

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



*Commencement 1952*

# “NOT LE MOYNE!”

## THE HISTORY OF A NAME

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Syracuse Herald American 4-16-45

**W**hat two things are missing on the sign in this *Syracuse Herald American* photo of September 16, 1945? One thing is obvious. It states that the college is for “Men” of Central New York—“And Women” is missing. The other is not so obvious. Note there is no “Le Moyne” and upon that absence hangs a story.

During 1944 and 1945, plans were made and property bought, but the proposed college was nameless. The question of the title was formally considered at the proposed college’s advisory board of civic and business leaders on July 18, 1945 at Christ the King Retreat House. Father Andrew Bouwhuis, S.J., who had the title of “Executive Director of the new Jesuit College,” took minutes and reported back to the New York Jesuit Provincial Superior concerning the board’s deliberations: “Name: Not LeMoyne; since there is a college by that name now.”

Bishop Foery had suggested holding a contest in local Catholic schools to pick the name, and naturally the advisory group endorsed that idea. However, members of the board also put forth a number of names, along with reasons for the adoption of each: Empire College, Empire State

College; Catholic Central College, Dewitt College, Gifford College, Alfred E. Smith College, Governor Smith College, etc.

Bouwhuis seems to have favored Governor Smith College, giving the reasons: “prominent Catholic layman; recognition of modern man’s worth, potential gifts from friends in other areas; recognition of character of the man.” Of Le Moyne he jotted down: “Buy off the Memphis college. LeMoyné Park, LeMoyné Avenue, and Pere LeMoyné School. Coming back to our own; link with the past; expected name by the laity.”

There is no indication in the records that the Bishop’s naming contest was ever held. However, on October 21, 1945, Father Bouwhuis issued a press release stating that the Jesuit Provincial’s office had decided that the College would be named after the French Jesuit, Simon Le Moyne, who had come to Central New York in 1654 as a missionary among the Indians. In those days, the Jesuit Provincial’s decision settled the issue.

Two minor items of interest appeared in publications. *AMERICA*, the Jesuit weekly, reported as early as their May 12, 1945 issue under the lead New Catholic Colleges, “The college [in Syracuse] which will be named after Charles LeMoyné [1726-1775], noted pioneer Catholic layman of French Canada, is expected to commence classes in the Autumn of 1946.” As late as April 15, 1946, the *Herald Journal* stated: “the new institution will probably be called Le Moyné College...”

If today it is necessary to explain to incoming students who Simon Le Moyne was, perhaps, given the general grasp of American history, had Fr. Bouwhuis prevailed it might have been just as difficult to explain why the college was named “Alfred E. Smith.” ■



# “THE GOOD GUYS”

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A number of persons have graciously cooperated with our efforts to gather pertinent material for current use and for the history of the college.

**Inga Barnello** was instrumental in having the full records of the Faculty Senate placed in the archives. All these documents are now readily accessible, having been put into chronological order and entered into the computer database. The first user of this archive file was senate president, **William Rinaman**, who verified past agreements on how committees were to be appointed.

**David Smith**, chair of biology, provided seven files drawers belonging to **Bea Robinson**. The archive was delighted to get the material before anything was thrown out as it filled out information on different committees and the role of women faculty at Le Moyne.

**Linda McGraw**, Career Services, speedily supplied copies of the annual “Survey of Graduates,” that helped to complete the archive’s holdings.

**Antonio Eppolito, Fr. Vinny Ryan, Tom Hogan, Caroline Fitzgerald, Bill Morris, Pia Weinheimer**, and others have aided in identifying persons, dates and events for our photographic collection. This identification is a great need especially in dramatics where we have many photos and little data. **Ted Weinheimer** has donated a number of memorabilia from the College’s earliest days.

**Barb Karper** sent over her files on orientation and residence life events. **Neil Novelli** supplied the issues of *The Traveler*, a first-rate literary endeavor by students of the 1970s. **Nancy Ring** continues to drop off items from the Religious Studies’ past. **Marcia Ruwe** added the “Teacher of the Year” files from past years.

Why not have your name appear here in the next issue? ■

# LEAVE A BIT OF YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE LE MOYNE COLLEGE

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**F**or some of us, our time here at Le Moyne is limited to a few years. Others will remain for decades. Sadly, in May, because I am a senior, I will be vacating my post as a photograph expert here in the College archives. I feel my time has been well spent because, by the beginning of February, I will have processed over 2,700 photos that document life and learning at Le Moyne.

What will you leave behind when you depart Le Moyne? Recently, the Office of Communications transferred a large percentage of the photos from Dr. Langdon's book, *Against the Sky*, which gives the archives a photo record of the start of the college, but this is only the beginning of obtaining the material for a full history. Your help is needed to keep the archives alive and growing. Take the time to go through your old files and photos and leave a bit of yourself behind.

—*Marieke Van Damme*



# “THE GOLDEN FOURS”

## TOPICS + TRIVIA

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### *You Can Research it in the Archives*

- Early Jesuits in the Syracuse Area
- “Boot and Buskin” — the Golden Early Decade
- Le Moyne as an example of the Transformation of the American Catholic Sub-culture
- Who chose the site for Le Moyne? — A Bitter Controversy

### *Did You Know...*

- How strong Le Moyne’s bonds are with Canisius College in Buffalo? At the start, Le Moyne was to begin under the Canisius charter and be an extension division of Canisius. Canisius provided the money to buy the original property. Le Moyne’s first course offerings were copied right out of the Canisius catalogue.
- Father Timothy J. Coughlin, S.J., president of Canisius and chief Jesuit agent for acquiring the Syracuse property, wrote that “the presence of paganism at Syracuse University was the best reason for a Catholic college.”
- The original property of the proposed Jesuit College, a 56-acre site for an orphanage, was bought for \$14,000 on Sept. 11, 1942. It was obtained from the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, whom Bishop Foery had pressured to sell the site.
- One reason given for not attempting to buy the Manlius School property as the site of the future college was that the 30-cent bus fare from Syracuse to Manlius was considered prohibitively expensive. ■

Saturday, June 12

1 9 4 8

Rev. William J. Schlaerth, S.J.  
LeMoyne College

Dear Father Rector:—

P. C.

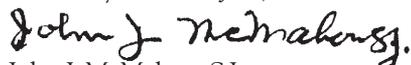
Regarding co-education at Le Moyne, we received a letter from Very Reverend Father General, dated May 15, 1948. He is amazed to hear that from the very beginning co-education was inaugurated at Le Moyne in the face of clear directives to the contrary.

However, he grants a sanation for the past and an extension of the practice for the next five years, provided that we do not admit more than 50 girls each year, and provided we take steps to remedy this situation during these years so that at the end of the five year period, we get back to the Society's traditional type of education.

Wherefore, I would appreciate it very much if you would, when you are with his Excellency again, and when you work around to the subject, explain to him the tradition of the Society in this matter, assuring him, however, that as long as conditions continue as they are in Syracuse, the Society will go along with the Bishop. But the Society would not wish anyone to think that this is a change of policy and reserves to herself the right to refuse any similar demands from others in the future. We must limit the number of girls to be received each year to 50.

With every good wish and kindest personal regards, I remain

Devotedly in Corde Jesu,



John J. McMahon, S.J.

Provincial New York Province

# **DON'T STAND OUT AS ONE WHO IS BORED WITH LE MOYNE LIFE!**



## **BE PART OF THE ACTION!**

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- Give the archives your non-current “goodies”:  
minutes, documents, correspondence, etc.
- Answer your questions through the archives

**Send all inquiries and materials to:**

William J. Bosch, S.J.

Le Moyne College Archive

Archive Hours: 8:30 a.m. - noon / 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

E-mail: [boschwj@maple.lemoyne.edu](mailto:boschwj@maple.lemoyne.edu)

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