As the war drew to its close, adjustments had to be made in response to the gradual decrease in the size of the V-12 unit, the effect of mid-year graduations, and the fact that, as long as the war continued, the only males who could attend college as civilians were those under eighteen, those physically disqualified for service, pre-ministerial students, and discharged veterans. By 1945 some of these last were already in college. Fearing that Selective Service would continue after the cessation of hostilities and that the demobilization process would be slow, the administration decided to increase the number of women students in excess of the normal ratio of 325 men and 275 women. The old dorms had been converted to female occupancy, and it was decided to do the same with Brodbeck. The dorms were returned to the tender mercies of the men after one year.

The predictions that prompted these decisions proved to be inaccurate. Demobilization was rapid, and the fall term of 1946-7 opened with an enrollment of 895, including eight veterans from Valley Forge General Hospital as special students. Of the 887 regular students, 492 were men and 366 of those were attending under the G.I. Bill of Rights. A year earlier the student body had numbered 133 men and 402 women. At that time the President had stated that for the next four or five years the enrollment must increase to 650 or 700, an underestimate from the outset. Additional faculty had to be secured, though the teaching staff was considerably enlarged and strengthened by the return of Sieber Pancoast, Charles Steinmetz, Roger Staiger, and Evan Snyder from the armed forces. The regular two semester year was reinstated but an eight week summer session (half semester) was held so that those still to be drafted could get in as much work as possible before being called. As it turned out, this proved of greater use to veterans who wished to finish as rapidly as possible.

The shortage in housing which had been a constant cause for concern during
the war years was accentuated by the unexpected increase. It was not entirely unan-
ticipated, for the Board had leased the B’nai B’rith Home for the Aged, a modern,
fireproof building which had been erected but never occupied at Camp B'rith
Sholom, on the road to Yerkes and just outside the borough limits. In these quar-
ters 105 students, most of them veterans, were housed. They became a familiar sight
walking or thumbing rides to and from the campus at class and meal time. More
housing would have been needed had it not been for the fact that many of the
veterans lived at their homes within the county or if married rented apartments and
houses in the immediate vicinity.

The G.I. Rush rapidly reached flood-tide. In 1947 the enrollment was 964,
including 421 veterans among the 633 men. To cope with increased numbers in
courses and the sectioning of courses eleven instructors were added to the faculty.
The peak was reached in 1948 when the enrollment reached 1039, a figure not passed
until 1966. In 1949 the total was 948, and from then on tapered off as the number of
veterans dwindled. Dean Clawson remarked in 1948 that even then, though the
total number of students was greater, the proportion of veterans was decreasing,
40.6% as opposed to 44.2% a year earlier. He commented that it would be best “if
the same standards are maintained as at present.”

The large increase of applicants in the post-war years created serious problems

Freeland steps, during the post war period, became a favorite informal meeting place for
students.
in the selection of those best fitted for admission. In the thirties the Office of Admissions, or Office of the Registrar as it was then called, under the direction of Professor Franklin I. Sheeder had used the Cooperative Tests of the American Council on Education as a means of identifying the best candidates. Year by year the quality of the classes admitted improved, judged both by high school class standing and by scores on the A.C.E. tests, which provided a national norm for comparison because they were used ultimately by about 350 colleges. By 1947, however, these tests seemed no longer completely adequate, in part because they tended to reflect inaccurately the potential of veterans who in not a few instances had finished high school several years before they could enter college and also of veterans who before entering the service had not contemplated going to college and had not taken the academic course in high school but who now with increased maturity and the experience of their war service saw the need for and advantages of higher education.

Consequently, in 1947 upon the recommendation of Dr. William J. Phillips, who had been appointed assistant registrar a year after the resignation of Professor Sheeder, Ursinus became a member of the College Entrance Examination Board and required all candidates for admission to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Those below the second quintile in their high school class had also to take three Achievement Tests, and veterans took the Special Aptitude Test for Veterans administered by the C.E.E.B. The reasons for this change were administrative as well as educational. Sheer weight of numbers forced the adoption of new procedures. The Admissions Office processed 3000 applications for admission in September, 1947 (the era of multiple applications had begun), besides which many other persons considered candidacy but did not complete formal application. Of these applicants the College was able to admit 276. Many called but few were chosen.

In commenting on this problem President McClure wrote in 1947 that in the selection of students "we have recognized our obligation both to veterans and to non-veterans." The significance of this statement is dual. Had the administration chosen to do so, it could have filled the College with veterans, all of whose fees were paid by the government, and thus prospered by eliminating scholarship aid. Within five years such a policy would have been self-defeating. That the College met its obligation to its natural constituency is shown by the fact that in the year of peak enrollment (1947–8) 617 of the 1039 students were non-veterans.

The other significant element in the President's statement is that the Board maintained the tuition fee at or very near $475 for the two regular terms. Had it decided to increase that charge to the maximum paid by the Veterans Administration ($600 a year), the financial advantage to the College would have been very great, but the Board felt that to do so would work a hardship on some of the civilian students and their families. Even with this restraint the College prospered in these years. Not the only but the most dramatic evidence of this prosperity was the elimination in 1948 of the Current Deficit. Two years earlier Treasurer Wismer summarized it thus:
This Current Deficit is not the result of the past year’s operations. It represents the net operating losses of seventy-five years. You all know that for years and years the running expenses of the College were far more than the current receipts. The College was started on borrowed money, never really had any working capital, and for reasons both good and bad it consistently spent more than it took in; and the accumulated deficit, once started, kept on growing.

Still another benefit of the war should be recorded. From the War Assets Administration the College received a large amount of surplus property (all sorts of items from desks to generators, from scientific apparatus to trucks) which was used in the instructional program, in the maintenance department, and throughout the institution. More importantly, it received in 1947 the new gymnasium and the maintenance building, war surplus structures which were dismantled from army posts and re-erected on campus. The cost of building the equivalent out of college funds would have amounted to $150,000.

Before backtracking to record some other events and changes of the years 1945 to 1951, some comment on the effect of the G.I.’s in college should be made. The effects of having so many older, more mature students on campus were felt more in the classrooms than in the life of the student body and its organizations. It is true that some veterans, whether returnees or not, scorned the usual extra-curricular activities as “kid stuff” or, if not that, as a distraction from studies leading to the all important degree. On the other hand, many became fully involved in campus life. But the greater effect was felt in the classroom. The veterans had matured in the hard school of a war-torn world and had come to think and question with a maturity not often found in a younger one. From high school basketball championships and junior proms. The veterans realized the value of what they could get and were getting in college, so that on the whole the intellectual level was raised by their presence. Faculty members who taught before and after the war remember students who, immature, careless, or lazy, did poor work before entering the service only to show themselves on their return in a totally different light as competent, motivated, industrious students.

However, the experience was not completely satisfactory. Two types of people did not fare well in the post-war years. One group was composed of married men with families who had to work in either part-time or full-time jobs to supplement the allowances made them by the Government to support their families. Some of these found the financial burdens too heavy to bear for the length of time required even in an accelerated college program and thus had to drop out. Some of them, trying to burn their candle at both ends, failed to meet academic requirements. The other group who did not fare well was composed of those who after the excitement and nervous tension of active service, particularly if they had had severe combat duty, could not readjust to the regular and in a sense monotonous pattern of academic life. Some felt out of place with students much younger in years and outlook, and in some instances felt inferior and beyond their depth in studies which they had been so long away from. Thus some of the G.I. students did not see the
way clear to their goal. But few who remember those years would disagree with the opinion that the G.I. Rush was good for the College, the veterans, and the other students.

On November 20, 1946, a longstanding and notable member of the College faculty, Dean Whorten Albert Kline, passed away after a brief illness. A graduate of the class of 1893, Dr. Kline was upon graduation appointed instructor in Latin and remained on the faculty until his death, a span of fifty-three years. When Dr. Omwake was elected vice-president, Dr. Kline succeeded him as dean. All who knew him remembered his impressive appearance, the urbanity and even courtliness of his manners, his gracious and friendly behavior. Apart from his devotion to classical studies (he was a far better Latinist than Grecian) and the delight which he conveyed to his classes in the study of Horace (one of his favorite authors), he was known for his interest in botany, and the great variety of trees which still adorn the campus memorializes his applied knowledge of dendrology. He was succeeded in the deanship by Dr. John Wentworth Clawson, professor of mathematics and another of the grand old men of the faculty, which he joined in 1907.

After thirty-three years as professor of philosophy Dr. Carl Vernon Tower became professor emeritus in 1946. A younger faculty member but one who had been in the center of things since 1925 as administrator and teacher left the scene when Dr. Franklin Irvin Sheeder, Jr., registrar and professor of religion and church history, resigned to become the executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education and Publications of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Mrs. Sheeder at the same time resigned as instructor in religion. Dr. Sheeder had been President Omwake's right hand man in the earlier years, and as director of admissions and scholarships had close contact with almost every student who entered Ursinus during his time. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at the 1946 Commencement.

Another loss to the faculty came through the death on March 17, 1947, of Dr. William Wallace Bancroft. A graduate of the class of 1919, he had returned to Ursinus in 1925 as assistant professor of English and philosophy and also, somewhat incongruously, served as graduate manager of athletics until the advent of Russell C. Johnson in 1930. Dignified, reserved, and very shy, Dr. Bancroft tried with varying success to bridge the gap between his metaphysical concepts couched in sesquipedalian terms and the more matter-of-fact, simplistic thought and language of his students. After his death the College leased his residence as a dormitory for women, and it is now college property.

Physical changes were few. The most striking was the receipt on indefinite loan from the Franklin Institute of the Elihu Thomson memorial telescope, a ten-inch refracting instrument which was mounted on the roof of Pfahler Hall and housed in a revolving dome constructed by Walter W. Marsteller '49, who after graduation joined the faculty as instructor in physics and astronomy.

At the end of the 1947 academic year three veteran teachers became emeriti. Dr. Elizabeth Brett White, professor of history and chairman of the department...
The telescope on Pfahler Hall was housed in an observatory constructed of scrap and war surplus material by Dr. Walter W. Marsteller of the physics department. It was used not only for college work, but by civic and young people's groups throughout the country.
since coming to Ursinus in 1924, and also dean of women from 1924 to 1938, retired to be succeeded by Dr. Maurice Armstrong, who had joined the faculty in 1945. Professor Martin Weaver Witmer, who from 1920 instructed, single handed, successive generations of freshmen in the mysteries of rhetoric and tolerable prose until others came to share the burden in the early thirties, also retired in 1947, though not completely, for he taught one advanced course in writing the following year. The third professor to retire was Dr. Jesse Shearer Heiges, class of 1898, who after a long and successful career as dean of Shippensburg State Teachers College, had returned to Ursinus in 1935 as associate professor of education and director of the placement service. Quiet-speaking, experienced, realistic, he brought to the department a thorough knowledge of theory and practice in public education.

Among the many persons who joined the faculty in 1947 several are active members to the present: Allan Lake Rice, now professor of German and Swedish, Alfred Leon Creager '33, lecturer in philosophy and later associate professor of church history and college chaplain until 1970, H. Lloyd Jones, Jr., associate professor of English and associate dean of admissions, Harry C. Symons, associate professor of economics, and William Thomas Parsons '47, associate professor of history.

An interesting addition to the campus came in the spring of 1948 through the acquisition of Fetterolf House under a gift annuity from Miss Hattie Fetterolf. The fine old stone farm house across from Bomberger Hall on Main Street had been the residence of President Bomberger during his first years in Collegeville before he built Zwinglihof (Shreiner Hall). During the eighties and nineties a number of men students lived there, including George L. Omwake, Jesse S. Heiges, and John Lentz, who were later to become president, professor of education, and chaplain respectively. As the College used it from 1948 on for twenty years as a residence hall for men, history in a sense was repeated.

The other physical addition of this time was the construction of the new women's hockey field, soon to be named Evans Field in memory of Effie Brant Evans '18, who had been a member of the Board from 1942 until her death in 1948 and, with her husband, Robert D. Evans '18, had always been an enthusiastic supporter of athletics at the College. The field was named in memory of Mrs. Evans upon the request of the Ursinus Women's Club which at that time contributed $1,000 to its construction. By 1955 the Club had contributed $4,755 in full payment of this project.

The faculty had been reviewing the curriculum in the light of war and post-war experience. As a result of this survey, in 1947 new general degree requirements were set for the class of 1951 and those thereafter. The changes made were modest. The group system was retained momentarily, but in effect bypassed by the departments setting requirements for a major in their subjects. The number of semester hours required for graduation was reduced from 124 to 120. The mathematics-Latin requirement was dropped. All students were required to take a laboratory course in the freshman year (prior to this non-science majors took it in the sophomore year).
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The two positive changes were that all students were required to take Economics 3,4 or Political Science 1,2 and a second year of English, composed of Composition 3,4 (a one hour per term course in writing) and a sophomore literature course chosen from a group of three: the survey of English literature (Literature 3,4), the survey of American literature (Literature 19,20), or English novel and modern drama (Literature 17,18). Thus, twelve hours were added to general degree requirements in an effort to insure that all students would, by compulsion at least, gain a somewhat broader general education than had been the case in earlier years. This change meant that slightly more than a third of the student’s work was devoted to general education, a second third to the specialization within his major, and the last third to whatever studies he might choose to elect, a proportion only slightly modified by the “Ursinus Plan” now in operation.

Financial progress continued steadily. In 1948 the current deficit, as has been recorded, was finally wiped out. There was no need for short-term borrowing. The Board, realizing that the College’s permanent capital was still inadequate, voted to raise $250,000 in additional endowment funds. The Alumni Association undertook to raise $100,000 as the “Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund” to honor the Ur-

The Effie Brant Evans Field provided a new home for the College’s renowned women’s field hockey team. The Ursinus Women’s Club provided generous financial support for this improvement.
sinus men who gave their lives in World War II. By 1953 this goal was reached.

Since the United States was at war for four years in World War II as opposed to one and a half in World War I and since Ursinus was larger by 1941 than it had been in 1917, its contribution in the later conflict was much greater. In World War II 735 sons and daughters of the College served, and 35 died or were missing in action. Of the 735 who served, 464 were alumni and 272 were non-graduates, most of these latter being students who enlisted or were drafted just before or during the war. Twenty-five of the total were women. The country-wide average of loss through death in the service was under two percent. For Ursinus it was 4.75 percent. Counting from the class of 1914 (Col. George R. Ensminger of that class served) to and including the class of 1945, the 438 male graduates in service came out of the 1412 men in those thirty-two classes, almost one in three. When one considers the fact that many in the older classes were physically ineligible or were working in activities contributory to the war effort, it becomes plain that the record of Ursinus men and women in World War II was one to be proud of.

A homely but essential addition to the physical plant was the sewage disposal plant, constructed in 1949 at a cost of about $45,000. As was recorded earlier, the State Department of Health pressed the administration to construct it at a time when no funds were available. Efforts to have the borough join with the College in building a system for the whole community failed, so the Board ultimately went ahead on its own.

The years 1950 to 1952 witnessed a venturing into three new programs of widely varying scope and success. The first, short lived and least successful, was the fifth year program. After considerable study and careful planning the College initiated in 1950 a fifth year program in which students who planned to teach in secondary school could get most of their professional preparation for teaching after completing four full years of liberal arts study. The advantages foreseen for the plan were that not only could they meet the requirements specified by the Department of Public Instruction without lessening the fullness of their major preparation, but also students who while in their upperclass years made the decision to enter secondary school teaching could do so at a later time than had been possible. Upon completion of the program they would have completed requirements for provisional certification and part of those for permanent certification and would receive a master’s degree entitling them to an immediate increment in whatever high school they taught in. The trend in public education at that time seemed to indicate that all teachers in secondary schools would, sooner or later, have to obtain a master’s degree. One of the neighboring states had already made it mandatory.

Essential to the success of this program was the approval of the State Council on Education. The College informed and consulted with the Council in every step of the planning, and received complete approval. It was expected that the program would begin with a small registration; the first year (1950–1) there were four students in it, the second year six, the third year four. But an unexpected blow was struck by the State Council in 1954 when it redefined the requirements for the

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master’s degree so as to make the Ursinus program unacceptable. Or so it seemed to the faculty and administration, whose recommendation to end the program after those currently in it had completed their work was approved by the Board in November, 1954. Ironically enough, after Ursinus had bowed to the will of officialdom in Harrisburg, it was later reproached, unofficially, for having given up the fifth year program.

The second new project was the creation of the five-year engineering program given in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania. In it a student after completing three years at Ursinus as a major in mathematics or physics would move to one of the engineering schools of the University and upon completion of two years of work there would receive the Bachelor of Arts degree from Ursinus and the Bachelor of Science in whatever branch of engineering he specialized in, from the University. Later, the same cooperative arrangement with other institutions, e.g., the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was set up, and those Ursinus students who have completed the five year program have made excellent records. But the numbers of students entering the program were small from the outset and have remained so through the years. There were fourteen in 1954, thirteen in 1966.

The major innovation of this time was the establishment in 1952 of the Evening School. Its objective was to serve men and women employed in business and industry in Montgomery County by offering evening courses primarily in business administration and in allied subjects useful to such people—economics, political science, history, English, and public speaking. The program was planned to enable a student to take one or more courses of special interest to him either for professional advancement or personal enrichment, to complete in several years a series of related courses leading to the degree of Associate in Business Administration, or to take work which could qualify him to transfer to the day curriculum and satisfy part of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees. It was recognized that for a person engaged in a full-time position to undertake this last objective meant a long haul demanding great perseverance, but time has justified the decision to make a full collegiate program available.

The program was planned and directed from the start by Dr. William J. Phillips, professor of English, who gave up the position of registrar to head the new school. He has directed the Evening School throughout its history and deserves the lion’s share of credit for its great success. Participation in the evening classes began slowly; in the first year there were 45 students, in the second 47, in the third 85. Then it began a spectacular rise. In the fifth year (1956–7) the enrollment was 240, in the tenth (1962–3) 484, and in the fifteenth (1966–67) 872. In the first year a faculty of nine offered nine courses; in 1966 a faculty of about fifty was offering approximately that many courses. The geographical spread was large from the start. In 1953–4 the students came from thirty-three different communities and were employed in forty-five different businesses and industrial concerns, some of which began early to encourage their employees to attend and to pay tuition fees for them.

In 1952 the group system, instituted in 1894 in President Spangler’s administra-
Dr. Gerald Maurice Edelman, class of 1950, brought international recognition to the College's natural and physical sciences program in 1972 when he won the Nobel Prize for Medicine for his research on the chemical structure of antibodies. He was on the faculty of Rockefeller University. (Pictured 1984.)
tion when it was a progressive innovation in curricular organization, was dropped by the Faculty on November 5. As has been shown in earlier pages, it had gradually become a vestigial structure through the emergence of departmental autonomy so that long before its official demise it was a dead letter. The change to the system of departmental majors had already taken place.

1952 was marked also by two deaths and a retirement. After a lingering illness Dr. J. Harold Brownback died on July 14. As has already been told, from the time he joined the faculty in 1926 Dr. Brownback had bent all his energies to strengthening the biology department and the program of pre-medical and pre-dental studies. A single-minded, impetuous, dynamic teacher, he saw the fruits of his labor in a steadily increasing number of alumni and former students who entered the healing arts. In 1939, midway through Dr. Brownback’s teaching career, the secretary of the Association of American Medical Colleges wrote:

Ursinus should be proud of the record of its students in medical school. During the past eight years, seventy-four Ursinus students have entered medical school. Of that number only one student failed; sixty, eighty-one percent, came through with a clear record, and thirteen had subject conditions or failures—seventeen and five-tenths percent.

This is a very good record for any school to make. Succeeding years simply improved upon this excellent showing, of which Dr. Brownback was justifiably proud. Aside from his professional career all who knew him will remember his fondness for deep sea fishing and his absorption in all things Pennsylvania Dutch, especially antiques and artifacts of which he had a notable collection. He was succeeded as chairman by Dr. Paul R. Wagner ’32, who had been his assistant and colleague since graduation.

Dr. John B. Price ’05, whose name has appeared in these annals since the time of his graduation, died on May 11, 1952. A specialist in otolaryngology and author of many articles in his specialty, he served as college physician from 1924 until his death. Students from 1924 on remembered him for his passionate interest in their tonsils, while earlier ones cherished lively memories of “Whitey’s” legendary prowess as a player and coach.

Dr. John Wentworth Clawson retired after serving as professor of mathematics for forty-five years and dean for six years, succeeding Dean Kline. Modest, laconic, eminently sensible, he was a man who went about his business quietly and efficiently, suffering even non-mathematically minded fools equally if not gladly. Mrs. Clawson, who had served well as secretary to Dean Kline and then to her husband for twenty-six years, retired in June also. Dean Clawson was succeeded by Dr. Maurice W. Armstrong, professor of history since 1945.

The year 1952 was notable also for the establishment of the David Laucks Hain Professorship of Chemistry, to which Dr. Russell D. Sturgis, chairman of the department, was elected. David Laucks Hain was a student in the Academy in the 1880’s, who left his estate for the purpose just named. The endowment for the professorship was $78,000. This was not the first named professorship, for under
the will of Mrs. Henry W. Super her estate was given to endow the chair of church history, but the Hain Professorship was the first to have roughly adequate funds to support it. At the same time the J. Harold Brownback Professorship of Biology was established, the funds for it to be raised by the Board. Dr. Paul R. Wagner, chairman of the biology department, was elected to this chair.

The next year was a quiet one. There were few changes in program, property, or people. The student body was almost exactly the same size as a year earlier. One noteworthy change came in the resignation of Dr. Maurice W. Armstrong as dean, after two years in that office, on the advice of his physicians. In his place the Board named Professor William S. Pettit, who relinquished the office of registrar to become dean. Dean Pettit, as he was after February 1, 1954, had served as assistant registrar from 1948 to 1952 and then as registrar until the assumption of his new office. In his stead the Board elected Professor Geoffrey Dolman registrar, with Dr. Allan Lake Rice as his assistant. Professor Dolman had joined the faculty as assistant professor of English in 1949 and been named assistant registrar in 1952. In 1955 the title of this office was changed to Director of Admissions.

1953–54 was likewise a quiet year, marked only by general stability and steady progress. This was especially true of the financial condition. During the year the College received in gifts and bequests $109,000. President McClure summarized the improvement of the last several years:

During the last three years the College received in gifts and bequests a total of $372,000. During this three year period permanent endowment funds were increased in the amount of $242,000, and the debt was reduced in the amount of $45,000, a total improvement in the amount of $287,000. During the last six years the permanent endowment funds were increased by $551,000, and the debt reduced by $175,000, a total improvement of $726,000.

When one takes into account that it took from 1870 to 1931 to accumulate the first $551,000 in endowment, the total in 1954 of $1,346,000, though still far from adequate, testified to the accelerated progress of the last twenty-three years. Furthermore, this was the necessary preliminary to capital construction in the next fifteen years.

Encouraged by the bequest of Dr. Matthew Beardwood, the gifts of Dr. and Mrs. George A. Stauffer, and a grant of $200,000 from the Pew Memorial Foundation, the Board decided on February 10, 1955, to proceed with the building of the long awaited women’s dormitory group. As has been recorded, the need for it had been forecast by President Omwake as far back as 1916, and in the optimistic years before the depression plans for a group of six units had been drawn by Frank R. Watson, Edkins and Thompson, then the college architects. Later a different plan was made, in the forties, by George M. Ewing. But despite the continuing enthusiasm and fund raising of the Ursinus Women’s Club and the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Stauffer, who made in 1938 the first considerable gift to the building fund, time and circumstance—the war, shortages of building materials, insufficient re-
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sources—caused deferment after deferment. “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.” Some who had lived through the years of disappointment could hardly believe that the day was at hand.

New plans, prepared by Heyl, Bond and Miller, providing for three large units connected in an open quadrangle and housing approximately 250 women, were approved. A ceremonial ground breaking was held on Alumni Day, June 5, perhaps embodying a natural impatience now that the project was under way, for at this time the working drawings had not been completed nor had the building been put out for bids. The ceremony had to be held in Bomberger because of rain, but later in the day Dr. Harry E. Paisley, president of the Board, used the shovel used by Robert Patterson at the groundbreaking of Bomberger Hall on April 22, 1891, and turned the first symbolic shovelful.

After further refinement of the plans, bids were received and the contracts awarded on April 5, 1956, the general contract going to Irwin and Leighton. The total of the four major contracts was just over $906,000. Construction began shortly and, despite the delays incidental to almost all building projects, proceeded fairly close to schedule. The three units were ready for occupancy by September of 1957 and were dedicated at the Founders Day Convocation on November 10.

The west unit was named Beardwood Hall in memory of Hannah Beardwood and her brother Matthew, who had been professor of chemistry at Ursinus from Beardwood, Paisley, and Stauffer Halls, occupied in 1957, met the long deferred need of dormitory space for the growing coed population. Lounges, recreation rooms, kitchenettes, laundry, and store rooms were among the features of this building.
1903 to 1940, and who left the major part of his estate to the College for construction of a women’s dormitory. The east unit was named Stauffer Hall in honor of the Rev. George A. Stauffer ’94 and his wife Laura, who had followed their 1938 contribution of $10,000 to Ursinus by larger gifts in the succeeding years. The central unit was named Paisley Hall in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Dr. Harry E. Paisley, who was elected to the Board of Directors in 1907, became its president in 1910, and served in that office until his death on May 27, 1961, shortly before the end of his fifty-first year in office. It is interesting to note that from 1872, four years after the founding of Ursinus, to 1969, its Board of Directors had only three presidents, Henry W. Kratz, Harry E. Paisley, and William D. Reimert ’24.

The massive stone building (its northern facade is 335 feet long) of Moravian colonial style, housed 243 women, and had besides the usual lounges, recreation rooms, kitchenettes, laundry, and store rooms, three apartments for resident heads and the office and apartment of the Dean of Women. The complex was approved by all, and those women who were assigned to it were the envy of those who were not and of men students who compared the fresh newness and amplitude of the women’s quarters with their own rather worn and decrepit “cells” in such halls as Freeland, Derr, and Stine.

During the years that the new dormitories were being planned and constructed, gifts to Ursinus reached a new high and a million dollars was added to the endowment funds. One of the most notable additions was the gift of $226,000 from the Ford Foundation for the strengthening of the educational program and particularly for faculty salaries. Generous gifts of lesser size came from Colonel Lloyd O. Yost ’17 and his wife Mildred ’20 and from Dr. John Lentz ’02, who had served for many years as college chaplain and as a member of the Board. In all, almost 2000 alumni and friends contributed to the College in 1956–7.

A major concern of administration and faculty, if not of the students, this year was the evaluation of the College’s structure, aims and achievement by a team of educators appointed by the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Middle Atlantic States and Maryland. Ursinus was a member of the Association from its founding in 1889 and had always been on its list of accredited institutions, first made in 1921. When organizations such as the Middle States Association began their activities as accrediting agencies, they established objective, quantitative criteria which a college had to meet in order to receive their approval. As we have seen, Ursinus was approved in 1921 despite the fact that the endowment had not yet reached half a million dollars. But experience over the years showed that such criteria might be too high or too low, and in any case were too rigid and artificial to serve as authentic indices of a given college’s quality.

By the time Ursinus was to undergo its evaluation in a ten year cycle set up by the Middle States Association, the rationale had shifted to the more authentic criterion of determining what a given institution was attempting to do and how well it was performing its function as it saw that function. Under this philosophy
the vital part of the procedure was a searching self-evaluation of all aspects of the college's work conducted by and among all elements of the college community—administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Armed with the information and opinion thus assembled in the self-study, the team from the Middle States Association would assess the work of the college as it appeared to a group of experienced administrators and teachers so that the college could have a second and correcting view of itself as others saw it, others who were friendly but impartial and who could bring to bear as a means of comparison experience and insights gained in many other institutions.

For Ursinus the experience of the evaluation was interesting and occasionally wearisome. The labor of answering with accuracy and candor the many questions on the questionnaire, at times too inclusive and at other times overlapping, was hard but salutary. It is fair to say that the self-evaluation, while it compelled the assembling of much information of great value which had never been urgently required before, did not reveal any strengths or weaknesses not already recognized by those who knew the College well.

The evaluation team visited the College in the week of February 17, 1957 and Ursinus's accreditation was reaffirmed in May by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Learning. The report of the visiting team was largely complimentary in its assessment. The visitors recognized that where Ursinus fell short of its own announced goals it did so chiefly because insufficient endowment and the lack of completely adequate buildings and equipment prevented it from doing what it knew it should do and wanted to do. At the same time the evaluation was a stimulus to try harder and avoid the complacent feeling that all was being done as well as possible under prevailing conditions. In conclusion Dean Pettit's brief summary of the confidential report may be quoted:

Approval was unqualified. Recommendations were made for minor changes in organization and procedure, for further increases in faculty salaries, and for increased financial support from friends of the College and from alumni.

A milestone was passed late in 1957 when on December 12 the Library cataloged its 50,000th volume. “Consideration had been given to marking the event with a modest celebration, but instead, the staff went quietly to work on the second 50,000 volumes.” Actually because of discards and losses the Library did not have fifty thousand books. Ten years later the Library collection totalled 74,985 books and 50,616 units of microtext, a total of 126,601 items in the two forms. The larger dimension was apparent in other statistics of the College's work. President McClure pointed out in his report for 1955–6 that in the last ten years the College had granted the bachelor's degree to some 1800 candidates. From 1873 to 1936 the College had awarded 1864 bachelor's degrees.

The growth in student body during the years after World War II, modest as it was in comparison with the expansion in many other colleges, accentuated the
The Lorelei has been a traditional Ursinus dance where women invite the men. At Sunnybrook Ballroom, in 1956, Bob Constable was voted King of the Lorelei and crowned by Mrs. D. L. Helfferich.

centrifugal pull on the campus community that began with the first major increase in size in the mid-twenties. No longer did everyone know everyone and share even vicariously in all aspects of extra-curricular life. Signs of the change could be seen in the dying out of old traditions such as the rule that freshmen had to walk around the long side of the circle in front of Bomberger and the established custom that only upperclass men might sit on Freeland steps. Because Thompson-Gay Gymnasium was no longer large enough to accommodate the crowds attending the major dances, the Junior Prom and the Senior Ball were held at Sunnybrook from 1947 on. Fraternities and sororities began holding parties and dances off campus, and the “Y” held its retreats, enormously successful during the next fifteen years, at Camps Fernbrook and Mensch Mill. Much of this change was necessary, but it did indicate that the college community was no longer as closely knit as it had been. The fact that members of the faculty tended to live at some distance from the campus rather than in Collegeville was a sign of the times. Parking became an increasingly serious problem as students, faculty, and staff became more mobile.
On the other hand the sense of a single, close-knit community was not completely gone. The custom of greeting everyone on campus, compulsory for freshmen, was kept up by almost all students and faculty alike. The problem of communication, so contentious an issue on college campuses in 1969, did not seem so serious a dozen years ago. As a writer in the 1955 Ruby commented, "We know Dr. McClure through classes; we know Mrs. McClure through her receptions. Miss Stahl is both a preceptor and understanding friend. We know Dean Pancoast through his classes and his casual, perhaps unexpected trips to the men's dorms. And we know Dr. Helfferich through his capable Curtain Club leadership." Seniors are not infrequently sentimental; yet this statement suggests something of the intimacy of contact that could prevail.

The era was one characterized by national commentators as one of conformity. Students across the nation were described as passive, conformist, supine. If they were, they did not feel any sense of guilt. Fashions of behavior and dress were followed as eagerly as in every generation before and since. "This was the year [1955] bermuda shorts and knee socks invaded the campus." To be enthusiastic about college life and to throw oneself wholeheartedly into it was the thing. "A new spirit was found at pep rallies as they turned into jam sessions in front of Freeland and eager freshmen led snake dances around campus."

Whether the tenor of a college and the trend of the times is centrifugal or centripetal, no student, as Dr. Helfferich has remarked in his farewell to graduating classes, has the same experience as any other. It is made up in varying proportions of elements such as those sketched in the 1958 Ruby at the end of this era:

The whole Ursinus includes the conglomeration of emotions and experiences which have subtly molded us through our stay. Ursinus is the hurried cup of coffee at morning coffee "clatches" and the daily rush to chapel. It's the quick hand of bridge at the supply store between classes, the chance conversation at a drugstore coffee break, and the all night cram session before that big test. It's the lazy afternoon spent listening to records or reading and the quieter work on a stormy night or a starry spring evening. It's the bull session in the dorm lasting until the early morning hours—the occasional break from the everyday conversation of clothes, dates, courses and complaints when we search for solutions to the unanswerable big questions of religion, ethics, and life, as well as the more concrete problems of ourselves and our future, politics and society.

These elements were more stable than those found in specific extra-curricular activities, which varied in quality and quantity in proportion to the dynamism of leadership in a given year. One of the most consistently dynamic organizations throughout this era was the YM-YWCA, particularly after 1949 when Alfred L. Creager '33 became college chaplain and sponsor of the "Y". A large part of the student body was active in some of its many projects: discussions on social equality, politics, boy-girl relationships, volunteer work in hospitals and sanitariums, clothing drives, vespers services, Lenten services, fireside chats in faculty homes, interfaith seminars, and most popular of all, fall and spring retreats, attended by as many as 150 students. "On October 16 (1955) hurricane Hazel hit Pennsylvania and the
Ursinus Y hit University Camp. It was time for the traditional fall retreat and even the elements couldn't dampen our spirits for volleyball, good food, long hikes, involved discussions and meditation."

Though students in the '50s did not evince the kind of concern popular today, they did have some forms of outreach. Like the "Y", the fraternities and sororities devoted some of their energies to parties for orphans or projects to help the underprivileged. On campus a chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, the national service fraternity, was formed, one of whose first activities was clearing the underbrush in the college woods.

Still, most extra-curricular activities looked inward and centered on the perennial interests of the student body. Sports continued in the pattern already observed. With the exception of particular seasons, football, baseball, wrestling and tennis had stretches of indifferent records, although enthusiasm and effort remained high. Track and cross country, under Raymond V. Gurzynski '39, began a steady ascent to a plateau of considerable success. Women's sports maintained their happily monotonous record of success, capped by the softball team which went undefeated for five seasons (1941-5) and then after a single loss in 1947 and in 1950, resumed its triumphant ways. Under Miss Snell's coaching, Ursinus had been one of the first colleges to adopt the sport. Lacrosse was introduced in 1955 and soon became a part of the established program for women.

Apart from the regular musical organizations, the chorus with its annual production in the Christmas season of the Messiah and the outstanding Meistersingers, the late '40s and '50s were notable for popsinging groups like the Stardusters, the Dreamers, the Glenwood Male Quartet, and the '51ers, who even appeared on the new medium, television, billed as "The Notecrackers." After the departure of V12 the band languished for a time but was revived to new vigor and uniforms by the leadership of Dr. Philip and Mr. Jones. A chapter of the national music fraternity, Pi Nu Epsilon, was established in 1956. Clubs for all interests and purposes continued, flourished or dwindled as the quality of leadership and interest of undergraduates determined their destiny. One that would be unlikely in the sixties was the Stuics, organized in 1956 to make Ursinus into an Ivy League college.

Although there was no rule on retirement for administrators, President McClure, who reached 65 in 1958, decided a year earlier to relinquish the presidency. A scholar and teacher by temperament and talent, he had been, as one who knew him well had written, "an admirable if reluctant administrator." This history has recorded the enormous task he faced at the outset and the continuing problems and emergencies created by World War II and, in lesser degree, by the Korean conflict. Conservative and prudent by nature, Dr. McClure realized that the financial position of Ursinus, precarious in the highest degree in 1936, must be improved if the College were to survive and that all other considerations depended upon improvement in endowment funds and elimination of the burden of debt. Consequently, he, and the Board, postponed desired construction of new facilities which would have been impressive and popular with students, alumni, and the College constitu-
ency generally, in order to assure that improvement in money matters upon which the whole future of Ursinus depended. Whether, if the situation had been different, he would have made his administration one of innovations in educational philosophy and curriculum is doubtful, for, as he often stated, he firmly believed in what the College was doing and sought only to make it perform that task better. Characteristically modest, in his final report to the Board of Directors he made no glowing assertions of achievement or reference to himself. Working against the grain, he gave twenty-two stabilizing, steadfast years to the presidency. To quote a statement he not infrequently made about others, “Few have served Ursinus College so long and none with greater devotion.”