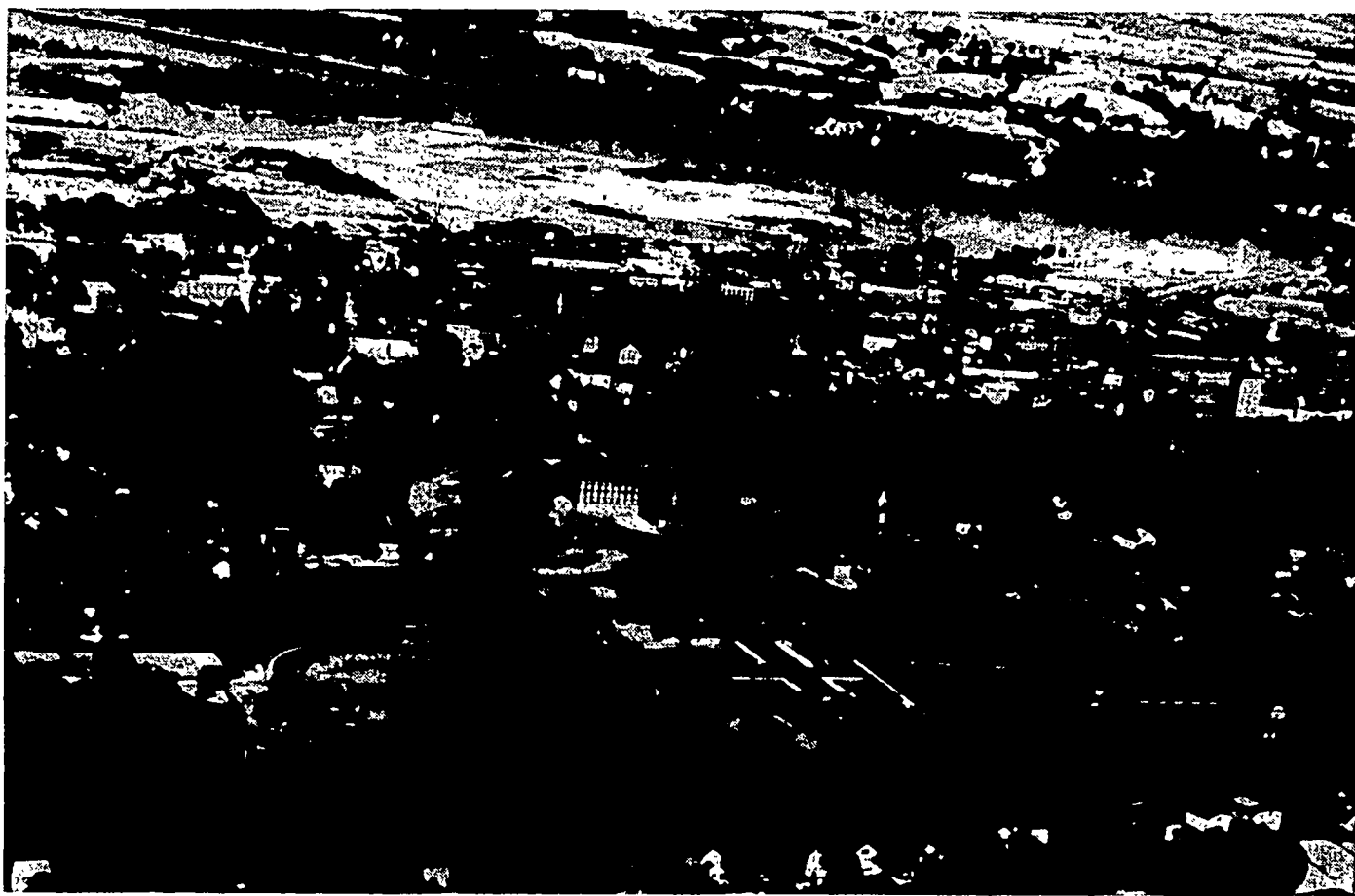
These men have typified the laymen's contribution to the history of the college. The list could easily be extended, but besides outstanding individuals, major contributions have been made by all men of the Loras faculty. They now hold such prominent administrative positions as registrar,

librarian, director of publicity, and director of placement. Laymen serve on twelve of the sixteen major college committees including the administrative council, admissions, educational policy, discipline, faculty council, student aid, and teacher education. Ten of the academic departments of the college are under lay chairmen.

The most significant role of the layman at Loras is in the classroom. Fifty-nine out of one hundred and ten faculty members are non-clerics, and sixteen of them hold the Ph.D. degree. Their academic backgrounds reveal advanced degrees from major universities from the University of California to Georgetown University, and from the University of Wisconsin to the University of Havana. These highly competent men and those who have preceded them at Loras have guided the academic training of young men entering medicine, dentistry, law, business, engineering, teaching, and the priesthood. Closely cooperating with the clergy on the faculty, they contribute through knowledge, experience, and example to the total education of Lorasmen. Most of the lay professors are married men with families, and outside of their professional life they are active members of the community.

The layman has been attracted to the Loras family by the opportunity to teach and serve, and to communicate with other intellectual leaders. His academic life is vigorously pursued. Collectively their contributions to scholarship are numerous, their interest in the students is unbounded, and their rewards satisfying. The stability of the college and of the layman within it are evidenced by the substantial number of professors and administrators whose terms of service run from ten to twenty-five years or more.

Loras College COMMEMORATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE 1839 - 1964



Rosheks

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

1894 - 1964

*We Both Serve the Community
... and Each Other.*

