

PRESERVING THE PAST AND PRESENT **FOR THE FUTURE**



Cafeteria...Murals...Modern Equipment

*Freshman Orientation Dinner
—1953 Admissions Brochure*

"SUPER WOMEN"

THE NURSES OF LE MOYNE



In 2004, a new nursing program arose, phoenix-like, out of the ashes of the program started in 1951. In the fall of that year, St. Joseph's School of Nursing initiated a diploma program by sending 57 students to take science and philosophy courses on the Heights.

If one could believe the *Dolphin* or the *Piper*, the college newspapers in the '70s, the nurses were indeed "Super Women." They not only had three years of basic hospital training, but during their first year, the students earned 22 credits from Le Moyne: six in chemistry, three in microbiology, five in biology, three in English, three in theology, and two in ethics. In their second year, they took a course in ethics taught by Thomas J. Kent, S.J., at St. Joseph's. The nursing students were also expected to engage in Le Moyne College activities.

The student nurses led challenging lives. They rose at 5:15 in the morning for a six o'clock Mass. Breakfast at 6:45 prepared them for the rigors of a hard day. They attended at least six class hours at the hospital on the days they didn't come to Le Moyne. They worked an additional two hours on the floor, and then it was time to study. Any free time was spent in sports such as swimming or basketball. Religious practices also had their place; many students belonged to the Sodality at Le Moyne. On Tuesday nights during Lent, there was a Holy Hour, and on the First Friday of each month, Benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

This seemingly daunting schedule did not cause the student nurses to settle on just getting through. In 1967, the report of the New York State Board of Examiners showed that as a group, the most recent graduating class of St. Joseph's scored higher than any other two- or three-year nursing program; in fact, the class scored

significantly higher than any four-year Bachelor of Science program in New York State. Their performances on the National League of Nursing National Test Pool Examinations for Licensure were not only head and shoulders above all other nursing programs, but far above the averages for all graduates from all types of nursing programs in the United States.



As the St. Joseph's centenary booklet explains, "Enrollment in the program peaked in the mid-70s, then began declining—a result of the increasing popularity of two-year associate degree programs and student disenchantment with the strict lifestyle demanded by the school." These reasons were augmented by a relatively high tuition. The Franciscan Sisters, who ran St. Joseph's, finally decided to send their students to their own college, Maria Regina on Court Street, rather than to Le Moyne. In 1981, after 30 years, the cooperative nursing program came to an end. Some years later, Maria Regina collapsed under its fiscal burdens. New state nursing requirements and a new sense of professionalism opened the way for the 2004 resurrection of the St. Joseph-Le Moyne connection. ■



AS THEY TELL IT— AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW



“Ted” Furze, director of alumni relations and associate director of development, 1970-1975, provides his views of Bishop Walter Foery and the founding of Le Moyne.

FURZE: Well, Bishop Foery was certainly a legend; there is no question about it. I mean, he was old church, but he did a great job for the college. He went around to every church in his diocese. Originally that was a million dollar campaign and he raised a million and a half. One of the things that he did that kind of hurt Le Moyne for many years was that he promised people the Jesuits at Le Moyne would be a one time only thing; they wouldn't come back again. I don't know where he got the idea from. The other thing that is interesting about Bishop Foery is that he evidently—I have been told this—he really envisioned another Notre Dame in his diocese. Of course, there is the old story about he was the one that said, “the children of my diocese come in both sexes, so I want a coed school.” One of the little myths was that we always said that Bishop Foery invited the Jesuits to come in. That wasn't quite true; the Jesuits came in and wanted to found a college here, and he was receptive. But, oh, I think he envisioned a big university and a football team and everything else... So, anyway, he certainly had a big interest in Le Moyne. I believe at the first commencement, in '51, he received the only honorary degree.

Shortly before the Bishop died, I was walking from the dining hall back to the administration building. As I came to the circle, a black car went around the circle and it was Bishop Foery sitting perfectly erect in black hat and his black coat, and Mr. Scully, I think he was his driver, driving him around. I think it was one last nostalgic look around the campus. He was not here to visit anybody; he just took the drive around. So some people used to think that he was so turned off, but I still think he took a lot of pride. He was the founding Bishop. ■

A LETTER OF NOTE

In the piece opposite, "Ted" Furze relates that some thought Bishop Foery did experience moments of being 'turned off' by Le Moyne. One of the first was his initial visit to the College's construction site.

December 9, 1946

Rev. Joseph A. Murphy, S.J.
501 Fordham Road
New York 58, New York

Dear Father Murphy:

I visited this morning the site of the new Le Moyne College. What I saw there and what I observed was neither encouraging nor inspiring. I have no comment to make about the ability of the architects or the engineers who have drawn the plans for Le Moyne. The Jesuits are undoubtedly convinced that a New York firm could do a good job in Syracuse, otherwise you would not have employed them. There has been excavating and grading going on for an indefinite period of time. I had no idea of the amount of money that has already been spent preparing the site that was considered ideal in the first instance. The point I make is that there is no construction begun and that it is evident that you will not be ready for September 1947.

When I had a meeting of my consultants last week, one of them said that four of his boys decided to work this year and to await the opening of Le Moyne in 1947. I do not know how many young men have made a like decision. I said to my consultants that they were pouring concrete at Le Moyne when one of them said: "As far as I can see they are digging a hole and nothing else."

I have decided that for my own peace of mind and for my own prestige, I should no longer be associated publicly with Le Moyne. I promised myself that the disappointments have been so great and so painful that I will remain completely away from the work from now on. A Bishop is not in a good position when he is obliged to continually attempt to save face by saying that we got away to a poor start in the construction of Le Moyne but we hope that part of our experience is now over. I have decided that from now on I will refer all inquiries to the Jesuits.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Walter Foery
BISHOP OF SYRACUSE

DOCUMENTING THE LE MOYNE COMMUNITY: WHAT DOES THE COLLEGE ARCHIVES WANT?

1. Correspondence

- **Official**—i.e. outgoing and incoming letters and memoranda generated in the course of conducting college business.
- **Professional**—outgoing and incoming letters relating to all facets of one's academic or administrative career. Correspondence with colleagues, professional societies, students, etc.
- **Personal**—letters to and from friends, relatives, "fan mail," business correspondence, etc.

2. Biographical Material

- Resumes, vita sheets, bibliographies, chronologies, genealogies, newspaper clippings, personal memoirs, etc.

3. Photographs

- Anything, everything, connected to Le Moyne

4. Class Lecture Notes and Syllabi

5. Departmental or Committee Minutes and Records

6. Diaries, Notebooks and Appointment Calendars

This list is by no means definitive or exhaustive. It is intended as a list of materials which reflect and illuminate valuable aspects of Le Moyne College's history. Materials not specifically cited above which contribute to the archives project of documenting the community's endeavors as fully as possible are, of course, welcome.

ARCHIVES

PROGRESS REPORT

In the true American spirit, ever "Bigger and Better!" has been our goal since the creation of the Le Moyne College archives six years ago. Having started from a handful of various storage boxes, the archives now holds 11,160 folders and approximately half a million paper items. The archives' photographic collection contains over 8,000 individual photos. Oral history interviews have been conducted with over 70 professor emeriti, faculty, administrators, staff and former students. This achievement is the result of the generosity and cooperation of members of the Le Moyne community.

"DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?"

Jesuit Girls Outnumbered 6 to 1 by Men

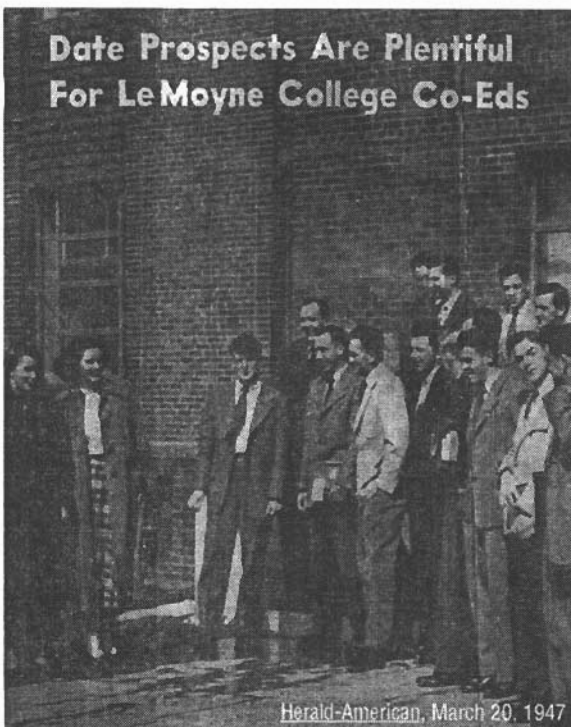
By Kathleen Brogan

With the ratio of men students six-to-one, co-eds at Le Moyne College haven't any date problems. The "college on the heights" with a present registration of 744 students is practically "a man's world," and the girls like it that way. It's nice, they say, to have six men fighting to carry your books up the hill.

Le Moyne is among the first of the eastern Jesuit colleges to have girls enrolled as regular day students in academic courses. In the first year's registration, September 1947, only 35 co-eds joined the 420 male students in the "class of '51." The girls this term number 117 against 627 boys.

NOT ONLY in social activities, but in all phases of college life, the co-eds are outnumbered. Two or three are sprinkled among 40 or more men in the business classes. Curly tresses and colorful skirts or suits are seen more frequently in the social science classes, but only nine girls are fighting to hold their own in the entire chemistry department.

Date Prospects Are Plentiful For Le Moyne College Co-Eds

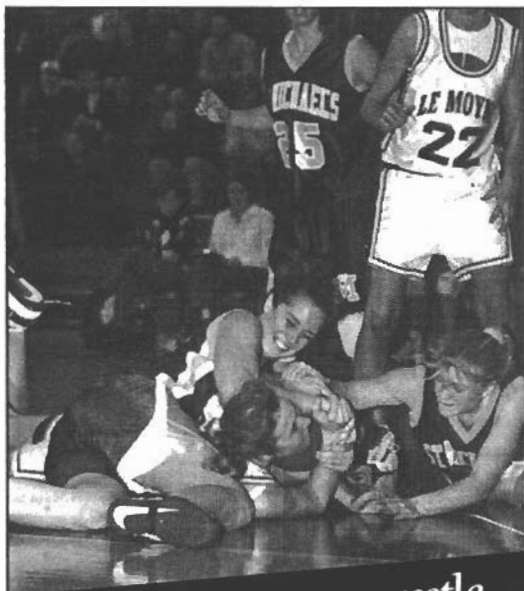


AT THE REGULAR Friday night dances, the stag lines are extra long, allowing the fair lasses only a few dance steps with one class mate before another "cuts" in. These same co-eds find it difficult to choose which of the boys will escort them home.

A GLANCE in the cafeteria during a lunch period would reveal the scarcity of freshmen girls on the campus. While seated at a lunch

table, a few may be seen surrounded by a dozen male frosh.

Aside from social activities, the co-eds have invaded sports events as well. They make up a double squad of cheerleaders who attend both the freshmen and varsity basketball games. The golf, skating and baseball teams are exclusively for the boys, but the girls are always present rooting for the "green and gold."



*We don't want to wrestle
you for them, but...*

*the Archives would make any
effort to obtain your non-current
Le Moyne materials.*

Discover the Archives and find the answers to
your questions about any Le Moyne program,
project, or person.

Don't guess, get the facts!

Send all inquiries and materials to:

William J. Bosch, S.J.

Le Moyne College Archives

Archive Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. / 1 - 4:30 p.m.

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