

# The Consolidation

*Effects of the Consolidation of  
Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence Colleges  
and Affects on Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae*

By Carolyn King Stephens, M-D'62



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This is the second in a series on the consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer and  
Lawrence Colleges in 1964 which formed the present Lawrence University  
of Appleton, Wisconsin. These and other documents may be accessed in the  
Archives of Lawrence University, at the Seeley G. Mudd Library.

**Celebrating Downer College at Lawrence University**

171 years, from 1848-2019



*One of the oldest continuously operating schools  
for the higher education of women in the nation.*

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### Dedication

To librarians and archivists (keepers of the treasures of civilization—history, letters, arts and science) with special recognition to:

**Erin Dix '08** for thoughtful contributions throughout this process

**Carol Butts '49** for understanding relationships and designing the placement of bronze seals in front of Main Hall.

<b>Foreword and Back Words</b> .....	1
<b>Part I • The 1960s—“Becoming Downer Alumnae, Lawrence University”</b>	
Chapter 1. Introduction: “The Independents” .....	6
Chapter 2. The Chapters: “Dorie Distell’s Downer Box” .....	13
Chapter 3. The View from the Top: “MDC, National Alumnae and Alumni Associations” .....	19
<b>Part II • The 1970s</b>	
Chapter 4. “Saving the Downer Buildings” .....	29
<b>Part III • Years of Development, 1969-81</b> .....	39
Chapter 5. The View from the Top— “LUAA’s Three Downer Presidents” .....	52
Chapter 6. Conclusions: “Effects and Affects” .....	66
<b>Works Consulted</b> .....	39



### FOREWORD

The idea for documenting this history came from Emeritus Professor Ronald W. Tank of Downer College and Lawrence University who came to my home with his wife, Aninē, to brainstorm subjects and divide the topics we wanted to cover. He had already researched and done much work. The result is Tank’s Volume I of a two-volume update on the history of Milwaukee-Downer College focusing on the 1964 Consolidation. Volume 1 was completed and published for the Lawrence Reunion in June, 2018 with the title, *The Consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College*. We will be referring to it in this, Volume II.

Volume 1 provides the background and numerical data trustees used to make the decision to Consolidate. It was gathered and presented by Sherwin Howard, former assistant to President Tom Smith, as part of Howard’s doctoral research. Tank then gives us the terms of the Consolidation and its Effects on academic programs, personnel, property, and endowment. He provides first person accounts of the transition by four faculty members and nine students who directly experienced the move in 1964 and remained at Lawrence University through retirement or graduation. For posterity he records the names of the 21 faculty and staff who transferred and the 40 students. Four documents from the Consolidation by leaders of the Alumni Association complete Volume 1, along with contemporary newspaper accounts and beautiful photography in black and white or color.

Volume II, *Effects of the Consolidation and Affects on Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae* uses interviews and story telling to extend the perspective through time. It updates the Downer history with Effects of the Consolidation on five sectors of Alumnae, each given a chapter, as listed in the Index.

We mined the Downer Archives at Lawrence for evidence of Affects on the Alumnae. With much help from Archivist Erin Dix we found gold,

not only in books, minutes, and news articles, but visual, emotional, and artistic expressions in programs, follies scripts, videos, full texts of speeches, and original brochures of public events. These individual and collective expressions display the affects, passion and energy, generated by the Consolidation. During a year of interviewing and research, alumnae from the Midwest to the East Coast opened closets and chests to uncover their buried treasures. These will eventually be entrusted to the Archives. The collection in the Seeley G. Mudd Library enables us to think critically about the Affects of the Consolidation and more, including the value of an Alma Mater; the meaning of the Consolidation; and the significance of the Consolidation over time. Before proceeding, two definitions are in order.

There are individual and collective motives that bind alumni and alumnae after graduation to a college they continue to serve and donate to throughout their lifetimes. For Downerites, there is a particular statement which shows what is at stake for Downer Alumnae and their posterity at Lawrence University. You will see this statement more than once in the following chapters:

“Downer is one of the nation’s oldest continuously operating schools for the higher education of women.”

The effects and affects of the Consolidation are critical for evaluating the statement and the statement’s validity impacts more than Milwaukee-Downer College and its graduates. It affects the history of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Women’s History, and the history of American Education. The full story is not simply a matter of 55 years from the 1964 Consolidation to this publication in 2019. It is 171 years since The Milwaukee Female Seminary opened in 1848 under Mrs. Parsons. One could also say it is 172 years between the 2019 publication of this document and Lawrence’s origin

in a 1847 charter from the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature, which makes Lawrence University one of the nation's earliest coeducational schools.

Consolidations play a consequential role in monarchies, dynasties, and genealogies as well as

monopolies and business empires. If you prefer the local and personal to the distant and gigantic, the story of Milwaukee-Downer and the Consolidation of 1964 will provide a tale of striving, love, comedy and heroism, as worthy as any.

### BACK WORDS

This record of history begins in 1964, which is late in the continuous saga. New readers, as well as steadfast older alumnae, may appreciate this review of benchmarks that led up to the Consolidation of 1964.

Milwaukee-Downer College is one of the oldest continuously operating colleges for women in the nation. Its provenance, beginning in the Second Great Awakening and the remarkable Catharine Esther Beecher (1800-1878), distinguishes it by association with herself and the issues of her time. Her peers were reformers and activists: Emma Willard and Mary Lyon (women's higher education); her father Lyman Beecher (temperance and social reform); the sisters and brothers Harriet Beecher Stowe (anti-slavery), Henry Ward Beecher (anti-slavery and social reform), Isabella Beecher Hooker

(women's suffrage); and her great granddaughter Charlotte Perkins Gilman (writer and feminist). Catharine's own writing had a powerful influence on American culture which went beyond her work raising endowments and founding five women's schools in Hartford, Cincinnati, Quincy, Milwaukee, and Burlington, Iowa. The Works Consulted at the end will list *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*, first published in 1841, and *Miss Beecher's Domestic Receipt-Book*. According to Lyman Beecher Stowe, various editions of these books were as ubiquitous on American bookshelves as Ben Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanac* was in the 1700s. (Stowe, *Saints, Sinners and Beechers*, 1934. 131.) Here is how this woman's work grew and flourished for more than 170 years.

### CHRONOLOGY

1847 *Lawrence Institute of Wisconsin*—receives charter from the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature to become one of the nation's earliest coeducational schools; classes open November, 1849. The school is renamed *Lawrence University*; Founders: Reverends William Harkness Sampson and Henry R. Colman; Funding: \$10,000 from Abolitionist, Amos Lawrence, MA; matching gift \$10,000 from the Methodist Church.

1848 *Milwaukee Female Seminary* opens its first classes; Founder and Principal—Mrs. Lucy Ann Parsons (teacher from the burnt-over district in New York and abolitionist with underground railroad in Milwaukee); President of Trustees—Increase A. Lapham, a scientist known as “Father of the U.S. Weather Bureau.”

March, 1851 school is renamed *Milwaukee Normal Institute and High School*; Charter—is received from the State of Wisconsin; Model: *The Beecher Plan* is put in place. \*Beecher's first priority, to develop professional teachers is the first to be addressed. By 1852-53 the Normal School had two divisions, for teachers of Common Schools (public) and teachers of High Schools (college preparatory). (Follow *The Plan*\* below.)

1852 the move into the first facility designed according to the Beecher Plan.\* The building was located on the southwest corner of Milwaukee Street and Juneau Avenue (then Division Street).

1853 the name is legally shortened to *Milwaukee Female College*.

1855 *Wisconsin Female College* (WFC) of Fox Lake receives charter from Wisconsin Baptist Education Society.

1876 in Milwaukee, the school's name is further shortened to *Milwaukee College*.

1883 WFC is renamed *Downer College* after the death of benefactor, Hon. Justice, Jason Downer. Downer's will leaves \$65,000 to the college, which saves it.

1890 *College Endowment Association* is founded and incorporated in 1893.\* Miss Beecher's insistence on ongoing Endowment support is addressed. After 126 years the CEA is still providing gifts to Downer College of Lawrence University as well as continuing education programs for Milwaukee women.

1891 September, Ellen C. Sabin accepts the Presidency of *Downer College* of Fox Lake. Moves back to Wisconsin from Portland, Oregon.

1895 *Ellen C. Sabin* accepts the joint Presidency offered by Boards of Trustees for Downer College of Fox Lake and Milwaukee College. The new name will be *Milwaukee-Downer College*. The Sabin era will last from 1891 to 1921.

1895 to 1905 era of campus and building development—matched set of Tudor domestic gothic *landmark quality buildings*—architecture by Alexander C. Eschweiler in collaboration with Howland Russell on Merrill Hall. Ideal facilities are fully realized\* as envisioned by the Beecher Plan.

1900 The new state-of-the-art gymnasium\* opened, fully equipped. Two bowling alleys were installed, the Athletic Association was formed, and a sports program\* was launched which would include field hockey, basketball, tennis, track and field days, archery, and best of all, crewing on the Milwaukee River. Fitness, health, exercise were critical components of the Beecher Plan.

1901 spring catalog announces opening of *Department of Domestic Science*\*. The second of Miss Beecher's four professional programs is being invented and developed.

## THE BEECHER PLAN—FULFILLED AT MILWAUKEE-DOWNER

- 1910 Miss Emily Frances Brown, Professor of English (1900-1945) discovers the Frederic Austin arrangement of “Twelve Days of Christmas” in an Oxford Bookstore. Her rotating cycle of English Christmas Revels influences Downer women for generations and creates a culture of expression through performance.
- 1910 The high school division moves into a matching set of buildings across Hartford Avenue. It becomes an independent institution, Milwaukee-Downer Seminary.
- 1918 Amélie Sérafon, Professor of French (1910-1945) founds the *Alliance Française of Milwaukee*, still thriving after 100 years.
- 1918 Elizabeth Upham Davis, Head of Art Department (1914-1919) founds one of the country’s first programs in *Occupational Therapy*. It becomes a model, used by American Medical Association in setting credentialing requirements. This program, founded in an Art Department with added courses from academic departments in the Sciences and Social Science, engaged the Liberal Arts point of view.
- 1921 Lucia Russell Briggs era (1921-1951) begins. Benchmarks are completion of Chapman Library and Sabin Hall of Science; a flourishing Endowment;\* and recommitment to Liberal Arts.\* On-going special programs in Occupational Therapy and Home Economics\* were joined by a new BS program in Nursing.\* This era marks the high point for the achievement of Beecher’s goals.\*
- 1940 recognition of high scholastic standards from Phi Beta Kappa in 1940. Delta Chapter of Wisconsin Phi Beta Kappa installed, January 1941.
- 1951 John B. Johnson era; (see Sherwin Howard, Part I—*The Consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College*, 1-11.)
- 1964 Year of Two Consolidations: Milwaukee-Downer College joins Lawrence College along with the Lawrence Conservatory of Music and the Institute of Paper Chemistry. Milwaukee-Downer Seminary consolidates with two other independent secondary schools. Milwaukee University School (MUS—successor of the German-English Academy) and Milwaukee Country Day School. These three form University School of Milwaukee (USM).

Catharine Beecher developed the Beecher Plan in a book she titled: *The True Remedy for the Wrongs of Women*. In it, and many other writings, she showed her understanding and compassion for the conditions American women faced in the 1800s. She saw her mother, Roxana Foot (Beecher), die at about age 41 after bearing nine children in fifteen years. She saw her second mother, Harriet Porter (Beecher), die at 45 after bearing four children in ten years. She, the eldest of the 13, became the mother, household manager, teacher, and supporter of the sole breadwinner—her father, the Rev. Lyman Beecher.

In Catharine’s day women could not vote; they could not keep their own property after marriage; they were barred from higher education. Most paying careers were closed to them by which they might have been self-supporting. The Beecher Plan would begin with (1) women’s *Health*, physical development, calisthenics, and freedom

from binding corsets; (2) adequate *Facilities*, with suitable heat, light, and clean air; (3) an *Endowment* necessary to maintain facilities so teachers and students could pursue education without undue financial burdens and stress; (4) *Liberal Arts Curriculum* equivalent to that offered at the best men’s schools, including: grammar, logic (which included theology and natural and moral philosophy), rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. The signature element would be (5) *Professions* in the four career fields most congenial to women at the time. Paid professional work would allow women to earn a livelihood and liberate them from forced marriages and fear of destitution. Women could marry by choice. The four “schools” for professions were: *teaching, nursing, child care, and “conservation of the domestic state.”* The asterisks\* in the chronology above show when the five requirements were instituted at Milwaukee-Downer College.

## PART I

## THE 1960s: BECOMING DOWNER ALUMNAE OF LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

## Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION AND “THE INDEPENDENTS”

The years of the 1960s were a decade of fragmentation and uncertainty for Downer alumnae. Graduates from classes prior to the 1950s were established in their own families, careers, and commitments to Milwaukee-Downer friends and local Chapter events. Milwaukee and Minneapolis had well-developed model Chapters, with rich programming and active members, who did not look to Appleton for direction. The National M-D Alumnae Association was uncertain of its role when records were relocated in Appleton and board meetings began to be held at Lawrence. Meanwhile, individual Downerites remained connected by networks of M-D Class Secretaries and Class Agents. This and other Downer Alumnae systems were to become a model Lawrence supported and eventually adopted. Overall, however, we cannot speak of Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae in the 1960s as an identifiable body. Many from the earlier classes drifted away for understandable reasons.

During the 1960s and 1970s The Consolidation was a name only. President Warch used the word carefully and judiciously, but the critical transformation needed to unite minds and spirits would have to be accomplished by active “younger” alumnae from the 1950s through 1964. Could they transfer their loyalties to Lawrence University? What would we call the forty Downer transfer students who would graduate from Lawrence University? In the future, wouldn't all women who graduate from Downer College of Lawrence University be Downerites? More certainly, would future women graduating from LU who had been funded by M-D Scholarships be Downer Women? With surprise we learned that some Lawrence men

were receiving M-D scholarships! Would that make them Downerites?

Part I of this book tells colorful tales of vigorous engagements by Downer heroes (women and men) who brought the spirit of Downer to Lawrence, uniting and preserving Downer alumnae for the future. We might debate the *Effects* of wording on diplomas and the metaphors for institutional union: merger? marriage? consolidation? But we are also concerned with the Affects of the move on subjective attitudes, beliefs, and feelings of Downer alumnae, past, present, and future. Lucky is any student who gets to grow and develop within a liberal arts college, rightly called an *alma mater*. The expression is Latin for *foster mother* referring to a setting which fosters development of the whole person for life, not just training for employment. Lawrence College and Milwaukee-Downer College were a good match in terms of their whole person—whole life philosophy, and their residential settings.

Yet, the consummation of the Consolidation experiment would come when Milwaukee-Downer women could transfer their loyalties and bring their powerful experience of *alma mater* to Lawrence. Having come as high school graduates they were nurtured to womanhood in the intimate embrace of arts and sciences, caring faculty, a healthful residential campus, joyful songs, and legendary traditions. Now they hoped the M-D faculty could continue to flourish and to know that the intellectual and affective development of women students, which they experienced at their *alma mater* would continue to be cultivated at Lawrence University.

## THE INDEPENDENTS

After the 1964 Consolidation, a significant segment of MDC alumnae chose to remain Independent, without affiliating with Lawrence University. That was not an unreasonable option as we shall see by doing a brief case study on a representative group, the Class of '60. This group was the last Yellow Class to graduate from M-D. Without any pretense of doing scientific research, let us dig a “trial trench” into the past, as archaeologists do. After a spot check on several classes, we could decide where to dig deeper for further study. The choice of the Class of '60 was just plain lucky, for it provided a goldmine of insights. After 57 years, I was able to have direct contact with Judy Davis Timms, June Goldschmid Thiesen, and Mary Ellen Swanty Hiebert, from the Class of '60, my Sister Class at MDC. From their letters and e-mails I learned, this class held seven reunions on their own, in 1970, 1989, 1990, 1995, c. 2000, 2003, and 2008. They repeatedly drew 18 classmates together (44% from a class of 41 members) plus three Downerites from other classes. They are still a closely bonded group. The outreach also included classmates who couldn't physically attend the reunions. Judy and June were Hat Girls, to whom we often looked as

spokespersons, just as we are doing now.

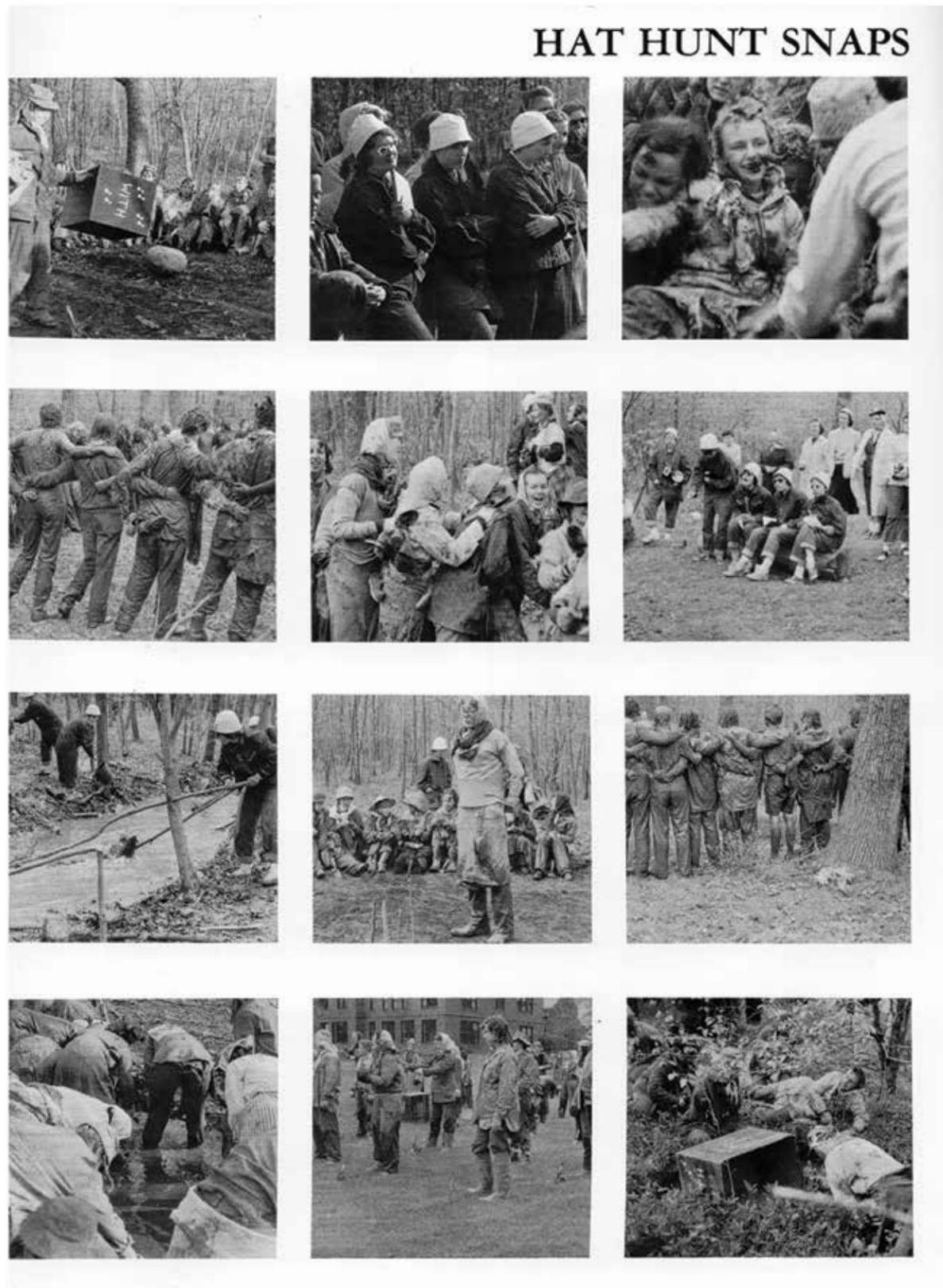
For the record, Hat Hunt took place in the Spring mud of the Downer Woods. The remains of a visiting minister's lost stovepipe hat, wrapped in a leather tobacco pouch, were buried in the woods. A school song said, “The sophomores hide the Hat each year. The freshmen find it never fear.” In the Class of 1960, Virginia “Ginny” Vance (Kunkel) found the hat and became Hat Girl #1. The girl who finds the hat is the last one digging as the elders chant around her. She is so elevated by the victory that her feet should never touch the ground. Literally, she would be carried on a litter for the next 24 hours by her hefty classmates. Carolyn “Cary” Westgaard (Woolley) was Hat Girl #2—the President of the Freshman Class, elected early in the school year. Judy Davis (Timms), Hat Girl #3, was chosen by #1 and #2. June Goldschmid (Thiesen), Hat Girl #4, was elected by the whole class after the Hunt. The Hat Girls would lead their class through social and traditional activities through the rest of their college years. Their duties would be heaviest in their Sophomore year, when they test the new Freshmen and conduct the week long Hat Hunt in May.

## HAT COMMITTEE



FRONT: B. Moss, G. Vance, C. Westgaard, M. Irvin, J. Davis, J. Goldschmid. BACK: L. Schoder, B. Brandt, S. Biegelhaar, V. Popko, G. Borenz, J. Thiel.

Photo credit: CUMTUX 1960, addition: FRONT, right: Pricilla Parsche, '61



As Sophomores, the M-D'60 Hat Girls: #2 Carolyn "Cary" Westgaard, #3 Judy Davis, #1 Ginny Vance (not shown #4 June Goldschmid), have given a school year to the testing of new Freshmen. At Hat Hunt the rivalry climaxes in a mud fight. The Sophomores submit to the volleys of Freshmen; the hat passes to the next class; justice is restored. Credit: private collection.

Photo credit: CUMTUX 1960

My first refresher on the Class of '60 came from the 1960 CUMTUX yearbook, which showed the entire senior class, with handsome photos. To me these upperclassmen always looked dignified and poised in their clean yellow blazers. The women we are interviewing now, Judy, June, and Mary Ellen, were part of a “showcase” group allowed to occupy the six, first-floor singles in Holton Hall. Others in the group were Barbara Bauer Zabors, Helen Bystol Grothem, and Diane Kief Brahe. When prospective students toured the school, they might be shown a “typical dorm room” near the entrance on the first floor. The parents would see beds neatly made, attractive curtains and wall hangings, everything picked up and picturesque. The first floor Holton women, located so near the Holton Parlor, were on their toes. Today, Holton Parlor is still a showcase, as an Historical restoration area at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-M) with a bronze plaque to mark it.

Address books are vital to support alumnae cohesion. Lawrence produced directories that helped us stay together. *The M-D Reunion Alumnae Directory of 2010* listed all M-D alumnae living at the time, with names, addresses, and telephone numbers. I also use *The M-D Cumtux Reprise from Reunion 2014*, which lists only those who attended or sent in biographies. This Directory’s contact information includes e-mail addresses as well as “then and now” photos. For your information, Lawrence directories list Downer alumnae by their maiden names, which is how we remember them. If you forgot a maiden name or you only knew the first and the married name, your search could take a long time. Independents were not left out. Judy mentioned, “someone at Lawrence gave a list to me ... or someone.” Throughout the 1960s, Lawrence sustained Downer alumnae by keeping their records and updating address lists.

“What held you together for so many years?” I asked Judy, June, and Mary Ellen. “Location” said Mary Ellen, “I’m sure part of ‘stickiness’ had to do with

location, location location!” Mary Ellen explained that she lived close to Barbara Sharpe Banus and Judy Davis Timms. Judy agreed, “When we moved to NC, I was interested in how many from our class were in this region.” Judy sent reunion photos with descriptions of the participants that revealed the cluster of 1960 Downerites living in North and South Carolina: Judy D., Mary Ellen, Barbara Sharpe Banus, Lucille Eaton Boettcher, Karen Dainow Rotberg, and Barbara Crockett Jones. What coincidence brought them together?

“I know the advent of e-mail helped a lot to keep us in touch,” Judy offered as the second factor. Judy ought to know because she got the attendance award for having attended all seven reunions. Keren was next, having attended six and she hosted two at her home in Greensboro NC; Lucille attended five and hosted two in Asheville NC. Barbara Sharpe Banus hosted one reunion in Beaufort SC. Husbands were included and “always had a good time.”

Then Mary Ellen offered the third, most telling, fact about this group of Independents. “There was the OT connection...” This observation led me to do a brief numbers study based on the yearbook which showed each senior’s major field of study. Of the 41 graduating: 13 (almost a third of the class) were majoring in Occupational Therapy (OT). In addition, three were Home Economics majors and six were majoring in Elementary Education. Thus 22 students, 54% of the Class of 1960, were in programs which would not be continued at Lawrence University. Details on academic changes are provided in the book by Ronald Tank which precedes this one. Tank summarizes: “Downer’s programs in elementary education, home economics, and occupational therapy were dropped after abbreviated trial periods.”<sup>1</sup>

June Goldschmid Thiesen was a Wisconsin girl recruited to M-D from Minocqua. After the 1968 merger of the two Alumnae/i Associations, June was a natural to be asked to represent Downer

on the new Lawrence University Alumni Board. Generously, she served for two years. “How did that work out?” I asked. June said she was impressed with the effort Lawrence made to display and mark Downer Treasures on the campus but that her warmest memories were from the reunions held in Milwaukee on the Downer campus, especially those in Greene Hall. Lawrence did the best it could, she said. Eventually, it was clear that the focus of the Alumni was on Lawrence.

Of the 18 Downerites from the Class of '60, who attended the class reunions, nine were OT majors, one was in Home Ec, and one was in Elementary

Education. Seven participants were Liberal Arts majors or undecided. The three remaining participants were from outside the Class and were not identified by major. Location, in North and South Carolina, was a strong attraction, but it didn’t account for the whole. Others came from New York or Wisconsin and Carolyn “Cary” Westgaard Woolley made it from Hawaii. Nevertheless, the numbers suggest “The OT connection,” and the loss of two other program majors which were not continued at Lawrence, dampened the affinity with Lawrence for a significant number of Downer Alumnae after the merger. As time will show, other groups were affected more positively.<sup>2</sup>

## END NOTES

1. Ronald Tank, *The Consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College*, Lawrence University, 2018) pp. 20-21.
2. The video *The '65 Purple Class Returns*, 2012 by Lee Dodds Shallat Chemel M-D'65, presents her class returning to Holton Hall 50 years after their arrival there as freshmen. Skillful interviewing and editing help them articulate the developmental experiences for women

which Downer Alumnae hoped would be continued at Lawrence. The visuals show the depth of feeling Class members still shared after 50 years. The Music includes performances by the Milwaukee-Downer Women’s Choir and technical aspects of production make this video a distinguished Collector’s artifact for the Archives at Seeley G. Mudd library. (See article 6 in Chapter VI. and see VI. Appendix, 10. for complete profile on this video.)

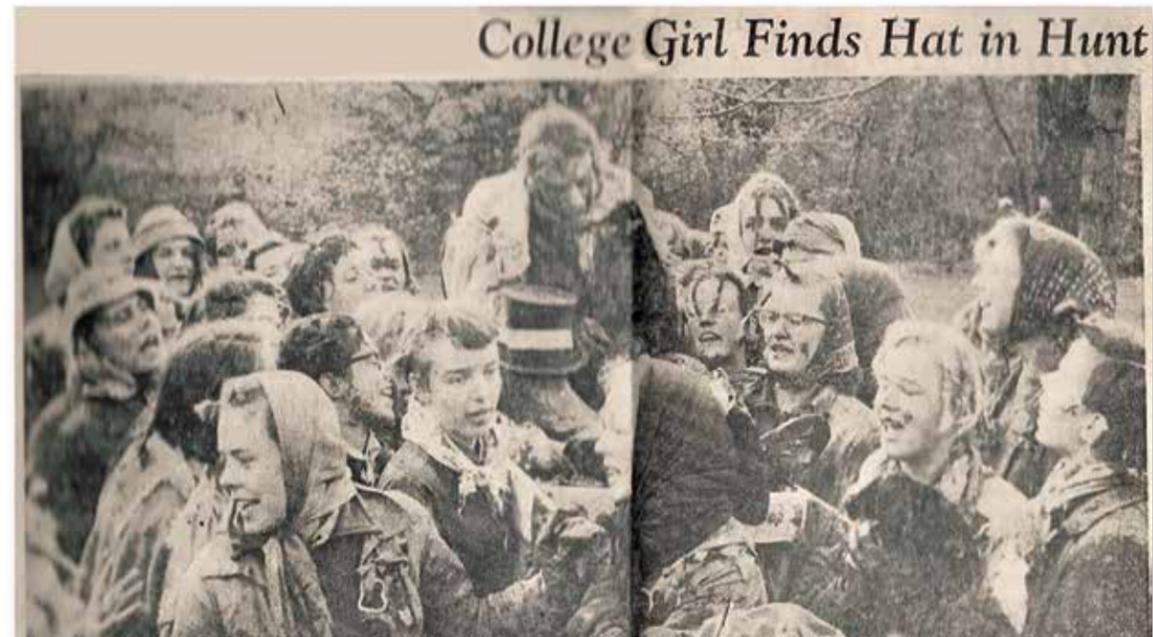
## PHOTOS



**Hawthorn Leaves 2003**—Asheville NC, Lucille Eaton Boettcher—far right, Hosting. **Left to right:** Sheila Rosenthal Decter, Judy Davis Timms, Carol Rybarz Kremkow, Ilene Hanson Sears, Keren Dainow Rotberg, June Goldschmid Thiesen, Loretta Hahn Lambeseder, Mary Ellen Swanty Hiebert, Lucille Eaton Boettcher. **Credit:** private collection.



**Class Secretaries 2008**—Greensboro NC, Keren Dainow Rotberg—Hosting. Front: June Goldschmid Thiesen, Keren Dainow Rotberg, Ilene Hansen Sears. Back: Barbara Bauer Zabors, Pat Holt Metzler, Carolyn “Cary” Westgaard Woolley (from Hawaii), Loretta Hahn Lambeseder, Judy Davis Timms, Lucille Eaton Boettcher. Credit: private collection.



“The winner of the traditional hat hunt for freshmen of Milwaukee-Downer College was carried on the shoulders of her classmates Thursday. The victor, Virginia Vance of La Crosse, will be the top hat girl of her class for her four years at the school. She was carried on the shoulders of students to her classes Friday. *Journal Staff* Date: May 1957.

## Chapter 2

### THE CHAPTERS: “DORIE DISTELL’S DOWNER BOX”

In the 1960s Milwaukee-Downer College maintained a smoothly organized chapter system which operated throughout the nation. Material artifacts for this report were recently excavated from the Downer Collection of Dorie Distell Brennan ’57, Milwaukee Alumnae Chapter President from 1972-1974. The box will become part of the Archives in the Seeley G. Mudd Library. Dorie’s vintage edition of *Hawthorn Leaves*, Vol. 37, January 1961, by the M-D Alumnae Association, records the name of every Class Secretary from 1911 through 1960. There are some gaps in the decades of the 1910s and 1920s but the decades of the ’30s, ’40s, and ’50s are complete. Some classes had as many as three secretaries taking turns, but all are neatly credited in *Hawthorn Leaves*. The Editors were a committee of six which included Gertrude B. Jupp and Ruth P. Kuemmerlein. Inside, are news updates on the activities of 17 chapters from eight regions.<sup>1</sup> Within Wisconsin, seven active chapters conducted programming in major cities. (See II. Appendix, 1.)

News items in *Hawthorn Leaves* give examples of continuing education that chapters provided to alumnae, developing them for civic, cultural, and social service roles in their communities. For young moderns with mobile lifestyles Downer chapters became a valuable intergenerational family away from home. As a typical young mother with no family nearby, I learned from the older and younger Downer alumnae how to navigate child raising, homemaking, parliamentary procedure, career building, and clerical skills through chapter activities.

The 1961 edition of *Hawthorne Leaves*, page 8, captured a glimpse of an outlandish adventure Eugene Casselman had in January of that year, when the Downer Choir got snowed into New York City for three days. Actually, the article only provides the

schedule of the midyear choir concert tour about to take place. It does not tell how 52 Downer girls, and their choir director spent three cold days stranded in New York. They began in the old Knickerbocker Hotel—where a man climbed over the transom to invade the room of two girls. Dr. C. wired the college for more money and marched 52 Downerites, like ducklings in babushkas and stadium boots, up 7th Street to the Hotel Astor for better quarters. (The elegant Hotel Astor was demolished in 1965.) That fond memory is documented because the 1961 edition of *Hawthorn Leaves* was preserved by Milwaukee’s diligent Chapter President, Dorie, for more than 57 years.

It is appropriate to look closely at the Milwaukee Chapter as a model, because it was the largest at the time of the consolidation and Milwaukee was the city of origin for Downerites. Dorie’s Box provides excellent records.

To begin, the box contains a single roster, hand-typed in the “American Typewriter” style, titled *Presidents of the Milwaukee Chapter, 1953 through 1976* (II. Appendix, 2.) This thorough document not only provides a unique organizing record for 23 years of alumnae history, but the form itself demonstrates the work that every chapter president had to do to make organizations function before word processors and before computers. It is difficult to remember how much time was spent doing clerical work by those M-D chapter presidents, class secretaries, and program chairmen.<sup>2</sup> Dorie was exceptional at organizing and secretarial work. She had to be. Before and during her term as Milwaukee Chapter President, 1972-74, she was a secretary at Standard Oil; she was her husband Bob’s office manager in his theater consulting business; and for 29 years she was an administrative assistant at Schwarz Pharma. She did everything while raising

a family of three boys and five girls. (See Photos: Dorie doing what she did so well, directing and managing, in Photo 1.)

The last four chapter presidents on Dorie's list had a special job to do, because in 1968 the boards of the national associations of Downer and Lawrence Colleges' Alumnae/i met in Milwaukee and Appleton to approve a new constitution for the merger of their groups. In Milwaukee, it was up to Helen Cofrin Roberts '28, whose term was 1968-70; Carolyn Holmes Wiensch '58, in her term of 1970-72; and Dorie Distell Brennan '57, in her 1972-74 term, to implement the decision for their region. Dorie's box provides evidence of how that worked with the original program brochure from her first year as president, the chapter's 1972-73 season. As she noted in a recent interview, "The Alumnae Association had become the *Lawrence University Alumni*." Most of us had studied Latin and knew we would now be referred to in the masculine, as alumni or an alumnus. (II. Appendix, 3 and 4.)

The '72-'73 program brochure shows the Milwaukee Chapter's officers and standing committees. By the start of the fourth year under the Lawrence University Alumni constitution, the Milwaukee Chapter Board included members from Downer and Lawrence Colleges. The ratio was 16 from Milwaukee-Downer College and eight from Lawrence College. The list does not show the warmth and fellowship which members felt towards one another. The names of Lawrentians who whole heartedly joined Downerites in chapter work are still in conversations today: J. Frederic "Fritz" Ruf LC'59, Natalie and Tom Kloehn '54, Ken '31 and Betty '51 Laird, and Audrey Sievert '51. The graduation years of the Board members appear on the roster but the distinction of which College they graduated from does not show. Lysbeth Vallencourt Reiskytl '59 and Janice Buening Eskuche '39 are two more from Lawrence and the name of Lawrentian John Schade '68 should be mentioned although he is not listed on this year's program. All contributed

to the true consolidation of alumnae and alumni from the two colleges.

President Brennan did not mince words in her message on the 1972-73 program brochure which shows the stress of transition. Until then Milwaukee Chapter Programs had drawn 30 attendees on average and more than 100 for major events. "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night" would keep Downerites from their sherry<sup>3</sup> before a dinner program. (see photo) The program brochure for 1972-73 indicates the winter event had been removed and the schedule permanently reduced to three events a year. As usual, the Fall kick off was a cultural event designed to help us appreciate the richness of our community. This one was a bus trip to, not one but two, preservation sites: Pioneer Village and Riveredge Nature Center. The mood was elevated with many conversations; bubbling laughter was filling the air. Naturalist-founder Andy Larsen met the bus at Riveredge and wasted no time silencing the alumnae. He had them look up to the highest canopy in the trees and listen to the air moving.

More straight talk comes from the Chapter President about the second program, a "No-holds barred" session with President Thomas Smith, who brought two Vice Presidents with him for support. The brochure is a record that everything was not always beautiful about the consolidation. After eight years, there were feelings to be addressed. The Milwaukee Chapter tried to bring alums from both colleges to the table to address concerns together.

The final event on the 1972-73 Chapter Program was a Spring Banquet featuring Architectural Historian H. Russel Zimmerman speaking on "Milwaukee's Golden Age in Architecture." The talk would feature homes of prominent Lawrence and Downer personalities, Judge Jason Downer to be included of course. We can notice a climate for historic preservation brewing with two events on the year's agenda dealing with the subject. Historic

preservation would become more important as the national bicentennial approached. It would involve Downer alumnae as will be discussed in Part II.

We have been looking at chapters in general and specifically the Milwaukee Chapter, because it was the largest at the time and Milwaukee was the city of origin for Downer Alumnae. We attempted to show the Chapter President's role in implementing the consolidation of alumnae associations after 1968. For this work we are appreciative of Presidents Helen Cofrin Roberts, 1968-70; Carolyn Holmes Wiensch,

1970-72; and Dorie Distell Brennan, 1972-1974.

Before we leave the 1960s, however, we should look beyond Milwaukee to the national Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association (MDC-AA) during the years between the Consolidation of Colleges (1964) and the Consolidation of Alumnae Associations (1968.) Imagine what it was like to be the leader in those changing times for the three national MDC-AA Presidents: Florence "Jo" Otto '29, 1962-1964; Marlene Crupi Widen '55, 1964-1966; and Barbara Gray Spoerl '44, 1966-1968.

## END NOTES

1. M-D Regional Chapters were located in: California, Colorado, Illinois Central, Chicagoland, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Columbus, and Washington D.C. Within Wisconsin, there were Chapters serving Green Bay/De Pere, La Crosse, Madison, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, and Racine/Kenosha.
2. *From the trenches*, notes of a Class Secretary: Gayle Barenz and I got out the first newsletter for the MDC Class of '62. Perhaps it was in 1967, the spring of our five-year anniversary. We hand addressed a postcard request and gave a deadline to everyone on the class list. I do not remember who provided the addresses. We collected handwritten letters of varying lengths and legibility which classmates returned. Then we tried to condense or type complete letters, with a portable Smith-Corona manual typewriter. Our many typos had to be corrected with *Corecto-Tape*. We made smudgy copies with purplish carbon paper, each of which had to be individually corrected. It took weeks to assemble the first newsletter and we felt very much alone. We soon realized that Lawrence's Alumnae/i Office would be essential for a long-term relationship with Downer friends.

- Seventeen years later, June 16, 1984, Barbara Gray Spoerl remembered these newsletters in her 20th Anniversary State of the Alumnae speech (V. Appendix, 1.) Spoerl said, "The Alumni Office continues to be amazed at the quantity and quality of Downer Class letters. Would you believe: 10 pages from Marge Bailey '51 Class Secretary: Yes? How about 30 pages from Carolyn King Stephens '62?" —CKS.
3. This statement applies to a winter evening at the Astor Hotel, for which the Milwaukee Chapter was permitted to provide its own cases of sherry.<sup>3</sup> By 5 p.m. schools were closing, buses were being called off the streets. John Stephens and I were bringing the sherry. He thought surely the meeting would be cancelled but no, the Downer women were there waiting for their sherry when it finally arrived. They simply came early to avoid the traffic. —CKS.

**PHOTOS**



**Left:** Dorie Distell Brennan '57, Chapter President, guides alumnae through the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre (MRT) costume shop, opening the Milwaukee Chapter's 1971-72 program year. Tours of the theatre complex followed a talk by Charles McCallum, Managing Director of the MRT and former drama professor at Milwaukee-Downer College.



**Left:** Wine and other refreshments were served after the tour of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Clockwise Around Table:—partial in foreground, Dorie Distell Brennan '57; Louise Murphy '42; behind is Jan Mueller Smith '62; to her left is Gertrude B. Jupp '18; Evangeline Fisher Conway '27; and Merle Hibbert '26. In the background wearing hat:—Anne Megna Dunst '32; behind M. Hibbert:—partial, Edna Hibbert Freeman '14.

**II. APPENDIX**

1. Hawthorn Leaves, 1961. Class Secretaries

**HAWTHORN LEAVES**  
MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE ALUMNAE MAGAZINE  
Vol. 37                      JANUARY 1961                      No. 2

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**CLASS SECRETARIES**

Lucille Eaton '60  
Constance Torzynski '59  
Ann B. Terwilliger '59  
Nan Haley '58  
Dolores D. Brennan '57  
Natalie W. Ferguson '56  
Joan Bailey '55  
Nancy P. Lindsey '54  
Donna W. Marshall '54  
Lisette R. Antkowiak '53  
Carol D. Chernoff '52  
Marjorie Bailey '51  
Barbara J. Chamberlain '51  
Marilyn G. Bonneson '50  
Barbara S. Smith '49  
Joan S. Barnett '49  
Betty F. Claus '48  
Marian C. Krug '47  
Patricia Y. Tannhaeuser '46  
Helen W. Stoka '45  
Virginia M. Worth '44  
Bernice K. Abrahamson '43  
Annette M. Miller '43  
Louise Murphy '42  
Rojene M. LaBarbera '41  
Dorothy H. Juneau '40  
Barbara B. Griffin '40  
Margaret W. Model '39  
Luetta M. Bowman '38  
Suzanne M. DeLahunt '38  
Marion S. Reilly '38  
Virginia T. Meyer '37  
Ruth B. Wendle '36  
Jane P. Petters '35  
Marion M. Smith '35  
Henrietta S. Kaecevers '34  
Marie N. Grogan '33  
Virginia D. Flasch '32  
Eva L. Hofmann '31  
Urania S. Rauter '31  
Edith V. Frenzel '30  
Marian R. Swenson '29  
Estelle O. Zarwell '28  
Esther Lemont '27  
Doris K. Dyke '25  
Dorothy P. Kuenzli '24  
Jeanette W. Fields '24  
Margery E. Olson '23  
Grace N. Kieckhefer '22  
Ruth W. Lewis '21  
Helene D. Buswell '18  
Caroline Draves '11  
Harriet Reynolds '11

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

Milda W. Defandorf  
Gertrude B. Jupp  
Ruth P. Kuemmerlein  
Betty R. Ramsey  
Jannette K. Vold  
Beverly H. Walters

**MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ALUMNI COUNCIL**

We just "happened" to have this picture on hand (taken at the President's reception for new students and their parents). Freshman daughters of alumnae were lined up outside Chapman Library. Smiling fathers were included by the photographer, who said, "Why not? They pay the bills!"  
Left to right: Janet Penner TeSelle '33, William TeSelle, and Mary; Lt. Col. Charles J. Juneau, Ann, and Dorothy Moth Juneau '40; Marie Nevens Grogan '33, Robert H., and Anne; Barbara Geisar, Theresa Petek Geisar '38, and Adolph J. Geisar.

PRESIDENTS of the MILWAUKEE CHAPTER  
of the ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

1953 - 1954	Esther Berlowitz Weiss (Mrs. Isidore) '32
1954 - 1955	Daisy Estes Tucker (Mrs. Oliver) '36
1955 - 1956	Lettie Murphy Bowman (Mrs. Wm) '38
1956 - 1958	Betty Pillsbury '37
1958 - 1960	Joanne Mahkorn Potts (Mrs. Eugene) '48
1960 - 1961	Beverly Born Hunt (Mrs. Frederick) ex '55
1961 - 1963	Barbara Johnson Chamberlain (Mrs. Robert) '51
1963 - 1964	Betty Hough Willetts (Mrs. John) '42
1964 - 1966	Florence Davenport Bush (Mrs. Fred) '30
1966 - 1968	Ruth Patterson Kuemmerlein (Mrs. T. J.) '29
1968 - 1970	Helen Cofrin Roberts (Mrs. Frank E.) '28
1970 - 1972	Carol Holmes Wiensch (Mrs. James E.) '58
1972 - 1974	Dorie Distell Brennan (Mrs. Robert E.) '57
1974 - 1976	Carolyn King Stephens (Mrs. John) '62

2. Roster M-DC — Milwaukee Chapter Presidents, 1953 through 1976.

## Chapter 3

### THE VIEW FROM THE TOP: “NATIONAL ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS”

While the Independents and Regional Chapters were humming along, a national Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association (MDC-AA) coordinated activities from the top. Meetings were held at Downer in Alumnae Hall located on the first floor of Holton. A capable staff provided consistency year after year. The editorial committee of the M-D alumnae magazine, *Hawthorn Leaves*, vol. 37, January 1961, included Milda Wegner DeFandorf M-D'20, Gertrude Breithaupt Jupp M-D'18, and Ruth “Pat” Patterson Kuemmerlein M-D'29. Gertrude’s title was, Public Relations Director. Pat Kuemmerlein was listed as Executive Alumnae Secretary and Director of Placement. Both worked closely with Downer students while they were in school and helped launch them into careers and adulthood after college.

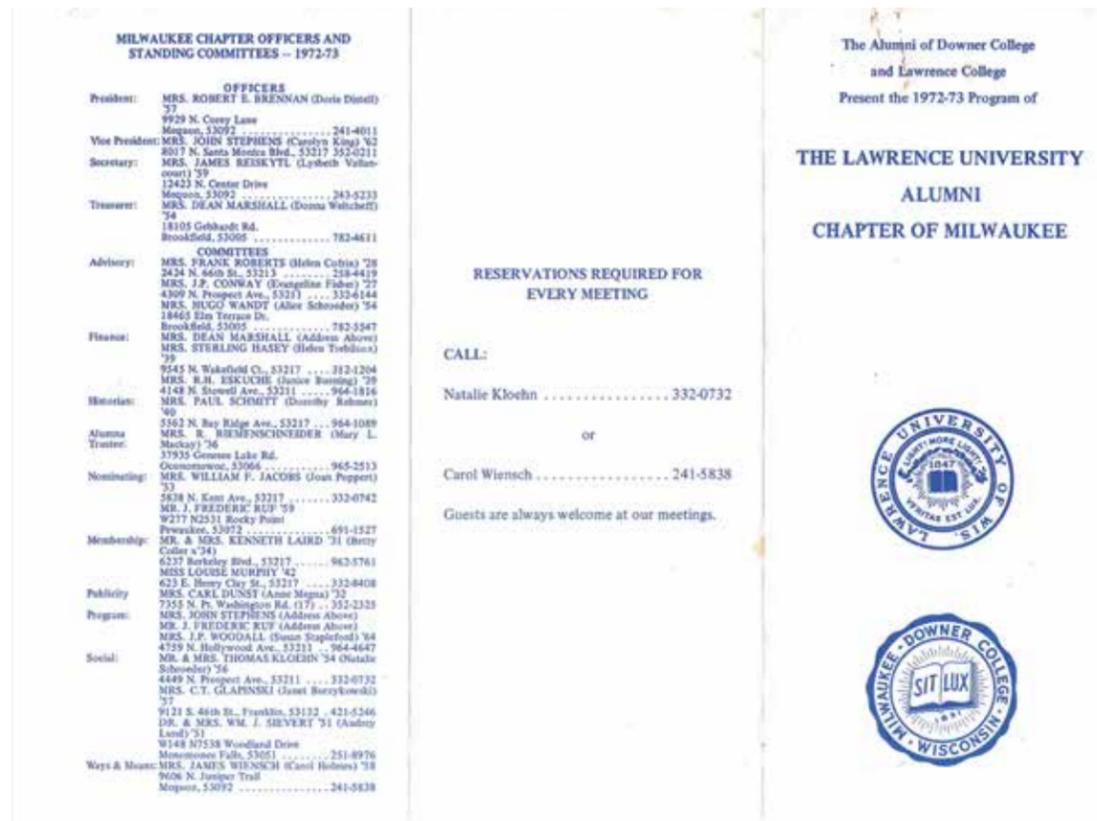
and Downer Colleges united in 1964, their respective Alumnae/i Associations remained separate from 1964 to 1968. Latin endings for alumnae and alumni were carefully observed. More often Downer alumnae observed the Latin endings, just as they also observed the difference between Lawrence College and Lawrence University. Downer College had helped to form Lawrence University in 1964 and was part of it. The significance of differentiating Lawrence College from Lawrence University will be shown later.

In its first four years, the Consolidation was particularly stressful in the lives of Downer faculty and staff. Downer alumnae may have been stressful in the lives of administrators at Lawrence University as well. After 1964, the serious work of Consolidating institutions, in more than name only, fell on the shoulders of LU staff, and leaders of the two Colleges’ Alumnae/i Associations. These individuals became the implementors who eventually achieved the reconciliation of hearts, minds, and loyalties. After four years of Lawrence operating as a university, the implementors achieved a brilliant and orderly union of the alumnae/i, through popular acceptance and formal approval of The Lawrence University Alumni Association (LUAA). Within this union everyone became identified as Alumni, using the masculine ending, “i”.

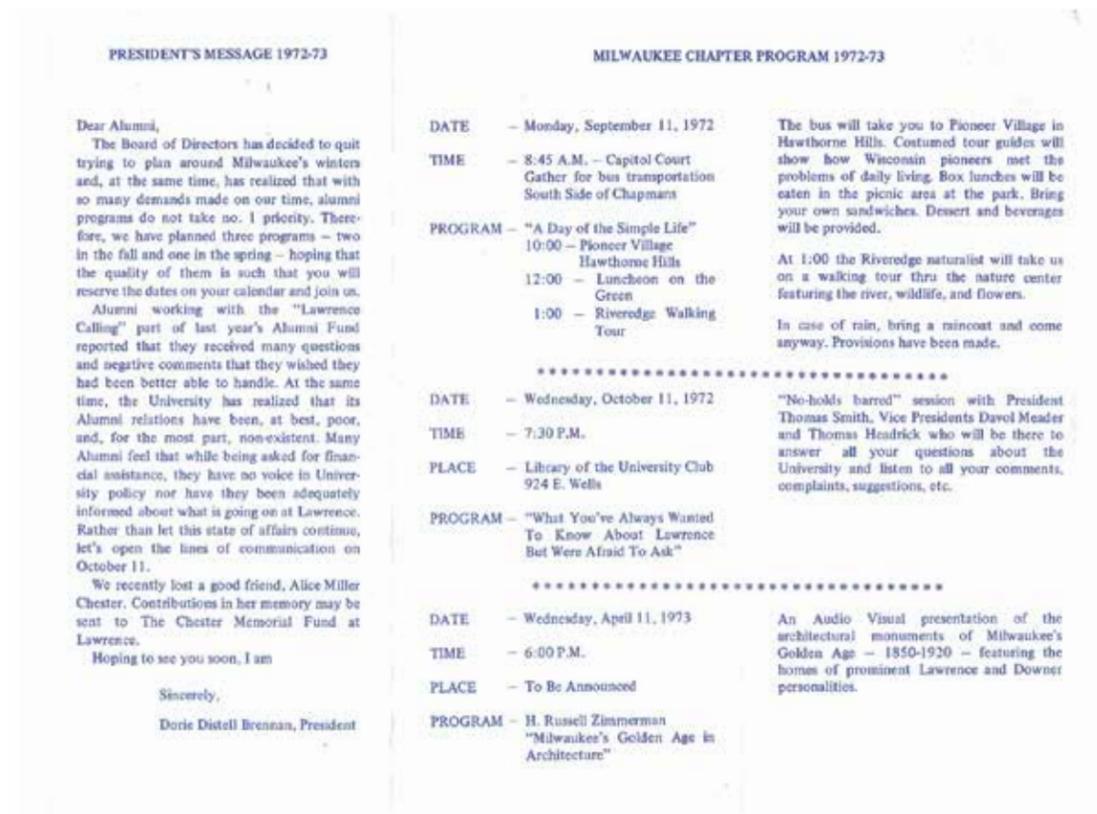
“The View From the Top” is about the Downer leaders and their Lawrence College allies who led the Consolidation of Alumnae and Alumni at the national level. The easiest way to present these elected officers is by means of a chart. After the College Consolidation in 1964 there were four years of transition before the consolidation of national alumnae/i occurred.

In 1964 the Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae Association moved to Colman Hall at Lawrence University. In spite of Downer Trustee Charles W. Stone’s assurance at the time of the announcement: “You members of the faculty and administration will be offered the opportunity to continue your work with Lawrence University,” only one administrative staff member, John Bell, made the move. Furthermore, none of the part-time faculty, such as Charles McCallum in the Drama department, were invited to make the move. Neither Gertrude Jupp nor Pat Kuemmerlein transferred to Lawrence. Pat took a position as director of adult programs and education at the YWCA in Milwaukee. Gertrude, in her 60s, formally retired but she stayed active as a volunteer at Lawrence and in the Downer AA.

Downer’s national organization was called the *Alumnae Association*, to differentiate it from the Milwaukee and other chapters. Although Lawrence



3. Brochure after 1968: front and back covers, Milwaukee Chapter and Program 1972-73



4. Brochure after 1968—inside—President’s Message and Program

## 1. Last Presidents of the national MDC-AA—during the years of transition.

Florence “Jo” Otto M-D’29	Term: 1962-1964
Marlene Crupi Widen M-D’55	Term: 1964-1966
Barbara Gray Spoerl M-D’44	Term: 1966-1968

## 2. Last President of the Lawrence College Alumni Association

Elmer Otte LC ’36	July 1967–June 1969
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## 3. Transition leader Barbara Spoerl—ended her regular term as MDC-AA president. However she continued to serve until the new constitution was adopted on February 10, 1968. Then she became the first President of the new Lawrence University Alumni Association.

## 4. First Six Presidents of the Lawrence University Alumni Association (LUAA).

Barbara Gray Spoerl M-D’44	Term: 1969-1971
Ralph Buesing LC’49	Term: 1971-1973
J. Frederic “Fritz” Ruf LC’59	Term: 1973-1975
Joan Poppert Jacobs M-D’53	Term: 1975-1977
(Rev.) Davis L. Fisher LC’64	Term: 1977-1979
Clarmarie White Voss M-D’35	Term: 1979-1981

To understand the period we were able to personally interview Marlene Widen and Joan Jacobs in 2018 for their perspectives. Material on Florence Otto was provided by Erin Dix, archivist at the Seeley G. Mudd Library at Lawrence University. The archives also provided excellent analyses from Barbara Spoerl and Clarmarie White Voss who had put their assessments into keynote speeches delivered to a large gathering at the LU Reunion in 1984. The occasion was the 20th Anniversary of the Consolidation. Barbara’s analysis covers Effects of the Consolidation during the first 10 years and

Clarmarie’s treats the Effects during the second ten years. The records which give us our history come from Downer College and alumnae historians and collectors who donate their materials to the Seeley G. Mudd Library at Lawrence. We are indebted to the LU Archivists who organize, catalog, and maintain them. Deep appreciation and thanks go to Carol J. Butts LC’49, Archivist from 1993-2004; Julia Stringfellow, from 2005-2010; and Erin Dix ’08, 2010 to the present. Erin was consulted many times in the course of these interviews and research for this book.<sup>1</sup>

### Formation of the Lawrence University Alumni Association

In its first 12 years, the LUAA leadership at the top was evenly divided between Downer College women and Lawrence College men. A great deal of credit for the balance of men and women goes to Elmer Otte LC’36, the last President of Lawrence College’s Alumni Association. During his last term he appointed two Downer women as directors on his Lawrence College Alumni Board and placed three Downerites in Lawrence College committees

as chairmen. Before the college associations merged, Otte and Spoerl worked together as visionaries, forming a joint committee to prepare documents for consolidation and writing a new constitution with by-laws for a Lawrence University Alumni Association. Chicago-based Alumnus, John T. Leatham LC’58, was appointed Chairman of the AA Consolidation Committee. Otte and Spoerl campaigned together, making visits to chapters and

explaining the plan which could be approved by a critical mass of participating alumni and alumnae from both colleges. Separate votes were held by the associations in Appleton and in Milwaukee. The work culminated on February 10, 1968 with the “Historic Step, ... when both the Lawrence Alumni and the Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Associations voted to accept a new Constitution uniting the two organizations” as reported by Gertrude B. Jupp, in the *Lawrence Alumnus*, Spring 1968. (See III. Appendix, 1)

The full day of February 10th is ably and vividly recorded by the professional publicist, Jupp, who was acting as “Publications Coordinator.” Her report, documents three events held on February 10, 1968, engineered to provide maximum attendance, representation, substance, and credibility for the satisfaction of those across the nation who would read about it in Jupp’s article. (See III. Appendix, 1.)

The first event was a brunch followed by the regular midwinter program of Downer’s Milwaukee Chapter. It was held at the YWCA and was designed for parents with children. Organized and produced by Chapter President Betty Hough

Willets M-D’42, the attractive program would draw numbers of voting alumnae, even if they were mothers with small children. The second event was a special convocation of the national M-D Alumnae Association, called by ad hoc President Barbara Spoerl. Its purpose was to vote on the new constitution and by-laws which would seal the merger with Lawrence College’s AA. The third event was the first assembly of AA Directors from Downer and Lawrence Colleges, seated together to commemorate the beginning of the Lawrence University Alumni Association (LUAA). Jupp’s record documents the names of Downer and Lawrence members on the steering committee, the names of representatives forming the new LUAA Board, and as many names and photos of participating Downer voters, as possible. Citing *names* of heavy hitters such as Ethel Schoenbaum Barber ’34 who made the “historic” motion and Helen Cofrin Roberts ’28, who seconded it, was gracefully designed to assure that due process was being observed. There was not only a quorum for decision making but the quantity and quality of voting representatives were there to legitimize the decision and help the new LUAA succeed..

### The Chaotic Years 1964-1968

Before the vote on February 10, 1968, a great deal of work was being done “in the trenches” so to speak. Someone had to inform widely scattered Downer Alumnae and help them adjust to the consolidation. Who could create the good will that would support merging the alumni/ae associations? Two MDC-AA Presidents, Florence “Jo” Otto and Marlene Widen, carried this heavy load. After Jo completed her 1962-64 term as Downer AA President, she moved directly onto the Lawrence University board, as an alumna trustee from 1964-1966. From there, she moved into two terms as a Governing Trustee on the board from 1966 to the end of 1970. Jo’s successor, Marlene Widen, newly elected MDC-AA President for 1964-1966, learned suddenly that she would be the first to step into the awkward arena immediately following the consolidation and that she would have

to make her way through an impressive triangle of big cities including New York and Washington D.C., on behalf of the Downer AA. Her story shows how she grew to stand tall between those two “powerhouse presidents”, Otto and Spoerl. Widen developed in her big job through service, which lasted another 54 years. She became a co-chairman of the *Lawrence-Downer Legacy Circle*, a special arm of LU’s planned giving program for those who support the University with a gift from their estate. She was thanked by Lawrence in 1995 with the Gertrude B. Jupp Service Award and in 2013 with a unique presidential award. How she transformed into a sophisticated traveler and leader makes a good story. Marlene’s story is entwined with Jo’s, so we will tell them together, beginning with Marlene.

### A Little Italian Girl from Washington High

In 1953, Marilyn Monroe sang “I’m Just a Little Girl from Little Rock,” in *Gentlemen Prefer Blonds*, about a small town girl going to the big city of New York. That same year, Marlene Crupi was a brunette and a sophomore attending Milwaukee-Downer College. Nine years later, in 1964, she was the newly elected President of the national Downer AA and planning to make an important trip to New York with her distinguished predecessor in the office, Florence “Jo” Otto. By then Marlene was married and had a seven year old son and a baby daughter, plus she had years of Alumnae volunteer work to her credit. But at heart she still felt like a small-town, “Italian,” girl who had never traveled far from Milwaukee.

Marlene’s Sicilian father was the youngest in his branch of the Crupi Family, and the first to be born in the USA. He had never graduated from high school but throughout the depression supported his American wife and only daughter as a worker in the WPA. The Crupies made a large effort to send their bright daughter to college, safely at Milwaukee-Downer. She would have to work part time, of course, and she did this in sales at Schusters and Sears. After graduating in ’55, she began full time work with city youths as “Teen Program Director” for the YWCA, thanks to the mentoring of Downer’s

Placement Director, Pat Kuemmerlein. Marlene’s B.A., with a double major in Sociology and Spanish and a minor in Psychology, was put to good use. Even after baby Larry was born she continued working part-time at the “Y” with diverse groups of city children, youths, “Y”—Wives, and as a life guard at the pool. All the while, she and her husband, Len Widen, worked for the Downer alumnae. Len recalls getting out 3,000 letters for the Annual Fund, almost by hand. Marlene continued to expand her experience after becoming the first in her family to graduate from college. Nevertheless, in 1964, she got a cruel shock. Jo Otto, her partner, the experienced traveler, cancelled her participation in their upcoming trip.

Marlene learned she would have to make her way, alone, through New York, New Brunswick, other towns in New Jersey, to Washington DC, and she fully realized the hot spot she was stepping into. Distant Alumnae were in the dark. Some of them were “furious.” When she first heard the announcement of the consolidation, Marlene thought “my job for Downer will be over!” Her husband, Len, said, “No, it just got a hundred times more important. You have to be the goodwill ambassador.”



Marlene began by looking up at her predecessor, Florence “Jo” Otto M-D’29—26 years ahead of her in career and life. After graduating from Downer, Florence, an English major, taught high school classes (from 1929 to 1937) in Sheboygan and South Milwaukee. She was a naturally vigorous person who loved outdoor skiing, music and travel. While teaching, she took graduate courses at the University of Wisconsin and volunteered as a Girl Scout troop leader and camp counselor. The “informal” style of education Girl Scouts provided began to interest her, as did their other progressive educational programs. In 1945, Jo joined the national field staff

of the Girl Scouts-U.S.A., and eventually became the Great Lakes Regional Director, serving in that position until 1964.

By 1954, when Jo was nominated for the position of Alumnae Trustee on the Milwaukee-Downer College Board, she was an impressive executive and professional administrator. The nominating bio, published in Downer’s Alumnae magazine, explained Jo’s responsibilities in Region VII of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A:

[Region VII] has a membership of 356,000.

Although director is her title, supervisor is the name for Jo, for she supervises the national branch office which covers Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin; a staff of 15 field workers; 217 Girl Scout Councils; as well as some 600 small communities without councils; [and] the administration of a national training program for all adult volunteers in the region, especially members of local boards and their committees. Frequent trips to national headquarters in New York to work with other departments and to attend board meetings are a part of her work. She has given orientation training for new Girl Scout professional workers in California, Texas, and New Mexico as well as in her own region.

In addition to her travels in the United States, Jo has been to Italy and Switzerland for the World Council of Girl Scouts. She attended the conference for leaders of the German Girl Scout movement. She has also traveled in the British Isles.” (*Hawthorne Leaves*, May 1954)

Jo won the election and served as a College Trustee for 10 years, 1954 to 1964. That means Jo was on the Downer College Board during the debates and decision to sell the campus, with its buildings, to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. It means she voted “yes” for the move to Appleton and the merger with Lawrence College. Therefore, when Jo agreed to serve as Downer AA President in 1962 to 1964, while still on Downer’s Board of Trustees, we can infer she would be advocating the Board’s



In late summer of 1964, Marlene Widen, smartly dressed in her sleeveless summer cotton, took her seat in the first class section of the plane to New York. Jo Otto had carefully arranged it for her. She was to take a taxi to Jo’s apartment where a secretary would meet her and handle all arrangements for a cocktail party with New York chapter alumnae in Manhattan’s Stuyvesant Town—Peter Cooper Village. Peter Cooper Village was the grand, housing experiment conceived by Robert Moses, Czar of City Planning in post-war New York. Marlene was

decision and promoting the Consolidation with Downer Alumnae. It’s a fact: Otto planned to culminate her term with a grand public relations tour, accompanied by her successor, Marlene.

One might think Jo Otto would be a tough act to follow as Downer AA President, but actually Marlene was in the best of hands. Jo was a professional trainer and developer therefore, when she backed out of the grand tour, Jo could easily assure Marlene: “Don’t worry, I’ve got everything covered.” ... “You can stay right in my apartment in New York, even though I won’t be with you.”

With sympathy for Jo, her cup was running over. In 1964, Otto began a new job with the scouts in personnel and was moving permanently to New York, the national headquarters. By 1970, she would be the Director of all Personnel for Girl Scouts of the USA, a top-level management position. The spokesperson for the Executive Administration of GS-USA wrote of Florence J. Otto: she was “responsible for the personnel concerns of an estimated 900 national staff employees” and she was “outstanding in working directly with the Girl Scout councils and as a member of the national staff, working directly with the regions or the national headquarters.” As previously mentioned, even though these professional responsibilities were increasing, Jo moved on to the Lawrence University Board and served there from 1964 to 1970, a total of three terms.

such a “novice” that when the stewardess offered a drink before takeoff, Marlene accepted a soda. When the engines started up, Marlene was anxious to do the right thing with her drink so she pressed the call button which summoned the attendant. The hostess had to gently explain, it was alright to keep your soda even during take off. This was probably observed by others in the first class section.

Surrounding Marlene were business men of many types including a group of lively engineers

from Pratt & Whitney, “a United Technologies Company.” Before landing, one of them asked Marlene, “Do you want a drink after we get off the plane?” Flight time was well over two hours, time enough for casual chat so it wasn’t too remarkable that he asked the question. But it made Marlene very uncomfortable. “Oh no,” she said politely, “I’m being met.” After that, she spent the rest of the trip worrying how she would get away when there was no one at all to meet her. To Marlene’s amazement, upon stepping off the plane in New York City, she saw someone she knew. It was Milwaukee’s flamboyant television hostess and culture maven, Gretchen Colnik, wearing one of her famous hats and surrounded by students she was guiding on a tour from Russia. Marlene had recently engaged Colnik for a presentation at the YWCA. The women greeted each other like old friends and Marlene was saved by circumstance.

### Becoming Members of Lawrence University

Jo’s goal had been to advocate for the Consolidation and reconcile dissension among Alumnae. Marlene helped her to do that. When it was Marlene’s turn to preside, she formed her own goal: “To Perpetuate Downer at Lawrence” and “Support Faculty and Students Making the Transfer.” Marlene is a witness to the steps it took to accomplish these goals. In his book, published in 2018, Dr. Ronald Tank explained the tough issues faced by transferring students and faculty: finding a place in a new department, feeling your program does not fit, learning your major would be discontinued. “After 1964,” Marlene said, “incoming Downer students and Downer faculty needed a public relations firm! Especially the faculty needed support.” Under Marlene, the Downer Alumnae Association undertook to become the faculty’s public relations firm and support network. They made sure Downer faculty were remembered and invited to every dinner and reunion held on campus or back in Milwaukee. Marlene’s goals were also influenced by some of the Alumnae, earlier reported to be “furious.” They wanted recognition and better acknowledgment of the financial impact made by the \$13.5 million\* that Downer brought to the consolidation. [\*Source: *Post-Crescent*,

That evening, Jo Otto’s secretary arranged for dry-cleaning the grease spot on Marlene’s dress, and everything went smoothly from then on. In New Jersey, Marlene met her Downer Social Studies pal “Boggie”, (Alice Schroeder Wandt M-D’54) who was hosting a group at her home in East Brunswick. Other small groups were organized for meetings in New Providence and Short Hills. The cocktail party in Washington DC was hosted by Lois Votapek, Ralph Votapek’s sister. Ralph, the celebrated pianist, had been born in Milwaukee and began his study of the piano at the age of nine, at the Wisconsin Conservatory. By the end of the trip Marlene had met someone she knew or could relate to at almost every stop and she found she was pretty much at home in the wide world. Marlene kept her focus on the reason for being there: “The whole purpose of the trip was to make people feel we were being treated well, to assure them all was going well with the merger.”

October 27, 1963.] Marlene observed, “Those older women were financially sophisticated about trusts and endowments, more so than I was at the time.”

Marlene remembers with profound gratitude, “A huge turn around occurred” when Jack Leatham publicly acknowledged that Downer played an essential role in transforming Lawrence into a University. She paraphrases Jack speaking to an audience of trustees, faculty, and alumni: “If it hadn’t been for Downer ....”; “Downer was needed!” Jack was the authoritative speaker Downerites wanted to hear making these acknowledgments. He had been Chairman of the AA Consolidation Committee and was 2nd Vice President of the new LUAA, as well as Chairman of long range planning on the University Board of Trustees.

“Things got better when Gil Swift ’59 arrived,” affirmed Marlene. Gil served as Director of Alumni Relations from 1974-1995, and he was recognized with a special Presidential Award in 2009. LU sources say that during his tenure, Swift revolutionized the Lawrence alumni relations program by creating the first June Reunion

Weekends, establishing regional alumni programs, re-energizing the LUAA Board of Directors and launching the senior class program, initiatives that continued to flourish. Downerites remember that Gil acknowledged Downer’s achievements: their 60% alumnae giving rate and the Downer chapter system he used as a model for LU. During his time, LU alumnae participation increased and the integration of Downer faculty improved. Leaping to the present in her 2018 interview, Marlene interjected, “The same is true of Mark Burstein. He never fails to acknowledge Downer’s contributions and he never says Lawrence without saying Milwaukee-Downer.”

After the grand tour of 1964, Marlene had matured but she still had a way to go in her first year as a leader. She crossed her second hurdle in fall that same year, perhaps at a Lawrence homecoming in October. There was a dinner in a huge gymnasium type of room set up with tables for 500 to 600 diners. There was a raised, head table for President Curtis W. Tarr and the trustees and the speakers. As

the new Downer Alumnae Association President, Marlene was seated at one end of the head table with her husband, Len. President Tarr, brushing by them on the way to his seat, stopped casually and said, “By the way, we will be calling on you to say a few things.”

With no advance notice, once again, Marlene was in shock. Before she could panic, however, her partner stepped to her aid. Len, the architect, always had a pencil at hand and a firm belief that his wife could rise to any occasion. “Here is what you say ....,” he stated. And he wrote convincingly on a napkin: “1...; 2...; 3... That’s it! Nobody wants a long speech.” Marlene took the napkin and followed his advice.

“I was so pleasantly surprised after that speech,” she recalled. “So many people came up afterward and told me it was a wonderful message!” .... “Since then, I learned to give many speeches,” she added. “And as for growth, I learned to do many things I never expected to do. But that has a lot to do with what I learned at Downer.”

### Afterword

Before ending the Widen interview, we ought to say something about “Downer husbands,” of which Len is a superb model. Downer husbands met their wives while they were at Milwaukee-Downer. They bravely faced Dorm Mothers, 10 p.m. curfews, and perhaps a House Board or two. They married young, had children, and supported their families while taking pride in their wives’ activities outside the home. You’ve just seen several ways that Len Widen helped Marlene and took pride in her accomplishments. You’ll have to imagine how many events and reunions Len has attended since Marlene’s graduation in 1955; it has been over 63 years. They married less than a year after she graduated, on May 19, 1956. Both credit M-D with bringing them together.

They met, for the second time, at a Washington High School Reunion in 1953. Both were graduates of WHS, but he was five years ahead of her and already had his degree from the U. of Minnesota—School of Architecture. Len came down for his high

school reunion with a fellow Architect in a 1946 Studebaker Convertible. It wasn’t difficult to get those Milwaukee-Downer sophomores, Marlene Crupi Widen M-D’55 and her classmate Peggy Muhs Crawford M-D’55, to say yes to a ride. But on the ride the tables were turned. To the surprise of the young architects, the college girls they were trying to impress, completely charmed them! The hunters were captured by their prey. How did that happen?

They drove the Studebaker up East Michigan Avenue with the top down and the girls could see the elegant trim on the buildings. The men continued through the wealthy Eastside neighborhoods and overheard the girls’ commenting:

“What wonderful Corinthian columns!”  
“Oh look! those are perfect Doric swirls!”

Len’s friend couldn’t believe it: “They are talking about architecture!” Marlene and Peggy had just completed the required Downer course, Art Appreciation 101, and the rest is history.

**END NOTE**

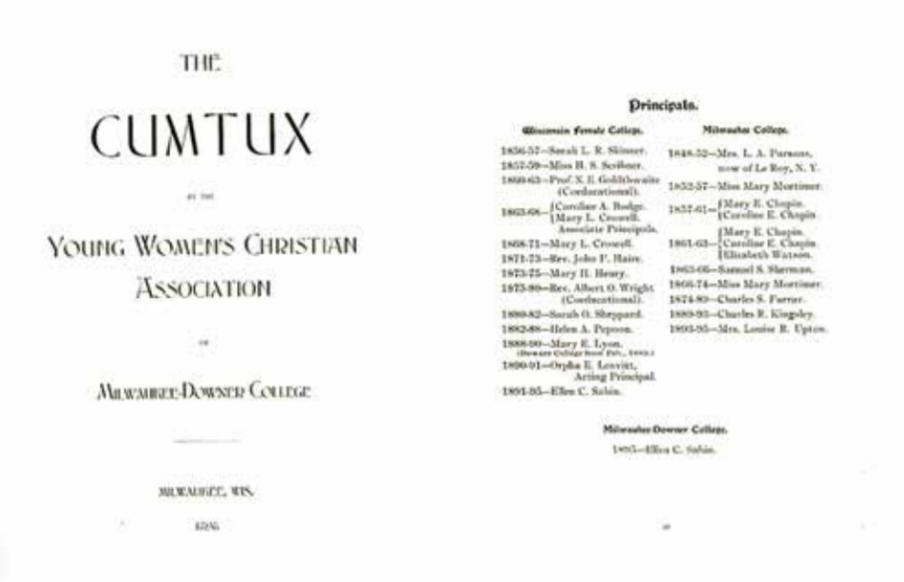
1. Thank you to LU Archivist, Erin Dix '08, who repeatedly supplied us with photos, names, dates, documents and sequences on alumnae and alumni. She helped us chart the sequence of the first five Presidents of the new Lawrence University.

Presidents of Lawrence University:		Terms of Office:
First	Curtis W. Tarr	1963-1969
Second	Thomas S. Smith	1969-1979
Third	Richard Warch	1979-2004
Fourth	Jill Beck	2004-2013
Fifth	Mark Burstein	2013-present

Beck was more often known as the 15th President of Lawrence College, Burstein is the 16th President of Lawrence College, etc.

Counting the presidents for Lawrence College is fairly straightforward. However Downer College of Lawrence University underwent much struggle and many changes in leadership which make it difficult to say, "Curtis Tarr is the 25th President of Downer College at Lawrence University. The 1898 *Cumtux* in the Seeley Mudd Archives helps resolve the confusion, at least for the Milwaukee-Downer chain. When two or three co-presidents share a term they count as one president. Ellen Sabin—1895-1921, therefore was the 22nd President of Milwaukee-Downer and its forerunners. She was followed by Briggs—1921-1951 and Johnson—1951-1964 and Tarr 1964-1969. This makes Tarr the 25th President of Downer, and you can count from there. Rik Warch was the 27th President of Downer College. The basis for the statement is there in the 1898 *Cumtux* in the Seeley Mudd.

**PHOTOS**



1. "Lawrence Alumni Association Directory."



2. 1929 • Florence "Jo" Otto, Cumtux 1929



"Jo" Otto, c. 1964



3. 1955 • Marlene Widen M-D'55, President, Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association, 1964-1966



Marlene Widen, 1964

## LAWRENCE, M-DC ALUMNI ADOPT NEW CONSTITUTION



Members of the boards of directors for the Lawrence and the Milwaukee-Downer alumni associations gathered in Milwaukee, following an affirmative vote by the latter organization to accept a newly written constitution which forms the Lawrence University Alumni Association. Lawrence president Elmer Otte, standing, addressed the group. Seated clockwise around the table next to Otte are Barbara Gray Spoerl, Marjorie Bailey, Jack Leatham, Lucille Eaton Boettcher, Alvin Lang, Anne Fritschel Towne, Jackie Puccinelli Dungar, Donald MacDonald, Dorothy Below Stach, Barbara Boyce Harvey, Arthur Schade, Alice Smith, Earl Miller, John McN. Rosebush, Gaar Steiner, Peter Thomas, Don Vorpahl (both behind Steiner) and Ralph B. Tippet.

Lawrence Alumnus

### III. APPENDIX

III. Appendix, 1. Gertrude B. Jupp, "Historic Step..." from Lawrence Alumnus, spring 1968. The Lawrence College Alumni Association and the Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association vote to merge.

AN HISTORIC STEP was taken February 10 when both the Lawrence Alumni and the Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Associations voted to accept a new constitution uniting the two organizations. The action was accomplished appropriately, amid hearts and valentines—decorating the midwinter meeting of the Milwaukee Chapter of Downer alumnae.

A large group of members and guests had gathered at the YWCA for a "stand-up" breakfast and a unique program by Joanne Shaunessy, '51. Geared for children, but obviously relished by their elders as well, Miss Shaunessy's program projected a series of short film strips depicting stories of the Creation, Noah and the Ark, David and the Giant, and Jonah, for which she has done the art, poetry, photography, editing and recording. Individual strips have earned art citations. Miss Shaunessy, who won the Elizabeth Richardson Art Award in her senior year, has since received a M.A. degree from Roosevelt College and has done further graduate work at Northwestern University.

After the children had been hustled off to a play room provided for them, a special meeting of the alumnae association was convened. In presenting the recommendation of the board to accept the new constitution, President Barbara Gray Spoerl, '44, said:

"The need for and desire for this consolidation came about very naturally and easily through two alumni associations realizing that they were striving toward the same goals, that they had similar problems and that all of their efforts in furthering the objectives of Lawrence University could best be accomplished together. This year many committees became joint. Two Downer members were appointed Lawrence alumni directors; three Downer women are chairing Lawrence committees. To a great extent we are already operating as one organization. To be most effective and efficient, we need to make this cooperation official.

"It has become obvious to our board that for Downer women the opportunity to belong, to grow, to preserve the Downer heritage lies in our continued identification with Lawrence. After all, our primary allegiance is to the quality education this university provides for young people—the kind we had.

"The business of preparing the documents of consolidation has been accomplished by committees and the boards, involving great expenditure of time and energy and exhibiting extreme dedication, patience, cooperation and good will. We have found, during our deliberations, that Downer and Lawrence alums do go well together."

Upon motion by Ethel Schoenbaum Barber, '34, seconded by Helen Cofrin Roberts, '28, the Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association voted to substitute the constitution of the Lawrence University Alumni Association for the existing constitution.

The membership's vote of acceptance climaxed nearly one year's work by the consolidation committee, which drafted the new constitution and bylaws. The committee, which submitted its final report to the respective boards last November was made up of

Spring, 1968



Marlene Crupi Widen addresses members of the Milwaukee chapter and of the Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae Association. After the chapter meeting, members held a general meeting of the association and adopted the new constitution.

Downerites Marjorie Bailey, '51, Mrs. Barber, Lucille Eaton Boettcher, '60 Florence Otto '29 and Mrs. Spoerl; and Lawrentians Don Brown, '50, Robert DeLong, '38, Jack Leatham, '58, and Alumni Association President Elmer Otte, '36.

Addressing the Downer meeting, President Otte expressed great hope and expectations for cooperative efforts of the two groups toward betterment of Lawrence University. He also announced that the new constitution had been adopted by the Lawrence association following a mail ballot in January.

Miss Otto paid warm tribute to Barbara Spoerl, past M-DC President Marlene Crupi Widen, '55, and members of the boards of directors which served under them. She expressed appreciation to the "Appleton girls" for their wise steering of the group and their tireless work to create the atmosphere which made the union possible.

The two boards of directors had previously approved a policy statement regarding nomination of alumni directors. For a period of five years, and with proper review at the end of that period, it will be a policy of the new association to appoint directors and nominate candidates for election as directors to reasonably assure that 9/36ths of all directors are women who graduated from Milwaukee-Downer College prior to June, 1964. In addition to these nine directors, other Downer women will serve on committees and in the enlarged regional chapter organization. Downer class secretaries will continue to serve and class letters will go out as in the past. Chapters will continue. Reunion this year, and in those to follow, will still include special Downer events.

Saturday's general association meeting concluded a two-day session of the M-DC alumnae board of direc-

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tors. The board met from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at the Holiday Inn to hear reports and to make recommendations. Trustee Mrs. William M. Chester and Elmer Otte were guests at the Friday luncheon.

The following reports were submitted:

- The nominating committee proposed, and it was approved, that the present board of directors continue to serve until a successor board was elected under the new bylaws.

- Anne Fritschel Towne, '53, discussed the progress on the Jason Downer Food Center. The directors reviewed the furnishing of the Alice G. Chapman Teakwood Room.

- Joint Downer and Lawrence efforts to activate and reactivate regional chapters and to develop better coordination among workers in the areas of fund drive, continuing education and student recruitment were outlined by Miss Bailey. She also presented detailed reports of successful fall meetings of the Chicago and Milwaukee chapters.

- Kay O'Neill Anderson, '33, a member of the continuing education committee announced that a Lawrence Reading Program lecture was scheduled for March 23 in Chicago. The committee is also studying possible programs that may be held in the new Institute of Paper Chemistry continuing education center.

- Projects of the student relations-on campus affairs committee to sponsor gatherings of students in homes of alumnae and dinner meetings with the board of directors and students were outlined by Jackie Puccinelli Dungar, '53.

- Margaret Luehens Summers, '43, chairman of class secretaries, suggested a revised report form to facilitate the collecting of news for the *Alumnus*.

- Mary Louise MacKay Riemenschneider, '36, said that in addition to confirming appointments, accepting resignations and approving candidates for degrees, the trustee committee on academic affairs has set up rules and regulations for the invitational open house requested by the students.

- Trustee finance committee member Florence Otto announced that she is currently investigating costs of redoing three of the older buildings on campus. The project is made necessary by time and the removal of dining facilities on completion of the Jason Downer Center. The committee is also responsible for obtaining money to cover increased costs of the Downer and Kohler buildings and is investigating a retirement program for the university staff.

- Jean Christensen Morrison, '47, outlined tentative plans for reunion which call for a luncheon and program on the campus at noon on June 8 and a special Class of '43 dinner later that evening at the Left Guard Charcoal House.

The framed original drawing by Jane Rumpf Knight, '50, which appeared on the cover of the Milwaukee Chapter program was presented to President Spoerl. It will hang in the Downer Room of Colman Hall.

GERTRUDE BREITHUPT JUPP, D-'18  
Publications Coordinator

Lawrence Alumnus

4. Marlene Crupi Widen M-D'55 addresses joint meetings of the local Milwaukee Chapter and of the national Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae Association, February 10, 1968. After the Chapter meeting, members held a general assembly of the AA and adopted the new constitution.

## PART II

### THE 1970s: SAVING THE DOWNER BUILDINGS

## Chapter 4

### INTRODUCTION

Protecting the matched set of Tudor Gothic Milwaukee-Downer Buildings kept many Downer alumnae tied to Milwaukee and UW-M in the 1970s. Once the renovation was successful, they could move their attention to the living Downer College at Lawrence University, continuously educating women since 1851 for contributions to families, communities, and the nation.

The campaign would consist of several phases mapped out in Spring of 1969 by Ed Prince, influential “citizen at large” member of the Wisconsin State Building Commission. I stopped unannounced and knocked at the front door of Mr. Prince’s Whitefish Bay home on my way back from a formal meeting with John Solon, Assistant Chancellor of UW-M. At the meeting I had learned a daunting lesson about state funding procedures, the university’s biennial budgeting process, and the hierarchy of agencies to pass for approval of a major building plan. I listened to wearying details of technical studies to be done for the Bureau of Facilities Management, and a labyrinth of powers to be appeased before the State Building Commission would allocate funds and send the recommendation to the WI Legislature for approval. Finally, I learned of fierce challenges to the Milwaukee area from universities in southern, western and northern regions of Wisconsin, competing for limited state dollars.

As I left Dr. Solon’s office I was discouraged, but then he added, “Oh yes, and the most influential man on the building commission lives over there in Whitefish Bay. If he supports you, you could be lucky, for he has the ear of Governor Lucey” (Governor of Wisconsin, 1971-1977).

Within an hour, Mr. Prince was listening gently to my introduction and then invited me in to his home office to tell my whole story. He gave me his list of what he, and the building commission, would need in order to support “Renovation of the Downer Buildings.” They wanted 1. proof of national historic and architectural significance; 2. proof of local support in numbers from individuals and community groups; 3. proof of “substantial” support from community leaders and corporations, “starting with a letterhead to include more names like ‘George Chester’.”

“Oh, that is not so bad,” I thought. “I can get you those things.”

By June of 1973 *The Committee for Renovation of Downer Buildings* (CRDB) had its own letterhead (See IV. Appendix, 4: Newsletters of 1973, 1974, 1975) and had become a coalition of Downer alumnae, Lawrence supporters, UW-M faculty and student volunteers, environmentalists, conservation groups, neighborhood citizen organizations, historic preservationists, and families with historic relationships to Downer. The names included Chesters, Greenes, Geilfusses, Merrills, Millers, Kieckhefers, Uphams, and Vogels. I seemed to be in the right place, with my husband teaching at University School-Milwaukee where Milwaukee-Downer Seminary had consolidated with two other independent high schools on Milwaukee’s East Side. Descendants of Milwaukee-Downer’s founding families were in his classrooms and their parents supported *Renovation of Downer Buildings*. Ed Prince’s goal #3 had been met and would continue to grow.

Goal # 2: Proof of local support in numbers, required lots of action. Gray-haired Downer matrons and young men from UW-M’s School of Architecture made “dynamic duo’s” as they canvassed neighborhoods around UW-M, and the Milwaukee-Downer Buildings, and the Downer Woods to collect signatures. Lawrence’s Alumni Office supplied complete sets of address labels and paid for mailings to Downer alumnae throughout Wisconsin and beyond. The UW-M student chapter of the American Institute of Architects, led by Kevin Balciar, “manned” a booth with Downer alumnae in the UW-M Union. They secured the final signatures for the goal set by Ed Price: 2,500 signatures targeted at the state building commission and legislators in their respective districts. That is a greater show of support than is required to run for office in the United States House of Representatives. The newsletters in the Appendix credit the alumnae and student volunteers who “manned” the booth, one of which was Gertrude Breithaupt Jupp M-D’18 1918, for whom Lawrence named its Distinguished Alumnae Service Award. The Milwaukee Chapter of Downer Alumnae shouldered the heaviest load of the activist duties.

Ed Prince’s Goal # 1 was harder to achieve, “Proof of national historic and architectural significance.” Milwaukee’s Richard W.E. Perrin and the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission had taken the lead for historic preservation in the 1960’s. After devastating losses of several distinguished landmarks in the city, the Milwaukee Junior League was promoting awareness and volunteerism. Responding to these times, the CRDB nominated the original set of four M-D College Buildings for Milwaukee Landmark status: Holton, Merrill, Johnston, and Greene Halls, begun in 1897. Until 1910 the M-D College and Seminary were united; they share the same historical and architectural significance. Therefore, the CRDB added the matching set of three M-D Seminary buildings, begun in 1909, to its agenda: Vogel, Pearse, and Garland. In 1910, the two

divisions had separated under different governing boards but as architectural and historical landmarks they had to be treated as integrated parts of one whole. By 1964 UW-M had purchased the complete set of seven buildings and planned to demolish Holton Hall. Other college buildings were vacant, soon to follow Holton. The CRDB’s nomination sent to the Milwaukee Landmark Commission was accepted in March of ’73 and passed in June, with priority status designated by the commission. (See IV. Appendix, 1—1973 Letter of Nomination.) By November of ’73 the landmark designation remained unclaimed by UW-M. Mary Ellen Young, Chairman of the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission, called to say, “You had better get moving or there will be nothing on which to mount the Milwaukee Landmark plaque.”

A tough debate occurred on June 11, 1973, when the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board would consider CRDB’s nomination of the buildings for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. (See IV. Appendix, 1-1973 Letter of Nomination.) Coincidentally, this would be the year of retirement for UW-M’s Chancellor, J. Martin Klotsche, whose vision was to create a high tech Urban University. Klotsche’s vision was represented by a new logo for UW-Milwaukee featuring straight rectangular towers. Landmark status for those tudor gothic monuments to women’s education clashed with his vision and would certainly tie his hands. As the spring semester ended in Klotsche’s final year of office, the razing of Holton Hall was imminent and would have destroyed the integrity of the entire set, eliminating the composition of the collegiate quadrangle. The early decision of the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission came just in time to send a strong recommendation to Madison for the upcoming review on June 11. As Klotsche was being succeeded by Chancellor Werner Baum plans to raze Holton were put on hold and Downer alums gained strong new allies for the next phase of their campaign.

### Downer Alumnae - Broader Coalitions and Constituencies

As Downer alumnae did door-to-door petitioning, letter writing, and hand shaking at public events, word spread to contacts throughout the state who became friends and allies. Wisconsin Senator David Berger tells us he was influenced by two MDC alums, his mother Jean Goodsett Berger M-D’43 and his grandmother, Carolyn Albers Goodsett. He led the cause in the Wisconsin Senate by introducing Bill 114 which classified the

buildings as protected properties. They could be renovated but not razed without permission of the State Building Commission. Prior to that, Berger “added language to the university merger law that guaranteed and protected the (Downer) woods from any development or destruction. The effect was to save the past for the future and a green space in a crowded area.”

In a letter dated May 17, 2017 Berger reflected on his Downer heritage:

*The phrase “all politics is local” really applies here. Downer prepared women not just for a degree but for a full life as independent women, both Carolyn (Goodsett) and Jean (Berger) are testament to that, and my life became a great part of that preparation. Growing up with the Downer stories made my awareness of Downer real, so my Madison perspective is rooted in family ties that imparted a pride in my two family members who, thanks to Downer, became accomplished women.*

In the same letter Berger showed his appreciation for the aesthetics of the buildings:

*I grew up considering them as a treasure, the sheer character of the campus and the uniformity of the campus design and structure well deserve restoration and more. I remember a moment with a cousin of mine in Scotland visiting us, as I talked about our buildings and monuments and he looked at me and noted, “David I live in a house that is 400 years old.” This thought was to impact me to this day.*

We didn’t always know when hand-shaking throughout the state had a direct effect or not. I felt I “had the Governor’s ear” (to use Assistant Chancellor Solon’s phrase) when I shook hands with Governor Lucey at a reception and introduced myself as a Downer classmate of Jane Conway Reynolds. It did not hurt that our alumna, Jane

M-D’62, had married John W. Reynolds, Governor of Wisconsin from 1963 to 1965 and Chief Justice of the Federal District Court in Milwaukee from 1971 to 1986. John and Jane were close friends of the Luceys and encouraged and supported the efforts of the CRDB. I felt Lucey was genuinely listening to me when he said to his aid, “write down her name.”

Downer alumnae became “allies” with energetic young students who contributed valuable time and talents to save the Downer Buildings. These young friends included activists, artists, architects, booth workers, committee attenders, photographers, researchers, and writers on their way to becoming

professionals in their fields. As an example of this constituency, I introduce Alan Magayne-Roshak, 1978 University Photographer’s Association of America (UPAA) Photographer of the Year, and 2014 UPAA Master of the Profession.

In 1973 Milwaukee-Downer alumnae met Alan as a wiry youth with large round eyeglasses (his father was an optometrist) and always wearing a camera. He donated hours scaling heights and crawling into awkward positions in order to capture the architectural value of the Downer Buildings in pictures, which we then showed to constituents and used to complement our articles. We could

not have educated, communicated, or persuaded so effectively without those excellent visual images. Alan represents an eclectic assortment of UW-M employees, faculty, and students who joined Downer alumnae to lobby for “renovation not replacement” of the seven Milwaukee-Downer College buildings.

Alan came to UW-M in 1966 from Milwaukee’s South Division High School thinking he would major in science, but he found a home at the UW-M POST student newspaper, first as a cartoonist, and then as photographer and photo editor. He fell in love with old buildings so he switched to art history and began a unique calling, “quietly documenting important Milwaukee landmarks before, during, and after demolition,” beginning in 1968 with the Chicago & Northwestern Train Depot. Alan then recorded the 1970’s as an urban renewal decade of destruction in Milwaukee and helped awaken new attitudes favoring historic preservation. “I took lots and lots of photos...” he remembered, “I tried to document every building I liked before it got knocked down.” After three decades, Alan’s

professional contributions were celebrated at a 2003 retrospective art exhibit sponsored by the UW-Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning and the Historic Preservation Institute. The title of the show was: “Less is Less.” Alan was saluted in the 60th Anniversary issue of UW-M ALUMNI, Fall 2016, as “the man who became its [UW-M’s] visual encyclopedia.” Alan retired from UW-M Photo Services in 2013 after 40 years but is still on campus part time, digitizing, cataloging, archiving. These days, his work could classify him as an historian. Beginning his 70’s, Alan is still active and contributed new work for this article, as well as his photographs from the 1970’s, which he gave us permission to reprint.

Late in 1973 the CRDB formed an alliance with its opponent, UW-Milwaukee. It was becoming clear that the price tag for renovating seven national landmarks would be in multi-millions, way out of reach for adversarial methods. Our strategy was to inspire cooperation and build coalitions. The CRDB found it was very fortunate that Donovan Riley was heading the new UW-Milwaukee Office of University Relations... a magnanimous fellow with a sense of humor (thank goodness!) and great tactical skills in political action. Once we were on the same side we knew we were lucky to have him to relate to and we willingly leveled all our our charges, pleas and complaints, at the Office of University Relations.

(HPRB). It was the University Relations Director’s job to show that the UW-Milwaukee administration was considering space needs and costs very carefully and required more time to evaluate the role which the Downer Buildings, or perhaps a few of them, might, or might not, play in furthering the urban mission of UW-Milwaukee. Vice Chancellor Riley’s conclusion was a request that the Review Board not make any decision regarding the Downer Buildings, at this time. Our delegation of community representatives from varied constituencies (see IV. Appendix, 4- 1973 Newsletter on its page 3.) was amazed when the Board, headed by Howard W. Mead, voted in our favor, granting preliminary approval of the Downer Buildings for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. (See IV. Appendix, 4—Item 1-1973 Nomination, National Register.)

Our first skirmish with Donovan Riley was in Madison on June 11, 1973 at the hearing with the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board

Milwaukee-Downer Buildings  
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Photography - by Alan Magayne-Roshak  
Text - from the Letter of Nomination, February 12, 1973  
To Dr. James Morton Smith, Historic Preservation Review Board  
816 State Street, Madison WI 53706



Merrill Hall, begun in 1897; Alexander Eschweiler with Howland Russell

"The Downer Buildings are built of red sandstone and St. Louis red pressed brick, with decorated terra cotta and slate."



Exterior Details on Johnston Hall

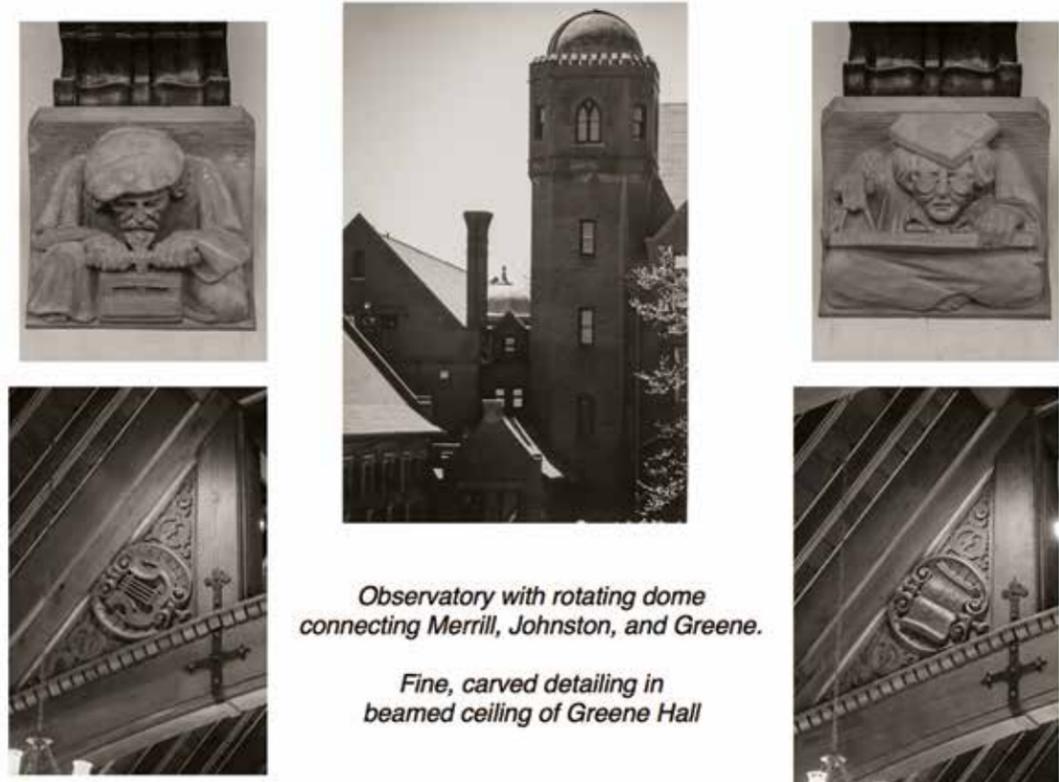
"The Downer Buildings feature intriguing Gargoyles and Grotesques..."

"Photos with permission by Alan Magayne-Roshak. Text is from Letter of Nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places."

"Ideally conceived for an institution of learning, the gothic points draw the mind upward for inspiration..."



"Greene Hall has heavy oak beams with hand carved cornices at each end, a high vaulted ceiling with walls of airy Gothic windows and a massive stone fireplace at one end."



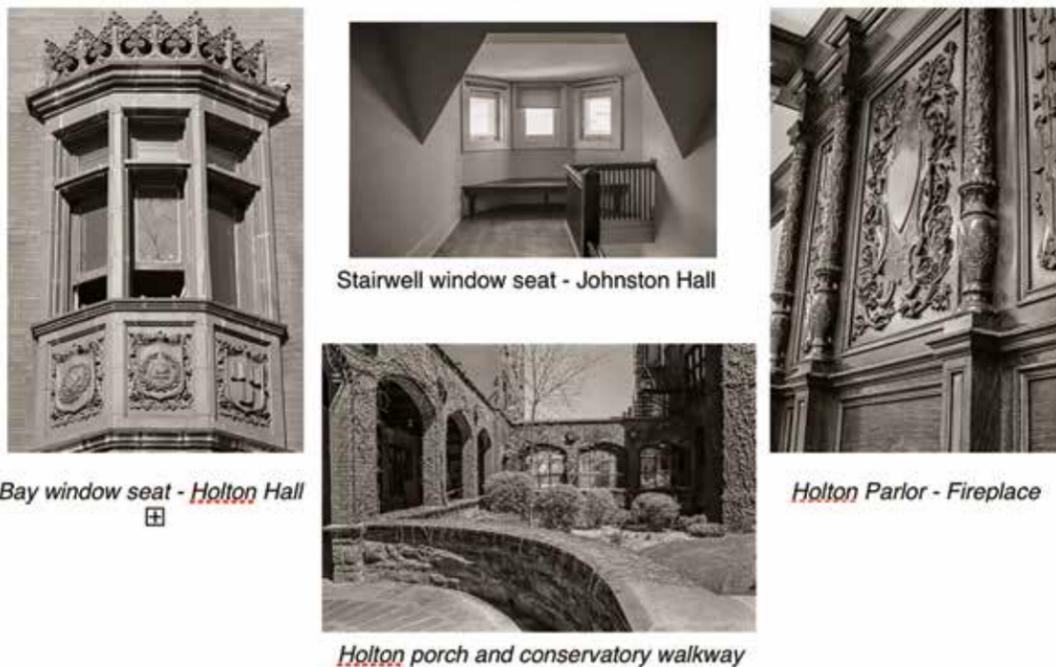
Observatory with rotating dome connecting Merrill, Johnston, and Greene.

Fine, carved detailing in beamed ceiling of Greene Hall

"... twisting carved staircases and towers to charm and entice."



"... cozy nooks and corners are congenial to quiet meditation and solitude."



Bay window seat - Holton Hall

Stairwell window seat - Johnston Hall

Holton Parlor - Fireplace

Holton porch and conservatory walkway

In October of 1973 the Historic Preservation Review Board gave its final approval to the listing. The UW-Milwaukee Administration remained aloof. As mentioned above, by November of 1973 the first award, by the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission, was still unaccepted. With this second award, the University responded to some of the external pressure. In December, Donovan Riley invited the CRDB to participate in the selection of an architectural firm which would do an extensive feasibility study to determine the exact economic projections and life expectancy of renovated buildings. In addition, it would give a professional assessment of the Downer Buildings' architectural worth. From five firms, which the University chose as finalists, the CRDB supported Brielmair, Sherer & Sherer (BSS), based on their expertise in "perpendicular Gothic" and church architecture. The university honored our recommendation and from then on, BSS became our strong professional resource for descriptive writing and planning. The Sherers introduced the concept of "adaptive usage" by which they would incorporate historical and aesthetic elements with their renovations for practical, hard usage in a modern university.

J. J. Sherer delivered the message which Ed Prince, the State Building Commission, and the Legislature requested as "Proof of national historic and architectural significance." After describing the Buildings' "vigorous character" and "direct expressiveness" he argued that:

The interest of these University buildings...lies largely in their massing and in the novel opportunities for composition which they afforded.

One might also observe that in this country, except for a very few Eastern universities [cks: Yale University, for example], there are not this many Tudor buildings so perfectly sited in the Gothic quadrangle plan. Matching red face brick, cloisters, lancet windows, twisted chimneys, gargoyles, and steep slate gray roofs all harmonize to make this not only an eloquent reflection of the past, but hopefully after renovation, a functioning part of the university's community life (from summary in *Feasibility Study for the Restoration and Renovation of Seven Downer College Buildings* by BSS Architects, October 1974 , p 6-7.)



Although saving the Downer buildings engaged M-D alumnae throughout the 1970s, there was a turning point on February 6, 1975, when decisive change occurred. For any further progress, the UW Board of Regents had to commit to requesting the money from the State Building Commission. Thereafter, the funding had to be approved by the Wisconsin State Legislature. The awesome figure ultimately settled at \$10.6 million dollars, to implement the BSS adaptive usage plan in seven university buildings. Downer alumnae had done their work: positioning the buildings' national historic and architectural significance; demonstrating proof of local support in numbers, of individuals and community groups; and showing substance by "enlisting the help of well known and respected community leaders and influentials." (The wording comes from recent "Observations" written by Donovan Riley, which

follow.) In order to encourage the Board of Regents to make a positive decision, the CRDB prepared to show more substance in the form of fund raising.

Mary Louise "Toddy" Mackay Riemenschneider (Mrs. Richard) M-D'36, agreed to chair the fund drive recommended six years earlier by Ed Prince. Contributions raised by Downer alumnae would be timed to support Senator Berger's Bill 114, which was to reach the State Legislature in March of 1975. Lawrence University again supported its Downer Alumnae by providing address labels with which to solicit funds for the buildings. Checks and pledges began to arrive from across the nation. In a few months, Toddy's committee had raised over \$10,000, which united the solidarity and commitment of a substantial body of Downer Alums. (See IV. Appendix, 3 fundraising brochure)

The responsibility then shifted to Donovan Riley, now titled Assistant Chancellor of Community Relations. This time the CRDB and Riley were on the same side.

On February 6, 1975, the almost totally Governor-appointed Board of Regents for the UW system was called to order by the Chairman, Ody Fish. UW-Milwaukee was on the agenda for a 45-minute presentation to a statewide audience, most of whom felt that too much of Wisconsin’s resources were being allocated to Southeast Wisconsin. Representatives from the Committee for the Renovation of Downer Buildings (CRDB) included: Theodore Montgomery III spoke for neighbors in the UW-Milwaukee area; Evangeline Fisher Conway M-D’27, represented Downer alumnae statewide and national; Tom Betz from the UW-M School of Architecture spoke for faculty and students whose lives are enriched by the stately quality of the buildings; and Carolyn Stephens witnessed that so long as people in the community and state remain interested and watching, the CRDB would continue to see that they are informed on the status of the buildings and the individuals making decisions about them.

That “the people care” was the theme repeated time and again during the presentation orchestrated by Riley, which lasted one hour and a half. This time we could listen as key players in the state gave our arguments for restoration, not replacement. William Koms, UW-Milwaukee’s Assistant Chancellor of Business Affairs, launched a practical argument for first phase funding, to seal the exteriors of seven Downer buildings from water damage and to adapt Holton Hall for the fast growing UW-M School of Business. His case was reinforced by C. Edward Weber, Dean of the school. In sequence, there followed the special guests who spoke: Jeffrey Dean from Wisconsin’s State Historical Society, portrayed the Downer buildings as priority items for the State of Wisconsin. Richard Wagner, Chairman of the Wisconsin Bicentennial Commission, advocated for historic preservation now, based its

timing with State recognitions of the nation’s 1776 founding date. Mary Ellen Young, Chairman of the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission, brought welcomed comic relief and warmth with her views from the Milwaukee scene. Last but not least, three of us were driven to the event by Donald Slichter, venerated community leader, retired president of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, and long time Milwaukee-Downer Trustee. Slichter testified to the integral relationship of Downer College to the growth of this community, as well as to Downer’s innovations in education, leadership, and advancing the professional status of women. Behind the scenes, was a special letter from architectural historian Richard W. E. Perrin, founder of Old World Wisconsin and father of the preservation movement in Southeast Wisconsin.

The critical moment came when Jack Pelisek, Chairman of the UW Board of Regents, moved that the board support “Renovation of the Downer Buildings” and appoint the Central Administration to prepare the necessary statistics, reports and papers for action to begin as soon as possible. Donovan Riley in his “observations” credits Warren Exo for executing the next phase of detailed technical work demanded for state-level authorization of funds “to implement numerous high quality renovation projects in seven historic landmarks.” In the years that followed, Exo would guide the process through the UW Central Administration and Wisconsin State Building Commission. This resolution passed, with the anticipation of its arrival at the State Building Commission, nearly six years after the day I had informally stopped at the home of Edward R. Prince, citizen at large for the Commission. The Milwaukee Landmark Plaque would be mounted ceremonially on Merrill Hall, May 1, 1976. The completion of Holton Hall, first building to be renovated, was celebrated at a rededication ceremony on May 9, 1981. Full scale construction on the other three Downer College buildings would not be completed until 1982 and completion of the three seminary building renovations took until 1985.

At the time of this writing, 43 years have passed since that day the decision was made to renovate not replace. Writing about it invites reflection on how, or why, it succeeded. In search of a broad perspective, I called Donovan Riley, still living in Milwaukee and serving on the Board of the Bay View Historical Society. From his office of University Relations in the 1970s, Riley had advanced to positions of Vice President of UW-Milwaukee, UW-La Crosse, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Prior to retirement, he served as head of the University of Illinois Hospital and Medical School and partner in the firm of Michael Best.

“How did a group of citizens, spearheaded by Downer alumnae, turn around the planning of a ‘Big Ten’ University system and gain financial support for a \$10.6 million building program?” I asked. After so many years, it was enlightening to hear from the former Assistant Chancellor of Community Relations how much weight that first debate in front of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board wielded (Madison, June 11, 1973.) We must credit the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission for hastening their final designation, which placed it on the record before the review in Madison. In a statement he called “Observations” Riley wrote:

*The thoroughness and thoughtfulness of the effort became fully apparent when UW-M failed to thwart efforts of the Committee for Renovation to have the buildings designated for historic landmark status on June 11, 1973.*

It was amazing to hear how effective Mr. Prince’s suggestion for the letterhead had been, as well as the statewide involvement of Downer alumnae:

*A glance at the letterhead of the CRD indicated that its efforts were organized at multiple levels. Pressure was brought on the whole University system at multiple levels.*

With his magnanimous humor, Riley acknowledged:

*While their campaign to ‘preserve and renovate’ was not a “perfect storm,” it became over time, more like a rising tide of opposition to the initial university plan to demolish the buildings.*

In his written “Observations,” Riley listed four principles he considered keys for social change, applicable to social problem solving even today:

1. *Quality, continuity and persistence of leadership is key;*
2. *Enlisting the help of well known and respected community leaders and influentials;*
3. *Consistent and sustained communication internally and externally is critical;*
4. *Understanding formal and informal decision making processes central to the other group’s efforts is of high value.*

Riley’s fourth item points to the area of greatest growth for the CRDB. We wanted to work with the University—to “make it possible” so they could “do what we want.” In order to do that, we had to understand their pressures and constraints. We had to put historic preservation in the context of “urban mission,” parking, population, traffic, neighborhood relations, statewide competition, biennial budgeting, and long-range facility planning. In part we did this by listening to our opposition and understanding their constraints then building coalitions with groups whose interests could be combined with ours. As our understanding of “urban mission” developed, so did our commitment to concepts of environmentalism, energy conservation, sustainability, and ecology.

Over the next 10 years, from 1975 to 1985, change and turnover occurred in every office. Promises made by one administration could be broken or changed by the next. This was most significant in the offices of Chancellor Martin Klotsche,



IV. APPENDIX 1-LETTERS OF NOMINATIONS: MILWAUKEE LANDMARKS COMMISSION, 1972

Vice Chancellor Donovan Riley, and Governor Patrick Lucey. Yet, once funds were approved and construction began, the commitments were made. The Downer Buildings still stand.

Through communication, social activity, and hard work a significant body of Downer alumnae recognized their unity and commitment to the ideals

that formed them. They would continue to work for these values at Downer College of Lawrence University in Appleton. The City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin woke up to the concept that "Less is Less." Historic preservation caught hold. Adaptive usage and diversity of architectural design became the new styles of post modernity. We had contributed to social progress in a larger context.

**AFTERWORD**

In Spring of 1980, the "Committee for Renovation of Downer Buildings" retired from the scene and became an informal entity, called "Watchdogs." The Watchdogs pledged to stay informed about the Downer Buildings and the Downer Woods, and to reactivate if a need arose. In its closing newsletter, the CRDB urged alumnae supporters to redirect their energies to "the living Downer College at Lawrence University." (See January, 1981 - Closing Letter, IV. Appendix, 4. "Newsletters.")

**PHOTOS**



1. Feasibility Study for the Renovation of Seven Milwaukee-Downer Buildings by Brielmayer Sherer & Sherer

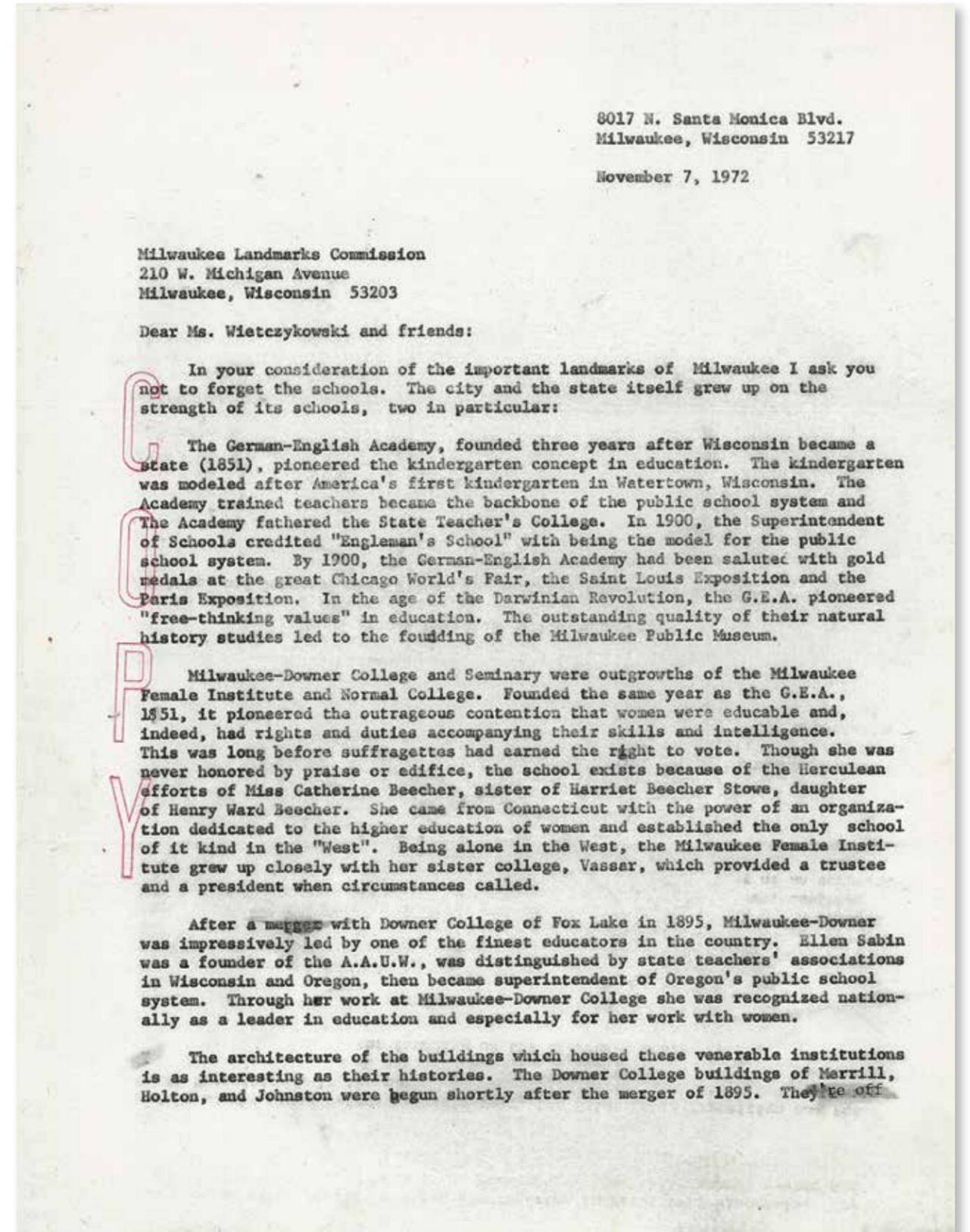


2. Milwaukee Landmark Brass Marker - on Merrill Hall, for four buildings.

**IV. APPENDIX**

**INDEX**

1. Letters of Nomination
  - a. Milwaukee Landmarks, 1972
  - b. National Register of Historic Places, 1973
2. Downer and Lawrence Members of the Committee for Renovation of Downer Buildings
3. Alumnae Fund Drive Brochure, Mary L. Mackay Riemenschneider, Chairman, between 1975-1976
4. Newsletters from Committee for Renovation of Downer Buildings
  - a. June 27, 1973
  - b. January 1, 1974
  - c. March 1975
  - d. January 1981, Closing Letter



Milwaukee Landmarks Commission - 2

November 7, 1972

the same architecture and materials (red sandstone and St. Louis red pressed brick, decorated terra cotta and slate) as the old Milwaukee Road Railroad station. They feature the intriguing gargoyles and grotesques of the English Domestic Gothic style, as well as towers, and twisting staircases to charm and entice. Special features are the Merrill Tower with sundial (there's a story there somewhere) and the observatory tower which housed the modern-in-its-time telescope of Charles Farrar, who came from Vassar to preside over the college in the Mid-1880's. Behind Johnston is the beautifully carved oak hall known as Green Memorial Hall. It features carved stone cornices at each end of the heavy oak beams and a high vaulted ceiling with walls of airy gothic windows. The cathedral style room was the library.

The old German-English Academy building, sturdy and practical at 558 N. Broadway, (now a part of M.S.O.E.O was designed to fit the concept of educating the mind and body. The architecture reflects this as the building is half classrooms, half gymnasium. The three huge romanesque arched windows of the gym present the main design of the face of the building. This recalls more history:

When Elizabeth Pfister and Louise Vogel set out to provide the "new" building of 1891, they went to the Milwaukee Turners to make a deal. The Turners had come to Milwaukee from Chicago at the request of German-English Academy's George Brosius, first teacher of regular gym classes, in who knows how wide an area. (The hiring of Brosius made the G.-E. A. the first institution to actually implement the concept of educating mind and body.) The Turners agreed to provide the money for half the building providing it housed the most up-to-date, fully equipped and fully approved gym of its day.

Thus began the building which housed many happy activities: holiday pageants, patriotic day celebrations, public exercises, oratorical and rhetorical contests (in German and English). It saw its families through the hard World War I years when they made the painful decision to change their name, in spite of their proud German heritage, to Milwaukee University School. It developed that distinctive "gemutlichkeit" our city is noted for. The spirit was so strong around this school it brought even the highest society women out in white aprons to operate a hot lunch program in the 1920's.

The German-English Academy and Milwaukee-Downer College are foundations of the heritage and growth of this city and state. And the buildings are beautiful or interesting in themselves. There is imminent danger that the Downer buildings may not survive the year. Holton is to be evacuated as early as fall when new buildings now nearing completion are available. Help U.W.M. and M.S.O.E. know the value of these buildings before it's too late. Give them a landmark brass plaque!

Most sincerely,

Carolyn K. Stephens  
8017 N. Santa Monica Blvd.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217

CKS/mk

8017 N. Santa Monica Blvd.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217  
February 12, 1973

Dr. James Morton Smith, Secretary  
Historic Preservation Review Board  
816 State Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Dr. Smith:

On the recommendation of Richard W. E. Perrin, I propose that the buildings of Milwaukee-Downer College, presently on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus, be declared National Landmarks and be listed in the National Register. In addition to their beauty as fine examples of Collegiate Tudor architecture, they deserve this distinction because of their place in the development of American education and the history of the position of women in this country. Each of the founding schools, Milwaukee Female College and Downer College of Fox Lake, fostered a distinguished personage who changed the course of education in her time.

Catherine Beecher, born in 1800, sister of Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe, grew up in Connecticut amid the climate which fostered the "Temperance Movement, the first steps in the development of Foreign Missionary work, the beginnings of a Women's Suffrage Movement, and new theories of the higher education of girls."<sup>1</sup> During her vigorous years of crusading for women's higher education, including education for professions, Catherine Beecher established several colleges and several fund-raising boards, most notably the American Women's Educational Association, begun in New York. Of the schools she sponsored on the "Beecher Plan," only the little frontier school in Milwaukee remains, now as Downer College of Lawrence University. For years, Phi Beta Kappa-chartered Milwaukee-Downer College stood as the only four-year liberal arts college for women in the Midwest. In addition to the liberal arts program, students could get quality training for professions in Occupational Therapy, Home Economics, Teaching and Art. This should have made Miss Beecher happy although her colorful personality and strong-mindedness made most of her relations with the school rather stormy.

Catherine Beecher's control over the school, 1850-1866, was followed by male influences from Vassar College. A valuable trustee and Milwaukee Female College's first male president, Samuel Sherman, resigned his position because of the objection of Miss Beecher. Later, however, he encouraged Milo P. Jewett, his friend and the retired first president of the new Vassar College, to join him in business in Milwaukee. They continued to guide the school as trustees and were instrumental in bringing Charles Farrar, chairman of Vassar's Science Department and an eloquent lecturer, to preside

<sup>1</sup>Grace Norton Kieckhefer, The History of Milwaukee-Downer College 1851-1951, (Centennial Publication of Milwaukee-Downer College, 1950).

-2-

over the college from 1874 to 1889. Farrar proved a generous benefactor as well as president. Influenced by his charisma, the "Ladies Arts and Science Class" was formed for matrons of the community. The class attracted such members as Mrs. T. A. Chapman, Mrs. Jason Downer and Mrs. Thomas Green, who later formed the College Endowment Society and financed the buildings which we are now considering.

With so many early educators imported from the East, the Midwest can be proud of its own Ellen C. Sabin, who took the leadership of Downer College of Fox Lake in 1891 and brought about the merger of that school with the Milwaukee College in 1895. Starting her first position as principal in a Madison, Wisconsin school at the age of 20, Ellen Sabin earned her way to the superintendency of Portland, Oregon's schools, although she was a woman and still young, at 37 years. Wherever she worked, people immediately responded to her vitality and the effectiveness of her theories of education. Under her hand, Milwaukee-Downer College flourished, the massive building programs began, and the College took its unique place bringing higher education to women in the Midwest.

Ellen C. Sabin is listed in Who Was Who in America, Vol. II, and in The Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography. She is also credited with "long distinguished service on the National Council of Education, 'an organization limited to sixty of the foremost educators of the country',"<sup>2</sup> and the chairmanship of the Education Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She was one of the first active members of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, predecessor of the A.A.U.W. The Wisconsin branch of the A.A.U.W. named their fellowship fund in her honor. And, although she was never graduated from her alma mater, the University of Wisconsin, she was honored with degrees of M.A., Litt. D., and L.L.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Beloit and Grinnell respectively.

The Downer Buildings which now remain are in two groups. The "Quad" consists of Holton, Merrill, Johnston and Green Halls which face south on Hartford Avenue around an attractive circular drive called "the horseshoe." This is the original group begun in 1897. Fine examples of the Collegiate Tudor style, they are built of red sandstone and St. Louis red pressed brick, with decorated terra cotta and slate. The prevailing understanding is that the architect was Alexander Eschweiler in consultation with Howland Russell. The Downer Buildings feature intriguing gargoyles and grotesques, twisting carved staircases and towers to charm and entice. Ideally conceived for an institution of learning, the gothic points draw the mind upward for inspiration, while the cozy nooks and corners are congenial to quiet meditation and solitude. Special features are the Merrill Tower which once bore the Downer Dial (sundial), the observatory tower (whose original telescope presented in 1875 now resides more securely in another building), the very rare raked stage of the Chapel, and the beautifully carved oak hall known as Green, which lies behind the three main buildings. Green Hall has hand-carved stone cornices at each end of heavy oak beams, a high vaulted ceiling, with walls of airy gothic windows and a massive stone fireplace at one end.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 60.

-3-

Facing these buildings across Hartford Avenue, in another semi-circle, are the Seminary buildings. Begun in 1909, they include Vogel, Pearse and Garland Halls. Built of the same materials and in the same style, they are placed so as to balance and harmonize with the older buildings. The two sets of buildings complete a sheltered, shady oval of restful suburban green space. However, the harmony of the whole may be shattered by the fate of Holton Hall which will be vacated this spring and is in poor repair. It is important that the historical and architectural value of these buildings be declared before a decision based on short-term, short-sighted economic considerations destroys an irreplaceable link to a most venerable portion of this region's past.

Sincerely yours, .

Carolyn Stephens (Mrs. John A.), Co-ordinator  
Committee for the Renovation of the Downer  
Buildings

cc The Hon. John W. Reynolds  
Mr. Edward Prince, State Building Commission  
Mr. Paul Brown, Bureau of Facilities Management  
Dr. J. Martin Klotsche, Chancellor, U.W.-M.  
Mr. William Murphy, Planning and Development, U.W.-M.

**IV. APPENDIX, 2.**

**DOWNER AND LAWRENCE MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE FOR RENOVATION OF DOWNER BUILDINGS:**

Dolores Distell Brennan, M-D'57  
 Evangeline Fisher Conway, M-D'27  
 Anne Megan Dunst, M-D'32  
 Helen Trebilcox Hasey, M-D'39  
 Joan Poppert Jacobs, M-D'53  
 Gertrude Breithaupt Jupp, M-D'18  
 Donna Weltcheff Marshall, M-D'54  
 Louise Murphy, M-D'42  
 Helen Cofrin Roberts, M-D'28  
 Alice Schroeder Wandt, M-D'54  
 Leonard A. Widen  
 Marlene Crupi Widen, M-D'55  
 Carol Holmes Wiensch, M-D'58  
 Susan Stapleford Woodall, M-D'64

J. Frederic Ruf, LC'59  
 Elizabeth Coller Laird, LC'34  
 Kenneth Laird, LC'31

**IV. APPENDIX, 3.**

**ALUMNAE FUND DRIVE BROCHURE, FOR RENOVATION OF DOWNER BUILDINGS,  
LED BY MARY L. MACKAY RIEMENSCHNEIDER, BETWEEN 1975-1976.**

*Why Now?*

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is about to make its budget request to the Wisconsin State Legislature. The Legislature will be more willing to grant the funds to renovate the Downer buildings if it can be shown there is solid backing for this project from a broad section of the people. The most tangible evidence of interest is the willingness to give to a fund to encourage moderate special treatment of windows, carvings and sculpture to preserve the character of the buildings while they are otherwise renewed to institutional hard use standards.

So we need all friends of Downer to show they care now. Join our one time, now or never fund drive and show you care.

The Alumnae care  
 The Neighbors care  
 The University Administration cares  
 The Faculty cares  
 The Students care  
 Parents care  
 Educators care  
 Historians care  
 Ecologists care  
 Architects care  
 Businessmen care  
 Milwaukee cares  
 Wisconsin cares  
 Surely the State Legislature will care.

*Friends of Downer*

*The Time Has Come*

*We Need You Now!*

*Bulldozers or Building Blocks*

When the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee purchased Milwaukee-Downer College, what they wanted was land upon which to expand. They needed more classrooms, faculty offices and meeting rooms for expanding Community services. The buildings, 75 years old, were considered expendable to be replaced at some future time. McLaren and Albert Halls have been replaced by new Enderis Hall and a parking area.

Three and one-half years ago Holton Hall was slated for demolition. At that time friends, neighbors and alumnae of old Milwaukee-Downer College, recognizing the historic value of the old buildings, formed the Committee for the Renovation of the Downer Buildings. Largely through their efforts, the seven building quadrangle of Downer College and Seminary buildings have been recognized as an exceptional Architectural Gem and one of the finest collections of Tudor Gothic Academic Buildings in this country. Merrill Hall bears the Milwaukee Landmark plaque and the four oldest buildings are listed in the National Register as a National Historic site. UWM now realizes that the old buildings are a great asset and lists renovation of the buildings as top priority in the current budget request to the State Legislature. To replace these buildings with new buildings of comparable floor space would cost much more. The renovation will give them more classrooms, faculty offices, and meeting rooms for community services and a functional showplace of historical and Architectural Beauty.

*How Is the Money to Be Used?*

The Downer Buildings have stood 75 years with minimal repairs. With renovation, meeting safety, electrical and plumbing codes, there is no reason they cannot last another 75 years -- so states Jack Sherer, the architect who conducted the study for the renovation.

Our efforts are to encourage more than institutional treatment for designated areas that would preserve the style, character, and beauty of period. Holton Hall Parlor with a beautiful carved fireplace and oak beams or stair landings featuring window seats and study nooks are two examples. With private funds appropriate light fixtures and hardware could replace standard plastic, chrome, and neon. Externally, real slate could be used for the visually important gothic roofs instead of asphalt shingles.

These buildings stand not only as a fine example of Collegiate Tudor architecture but as a monument to the original Architect Alexander Eschweiler and Howland Russell who worked with Eschweiler on Merrill Hall -- two of Wisconsin's leaders of the Gothic Revival. The buildings also are a splendid physical result of the work of Wisconsin's pioneers in Women's Education such as Increase Lapham, father of the Weather Bureau, feminist Catherine Beecher who fostered the study of home arts, physical exercises, and science for women, and Ellen C. Sabin who brought national recognition to this small Women's College. The buildings also stand as memorials to the private citizens who donated the funds for their construction 75 years ago.

Such a monument should retain as much of the treasure of the past as is compatible with modern times -- a tangible link with history for students of today.

*How Can You Help?*

FIRST Consider giving to the Fund for the Renovation of the Downer Buildings today.

Your check made payable to "UWM Foundation for Downer Buildings" is tax deductible.

SECOND Ask a friend to give and ask that friend to ask a friend. The greater the number of donors, the greater the support for the Legislature to approve the University request for necessary funds.

*Join Our Army Of Supporters*

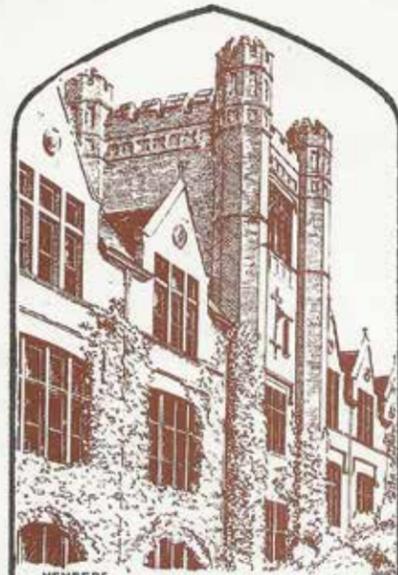
Foot Soldiers	gifts \$5 - \$49
Spear Men	\$50 - \$99
Bowmen	\$100 - \$499
Horsemen	\$500 - \$999
Knights in Shining Armor	\$1000 - \$4999
Crown Princes	\$5000 - \$10,000

GOAL \$35,000

Would you consider a deferred gift, gifts in kind, or a memorial? Would your club consider taking on a special project? For special arrangements contact:

Mrs. Richard Riemenschneider  
 37935 Genesee Lake Rd.  
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066

IV. APPENDIX, 4. NEWSLETTERS FROM CRDB



# Committee for the Renovation of Downer Buildings

8017 N. SANTA MONICA BLVD., MILWAUKEE, WI 53217

June 27, 1973

To the Committee Members, Watchdogs and friends of the Downer Building:

It is time to bring you up to date on the Downer Building story as tersely as possible. Heartfelt thanks to you "documented supporters" who now number 1130. Whether you carried petitions, gave the dignity of your good name, spoke of our cause at the right time or place, attended meetings, contributed writing, photography, or research, or voiced your concerns in letters, you have all served and you had an effect! At the Governor's Historic Preservation Review Board meeting, June 11th, our committee was officially credited with causing the halt of all plans to raze Holton Hall. The present position of the University presented by Donovan Riley, Ass't. Chancellor at UWM is as follows:

"First, UWM has withdrawn its request to raze Holton Hall.

"Second, the Downer Buildings are nearly all vacant at the present time and, therefore, present a potential target for vandals. UWM is taking every precaution to see that they are as secure as possible.

"Third, UWM will move to establish a formal position on preservation of the buildings as soon as possible. Toward that end we are engaging in a projection of space needs and detailed campus-wide analysis of space use and will request and initiate an engineering and architectural evaluation of the buildings. Both these studies will produce information necessary to intelligent decision-making on the question of preservation.

"Fourth, UWM has requested that the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board not take up the Downer Buildings at its June 11th meeting pending completion of the evaluations now under way.

"Fifth, the University will respond to the request made by the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission prior to the November date suggested in their recent letter."

We sent a delegation of five to the aforementioned June 11th meeting to respectfully oppose the University's request (item 4

- MEMBERS**
- Carolyn King Stephens (Mrs. John A.), Co-ordinator
  - Alumni of Downer and Lawrence
  - Doris Brennan (Mrs. R. E.)
  - J. Frederic Ruf
  - Evangeline Fisher Conway (Mrs. J. P.)
  - Anne Megna Guntz (Mrs. Carl)
  - Helen Trebilcock Hasey (Mrs. Sterling)
  - Joan Poppert Jacobs (Mrs. Wm. F.)
  - Gertrude Breithaupt Jupp (Mrs. Russell)
  - Elizabeth Collier Laird (Mrs. Kenneth)
  - Kenneth Laird
  - Donna Waitcheff Marshall (Mrs. Dean)
  - Louise Murphy
  - Helen Coffin Roberts (Mrs. Frank)
  - Alice Schroeder Wandt (Mrs. Hugo)
  - Leonard A. Widen
  - Mariene Widen
  - Carol Holmes Wierisch (Mrs. James)
  - Susan Stapleford Woodall (Mrs. J. P.)
  - University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
  - Robert M. Beckley
  - Ron Coons
  - John Dilges
  - David A. Gaarder
  - Mark Latus
  - Richard J. Paulsen
  - Frederick J. Olsen
  - Paul W. Schultz
  - Steve Weber
  - Members of Community and Families with Historical Relationship
  - William Merrill Chester Jr.
  - Elizabeth Upham Davis
  - John C. Gollfuss
  - Carleen Vogel Guenther (Mrs. Christoph)
  - Elsie Greene (Mrs. Howard)
  - H. Copeland Greene
  - Anne Hayssen
  - Grace Norton Kieckhefer (Mrs. Robert J.)
  - Laura Isabelle Miller
  - Theodore Montgomery Jr.
  - Virginia Palmer
  - Marion Merrill Chester Read (Mrs. Verna)
  - Marion Merrill Smith
  - Anne Henoch Vogel
  - Frederick Vogel III
  - H. Russell Zimmerman
  - WATCHDOGS**
  - Harry H. Anderson, liaison - Milwaukee County Historical Society
  - Eleanor Conners Bell
  - Winifred Filliam (Mrs. Donovan), liaison - Concerned Citizens of Riverside Area
  - Jean G. Linton (Mrs. Thomas A.), liaison - North Point Preservation Association
  - Russell Kretzger, liaison - Eastside Community Council
  - Irwin Maier
  - Maynard Meyer
  - Evelyn Patshek (Mrs. Kirk), liaison - City Plan Commission
  - Tom Phillips, liaison - Lakeside Community Council
  - Carl Quast, liaison - American Institute of Planners
  - Tom Ramsey, liaison - Milwaukee East Organizations Congress
  - Mike Sielaff
  - Brian Spencer, liaison - American Institute of Architects, Wis. Chapter
  - Edward Van Housen
  - Virginia Booth Vogel (Mrs. William D.)
  - William D. Vogel
  - Mike Walker, liaison - Aldo Leopold Conversation Club
  - Rymund Pabst Wurlitzer
  - Gary V. Zimmerman

above). Our reasons were given in a letter to Mr. Mead with copies sent to the appropriate persons. We stated:

"It is most possible that within the next year and a half the Bureau of facilities Management will be asked to present a report on the Downer Buildings to the Building Commission. Without documentation of the historic value by means of the authority of your board and that of the 1973 National Review Listing, we feel the case for renovation may not be fairly represented. The halls will be judged by mainly economic standards. We fear the delay which the University has asked may put our efforts off until listings made at the end of 1974, a crucial time difference to the life of these buildings."

At the meeting, the Historic Preservation Review Board voted to grant preliminary approval to the Downer Buildings for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Listing in the Register could make federal funds available for renovation. Our committee shall pursue that goal to document our claims of the historic worth of the buildings.

Our relationship with the University is one of co-operation. We have been given many hours of conference time and feel we've had a fair hearing. We are presently waiting for the personnel to complete their engineering studies and space analysis, knowing that they cannot initiate a request for large scale renovation funds without observing these procedures. Our greatest concern is not for a speedy action, but for the quality of renovation which the Building Commission, as well as the University, will make possible.

Our case rests now with the University, but we must be prepared for the next level -- the State! Here proof of popular support and documented claims of historic worth will be most important. We are pleased that assemblyman Dennis Conta has taken interest in our case. He has toured the buildings and investigated the attitudes of the Bureau of Facilities Management, technical advisors to the Building Commission. At a meeting in May, Mr. Conta outlined four points for our consideration: (1) Ask Mr. Riley to arrange meeting with administrators to discuss the buildings. (2) Demonstrate community interest in remodeling rather than razing "with tangible proof". (3) Press the University to formulate and project its plans for the buildings. (4) Secure another engineering report.

The University has acted on items 1, 3 and 4, as Mr. Riley's statement shows.

We are deliberating carefully on item 2 with the thought of seeking early fall interviews with those who might give major gifts toward a quality renovation and refurbishing of these halls. The state may grant funds for functional purposes, but we have found the yellow plastic and chrome pedestal seats in Merrill Hall's vaulted, carved beamed, Gothic chapel (with the very rare raked stage) to be a most regrettable adulteration of styles. To rise above a mere utility level renovation will require public concern backed up with dollars.

Any individual contribution would demonstrate sincerity and concern, and would be a statement to the Legislature. The Legislature needs the support of constituents in order to justify spending State funds. But, is there anyone who cares, with enough dollars to put real slate on roofs instead of the asphalt shingles now being used for repairs? The committee representatives will try to identify your feelings and act according to the willingness of the group to supply "the dollars to make the difference" between a simple, functional renovation, and harmonious complementary refurbishment.

- 3 -

Finally, a word about the operation of this committee -- your committee. From the start our stated goal has been to "educate the University and the state funding boards to the value of the Downer Buildings and the concern for them." The committee is organized by a "co-ordinator" whose job is to make effective the contributions of anyone who has something to offer for the Downer Buildings. Most of our best actions have come from individuals who have come forth saying -- "I can do this," or "What can I do?" Their work is still theirs, not the committee's, but we help to put it where it can do the most good.

All correspondence on our letterhead is approved for its content by at least two persons, and copies are kept on file for anyone's reference. Minutes are taken at all meetings (not individual conferences) and these are available to anyone. Decisions are not made unilaterally, but in consultation with representatives from the categories of interest groups making up this committee. Mrs. R. E. Brennan represents the Downer Alumnae; Mr. Fritz Ruf, the Lawrence University Alumni; Mrs. Verne Read, members of Community and Families with historic ties to the buildings; Mr. Todd Montgomery, immediate neighbors of the University; Paul Schulz, student co-ordinator; Bob Beckly, UW-M Madison. In addition, we seek the advice of independent consultants on legal matters, preservationist questions, or the operation of State boards, etc.

Please communicate your concerns or your offerings to your representative on the committee. We'd especially like some ideas on fund raising at this time. Until you hear from us again, keep a watch for further news in the press.

Truly yours,

*Carolyn K. Stephens*  
Carolyn Stephens  
Co-Ordinator

Special Thanks to:

Bob Beckley - advice, petitioning, attending meetings.  
Dorie Brennan - leadership, advice, typing.  
John Dilges - petitioning campaign, attending meetings, letters to Journal.  
Ann Dunst - driving to Madison.  
Dave Gaarder - driving to Madison, attending conferences at UWM, representing us on the Physical Environment Committee at UWM.  
Mark Latus - for his independent study on Holton Hall.  
Alan Magayne-Roshak - photographs for Historic Review Board.  
Irwin Maier - his good faith in us and launching our Watchdog group.  
Maynard Meyer - a good word at an architect's convention.  
Todd Montgomery - hosting Mr. Conta, driving to Madison  
Louise Murphy - secretarial help  
Rick Paulson - design for stationery; feature article on the architecture of the buildings; driving to Madison; petitioning.  
Marion Read - contact work, hostessing meetings.  
Paul Schultz - guiding tours; photography for Historic Review Board; petitioning; contact work; research; writing; meetings.  
M. A. Selaff - willingness to attend meetings, advice.  
Steve Weber - photography.

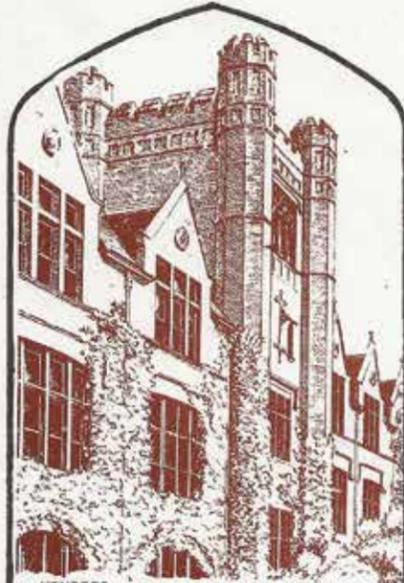
- 4 -

Petitioners:

Ruth Knox, Anne Hayssen, Esther Jepson, Pierce Kramer, Geof Hurtado,  
Kevin Balciar, Elizabeth A. Johnson, J. Miller, K. G. Nelson,  
Mrs. Lowell Alexander

cc:

Honorable Henry S. Reuss  
Assemblyman Dennis Conta  
Mr. Edward Prince  
The Honorable John W. and Mrs. Reynolds  
Mr. Richard W. E. Perrin  
Mr. George Chester  
President John C. Weaver  
Vice President Robert Winter  
Assoc. Vice President Wallace Lemon  
Dr. J. Martin Klotsche  
Vice Chancellor William L. Walters  
Assistant Chancellor John J. Solon  
Mr. William Murphy  
Professor George Gilkey  
Mr. Jeff Dean



# Committee for the Renovation of Downer Buildings

8017 N. SANTA MONICA BLVD., MILWAUKEE, WI 53217

January 1, 1974

Second Letter to Committee Members, Watchdogs and Friends  
of the Downer Buildings:

Within the month this Committee will celebrate the first anniversary since it began to "educate the University and State Funding Boards to the value of the Downer Buildings and the concern for them." Since our summer mailing, we have seen many good results from the organizing and planning reported at that time. In June the Milwaukee Landmark Commission established officially our claims of the historic value of the Downer Buildings in an early decision vote which made them the first Milwaukee Landmarks of 1973.

The decision included a recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Review Board in Madison that the college buildings be given national recognition. In October that State Board gave final approval for the Buildings' listing in the NATIONAL REGISTER as Historic Sites.

These honors were given the original four college buildings based on: the early founding date of the institution they housed which preceded that of the well known women's colleges (Smith, Radcliffe, Vassar, Wellesley and Bryn Mawr); they're part of the important role that the Midwest played in pioneering the American educational system (did you know the nation's first kindergarten was in Watertown, Wisconsin?); and their association with Catherine Beecher and other leaders of Anti-Bellum reforms such as missions, the free-thinking movement, and the feminist movement (Catherine also represented the abolitionist movement, though she was not so active as her sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe).

The architectural merits of the building were also cited as being well-detailed examples of Collegiate Tudor, a style distinguished by fine Educational Institutions of England but rare in America. (Yale University is another American example.) The college and seminary group massed together form a traditional academic quadrangle which makes the collection of even greater interest and value. Visiting architect J. J. Sierer states, after noting their "vigorous character" and "direct expressiveness," that "in this Country, except for a very few Eastern Universities, there are not many Tudor Buildings so perfectly sited in the Gothic Quadrangle Plan."

Even with these accomplishments, the goal of renovation has not been promised or even supported by the University to date. At the November Milwaukee Landmark Award Ceremony, Downer's Award went unaccepted until such time that the University determines its position. (The designation is recorded although the award has not been accepted.) Further cooling of our efforts occurred after our interview on Hallowe'en Eve with Chancellor Werner Baum and University representatives. The Committee representatives who attended concluded that fund raising should be temporarily suspended until we had more assurance that gifts could be applied to renovation, and tax exempt status thus assured. A preferred time for fund raising would be when the request for State funds reaches the Legislative level and show of public support becomes crucial.

In spite of the "detached" stance, I feel the University is moving, deliberately, in the right direction. For three days in November we noticed good on-campus recognition of our concern and gained willing supporters and volunteer workers. This occurred by means of a public relations booth stating "Keep the Landmarks on Campus" sponsored by the Student Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and operated by Kevin Balciar, student liaison and petitioning chairman. Bridging the generation gap, UW-M students were joined by Downer College alumnae in two hour shifts throughout the three day period. We concluded with a feeling of being in touch with the campus, some coin contributions, fresh new volunteers and reaching the 2,500 mark for documented supporters.

In December selected architectural firms were invited by the University Administration to tour the buildings and to offer their opinions on possible renovation of the two sections, college and seminary groupings. I was invited to conduct the tours and to express the Committee's point of view. Representatives from our Committee will be given input in the selection of the firm which will conduct the complete study on which the University will base its decision to seek funds for renovation or removal of the buildings. The University hopes the study will (1) tell them the economic feasibility of renewing, including a specific estimate of the life expectancy of the buildings after the work; (2) make a value judgment of the architectural worth of the building; and (3) make an evaluation of their historic importance. If the University decides to seek funds for renovation, the issue will move to the next level where your unified support would make a significant difference . . . again. Your consistency and patience will affect the quality of renovation the State feels it can approve funds for.

Our concern for the quality of renovation caused us to express some general distinctions underlying all of our efforts. We chose the word "renovation" (renewing) as opposed to "remodeling," which could involve drastic, expensive changes, or even contemporizing not in keeping with the exterior architecture; and opposed to "restoration," which connotes the kind of historical accuracy and integrity desired although it confines one to duplication of what has been in the past.

**MEMBERS**

- Carolyn King Stephens (Mrs. John A.), Co-ordinator
- Alumni of Downer and Lawrence
- Doris Brennan (Mrs. R. E.)
- J. Frederic Ruf
- Evangeline Fisher Conway (Mrs. J. P.)
- Anne Hedges Dunst (Mrs. Carl)
- Helen Trebilcock Hasey (Mrs. Sterling)
- Joan Poppert Jacobs (Mrs. Wm. F.)
- Gertrude Brethaupt Jupp (Mrs. Russell)
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- Kenneth Laird
- Donna Weltcheff Marshall (Mrs. Dean)
- Louise Murphy
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- Leonard A. Widen
- Marlene Widen
- Carol Holmes Wiensch (Mrs. James)
- Susan Stapleford Woodall (Mrs. J. P.)
- University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
- Robert M. Beckley
- Ron Coons
- John Dilges
- David A. Gaarder
- Mark Latas
- Richard J. Paulson
- Frederick I. Olsen
- Paul H. Schultz
- Steve Weber
- Members of Community and Families with  
Historical Relationship
- William Merrill Chester Jr.
- Elizabeth Upham Davis
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- Carleen Vogel Guenther (Mrs. Christoph)
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- H. Copeland Greene
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- Marion Merrill Smith
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- WATCHDOGS**
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- Eleanor Connors Bell
- Winifred Filisram (Mrs. Donovan), liaison -  
Concerned Citizens of Riverside Area
- Jean G. Linton (Mrs. Thomas A.), liaison -  
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American Institute of Planners
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- Edward Van Housen
- Virginia Booth Vogel (Mrs. William D.)
- William D. Vogel
- Mike Walker, liaison -  
Aldo Leopold Conversation Club
- Rymund Pabst Wurlitzer
- Gary V. Zimmerman

I hope you feel well informed on the status of the Downer Buildings to date. Your informed watchfulness and support are invaluable to the survival of these landmarks. In one year we have come a long way, from the decree that Holton Hall (middle building of the complete set) be razed to the NATIONAL REGISTER in Washington. Negotiations are slow and sometimes unexciting, but continued "talking it up" and cohesion as an interest group can make these old, charming buildings become a distinguishing symbol of the cultural heritage of Milwaukee, and Wisconsin, and the Midwest itself.

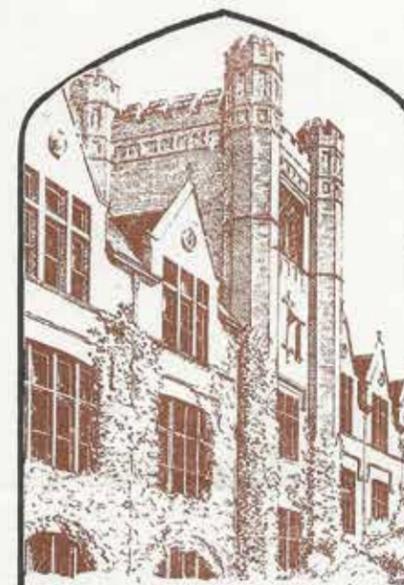
I am always interested in your opinions. Drop me a note with your comments or concerns.

Yours truly,

*Carolyn Stephens*

Special thanks to:

- Lawrence University and Lawrence Alumni Association; mailing costs, press coverage, continuous support
- John Geilfuss; committee work, meetings, business advisory assistance
- J. Frederick Ruf; committee work, driving to Madison, advisory assistance
- Charles McCallum; advisory assistance
- Ralph Hoyt; advisory assistance
- Dorie Distell Brennan; committee work, advisory assistance
- Mark Latus; permission to distribute his award winning article "Preservation and the Energy Crisis," which included the Downer Buildings
- Kevin Balciar; UW-M student liaison and petitioning chairman, for operating Public Relations booth and reaching 2,500 total supporters' signatures
- Rick Paulsen; committee work, art work
- John Hancock; assistant at PR booth, committee work
- Steve Weber; photographic display at PR booth
- Alan Magayen-Roshak; photographic display at PR booth
- UW-M booth workers; Mark Kraft, Jamie Levin, Geoff Hurtado, Paul Gawronik, Jim Dorr, Larry Giese, Tom Lesperance, Mary Pat Schmerth
- Downer booth workers; Gertrude Jupp, Mrs. J. Stewart Murphy, Janice Eskuche, Van Conway, Mrs. Adolph Stohmeyer, Marger<sup>ie</sup> Olson, Helen Haskell, Marion McBride, Mrs. Laflin C. Jones, Rita May Tharinger, Mrs. Norman Baker
- Mrs. Max Gendelman; liaison to Honoratae, Senior Women's Honor Society of UW-M
- Downer Alumnae Chapter of Southern California; contribution
- Louise Murphy; secretarial assistance



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# Committee for the Renovation of Downer Buildings

8017 N. SANTA MONICA BLVD., MILWAUKEE, WI 53217

March, 1975

1975 Report  
Letter No. 3

To the Friends and Watchdogs of the Downer Buildings,

Surely you've read the fast moving account of the saving of the Downer Buildings! (That is a joke.) Nevertheless, our two and one-half year effort to educate the "powers that be" to the value of the buildings and the concern for them is bearing fruit.

The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, now giving full support, has designated the first of the buildings, Holton, for the School of Business. It is also taking the lead in the search for funds. The UW Board of Regents has given its approval to the concept and directed the Central Administration to find the funds for the first phase of renovation. The last level to reach is the State Legislature. For a start, State Senator David Berger, Dem. 13th District, has introduced Bill 114 proposing to bring the Downer College Buildings and grounds into the protected properties already designated on the UW-M Campus. In Bill 114, the buildings could be renovated but not razed without permission of the Building Commission.

Don't get too confident though - you can't relax yet. To date, no funds have been assigned for renovation. For now, we are presuming that where there is a will, there is a way. As our case reaches the legislative level, it is stronger than ever. UW-M's economic and space needs arguments for "recycling" are complementing our historic and aesthetic arguments for preservation. Most satisfying of all is that the concern of people, organized to show their interest, has been heard and valued.

That "the people care" was a theme repeated time and again on February 6, during the magnificent 45 minute presentation (which took one and one-half hours) prepared by UW-M's Assistant Chancellor of Community Relations, Donovan Riley, for the UW Board of Regents subcommittee chaired by Mr. Odey Fish. It was a heady experience for the five representatives of this committee to hear top people in the state giving all our arguments for preservation.

- 2 -

A pragmatic appeal for first phase funding in order to seal the exteriors of the seven Downer Buildings from water damage and to adapt Holton Hall for the fast growing UW-M School of Business Administration was made by William Komsi, Assistant Chancellor of Business Affairs. His case was reinforced by C. Edward Weber, Dean of the School of Business Administration.

Heightening the occasion were the appearances of the special guests who spoke. Jeffrey Dean, representing the State Historical Society, portrayed the Downer Buildings as priority items in the state. Richard Wagner described the growing federal preservation picture in this Bicentennial era. Mary Ellen Young, Chairperson, Milwaukee Landmarks Commission, brought much welcomed comic relief and warmth with her views from the Milwaukee scene. And Donald Slichter of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, and long time Downer trustee, recalled the integral relationship of Downer to the growth of this community, as well as Downer's innovations in education and leadership advancing the professional status of women. Behind the scenes was a special letter from Richard Perrin, distinguished architect and architectural historian.

The members from the Committee for Renovation of Downer Buildings represented different segments of supporters. Theodore Montgomery III spoke for the neighbors in the University area. Van Fisher Conway (Mrs. J. P.) represented Downer Alumnae here and across the nation. Tom Betz of the UW-M School of Architecture spoke for faculty and students whose life is enriched by the stately quality of the building. Even Carolyn Stephens was invited to state that as long as the people in the community, and state, remain interested and watching, the CRDB will see that they are informed of the status of the buildings and the people asking decisions about them.

The day was capped by Jack Pelisek, Chairman of the Board of Regents and member of the subcommittee. Pelisek moved that the Regents support saving the Downer Buildings and appoint the Central Administration to prepare the necessary statistics, reports and papers so that action could begin as soon as possible.

The CRDB is investigating that "as soon as possible" to see if something can happen before the 1976 budget review next November. Meanwhile, we are urging all supporters to write in behalf of Senator Berger's Bill 114.

- 3 -

Send your requests that the Bill be brought to the floor and your reasons to:

Senator Bruce Peloquin, Chairman  
Committee on Education  
Route 5, Box 357  
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

or

Mrs. Carolyn Stephens, Coordinator  
Committee, Renovation of Downer Buildings  
8017 North Santa Monica Blvd.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217

Your names and addresses have already reversed some mighty decisions, so please make yourself heard once again.

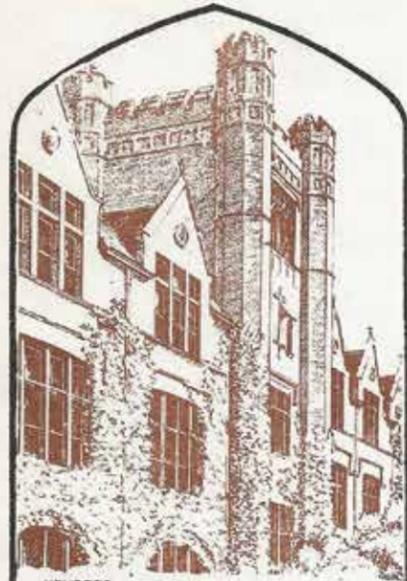
With appreciation,

*Carolyn Stephens*

Committee for Renovation  
of Downer Buildings

cc:

Mrs. R. E. Brennan, Secretary  
J. Frederick Ruf, Treasurer  
Mrs. J. P. Conway, Alumnae Coordinator  
Theodore Montgomery III and  
Mrs. Verne Read, Community Coordinators  
John C. Geilfuss, Advisor  
Donovan Riley, Liaison to UW-M  
James Sherer, Advisor on Renovation



## Committee for the Renovation of Downer Buildings

8017 N. SANTA MONICA BLVD., MILWAUKEE, WI 53217

Dear Downerites, c. January 1981

This Carolyn speaking from Milwaukee with a straight from the shoulder message to Downer Women. I have three items for you.

First: Mission Accomplished. Many of you contributed to save the Downer Buildings. This May 9, 1981, the success of our project will be celebrated at a Holton Hall Rededication Ceremony. Holton was in the worst condition but is now sparkling clean, bright with carpeting and new finished woodwork, very usable by modern standards. Historic areas such as the parlor have been preserved in period decor.

Why did we go to all that trouble?—Was it such great love of Downer? Not exactly. It was also the quality and pioneering leadership of Downer in national education and the emancipation of women, which made Downer significant. The beautiful architecture housed a testimony to these things.

Second: The past is not dead. The fine tradition set by great Milwaukee-Downer women such as Catherine Beecher and Ellen Sabin is still carried on by young girls who continued to graduate as Downerites each year from Lawrence.

Some of us aren't too warm to that, because we just don't relate to Lawrence. In History, marriages of convenience, nevertheless, are binding. Empires have been lost and won by contract when the parties had much less in common than Lawrence and Downer.

Now Downerites have to choose—whether to affiliate and be a part of the great past, part of a growing future; or just to drift off, with perhaps an isolated group of personal friends who will get smaller and disappear.

Third: A Message. I am in a unique position to say YOU STILL HAVE CLOUT as a Downer woman. I've felt the presence of Downer all over the State of Wisconsin and across the country. That Historic Preservation effort resulted in over \$ 10.6 Million... that's CLOUT! There are professional women as well as mothers of state senators, wives of corporate leaders, and hard working volunteers among us. We can do things if we don't dissolve and fragment.

Conclusion: I just agreed to do a service for the living Downer at Lawrence, namely to ask you to stick together and not dissolve into the past.

In turn, I asked Lawrence to do something to provide recognition to Downer efforts, namely, to set up a new category for Downerites' giving in the Annual Fund. The result is the new DOWNER FUND.

The DOWNER FUND will be subdivided. To provide some of the old spark of color competition you can designate a gift to the Green Class category, Yellow Class, Purple Class, or Red Class. Contributions from the Downer Fund would be used for the unrestricted support of liberal arts education for young women attending Downer College at Lawrence. The amounts from each color category would be announced in the Alumni magazine, so we could compare with each other.

The main thing, however, is we will be working together and continuing to make independent higher education available to young Downer Women.

Don't you think its time, Downerites, to show Lawrence your CLOUT!

"Red-i-ly" yours,

Carolyn King Stephens  
Milwaukee-Downer, Red Class of 1962

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Gary V. Zimmerman

## Chapter 5

### THE VIEW FROM THE TOP—"LUAA'S THREE DOWNER PRESIDENTS"

**Barbara Gray Spoerl M-D'44, President LUAA 1969-1971**

You met Barbara Gray Spoerl in Chapter 3. She was an energizer and a cheerleader who helped bring reconciliation to chaotic times as the last President of the Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae Association and the first President of the Lawrence University Alumni Association. For one interim year before the merger of Alumnae/i Associations, 1968-1969, she and Elmer Otte were partners at the top of their game. They worked together for "the second Consolidation" which would unite alumnae/i with each other, with students, and with Lawrence University. Years later, in 1984 Spoerl would credit Elmer Otte in front of an All Classes Downer Reunion, saying: "The accomplishment of consolidation owes much to then Lawrence [College] Alumni President, Elmer Otte, who provided the kind of 'security blanket' feeling that we have at Lawrence today. Elmer—with his inspiring words, his kindness, his patience, particularly his ideals" (See V. Appendix, 1 "Remarks" by Spoerl.)

It is time to better introduce the vibrant woman, whose magnanimous Southern style was synergistic when paired with Elmer Otte's midwestern gusto. Reasonably enough, records for her biography are not readily available but we can sketch her profile from the benchmarks provided in the Seeley G. Mudd archives. Barbara Gray, b. May 12, 1922, spent part of her childhood in Charlottesville VA, after which her parents moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her mother remained in Milwaukee through April 9, 1967, as Barbara mentioned in that 1984 address. From Milwaukee, Barbara attended Downer College and graduated with the class of 1944.

The 1966 Lawrence University Alumni Directory called itself "the first edition of the Alumni Directory to be published since 1922". Significantly,

it listed Lawrence College Alumni separately from Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae. Barbara Gray, is listed as Mrs. Edward Spoerl of Louisville KY. She would have been commuting from Kentucky throughout the five years of her Presidencies of the MDC AA (1966-68) and the LUAA (1969-71). Earlier, in Spring or Fall of 1961, Barbara was clearly in charge of the local Alumnae Chapter of Louisville KY. She had arranged with the Downer College drama department to offer a traveling "Reader's Theater Performance" for the next Louisville Chapter luncheon. The program featured "Scenes from the Great Performances of Maude Adams, The First Peter Pan." The student troubadour sent by the college and housed by Barbara in her home was Carolyn King (Stephens), junior or senior at Milwaukee-Downer.

Barbara served three more years on the LU Board of Trustees from 1973 to 1976 and was presented Lawrence's Outstanding Service Award in 1981. By the publication of the 1982 LU Alumnae Directory, Lawrence and Downer names were integrated, credit due, at least in part, to Barbara's work. The book claimed to include "the names of all alumni and alumnae of Lawrence and Milwaukee-Downer from the class of 1903 through the class of 1981." In this book, Mrs. Edward Spoerl M-D'44, was listed in Tucson AZ, where she would have been about 60 years of age. This means she would have been about 64 in 1984 when she delivered her keynote address. In the address Spoerl's highlight was February 10, 1968, the day Lawrence College and Milwaukee-Downer College Alumni/ae voted to merge their Associations. In addition, she documented that: MDCA A's organizing system became the model for the LUAA; Downer's effective chapter system had developed a high rate of attendance and

participation in events; Downer’s system of Class Secretaries had achieved a strong communication network; and Downer’s organization of Class Agents had developed an exceptionally high rate of participation in giving from 60% of the alumnae. As Spoerl left office, her eye was on the future and students. She had added a standing seat for a student representative on the LUAA Board and was setting up a network for Alumnae Career Counseling.

In her 70s, Barbara and her husband, Edward, established the *1999 Spoerl Lectureship in Science in Society*, which continues to fund environmental lectures to promote interest and discussion on the role of science and technology in societies worldwide. She led a joyful and generous life to the age of 84. Spoerl’s Keynote address captures the grace and vitality of this generous volunteer.



1. Barbara Gray, Cumtux 1944



Barbara G. Spoerl, c. 1964

### JOAN POPPERT JACOBS M-D’53 • PRESIDENT LUAA 1975-1977

In one word, Marlene Crupi Widen M-D’55 summarized what Joan Poppert Jacobs brought to the presidency of the Lawrence University Alumni Association, “Stature.” One can imagine how that would be true. To meet Joan during her presidency you would get a firm handshake from a handsome woman from Washington DC (who resided in Bethesda, MD). She was athletic, liked to play tennis, but also to read books. She had earned her law degree at Pittsburgh Law School in 1964, clerked for a judge in Pittsburgh, was at home in Washington politics and social life. Furthermore, she was perfectly comfortable in a culture of men. Joan Poppert met Bill Jacobs, an ex-navy man and an attorney, at the National Security Agency (NSA) where they both worked. Joan could converse with ease on Labor Issues handled by Bill as an Administrative Law Judge for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). You might also find that she had graduated *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Milwaukee-Downer with a BA in Languages (French and Spanish) and a second major in Economics (with Political Science).

Joan had other qualifications for the Presidency of the LUAA. For three years she had been an admissions counselor at Milwaukee-Downer

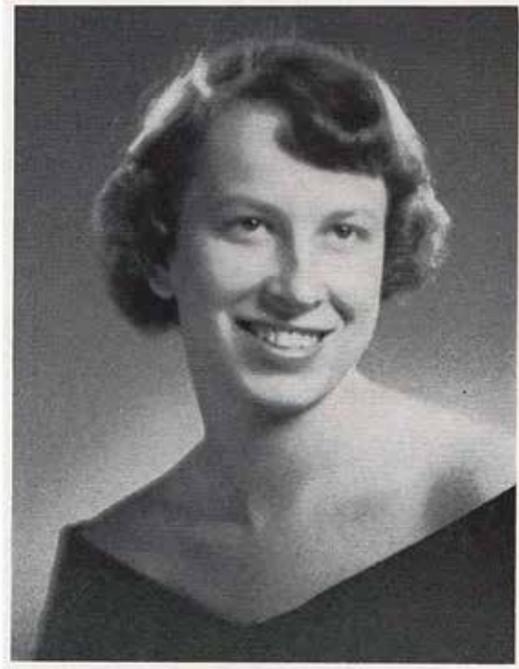
College (1954-57), so she understood the pressures on a college administration. From 1957 to 1960 she was a single working woman in the District of Columbia and at the NSA she experienced political science and administration on a national and international scale. In August of 1960 she married William Jacobs and they moved to Pittsburgh where graduate school, followed by work in the court system, kept her busy until 1965 when baby Gretchen came. Then it was back to Milwaukee in 1966 and the birth of William in 1967. Two toddlers put a halt to Joan’s Law career but opened new opportunities as volunteer in the Milwaukee Chapter. Their permanent move to Washington DC, took place in 1974 and Lawrence Alumni work complemented motherhood. The Washington DC Alumni Chapter was loosely structured but could draw from a large population including, on the northern side alone, Annapolis, Baltimore, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Potomac, Rockville, and Silver Spring, plus numerous smaller towns. Between 1960 and 1973 Joan served as Program Chairman, LU Alumni Representative, New Student/Parents Receptions Coordinator, Co-Class Secretary. She also served on the Committee for Renovation of Downer Buildings.

### Called to Service in the National LUAA

Joan was elected to her first term on the Lawrence University AA Board in 1973-75 during the Presidency of J. Frederic Ruf. The spirited Pewaukee alumnus, “Fritz” LC’59, was an outstanding goodwill ambassador, one of the first from Lawrence, to join the Downer-dominated Milwaukee Alumni Chapter. Energetic, personable, and a banker at the M&I, Ruf helped set up one of the country’s first ATM systems, TYME (Take Your Money Everywhere) in Milwaukee. At Lawrence, he majored in political science and he had a law degree from UW-Madison. Common interests probably helped build the team relationship between Joan

and Fritz when she joined his board. After two years with Fritz, Joan succeeded him as the national President for 1975-1977. In her recent interview, Joan credited Ruf for her role as the fourth LUAA President, “Fritz was a great guy, fine president, welcoming to M-D alumnae. He pretty much led the way to my becoming President of LUAA.”

So... what happened in the LUAA during Joan’s Presidency? Thanks to Archivist Erin Dix ’08, we have minutes from the last months of Jacobs’ Administration. The Alumni Executive Committee held a spring meeting in Milwaukee on March 4,



2. Joan Poppert Jacobs M-D'53  
President LUAA 1975-1977 *Cumtux* 1953



Joan P. Jacobs, Law School  
Graduation Photo, 1964

1977. Nancy Edwards Smith '62, was the recorder. Her minutes show start ups and long-term planning for programs and services which lasted many years. These developments benefitted Lawrence in three areas: the alumnae, the students, and the university. Projects, already in progress, show that an aggressive workload and tough management principles governed this board during Jacob's presidency.

**For Alumni:**

- \* An alumni insurance program began, using CASE insurance guidelines. The work included hiring a professional administrator; researching the best company to service the program; and rolling out the program to Alumni. (CASE is the prominent Council for Advancement and Support of Education.)
- \* Alumni would be offered Lawrence chairs. Alumnae would lead educational tours on the Lawrence campus for alums.
- \* Regional alumni numbered 16,000. Regional leaders will get better recognition, invitations and ex-officio membership on the LUAA Board.

More regional leaders will be nominated to the Board. A new LU staff person will act as Chairman of Alumni Councils, whose purpose will be to prioritize, facilitate, and recognize the work of regional alumni.

- \* An Alumni Election committee began, to improve systems by: developing materials that offer better criteria for voters; nominating full slates of qualified candidates from which to chose officers; providing better post-election follow up for candidates who don't win; rebalancing the Lawrence-Downer ratio (six seats for LU and two seats for Downer members) based on proportions of total members.

**For Students:**

- \* To improve student relations: a new seat was established on the board for a student representative. Members would be able to seek the representative's input before responding to student issues and petitions. Student reps would have voting privileges. An improved selection process began. There would be a slate of 30-40 nominees and each candidate would have a personal interview. A new standing committee for

Student-Alumni Relations (SARC) was launched.

- \* For Student Career Development: An alumni network would be formed to offer students help with placement and job contacts.... (That goal had to go on hold during this period but action on it would resume later.)
- \* For seniors, a senior program was launched to help alumni reach out to seniors before they leave the university. Activities would include a brochure of welcome discussing how and why to become an alumni member. Discussions included publishing a suggestion survey in *Lawrence Today*, inviting students to request alumni support, and making it easy for students to contact board members.

**For the University: The Alumni Board designed activities to address the following goals:**

- \* Increasing Admissions and Annual Giving. In spring of 1977 there was a startling turnover in President Thomas Smith's professional staff. The minutes explain, the Admissions Director resigned "along with several other personnel. ... There will be a series of new positions with a maximum of seven positions to be filled." Furthermore, in the Annual Giving Program, "... there is no director at this point. There are two student interns in the Development Office. One of the students is working on mailings for class agents to send out as well as the spring phonathons." Obviously the LUAA Executive Committee had its work cut out for it. They worked to help the University through a period with "Lack of contact between the Admissions Office, and the Alumni Office" as well as staffing shortages in the Development Office, the Class Agent Program, and the Annual Phonothons.
- \* Saving costs. LUAA Board Meetings would be held once a year; attendance would be mandatory. The annual meeting would last three days, Friday afternoon through Sunday mornings. New members would start on Thursdays for board orientation. Further attendance would be

required of committee members and chairmen, relating to their particular assignments.

- \* Restructuring the LUAA Board. They would make better use of the past president (aka Joan Jacobs). She would conduct the May meeting, be present at the reunion weekend in June, and serve one more year as "Past President" on a core Executive Committee in charge of finance. This last proposal came from Gil Swift, Director of Alumni Relations.
- \* Improving communication between the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Board. The Alumni would appoint one of its members to serve as a liaison to the Board of Trustees. Joan Jacobs was delegated to write the letter informing the Trustees.

Underneath these details there is a message. The President, Joan Jacobs, was valued by board members who voted that she stay another year and suggested that they make more use of her. Furthermore, she was valued by the relatively new Director of Alumni Relations who joined the Lawrence community in 1976, in the middle of Joan's term as alumni president. Gil Swift proposed she stay another year on the core executive committee in charge of finance. In 1984, Lawrence thanked Joan by giving her the "Outstanding Service Award." Gil Swift continued to serve Lawrence from 1974 to 1995, total of 21 years with widespread appreciation especially from Downer Alumni. In 1990 Lawrence thanked Swift with its special Presidential Award. Among his credits he was recognized for:

- \* revolutionizing the Lawrence alumni relations program by creating the first June Reunion Weekends,
- \* establishing regional alumni programs,
- \* re-energizing the LUAA Board of Directors and
- \* launching the Senior Class program.

Those initiatives continue to flourish to this day. We can see the seeds of Gil's success being sewn in partnership with Joan Jacobs, the Milwaukee-Downer woman who became the fourth president of the Lawrence University Alumni Association.

### CLARMARIE WHITE VOSS M-D'35 - PRESIDENT LUAA 1979-1981

A visionary, an energizer, and a team-builder, Clarmarie White Voss was the first to graduate and the last to serve of the three Milwaukee-Downer LUAA Presidents. She brought a broad life-span to her presidency. Born March 9, 1913, she majored in English at Downer, completed post-graduate work at UW, then taught in the Milwaukee public schools. After teaching, she became a matron of society in Milwaukee, active in the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the College Women's Club. Her professional credits include more than 42 years of alumnae service in offices as a leader:

President: Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association, 1945-1947;

President: Lawrence University Alumnae Association, 1979-1981, including six years on the LUAA Board.

Alumna Trustee: Lawrence University Board of Trustees, 1983-1987—four years, including the Steering Committee—LU Ahead Campaign.

LU Outstanding Service Award, 1982.

Beyond these, however, Clarmarie put in additional years of loyal service as a foot soldier and some of her roles were quite original and characteristic of Clarmarie. She was an earth-mother—three children graduated from Lawrence—and a fourth, her grandchild graduated from Lawrence. Three times, at approximately 10-year intervals,

Downer alumnae were treated to the spectacle of Clarmarie in her toga and sandals bustling to and from rehearsals for Alumnae Follies where she played the archetypal “Sophocles.” Opposite her was “Aeschines” (a Greek orator) played once by Evangeline Fisher Conway M-D'27 and twice by Louise Murphy M-D'42. These women represented figureheads of classical wisdom in the form of white plaster statues which, for many years, greeted visitors as they entered the main doors of Merrill Hall. The Seeley G. Mudd archives hold playbills and original scripts of these three, large-cast, musical, Alumnae Follies in which Clarmarie White Voss reliably appeared as Sophocles.

“Togetherness or The Price was Right” June 1964; by Daisy Estes Tucker M-D'39 and Betty Ren Wright M-D'49; directed by Carolyn King Stephens M-D'62.

Smilestones I: 1975—(125th Anniversary) written by Louise Murphy M-D'42 (with Ann K. Beringer M-D'55, Nancy M. Foss M-D'54, Eva Laur Krebsbach M-D'31, Daisy E. Tucker Kursch M-D'39, Urania S. Rauter M-D'31, and Helen C. Roberts M-D'28); produced & directed by Joan Tomarkin Lucht M-D'61.

Smilestones II: 1989—adapted from the Louise Murphy M-D'42 original; produced and directed by Joan Tomarkin Lucht M-D'61; filmed on DVD at Lawrence University.

#### Clarmarie's Presidency - Minutes of April, 1981

LUAA Minutes from Clarmarie's last meeting during her term as president show a well oiled machine. Projects, mentioned in the Jacobs era, were up and running smoothly. The turmoil of professional staff turnover in 1977 was over. The LUAA of 1981 was fully integrated with offices run by professional staff and numerous formally organized subgroups. President Rik Warch had been firmly installed for a year and a half; Alumni Director Gil Swift was in his fifth year. By 1981, the Alumni Board had four

permanent chairs for a faculty representative and three student representatives. That April, board members met for lunch with students from the now thriving Student Alumni Relations Committee (SARC). At this meeting the Alumni Board would vote to have three permanent liaisons on the Board of Trustees—each serving four year terms beginning January, 1982. The meeting included attendance and reports by the faculty representative, Prof. Corry Azzi '65; the Vice President, Davol Meader;

Development Officer, Steve Hirby; Public Relations Officer, Lee Ester; and from Financial Aid, Jackie King. Even President Warch attended and participated in debates. The number of mandatory full Board meetings per year was back to two.

Under Clarmarie's watch, the Board took the lead to produce the distinguished 1982 Alumni Directory, mentioned earlier. The Directory would put teeth into the nominating process, and provide better selection from across the regions. It would be a tool for developing Alumni Councils and their programs. Making the Directory involved strenuous data collection by Alumnae/i. The minutes report debates on alumni surveys, networking to improve distribution, an alumni attitudinal questionnaire, and concern over the 52% return rate on the questionnaire.

Minutes show the Board discussions on issues being addressed: how can Alumni support Admissions and participate in student recruitment; why class secretaries should be engaged in nominating and how to increase the quantity and quality of candidates. Alumni were active again in fundraising: phonothons, class agents, and a new club—the “Heritage” club for donors of \$1,000 and up. Under Alumni Trustee, Anne Fritschel Crone M-D'53, “The Treasure Map” was created and distributed across the country. This artistic presentation showed where Milwaukee-Downer

Treasures were located throughout the Lawrence University campus. It was a tremendous hit. Visiting Downer Alumnae felt more at home using it on a treasure hunt and distant Alumnae were reassured to know that Downer really was present at Lawrence. (See V. Appendix, 2.)

The career development program for seniors and graduates, put on hold during the Jacobs term, was now in full operation. According to the minutes, “the Career Symposium, which has been held every other year; ... could well be done yearly. The last one had 27 career people on campus, 23 of whom were alumni, with 11 different professions represented.” The insurance program, begun in the Jacobs term, was expanding. Art Schade reported, “those taking part in it will receive a notice that they can increase the amount of their coverage.” Two fund drive chairmen, present as guests, spoke about their responsibilities after which “a motion was made, seconded, and carried that Bruce Brown and Carolyn Stephens be ‘at large’ members of the Finance Committee during their two years as national fund drive chairmen.”

At the luncheon following the LUAA's spring board meeting, President Warch presented Clarmarie with appreciation for her service and “a deserved gift.” As you read above, Lawrence thanked Clarmarie again the following year with the “1982 Award for Outstanding Service.”

#### The Second Keynote Address at the 20th Anniversary of the Consolidation

On the morning of June 16, 1984, Barbara Spoerl gave her Keynote Address on the first 10 years of Lawrence as a university. That afternoon, Clarmarie gave her speech on the second decade after the consolidation. Clarmarie's speech was fast paced, packed with Lawrence and Downer benchmarks, and spiced with phrases of Downer songs. Most of all, it was a speech distinguishing contributions and recognizing those who had effectively implemented the Consolidation of institutions, hearts, and minds. It came from a woman with nearly 50 years

of combined service to Lawrence and Downer. Of course, it began by recognizing Barbara Spoerl for her role in bringing Lawrence and Downer Alumni together in 1968. The vote on February 10, 1968 was a major benchmark in the implementation of a genuine consolidation. (See full text in V. Appendix, 3.) The following is a summary of the benchmarks C. W. Voss recognized from the second decade. They emphasize the events particularly meaningful to Downer alumnae which *brought the Union to the University*.



3. Clarmarie White, Cumtux -1935



Clarmarie White Voss, 1979  
LUAA President

**I. The 125th Anniversary of the Milwaukee-Downer Charter, 1851**

A. The celebration began with the “Colors Day Reunion” in October of 1975.

\* The Downer Dial came to Main Hall when the Downer Class of 1932 succeeded in importing it from UW-Milwaukee to Main Hall at Lawrence. Voss describes the dedication ceremony highlighting the speech by Dr. Thomas R. Dale, the choir of “Downer Woman at Lawrence” led by Dr. Eugene Casselman with Dale’s conclusion: “We need not ask where Downer is; the light now falling on the sundial tells us that Downer is here and now.” (See Ron Tank, “Dedication of the Sundial, 42-43.)

\* The ceremony was followed by Luncheon at Jason Downer Commons, Lawrence University, named for benefactor of Downer College, Fox Lake.

After the luncheon, there was Alumnae Follies, Smilestones I, by Louise Murphy, directed by Joan Lucht. It was performed in Harper Hall at the Lawrence Music and Drama Center.

B. The celebration expanded in 1976, when the M-D Charter coincided with the American Bicentennial.

\* March 1, 1976 LU Concert at Shorewood HS. - vividly described with kudos to Dorie Brennan, for the Milwaukee Chapter’s heroic support of the event.

\* May 1, 1976, was “Landmark Day” for the Downer Buildings. The Milwaukee Landmarks Commission finally got its plaque mounted on Merrill Hall. Clarmarie salutes the committee, including Carolyn Stephens M-D’62, Mary MacKay “Toddie” Riemenschneider M-D’36, and Florence Davenport Bush M-D’30, for their contributions.

**II. 1975-1977 Gilbert Swift and Joan Jacobs’ era is saluted:**

\* Swift and Jacobs are recognized for development of the Alumni Board’s role within the Lawrence community, and the alumni chapters growing across the country.

**III. Tom Smith’s era is saluted 1969-1979:**

\* President Smith is acknowledged for building the new Seeley Mudd Library with a Heritage room, Downer archives, display of Downer clocks, and the rare books collection (many of which came from MDC.) Carol Butts ’49 is thanked for her contributions as Archivist and given high praise: Carol “brought a special expertise to the job of archivist. ... She has a feel for HAT and the mystique of Hat Hunt.” (Voss: Appendix, 3.)

\* Downer Artifacts and Heirlooms are distinguished by Clarmarie, items listed on Anne Towne’s Treasure Map (described earlier).

**IV. January, 1979—Search Committee for Third President of Lawrence University is formed.**

\* The search committee would include: four faculty, four trustees, three alumni, and three students. Downerites were represented by: Marjory Irvin, Anne Fritschel Crone Towne M-D’53, and Clarmarie White Voss. The benchmark was the selection of Rik Warch who would serve from 1979 to 2004, as the third President of Lawrence University.

\* The Ceremony of Warch’s Installation on November 29, 1979 is vividly described and is best read from Voss’s own hand. (See Voss, Appendix, 3.)

**Toward the Future, Not the Past**

The lifetime of Clarmarie White Voss extended over 79 years and it had blossomed through her work—in teaching, marriage, motherhood, and service to Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence. The photos (left) show how she flourished in maturity. A key characteristic of her vitality was her sense that life was purposeful and future oriented. Although she was nourished by history, playing Sophocles and appreciating the antiques from Milwaukee-Downer, her work was for the living, the young, and the future. Lawrence was the key to future Downer alumnae and Downer alumnae were going to save the world. Clarmarie certainly was not working to memorialize her good old days at college. Her photos show the enormous contrast between the past and what she became.

Twenty years after the consolidation, Barbara Spoerl, in her often mentioned 20th Anniversary Address, recalled how Clarmarie the visionary, advocated the merger of Lawrence College and Downer College Alumni/ae. With a practical eye on the future, Voss understood, there would be no

more alumnae after 1964, unless Downer women continued to graduate from Downer College, now part of Lawrence University. Spoerl’s favorite quote from the debates in 1967 was that of Clarmarie saying, “If we are to grow with our University we (the Downer Alumnae Association) had better join it! And, in my opinion, it is the only SANE way to go.”

Did it surprise anyone to read that “Students” were an important focus of the LUAA during the terms of Spoerl, Jacobs, and Voss? Underneath these details there is a message. “Students” mean future Downer women. For the first 25 years after the consolidation, senior women graduating from Lawrence University were clearly from Downer College. The women’s diplomas came from Downer College of Lawrence University; men’s diplomas came from Lawrence College of Lawrence University. In 1990 the wording on all diplomas was changed, due to concerns that separate diplomas to men and women might constitute discrimination under Title IX. <sup>1</sup> President Warch skillfully navigated through the rapids by changing

the wording. Now all diplomas are awarded “on the recommendation of the faculties of Lawrence College and Downer College.”<sup>2</sup> The wording still affirms that Downer College is one of the earliest women’s colleges continuously providing higher education in the nation.

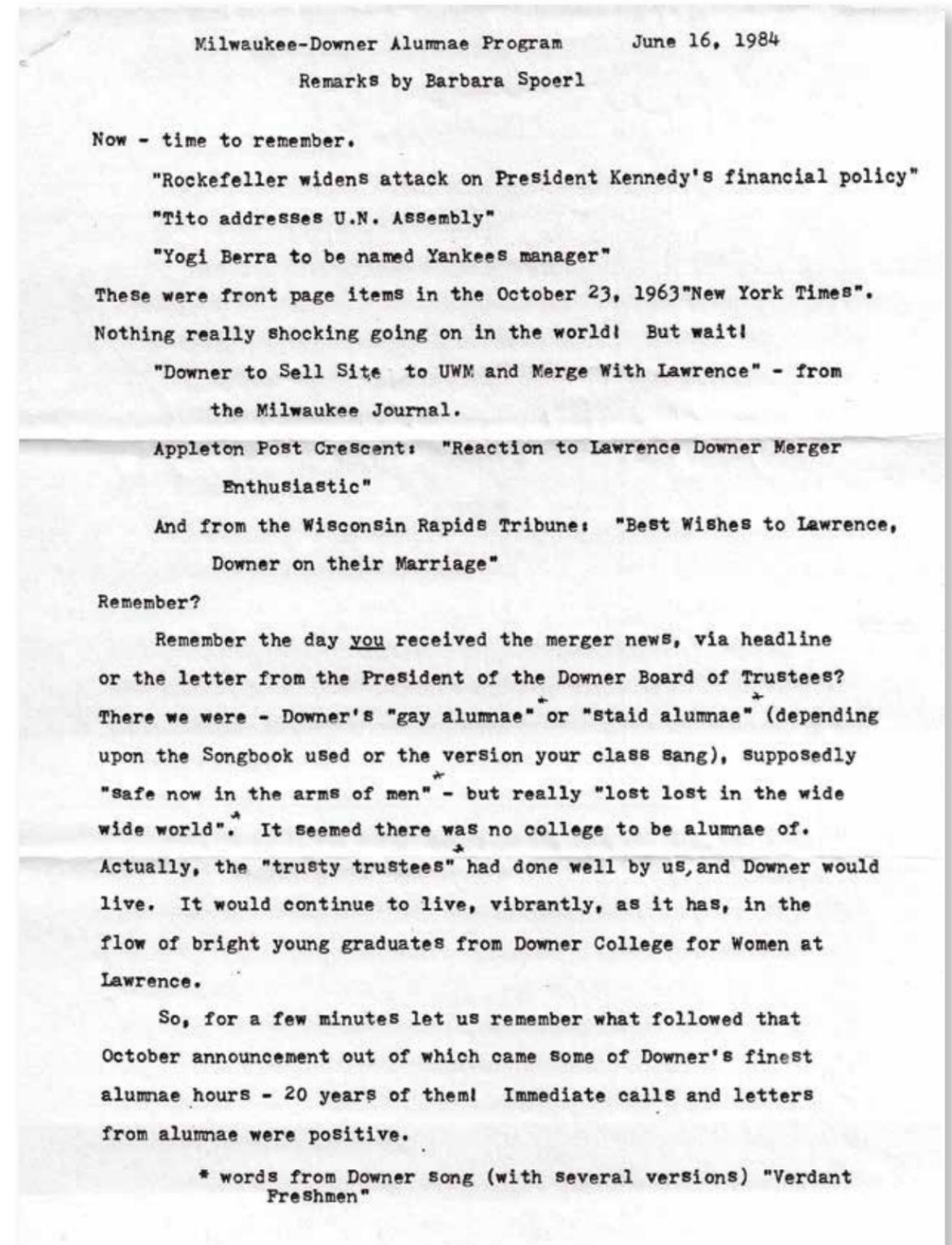


### END NOTES

1. In the predecessor to this book by Ron Tank, the 2018 *Consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College*, Sherwin Howard listed as one of the conditions in the negotiations between the Trustees of Lawrence and Downer that “Every effort be made to retain the name or identification of Milwaukee-Downer College in any consolidation” (p 6.)
2. In other ways, however, the Downer legacy was conscientiously being integrated into active life at Lawrence University. Ronald Tank (p. 35) credits President Warch, Archivist Carol Butts, Gilbert Swift, and the numerous Downer alumnae being spotlighted here, for their efforts to make Milwaukee-Downer College an active, living, part of the new University. Tank reminds us “President Warch, (1979-2004) preferred to refer to the merger as a “consolidation” of the two colleges since a merger occurs when “one school disappears into another.” The list of continuations from Downer to Lawrence, on Tank’s p. 35, is reinforced by the Anne Fritschel Towne “Treasure Map”, below (See V. Appendix, 2.)

### V. APPENDIX

### V. APPENDIX, 1 • Spoerl Review (original draft) • First Decade • Downer at Lawrence



1. Barbara Gray Spoerl, "Remarks," Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae Program, 20th Anniversary Reunion, Lawrence University, June 16, 1984.

2

"The news of Downer's proposed plans was electrifying. I want to let you know of my support and approval"  
 "Congratulations on the perfect solution to a difficult problem"  
 And - "I'm wondering if the river at Appleton will be navigable for our shells"

Remember? Details like this last one were discussed. What about hat hunt? We really couldn't continue hat hunt on the banks of the Fox!

But alumnae were assured our Association would continue to function - chapters, class secretaries, reunions and all. President Farr and Lawrence staff met with alumnae and students. Immediately several Downer faculty members were added to the Lawrence Committee on Instruction and combined curriculum changes were hammered out. The next summer twenty two faculty and staff joined Lawrence and about 50 students transferred. The books from Chapman library went to Lawrence. But did you know that about 45,000 volumes, duplicates of books at Lawrence, were purchased by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest through a grant from the Ford Foundation and sent to Cuttington College, a small liberal arts college in Liberia. The total more than all the books in Liberian college libraries.

Mergers aren't easy. And 1964 was an uneasy year for the Downer community. No doubt the Lawrence Alumni Association, too, felt a little unsettled about this influx of women. After our last gala reunion in Milwaukee (complete with Alumnae Follies, directed by Carolyn Stephens), we moved "operations" to the Appleton campus. Like so many Downer alums since, I had to find my way, ask directions, to my college campus, to attend the first Board meeting. But I remember that first meeting in Colman's Downer Room. There was one of our clocks; and in the cabinet, among other things, our

3

hat, the hat banner, and on top, our car.

At the time the colleges merged, Lawrence was the stronger unit. But Downer's Alumnae Association, with its geographically dispersed and efficient operating structure, its vigorous programs and devoted alumnae involvement, gave it the edge over the Lawrence Association. One of Downer's greatest strengths was its Chapter system, about 25 Chapters through which its alumnae programs were implemented. Remember National Milwaukee-Downer Day each fall when Chapters across the country held special programs on the same day? Our Class Secretary system was the likes of which Lawrence had never imagined. An item in the "Downer Newsletter" during the early merger years revealed "The Alumni Office continues to be amazed at the quantity and quality of Downer Class letters. Would you believe: 10 pages from Marge Bailey, '51 Class Secretary? Yes? How about 30 pages from Carolyn Stephens, '62?" Downer's Alumna of the Year award remained, paralleling the Lawrence Distinguished Service Award. Fund giving continued good, and the Class Agent system was instituted.

With time it was only natural that the two Associations grew closer together. The Boards met first as guests of each other and in June, 1967, in a full working joint session. Lawrence and Downer alums together in Appleton sponsored informal events for students. The Lawrence Womens Association changed its name to the Downer Womens Association. More Downer alums came to Appleton for reunions; a champagne breakfast bus trip from Milwaukee lured some one year. With Downer's example, the Lawrence Association revised its structure, enlarging its Board from 24 to 36, representing 10 geographical regions, and with the

4

provision for one fourth of the Board to be Downer graduates when the Associations merged. Two vacancies on the Lawrence Board were filled by Downer women, as were some committee positions. We were close to operating as one organization. Most importantly, we had similar goals which could be reached far more efficiently in a combined organization.

Among some Downer alums there was hesitation about moving too fast to consolidate, for they saw the preservation of the Alumnae Association as the only remaining tie to their college years. But basically the mood was positive. And 1967-68 became busy with the second merger - that of the two Associations - carefully called "consolidation". An Ad Hoc study committee had its first meeting Sunday, April 9, 1967, at my mother's home in Milwaukee (I guess it was half way between Louisville and Appleton!). In June the two Boards approved the report of the committee which outlined objectives, programs and structure and recommended consolidation as soon as possible. A Consolidation Committee, with Jack Leatham Chairman, was appointed, and work went ahead on drafting constitution and bylaws.

Again the response of Downer alumnae hearing of these plans was overwhelmingly favorable. "If we are to grow with our University we had better join it" (this from Clarmarie), and "In my opinion it is the only SANE way to go".

Lawrence alumni approved the completed consolidation documents by mail vote in early, 1968. On February 10th Downer alumnae did the same at a specially called Association meeting, planned to coincide with a regular Milwaukee Chapter meeting. Discussions that day were not without emotion - and sometimes funny - like the remark that if the Packers could brave the cold of Green

5

Bay, the sturdy Downer gals surely could survive meetings and reunions in Appleton. It maybe wasn't easy for all to vote "yes" that day, but all did. There were no negative votes. A mail vote by non-attendees was 702 yes, 62 no.

The accomplishment of consolidation owes much to then Lawrence Alumni President, Elmer Otte, who provided the kind of "security blanket" feeling that we have at Lawrence today. Elmer - with his inspiring words, his kindness, his patience, particularly his ideals. He challenged, "We can catch the golden ring!" With his inspiring and me bringing up the rear saying "OK let's grab for it and get this show on the road" (I never was famous for my patience!), we DID! WE CAUGHT IT! And in June, 1968, we had a great consolidated commitment meeting. The Consolidation Committee reported: "Consolidation has been accomplished....our task is through and our committee disbanded". Four years after the college merger the Lawrence University Alumni Association was born!

Much of Downer was evident in the exciting early years of the LUAA. Great effort went into expanding Chapters based on Downer's system, to allow for more productive involvement in growing programs such as admissions assistance and fund raising. An early merger report from the Milwaukee Chapter noted: "We invite Lawrentians to all of our meetings, but very few attend". They have come a long way since in Milwaukee.

The young LUAA had a comforting relationship of mutual respect between alumni and students, at a critical juncture for student-university relations nationwide. I like to think that an active participation of alumni in the career counseling process began with a chat between one alum and one student one day in Colman lounge. I've been proud that in 1970 we first added a student to the Board.

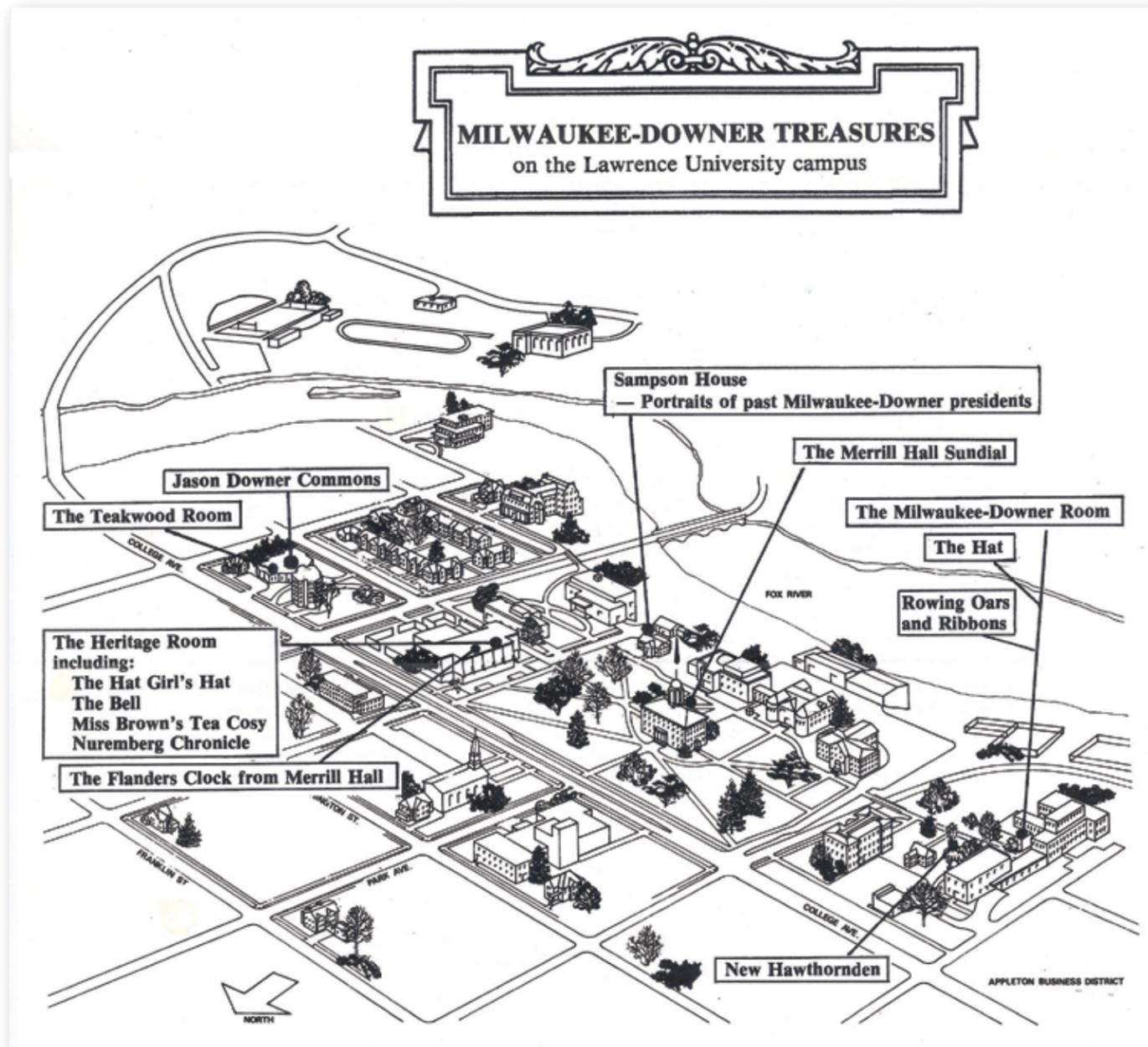
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The LUAA has had three Downer presidents. And Downer alumnae have worked hard in many many areas.

Downer is fond memories for us. It's good to savor the memories, as today. But our present is our Lawrence involvement. And our future is our active commitment to the excellence of liberal arts education at Lawrence.

I'm so glad you're all here to "celebrate" and to renew that commitment - to keep Lawrence ahead.

V. APPENDIX, 2 • Anne Fritschel Towne M-D'53 Treasure Map



V. APPENDIX, 3 • Voss Review (edited), Second Decade • Downer at Lawrence

**Reunion 1984 Luncheon Colman Hall and Program Harper Hall • 20th Anniversary of Consolidation.**

President and Mrs. Warch, Downer Alumnae, and guests, it is both a pleasure and a privilege to have been asked to be a part of this glorious occasion as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the merger of Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence. Listening to Barbara's remarks, I am impressed with all the hard work done by Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence alumni during the first decade. They grappled with thorny problems and made good decisions. Their wisdom and foresight provided good guidelines, and we are grateful. The years 1964 to 1974 reflect all the eddies and swirling waters as the two institutions joined and traveled on together. It was a time of experimentation, hesitation, hopes, and dreams which might best be expressed by the words of "Getting to Know You".

The year 1975 was a Lawrence milestone, the 125th anniversary of its founding and in October of that year the second decade of the merger had a wonderful beginning. In our "Alma Mater" we sing, "Here's to the ivied tower, the dial shall remembered be". When the Milwaukee-Downer Class of 1932 came to Appleton for its 40th reunion, class members had an inspired idea. Why not give that dial a new home on the south wall of Main Hall? Why not indeed!! With signs saying "Welcome Milwaukee-Downer" we gathered at the south side of Main Hall, where Mr. Casselman had a group of Downer women of Lawrence University on the steps beneath a blue and white banner fluttering tantalizingly in the breeze. After their singing Thomas R. Dale gave the dedication. As the banner was pulled aside to reveal the sundial, he concluded his remarks saying, "We need not ask where Downer

is; the light now falling on the sundial tells us that Downer is here and now." Luncheon in the Gold Room at Jason Downer Commons was followed by an Alumnae Follies, *Smilestones I* written by Louise Murphy '42, rehearsed in Milwaukee, and presented in the Music Drama Center. Members of the cast had to do some last minute scurrying for props and they were helped by members of the Lawrence Drama Department. Curtain time found all in place and alumnae trooped into Harper Hall to find the Downer statues Sophocles and Aeschines, ready to welcome them.

Milwaukee-Downer turned 125 years old in 1976, and the occasion was marked on March 1 by a gala concert presented by the Lawrence University Orchestra and Concert Choir in Shorewood High School Auditorium. I am sure that many of you remember the ice storm and the feeding of the multitude. Each time Dorie Brennan and her committee thought we were about to run out of food some brave soul arrived with another casserole.

**20th Anniversary Consolidation p. 2**

May 1 was Landmark Day as the Milwaukee Landmark Commission presented a plaque making our beloved old red brick buildings official landmarks. The campaign to preserve the buildings had been valiantly spearheaded by Carolyn King Stephens M-D'62, Toddie Riemenschneider M-D'36, and Florence Bush M-D'30. Thanks to their efforts and the support of other alumnae and preservationists, these stand today, a reminder of happy days gone by as they serve the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and enhance the total charm of Milwaukee's East Side. Meanwhile the Alumni Association under the capable leadership

of the Director of Alumni Relations, Gil Swift, was flourishing. Joan Poppert Jacobs M-D'53 served as President of Lawrence Alumni from 1975 to 1977. The Alumni Board of Directors continued to develop its role within the Lawrence Community. A member of the faculty and two students were named to the Board as regular members and proved to be wonderful additions. More alumni chapters were formed across the country. Today they are important extensions of the University.

Thomas Smith had become President of Lawrence University in 1969 and during his term the Seely G. Mudd Library was built and the restoration of Main Hall started. The Mudd Library provided a handsome setting for the Merrill Hall clock just outside the Heritage Room which housed the rare book collection—many of which had come from Milwaukee-Downer. In addition, space had been provided for a Downer Archives. This area located back behind the scenes is presided over by Carol Butts LC '49 who brought a special expertise to the job of archivist. Growing up on Milwaukee's East Side, she has a special empathy for all of us as we arrive with our treasures or as we try to ferret out old minutes and photographs. She tells of taking music lessons at Hartford Avenue School and coming out one spring day at the exact moment that the Hat was found and watching the First Hat Girl being placed on the soup cart. She has a feel for Hat and the mystique of Hat Hunt.

Late in 1978 President Smith announced his decision to retire and his resignation was made public on January 18, 1979. A Presidential Search Committee was formed immediately. Four members of the Faculty, four Trustees, three Alumni, and three students met on February 15 to become acquainted and to organize the work that lay ahead. Three

members of the Committee were women who had Downer ties: Marjorie Irvin from the Faculty, Anne Fritschel Towne M-D'53 from the Trustees, and I, President-Elect of the Alumni Association.

It was a busy spring as the committee sifted through more than 250 applications, narrowed the field to three finalists, and made our choice in late June. With feelings of wonderment, relief, and considerable pride we realized that our task had been completed, and we were ready to submit to the Board of Trustees formal approval the name of Richard Warch, as our choice for 14th President of Lawrence.

### 20th Anniversary Consolidation p. 3

The following months were exciting. At his first public address at the Matriculation Convocation, President Warch brought his listeners to their feet with his stirring words on liberal learning. November 29, 1979 was a day replete with pomp and circumstance, tradition, and ceremony as President Warch was installed. Four former presidents were on hand for the three day celebration as well as Hanna Gray, President of the University of Chicago who gave the address at the installation ceremony.

The 80's have seen a refurbishing of the Milwaukee-Downer Lounge in Colman Hall and the rededication of Holton Hall on the old campus. The Milwaukee-Downer classes of 1944, 1945, 1946 joined with their Lawrence counterparts for a wonderful slide show at their reunion in 1980. Restoration of Downer buildings in Milwaukee continue and we celebrated our splendid heritage earlier this year.

The years move swiftly on and Milwaukee-Downer women find themselves more and more comfortable in their new setting. As so often happens, we have found Lawrence and

Milwaukee-Downer more alike than different. I should like to dig in my pocket of personal memories to give a few examples:—a letter from a freshman daughter telling of President Douglas Knight reading Dickens' *Christmas Carol* to Ormsby freshmen;—a Maypole dance on the lawn below the Union;—and La Vahn Maesch directing choristers as they sang old English tunes such as "Summer is A-Cumin' In." *The Messiah* was sung in 1963 while the country was still reeling after the death of John F. Kennedy and the whole audience was asked to join in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" before *The Messiah*. More recently, a bulletin board in Main Hall celebrated Spring, when Dorrit Friedlander shared the collection of a lifetime of poems in English, Latin, French, German. The bust in the Hiram Jones Latin Library was turned, by Dan Taylor, to greet all students and visitors as they enter the west door of Main Hall. All these memories testify to the extra special ingredient to be found in a liberal arts school.

### The Continuing Tradition

Winding up these remarks on the second decade of the merger, I should like to submit two bits of evidence that ours is a continuing tradition. The first is a letter written by Amelia A. Patterson who graduated 100 years ago from Milwaukee College. A Life Member of the Alumnae Association, she wrote in 1950:

"During the 65 years of my Alumna-ship I have watched with pride the growth of our College. It means much even to be a graduate of old Milwaukee College with its limited facilities—and how much more to have enjoyed the advantages of our splendid M-DC. Advantages enjoyed imply obligations due."

My second piece of evidence is a brief encounter that Toddie Riemenschneider and I had after this year's Scholarship Luncheon. We chatted with Liz McCrank who will be doing an honors paper next year on the history of the merger. We were thrilled and impressed by the enthusiasm of this beautiful, bright, articulate young woman, a member of the class of 1985 of Downer College at Lawrence University.

In *Smilestones* (1975), Sophocles asked, "What is Downer? A group of buildings? A plot of Land?" He was answered by Aeschines, "But don't you see? Downer is a spirit—the spirit of freedom, the spirit of independence, the spirit of courage. These don't need a special setting to be expressed. These qualities exist. Our girls took these from Downer and the Downer Spirit lives on wherever they are, whatever they do."

Today as we glory in our Downer Heritage, may we also bring the Downer spirit as our own very special contribution to Lawrence University for the years ahead.

3: Clarmarie White Voss, "Reunion, 1984 Luncheon, Colman Hall and Harper Hall," 20th Anniversary Reunion, Lawrence University, June 16, 1984. See [lawrence.edu/library/archives](http://lawrence.edu/library/archives).

## Chapter 6

### CONCLUSIONS “EFFECTS AND AFFECTS”

We have used quotes, speeches, and interviews to show M-D alumnae experiences from five points of view: (1) Independents; (2) Local Chapters; (3) the national M-D Alumnae Association; (4) and external relations such as Wisconsin government, the UW system, neighborhood groups, and historical preservation agencies. (5) Finally, we reviewed how the consolidation was experienced by the three Downer presidents of the Lawrence University Alumni Association. It is time to conclude: “What were *The Effects of the Consolidation and Its Affects on Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae?*”

In the 55 years following the consolidation there have been enormous changes in buildings and philosophies of education and educational workspaces. Education in 2019 takes place in locations unimagined in 1964, such as shopping malls and the students’ own bedrooms. Delivery systems incorporate innovations such as distance learning, distributed learning, independent studies, experiential learning, and tele-courses. Through it all, Lawrence University has distinguished itself by keeping its treasure: Liberal Arts (whole person) education in a *residential learning environment*, within a healthful and wooded campus, where there are face-to-face relationships between students and highly qualified faculty members. Education in residence provides learning in classes and outside of class with peers, as well as many types of staff support. Lawrence’s student/faculty ratio is 8/1. I’ll infer a general conclusion: *The Consolidation*

*helped Lawrence maintain and enhance the residential college and campus approach to education.*

The four institutions which originally formed Lawrence University have changed. The Institute of Paper Chemistry departed to Georgia and changed its name. The Conservatory of Music has long been differentiated within the University, offering its own degrees, a Bachelor of Music, and a five-year B.A./B. Music. Furthermore, it has its own curriculum, and faculty, separately distinguished by titles and in print materials. The students are integrated with Lawrence and Downer Colleges for their liberal arts core requirements. The two independent Colleges, Lawrence and Downer, on the other hand, have blended into one another. They are not distinguishable by students, courses, faculties, or degrees. As mentioned in Chapter 5, every diploma for a Lawrence University Bachelor of Arts degree is awarded “on the recommendation of the faculties of Lawrence College and Downer College.” This attests that two colleges exist but no distinctions are made. *Conclusion: the two colleges which were intended to consolidate have thoroughly done so.* Together they survived the 20th century revolutions of structuralism, modernism, deconstruction, and post-modernism. The faculties suffered together through technological evolutions from handwriting, to typewriting, to communicating—with gymnasium-sized computers, to PCs, laptops, and i-phones.

#### WHAT EFFECTS CAN WE MEASURE?

*Effects* are outcomes which are empirical and quantifiable. If they are not permanent, they are at least meaningful as benchmarks. Three conspicuous outcomes for colleges are the effects on enrollment, tuition, and endowment. Let us compare baseline data from 1964, presented in Professor Tank’s and

Howard’s Volume 1 on the consolidation, with data for school year 2019 from the intensely researched and scientifically determined outcomes in the *U.S. News—Best National Liberal Arts Colleges Report*.

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A description and the cost of each item offered for sale by Lawrence University is listed below. A Lawrence alumni directory, history, chair, record or tie may be purchased through the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, Sampson House, Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis. 54911. Please make checks payable to Lawrence University. Milwaukee-Downer chairs and jewelry may be purchased through the Milwaukee alumnae chapter, Mrs. J. A. Stephen, mementoes chairman, 8017 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Milwaukee, Wis. 53217. Please make checks payable to Mrs. Stephens.

*Lawrence Alumni Directory*—a geographical, alphabetical and class list of all known alumni of Lawrence and Downer colleges, plus lists of former presidents of both institutions. Distin-

guished Service Award and Alumna of the Year Award recipients. Price: \$2.50, including postage and handling.

*Creation of a Campus*—a history of the founding and development of the Lawrence campus, written by Marguerite Schumann, director of publicity and publications. Price: \$3.50, including postage and handling.

*Captain's Chair*—a black lacquer captain's chair with black lacquer or cherry wood arms. A gold Lawrence University Seal or a gold Milwaukee-Downer College Seal is affixed to the back of the chair. Price: \$35, plus C.O.D. freight charges.

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*Lawrence Ties*—a blue and white striped tie. Price \$3, including postage and handling.

*Lawrence Record*—a Lawrence University Symphonic Band recording, featuring Celoris Hackbarth, '64, as piano soloist. Price: monaural, \$4.50, and stereo, \$5.50, including postage and handling.

**THEN AND NOW**

Effects upon:	Enrollment	Tuition [without Room/Board]	Endowment
<b>Then: 1963-64 [included Conservatory]</b>			
Lawrence College- women	516**	\$1,450*	\$ 8.5 ***Million
Lawrence College- men	<u>668**</u>		
Total Enrolled	1,184		
<b>M-Downer College</b>			
	157*	\$1,200*	\$13.5 *** Million
<b>Now: 2018-2019 [includes Conservatory]</b>			
Lawrence University—women	781 ****	\$ 47,475****	\$ 318.2 **** Million
Lawrence University—men	<u>692 ****</u>		
Total Enrolled	1,473		

[Sources: \*Howard, p4-5; \*\*Wisconsin Blue Book, 1963-64; \*\*\*Tank, p 20; \*\*\*\* U.S. News: Best National Liberal Arts Colleges for 2018-19.]

The outcomes are the result of many forces at work over the last 55 years. We cannot claim they were directly caused by or an effect of the consolidation but it is safe to infer that: *more than doubling the Lawrence Endowment in 1964 gave Lawrence a large boost in a competitive market.* The *Post-Crescent* reporter, Tom Richards, exclaimed “soon to be Lawrence University—will have the

largest endowment of any college or university in Wisconsin when a merger with Milwaukee-Downer College is completed next year. ...This is larger than the endowments of either of the two largest universities in the state—Marquette University, Milwaukee, and University of Wisconsin, including its various extensions.” (10-27-63. D1.)

**ENROLLMENT**

The chart above shows Lawrence is not much larger now than it was 55 years ago; the effect on enrollment has been health and stability. The university’s student body is about one fourth larger than it was in 1964. There is no exact size that is best. The *U.S. News: Best Colleges Report*, uses the Carnegie Basic System to evaluate colleges, based on 16 criteria for excellence but size is not one of them. The criteria are grouped according to: outcomes, faculty resources, expert opinion, financial resources, student excellence, and alumni

giving. According to its scores, Lawrence is tied for rank #56 out of 233 National Liberal Arts Colleges, which puts it in the upper quartile of a fiercely competitive category. At the top of National Liberal Arts Colleges are heavy hitters: Williams, Amherst, Swarthmore and Wellesley (tied), and Bowdoin and Carleton (tied). By way of comparison, here are the figures in the three areas of Enrollment, Tuition, and Endowment for the top two National Liberal Arts Colleges, in the *Best Colleges, 2018-2019 Report*.

	Enrollment	Tuition	Endowment
#1. Williams	2,061	\$55,450	\$2.4 Billion
#2. Amherst	1,836	\$56,426	\$2.2 Billion

**ENDOWMENT**

As one can see, endowments of the top liberal arts colleges provide a great deal of resources for scholarships with which to raise student excellence scores and diversity ratings; both are criteria in the Carnegie formula. Lawrence administrators, staff, and alumni have done an outstanding amount of work to raise LU’s endowment to a level over 37 times the size it was before the consolidation. Downer’s \$13.5 million provided a jump start. In Chapter 5, Barbara Spoerl, summarized that Downer could also take credit for ongoing systems over the years. M-D raised the bar with its high alumnae donor participation rate of 60% (also cited

by Marlene Crupi Widen M-D’55 in Chapter 3). Vigorous and active alumni are a college’s human resource endowment. Through the consolidation, Downer brought it’s systems of class agents, class secretaries, and chapters which became models for Lawrence University. Chapters 3 and 5 provide evidence that the *consolidation improved systems for the ongoing growth of Lawrence’s endowment through alumni participation in giving, attendance at events including reunions, and service to the University.* (See Relative Comparison of Downer Endowment levels through time, IV. Appendix, 1.)

**TUITION**

Lawrence’s tuition is close to 33 times higher than it was at Lawrence College in 1963-64. Of course there has been inflation effecting operating expenses at all schools and the ability of families to meet rising tuition costs. Lawrence kept its enrollment stable while managing rising operating expenses and holding tuition hikes in check. *U.S.News: Best Colleges Report* confirms this by giving Lawrence a 2019 Value Rank of # 39, based mainly on the ratio of quality factors to the cost of tuition. Kudos for Lawrence’s success.

Downer Legacy survey reports there are 32 Milwaukee-Downer endowed scholarship funds assisting students at Lawrence, as well as 10 M-D endowed faculty chairs, subsidizing annual salary expenses [Tank, *Consolidation*, p. 35.] As time passes and assets grow, new funds carry Lawrence University names and the proportion specifically linked to Milwaukee-Downer becomes smaller. Nevertheless, endowed Downer Scholarships are perpetual. Depending on their management, they grow. *The consolidation brought the immediate support for funding student scholarships and faculty chairs. Over 55 years, these have had cumulative effects of helping students meet tuition requirements, keeping tuition hikes in check, and raising Lawrence’s ranking as a value college.*

A major factor motivating qualified students to pay Lawrence’s tuition is financial aid: grants, scholarships, and loans. The Best Colleges report for 2018-2019 shows 61% of Lawrence’s full time students receive combinations of financial aid from private and federal sources. Ron Tank’s

**REPUTATION**

A brief word about the effect of Reputation in shaping the Best Colleges: *U.S. News* calls this criteria *expert opinion*. We also consider Reputation as a factor in decision-making by families choosing Lawrence over other colleges. The consolidation widened Lawrence’s name

recognition in Wisconsin, and also among experts beyond Wisconsin—college admissions counselors, academic administrators, and professionals from other schools whose opinions form Lawrence’s reputation. The consolidation was big news in 1964, as the enthusiasm of the *Post-Crescent*

reporter in the quote above showed. High school parents, teachers and counsellors, were reminded of Lawrence in Appleton when reading “Lawrence University—will have the largest endowment of any college or university in Wisconsin when a merger with Milwaukee-Downer College is completed.” As late as 1979, when Rik Warch took the office of President, he would introduce himself as “Rik Warch, President of Lawrence - neither Saint nor Mary.” Of course, Warch knew that Lawrence of Appleton was well known in educational circles for its distinguished past Presidents Wriston, Pusey, and Knight, who, respectively became Presidents of Brown, 1937-55; Harvard, 1953-1971; and Duke, 1963-1969. However, for the general public, *the consolidation helped put Lawrence of Appleton, Wisconsin on the map.*

### WHAT WERE THE AFFECTS OF THE CONSOLIDATION ON MILWAUKEE-DOWNER ALUMNAE?

Affective influences are harder to grasp because *Affects* are partial outcomes involving emotions and fleeting, psychological, subjective feelings. Through interviews and documents we have shown individuals and representative groups of alumnae being affected by the consolidation in a variety of ways. There remains in the Lawrence Archives a unique and valuable resource for assessing collective *Affections* and *Affects* on alumnae as a whole. That would be the public expressions by representative groups, performing to large audiences on benchmark occasions. *A culture of performance* developed at Milwaukee-Downer College and continued after the 1964 union of colleges. Records of performances include scripts from five, large-cast Follies productions, two reunion videos, and other staged public happenings. In the final segment, we will introduce a unique collection, available for further research in the LU Archives.

*Through the consolidation, Milwaukee-Downer brought its distinguished 19th century legacy to Lawrence with its links: to the pioneers in women’s education—Emma Willard, Mary Lyon, and Catharine Beecher; later came Vassar’s Charles Farrar and Radcliffe’s Lucia Briggs. Milwaukee personages of distinction included Increase Lapham, Jason Downer, Henry Palmer, Ellen Sabin and Milwaukee founding families, industrialists, and manufacturers such as the Chapmans, Vogels, Greenes, Holtons, and Merrills. Although Downer programs in Occupational Therapy and Home Economics were discontinued after a brief trial at Lawrence, they were the foundation of professional schools that distinguished Milwaukee-Downer on a national level. Leading the creation of new professions were Beecher’s specialty Domestic Science, begun in 1901, and Occupational Therapy, prompted by WWI in 1918.*

Public performances consolidated *feelings and sentiments* of Downer Alumnae from all decades and age groups. The communication was direct and indirect engaging complicated forms such as satire, innuendo, humor, subversion and persuasion, which said more than simple, expository writing would have revealed. By studying the performing arts material, we can turn the cacophony of voices from hither and yon into rich communication. In addition to the performing arts, a selection of books, with comments, is provided to point future researchers to authors who have had the most intimate knowledge and relationships with Milwaukee-Downer through the 171 years since the beginnings with Ms. Parsons. The most outstanding works are those by Catharine Beecher (c. 1842 and 1846), Grace Norton Kieckhefer M-D’22, and Lyman Beecher Stowe (c. 1934). LBS was the grand-nephew of Catharine Beecher and grandson of Harriet Beecher Stowe. (*See Works Consulted.*)

### CREATING AN EXPRESSIVE CULTURE THROUGH PERFORMANCE

Miss Emily Frances Brown, Professor of English (1891- interrupted; returned, 1900-1945) must be listed with Amélie Sérafon, and Elizabeth Upham Davis, as having had a lasting effect on the collective culture at Milwaukee-Downer College. In 1910 while visiting a bookshop in Oxford UK, she discovered the Frederic Austin arrangement of “Twelve Days of Christmas” which she brought to Milwaukee and worked into her rotating cycle of English Christmas plays. That cycle included old English Revels; a medieval Nativity sequence; and a series of “rollicking” Dickens productions, according to Milda W. DeFandorf M-D’20, in a first hand account. (See VI. Appendix, 2.)

A Teacher is known by the students she develops. Miss Brown developed Writers including Defandorf, Gertrude B. Jupp M-D’18, and Grace Norton Kieckhefer M-D’22. According to Kieckhefer, “... no one could interpret the Gothic spirit, and the mysticism of the Middle Ages, as could Miss Brown.

*... She loved to make great figures of history and literature come alive for her students by celebrating their anniversaries with play or pageant, with lovely, little- known music, and with all the colorful staging for which she had such a flair” (Kieckhefer, History, 108). Brown’s affect on Downer women lasted for generations and created the culture of expression through performance. Not only students but faculty, too, let people know their priorities, passions, and pleasures through expressive performances at Milwaukee-Downer College.*

Here follow eye-witness accounts of the five major Follies performances after the Consolidation. External events, drawing over one hundred Downer Alumnae and community participants, are indicated in chronological order to show the full spectrum of major Alumnae activities. Through the overview we will see the affects of the consolidation, over time, on Alumnae. Interpretations are in italics.

### ALUMNAE EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES AFTER CONSOLIDATION

#### 1. 1964, March 21, the Last Faculty Follies:

C  
PUNDITS’ PARANOMASIA or FA ULTY FOLLIES  
^

Author: Marjory Irvin

Assistants: Unknown

Cast and Crew: At least 18 participants (See VI., Appendix, 3.)

The consolidation was announced in the theatre of Merrill Hall on October 22, 1963. That scene and its immediate effects are detailed by Howard Sherman in *The Consolidation*, pages 8-11, Volume 1 of this study. By March 21 of 1964, however, the Faculty had rallied and were the first to shape their feelings and opinions into a form suitable for public representation. *What they intended to say, was disguised in humor and parody.*

The Faculty at M-D had been active participants

in college skits, sing alongs, and judging at every Cabaret. Cabarets were held each year whereby the Faculty threw out a challenging slogan to the four classes to be used as themes for a theatrical competition. In writing those Cabaret slogans, such as, “One Key Never Rattles” (1962) or “Get in the Habit with Drug Faire” (1960), they must have honed their skills in pun making, innuendo, and hidden meanings. Marjory Irvin Professor of Music (1947-1987) was both young and musical. <sup>1</sup> She seems to have been the major organizer. She contributed

her personal papers to the LU archives and she recently uncovered the full script of a Faculty Follies, for the year 1962. Mary Poulson<sup>2</sup> Professor of Physical Education (1963-1993), is our only eye-witness who actually appeared in the cast of *Pundits' Paranomasia*, as shown in Photo 1, below. Mary demonstrates the deception that flourished during this follies. She can't remember exactly who she played, but it was not herself. She thinks she played Professor Dorothy Dart, but the names of performers in the program are deliberately scrambled (See original program VI. Appendix, 3.) The Professor of Teacher Preparation is listed as Inez Harvey; her real name was Inez Richards. The actual Professor of Philosophy (and Religion) was Dorothea Harvey, but the name in the program is listed as Dorothea Dart. The Professor of French, who was actually Dorothy Dart, is listed in the program as Dorothy Verhulst. There is a sociology professor listed in the program as Sid Blume, but in the actual faculty, Steven Blume taught English and the (Assistant) Professor of Sociology was Sidney Peck. In short... *The affect on the faculty was light. They were laughing it off, but the names were changed to protect the guilty.*

Marjory Irvin called her file of 1962 materials her "Valuable Junk", which contains evidence of much singing and sheet music for a B-flat trumpet. In

the file is a musical parody called "The Teachers' Lament," set to the tune of "Adelaide's Lament" from *Guys and Dolls*. One can only wonder who performed it and who played the B-flat trumpet. Scenes are set in faculty meetings, dorm smokers, administrative offices, and on the bus during choir tour. One gets a thorough view of college life, through a carnivalesque perspective. In the affective domain: *The Administration, faculty, and staff show themselves to be a closely bonded and good natured team.*

Act III of *Pundit's Paranomasia* (1964) is titled "The Wedding in the Woods", or "Dementia in Laurentia" which shows that an *affect of the consolidation* on the faculty was anxiety or loss of mind in the future. Mary Poulson's fondest memory from the '64 Faculty Follies was Dr. Thomas Dale (1955-1981), Professor of English, performing ballet. Possibly this occurred during "Dementia in Laurentia." Dr. Dale was a tall, dignified figure, as you can see, giving the 1975 dedication speech for the Downer Sundial newly mounted on Lawrence's Main Hall (Tank, page 42). Tom Dale was an outdoorsman who canoed and hiked across Downer's back campus twice a day, scaling the wrought iron fence along the edge of Downer Woods. *I imagine that with his willowy form, he performed ballet rather well.*

Faculty Follies, 1964 and 1962



1. Professor Mary Poulson, behind podium, in *Pundits' Paranomasia*, 1964. 2. Professor Marjory Irvin, front and center, in the 1962 Faculty Follies: *Scholarly Schizophrenia or Psychoacademia*. Also identified, Nancy Hungate, on right in the trio.

## 2. 1964, June 6, The Last Alumnae Follies, at the Milwaukee Campus

*Togetherness* or THE PRICE WAS RIGHT

Performed - in Merrill Hall at MDC

Author: Daisy Estes Tucker Kursch M-D'39, with Betty Ren Wright '49,

Directed by Carolyn King Stephens M-D'62.

Statues: Evangeline Fisher Conway M-D'27 and Clarmarie White Voss M-D'35

Cast/Crew: 24 participants.

Audience: *Togetherness* played to a full house.

The last alumnae Follies in Merrill Hall was a happy event that united Downer women of every decade. It gave the youngest graduates a chance to work and play with the grande dames. The head writer, Daisy Estes Tucker, was an experienced author and professor at Marquette when she crafted the script. Like every great hit at Milwaukee-Downer, it was a musical. This one featured dances from each decade. Two grande dames in the cast were Evangeline Fisher Conway M-D'27 and Helen Cofrin Roberts M-D'28 representing the 1920's. Van was well known, having been a star, Sam Weller, in Miss Brown's "rollicking" Dickens productions. Tall and energetic, Van always had

to play boy's parts in plays and dances before co-ed dancing was introduced at Milwaukee-Downer. "Coffee" Roberts was President of the Milwaukee Chapter from 1968-1970. (See original program, VI. Appendix, 4.)

In this production, Evangeline Fisher Conway M-D'27 and Clarmarie White Voss M-D'35 played Aeschines and Sophocles, two white plaster statues that greeted visitors when they entered the vestibule in Merrill Hall. The statues became a stock feature of Follies thereafter. The basic structure for an Alumnae Follies was established in this production. Singing the favorite songs, reviewing the favorite



3. 1964 *Togetherness* or *The Price was Right*, the last Follies in Merrill Hall.

**Far Back Row:** Barbara Brandt Hughs '62, Helen Cofrin Roberts '28, Florence Davenport Bush '30, Lee Dodds Chemel '65 (in glasses). **Back Row:** Barbara Allen '65, Mary Hamilton Burns '62, Alice "Bogie" Schroeder Wandt '54, Ethel Levy Prohaska '62, Jane Conway Reynolds '62. **Second Row:** .....?, Charlotte Graner Falk '41, Bonnie Maas McClellan '62, Jean Kerr '63, .....?

**First Row:** Evangeline Fisher Conway '27, Clarmarie White Voss '35, Jean Parteka '63, Daisy Estes Tucker '39, Janice Kukuk Minardi '63. (standing) Carolyn King Stephens '62. For Crew and Committees (Original Program, VI., Appendix, 4.)

traditions. This particular Follies joyfully provided a survey of Downer Women through time, beginning with a Cave Girl. In the rehearsal photo (photo 3 below) the graduating years are listed with the performers' names to show how carefully the cast was chosen to represent alumnae from 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s. Somewhere, not always in the background, Mrs. Gertrude Jupp M-D'18, would be covering the event and sending press releases to the *Milwaukee Journal*. She was always active, representing the decade of the 10s.

Only in the title was there a hint of sarcasm and smugness about the consolidation. Lee Dodds, wearing sunglasses, and Barbara Allen still had yet to graduate. *The alumnae were unified, confident of themselves, and secure in their friendships. They were celebrating togetherness, which seemed as though it would last forever.*

\* Note: Major events held outside of Lawrence, drawing audiences of over one hundred and involving numerous presenters, are recorded below as External Events.]

\* External Event—Spring 1975: “*A Dramatical Historie, ...*” in the style of A Fezzwig Swarry, underwritten by the Wisconsin Bicentennial Commission. The reception and play were held in Green and Merrill Halls. Attendance surpassed the Merrill Theater capacity of 266. Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae organized the event in collaboration with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and University (High) School-Milwaukee, with music by the Milwaukee Recorder Society. Written and Produced by Carolyn Stephens, the play dramatized the stories of Catharine Beecher, Jason Downer, and Peter Englemann, building Milwaukee-Downer College and Seminary and the German English Academy, forerunners of Lawrence University and University School—Milwaukee. (See original program in VI. Appendix, 5.)

\*External Event - May 1, 1976: *Landmarks Day and 125th Anniversary Spring Luncheon*

*at University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.* In the morning, the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission mounted its plaque on Merrill Hall with remarks from Chancellor Werner Baum, UW-M; Bertram McNamara, Board of Regents; Frank Cassell, UW-M Bicentennial Committee; James Boerner, and the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission. In the afternoon, Downer alumnae made it a dual event with a luncheon, program and awards ceremony. (See original program, VI. Appendix, 6.)

### **3. 1975, October 18. *Smilestones I - 125th Anniversary of the Milwaukee-Downer College's first charter, March 1, 1851, and the Sundial Dedication***

Performed in Auditorium: Lawrence University  
Chairman and Director: Joan Tomarkin Lucht M-D'61

Assistant Chairmen: Fern Kruse M-D'32 and Louise Murphy M-D'42

Script Committee: Ann Kissinger Kursch Beringer M-D'55; Nancy Moberg Foss M-D'54; Eva Laur Krebsbach M-D'31; Daisy Estes Tucker M-D'39

Urania Schuster Rauter M-D'31; Helen Cofrin Roberts M-D'28.

Cast/Crew/Chorus: 44 total Downer participants, plus others uncredited

Statues: Sophocles—Clarmarie White Voss M-D'35; Aeschines—Louise Murphy M-D'42

Clock: Helen Coffin Roberts M-D'28

Ole the janitor: Florence Davenport Bush M-D'30

With 44 Downer alumnae in the show, all credited in the program, you might wonder, “How did they manage to fill the auditorium as well?” Yet, they did fill the auditorium and there were more participants, uncredited, in the show. “Special Thanks” at the end of the program were given to unnamed cast members “especially those who agreed to participate after the program was finished.”

*Smilestones I* was the largest Follies production given and played to a packed house. Many were

making their first trip to the new *alma mater* in Appleton. The energy which rallied alumnae to come to Lawrence came from the Chairman and Director, Joan Tomarkin Lucht M-D'61. She touted her drawing card, the kick off for the 125th anniversary of the Milwaukee-Downer charter, dated March 1, 1851. That date was still five months away, but the Follies would coincide with the October Downer Reunion at Lawrence. The University arranged to have the Downer Sundial mounted on Main Hall, in time to be dedicated the same weekend. All Joan had to do was get the show written, do the casting, and rehearse 44 people from long distance in Milwaukee.

If anyone could do this it was Joan Lucht, Chairman and Director of two more follies after this one: *Smilestones II* and *Instead of Folly: THE FINAL VERDICT*. Later, in May of 1993, Joan was toasted by alumnae filling Green Hall to capacity in the landmark Downer buildings. Joan was retiring from her term on the LUAA Board of Directors and was warmly thanked for achievements that helped Downer Alumnae consolidate with Lawrence. During her term she had spearheaded the Hawthorn Den Project; the reintroduction of Colors for Lawrence Classes; rowing at Downer reunions; and sales of Downer bricks for a memorial walk. They had raised \$10,800 by that date. Furthermore, Joan invented the idea of “Honorary Downerite Status.” The first recipients received silver Spirit of Downer bowls conferring honorary Downer status. The honorees were President Rik Warch, Alumni Director Gil Swift, Archivist Carol Butts, and Publicist/Faculty Wife Win Thrall. Joan made sure that Gil's successor, Jan Quinlan, and President Jill Beck, who began in 2004, also received honorary Downer status. (*Smilestones I and II*, program cover images are shown on p. 84)

\*\*\*External Event 1981, May 9: *Held at University Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Rededication of Holton Hall after renovation, featuring UW-M Woodwind Arts Quintet; remarks by Dean William F. Halloran; Chancellor Frank E. Horton; Gertrude B. Jupp; Hon. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson. The special guest President*

*Rik Warch, came representing Downer College of Lawrence University. (See the original program, VI. Appendix, 7.)*

\*\*\*External Event 1984, June 16: *20th Anniversary Celebration in Colman Hall at Lawrence. This major benchmark event did not include a Follies or performance, but it was the reunion where LUAA Presidents Barbara Spoerl and Clarmarie White Voss made their State of the Consolidation addresses, as reported in Chapter 5 of this study.*

### **4. 1989, *Smilestones II ... 25th Anniversary of the Consolidation***

Videotaped by Tom Sykes, LU

Performed in Harper Hall at Lawrence University,  
Authors: Louise Murphy M-D'42 (original 1975 version)

Joan Tomarkin Lucht M-D'61 (New beginning; New Ending)

Carolyn King Stephens M-D'62 (New Ending)

Chairman and Director: Joan Tomarkin Lucht M-D'61

Assistant: Fern Kruse M-D'32;

Cast/Crew: 34 Participants

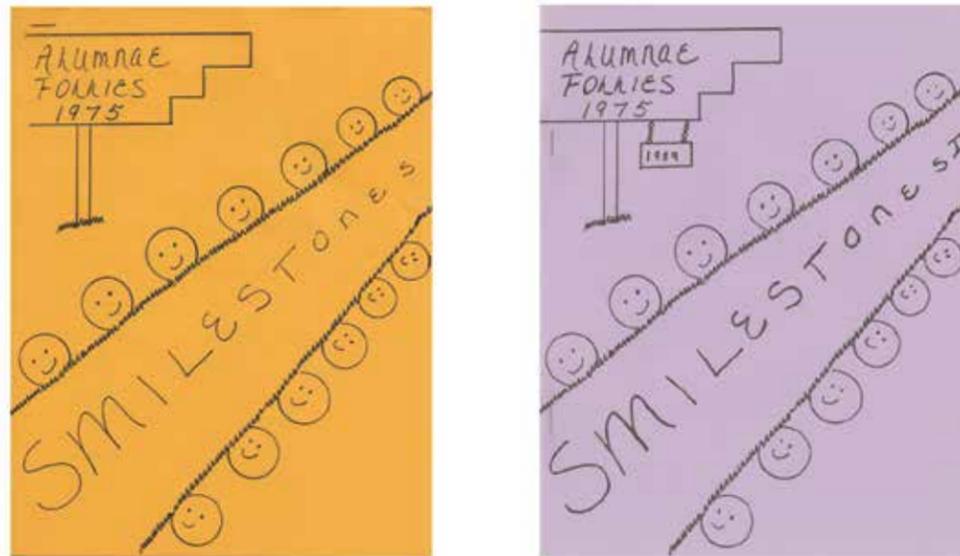
Statues: Sophocles - Clarmarie White Voss M-D'35;

Aeschines - Louise Murphy

Spirits of Amos Lawrence and Jason Downer played by J. Frederic “Fritz” Ruf LC'59 and Carolyn King Stephens

Scripts in the Archives for *Smilestones I* and *Smilestones II* are the place to go for a comprehensive catalog of Milwaukee-Downer songs, attitudes, and traditions. At the risk of length and literary pretension, the internal sociology and culture of M-D are thoroughly documented in these Follies. *Smilestones II* (1989) followed the first so closely that names from the original cast are recorded in parenthesis, beside the new cast in the later production. *The total number of participants and audience involved in Smilestones I & II, grew from 44 (plus the audience) to hundreds, all sharing the spirit of nostalgia, joy, and loyalty which the making and performing of these shows generated and communicated.*

The two scripts cover the same outline. Perhaps influenced by Miss Brown's Christmas pageants, the Follies serve as a record: "Precious Memories Preserved" in M-D Alumnae Follies.



4-5. Program covers from Smilestones I (1975) and II (1984);



6. Amos Lawrence leading Jason Downer to the Viking Room - Smilestones II

\*External Event—May 8, 1993: Benchmark Birthday, the 145th Anniversary of Mrs. Parson's Milwaukee Female Seminary; Alumnae Luncheon, in Green Hall of the landmark, Downer

Buildings; Speakers: Joan Tomarkin Lucht, Janet Stenson Schaleger-Hirsch, and Special Guest: Dr. Frederick I. Olson, UW-M Professor Emeritus of History. (See original program, VI. Appendix, 8.)

- I. Gathering outside the hall with songs or dialogue.
- II. Processional in the Colors Day tradition.
- III. Call to the Colors - heraldic odes to Red, Green, Yellow, Purple, with trumpet.
- IV. Continuity Figures: Merrill Hall Statues, Aesthenes and Sophocles; The Grandfather's Clock; Ole the Janitor. Like a Greek Chorus, they set the scene and provide commentary.
- V. Chorus: as in Greek theater, song leaders provide a stasimon between dramatic segments. Song books or programs encourage the audience to join singing.
- VI. Dialogue: the 19th century history is repeated: Catharine Beecher, Jason Downer, Ellen Sabin, are celebrated.
- VII. Rules and Behavior: 17 rhyming couplets review quaint regulations from the past. The Hat Tradition is introduced and will provide the plot to come.
- VIII. Traditions: a catalogue and a paeon to buildings, campus, Christmases, and required chapel; a slight nod to academics and class work. *The affective domain is favored over objectivity in celebrating the thrills of hat hunt and razzing or the secrecy and excitement of planning class rivalry.*
- IX. Health and Physical Education is the longest segment, introduced by its importance in the Beecher Plan and its implementation by Ellen Sabin. Downer women celebrate their strength and stamina, listing sports, dances, gymnastics and calisthenics. They place the outdoor activities of HAT HUNT in this category. (Excellent details in the scripts illuminate the account of Hat Hunt in Chapter 1 of this study.)
- X. Sequence X. provides a short look at social experiences with men at a mid-western women's college. *Smilestones I* (1975) offers a rousing sequence of dances through the decades, as done earlier in *Togetherness* (1964). In *Smilestones II* the dances were cut, perhaps to make more time for singing *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and adding a second ending.
- XI. Hat Hunt climaxes with rituals of finding the hat and changing the power structure between the classes.
- XII. *Follies* end with Christmases and Miss Brown's pageants. *The Twelve Days of Christmas* is mentioned in *Smilestones I*, but the last verse is triumphantly performed in *Smilestones II*. The segment ends with singing the Downer Alma Mater followed by the Lawrence Alma Mater.
- XIII. *Smilestones II* adds an Epilogue which, thankfully, is short. As the Spirit of Downer pronounces his final benediction, he is interrupted by Amos Lawrence. The Spirit of Lawrence is played by a favorite Lawrence Alum, Fritz Ruf LC'59, who joined Downerites in the Milwaukee Alumni Chapter after the Consolidation. (Ruf also appears in Chapters 2 and 5.) Although the quality is poor, we have a documentary image from the videotape of *Smilestones II*. Amos Lawrence, with his hand on Jason Downer's shoulder, introduces the newcomer to a Lawrence Tradition, the Viking Room.

**5. 2001, October 13 - 150th Anniversary of MDC - 1851-2001**

*Instead of Folly: THE FINAL VERDICT*

Performed in Colman Hall, after Dinner

Author: Joan Tomarkin Lucht M-D'61

Asst. Author: Carolyn King Stephens M-D'62

Cast and Crew: 23 Participants

Spirits: Jason Downer: Sheryn Biegelaar Smith M-D'61

Catharine Beecher: Carolyn King Stephens

Ellen Sabin: Marlene Crupi Widen M-D'55

At the external event luncheon of 1993 (above) or a later one in 1998, Professor Frederick Olson struck a sour note which troubled Joan Lucht for years. As a respected historian he had publicly stated, "I really believe that she [Milwaukee-Downer College] ceased to exist in June of 1964." Joan was still seething 2001 when it was time to mount another *Follies* at Lawrence. The occasion would be the 150th Anniversary of Milwaukee Downer. It had been 12 years since *Smilestones II*; Joan and her classmates were 62 to 67 years old; and possibly, the same *Follies* formula would not work again. Meanwhile, the offensive statement of Professor Olson had not been challenged. Too many people thought as he did, that "Downer is history."

It did not help that Downer Reunions at Lawrence were in October, apart from Lawrence University Reunions in June. Separation meant young Downer graduates never joined the MDC Alumnae. New alumnae were not replacing the natural attrition of Downer's aging membership. Of course the young women from Downer College wanted to be with their classmates at LU spring reunions. For 26 years after the Consolidation, there were young Downer women graduating from LU with diplomas from Downer College of Lawrence University. As of 1990, however, the wording changed and it was even harder to single out a Downer Woman. Except for diplomas from the Conservatory of Music, all Lawrence graduates were awarded diplomas "on the recommendation of the faculties of Lawrence College and Downer College." So... "Where oh where are the Gay Alumnae?"<sup>3</sup>

Joan decided to take a stand and put Olson's notion on trial in a courtroom drama. She, herself, would play the defendant, Dr. Frederick Olson. (See original program, VI. Appendix, 9.) The critical question as she posed it was: *Is Milwaukee-Downer College dead and buried on back campus, or alive and well and living in Appleton, and in the hearts of every Downer woman around the world?*



7. *Smilestones II*: The cast with Gil Swift receiving honorary Downerite status from Jason Downer.

Although it was an emotionally loaded question, she crafted the script and drafted the players, calling on "Heavy Hitters" from the Alumnae roster. To name only a few:

\* The Attorney for the Prosecution would be Marcia Dunn Mentkowski M-D'61, recipient of the Gertrude Jupp Award for Outstanding Service—1990; and recipient of the Lucia Briggs Award for Distinguished Achievement - 2012.

\* The Judge would be Mary Jane Jones M-D'60: Professor Emerita - English, University of Dubuque; Ph.D., University of Iowa.

\* The Spirit of Downer would be Sheryn Biegelaar Smith M-D'61, a long time loyal donor to Lawrence.

\* There would be visitations by the Spirits of Catharine Beecher and Ellen Sabin.

Instead of *Folly*...*The Final Verdict*, would ask serious questions about history, institutional identity, and continuity of a legacy from the past. There would be debates on what is required for an institution to be called "living" and definitions

between: a museum of artifacts, a financial entity, a paper construct, and a college with faculty, classes and students. As you can imagine, the material did not lend itself to a pleasing entertainment but that didn't mean it wasn't successful theater. For hundreds of years theater was how ideas were communicated, civil debate was conducted, and empathy was fostered.

Sadly, the drama went on far too long. It had to be radically cut and edited between the dress rehearsal and performance. Performers became frustrated. When the verdict came in, the trial ended with "a Hung Jury." The affect on the audience was similar, as Joan explained in a note at the end of the official script copy:

*"There were no questions or comments. The audience began to rise and leave. Another event was planned to follow the Follies, and they went right into that. Most people stayed until that was over."* Court was adjourned.



8. Left: Catharine Beecher: "Vital needs have given me my calling for the benefit of all women. I have set up free-thinking schools in Hartford, Cincinnati, Quincy, and Dubuque, but the best is this little one in Milwaukee. So far it has lasted 150 years. ... As Downer College of Lawrence University it is one of the oldest continuously operating institutions for the higher education of women in the United States."

9. Right: Ellen Sabin: "The trouble with education in Oregon at that time?! They needed a lot more than a young woman as Superintendent. They need discipline!... to clear up the dirt, the vermin, and the sloth that affected everyone in that place! I had to pull my children out of the sweatshops and march right into saloons and factories to speak to the parents about school attendance!"

### CONCLUSIONS: BACK WORDS AND FORWARDS

There were no more all-class *Follies* or group performances after *The Last Verdict*. Lawrence Reunions, nevertheless, continued to draw Downerites together. The Lawrence Connection united Downer and Lawrence College Alumni to some extent. Still, in the minds of many alumnae and alumni the term “Downer Alum” indicated some woman who had attended College in Milwaukee. The M-D graduates met separately and saved their energy for classroom presentations and current writing. First, they looked backward. Remember “the girl in sunglasses” in Photo 3, from the rehearsal for *Togetherness*? She became a professional and made one of the best pieces of work produced for Milwaukee-Downer. Lee Dodds Chemel’s M-D’65 video is still available in the LU Archives.

#### 6. 2012: 50th Year Reunion, after arrival as Freshman—Video

**Title:** *The ’65 Purple Class Returns*

Filmed on the Milwaukee campus and in the Downer Buildings

**Author/Producer:** Lee Shallat Chemel

**Assistant:** Melissa Kosar, business associate of Lee Chemel

**Music:** directed by Eugene Casselman, with the Milwaukee-Downer Choir.

**Cast:** 19 participants, including six classmates who did not transfer.

The video was personally organized and funded by Lee who stated her vision as “sort of a Ken Burns version of The Downer Experience.” She saw their years at Downer in the context of a critical period in history. “Many of us were radicalized there. The Kennedy assassination. The civil rights movement. It was before the gay revolution. We had one foot in the fifties and one foot into the sixties. There were so many interesting issues beyond Hat Hunt. And yet, there were those arcane traditions as well!” (See Chapter I END NOTE 2.; see VI. Appendix, 10; and see Works Consulted, 4, for more about this beautiful video.)

The search for meaning led some of us deeper into the past, to the origins of Milwaukee-Downer and there we found heroes! Who does not need heroes



10. Music by the Milwaukee-Downer Choir, Eugene Casselman, conducting, c. 1961-62.

and role models? But what kind of heroes do women want and need? Surely not Achilles, or George Washington, or the Marlborough Man. When we read Kieckhefer’s accounts of frontier feminists, Parsons, Beecher, Mortimer, and Sabin we found heroes to whom we could deeply relate. Did you notice the caption under Photo 9 of Ellen Sabin? Sabin was 23, alone in a wild place, and really did the things she spoke about. The men who stepped in to help these women became the kind of men we could deeply respect: grandfatherly Increase Lapham, handsome Charles Farrar, knightly Jason Downer, and compassionate Samuel Sherman and steadfast Milo Jewett. What popular heroes today can compare? With the help of the Harriett Beecher Stowe Center in Connecticut, Carolyn Stephens was able to get more information and photographs to tell the story of Catharine Beecher, why and how she did things which no one else could do. Thanks to Beecher’s heroic efforts her school was like a tree that grew and bore fruit for 168 years, so far.

This research was delivered in June of 2014 to a full classroom with “The Downer Professor” at Lawrence, Dr. Eilene Hoft-March, reading words and thoughts of Catharine Beecher. (Slideshow and script are in the Archives, see photo below.)

#### 7. 2014, June—50th Anniversary of Consolidation—The Other Beecher: Lawrence’s Legacy from Catharine Beecher.—Slide Show with lecture outline and oral readings.

Presented: at Reunion - Alumni College, Lawrence University

Producer: Carolyn King Stephens M-D’62

Reader: Eilene Hoft-March, recipient of the *Milwaukee-Downer College and College Endowment Association Chair for Liberal Studies*.

After probing the past, we looked outward. The Last Verdict had a dampening effect and way to the future looked as if it would be short. The next gathering

Beecher Family Photograph by Mathew Brady Studios, c. 1859, with the two deceased brothers as insets. The deceased Mothers are not represented: Roxana Foote - nine children; Harriet Porter—four Children. *Slides: with permission from the Harriett Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford CT.*



11. Back: Thomas Kinnicut, William Henry, Edward, Charles, Henry Ward. Seated: Isabella B. Hooker, Catharine Esther, Lyman, Mary Foote, Harriet B. Stowe. Insets: James and George, deceased. *Photo Credit:* Harriett Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT.

in Milwaukee, however, was organized by Linda Laarman '73, Gertrude B. Jupp Service Awardee in 2018. Laarman was chairing the 100th Anniversary of The Alliance Française of Milwaukee, founded in 1918 by Milwaukee-Downer Professor of French, Amélie Sérafon, as stated in the introduction. The faithful Downer alumnae attended the event held April 24, 2018, at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin. John Gurda was speaking along with Carolyn Stephens. The anniversary caused us to step back and consider the sweep of lives and institutions through time. Carolyn's talk was called "The Milwaukee Galaxy." It placed the independent women's college founded by Lucy Ann Parsons and Catharine Beecher in the center and charted its changes over 170 years, spinning off smaller solar systems, conjoining with other stars, and ever-expanding as a complex mobile in the universe. We named the spin-off institutions, which are still self-sustaining; we named the conjunctions with

other stars; and we looked outward at the ever expanding universe.

**8. 2018 - 170 Years Through Time: The Milwaukee-Downer Galaxy: from 1848, the Parson's School, to 2018, Lawrence University and beyond.**

First Presentation, April 24, 2018: 100th Anniversary of L'Alliance Française, founded by Mme. Amélie Sérafon, MDC Professor of French from 1910-1945. - c. 50 attendees.

Second Presentation, June 16, 2018: Milwaukee-Downer Teakwood Room Luncheon, 2018 Alumni Reunion, Lawrence University, Appleton WI. - c. 40 attendees. Subject: Time and Change -1848 to 2018, The growth of Milwaukee and Milwaukee-Downer's symbiotic integration with long-standing institutions in its sphere of influence. (See original program in VI. Appendix, 12.)

Spin offs:

- 1891 - College Endowment Society, 127 years
- 1901 - A new Profession: Domestic Science to Home Economics
- 1918 - L'Alliance Français of Milwaukee, 100 years
- 1918 - A new Profession: Occupational Therapy

Conjunctions forming new stars:

- 1891 - Milwaukee College & Downer College forming Milwaukee-Downer College
- 1964 - Milwaukee-Downer Seminary (1851) with Milwaukee University School, (formerly German-English Academy, 1851) and Milwaukee Country Day School (1917) to form *University School Milwaukee (USM)*
- 1964 - Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence Colleges to form Lawrence University

Symbiotic Integration with other Solar Systems:

- 1857 - Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. - 161 years, with progenitor, Henry Palmer's, descendants being educated by Milwaukee-Downer.
- 1885 - Milwaukee State Normal School evolving into *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-M, 1956)* graduate school for Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae, and sharing pride in the Downer Buildings.

Seeing such cosmic activity, we can marvel at the power of individuals who give so much effort and determination that their influence is this far-reaching. Furthermore, we stand in awe of the group dynamics that inspire cooperation and service from thousands of individuals who go unnamed. They

are builders of great institutions and doers of great deeds. Downer College is still *one of the oldest continuously operating institutions for the higher education of women in America*. For 26 years after the consolidation, diplomas distinguished the continuous flow of Downer College women

graduating from Lawrence University. Today, the words of Lawrence University diplomas witness that Downer College is still alive, employing faculty, and granting diplomas. There is more to be said about the living Downer. Downer-endowed funds have been skillfully managed over time and are perpetual. Downer dollars, given to endowment accounts, grow and scholarships from those accounts continue to support future Downer Women (such as the bright young women in Photos 12 and 13 below.) We must be prepared, of course, for evolutionary changes that occur over time. In mysterious ways the Downer College curriculum has changed with new subjects and methods, but the courses are still grounded in the broad Liberal Arts approach to knowledge. Most surprising, although there is no denying, Downer College classes these days are educating men as well as women.

This study has been laced with praise and thanks for the Seeley G. Mudd Library and LU Archives. If there are archives, Milwaukee-Downer College will live on in history. What better way for a liberal arts graduate to conclude a study on time and its affects than to give the last word to an *Immortal Bard*. William Shakespeare claimed that writing and written documents last longer than marble statues or gilded monuments. Indeed, the Downer statues, Aeschines and Sophocles, are gone but the documents and skillful writings donated to the Archives at Lawrence are carefully kept. They keep the Spirit of Downer, just as they have kept the spirits of Beecher, Sabin, Jason Downer, and others alive, even after the Milwaukee alumnae are gone. The scripts of those old Follies, in particular, preserve the love for Downer that dwelt in lovers' eyes.



12. FEBRUARY 3, 2011. DOWNER WOMEN AT LAWRENCE SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Back Row: Hannah Krueger '11, Sarah Fandel '13, Rachel Li '11, Sarah Ehlinger '11, Sarah Slaughter '13, Sarah Laven '13, Elizabeth Crean '11. Front Row: Diane McLeod '14, Shannon Merry '11, Sarah Young '11, Carolyn K. Stephens '62, Anna Jankowski '12, Amelia Sancillo '12, Lilly Heun '14.

**DOWNER WOMEN OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY****For The Last Word, We Go to Shakespeare****Sonnet 55: Not marble nor the gilded monuments**

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Not marble nor the gilded monuments  
 Of princes shall outlive this powerful rhyme,  
 But you shall shine more bright in these contents  
 Than unswept stone besmeared with sluttish time.  
 When wasteful war shall statues overturn,  
 And broils root out the work of masonry,  
 Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn  
 The living record of your memory.  
 'Gainst death and all-oblivious enmity  
 Shall you pace forth; your praise shall still find room  
 Even in the eyes of all posterity  
 That wear this world out to the ending doom.  
     So, till the Judgement that yourself arise,  
     You live in this, and dwell in lovers' eyes.

Source: *The Norton Anthology of Poetry Third Edition*  
 (W. W. Norton and Company Inc., 1983)



13. JANUARY 31, 2014. DOWNER WOMEN AT LAWRENCE SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Back Row: Rose Nelson '16, Amelia Bathke '17, Savanna Dahl '17. Front Row: Veronica Thao '17, Helen Noble '14, Marlene C. Widen '55, Carolyn K. Stephens '62, Elizabeth M. Schmidt '14, Rachele Huffman '15.

**END NOTES**

1. Marjory Irvin writes of her experience of the Consolidation in Volume 1 of this study. See Howard and Tank: *The Consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College*, Lawrence University, 2018, p. 23-24.
2. Mary Poulson's experience of the Consolidation is published in Volume 1 of this study. See Howard and Tank, p. 26-27.
3. A phrase from "The Verdant Freshmen," one of the favorite songs, found in almost every Downer Songbook. (See VI. Appendix, 10.)

**VI. APPENDIX****INDEX**

1. Relative Comparison of Downer Endowment levels through time.
2. "Miss Brown's Christmas Revels..." *Milwaukee Journal* article by Milda Defandorf.
3. 1964, March 21. The Last Faculty Follies: PUNDITS' PARANOMASIA, original program.
4. 1964, June 6. The Last Alumnae Follies in Merrill Hall: *Togetherness or The Price Was Right*, original program.
5. *A Dramatical Historie*, 1975, Spring, A Fezzywig Swarry - Wisconsin Bicentennial Reception and Play in Green and Merrill Halls. Written and produced by Carolyn Stephens. Attending, Merrill Theater capacity 266.
6. External Event 1976, May 1: *Landmarks Day and 125th Anniversary Spring Luncheon at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*.
7. External Event 1981, May 9: *Rededication of Holton Hall after renovation at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*.
8. External Event - May 8, 1993: Benchmark Birthday, the 145th Anniversary of Mrs. Parson's Milwaukee Female Seminary. Original Program
9. 2001, October 13 ... 150th Anniversary of MDC: 1851-2001; Original Program: ***Instead of Folly: THE FINAL VERDICT***
10. *Singing again on Merrill Steps, after 50 years. The '65 Purple Class Returns*, (2012) Video, written and produced by Lee Dodds Shallat Chemel M-D'65.
11. Portrait Catharine Beecher ; Photos Beecher Family from 2014 - Multi-media lecture, ***The Other Beecher: Lawrence's Legacy***, by Carolyn Stephens with readings by Eilene Hoft-March, Milwaukee-Downer and College Endowment Association Professor. \*(Photo credit: Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford CT; Oil Portrait, Judith King Peterson.)
12. ***170 Years Through Time: The Milwaukee-Downer Galaxy (1848 to 2018)*** Original Handout, 100th Anniversary of L'Alliance Française (04-24-18) and Milwaukee-Downer Teakwood Room Luncheon (06-18-18).

## Money \$ Money \$ Money \$ Money \$ Money

### Milwaukee-Downer History of Endowments 1850 to 2018

**College Endowments - Let's look at those Endowments over time.  
Notice the Scale !! - The Size and Importance for 170 years**

1851 \$ 20,000. (or 25,000)	Milwaukee Trustees vs Catharine Beecher - <i>unachieved although long sought and much disputed.</i>
1887 \$ 65,000.	Jason Downer (d. 1883) His will saves the school, college is renamed for him.
1915 \$ 216,000.	Successful Merger: Milwaukee + Downer Capital Campaign for Downer Buildings Assets rise to = \$975,409.
1919 \$ 550,000.	War Years: Capital Campaign, innovative programs in OT, Home Economics, Liberal Arts (French). Ellen Sabin administrating.
1964 \$ 13,000,000.	M-Downer College Endowment to Lawrence University
1964 \$ 8,500,000.	Lawrence College Endowment to Lawrence University
2018 \$ 318,200,000.	Lawrence University Endowment to date.

###

**Writing Her-Story from the Teakwood Room, June 16, 2018**  
Milwaukee Galaxy Presentation at Lawrence, Alumni Reunion  
compiled by Carolyn King Stephens

\* sources: Kieckhefer, USNews, Best Colleges Report 2018-2019

1. Relative Comparison of Downer Endowment levels through time.

## Miss Brown's Christmas Revels

A Reminiscence of the Holiday Plays Staged After 1910 at Milwaukee-Downer by an Inspiring English Teacher, Now Retired

*The following article about Emily F. Brown, a former Milwaukee-Downer college English teacher who now lives in West Park, N. Y. and recently celebrated her 90th birthday, was written by Milda W. Defandorf of Milwaukee and is reprinted from the Christian Science Monitor.*

ON A shopping tour the other day I found a Christmas gift item, a set of place mats gay with a yellow "Partridge in a Pear Tree," and under it the lines of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

For the next half hour my thoughts were warm with memories of all that this song has meant to generations of college girls. It was part of Miss Emily F. Brown's "Elizabethan Christmas Revels" at Milwaukee-Downer. She had found the Frederic Austin arrangement while browsing in an Oxford bookshop in 1910, and had lost no time in weaving it into the pageantry and song of her old English play.

Not only I, then a college freshman, but the whole family was touched by the excitement which educated us in old English Christmas lore when I was cast as "Plum Pudding." My mother was certainly confused, but determined to make correctly that brown and purple costume which would make me look like a fat pudding as I stepped gaily on to the stage, pudding held aloft, announcing:

"Here come I, Plum Pudding so brown. The plumpest of persons in all London town. . . ."

Few college achievements or honors meant more than to be chosen as the lead in "Miss Brown's Christmas Play," whether it was her old English "Revels," the medieval Nativity Play, or the rollicking Dickens productions which were given in rotation through the years.

The success, as well as the exasperation, of her productions came from Miss Brown's absolute faithfulness to historical detail. She was always estimating her

students with an eye toward casting them in a play.

Sometimes we were not complimented by the roles in which we were cast. In an American literature course she illustrated two dominant American characteristics, idealism and Yankee shrewdness, by holding before the class pictures of Jonathan Edwards and Benjamin Franklin.

"There is in this class," she declared, "someone who looks very much like Franklin. Who is it?"

Well, who else but someone with a face round enough to play the Plum Pudding? In that adolescent period I think I should have chosen to look like the ethereal Edwards. "But then," I reflected, "she might have cast me as the Fat Boy in her Dickens play!"

"Boz" or "Phiz," as Miss Brown often signs her letters humorously, educated the Milwaukee community years ago when her "Fezziwig Swarry" was the boisterous soiree played to crowded houses for two December evenings. Christmas blew in with the arrival of Pickwick and Micawber, Tony Weller, his plaid scarf cold and snowy in contrast to the "conwivial" spirits underneath it, gave a hand to poor Mrs. Micawber with her ever present "youngest."

There were some stormy sessions in Miss Brown's classes, for she did not believe a bed of laurels the best inspiration even for her better students.

Many a girl bolted out of a play rehearsal with "I'll never be in another play she directs. She insulted me," only to hope the next year she would not be passed up when the cast was chosen.

I have long since forgotten most class assignments, but there is one which seems to epitomize the spirit which a good teacher, working individually with her students, can communicate. Miss Brown set a picture before the class. It was nothing more than a door standing ajar—no action, just a door.

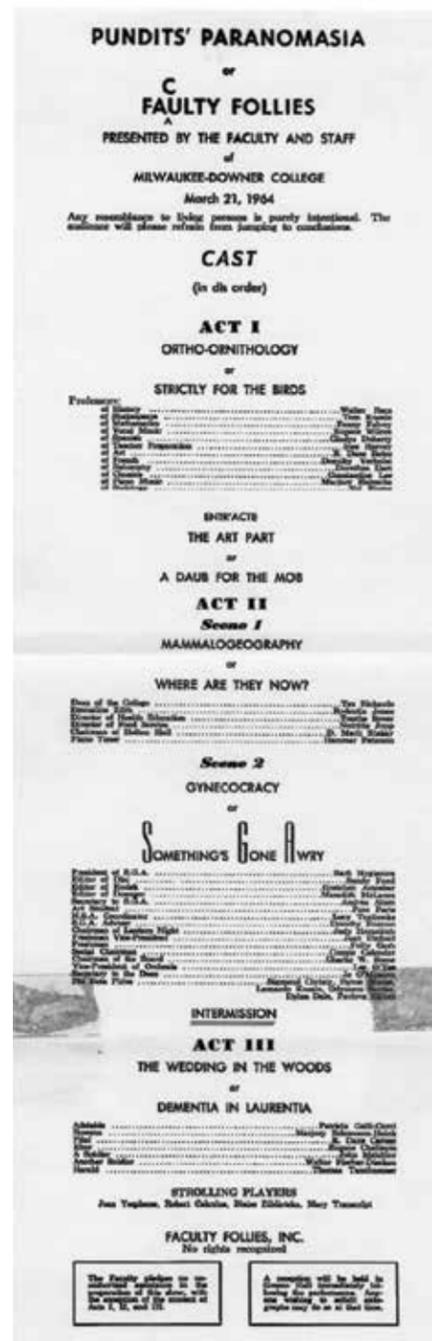
"Write for the next hour," were the orders, "anything suggested by this picture, a story, poem or article."

That, it seems to me, was the measure of Miss Brown's teaching. The door was beginning to open. We must find the way ahead for ourselves.

A college student is fortunate to have personal contact with one such teacher to leave so warm an afterglow.

2. "Miss Brown's Christmas Revels..." Milwaukee Journal article by Milda Defandorf.

"Miss Brown's Christmas Revels..." Milwaukee Journal article by Milda Defandorf. This article was first published in the Christian Science Monitor then reprinted in the Milwaukee Journal, date unknown. The author's copy was found in 2018 by the family of historian and faithful alumna, Virginia Palmer M-D'51, among her estate materials. It was saved and contributed to the Seeley G. Mudd Archives. Such a lengthy provenance shows how the memory was valued and transmitted through many hands over 74 years after Miss Brown's tenure at the College.

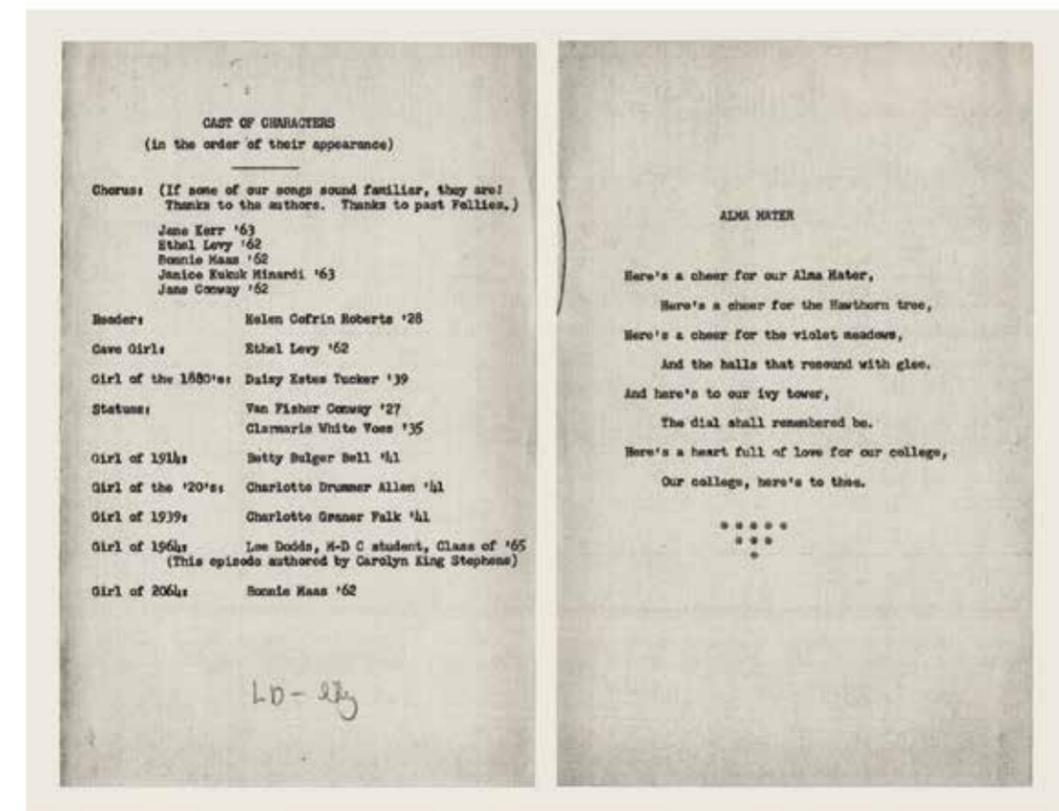
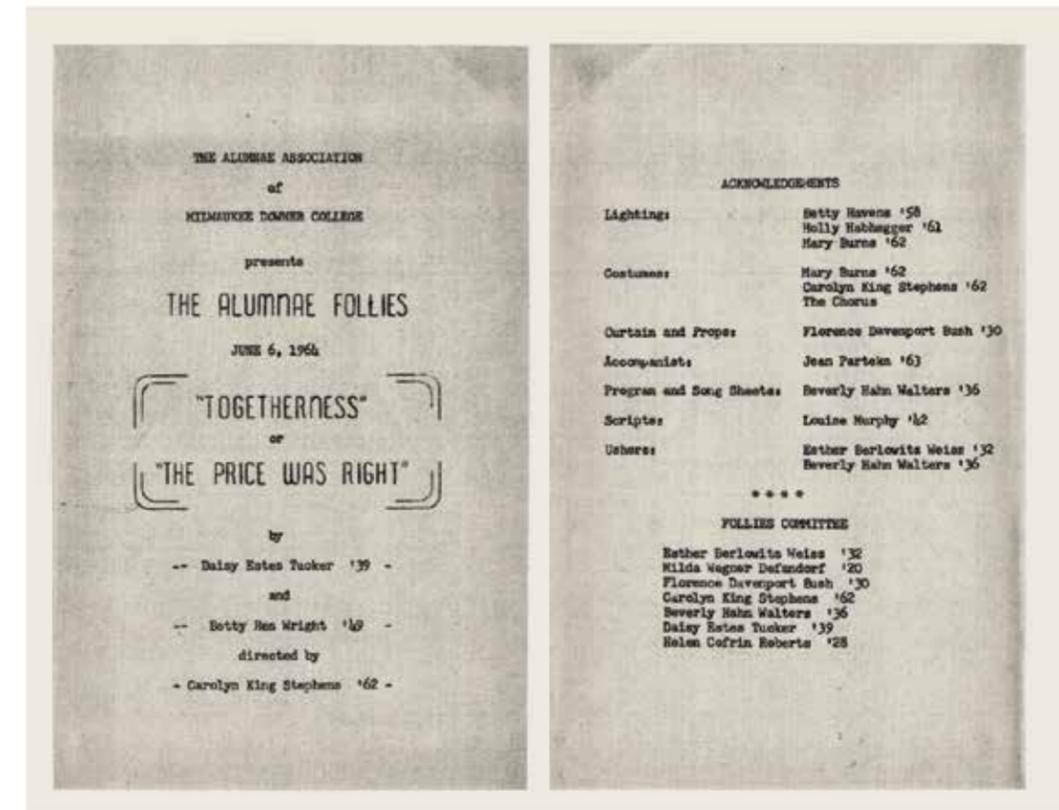


**Participants**

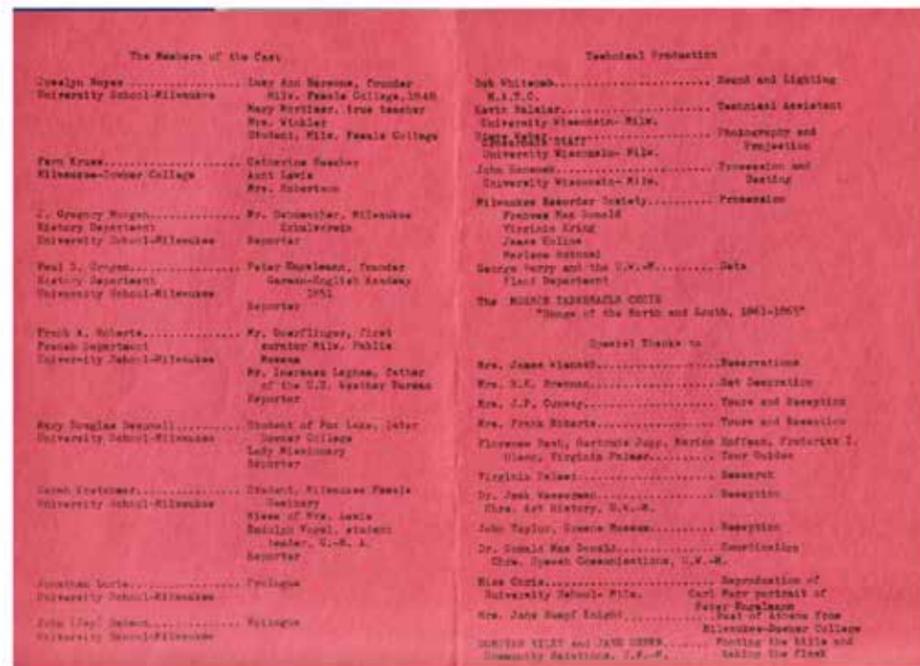
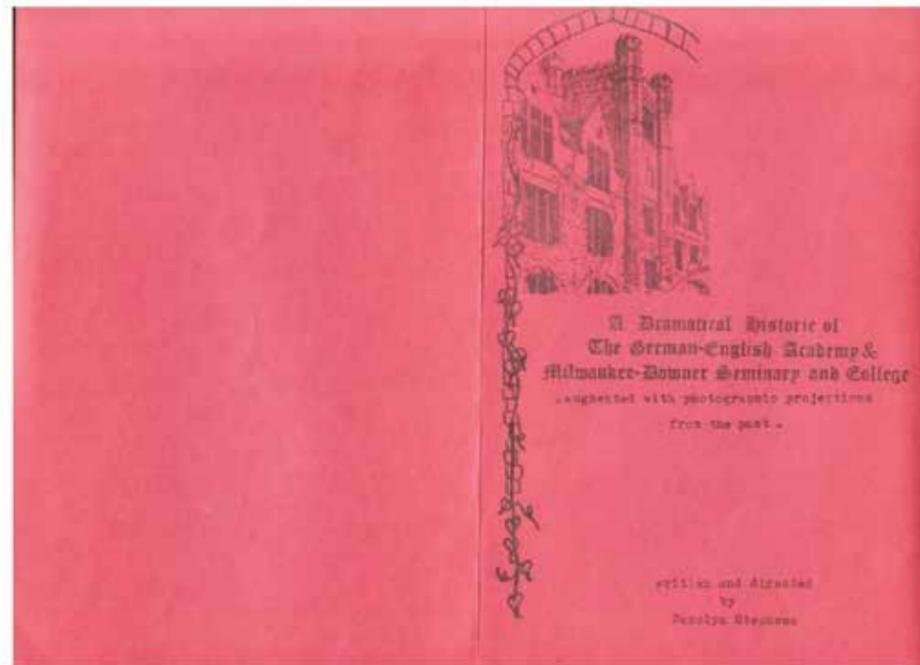
**The Usual Suspects**  
(not exactly in the order listed)

Walter Peterson  
Thomas Dale  
Frances Falvey  
Eugene Casselman  
Gladys Calbick  
Inez Richards  
E. Dane Purdo  
Dorothy Dart  
Dorothea Harvey  
Marjory Irvin  
Sidney Peck  
Stephen Blume  
Frances Jones  
Enid Bever  
Gertrude Jupp  
Mrs. Blakey  
Collan Kneale  
Mary Poulson

3. 1964, March 21. The Last Faculty Follies: *PUNDITS' PARANOMASIA*, original program.

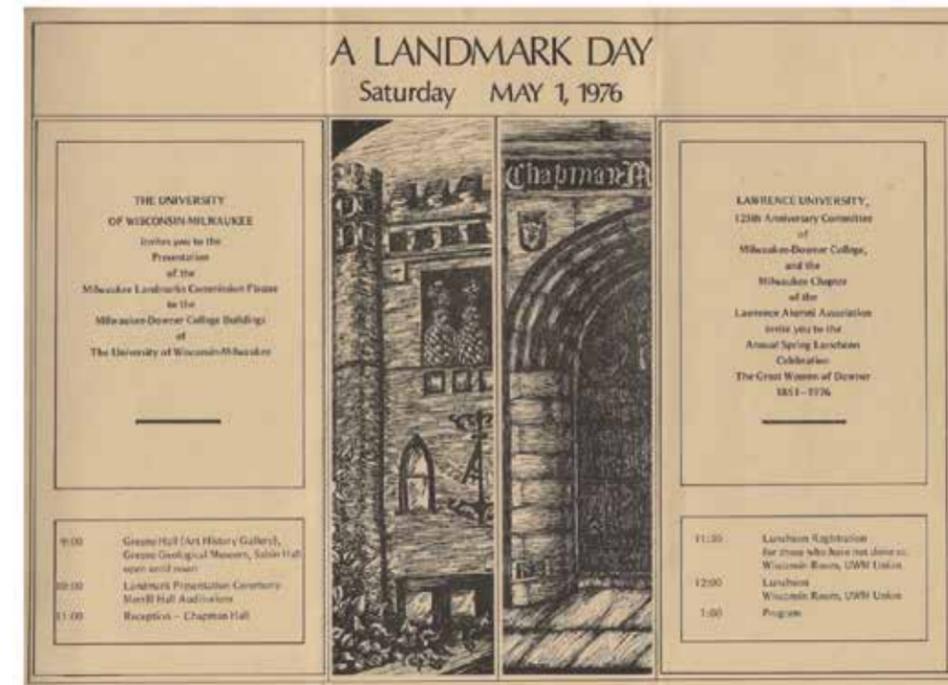
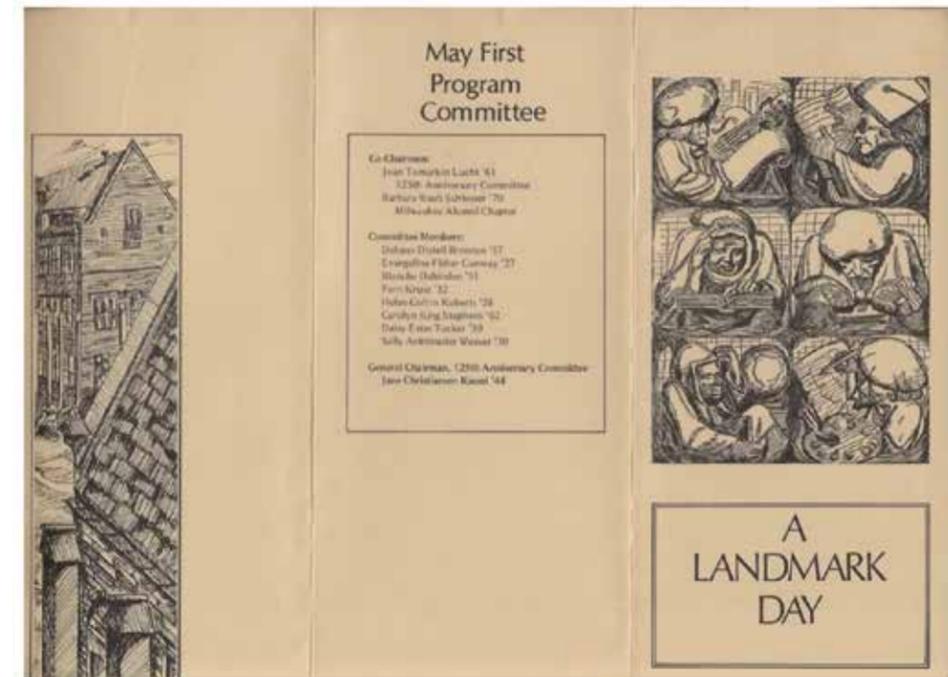


4. 1964, June 6. The Last Alumnae Follies in Merrill Hall: *Togetherneess or The Price Was Right*, original program.

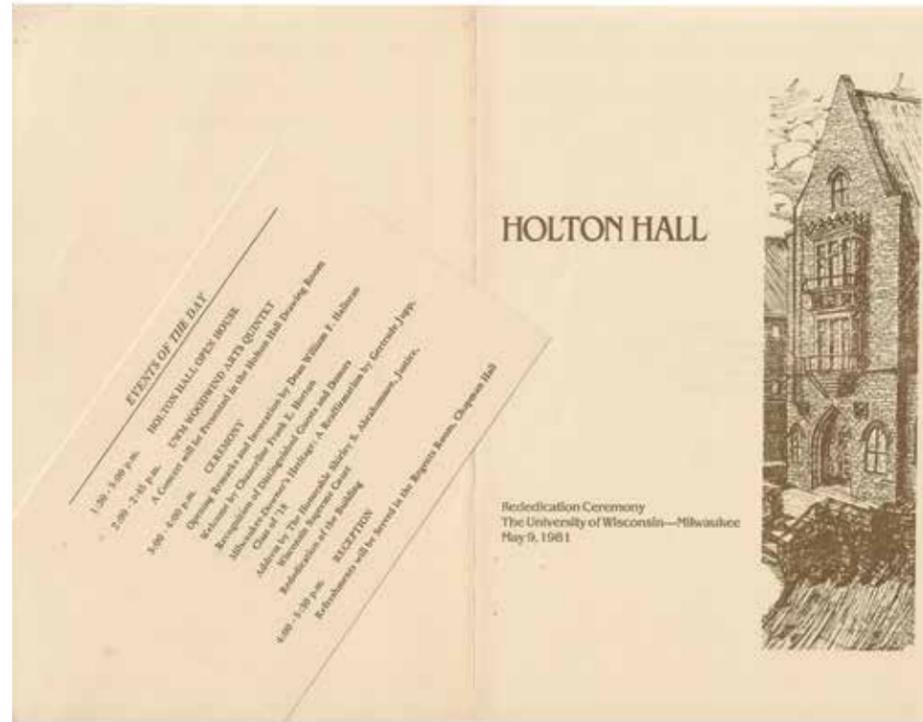


5. *A Dramatical Historie*, 1975, Spring, A Fezziwig Swarry - Wisconsin Bicentennial Reception and Play in Green and Merrill Halls. Written and produced by Carolyn Stephens. Attending, Merrill Theater capacity 266.

*Presented by Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae with Milwaukee Recorder Society, University School Milwaukee, University Wisconsin - Milwaukee and sponsored by the Wisconsin Bicentennial Commission. The play portrayed the founding of the German English Academy and Milwaukee-Downer Seminary and College. Written and Produced by Carolyn Stephens.*



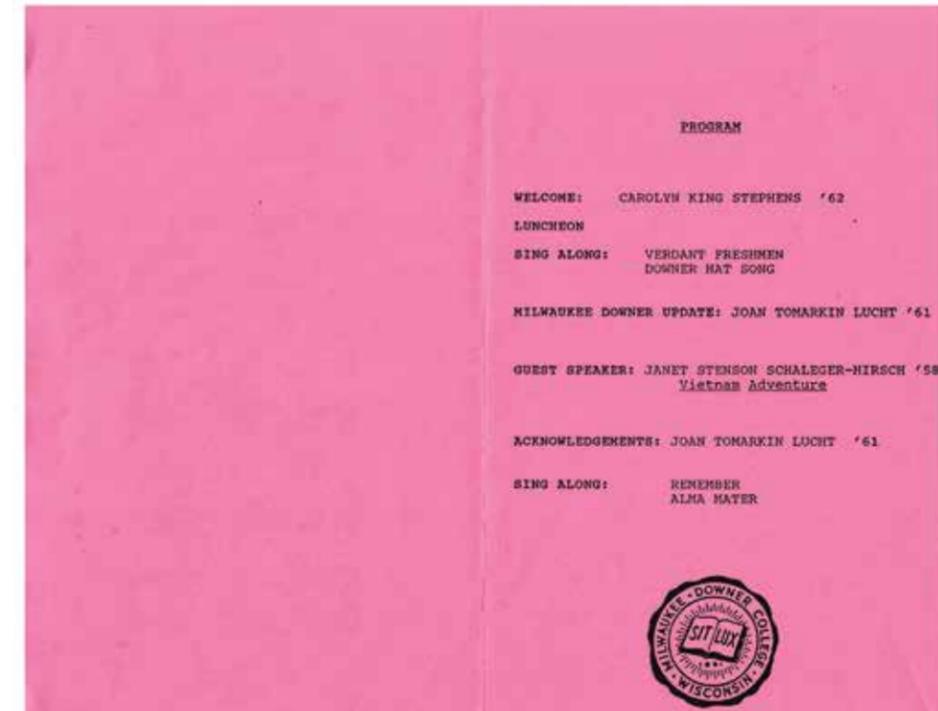
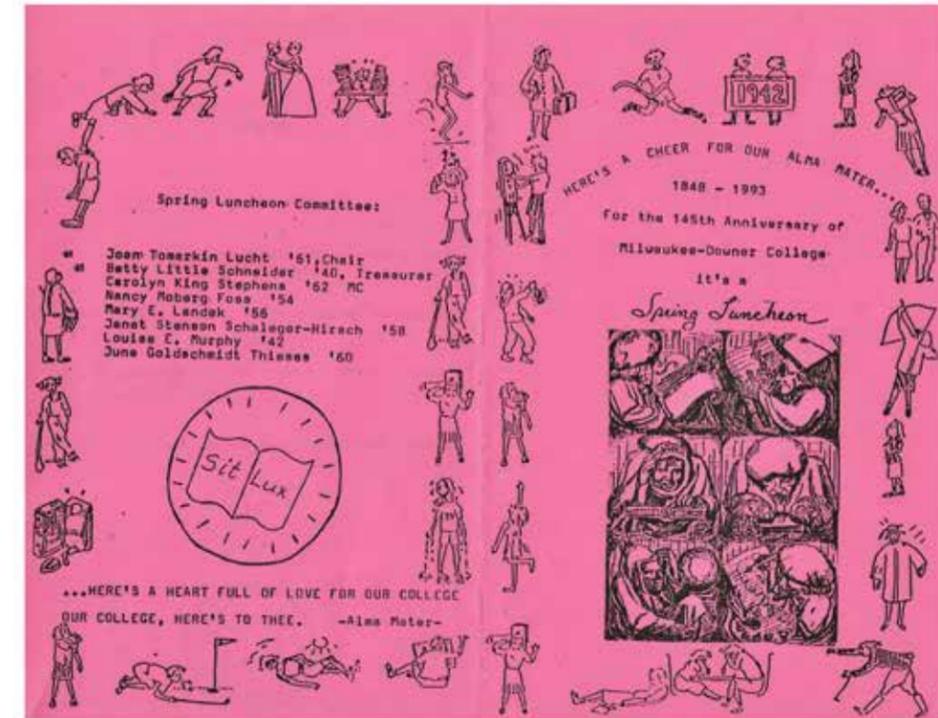
6. External Event 1976, May 1: *Landmarks Day and 125th Anniversary Spring Luncheon at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.*

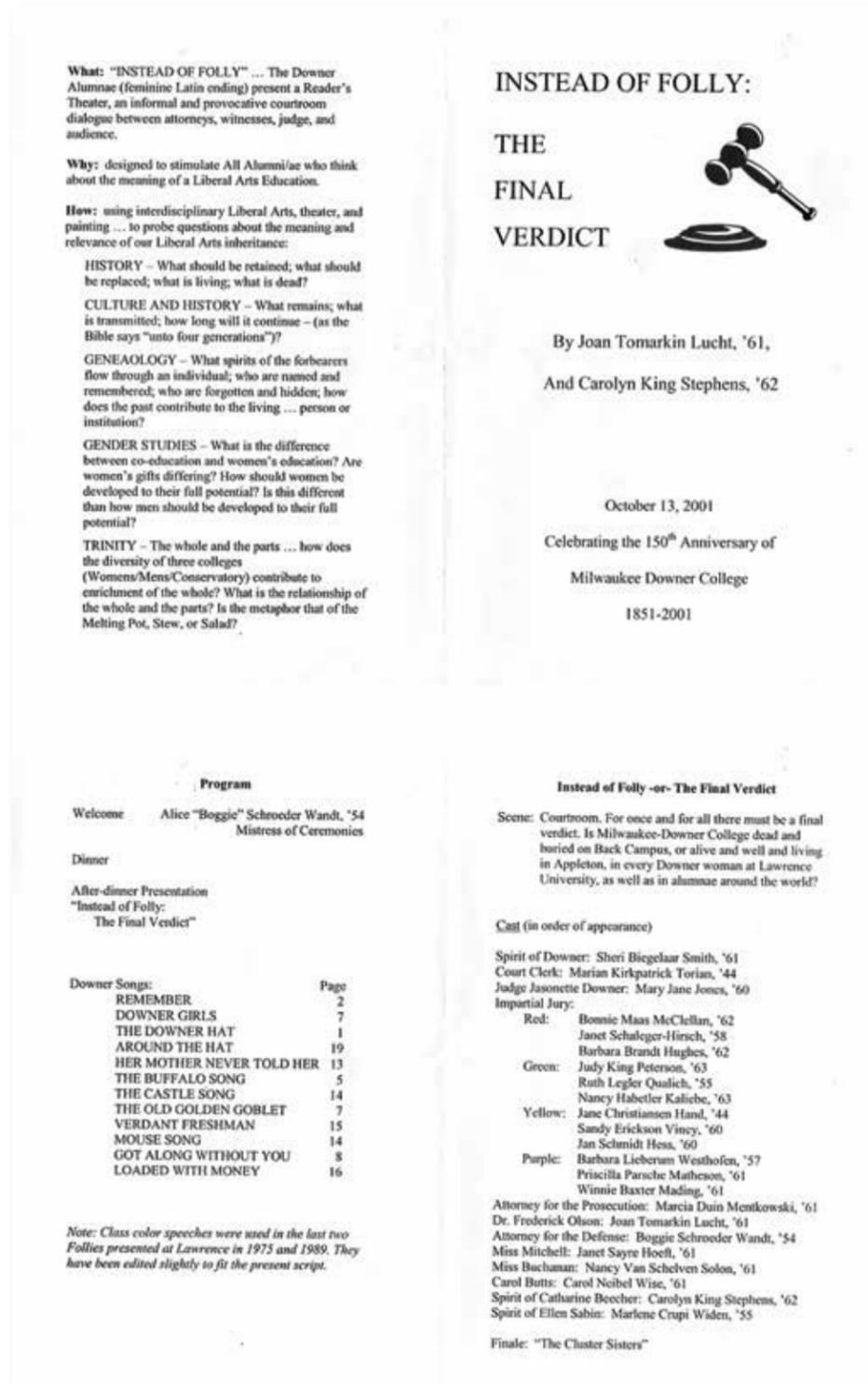


7. External Event 1981, May 9: Rededication of Holton Hall after renovation at University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee.



8. External Event - May 8, 1993: Benchmark Birthday, the 145th Anniversary of Mrs. Parson's Milwaukee Female Seminary. Program and Agenda.





9. 2001, October 13... —150th Anniversary of MDC—1851-2001; Original Program: *Instead of Folly: THE FINAL VERDICT*



10. Singing again on Merrill steps after 50 years. *The '65 Purple Class Returns*, (2012) Video, written and produced by Lee Dodds Shallat Chemel, M-D'65.

The Purple Class of 1965 is represented by the following in alphabetical order: Lee Dodds Chemel (front row, right), B. Jo Kounovsky Corbett, Victoria Frank, Heidi Wilde Hagenbuckle, Mary Harding, Marty Burke Hillary, Toini Lefren Jaffe, Judy Kronmeyer, Camille Eakins Lea, Sally Schleinz Milman, Julien Minard, Laura Garber Parsons, Ellen O'Connor Powers, Karen MacMahon Rambadt, Kathy Seitz, Ina Rifkin Tabak, Ann Uribe Walker.

You can be sure some of these Downer Songbook favorites were being sung again on the Merrill steps.



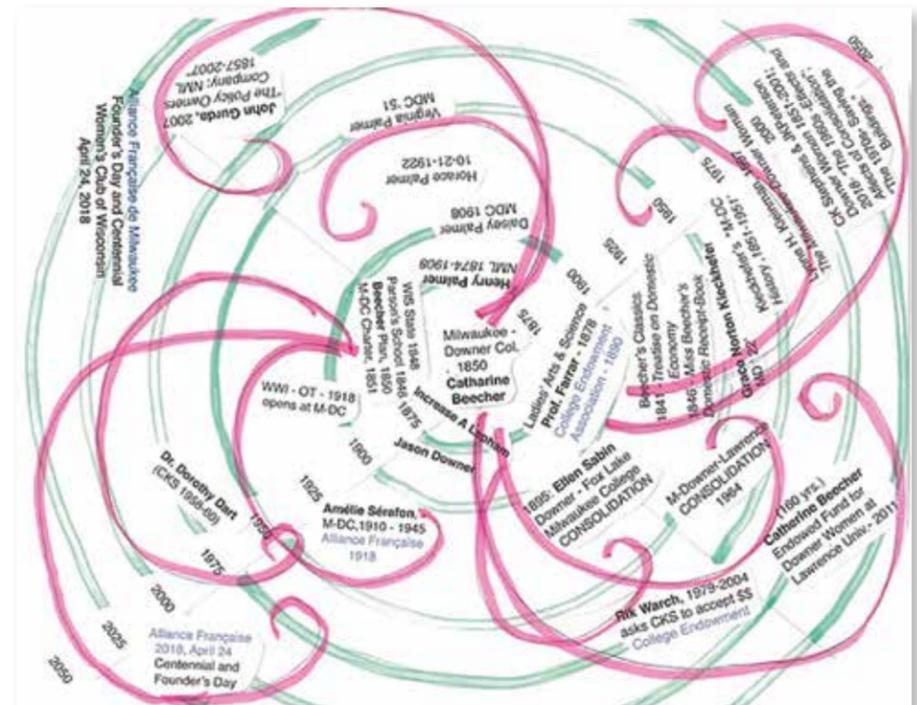
**Siblings that Catharine Educated**

- Harriet Stowe
- Mary Perkins
- Henry Ward
- Isabelle Hooker

**Catharine's Enlightened Brothers**

- Edward and Charles Scholar/Athletes
- Thomas - Teacher/Scientist
- James - Sailor/Priest/Soldier/General

11. Portrait Catharine Beecher ; Photos Beecher Family from 2014 - Multi-media lecture, *The Other Beecher: Lawrence's Legacy*, by Carolyn Stephens with readings by Eilene Hoft-March, Milwaukee-Downer and College Endowment Association Professor. \*(Photo credit: Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford CT; Oil Portrait, Judith King Peterson.)



12-13. *170 Years Through Time: The Milwaukee-Downer Galaxy* (1848 to 2018) Original Handout, 100th Anniversary of L'Alliance Française (04-24-18) and Milwaukee-Downer Teakwood Room Luncheon (6-18-18).

**WORKS CONSULTED: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY WITH ANNOTATIONS**

1. Beecher, Catharine Esther, A Treatise on Domestic Economy: *For the Use of Young Ladies at Home and at School*. This is a classic piece of Americana originally in a limited edition c.1842. It was widely distributed by Harper Brothers, c. 1845, and now is available in many forms, including on-line. My edition is subtitled “Affordable & High Quality, Paperback Book Edition” by Filiquarian Publishing, LLC/Qontro, obtained from Amazon.
2. Beecher, Catharine E., *Miss Beecher’s Domestic Receipt-Book*: with New Introduction by Janice (Jan) Bluestein Longone (Mineola NY: Dover) 2001. The original was published by Harper Brothers in 1858, to accompany the Treatise. Together these became “wisdom books” articulating timeless principles for health and life well lived. According to Lyman Beecher Stowe, in various editions and forms these books “were at one time almost as omnipresent in American homes as was in an earlier day, Benjamin Franklin’s *Poor Richards Almanac* (L.B.Stowe, 131).
3. Cumtux, Milwaukee-Downer Yearbooks through the years. Of note are two to mention here. The LU Archive has been bequeathed the 1908 Cumtux of Miss Daisey Palmer, (see Works Consulted, Note 6.) It is catalogued in a special collection as: Milwaukee-Downer College. *Cumtux: Milwaukee-Downer Annual*. Milwaukee, WI: Class of 1909, [1908?]. The oldest Cumtux is dated 1898, valuable because it outlines the terms of Milwaukee-Downer Presidents and its forerunners, from 1848 to the 22nd President, Ellen Sabin. (See Chapter 3, End Notes, regarding the dating of College Presidents.)
4. Chemel, Lee Dodds Shallat. *Downer Reunion, The ’65 Purple Class Returns* (2012). Skillful interviewing and editing help grown women articulate the developmental experiences which Downer gave them as undergraduates. They hope these benefits are being continued at Lawrence. The visuals show the depth of feeling Class members still shared after 50 years. The Music includes performances by the Milwaukee-Downer Women’s Choir and technical aspects of production make this video a distinguished collector’s artifact for the Archives at Seeley G. Mudd Library.
5. Brielmaier, Sherer & Sherer Architects, “Feasibility Study for the Restoration & Renovation of Seven Downer College Buildings on the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Campus,” 1974.
6. Gurda, John. *The Policyowners’ Company: A History of Northwestern Mutual, 1857-2007. Milwaukee: NML, 2007*. This book elegantly displays Milwaukee-Downer’s context amid growing industries and institutions interrelating beside and with her. A notable example was Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, under its primary builder Henry Lynde Palmer, 1819-1909. Gurda shows how Palmer’s tremendous effectiveness and service built the institution which would extend far beyond Milwaukee. Generations of Palmer women attended Milwaukee-Downer College. Three of the extended Palmer family were declared members of “The Faithful Foursome” at MDC Alumnae Events, discussed in Chapter 2 (See PHOTO, 1 - below.) Daisey Palmer’s Cumtux from 1908, is noted in Works Cited #3, above. Virginia A. Palmer M-D’51 was an historian and major donor to the Archives. Her work on the correspondence between Sabin and Briggs, is cited in #9, on the next page.
7. Kieckhefer, Grace Norton. *Milwaukee-Downer College History—1851-1951*. Milwaukee Downer College Bulletin, Series 33, number 2. November 1950. This is the most thorough and readable resource on the Beecher School of Wisconsin. Primary records, portrait quality photography, and vivid journalistic photos document the informative text. The author’s skill in storytelling is a match with her precision in research and fact finding. This is the foremost resource on Milwaukee-Downer College and its forerunners.
8. Kleinman, Lynne H. *The Milwaukee-Downer Woman*. Appleton: Lawrence University Press: 1997. Dr. Kleinman, a graduate of Barnard College, is a true product of liberal arts based, women’s higher education. She researched MDC for her dissertation, in which she seemed to take a late 20th century (negative) view of Catharine Beecher’s plan for empowering women, by giving them professional status in the four women’s fields: teaching, nursing, child care, and conservation of the domestic state. Kleinman’s conclusion reveals two innate ironies of the Beecher Plan. First, that the plan was not encouraging women to conform to tradition but was actually “fostering independence among the students.” Furthermore, instead of sheltering them, “an all-female institution, in which there was no competition from males, placed all leadership positions in the hands of women, and the all-female, single faculty modeled self-sufficiency and independence.” Second, she observes “the curriculum fostered independence, too; its vocational aspect appeared to favor the pursuit of careers, and its liberal arts aspect taught thinking skills that tended to limit the extent to which students remained willing to conform [ed.- to traditional models].” Therefore, “the women’s college, ... played a role in producing women who would be advocates of what has come to be identified as 20th century feminism.” Kleinman concludes that even when MDC graduates left the home for careers in fields traditionally held by women, they “breached the sphere”... “by thinking of it as serious participation in the world outside.” Kleinman articulates with much research and authority what the Downer Women featured in this book, and their classmates, directly experienced.
9. *Lawrence University Alumni Directory, 1982*. Including “the names of all the alumni and alumnae of Lawrence and Milwaukee-Downer from the class of 1903 through the class of 1981.” This is the unprecedented work detailed in Chapter 5, during the Presidency of Clarmarie White Voss M-D’35, which was published by the LUAA Board the year following. Women are listed twice, by maiden names and married names, when applicable. Deceased persons and persons without addresses are also listed. There are three listings: by alphabet, by class number, and by geographical area, city and state.
10. Palmer, Virginia A. M-D’51. “Faithfully Yours, Ellen C. Sabin: Correspondence Between Ellen C. Sabin and Lucia R. Briggs, January, 1921 to August, 1921” in *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Vol. 67, No. 1. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin: 1983. 17-41. Ellen C. Sabin and the Milwaukee-Downer Board of Trustees were forced to seek a successor for Sabin when she neared her 71st birthday and announced retirement. In her 30 years as President, Sabin had led the merger of Milwaukee and Downer Colleges, developed a sustainable enrollment, and inaugurated a substantial academic curriculum. The community responded raising funds for superior facilities and a residential campus approaching 50 acres. After a national search, two women executives conducted strategic negotiations on salaries, staffing, student life, faculty, philosophy, and curriculum through personal letters. Virginia Palmer scoured the resources of the State Historical Society, Madison, to find and edit intimate details between the strong past President and the younger leader who would succeed over the next 30 years. Palmer’s epistolary form vividly delivers the facts and the relational skills of the two eloquent educators.
11. Stephens, Carolyn King. *Downer Women 1851-2001*, celebrates the 150th anniversary of the charter, in a small coffee-table edition with a silver Downer seal. The Portrait-size oil paintings by Judith King Peterson feature the founders: Lucy Anne Parsons, Catharine Beecher, Mary Mortimer, Jason Downer, Ellen C. Sabin, and Lucia Russell Briggs. The book provides a quick reference for names and dates and supports the case that women graduating from Lawrence after 1964 are Downer Women. (See photos on p. 111.)
12. Stowe, Harriet Beecher Center, 77 Forest Street, Hartford CT 06105; info@StoweCenter.org;

860-522-9258. Permission granted for selected slides. Recommended as a resource center for the entire Beecher Family.

13. Stowe, Lyman Beecher. *Saints Sinners and Beechers*. Bobbs-Merrill, 1934. The grand-nephew of Catharine Beecher, and grandson of Harriett Beecher Stowe, gives the most intelligent and intimate picture of the Beecher Clan. Catharine as eldest of the thirteen siblings, watched two mothers defeated by exhaustion and child bearing. When it was up to her to nurture and educate her

sisters and brothers, she earned her credentials in the four skills: Teaching, Nursing, Child Care and Conservation of the Domestic State. In addition, she supported their father, Rev. Lyman Beecher—anti-bellum reformer and educator. The profiles by LBS are rich with informative and poignant detail.

14. Tank, Ronald W. and Sherwin W. Howard. *The Consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College*, Volume I. Appleton: Lawrence University, 2018.

**PHOTOS**

1. Work Cited #6 - The Palmer Connection. Three of the *Fabulous Foursome* (on right, below) are Palmer Women from three decades at Milwaukee-Downer College. They are Merle and Edna Hibbert and Daisey Palmer.



1. The Faithful Foursome of the Milwaukee chapter gathered in the lobby before touring the Todd Wehr Theatre. The four ladies who have maintained the most constant attendance record in the group are Florence Detienne Edwards '18; Merle Hibbert '26, Edna Hibbert Freeman '14, and Daisey Palmer '08. (Lawrence Alumni Edition 2. November 1971.)

2. Work Consulted #10: The Downer Portrait Gallery, gifted by Judith King Peterson, MD'63.



cf. Works Consulted #10: The Downer Portrait Gallery, gifted by Judith King Peterson, MD '63, near the Teakwood Room, Floor 2, Alice G. Chapman Hall. Pictured: Lucy Ann Parsons - "Abolitionist, Activist, and Feminist Educator"; Catharine Esther Beecher - "Pioneer and Reformer for Women's Higher Education"; Mary Mortimer "The True Teacher; Judge Jason Downer - "Lawyers' Lawyer" and "Namesake of Downer College"; Ellen Clara Sabin—"Frontier Woman, Strong and Able Manager"; Lucia Russell Briggs, "Eastern Polish and Sophistication."

3. Dr. Thomas Randall Dale, Downer Professor of English 1955-1964; Lawrence Professor of English, 1964-1981. Portrait by J. Peterson is located in the Heritage Room, Seeley G. Mudd Library.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carolyn King Stephens, M-D'62, B.A. in English is a writer of plays, literature, interviews, and stories grounded in nature, history, and geography. She conducts research through experiential learning, such as using a fourteenth-century manuscript as a roadmap to cross Wales from Caer Leon to Caernarfon. She has published non-fiction and fiction in multiple genres as playwright, poet, speechwriter, persuader, and preservationist. For this book, she uses interview as the primary research method.

Stephens lives in Milwaukee with her husband, John, a Vermont native and American History teacher. They have four adult children—three teachers and two graduates from Lawrence, LU '87 and LU '91. Raising the family in Milwaukee made Carolyn readily available for Downer Alumnae Activities. She remembers as a young woman, admiring those in the leading roles and official capacities. While researching and interviewing the

alums for this book, she was sometimes surprised to find she was at a particular event being discussed. February 10, 1968, for example, was a big day for the vote on merging Downer and Lawrence College Alumni Associations. Gertrude Jupp had covered the event and Stephens saw her name at the bottom of Gertrude's list of voting members. That reminder greatly improved the reporter's memory of the event.

An Emeritus Professor from Concordia University Wisconsin, Stephens served as Liberal Arts Program Director and Associate Professor of English. Prior, she was Director of Community Relations at Cardinal Stritch and Director of the Telesis Institute for Adult and Continuing Education at Alverno. Her M.B.A. is from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and her Ph.D. is from Union Institute, Cincinnati.

## CREDITS AND THANKS:

Mark D. Breseman '78, AVP of Alumni and Constituency Engagement, approved this project and sponsored it from his department. His Office Coordinator, Sherri Immel, helped proof the manuscript, supervised retyping of documents, retrieved permissions for use of photos, and more.

Liz Boutelle, Art Director in the LU Communications Department gave her considerable talent, technical skill, and compassionate energy to bring this book to life. Her support as project director was invaluable.

Eilene Hoft-March is holder of the distinguished Milwaukee-Downer and College Endowment Association Chair at LU. Thanks and appreciation to “The Downer Professor,” for critical suggestions on the structuring of this book and serving as an early reader.

Mary Babb Emory, long time editor of the international magazine for The Alliance Française of Milwaukee, generously provided her skills to consolidate and proof the varied texts, end notes, photo credits, and appended documents in this collection.

Custodians: Jim Sternat and John Adams excavated the lost Lawrence College bronze seal, which Stephens discovered under thick ice and dirt in the bushes of Old Main Hall. Neither Downer's seal nor the Lawrence College seal had been lost or damaged. The stone work had crumbled beneath them but those long-time Lawrence caretakers had removed the Downer bronze to safety. They brought it out again to be photographed with the Lawrence College seal, so recently disinterred. The three seals in their original order are for you to see on pages 006 and 114.

## ABOUT THE COVERS

**The Covers:** Old Main Hall, the original all-purpose college building built in 1853.

**Front Cover:** With a close look you can see the bronze seal of Lawrence University embedded in the walk, in front of Main Hall's North entrance. The marker was, and will again be, centered between the bronze seal of Lawrence College, to the East, and the bronze seal of Milwaukee-Downer College, to the West. Three seals represent *The Consolidation* of two Colleges to form today's, unified, University.

**The Back Cover:** The Sundial mounted on the South wall of Main Hall at Lawrence is the same Dial as that hailed in the M-DC Alma Mater: “The Dial shall remembered be.” In 1975 the M-D Class of 1932 moved the “Downer Dial” from Merrill Hall in Milwaukee to Main Hall at Lawrence. The Back Cover represents *The Consolidation* of Lawrence College and Downer College to form today's Lawrence University.



**from the Consolidation came the University**

“Light! More Light!”

“Let there Be Light”

