

# Dean hopes for "Best University in US"

"Today's society is bent on servicing people instead of things," emphasized Dr. Maurice J. O'Sullivan, Vice President and Academic Dean, during a meeting with OBELISK staff members. He noted that the new psychology, sociology, and biology majors will enlarge on that "world of opportunity for the college graduate" to service this new society.

"Since this is a commuter college, we don't have the necessary maximum interchange of ideas among students from various parts of the country," the Vice President said. "We purposely aim to provide a diversified faculty — to bring in people from other areas — and gain a cross section of world and national thinking."

The university has over 80 instructors representing such diverse areas as the Orient, South America, Europe, and all parts of the United States.

"Ours is a Catholic College as a breath of understanding," the Dean remarked proudly. "The laymen here make a real contribution to the university; there isn't the opportunity in any other Catholic College to do it as completely."

With the completion of the new Notre Dame Boys high school in October, SHU will have a student capacity of 3,000. Dr. O'Sullivan added that construction for a new library between the faculty building and the classroom area will begin by next Spring. He smilingly confided that a stu-

dent center comes next, "but we have no time schedule."

Leaning back in his chair, the Dean recalled recent strides for the growing university. The co-operative program initiated this year among UB, Fairfield, and SHU will allow students to use books and periodicals from any of the three libraries.

With strong pride in his university evident, Dean O'Sullivan concluded, "My hopes are very simple: I want this to be the best college in the United States. I want the students to have a great intellectual experience as they grow and develop with us; and I want the school to get the recognition it deserves."



Student journalists, Linda Bogart, Rosemarie Gorman, and Pat Powell discuss plans for the coming year with Dean O'Sullivan.

The  
Heart  
Of The  
University

## Obelisk



Extra

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

September 8, 1966



Dr. William H. Conley, president, will open Orientation Week, Monday, during the President's Convocation. Last week he welcomed 30 high school and college journalists to the Second Annual OBELISK Workshop. Dr. Conley, shown with Danbury News Times Editor Stephen A. Collins, and OBELISK editors Lois D'Andrea and Gerald Saladyga, called for responsible judgment and accuracy in school publications. The University president is also the Catholic School Journal Editor and a vice-president of the National Catholic Educational Association.

### Program aids transition

"All phases of a student's life are included in this orientation," stated Dr. John Mahar, head of the academic phase of Sacred Heart's initiation program. He emphasized that the program will help the students make their transition from high school to college.

During orientation week the freshmen will meet with campus leaders for discussions on the assigned reading lists. These sessions will revolve around the ideas expressed in C. P. Snow's *The Two Cultures* and Gardner's *Excellence*, two general works recommended to all incoming freshmen. The complete week is devoted to helping the individual find himself which is a necessity for advancement in the college curriculum.

Dr. Mahar, who holds four degrees including an M.A. from Marquette and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, taught at Edgewood College in

Madison, Wisconsin, Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, and Marquette University.

The Department Chairman elaborated on the extensive, improved History program offered this year. Sacred Heart students may study U.S. History in a survey course, Western Civilization, European History I and II, American Diplomatic History, Recent American History, The Russian Revolution, American Intellectual History, and *Historical Methods and Criticism*. The latter was once opened only to graduate students. Two other courses, English and American Constitutional History, will be taught to pre-law students.

Dr. Mahar explained that the History courses at Sacred Heart will attempt to establish a relationship between past history and current events. "The current situation is a result of history," he remarked.

### Bring in tambourines

## Fr. McDermott outlines spiritual aims

Being chaplain at Sacred Heart University is about "the best job in the diocese" for a priest, commented Fr. Martin McDermott at a recent interview. Fr. McDermott's role in the first of a tri-part Orientation program beginning today, Sept. 8, is to confer with students, to hear confessions, and to celebrate Mass during a retreat conducted by both the clergy and the laity.

Fr. Thomas Cronin, S.J., retreat-master, will give several talks during the two day retreat on subjects concerning the college student, such as personality, community, and responsibility.

Recognizing the layman's role in life today Dr. Katherine Nolan, M.D. will assist Fr. Cronin by speaking on "Love in the Student World" and "Sex — License or Liberty".

Because there will be about 2000 students at Sacred Heart this year, Fr. McDermott, stated that it would be impossible to hold a retreat for all students at the same time. (There will be a retreat for the rest of the students during the year.)

When asked about the collegians attitude toward religion, Fr. McDermott replied that the student in high school tried to do his best in his work to please God, but in college the more mature adult tries to give glory to God by working for his neighbor; such help can be rendered through the Peace Corps, Vista, Head Start.

The subject of the folk mass and its effect on students got this response from Fr. McDermott: "to get a person to God, even if one has to bring in a tambourine to church is good."

The folk mass is not widespread; it comes from the individual student and that is what counts the most."

Commenting on the seminarians who will enter Sacred Heart in the freshman class this year, Fr. McDermott said that they will take regular college courses and that they are under the "4-4-4 plan", which is four years

of prep seminary training, four years of co-ed college, and four years of the major seminary.

The aims of the chaplain's office will coincide with those of the University's administration. Fr. McDermott believes in the developing of competence and commitment in the world, with Christian overtones."

## State eases financial barriers to education

"The dream of a college education can now be realized," emphasized Raymond Hughes, Dean of Men, during a pre-school meeting on student activities.

"Residents of Connecticut", Dean Hughes stated, "are able to borrow up to \$1500 in each school year to a total of \$7500 from the Connecticut Foundation For Financial Assistance To Higher Education."

This program was created as a non-profit, state-supported corporation by Public Act 491 of the 1965 Connecticut General Assembly "to improve the higher educational opportunities of persons who are residents of this state."

Loans, according to a pamphlet released by the Foundation, pointed out the Dean, are made or guaranteed by CFFAHE through banks, schools, credit unions, or any legal lending institution which has signed a contract with CFFAHE. In the Bridgeport area applications may be procured at any office of the Con-

necticut National Bank. A loan application may also be obtained from the office of the foundation, Room 207A, State Capitol, Hartford, Connecticut.

The student is responsible for only 3% of the 6% interest while attending school. The remaining 3% is paid by the foundation.

Repayments begin one year after graduation or completion of the program for which the loan was made.

"Upon satisfactory completion of your college program," the Dean of men continued, "the foundation will pay on your behalf 10% of the total amount borrowed on that portion of the loan applied to tuition and academic fees, and may pay up to 20% more if justified by need, outstanding achievement or potential."

Use of financial assistance, concluded Dean Hughes, insures the student more time to pursue his most important position — that of a full time university student.



# QPA = Excellence?

"Education in the formal sense is only a part of the society's larger task of abetting the individual's intellectual, emotional, and moral growth. What we must reach for is a conception of perpetual reshaping to realize one's best self, to be the person one could be."

Excellence by John Gardner

Resolved: that any upperclassman found teaching a freshman how to figure his Q.P.A. (quality point average) be sentenced to one semester's imprisonment in the lounge during convocations (certain ruin for a collegian).

Idealistic? Perhaps . . .

Too harsh a penalty? Definitely . . .

We all know that one of the oddities in a college student's survival kit is that all-powerful Q.P.A. which determines whether one's name appears on the dean's, draft board's or probation list.

Likewise, we realize that some standard, tangible measure of achievement is necessary in college.

Yet shouldn't there be a peak in each person's life when he recognizes real values and acts accordingly?

Shouldn't there be a time when the student expects teachers to stimulate thought for adult minds rather than offer a three-ring circus for the bored?

College is that time when values become clearer, and the need to face reality and grasp its truths overpowers the yearning for hasty escape.

The real collegian — that is, the person with abilities best suited for intellectual pursuits — cannot be happy until he disciplines himself for study. Grades gained through last-minute cramming do not satisfy the mind's need for answers.

Those who will soon enter college are perhaps curious, excited, and afraid of failure. You may be assured that the university does not admit expected failures but potentially successful individuals, who, by disciplining themselves, can achieve self-discovery.

We may all slip through college on a slide greased by oil from midnight cramming sessions. But there is a harder way for those who want more than a 2.0: a rocky trek through 4 years of uncertainty leading to a lifetime's continuous growth, with the real successes measured in satisfaction from each discovery.

## Dean of Women opens door to Class of '70

Gene Ann Flaherty, believes that a Dean of Women can only be as effective as the student permits, and will keep her office door 'open' to prove it.

Freshman orientation, perhaps one of the most important phases in the college student's academic life, was stressed in today's miniature conference in Miss Flaherty's cramped temporary office.

She pointed out with a well-tanned finger that freshman orientation and adjustment encompasses a broad scope of separate, though related fields. Each member of the large (700 students) incoming class must adapt himself physically, mentally, psychologically, and spiritually to the demands and privileges of college life at Sacred Heart.

To Dean Flaherty, the primary purpose of her office is to guide students toward proper channels. She indicated that one of the first steps toward individuality and identity was "class realization". She explained that the student must break down personal and previous scholastic ties and meet new classmates. In this way only can the freshman class be more than just a group of people with no unified aims or goals.

Once this class identity is established, the individual is encouraged to display himself to his classmates, and here

Dean Flaherty brought up the unique difference between living and existing. "A student in a commuting institution must feel that he belongs." She concluded that an individual awareness of our activities, social, spiritual, and academic; are necessary so that the individual, and the university can realize their respective potential.

In an interesting monologue concerning university rules and laws, Dean Flaherty stated that she prefers to set up guides to what the majority of students feel is the standard of accepted social behavior. But importantly, to communicate these standards to the student before the question of wrongness (or rightness) arises. She plans to communicate individually with her new flock of women students and share with them ideas and ideals.

The feeling behind the official outlook seems to be one of trust, and in this way Miss Flaherty has given the title of Dean her own personal stamp.

A soft feminine voice alternately highlighted with foresight and modulated with more than a little apprehension told of the desire to trust in each young woman that she will grow academically, bloom socially, enrich herself spiritually, and realize herself individually enough so that Dean Flaherty's "open door" policy will fully realize itself.

## Mixer, picnic, Student Gov't. day complete Orientation activities

The Keynote of Freshmen Orientation Week this year is variety. Activities planned and sponsored by the Student Government will run the gamut from group buzz-sessions to social smokers and mixers.

Monday, Sept. 12, will be the formal introduction of Orientation and Student leaders to the frosh by Maureen Dursi, S.G. President.

That afternoon Freshmen social life will open with a tea for the women students and a smoker for the men students sponsored by the mens' and womens' social-service organizations on campus.

Thursday's Student Government session will feature upperclassmen frolics followed by student - to - student buzz sessions which will give the freshman the opportunity to discuss with upperclassmen various problems and ask questions about university life.

Friday and Saturday will bring orientation activities to a close with the Annual Orientation Mixer and Picnic. The Mixer is a stag affair open only to frosh and transfer students.

The idea is to give the freshmen a chance to meet each other socially before introduction to the upperclassmen when classes resume the following week. This mixer requires jackets and ties for men. Tickets will be included in the Orientation kit. Tickets for Saturday's

picnic at Pinecrest Country Club, River Road, Shelton, will be on sale throughout Orientation week. The \$2.50 donation entitles students to all outdoor facilities including the swimming pool.

A band will provide dance music on the out-door patio.

## Collegians benefit from new library facilities

Mr. Richard Matzek, librarian outlined his hopes for the university library to several student journalists.

He stated, "We have two public service areas divided according to function. The main library, he laughed, "even looks like one, and the periodical reserve room is housed in three classrooms."

"The main library contains circulating books, phonograph records, special collections, reference material, and an excellent art reference file," he noted with pride.

After further questioning he explained that the periodical reserve room is used for storage

of 500 current periodical subscriptions, reserve books, and back issues in microfilm.

Speaking enthusiastically, Mr. Matzek told of the founding of the library in June of 1963. He added with a smile, "We had no books."

After receiving a budget the committee made plans for purchasing 10,000 volumes per year. The library, the first department to be formed, put its staff of four immediately to work. There is presently a total of 40,000 volumes and a staff of 15.

"How can students use the library to their best advantage?" one reporter questioned.

"Know what you are looking for Mr. Matzek advised wisely. If a student has a particular reference question, he can be aided by the librarian and staff if the question is properly understood."

Mr. Matzek restated the advice, "the best way for an individual to understand his library is to go there and ask the staff questions."

To supplement his duties in the library department, Richard Matzek also has a radio program, "Reward of Reading, on which he holds discussions on books and gives short reviews of current works.

## Dean notes

## Spirit epidemic hits SHU

"I anticipate more school spirit; it's contagious," remarked Raymond Hughes, Dean of Men as he looked forward to welcoming 700 freshman during Orientation Week.

For the first time SHU will be considered a four year university with a total enrollment

of approximately 1800," Dean Hughes stated.

According to the Dean, "this enrollment will cause a great impact especially in the fields of athletics, societies, clubs and the school newspaper."

The Dean attributes the large success of the university to the fact that it is a co-ed community college which is within the working man's budget.

When asked how students accepted their relationship to a Catholic college without a religious faculty the Dean replied, "65% of the students find a lay faculty a unique experience. They have had their basic Catholic training and now they get a lay person's point of view. They find it new and back in the experience."

Dean Hughes, leaning comfortably in his desk chair, predicted the physical additions to the University, while no plans for building dorms exist, the construction of a Library and Student Union appears in plans for the near future.

To keep up with the enlarging enrollment, student facilities are also enlarging. A new student lounge will be opened sometime in the future along with full-time cafeteria service from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Dean is expected to speak to the freshman during Orientation Week about discipline, student dress, government aid to education, and the work-study program. Asked to comment Dean Hughes said that the seniors are responsible for setting standards of dress and manners.

## Students tour WSHU-FM

"Going into its twentieth month of existence, WSHU-FM, Sacred Heart University's radio station, is more than just a college radio station," noted Mr. Abe Najamy, general manager of the station, during a recent tour.

Serving the entire Fairfield area, as well as Long Island and parts of Massachusetts, New York, and northern New Jersey, the station runs a full six days of programs.

Begun August 5, 1964, WSHU received its Federal Communications Commission rating five months later, in January, and began programming from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This June it extended its hours from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The station shares Booth Hill with WJZZ FM as the location of its transmitter, and operates the transmitter in the college studio by remote control.

In concluding the tour, Mr. Najamy welcomed any interested prospective freshmen with ability, interest and motivation to inquire about staff membership.

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