



The Building
Histories
of
Canisius College

Designed by Katherine Liebner and Marnie Davis.
Photos scanned by Matt Puchlerz.
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Rev. J. Clayton Murray, S.J. Archives

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General Information

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Hours of operation:

8:30-5:00pm Monday-Friday

Websites of interest :

Canisius College

<http://www.canisius.edu>

Rev. J. Clayton Murray S. J. Archives at

<http://www.canisius.edu/archives>

Rev. J. Clayton Murray S.J. Digital Collection

<http://www.canisius.edu/archives/digital>

Andrew L. Bouwhuis Library at

<http://library.canisius.edu>

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Aerial Views of Canisius College



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Canisius College Pre-Old Main



Canisius College as it existed on Washington Street.

History

- Canisius College originally began in 1870 in a former bookstore located on Ellicott Street. In 1871, the College moved from this temporary location to Washington Street in the same building which housed Canisius High School. Canisius College was the only school in the area at the time authorized to confer A.B. and M.A. degrees.
- The building at Washington Street could not keep up with the growing enrollment of students even after extending and adding to the building. They eventually stopped admitting out-of-towners.
- The College remained at the Washington Street location until 1913 when it transferred to Main and Jefferson where Old Main now stands.

Andrew L. Bouwhuis Library



View of the Library from behind Churchill Tower.

History

- Originally located in, respectively, both the 2nd and 1st floors of Old Main, a new library building costing \$880,000 was completed in 1958 and the transfer of 70,000 books took place. The 1958 library was able to accommodate 135,000 books.
- Upon the event of Fr. Bouwhuis's death in 1968, the library was dedicated in his honor. He was the library director from 1935 to 1955.
- In 1987, new renovations were completed to expand the capacity of books to 260,000. The library now holds 428,094 volumes.
- In 1989 a computer lab in the lower level of the library was opened.

Uses of the building

- The library houses the Archives Department and is used for study, research, and computer access. It includes a wireless training lab, group study rooms, a computer lab with both Mac and PC's, and extensive online databases with access to full text articles.

Interesting Facts

- Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the growth of books entering the Canisius College library was unprecedented. To accommodate, librarians began adding shelves to each section until, as one librarian put it, it rendered "the top shelf inaccessible to anyone shorter than Kareem Abdul Jabbar."

Bagen Administration Building



History

- In 1959, ground was broken for the Administration Building.
- In 1968, the College dedicated the Administration Building to Daniel T. Bagen, the College's registrar from 1920-59.

Uses of the building

- Bagen Administration Building is the location of offices such as the Registrars Office and the Student Advisement Center.

Bosch and Frisch Halls

History of Bosch Hall

- Bosch Hall and Residents' Dining Hall (Palisano Pavilion) were both established in 1968 on what was originally "The Villa", a gymnasium or fieldhouse that had been erected in 1927. It was demolished to make room for these buildings. Bosch Hall was originally a men's residence.
- In 1989, Residence Life moved into renovated section of Bosch.
- It was remodeled in 1997. It is now co-ed by wing.

Interesting Facts

- Fr. Raymond Bosch, for whom the building was named, was a teacher of thirty-five years in the Modern Language Department of Canisius, a department he had established through his own generous donations. In 1967, Fr. Bosch left to serve as assistant chaplain for Cullion Leper Colony in the Philippine Islands. Upon his leaving, he presented the college with \$100,000 worth of gifts, an amount equal to that which he had donated throughout his stay. He worked in the leper colony until retirement in his mid-eighties. He died in Manila on Aug 10, 1986.
- Fr. Bosch was born in Lima, Peru and worked for years in South American missions before coming to Canisius College. Once (before 1927), while on a ship to Argentina, he needed an altar boy to assist with the Masses. He asked a young Bing Crosby. This story resurfaced during the dedication of Bosch Hall in 1967. A letter was sent to Bing Crosby by the president of Canisius, Father Demske, explaining the story. Two weeks later, Bing Crosby responded saying that he remembered Fr. Bosch well and sent along \$2,000 to the college, promising more from his Bing Crosby Youth Fund.



Architect's sketch of Frisch Hall.

History of Frisch Hall

- Frisch Hall was dedicated in 1963 to Fr. John Frisch, chairman of Biology Department for twenty years. Frisch Hall was originally a women's residence.
- It was remodelled in 1996. It is now co-ed by wing.

Uses of Bosch and Frisch Halls

- Bosch and Frisch Halls house students in doubles, triples, or suites shared by four students. They are co-ed by wing and have two bathroom/ shower facilities per wing. There is a lounge on each floor with a TV, kitchen area, tables and chairs. The rooms are wired for Internet and cable. All students have voicemail. The Student Health Center, Office of Multicultural Programs and the International Student Programs Office are located in the tunnel level of Frisch Hall.

Christ the King Chapel



History

- Dedicated in 1951, the Chapel was built over the site of New Villa Stadium, which was opened in 1925 with a football win over the Quantico Marines. In 1946, the stands were sold to St. Bonaventure University. The Chapel was built under the direction of Fr. Raymond Schouten, president of Canisius.
- In 1981, a ramp was added to the entrance of the Chapel for wheelchair accessibility.

Uses of the building

- The Chapel is located in the center of Canisius College and reflects the Jesuit heritage. Mass is offered daily at 11:30.AM. Sunday Mass is offered at 11:45 A.M. and 9:30 P.M. Alumni often hold their weddings there.

Interesting Facts

- The Class of 1990 donated a carillon, an electronic device that creates the sound of carillon bells, which was supposed to be installed in Christ the King Chapel.

Churchill Tower



History

- Construction began in 1969 for the Academic Tower.
- Money problems were finally solved with a \$500,000 donation from Dr. Clinton Churchill in 1970. Churchill was a local Methodist minister who specialized in radio evangelization for WKBW and later WKBW-TV. The building was then named in his honor.

Uses of the building

- Churchill Tower houses faculty offices and classrooms.

Interesting Facts

- In 1973, a special area in the lobby was set up for the U.S. Post Office to supply special Copernicus commemorative stamps and envelopes celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicholas Copernicus, the Polish astronomer.
- Until 1988, the Canisius College telephone switchboard was on the first floor.

Health Science Building



History

- In 1968, the building at Delavan and Jefferson was purchased from the New York Telephone Company. Canisius College began remodeling the building to accommodate biology and physics labs using government grant money.

Uses of the building

- Health Science is used to house the Biology and Psychology Departments and the Military Science/ROTC program.

Interesting Facts

- Apparently, during the bidding process, the Company hid the fact that renovation was still continuing on a floor, calling it a maintenance floor.
- Canisius College's first Computer Center was housed here.

Horan-O'Donnell



History

- In 1938, the construction of this building was made possible by the generous donations of William O'Donnell and Marian Horan.
- In 1940 it was dedicated by Bishop John Duffy.
- In 1972 the first minicomputer was housed here.
- In 1984 it was renovated.

Uses of the building

- Chemistry and Physics classrooms and labs and the offices of Chemistry and Physics professors are located in this building. Horan-O'Donnell also holds the Office of Retention and Orientation.

Interesting Facts

- There was another Canisius College building to the east of the Horan O'Donnell Building on Hughes Avenue. Dewey Hall, a temporary wooden building built for extra classroom space to accommodate GI's after WWII, had been a donation of New York State but was eventually demolished in 1953.

Koessler Athletic Center



History

- The Koessler Center was opened in 1969, with such notables as Gov. Rockefeller present.
- In 1971, the Greater Buffalo Press, Inc. donated \$1 million to the center. J. Walter Koessler '22, who had been an superior Canisian athlete, had founded the company. The building was dedicated to him.
- In 1981, the Canisius College Alumni Association dedicated the Sports Hall of Fame in the Koessler.
- In 1989, groundbreaking began for the \$4 million athletic field adjacent to the Koessler.
- In recent years, the arena seating has been replaced and the seating capacity doubled.

Uses of the building

- Koessler Center has a 25 yard swimming pool, saunas, 3 basketball courts, 1 squash and 2 racquetball courts and a weight room and fitness center. The main gymnasium seats 1,800 people and is the home court for the Canisius College women's basketball team. It can be converted into an archery range, badminton court, team handball or tennis court, or indoor soccer field. Coaches' offices are located throughout the building.

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- In 1981, the Canisius College Alumni Association dedicated the Sports Hall of

Loyola Hall



History

- Loyola Hall was opened in December 1949 as a residency for the Jesuits. The Jesuits were previously housed in Old Main. These rooms were converted into classrooms.

Uses of the building

- Loyola Hall is a residency for the Jesuits.

Interesting Facts

- In honor of the laying of the cornerstone, students were given a holiday. In the cornerstone is a sealed copper box containing college catalogues, religious pictures, a prayer book, a sketch of the building, and copies of daily papers.

Lyons Hall



History

- Lyons Hall was originally the Mt. St. Joseph's high school division. Built in 1908 and run by the Sister's of St. Joseph, the high school remained open until 1987.
- In 1974-75, Mt. St. Joseph reconstructed its auditorium for use as a performing arts center. This theatre was later remodeled through the donation of Marie Maday and is used today by Canisius College's Little Theatre.
- In 1987, Canisius purchased the high school division of Mt. St. Joseph and the 4 acres adjacent to it for \$1.25 million.
- In 1998, James Lyons '56 donated \$3 million to the renovation and update of the former high school. The building was named in his honor in 2000.

Uses of the building

- Lyons Hall is considered the "main entrance" to the school. Included in the building are the Admissions Office, the Communication Studies Department, the Department of Fine Arts and the Center for Entrepreneurship.

Interesting Facts

- It was in 1965 that Canisius College first became interested in acquiring the property from Mount St. Joseph, but plans were abandoned by 1966 after Canisius College opted to begin building at Delavan and Main.
- There was some concern during negotiations with Mt. St. Joseph that Canisius College would prevent the continuation of disco dances at Mt. St. Joseph. Canisius College agreed to not interfere with the dances as long as they were not required to provide security.
- There were some hopes of building an overhead walkway from Lyons to Wehle Tech but the estimated cost ended discussions.

Montante Cultural Center



History

- The Montante Cultural Center was originally St. Vincent de Paul Church which was established in 1924.
- In 1993, the parish merged with Blessed Trinity and the church was sold to Canisius College for \$350,000.
- By 1994, the Cultural Center was already open for Artpark-in-Canisius in association with Artpark.
- In 2000, after renovation, the Cultural Center was dedicated as the Montante Cultural Center due to the generous donations of Carol and Carl Montante.

Uses of building

- The Montante Cultural Center is a performing arts center capable of hosting 550 people. Speakers and musical performances by guest composers, Canisius faculty, students, and staff, and outside groups are held here through the ArtsCanisius Program.

Interesting Facts

- The architecture of the church was designed according to European churches after the German born pastor, Fr. Hummel traveled through Europe.
- St. Vincent de Paul Church was the only church in the diocese allowed to give Tridentine (Latin) Masses until its close.
- The cornerstone laying is unusual in that the stone was placed inside one of the columns near the sanctuary instead of outside.
- During the remodeling of the Church into a class/theater area, the hand-sewn kneelers from the Montante were transferred to Christ the King Chapel.

Old Main



History

- In 1874, Canisius College acquired the Villa property at Main and Jefferson. Originally under the ownership of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the building was demolished in 1922. A building was soon established for the Jesuits and students to visit twice a month for rest and relaxation.
- In 1909 Canisius College began the groundbreaking for the Old Main and in 1913 Canisius College, including its 73 students, transferred to Old Main.
- In 1919 Rev. Michael Ahern became the first president of Canisius College to reside at Main Street and not head Canisius High School.
- In 1925, additional wings were added to accommodate the growth of the college.
- In 1990 a Media Center was established on the 4th floor with NBC Vice President Timothy Russert present.
- The building was remodeled several times, most recently in 1999 for comprehensive renovation including state of the art technology.

Uses of building

- Old Main contains a number of student service offices including Financial Aid and Canisius Opportunity Programs for Education (C.O.P.E), Campus Ministry, the Tutoring Center, and the Office of Disability Support Services and the Career Center.

Interesting Facts

- One of the famous early Jesuits of Canisius College was Rev. John O’Sullivan, the enforcer. He was given the nickname “the ballplayer” because of his saying “you play ball with me and I’ll play ball with you.”
- In 1912, the U.S. weather bureau station began operating on the fourth floor of Old Main. The antique German-built Wiechert seismograph was placed in the basement and was donated in 1990 to the University of West Ontario in London, Ontario. Canisius College remains the only area institution with a seismograph.

Palisano Pavilion



History

- Originally the Resident’s Dining Hall (Rathskeller in 1978), it was established in 1968 along with Bosch Hall.
- In 1981, Resident’s Dining Hall was renamed Palisano Pavilion in honor of Harriet and Jim Palisano who dedicated made a generous fund for the upkeep and adaptation of the building.

Uses of building

- The Palisano Pavilion is a student recreation building that features the Upper Deck restaurant, an Internet Café, and the Penfold Commons equipped with dartboards, pool tables, ping pong, foosball, TVs, and couches. The Pavilion also holds the The Street Side Café, the Palisano Computer Lab, and a Post Office for Bosch and Frisch residents.

Richard E. Winter Student Center



History

- In 1962, Canisius College received a government loan to begin the construction of Student Center and Frisch Hall. By 1963, these two buildings were ready for use.
- In 1986, the Alumni Hall of Fame was unveiled.
- In 1989, the Student Center bookstore was expanded.

Uses of building

- The Winter Student Center is home to the Office of Student Activities which coordinates over 100 clubs and organizations on campus. There are club rooms throughout the building. The building includes the main dining hall and the bookstore. The Upper Level houses the Grupp Fireside Lounge and Regis Room used for lectures, special dinners, and club events.

Interesting Facts

- In 1977 a fire swept through the Student Center causing \$120,000 in damage, particularly in the auditorium. The auditorium reopened again in 1978. There was suspected arson.
- In 1989, the Student Center held a primary mayoral Democratic debate with Griffin, Hoyt, and Trammell.

Wehle Technology Center



History

- Originally St. Vincent's School and built in 1952, it was purchased by Canisius College in 1978.
- After remodeling, the Main-Eastwood Building was opened in 1980. It housed the newly built Computer Center.
- In 1987, the Main-Eastwood building was renamed Wehle Technology Center, in honor of Richard J. Wehle, a longtime benefactor of the college.

Uses of building

- Wehle Tech is home to the Computer Science Department and Information Technology Services.

Little Known Facts

- In 1920, in celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Canisius, an outdoor theater was built to give 40 performances of the Passion Play during July and August. It is said to have attracted 80,000 people.
- In 1943, Canisius College was targeted as a training center by the Army Air Force. 350 air cadets eventually arrive for instruction. The training was completed by 1944.
- 1,766 Canisius Alumni and students participated in World War II. 65 were killed, 46 wounded, and 113 decorated.
- In 1947, to accommodate the GI Bill, which nearly doubled Canisius College enrollment, NYS gave a \$128,000 grant to Canisius to renovate the old Sister's Hospital at the Delavan Division.
- In 1949, in order to satisfy the conditions prescribed by the School of Business Administration which stated that business students should be separate from other academic studies, the business section moved to the Delavan Division. In 1959, the fire department said the building could no longer be used because it was a fire hazard. By 1961, the vacant building caught fire. The fire destroyed most of the roof and part of the building's top floor. Insurance money from the fire allowed the college to have the Old Sisters building demolished.



The Delavan Division was originally the old Sisters Hospital. It burned down in 1961.