

THE LIBRARY — ONE OF THE MANY BEAUTIFUL ROOMS IN OUR NEW BUILDING

The history of the Arnold Bernhard Library 1935-1995

First notices

In the 1935 catalog of the Junior College of Commerce, the library is described as owning 4,000 titles, and maintained dozens of periodical subscriptions. No librarian was listed (that wouldn't happen until 1947).

In the 1947 catalog, Catherine A. Bruno was listed as a member of the faculty and college librarian. The library collection was still just showing 4,000 titles, and they boasted of the college's arrangement with the New Haven Public Library.



The library in the 1948 college catalog – appears to be Barbara Allen at the reference desk



In 1948, Bruno was again listed in the faculty as college librarian and instructor of romance languages. Again, the library was said to house “Nearly 4000 volumes,” and maintained subscriptions to 40 magazines. By 1949, with Bruno still listed as librarian, the collection was described as containing nearly 6000 titles. Her assistant, Barbara Allen, served well into the years that Virginia Macri was librarian.

The age of Virginia Macri

In 1950, Virginia Macri was listed as college librarian. In an effort to find further information about Macri, we learned in the Spring of 2008 that she was still alive and had an email address. In response to our request for information about the early days of the library, we received this posting. The initial statement was in reference to a page in the 1954 yearbook that was dedicated to Macri:

“ I see you've found me out. It was a great honor and I was deeply moved. The students were a great group to work with. Your finding this for yourself has kept me from trying modestly to call it to your attention. Another picture of me with Dr. Nils Sahlin, then president, at some presentation - from me or to me, I can't for the life of me remember why, is out there somewhere - another yearbook or issue of The Chronicle. Is it still being published?

Incidentally, the class histories in each yearbook often tell what's going on, changes, special events, etc adding to the College's history. The big event, of course, during these years was the granting permission to JCC to award bachelor degrees - exact date I don't recall. The name was changed to Quinnipiac College , more fitting for a 4-year institution, by an all college vote. The College later moved from downtown to Hamden at 1450 Whitney Avenue, site of the Larson Junior College campus. I don't know what all the legal ramifications were. This move enlarged the facilities now necessary to accommodate the increasing enrollment.

Even after becoming a four year college, Quinnipiac was still sort of a "family affair", so to speak. The Faculty helped during registration - collecting tuition, manning the book store,etc. We stuffed envelopes for special big mailings, and other chores when called on. The office staff was still moderate. We used to grumble among ourselves but we were always royally rewarded by the Tators with great parties.

To get back to the Library - you mentioned the increased Library staff - there was none- just myself and my loyal and capable assistant, Barbara Allen. She was also Kay Bruno's assistant. We did have some student help for shelving, filing, etc. For the move, we carefully packed tote boxes, trying to keep the books in order. Well, you know how that turned out. Reminds me of the time our textbook order from one of the publishers came with titles mixed up and distributed into various boxes - the handiwork of a disgruntled employee we were told later.

I held library orientation classes and instructions in library usage to all incoming students.

The Library performed the usual library functions - keeping the collection up-to-date, encouraging faculty suggestions, preparing materials for special assignments, aiding students in their research, adding periodicals in keeping with the curriculum as well as some recreational reading. About the moose head - I believe JCC occupied the facilities of a former social club - was it the Harmony Club, do you know?

One year two students in the Library program at the then Teachers College, requested and were given permission to intern with me for a semester. I thoroughly enjoyed that experience. Each incoming student was assigned a faculty member (including me) as counselor.



Professionals from "downtown" - lawyers, accountants, business leaders - augmented the full time Faculty. As a faculty member, I attended all faculty meetings.

I don't know how much of this is of interest or adds to your project Writing this has brought me many happy memories of those years. Thank you for asking me.

A word about the Tators - with years of hard work and great dedication, Mr. and Mrs. Tator laid a solid foundation for what Quinnipiac has become. I hope they are properly honored in the College annals. Are there any memorials to them on Campus?"

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ARGENTIVES



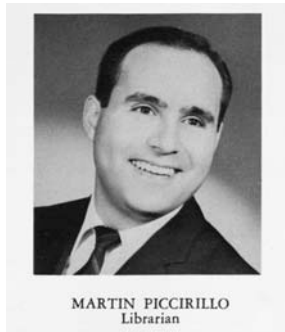
DEDICATION

TO:

Miss Virginia Macri, who has not only worked cooperatively with the BRAVE staff, but has, with her assistant Miss Barbara Allen, given help to us all beyond that usually asked of a college librarian.

During Virginia Macri's decade on campus the collection doubled in size to around 13,000 titles. The journal collection more than tripled at 140 subscriptions.

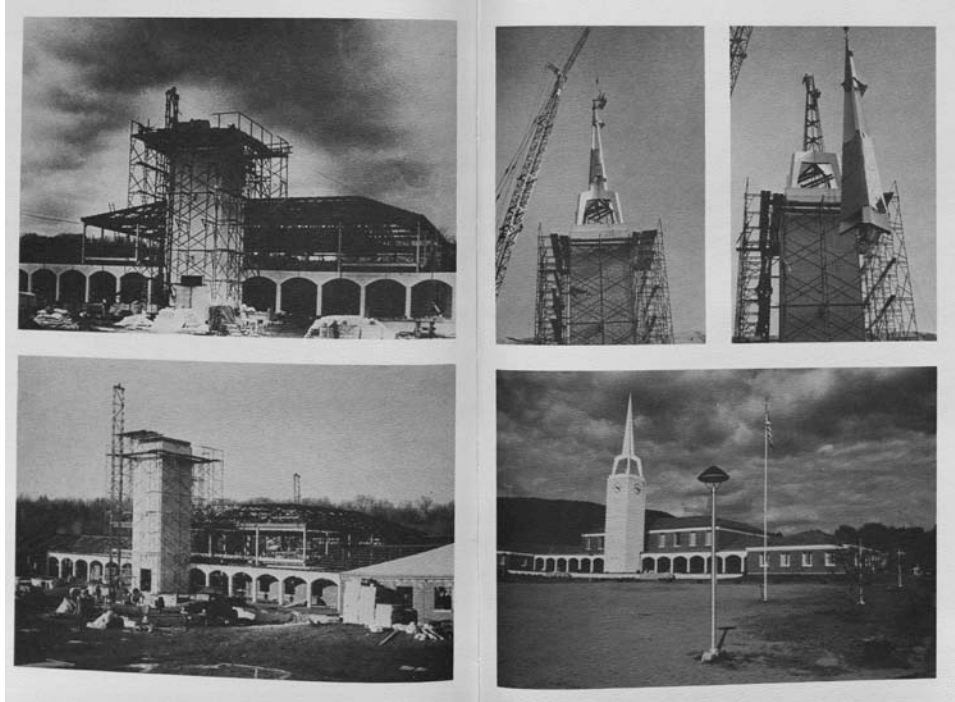
In the 1960 catalog, Martin Piccirillo is listed as college librarian. The collection had continued to grow to 15,000 titles. Journal subscriptions were at 150. Mr. Piccirillo is alive and working in North Haven, and we have just re-established contact with him.



The 1961 and 1962 catalogs show Humphrey Barnum as librarian. The size of the collection is now listed as 20,000 books and 200 subscriptions. In checking news sources, we learned that Mr. Barnum died in 2004 after working as a librarian until 1994.



The catalog for 1963 shows Louise Maltby as college librarian and she would serve out the decade. The library is now breaking out of the pattern of one librarian and one assistant. New librarians mentioned are Norma Lang, Nancy Via, Grace Graham who is listed as an acquisitions librarian and Sally Lentine. This expansion coincided with the opening of the library in its current location in 1967. This growth extended to the collection as well. By 1970, the library was boasting 100,000 books and 600 subscriptions.



The Hamden campus library takes shape.



Norma Lang in 1969 – the “New” building. Lang would go on to become library director in 1985.



The motto of the 1967 architects – “We don’t do windows” These scenes are from the 1972 annual.

From 1970 until the mid-1980’s, Mildred Tanovsky was library director. This was a period when the school annuals were in some sort of arty phase, and they mainly filled the pages with shots of students behaving badly and felt it was uncool to actually identify anybody. That being the case, we do not have any pictures of Ms. Tanovsky.