

The New University—1900-1916

Following the death of President Schaeffer, Dean Amos Noyes Currier served as Acting President until the Board of Regents selected George E. MacLean as President in June, 1899. In his inaugural, MacLean noted that agricultural and industrial distress was giving way to prosperity, and that 1900 marked the beginning of the "New University," the subject of his address.

The General Assembly that year not only extended the one-tenth mill levy for buildings for another five years, but added \$50,000 annually for support. The Collegiate Department became the College of Liberal Arts, a Graduate College was established, the offices of Registrar and Dean of Nurses were created, and a Department of Physical Education and Athletics was established.

One of the first changes made by President MacLean was the appointment of a Registrar in the fall of 1900. Miss Bertha Bell Quaintance, from Nebraska, was chosen to relieve professors of the task of registering students. When John G. Bowman, later University president, registered as a freshman he had an interview with Professor G. T. W. Patrick who made out a card and put it in a shoebox. That was the Registrar's Office.

The work of the Registrar's Office was supplemented by the post of University Examiner, first held by H. C. Dorcas, who later served for many years as University Examiner and Registrar. Forest C. Ensign became University Examiner and Registrar in 1911. When Ensign left for graduate work at Columbia University, Professor Dorcas succeeded him, holding the post until 1939.

The new Liberal Arts building, long in construction, was finally finished and officially dedicated on January 23, 1902. The Medical Building and Old South Hall had burned in 1901. Temporarily the Department of Medicine was housed in a shed formed by putting a roof over the basement of Old South Hall. A new Medical Building was imperative. Both Governor Leslie M. Shaw and his successor, Governor Albert B. Cummins, favored the project and gave their support. The General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 for a new Medical Building to be built east of the central campus.

From 1896, when the building tax was first levied, to 1910, some 18 buildings, or additions to buildings, were erected from proceeds of the millage tax totaling \$1,200,000.

The Board of Regents, which succeeded the Board of Trustees in 1870 and, which in turn, was succeeded by the State Board of Education in 1909, had been in control of the University during a period of great growth and expansion. Members had witnessed the transformation of the school

from a small country college, sometimes derisively referred to as the "Johnson County High School," to a university with a nationwide reputation.

When Judge William J. Haddock, who had been Secretary of the University and the Board of Regents since 1864, resigned in 1902, it left an important position to be filled. Haddock had many duties. He advertised for bids for new buildings, handled purchasing and watched over supplies, hired laborers, handled all fees and other income except tuition, prepared warrants for expenditures, kept a record of patients received and discharged at University Hospitals, and managed their accounts. In addition, he was Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. He performed these services well. After his resignation, the Regents redefined the responsibilities of the office, and William J. McChesney became Secretary and Treasurer of the University.

President MacLean created the position of Dean of Women in 1901. Alice Young served as first dean, being succeeded during MacLean's period by Mary Sleight Evarts, Mable Montgomery Volland, and Anna Marie Klingenhagen. The Dean of Women was concerned with the health and hygiene of women students, lodging places for them, counselling about personal problems, and arrangements for social affairs.

The question of proper and adequate housing for women was a perennial one. Sororities pur-

chased or rented chapter houses. The Mark Ranney home and certain other residences were operated as boarding and rooming houses for women under the auspices of the University. When the Legislature failed to make an appropriation for a dormitory, the four-story building on the northwest corner of Dubuque and Jefferson streets was opened under private auspices as a dormitory for women under the name of Svendi Hall. It was occupied during the year, 1909-1910, by twenty-seven women students and the Dean of Women.

Work on a new dormitory for women, Currier Hall, begun in 1912, was completed in 1913, and was fully occupied that fall by 168 women. President Macbride referred to it in his report for 1914 as the "greatest achievement" of the biennium.

The office of Dean of Men evolved from an advisory system designed to reduce delinquency among men students. In 1911 a new plan with a single advisor for men was introduced. Professor Forest C. Ensign, Registrar and University Examiner, was named by President Bowman to the position. He acted as Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and the entire University.

Assisting Ensign in the office, starting in 1913, was Robert E. Rienow as Junior Dean of Men. When Ensign left for graduate work at Columbia in 1915, Rienow succeeded him. Given the title of Dean of Men in 1918, Dean Rienow served successfully in that capacity for many years.

The presidency of George E. MacLean extended from the fall of 1899 to 1911. He was succeeded by John G. Bowman whose short administration ended in March, 1914, at which time the venerable Thomas Huston Macbride acceded to the presidency to hold office until the fall of 1916, at which time the long administration of Walter A. Jessup began.

Income sources for the University from 1900 to 1916 consisted of (1) Tuition and Fees, (2) Interest and Rent from the original endowment and from University lands not yet sold, (3) Permanent Annual Appropriations, (4) Special Appropriations, and (5) Mill Levies for Buildings and Equipment.

The income from (1) and (2) was relatively small as tuition in Liberal Arts was only \$25 a year—reduced to \$20 in 1904. Permanent annual and special appropriations plus the income from the millage levy were indispensable and made up the life blood of support for the University. The professional colleges earned most of their own cost.

Increased support requested for Engineering was opposed by the Legislature in 1904, and led to a proposal to move the Engineering Department to Ames. This was opposed vigorously by students, faculty, and townspeople. The Iowa City Commercial Club brought the full Legislature to Iowa City for an investigation of the matter. As a result, the Legislature responded with an appro-

priation of \$208,000, including \$60,000 for a new Engineering Building and a hydro-electric plant on the Iowa River. This action prepared the way for a College of Applied Science and the firm establishment of Engineering at Iowa City.

In 1909 the Board of Regents gave way to the new State Board of Education which continued requests for funds for the institutions under its control. The Legislature responded generously in 1911, 1913, and 1915. The new administration under Walter A. Jessup began in 1916 under favorable financial circumstances.

The first reaction to President MacLean on the campus was favorable, but a decline in enrollment for three years after 1901 led to questions about his leadership. In June, 1904, the Board of Regents conducted an investigation of the charges against the President. The Board invited all parties to testify—students, alumni, faculty members—anyone who had information about charges against the President. Some questioned his integrity, others questioned MacLean's moral character. Some faculty members were bitter about promises made but not carried out. He was accused of favoritism and undue support of athletics. The Board weighed the evidence, and concluded there was no need for a change in the presidency of the University. They condemned the conduct of professors and instructors who had "improperly and unwarrantably criticized the President and attempt-

ed to undermine his influence." They suggested that any dissatisfied professor could sever his connection with the University.

The Board requested the resignations of Professor Alfred V. Sims of the School of Applied Science and of Professor Launcelot W. Andrews, head of the Department of Chemistry, both vigorous opponents of the President; but it declined to consider the resignation of President MacLean which he had offered at the close of the inquiry.

In the fall of 1904 registration reached a new high, overcoming the losses of the previous three years. "Gloom gave way to jubilation and the University family rejoiced in the triumph over despair." Rejoicing continued in the spring of 1905. The enrollment was unprecedented—1,560; the two new Medical Buildings (Laboratory and Anatomy) were occupied, the new Engineering Building was under construction, equipment in every college was vastly increased, and the Old Science Hall was being moved across the street to make way for the new Hall of Natural Science. Championships in baseball, tennis, and track added to the campus spirit as did the dedication of the new Armory-Gymnasium Building on the lower campus west of Madison Street. The academic years of 1904-1905 and 1905-1906 were rightly considered "years of triumph."

President MacLean was an important factor in getting the University elected to the Association

of American Universities in 1909. He attained stature as a national figure in higher education, adding to the prestige of the University. He was president of the National Association of State Universities, president of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and a member of important national committees.

His "New University" was revealed by the establishment of the Graduate College in 1900 (first Ph.D. conferred on Fred D. Merritt, June, 1900); the College of Applied Science (Engineering), 1905; College of Fine Arts, 1911; College of Education, 1913; and the School of Commerce, 1914—the last two in Bowman's administration.

Engineering developed from a department in the College of Liberal Arts, to a School of Applied Science in 1903 with Professor Laenus G. Weld, then Dean of the Graduate College, as Director. It became the College of Applied Science in 1905. Professor William G. Raymond became Director of the School when Professor Weld resigned in 1905, and Dean of the new college the same year.

A department of Fine Arts existed in the College of Liberal Arts from 1906 to 1912 with music and graphic and plastic arts offering courses independently. The department was made a College in 1912, but insufficient support caused it to revert to the College of Liberal Arts.

In June, 1906, Effie May Proffitt was put in charge of the Department of Music which was

housed in a brick building on Clinton Street, across from the Hall of Natural Science. Registration increased and the department acquired the old church on the corner of Clinton and Iowa Avenue for additional space. The College of Fine Arts, with Professor Clark F. Ansley as first Dean, occupied space on the third floor of the new Physics Building in 1912. Ansley was succeeded by Charles A. Cumming of Des Moines; Gustav Schoettle was the new head of music.

Development of teacher training from a department in the College of Liberal Arts to an independent college was another product of the "New University" idea. The Chair of Pedagogy gave way to the Chair of the Science and Art of Education with Professor Frederick E. Bolten as head. The School of Education was established in June, 1907, with Bolten as Director. Phi Kappa Mu, later Phi Delta Kappa, an educational fraternity, was established in 1909. President Bowman recommended that the School of Education be made a College of Education with Walter A. Jessup, who had been appointed Director, as the Dean. This suggestion was adopted in July, 1913.

Likewise the development of a College of Commerce during this period was a feature of the "New University." Promoted by Professor Isaac A. Loos, a School of Political and Social Science was formed by the Board of Regents in 1900—including history, political science, sociology, and

economics. In 1908 the name was changed to School of Political and Social Science and Commerce, and renamed in 1914 as the School of Commerce. Political Science and History became separate departments.

Home Economics was introduced into the Liberal Arts curriculum in 1913 with Miss Ruth Wardell as head of the department. It was first located in a refurbished Old North Hall and later in a section of the Natural Science Building.

An instructor in Journalism was added to the Department of English in 1900. This area later became a separate department and then the School of Journalism.

New courses were introduced during this period into expanding departments—courses in religious education, in political science, in classical and romance languages, and a two-year course in taxidermy with Professor Homer R. Dill, later Director of the University Museum, in charge. Professor Edwin Diller Starbuck introduced new courses in Philosophy, and Professor Carl E. Seashore gained fame for his researches in the psychology of music and his unique psychology laboratory.

In 1910 Professor George W. Stewart, head of the Department of Physics, announced the beginning of work in radioactivity. Professor Benjamin F. Shambaugh introduced a course in the Political and Legal Status of Women in his Political Science Department in 1914.

The Library of the University more than doubled in size during the period 1900-1916. After the disastrous fire of 1897 destroyed some 25,000 volumes of the 33,000 on hand, no time was lost in attempts to rebuild the library. By the fall of 1900 there were 57,000 books available. During the summer of 1901 the Library was moved from cramped quarters in North Hall to the third floor of the new Liberal Arts Building, which it shared with the library of the State Historical Society. Complaints soon arose from those climbing the stairs to reach the library. Accordingly, when the Hall of Natural Science was finished in 1907 most of the books were placed on the main floor and in the basement of that building.

Before 1900 the University had enjoyed an enviable reputation for its Museum of Natural History. The contributions of Professors Calvin, Macbride, Shimek, and Nutting, together with the Hornaday collections of mammals, made up one of the most valuable and extensive collections in the Middle West. The museum was moved from the Old Science Hall into fireproof quarters in the new Hall of Natural Science in the summer of 1907. In May of that year Homer R. Dill, formerly state taxidermist in Maine, was appointed taxidermist and put in charge of the museum. He introduced a course in taxidermy, and completed new and unfinished exhibits. The Laysan Island Exhibit, a cyclorama of bird life on the island,

opened to the public in 1914, was an instant success. It was the culmination of Professor Nutting's trip to the Pacific island in 1911.

A County Club movement, later consolidated into the Greater University Committee, aroused school spirit and enthusiasm on the campus and throughout the State.

The Greater University Committee established the annual Frolic held each year, beginning in 1909, in connection with commencement week activities. Students and townspeople gathered in the city park to witness a parade by classes, a tug-of-war, tub races, canoe races on the river, obstacle races, and a baseball game. In the fall of 1909 the Greater University Committee raised money to send the Band to Minneapolis for the Iowa-Minnesota football game. "All University Mixers" were held in the Gym in December with a program of music, talks, wrestling, and boxing. Throughout these years the Greater University Committee was a strong factor in maintaining school spirit on the campus and in stimulating interest in the University throughout the State.

The State Board of Education requested the resignation of President MacLean in January, 1911; and he complied, the resignation to take effect not later than August 1, 1911. Notwithstanding his success in the development of his ideas for a "New University," and his aggressive enthusiasm for these ideas, holdover effects of the 1904

investigation created an unfavorable image for some members of the faculty.

The Board of Education found itself in a hassle when it proposed to move the College of Applied Science to Ames in 1912 and to transfer Home Economics from Iowa State College to the University. Immediate opposition arose on the part of students, faculty, and alumni. The struggle to keep Engineering at Iowa reached the Legislature in 1913. In April a joint resolution passed both houses requesting the Board of Education to rescind its action. The Board complied on April 4, 1913; and rejoicing and satisfaction at the University was widespread. Registration the following fall increased by more than 400. The freshman Engineering class numbered over 100 students.

The President of the University during the Engineering crisis and the recovery which followed was John Gabbert Bowman, who had been appointed in February, 1911, and began his duties the following fall. The new President was thirty-four years of age, an alumnus of the University, and had been an instructor in English from 1902 to 1904. After taking graduate work at Columbia he became an instructor there, and was Secretary of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching when selected as president.

Before school opened in September, 1912, Bowman persuaded the Board of Education to appropriate \$2,000 to remodel and refurnish the Old

Unitarian Church building on the corner of Iowa Avenue and Clinton Street (Unity Hall) as a Student Union.

The new president gave special attention to student welfare and to improving and enriching student life on the campus. When he resigned hastily on March 20, 1914, due largely to differences of opinion as to his and the Board's jurisdiction, it shocked students, faculty, townspeople, and press alike. The crisis was weathered by the appointment of the venerable and well-loved Thomas Huston Macbride as President. It was his 36th year on the campus where he had attained international fame as a botanist.

His presidency of two years provided a quiet period in which tempers cooled and a sense of balance was regained. It provided a restorative interval between the short but active administration of President Bowman and the long vigorous administration of President Walter A. Jessup. The Board appointed Dr. Macbride as President Emeritus.

The building program between 1900 and 1916 made important contributions to the "New University" envisaged by President MacLean. New buildings included the College of Applied Science unit, the Medical and Anatomy units, the University Hospital, Nurses Home, Dental Building, Law Building, the Women's Gymnasium, and others.

Physical Education for both men and women,

and organized athletics developed during these years. Football, beginning with the championship team of 1900 under Coach Alden A. Knipe, attracted a large following, which reached a new high with the establishment of an annual Homecoming celebration beginning in 1912. Baseball, basketball, track, and other sports prospered.

Summer sessions, beginning in 1900, had a steady growth. The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, established in 1909 by Professors Macbride and Shimek, offered valuable summer study in marine biology, botany, and geology.

The Extension Division, organized in 1913 with O. E. Klingman as Director, brought the resources of the University to the people of the state through correspondence courses, conferences and institutes, information bulletins, high school speech activities, and visual education materials.

Student life after 1900 and before the first World War had a certain charm and quiet which was lost in later years. A deepening sense of institutional loyalty prevailed. Participation in athletics, music, drama, debate, oratory, and other activities afforded a chance for students to grow and develop.

During the early years of this period six literary societies—Zetagathian, Irving Institute, and Philomathean for men; and Hesperian, Erodelphian, and Octave Thanet for women—dominated extra-curricular activities for students. Toward

the end of this period there was a decline in interest in the literary societies. Events before and during World War I changed the tempo of campus life. Athletics, movies, autos, and dancing appealed to many. New courses in the Department of Speech and Dramatic Art also aided in the decline of literary societies.

Interest in music developed and a School of Music was established. Military drill was compulsory for freshmen and sophomores in Liberal Arts and Engineering. An annual encampment was held at West Liberty or some other place near Iowa City. This activity was well-received for the most part, although there was some opposition even then to the program.

The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., with quarters in Close Hall, helped students find lodging and jobs. Students engaged in wood chopping, furnace tending, restaurant and boarding house work; also as maids, cooks, typists and stenographers, salesmen, clerks, sign painters, pin boys, laundry workers, janitors, and common laborers.

Efforts to secure a student union were unsuccessful. Unity Hall received little support. The St. James Hotel was tried next, but it was destroyed by fire. Successful efforts to secure a student union had to await the Jessup administration.

Students engaged in a variety of social activities. The Freshman Party, Sophomore Cotillion, Junior Prom, Senior Hop, Pan Hellenic Dance,

and Military Ball, were elaborate and popular dancing parties held in the decorated Armory.

Fraternities and sororities grew in numbers and importance on the campus. These organizations provided a home away from home for members, group responsibility, and opportunities to make lifelong friendships.

Organized yell leading developed between 1900 and 1916. The Engineers began production of an annual show in 1910, MECCA—the letters being the initial letters of the several fields of Engineering. Likewise Law students developed an annual show called the Law-Jubilee. Freshman-Sophomore rivalry, which had resulted in hazing, ducking in the city water fountain, and fights gave way to a push-ball contest on Iowa Field in 1907.

Commencement was the highlight of the years from 1900 to 1916. It included the Senior Dance, the Senior Play, Literary Society programs, band concerts, class reunions and alumni dinners, and a final convocation with an address by a distinguished visitor and the conferring of degrees. Earlier, commencement exercises were held in a large tent, later in the Armory.

Throughout this period Old Stone Capitol continued to witness the growth and development of the University as it had since the beginning. The new University hymn, Old Gold, expressed the sentiment of thousands of students who were proud of their Alma Mater.