



LEARNING AND SERVICE: OUR SHARED JESUIT MISSION

Fall/Winter 2001  
Vol. 3, No. 1

# ARCHIVE *News*

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



**Rev. Andrew Bouwhuis, S.J.**

Executive Director of The New Jesuit College  
1945-1946

## A LE MOYNE FIRST – **REV. ANDREW BOUWHUIS., S.J.**

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**B**efore one brick was placed upon another, Rev. Andrew Bouwhuis, S.J. was on the scene, the first of those Bishop Foery labeled the “German Jesuits” who founded Le Moyne. Bouwhuis would seem to be a very strange choice to spearhead the fund raising campaign to establish the Jesuit College in Syracuse. He was the librarian at Canisius College and had never had a major administrative post or conducted a fund raising campaign. Why, then, did the Provincial, James Sweeney, S.J. chose him? One reason was his personality. As a future President of Canisius would state: “Fr. Bouwhuis was a lover of books, but he was no recluse.” In fact, Andrew was definitely an extrovert noted for his gregariousness and his sense of humor. A second reason might have been that besides being a nationally known librarian, Bouwhuis was an active labor negotiator whose success revealed his tact and common sense. What ever the reasons, Sweeney, who had lived many years with Bouwhuis in Buffalo before becoming provincial, knew the man and the task he was assigning him. Sweeney wrote: “It is a man’s size job, which requires the simplicity of Mother Cabrini and the brass of Al Capone.” In the typical Jesuit mode of procedure for that era, Sweeney told Bishop Foery that Bouwhuis would be appointed two days before he told Andrew himself of his new position.

Upon his arrival in Syracuse Bouwhuis immediately called on the Bishop. Foery gave the Jesuit a brilliant lecture on public relations. He suggested that the bishop be the honorary chairman and told him to meet as many priests as possible; they would be the backbone of the drive. Foery also suggested that appealing to the laity’s loyalty to the diocesan church rather than focusing on supporting an unknown potential college would be the most effective pitch. He should stress that the college would do the work of the diocese and that it would be the bishop’s chosen instrument. He urged Bouwhuis that for visibility’s sake, to start the proposed labor school as soon as possible. Foery then asked how much he hoped to collect in the drive. Bouwhuis responded “a million.” Foery just shook his head. It seemed way too much, an impossible dream.

Bouwhuis reported all this to his Provincial and then asked two questions: “What is my title?” and “What is the name of the future college?” To the first Bouwhuis suggested “Executive Director.” He had some names in mind for the future college: “Catholic College of Central New York” or “Jesuit College of Central New York.” The Provincial approved of both of these.

The new Executive Director started with great enthusiasm. He convened a small, confidential advisory Council consisting of the Syracuse mayor and a few leading Catholic businessmen. He asked their advice on basic questions: the architect, tuition, and the name of the future college. The council advised him to go to Memphis and buy the name from LeMoyné-Owen College. On the composition of the drive committees they advised him not to worry about national and racial prejudices. "Even Italians and Polish should be included."

Carefully heeding the advice of the Bishop, he started visiting a number of pastors in the diocese. He observed that "they were good spirits but some were not keen on the Jesuits." He obtained press coverage with a fantasy master plan of a 20 building campus, including a chapel that could hold 600. He bravely faced down on the provincial when the latter tried to put off the opening of the labor school, declaring that any delay would be disastrous. Syracuse was experiencing postwar labor unrest and many in the city enthusiastically awaited the school's opening.

Bouwhuis lectured to any group that would listen. To the Mothers' Club of Most Holy Rosary School he started by asserting that the essentials of child rearing were teaching cleanliness, courtesy and kindness, but ended with a pitch for the college. In his speech to the Rotary Club on "Labor and Management in Peace Time" he declared that labor had a poor public image whose solution was education. Therefore, the new college being "one of the first schools that will offer degrees in labor relations" was of great importance. To the Syracuse Council of Building Trades of A.F. of L. he explained that the new labor school would have small, efficient classes that would prepare them for the future.

Bouwhuis's whirlwind campaign lasted 8 months. The drive itself was confined to the week of Jan. 20 to 27. The bishop was a master of organization, the priests were energized, there had not been a major begging campaign in years, the Catholic-subculture was still strong, and Bouwhuis' efforts had caught the attention of the city. The drive was a great success. By the end of January, the campaign had raised \$1,600,000. This was real money! Remember that at this time the average annual income of a lawyer or doctor was \$3600. The first Le Moyné professors' salary were about \$2700, secretaries \$1800.

Bouwhuis returned to Buffalo on February 11, 1946, but it was not his last contact with Le Moyné. From 1960 to 1962 he came back as librarian and was dearly remembered for spending his evening hours in the dining hall talking with students. Few of them realized how much the college's beginnings were owed to the kind, talkative Father. ■

## LE MOYNE VOICES — ORAL HISTORY

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**M**y work study, **Maria Reynolds**, generously agreed to do the difficult task of transcribing interviews from cassette to “hard” paper copy. This is the key to making the interviews readily usable; otherwise, researchers would have to hunt on tape, using recording numbers.

I have conducted a number of interesting oral histories since the last *Archive News*. **Terry Giarrosso** was assistant to Fr. Vincent Ryan, S.J., when he was Dean of Students; she also ran a bookstore out of a former pantry on James Street. It took two long sessions to interview **Edward “Ted” Furze** to gather his recollections of the college’s past. His awe-inspiring memory candidly recounted fascinating incidents of Le Moyne administrations. **Breese Barbour**, who was employed from 1963 to 1985, provided the background for the early years and original development of the education department. **Sue Gibbons**, who retired July 2001, educated me on the personnel and workings of the athletic department.

“ARCHIVES  
SET THE  
RECORD  
STRAIGHT”

A trip to New York City provided the opportunity to conduct a number of interviews. Robert O’Brien, S.J., was long chair of the philosophy department as well as serving as the President of the Faculty senate and chair of many committees. His contribution was especially valuable because the archives already contained the views on the philosophy department by K. R. Hanley, Tom Curley, and Robert Mitchell, S.J. A second interview was with James O’Brien, S.J. who was professor of biology from 1969 to 1992, as well a being chair of the Pre-Med committee. He provided an insight into things scientific in the Le Moyne past as well as giving observations on resident life from his 20 years living in a dormitory.

I find both the willingness of interviewees to answer pointed questions and how their personalities and priorities are revealed by their observations remarkable. ■

# NOW THANK WE ALL...

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**B**lessed are the thoughtful who constantly send items to the Archives. Among the faithful are **Joyce Kusak-McGuire**, communications; **Diane Litteer**, institutional research; **Maureen White** and **Rosemary Carr** in the presidents office; and **Nancy Ring**, religious studies. **Inga Barnello** delivered a full set of recent Faculty Senate minutes provided by **Kathleen Nash**. **Jeanne Darby** contributed material on diversity. **Michael Donlin**, Sports Information director, sent nine “banker” boxes of baseball and basketball score books and thousands of photos of athletes and sports activities. **Mrs. Carolyn McTiernan** began to send material from the Academic Vice President’s office. Institutional Advancement mailed an envelope with material on the Madden Institute and the President’s Club. **Margo Spaulding** from the print shop contributed recent projects. **John Breslin, S.J.** provided letters and documents from Edmund Ryan, S.J. **Theresa Santillo**, long time librarian, delivered a Rev. Anthony Bouwhuis, S.J. manuscript and some past publications.

Two 1951 alumnae contributed material. **Ms. Bernadine Weddington** gave photos of the early days of the college, and **Mrs. Elizabeth Ann [Farina] Huton** sent Boot and Buskin posters. The greatest trove acquired by the archives was supplied by President **Charles Beirne, S.J.** who donated the Edmund Ryan, S.J. papers which totalled over 25 “banker” boxes of material. The ubiquitous yellow legal pad notes so characteristic of Ed were supplemented by many documents concerning his 7 years as Special Assistant to the President.

**Edward Maloney, S.J.** and **Frederick O’Brien, S.J.** were also important contributors. **Maloney**, Rector at Fordham’s Loyola Hall, granted me access to the confidential Le Moyne papers of Joseph Fitzpatrick, S.J. Fitzpatrick was chair of the Board of Trustees during a crucial period in Le Moyne history. Separate incorporation, the addition of lay trustees, the resignation of William L. Reilly, S.J. and the choosing of William O’Halloran, S.J. as president were major issues of the time. **Fred O’Brien, S.J.** graciously granted me the opportunity to finish xeroxing hundreds of pages in the New York Province Archives at 83rd street in New York city. This material is the most essential source for the college’s early history until the 1970’s separate incorporation.

The archives are also indebted to Jennifer Reddy, whose proofreading saved me from humiliating blunders and howlers. To all whose gifts I have failed to mention, know that the heart is thankful even if the memory is weak. ■

## LE MOYNE TRIVIA— **DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

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- In 1960, the plans and publicity for the new Student Athletic Center proposed 2 segregated gymnasias: one for men, and one for women.
- In 1950, all incoming students were given diagnostic tests in mathematics, languages and religion. One might wonder how present day students would fare on the religion examination.
- The original “Women’s Week” was started by International House in 1983. Activities included the movie “Roses in December,” based on the life of Jean Donovan, one of the American women killed in El Salvador; a lecture by Carol Berrigan, sister-in law of Daniel, on “Women in the Middle East;” and an introduction to the liturgy by Professor Nancy Ring.
- Rev. Timothy Coughlin, S.J., President-Rector of Canisius College who bought the original land for a Syracuse college, wrote to his superiors that “the one real threat [to the proposed Jesuit college] is the continual pressure of the Dominicans and the fact they have more money to start than we.”
- Coughlin also wrote that the parochial schools in Syracuse were so inadequate that the college would have to start with business courses rather than an BA or BS in pure science.

“ARCHIVES ARE FOREVER”

January 12, 1951

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEN

SAD SONGS FOR SALE

Now that the exam schedule is posted, and it is no longer possible to overlook the immensity of those semi-annual scrutinizes, the usual keenings are beginning to be keened. The cut list will be posted on Tuesday, but some have anticipated its burden of grief.

Therefore, be it noted that this office has:

- (1) Laid in a plentiful supply of crying towels.
- (2) Is prepared to audit all recitals with a dry eye.
- (3) Has a rebuttal speech already prepared [and would that it could be recorded!]
- (4) Will refer all non-conformist, last-minute worriers to pp. 32-33 of the Handbook, particularly the second and third paragraphs on p. 33 together with the word "each" on the second line of that page. Of course, if you fail to read it before, it isn't going to help you very much now!
- (5) Will trust our own records rather than the now surprisingly fresh memories of those who have prepared to stake everything on the fact that on November 31st at 10:30 in Room #202, they were reading page 209 in the class of Professor Quiz. P.S. They did forget to submit one or two excuses.

In view of the above please do not take up our time unless your objection is iron-clad, or your case [in other than your own opinion] is exceptional. As for mistakes, we expect to make a few. Come in and let us know about them.



**Rev. Vincent  
Ryan, S.J.**  
Dean of Men



**You won't have to go before a Senate  
Committee for losing or destroying your  
College records and files**

**BUT**

**The future Le Moyne will shed a tear for the  
past you have blotted out.**

**Be a Good Guy! Give your "goodies"  
to the Archives!**

**We promise not to mess  
up your filing system!**

**Send all inquiries and materials to:**

**William J. Bosch, S.J.**

**Le Moyne College Archives**

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

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