

The Consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College



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The decision of the Milwaukee-Downer College Board of Trustees to sell their campus and associated buildings to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was a historic event for both institutions and for Lawrence College.

Sherwin Howard, assistant to the president at Lawrence University from 1971 to 1980, investigated the trustee decision-making process. He wrote a thesis on the subject and submitted the results of his investigation to the University of Wisconsin-Madison as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (1980).

Much of Part I of this report has been derived from Howard's thesis. This includes many of his graphs and tables. Part II summarizes the impact of the trustees' decision on Lawrence College. Data for Part II has been derived from sources in the Lawrence University Archives and the author's personal records. Part III deals with the impact of the consolidation on Milwaukee-Downer College alumnae.

—Ronald Tank 2019

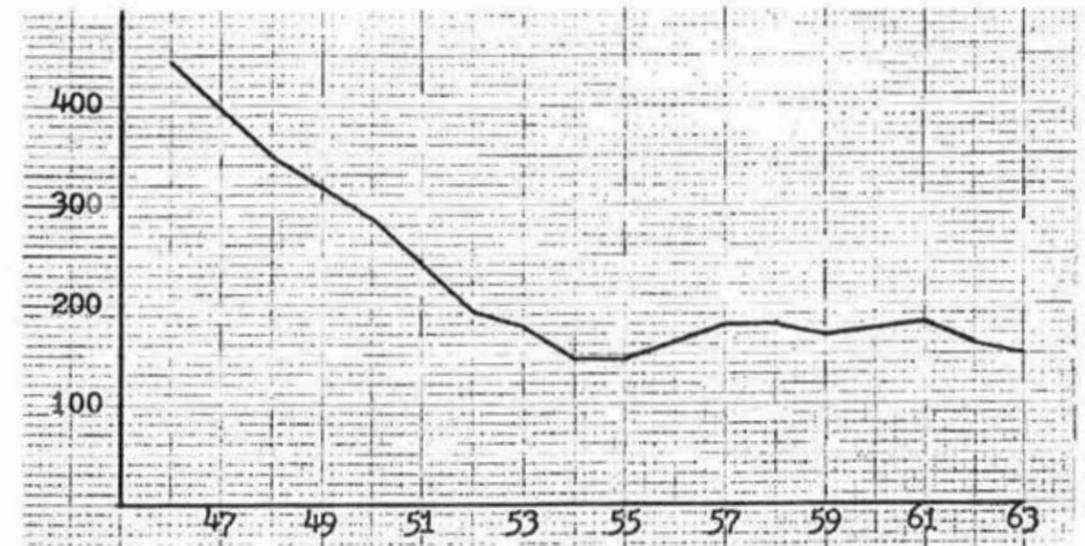
Part I Milwaukee-Downer College and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee** has had a complex history. In 1927 the Milwaukee Normal School moved from downtown Milwaukee to its present location and changed its name to Wisconsin State Teachers College-Milwaukee. It became one of the nation's top teachers' training programs in the 1940s. In 1951 liberal arts programs were introduced and the name was changed to Wisconsin State College-Milwaukee. In 1955 graduate programs were introduced and in 1956 the name was changed to University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. By 2005, the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee had surpassed University of Wisconsin—Madison in the number of Wisconsin resident students and became the university with the largest enrollment of Wisconsin residents. In 2015 there were 28,813 students enrolled.

Starting in 1952, increasing student enrollments led University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee to seek additional space for academic buildings, dormitories, and parking. The Milwaukee-Downer College campus across the street became the target for the space needs.



TOTAL OPENING FALL, FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT AT M-D COLLEGE
(1946-1963)



Milwaukee-Downer Seminary was a private girls' junior high and high school in Milwaukee. It was the pre-collegiate section of Milwaukee-Downer College. It was separated from the college in 1910. In 1959 the Seminary moved to River Hills, Wisconsin and sold its campus and buildings to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

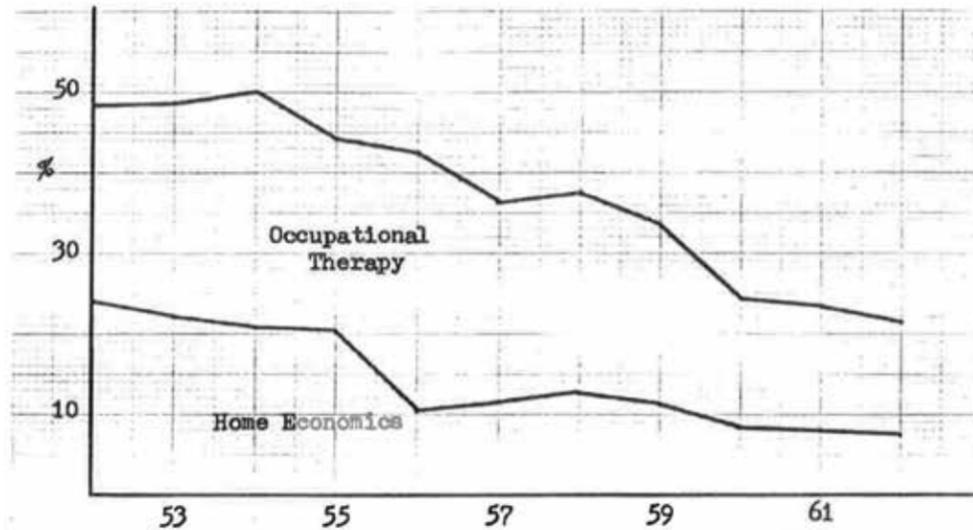
Milwaukee-Downer College also had a complex history. It was established in 1895 with the consolidation of Milwaukee College and Downer College of Fox Lake, Wisconsin. In 1895 the college purchased 43 acres of land on Milwaukee's north side. Merrill and Holton Halls were constructed in 1899 and additional student residence halls were completed in 1901. In 1906 there were 356 students enrolled and 32 instructors. Student enrollment at Milwaukee-Downer College peaked at 444 in the 1946-47 scholastic year. The curriculum emphasized the liberal arts and included the specializations of elementary education, home economics and occupational therapy. The occupational therapy program was one of the first in the country and was highly rated.

Beginning in 1947-48 there was an ominous decline in student enrollment. Low birth rates in the 1930s resulted in a marked reduction in the college-age population. This resulted in increased competition from colleges nationwide and from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee beginning in the early 1950s. There was also a steady loss of enrollments in the occupational therapy and home economics programs beginning in the 1950s.



Orientation Days with Merrill Tower and the sundial as background. *Hawthorn Leaves* 1962. Rosemary Bock left, Cynthia Stevens, Linda Schartz, Nan Tulley and Andrea Schultheis.

PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS ENROLLED IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND HOME ECONOMICS (1952-1962)



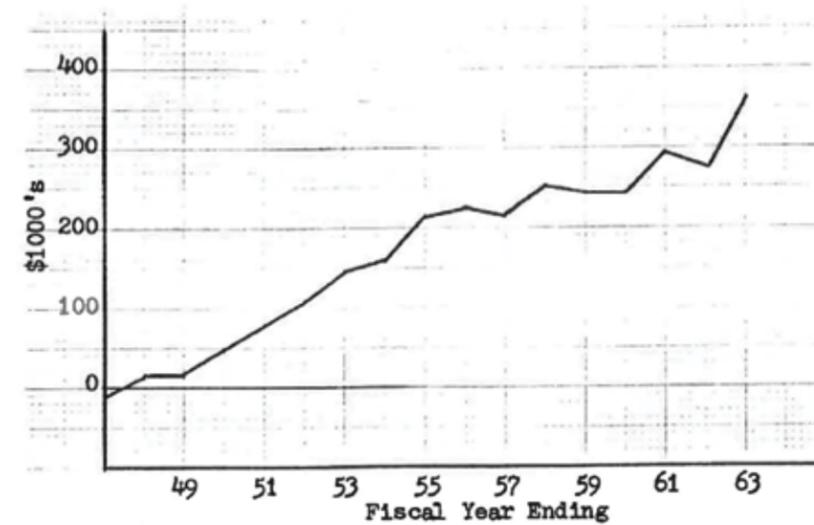
Milwaukee-Downer College increased its admissions staff and expanded its geographic recruiting range. However, it did not perform as well as other women's colleges in the state. Edgewood College, Mount Mary, Viterbo, and Holy Family College showed significant enrollment gains from 1957 to 1964.

TOTAL OPENING FALL, FULL-TIME ENROLLMENTS AT M-D, EDGEWOOD, VITERBO, AND HOLY FAMILY COLLEGES (1957-1963)

Year	M-D	Viterbo	Mt. Mary	Holy Family	Edgewood
57-58	180	322	963	179	232
58-59	190	312	989	201	314
59-60	178	341	1062	215	417
60-61	179	342	1103	232	485
61-62	190	357	1095	172	510
62-63	163	416	1136	256	582
63-64	157	430	1203	390	575
64-65	-	500	1251	455	606

The decrease in enrollment was a major factor in the increase in annual operating budget deficits at Milwaukee-Downer College. For some reason Downer did not resort to major increases in tuition and fees.

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET DEFICITS AT M-D COLLEGE (1947-1963)



A COMPARISON OF TUITION AND FEES AT M-D AND LAWRENCE COLLEGES (1952-1963)

ANN	Tuition		Room & Board	
	M-D	Lawrence	M-D	Lawrence
2	350	520	600	560
3	400	600	750	600
4	400	600	750	600
5	400	600	750	600
6	400	760	750	640
7	400	760	750	640
1958	550	900	750	700
1959	800	1090	750	710
1960	800	1175	750	725
1961	1000	1275	835	725
1962	1000	1375	850	725
1963	1200	1450	900	750

When the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee purchased the Seminary property in 1959, the regents began to look to Downer for some of its “unused acreage” and/or rental of classrooms, interchange of faculty, or female students. Some of the regents believed that the Downer campus would have to be acquired through negotiation of a purchase price or through eminent domain. Growing enrollment at University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and needs for expansion of the campus were viewed by Downer trustees with trepidation.

When Downer opened in the fall of 1962 with only 163 full-time students and facing budget deficits, there was a sudden and intense renewal of public interest in the state’s acquisition of the Downer campus. The Milwaukee-Downer College trustees began to consider consolidation with another liberal arts college. Two members of the Downer board of trustees were also on the Lawrence board, and they alerted the Lawrence board of Downer’s predicament and possible interest in merging.

The chairman of Downer’s board of trustees outlined the following conditions of negotiations with University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and Lawrence College:

1. That a maximum price be secured for the property.
2. Every effort be made to retain the name or identification of Milwaukee-Downer College in any consolidation.
3. Maintenance of academic excellence.
4. Respect the rights of faculty, students, and administrative personnel.
5. Continued loyalty of alumnae and identification with the College.

At 10:30 a.m. on October 22, 1963, Charles W. Stone, the chairman of the Downer board of trustees, read the following statement to the assembled students and faculty in Merrill Hall:

“We have asked you to gather here at this time so that I may announce on behalf of the trustees a historic decision for the future of Milwaukee-Downer College. The trustees of Milwaukee-Downer College and of Lawrence College have agreed to join together in the establishment of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. The new University will be comprised of three coordinate colleges: Downer College for the education of women, Lawrence College for the education of men, and a Conservatory of Music.

You students who elect to continue your education next fall as members of the Downer College of Lawrence University will retain your academic standing as it would have been if this consolidation were not taking place. You members of the faculty and administration will be offered the opportunity to continue your work with Lawrence University with full protection of the rights to which you are entitled as members of the faculty and administration of Milwaukee-Downer College. All members of the Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae Association will have full membership in the Lawrence University Alumni Association.

I wish further to announce that this campus has been offered for sale to the University of Wisconsin for \$10,000,000 to permit expansion of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I have every reason to believe that this offer will be accepted. If it is, occupancy of the campus is proposed to take place as soon as practicable after commencement in June, 1964.

The proceeds from the sale of the campus will be combined with Milwaukee-Downer’s endowment fund to create for Lawrence University a Downer Trust Fund for ‘the promotion of academic excellence in private education for women in a free society.’ The decision to follow this course has been taken only after months of careful study and serious deliberation on the part of all of the Trustees. We believe the contributions to learning which will be afforded will be distinctive in the progress of American private education.

This statement must necessarily be brief and will not, perhaps, answer many of the questions which are forming in your minds. Since these agreements I am announcing are agreements in principle, many of the details have not yet been worked out. Now that this announcement has been made, we will be able to keep you informed of future developments as they occur. In the meantime, I want you to know that to the greatest extent possible, we will take into consideration the personal interests of the students, alumni, faculty, and administrations of both colleges in bringing them together into what I firmly believe will be one of the great private educational institutions of the country.”

Milwaukee newspapers reported that students in the audience were shocked, disappointed and teary-eyed.

At 10:30 a.m. on October 22, 1963 Lawrence College President Curtis Tarr informed the faculty gathered in Harper Hall of the consolidation, and at 11 :30 a.m. he addressed the students in the Memorial Hall Chapel while the bells rang in Lawrence’s Main Hall tower. The Lawrence community was optimistic about the consolidation, but there is no surviving transcript of President Tarr’s speech to the faculty or the students.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee gained 43 acres of land and all of the existing buildings on the Downer campus. This was in addition to the land and buildings that were purchased from Milwaukee-Downer Seminary in 1959.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee purchased the 75,000 fossils and 13,000 mineral specimens in the Thomas Greene Museum collection. Two eight-oar racing shells and two six-oar practice shells which were used in Downer’s traditional spring regatta were left behind along with miscellaneous pieces of furniture.



Student reaction to the announcement of the proposed consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College. Merrill Hall auditorium, October 22, 1963.

Downer Students, Faculty See Truth Through Mist of Tears

By DAVID N. MITCHELL
Of The Journal Staff

THE women of Milwaukee-Downer college took the news like women Tuesday. They wept, they sobbed. A few wailed.

It was to no avail.

The steady, calm, monotone voice of Downer Board Chairman Charles W. Stone pierced the tumult in the auditorium of Merrill hall as he read the sentences that said that Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence colleges, Appleton, would be combined.

The second sentence of the announcement told the story.

"Offered for Sale"

There was a gasp. Then a hysterical giggle.

The faculty members had not known. They sat quietly,

listening. One elderly woman began twisting and untwisting her hands.

"This campus has been offered for sale to the University of Wisconsin . . ." Stone said.

One girl rose, paused and then ran out the auditorium doors.

Girl Races Out

Tears began trickling silently down the cheeks of a woman faculty member with 28 years at Downer.

"I can't talk," she said. It was an eloquent statement, the way she said it.

Then angry questions began.

"Does Lawrence have a home economics department?" a girl asked.

"No final determination

has been made on curriculum," Stone responded.

"How long has this deal with Lawrence been brewing?" asked another.

"For a year," Stone answered.

Another girl rose, raised her hand. She sat down, then rose again and sprinted out the doors, her feet pounding the wooden floors.

More rose to leave. Some walked out with their heads high. Others stumbled in their frantic haste to get away. The sobbing rose, subsided and rose again.

A male faculty member rose and said: "The faculty had no knowledge of this merger."

"That, I take it, was an announcement," Stone responded.

Professor Complains

The teacher sat down. Stone fielded another hotly worded question.

Some of the students began trickling back in, their tears under control.

"I'm going to transfer to the east," a girl announced to no one in particular. "I came here to go to Downer, not Lawrence. I don't know anything about Lawrence."

A professor rose to complain that the students and faculty should have been prepared for the shock.

A burst of applause from the students greeted his statement. Other faculty members did not clap.

Then it was over. A meeting of the faculty was called.

Can Keep Rank

The students and their teachers began filing out.

"I am going to faint—I am going to faint," a woman teacher said to her companion.

Little knots of teachers formed but quickly disappeared behind classroom

doors when a reporter approached.

Their problems were practical as well as emotional. Each had to decide for himself whether to join the Lawrence faculty and leave Milwaukee ties—and homes—behind.

They knew only that their faculty rank would not be lowered if they made the move.

Stone had indicated publicly earlier in the year that some radical step might have to be taken to solve some of the college's growing problems. Moving elsewhere was mentioned as one alternative.

The hint apparently didn't help cushion the announcement.

"The reaction today was pretty much what I expected," Stone said.

Lawrence Merges with Private Girls' School

LAWRENCE COLLEGE and Milwaukee-Downer college will consolidate their resources, traditions and educational commitments at the end of present academic year, announced William L. Wright, president of the Lawrence board of trustees, and Charles W. Stone, Downer board chairman, Tuesday.

THE CONSOLIDATION will create an institution on the present Lawrence campus of more than 1200 students and an endowment in excess of \$20 million. Downer's 43-acre Milwaukee campus has been offered for sale for \$10 million to the University of Wisconsin to permit expansion of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The consolidated institution will be known as Lawrence university, the name by which Lawrence was known from 1849, two years after it was chartered, until 1913 when it chose to be known as a college.

Lawrence university will include three coordinate units: Lawrence college for men, Downer college for women and the Conservatory of Music. One of the conditions of consolidation was that the name Downer would be perpetuated in the new institution.

LAWRENCE university will maintain a academic affiliation with the Institute of Paper Chemistry.

In accordance with further conditions of consolidation, present student body and faculty of Downer college will come to Appleton at the same level and status they have held at Downer.

Milwaukee-Downer presently enrolls 150 students. Underclass women will be invited to join present Lawrence underclass women to comprise Downer college of Lawrence university.

MILWAUKEE-DOWNER'S 30 full-time faculty members will be offered positions at Lawrence university. However, two courses offered at Downer, home economics and physical therapy, will not be offered by the university.

The extra teaching personnel will make possible a lighter teaching load throughout the university and will probably permit

an enlarged program of sabbatical and research leaves.

Downer board chairman Stone said that the expected \$10 million proceeds from the sale of the Milwaukee campus, combined with Downer's endowment fund of almost \$3 million, will be used to establish a Downer Trust Fund for the promotion of academic excellence and the continued education of women at Lawrence university.

ULTIMATE stewardship of the fund will reside in the board of trustees of Lawrence university, which will be enlarged to permit representation from both consolidating colleges.

At present, Lawrence and Downer share two trustees, Donald C. Slichter, president of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance company, and Milwaukee attorney Frederic Hammond.

The transfer of administrative staff and employees of Milwaukee-Downer who wish to move to Lawrence university will be subject to administrative review and individual confirmation.

ALTHOUGH many details are yet to be settled, Stone emphasized that the trustees intend to promote the character and traditions of Downer throughout the reorganization and in the future. "Downer's heritage will not be diluted, nor will Lawrence's," he said. "Rather, each will be strengthened and enhance the other."

Because of UWM's timetable for expansion, a decision about its geographical direction of growth had to be made this winter. Before the Downer campus was offered for sale, it appeared that expansion would have to go into the surrounding residential areas. Making residential land suitable for campus use would mean additional delay and expense to the expansion program.

THE DOWNER campus adjoins the UWM campus to the north. Its area will more than double the size of the present UWM campus.

Milwaukee-Downer college itself was born of a merger in 1893. Downer college in Fox Lake and Milwaukee Female college joined together at that time. Milwaukee Female college, chartered in 1851, was one of the earliest women's colleges in the country.

Although Milwaukee-Downer is primarily a liberal arts college, it is also known as a pioneer in home economics and occupational therapy.

JOHN B. Johnson, Jr., president of Downer, noted: "The union of Milwaukee-Downer and Lawrence college will greatly strengthen independent higher education in Wisconsin. At the same time public higher education and the entire Milwaukee community will benefit substantially from the acquisition of the Downer campus by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee."

President Curtis Tarr further commented: "During the past century Lawrence has made great strides as a small, liberal arts college. This consolidation will provide some of the faculty and financial assistance needed in the future to augment our present program and to permit even more individual attention and encouragement to students."

"This is an important milestone for Lawrence which should inspire all those seriously interested in her future."

Faculty Opinion Strongly Backs Lawrence's Merger with Downer

"I WAS very surprised!" "It should be a good thing for the college." "It seems a reasonable move for both Downer and Lawrence." Thus, students and faculty members have expressed opinions on the recent announcement of the merger of Milwaukee-Downer college with Lawrence.

IN ORDER to obtain some idea of faculty opinion concerning the merger and subsequent formation of Lawrence university, the Lawrentian interviewed 11 faculty members. Of these, all 11 favored the merger.

Richard W. Winslow, instructor in Spanish, stated that he is very pleased. He feels that the merger "came at a good time," and that it will provide "needed expansion means." He deems it a "good move for both Downer and Lawrence."

Winslow sensed that "Downer chose to merge with Lawrence as a school that can do for their women what they had hoped to do." Under the present merger arrangement, he finds "Lawrence under no obligation to make any major changes."

JOHN M. STANLEY, instructor in religion, stated that the merger was "good news." He feels that this action "certainly will help in improving endowment facilities of Lawrence."

He sensed no changes at Lawrence. "Lawrence's goal will remain to give the best possible education to 1200 undergraduates." He states that "Lawrence will be a university in the European sense."

Carl P. Wellman, associate

professor of philosophy, likewise sees no change in the size of Lawrence. In essence, Wellman stated "the nature of Lawrence college will not change."

CHONG-DO HAH, instructor in government, asserted the merger was the "best news I have heard since I came to Lawrence." He feels the increased endowment "surely will encourage improvement" in increased curriculum and lecture activities.

In addition, an increase in faculty salaries and time allotted for faculty independent research will "probably improve quality of instruction." Thus, Lawrence will be able to continue to retain good teachers, he stated.

BEN SCHNEIDER, assistant professor of English, thinks it's grand . . . "we do not have to make any changes other than these during a period of adjustment."

He implied that Lawrence was fortunate to get this money "without strings attached." Schneider states that this merger provides for "funds for scholarship" and increased faculties to enhance the student-faculty ratio.

Leonard O. Pinsky, assistant professor of philosophy, stated that he "didn't know where to

begin for the merger presents an environment for thought in terms of educational adventure."

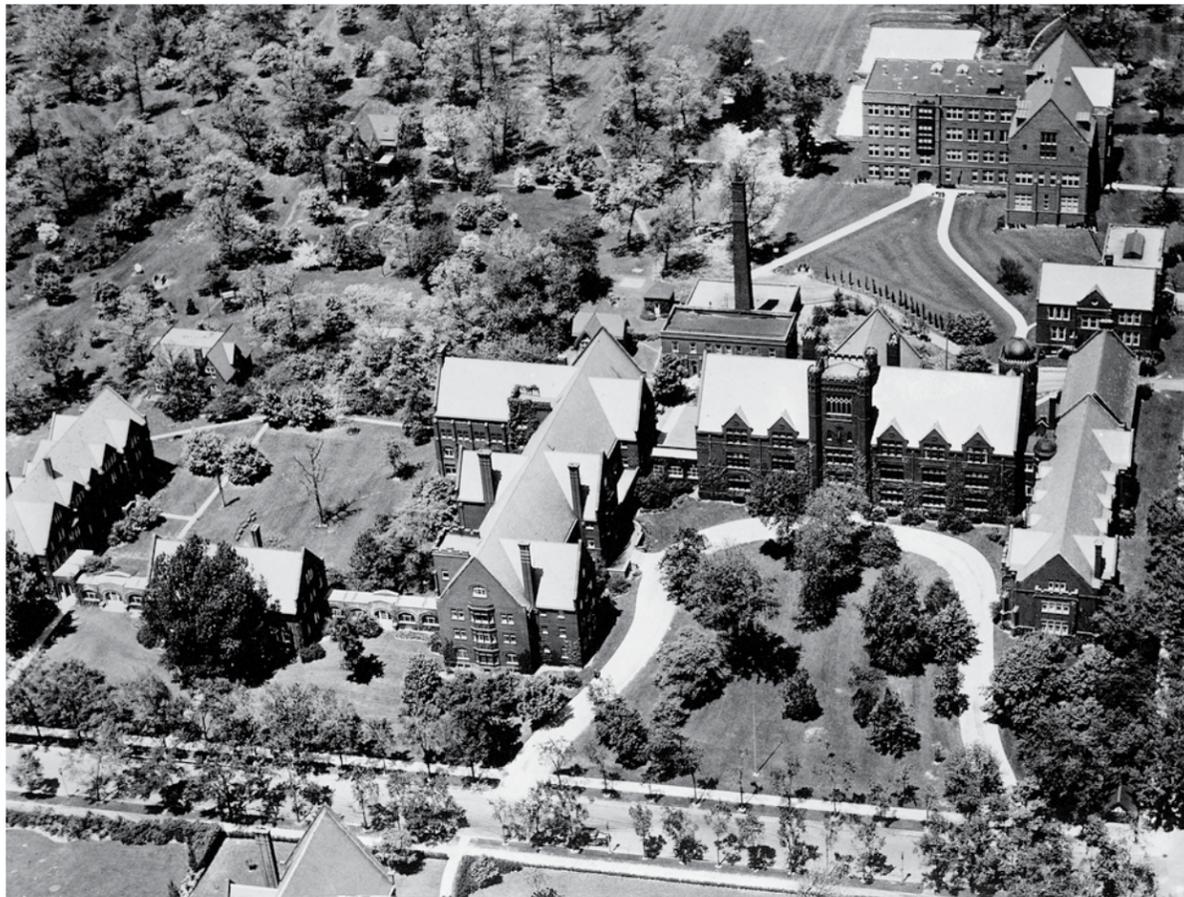
HE FEELS it "changes the whole environment in which we can think about the college. It is presumptuous to state specifically what will happen, for the merger provides the faculty with unparalleled opportunities."

Pinsky asserted that "this arrangement, as President Curtis W. Tarr emphasized in the convocation, will provide for the basic fundamentals, not the frills of an educational institution." He further stated that the opportunities afforded to Lawrence as a potential educational institution have been magnified by the increased endowment.

Bertrand A. Goldgar, assistant professor of English, expressed his enthusiasm about the merger by stating "we'll be richer—that has to be good." Miss Dorrit Friedlander agrees that "the endowment is generally accepted as a good thing."

"AS LONG as we remain 'Lawrence,' emphasized John F. McMahon, "I am happy about the Downer merger and the accompanying endowment." He sees no great change in campus life as a result.

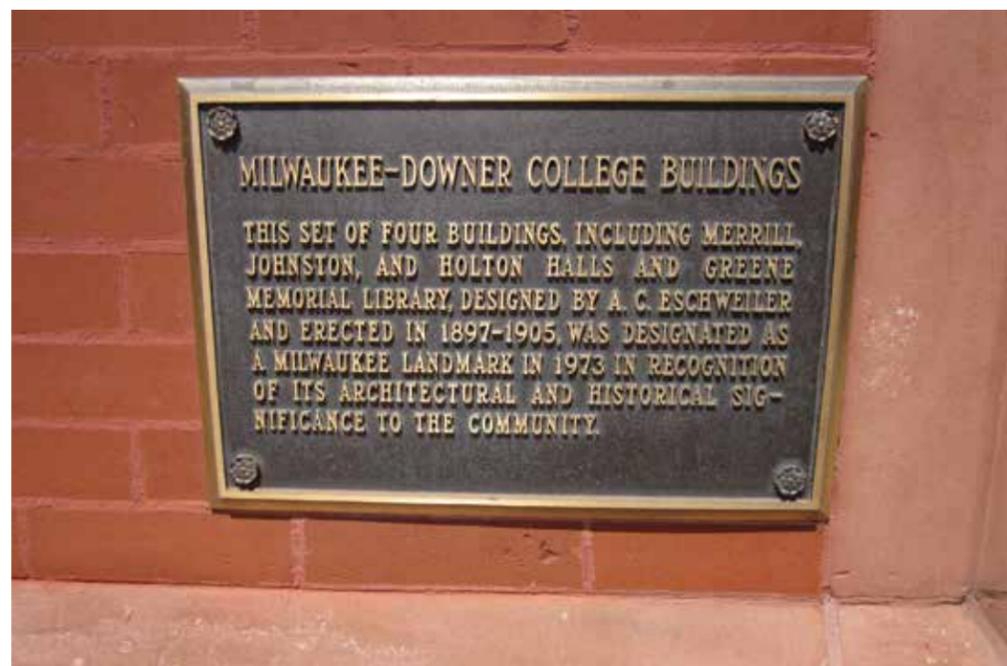
"A fine thing!" asserted Ronald J. Mason when asked about the merger. He states that it reflects favorably on Lawrence's academic credentials that such a fine school as Downer should turn to it.



Aerial View of the Milwaukee-Downer Campus, circa 1950-1957



Holton Hall, Milwaukee-Downer College



Merrill Hall, 2017



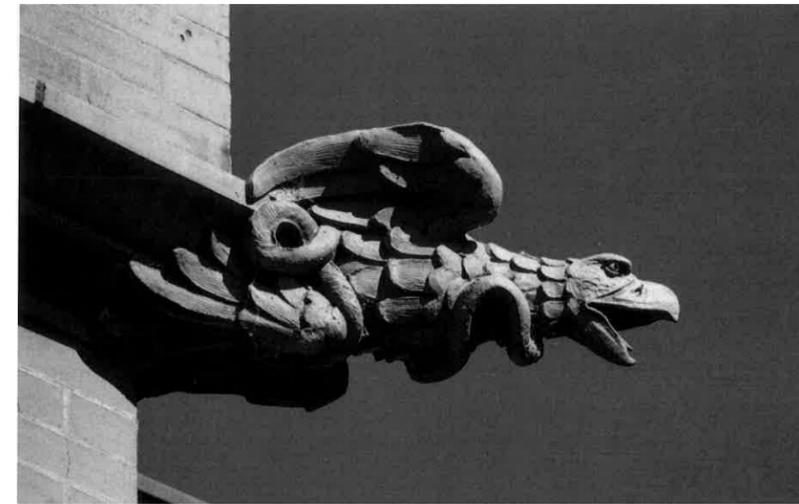
“Let’s meet by the clock.” The Flanders clock in Merrill Hall, circa 1960



Johnston Hall, Milwaukee-Downer College, 2017



Merrill Hall, circa 1940-1950



Exterior details on Johnston Hall
“The Downer buildings feature intriguing Gargoyles and Grotesques ...”



Greene Memorial Hall, 2017



The Regatta, circa 1940-1950



Greene Memorial Hall
Center for social gatherings and club meetings



Lantern Night, circa 1960-1963



The Thomas Greene Memorial Museum, circa 1930-1950



Sabin Hall housed the science laboratories and classrooms, art studios, and the home economics and occupational therapy departments



Colors Day 1949



Hat Hunt 1941 • Marva Nelson Fors • First Hat Girl



Chapman Memorial Library, circa 1938-1964



Thomas Greene Memorial Museum now is the Stahl Center for Jewish Studies
National Register of Historic Places (1993)



Albert Memorial Hall and Hawthornden, circa 1907-1964

Part II “On to Lawrence”



Hawthorn Leaves, Volume 40, May 1964

Approximately half of the faculty and students going on to Appleton.

Milwaukee-Downer College, Lawrence College, and Lawrence University

Lawrence was originally named Lawrence Institute of Wisconsin in its 1847 charter, but the name was changed to **Lawrence University** in 1849. Women were admitted to its student body from the day classes started, thereby making Lawrence the first co-educational institution of higher learning in the State of Wisconsin and one of the first in the country. From 1913 to 1964 the school was renamed **Lawrence College** to emphasize its small size and focus on liberal arts education. **The Lawrence University Conservatory of Music** was founded in 1874 and offered Bachelor of Music degrees beginning in 1887. In 2013, 1,555 students were enrolled at Lawrence—about 25 percent in the Conservatory. With the consolidation of Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College the name of Lawrence College was changed back to Lawrence University. In an effort to retain the name of Milwaukee-Downer College, Lawrence University designated two symbolic entities: Lawrence College For Men, and Downer College for Women, and degrees are conferred “on the recommendation of the Faculty of Lawrence and Downer Colleges” of Lawrence University. The Bachelor of Music degree is from the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music.

Impacts of the Consolidation

Personnel

- Ninety students at Milwaukee-Downer College considered coming to Appleton. Of the 90, 49 transferred and 40 went on to graduate. This gave Lawrence the largest enrollment in the history of the Appleton campus at that time.
- Of the 29 Milwaukee-Downer College faculty, 21 accepted Lawrence offers. Eleven stayed until retirement.
- One of the Milwaukee-Downer College administrative staff joined the staff at Lawrence.
- Eight of the Milwaukee-Downer College trustees joined the Lawrence board.

Endowment

Thirteen million dollars was added to Lawrence's eight and a half million dollar endowment. Lawrence's endowment was then greater than that of any other college or university in the state, including the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Marquette University. A thirteen million dollar Milwaukee-Downer trust fund was created.

The Library

Approximately 35,700 books were added to the Lawrence library. Some of these were considered to be rare books and are now located in the Milwaukee-Downer Room in the Lawrence Seeley G. Mudd Library. Forty thousand duplicate books were sold to the Ford Foundation and later given to the library of Cuttington University in Liberia.

Academic Changes

- Seventeen new courses were initially added to the Lawrence curriculum.
- Teaching loads were reduced for all faculty from eight courses per year to six.
- A regular sabbatical leave program was introduced.
- Downer's tenure program for faculty was adopted.
- Downer's programs in elementary education, home economics, and occupational therapy were dropped after abbreviated trial periods.

Elementary Education

The Lawrence University Board of Trustees voted to make Elementary Education and Home Economics terminal programs after three years. None of the Downer Elementary Education faculty transferred to Lawrence so five Downer students had to engage in an ad hoc program in order to get their degrees.

Home Economics

Several of the Downer faculty agreed to teach eight home economic courses at Lawrence and two Downer students earned their degrees in home economics when the program was terminated in 1967.

Occupational Therapy

The occupational therapy program was continued on a trial basis for three years with the stipulation that a careful appraisal be made at the end of the second year. At the end of the two year period the faculty was to consider four alternatives: (1) retain the program; (2) abolish the program; (3) establish a separate professional school for occupational therapy; or (4) establish a fifth year program in Occupational Therapy.

Five courses in occupational therapy were introduced and five students eventually graduated with majors in Occupational Therapy.

Final consideration of the Occupational Therapy program was debated at the March 11, 1966 faculty meeting. The minutes of that meeting are included below:

“The president left the chair and addressed the faculty on the Occupational Therapy Program. He reviewed the deliberations in the spring of 1964 which led to establishing terminal programs in Elementary Education and Home Economics to fulfill obligations to the students who had begun these programs at Milwaukee-Downer College. He had felt at the time that Occupational Therapy in view of its traditional emphasis on liberal arts might become part of Lawrence University based on the established major programs of biology and psychology.

The committee under Mr. Roelofs which reviewed the program this year favored the establishment of a five year program in Occupational Therapy leading to the M.Sc. Though this seemed necessary if a fully satisfactory program were to be developed, it would be difficult in view of the lack of clinical facilities here and inappropriate as the University's first venture (except for Paper Chemistry) beyond the Bachelor of Arts program.

A major in Occupational Therapy leading to the bachelor's degree is technically feasible but would require a considerable change in Admissions policy with at least an additional staff member. It would in this way involve a shift in emphasis from the present liberal arts tradition and would attract a group of professionally oriented students, less concerned with the exploratory nature of the general liberal arts approach.

The present program, admirable as it is within the limits imposed upon it, is not satisfactory to Miss Heermans because of the lack of electives, the necessity for students to enter the program very early in their college careers, and the demands which the total program makes on their time and energy.

He [President Tarr] felt that it was better to discontinue the program but agreed to carry out the wishes of the faculty as expressed by their vote.

Mr. Bucklew moved that the Occupational Therapy program be terminated at the end of the previously agreed upon trial period, with the proviso that students now in the program be enabled to complete their work for their degrees. This motion was seconded.”

The motion was subject to considerable discussion. Voting was by ballot and the motion was carried by a vote of 73 for, 20 against and four blank ballots.

The Downer Faculty

Minutes of the Lawrence University Faculty Meeting September 26, 1964

President Tarr opened the first faculty meeting of Lawrence University at 7:30 P.M. in Harper Hall. He welcomed the following new members to the faculty:

From Milwaukee Downer

Miss Enid L. Bever	--	Professor of Chemistry
Mrs. Elfriede F. Brown	--	Professor of Home Economics (on leave)
Miss Gladys Calbick	--	Professor of Spanish
Mr. Eugene Casselman	--	Professor of Music
Mr. Thomas Dale	--	Professor of English
Miss Dorothy Dart	--	Professor of French
Miss Dorothea Harvey	--	Associate Professor of Religion
Miss Mary Heermans	--	Professor of Occupational Therapy
Miss Mary Heinecke	--	Assistant Professor of Physical Education
Miss Marjory Irvin	--	Associate Professor of Music
Mr. Collan Kneale	--	Instructor in Art
Mrs. Anne Lay	--	Associate Professor of Biology
Mr. Young Hee Lee	--	Instructor in Chemistry
Mr. David MacArthur	--	Associate Professor of Theatre and Drama (on leave)
Mr. Walter Peterson	--	Associate Professor of History (on leave)
Mr. E. Dane Purdo	--	Associate Professor of Art
Mr. Carl Riter	--	Professor of Art (on leave)
Mr. Ronald Tank	--	Assistant Professor of Geology
Mr. Arthur Thrall	--	Associate Professor of Art
Mrs. Helen Trader	--	Assistant Professor of Home Economics

Professor Marjory Irvin, Professor Emerita of Music

Remarks written for the Milwaukee-Downer College Class of 1962 Reunion in 2012

Several weeks ago, Bonnie suggested that I write a five-minute summary of the last 50 years of my life. Fifty years! In five minutes! When I sat down at my computer to begin this task, I suddenly realized the enormity of that request; I'll try, but I can't promise not to exceed the time limit. Those were 50 pretty eventful years!

I'll skip the first two; the year following your graduation was not remarkable in any way, and the least said about the next year, the better. It was not pretty, but somehow we all survived it and the move to Lawrence as well.

From my point of view the first few years at Lawrence were fraught with frustration. The then-dean of the conservatory was something of a misogynist, and since he assigned piano students to the individual faculty members, the men got all the good ones, and my piano studio was peopled by the dregs of the keyboard crop. My theory class, however, was another story: the music theory faculty grouped students into appropriate sections, and my section was filled with the brightest students with the best ears. From the beginning my colleagues at Lawrence were friendly and helpful, for which I was more than grateful.

Socially, my colleagues were wonderfully welcoming: I was invited to so many homes for dinner that I feared I might drown in a sea of social obligations. And they were all gourmet cooks! I was reluctant to invite people to my table because I was a pot roast and spaghetti sort of cook, and I had never heard of Julia Child, much less looked at one of her cookbooks. But I did have a recipe which was at least unusual—Ham and Cabbage Rolls, so I summoned up my courage and invited five ladies who had wined and dined me in the grand manner, and I prepared to serve them my special dish, accompanied by corn muffins. In my experience three Ham and Cabbage Rolls had always been a generous serving and two corn muffins more than adequate, so I fixed 24 ham rolls (that's four each) and a dozen corn muffins. Well, to my chagrin those ladies scarfed down those cabbage rolls and muffins and were looking around for more, so I guess you could say that my maiden culinary venture was a qualitative success but a near-failure quantitatively!

In the interest of being concise, let me summarize my 23 years at Lawrence as follows: In time I did become a gourmet cook, with a limited but elegant repertoire and, I'm pleased to report, invitations to my table were prized. Within a few years the quality of my piano studio improved substantially when a very gifted young woman requested assignment to my studio; and, a few years later, when the piano faculty were empowered to choose their own students, it improved dramatically. And by the mid-seventies, I had a studio full of enormously gifted pianists, many of whom won the honor of playing a concerto movement with the orchestra. Most piano teachers would kill for such a studio! In the theory department, things went from good to spectacular. I had always had the cream of the crop, and as the quality of students admitted improved, the quality of my class increased exponentially. By the fall of 1969 I had a group of freshmen so outstanding that I felt compelled to design a course to match their talents, and so began the creation of the Irvin theory course—a work which I continued to fine-tune throughout my career, and which attracted favorable attention among theory teachers nationally.

1976 was something of a banner year: Lawrence University honored me with the Outstanding Teacher Award for that year, and the Outstanding Young Teacher Award went to the young man whom, at the new dean's insistence, I had mentored throughout the year. (That young man, incidentally, went on to become President of the celebrated San Francisco Conservatory of Music!) And 1976 also saw the publication of the textbook which I co-authored with Edith Borroff, another former Milwaukee-Downer faculty member.

I might also add that interspersed at seven-year intervals during my 23 years at Lawrence were three sabbaticals, each of which was spent in Paris. (I always managed to dream up a project which could only be accomplished in Paris!) Those years not only broadened my horizons professionally, they also opened up new vistas gastronomically. I managed to dine in half a dozen restaurants with a Michelin three-star rating, and, ladies, it doesn't get any better than that.

Then, in 1987, I took early retirement and moved to Kentucky. I had always harbored a passion for the thoroughbred racehorse, and the Heart of the Bluegrass seemed the appropriate place in which to build a new life. Having loved my teaching so much, I knew that retirement would have to provide me with a passionate involvement in some fascinating new area, and, by great good luck, it all worked out according to plan! In my first year of retirement, I attended the Kentucky Derby (retirement gift from Lawrence friends), the Preakness (courtesy of an LU trustee), and the Breeders' Cup Races (courtesy of a new friend who owned a local horse farm). That is the stuff that dreams are made of! I thought I'd died and gone to heaven!

My day-to-day life incorporated tutoring in the Literacy Center, playing bridge every Monday, and grooming the broodmares at my friend's farm near Danville. And I visited a lot of famous horse farms, especially stallion stations. Because of bad experiences with smokers and rowdies, visitors are not routinely welcomed at horse farms in Kentucky, so I had to wangle an invitation to see the horses. I composed a letter assuring farm managers that I was a non-smoker and knew how to behave around horses. Further, I added that I had a way with neurotic mares and would be glad to help out in that area if there should be any need. Then, if I received a "We're not open to the public" response to my letter, I followed with a phone call in which I added the fact that I am an expert sourdough bread-baker, and that I would happily bring a loaf if admitted to the premises. That usually broke down barriers, and my bread gained me entry into Pharamond (owned by Mrs. Fisher, as in Fisher body) and Lane's End (where Queen Elizabeth stays when she visits Kentucky). I've only managed a small foothold on the fringes of the thoroughbred world, but it's such a fascinating world that even a place on the fringes can be exciting!

I mentioned earlier that I played bridge every Monday; well, ladies, I'm here to tell you that my bridge has progressed 'way beyond that'—both in time involved and in the complexity of the game. Mondays involves only rubber bridge, which used to be all I aspired to, but about ten years ago I got involved with a group of people who were hell-bent on acquiring Life Master's status in the bridge world, and that necessitates playing a lot of duplicate bridge. I did not join them in their quest for Life Master's status, but in order to be good enough to continue to play with them socially, I've had to indulge in a lot of highly competitive play at the Lexington bridge club, where duplicate is the only game played. For a partner I've recruited a 96-year-old lady who, although she has no bragging rights physically, is remarkably sharp mentally and courageous in competition. So there we are, a couple of little old ladies, playing against all those kids in their seventies, they with their hundreds and thousands of master points and us with only 58 points between us! But we have fun, and once in a while we get a hand on which we manage to score a top board, beating everyone in the room. Surely, there's no greater glory than that!

That pretty well sums it up, I think, except to bring you up to date on my family. You may recall that when you knew me, I had two nieces, of whom I was inordinately fond. Over the years those nieces have presented me with five great-nephews. And those great-nephews have presented me with a total of six great-great nieces and one great-great-nephew, all of whom are very dear to me. I might also add that my adopted state has seen fit to make me an honorary Kentucky Colonel, which, along with being the last of the three Honorary Hat Girls, is a source of great pride.

If you get the impression that I've had a great life, first at Downer, then at Lawrence, and now in retirement, you'd be absolutely right. I've had almost 87 wonderful years, and if the lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, I should be good for a few more!

Ronald W. Tank, Professor Emeritus of Geology

I began my teaching career at Milwaukee-Downer College in 1962. I taught geology and geography and was the curator of the Thomas Greene Museum. My office and classroom were in the museum, and there was the collection of 75,000 fossils and 13,000 mineral specimens. But it was the students that I will always remember. They were bright, lively and outgoing! I always looked forward to our class sessions. Then there were the Downer woods, the buildings and traditions—Hat Hunt, the regatta, plays, etc.

The announcement of the sale of the campus and the Downer-Lawrence merger/consolidation was a shock to most of us, but we were more or less recovered by the beginning of the following semester. The first two or three years at Lawrence had its ups and downs. Most of the Downer faculty received substantial increases in their salaries. Teaching loads were reduced for all faculty and sabbatical leaves were introduced. Tenure was formalized.

Names of the Downer faculty were read at the first faculty meeting but there were no formal social events so that we could exchange warm greetings on a personal basis. Three of Downer's academic programs were debated and terminated within three years. Several academic departments were overstaffed and teaching assignments were not easy to resolve. Many of us found the classroom setting to be rather dull when compared with Downer. Only 11 of the 21 Downer faculty who transferred to Lawrence stayed on to retirement.

The geology department was understaffed when I joined Professor William Read in 1964. Two years after the consolidation Theodore Ross joined the department and two years later John Palmquist was hired. With four professors on board, we could offer a program that could compete with those offered by other colleges in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest and devote time to research and sabbatical leaves. The department set new records in enrollments and number of majors. Most of our graduates went on to do well in the profession.

I embraced environmental geology—a new subdiscipline of geology—and wrote the first textbook on the subject (1973).

My off-campus activities included enrollment in the University of Wisconsin—Madison's Water Resources Management program (M.S. 1980), Oak Ridge National Lab, TN, for radioactive waste research, director of Lawrence University's German Study Center and the ACM summer geology program at Colorado College. An interest in the law led to the publishing of my text "Legal Aspects of Geology" (1983).

In 1991, I took part in Lawrence's early retirement program. It was designed to promote diversity among the faculty. The financial aspects were attractive, but I insisted on having an office on campus for as long as I wanted one. I continued teaching long after retirement. I often taught Intro Geo when a colleague was on leave. I also taught geology on three Semester at Sea voyages—i.e. 100 days cruising around the world with 650 students on board. I helped train FEMA recruits, and have worked with first grade students who are having problems learning to read.

Lawrence has become a home away from home. Almost every Friday my wife and I "meet at the clock" and do lunch at Lawrence. And then there are the reunions, a time to meet and greet former students.

Every effort has been made to incorporate the Downer legacy—the Teakwood Room, the sundial, Hawthornden, the grandfather clocks, etc. But whenever I visit Milwaukee, I go out of my way to drive by the former Milwaukee-Downer College campus. It still means a lot to me.

The Lawrence College and Milwaukee-Downer College Merger As Seen By Mary Poulson, Professor Emerita

My life's path has never been straight or planned. As a result I have had experiences and opportunities that eventually brought me to Downer and then to Lawrence.

Very briefly, I received my B.A. degree from Valparaiso University, taught at Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, took off a year for travel and work in Yellowstone Park, Las Vegas, Miami, worked with the Milwaukee Girl Scouts as a trainer and camp director, attended graduate school at Miami of Ohio, accepted a position teaching physical education at Milwaukee-Downer and finally settled in Appleton at Lawrence.

In September of 1963 I moved to Milwaukee once again, anxious to begin my new life at Downer, but within one month we received the summons to a special meeting in the auditorium to learn of the merger. The women were in tears, the faculty chagrined. For most of the faculty it was a shock that completely changed the direction of their lives. For me, a Downer neophyte who had immediately felt at home, the merger became another opportunity to give serious thought to my future. I would spend one year at Lawrence while checking position openings at other colleges or universities.

One of the highlights of this sad final year was a brilliant major production of a take-off on the musical CAMELOT written by Marge Irvin, its theme, of course, the merger. The absolute highlight of the production was a short ballet performed in costume by Professor Thomas Dale. Throughout the final year reference in the ranks was often made to the "Downer Dowry".

Before the move in June, I drove to Appleton and met Ruth Bateman, chair of the physical education department. She was my major reason for eventually putting aside other plans and remaining at Lawrence for 29 years. There really was no need for an increase in the size of the department. That gave me an opportunity to develop any program that interested me.

Unfortunately not everyone experienced the warm welcome I did, but time has a way of modifying tensions and immersing concerns in the major focus of working toward a common goal.

At this same time, the women's movement and Title IX were focusing on providing women with varsity team opportunities equal to that of men. Previously, women had been considered too "delicate" for the training and demands of such a regimen. They participated in "play days" in which the teams consisted of a representative from each school, which, after all was easier on the female psyche. At Lawrence we competed as a varsity without using that term. I was privileged to develop, finally, the first women's intercollegiate varsity team at Lawrence—tennis—and several years later also coached the men's team. At the same time I taught physical education classes.

As a little aside, on the first varsity tennis team trip to Ripon, we stopped at McDonald's for our evening meal. The players pulled out their money, but I shocked them by paying the bill from a newly acquired budget! Thanks to Downer, when the Downer hiring committee discovered my interest in fencing, it approved the purchase of a healthy amount of equipment which transferred to Lawrence. A graduating senior, Ted Katzoff, had held some classes for the physical education program, and I built on that modest beginning first with classes, then with a club, and then to my great delight a varsity team (men and women) which competes with NCAA Division I colleges and universities. Now, happily, after 44 years, a full-time fencing coach has been hired.

In the 1980s the Buchanan-Kiewit Center was built. As one of the results of the new building, the physical education department was eliminated and members of that department now had the responsibility of coaching a variety of sports. In addition to coaching men's and women's tennis, men's and women's fencing, and for several years, women's basketball, I became director of the Buchanan-Kiewit Wellness Center. There the swimming coach and I began a wellness program to encourage use of the center and to promote wellness.

The humanities were close to my heart since I received my B.A. in English. At Downer I had been on the tenure and professorial track. So had all the physical education teachers and coaches at Lawrence. That gave us the opportunity to be a part of the faculty, to attend faculty meetings, to serve on faculty committees, to (if recommended) be advanced to a full professorship, all of which integrated us into the academic faculty. For that I am extremely grateful, for it made my experience at Lawrence much richer and satisfying. Today that is not the case.

Both Title IX and, I strongly believe, the merger with Downer, gave impetus to the increase in the number and type of athletic programs for women at Lawrence and also to the creation of a committee to examine the role and place of women's rights on the faculty and staff in regard to equal pay for equal responsibility, the course offerings, and other academic concerns.

My post-teaching retirement has been equally rich and interesting. Twenty years ago Professor Richard Winslow and his wife Nancy, with the help of Chuck Lauter and the blessing of President Warch, began a retreat at Björklunden for faculty and administration retirees and spouses. This has been a VERY worthwhile and exciting experience. We gather for four days (Sunday to Thursday) and have the opportunity to better know fellow retirees in a lovely setting with a variety of activities. Each morning from 9 to 12 one of the retirees presents an academic program related or not to his/her field. Afternoons are devoted to reading, a nature hike, exploring parts of Door County, chatting, etc. At 5:00 we gather around the roaring fire to enjoy our "happy hour." Evenings are spent in a variety of ways. For example, one evening is devoted to remembering any of our fellow faculty members who have died, and another, to sharing our favorite poem, book, thought, etc.

Another retiree event that helps unify retirees is the monthly coffee at the Warch Center cafe where we talk and plan and reminisce in the midst of student chatter. These post-retirement gatherings have been wonderfully productive, engaging, uniting activities—and just plain fun!

At the 2016 reunion, I attended the Milwaukee-Downer lunch at Chapman Hall. It was lovely! But the part that most delighted me was hearing two of the Downer graduates say that at last they were beginning to feel a part of the Lawrence University family. With the many acknowledgments to Downer that have been made over the years but especially in the last few years through programs, names of buildings, professorship sponsor and awards, the merger is complete.

Downer Students in the Class of 1965

<u>Name</u>	<u>Major</u>
Gretchen Marie Akers	English
Judith Ann Armstrong	Elementary Education
Ann Alcott Bromley	Occupational Therapy
Martha Mary Burke	Art
Lynn Marie Deisher	Biology <i>Cum Laude</i>
Susanne Katherine Dhein	Elementary Education
Linda Lee Dodds	English <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Linda Keith Evans	Chemistry
Mary Estelle Harding	French
Florence Marie Hester	Mathematics
Jeanne Marie Hunter	Geology
Judy Ann Kennedy	History
Brenda Jo Kounovsky	English <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Judith Irene Kronmeyer	Home Economics
Toini Lefren	English
Kathleen Alice Lipp	History
Carol June Lukens	Elementary Education
Jennifer Ann MacBride	History
Karin Helen Roang	Social Science
Diane Lucy Savage	Religion
Dawn Schofield	Elementary Education
Katherine Ann Seitz	Occupational Therapy <i>Cum Laude</i>
Karenne Suzuki	Elementary Education
Anne Uribe	Spanish <i>Cum Laude</i>
Jean Cynthia Vetter	Music <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
Sandra Dale Wagner	English
Heidi Ann Wilde	Art

Downer Students in the Class of 1966

<u>Name</u>	<u>Major</u>
Marilyn Ruth Anker	English <i>Cum Laude</i>
Margaret Mary Kaiser	History
Penelope Ann Laughlin	Home Economics
Paula Nanette Nebel	Art
Joan Kathryn Reahard	Biology/Occupational Therapy
Catherine W. Scheirich	Geology
Nan Elizabeth Tully	Occupational Therapy
Mara Zarins	Biology

Downer Students in the Class of 1967

<u>Name</u>	<u>Major</u>
Mary Elizabeth Juneau	Occupational Therapy/Biology
Michie Kobayashi	Organ
Judith Lee McNatt	History
Suzanne Margaret Rapp	Mathematics
Joanna Thornbury	English

Remembering the Consolidation/Merger 54 Years Later



Jean Vetter Roselle '65

I was a junior at Downer at the time of the merger. I was a piano music major/philosophy minor. Marjory Irvin, my advisor and music teacher, moved to Lawrence, making my transition easier. But being a senior on a new campus felt almost like being a freshman. It was good to experience a coed environment and have access to many more professors. I especially liked Dr. Dreher's Ancient Philosophy class and Friday conservatory recitals, but I didn't like the windowless practice rooms. At Downer I practiced on grand pianos in larger rooms with windows in Albert Hall. Basically I think the merger provided a good opportunity to experience a new environment and meet new people.



Gretchen Akers '65

For me the merger and my time at Lawrence University was a good experience.



Sandra Wagner '65

I was sad at the loss of Downer and its special dedication to women's education but relieved in the choice of Lawrence as opposed to Carroll.

While the merger was a shock and a disruption for teachers as well as students, it also caused anticipation and curiosity. I remember Miss Calbick, the Spanish teacher, sitting in the lounge of Holton Hall, crying. Perhaps there could have been a better way to make the announcement.

A Lawrence senior woman mailed to my home in Pewaukee letters welcoming me to Lawrence and a notice came of my dorm appointment, Sage Hall. However,

I ended up in Colman Hall. The time and gesture she extended were appreciated.

From that point on I felt more like a freshman rather than a senior. One year is not long enough to acclimate. A number of Downer teachers—Miss Irvin, Dr. Dorthea Harvey, and Dr. Dale—seemed quietly to keep tabs on the Downer students they knew, which I appreciated. With the major exception of one Lawrence professor, I felt little connectivity. My major exception at Lawrence was Dr. Warren Beck from whom I ended taking three classes. By allowing me to take a tutorial from him, I acquired enough credits to graduate that year.

One of the things that made me feel excluded and disadvantaged was not having participated in the Freshman Studies readings. These books came up in class discussions. It would have been nice to be given the readings list. I never thought of asking.

A year after graduating from Lawrence, I returned to a childhood love of art, which led to studio work, advertising work, freelancing and teaching.



Toini Lefren Jaffe '65

The announcement of the merger found me sharing the prevailing sense of loss of the Downer College environment I had come to love.

However, with time and movement forward with the merger, I realized an opportunity for me to be in co-ed classrooms and to match my performance against men. I had chosen Downer in part because it was just women and I was coming from a girls' high school and felt I would be stronger in a women's school. This experience boosted my sense of self and, I believe, rounded out my four-year college experience quite nicely. Also, meeting many new people on the new

campus expanded my world. Enforced change is often challenging, but for me there was a silver lining. And I found that Lawrence bent over backward to be sensitive to the Downerites.



Martha (Marty) Burke '65

I was a Junior at Milwaukee-Downer College when the entire school was brought into the auditorium for a meeting. The nature of the meeting, as you are aware, was to announce the merger with Lawrence. Milwaukee-Downer was a college filled with tradition. Classes were small and every student knew every other student. We were a tight-knit group of young women who thoroughly enjoyed the "all girls" environment. Our initial reaction to the merger was one of shock, disappointment, fear of the unknown, and sadness at the thought of the breaking up of our college. It just didn't seem possible that I would not be spending my last year at my beloved college. I didn't know if any of my other classmates would go

on to Lawrence and I didn't know if I wanted to. I knew nothing about Lawrence and had never heard of it. Leaving Downer at the end of my Junior Year was one of the saddest events of my life. It was more than leaving the lovely ivy covered buildings and the incredibly wonderful professors and endearing traditions, it was leaving family. I did go on to Lawrence for my Senior Year, but graduated a semester early as I had done the summer abroad and received enough credits to leave in March of that year.

I never really felt connected to Lawrence, my solace was being with my Downer roommate and taking classes from my art professors from Downer who had relocated to Appleton. My experience at Lawrence was pleasant enough but lacked the richness of my Milwaukee-Downer experience.



Heidi Ann Wilde Hagenbuckle '65

That day the announcement was made was extremely emotional for me. I can remember thinking initially that the merger was a financial one. That Downer would remain where it was and so would Lawrence. But then as things proceeded, I realized it meant the complete end of Downer. We'd both be located in Appleton. That was a crusher! I LOVED Downer and its campus! Maybe I should say ADORED! Those buildings had so much character. I loved everything about them and the school.

I didn't know anything about Lawrence and had no desire to see or hear about it. I passed on those introduction weekends, preferring to face the new place only when I had to in the fall.

I was not excited by Lawrence's campus when I finally did see it. Such a mishmash of buildings! It certainly didn't have the feeling that Downer had.

I realized at some point that another thing that bothered me was the loss of the college just for women. I enjoyed going to a non-coed school. I think if I had gone to UWM or UW like most of my friends from high school, I would have been lost in the crowd. I think the size of Downer and the fact that it was just women gave me a chance to develop and grow. I was always a little intimidated by the boys in class in high school. Didn't say much, preferring to remain sort of unseen. I think the loss of the atmosphere at Downer for other young women like myself, to be part of, was unfortunate. It still is. I guess I'm just happy I had the chance to experience Downer. It was a wonderful time in my life.

The art department at Lawrence was basically the same for me since all of my professors joined the Lawrence faculty. The only new teacher I had was Charlie Brooks. Mr. Riter, E. Dane Purdo, and Arthur Thrall were still available for classes, thankfully. Having the art building was nice. And it being near the student union was convenient! And there was my geology professor that joined the faculty too. Thank heavens for that. Many of my happy memories of Downer had to do with the geology department and museum. Thanks for giving me that great campus job! Loved every minute there.

I guess having so many of my Downer professors there made things much more comfortable and not so completely different. I guess I adjusted to life in Appleton easily.

It was all over so quickly. The time was good, I guess. But I still missed Downer.



Catherine Scheirich Tuggle '66

First of all, I was not particularly attached to Milwaukee-Downer College. The small student body limited my ability to find like-minded people. So when the announcement came about the merger it only posed questions. First, where was the best place for me to go to pursue my geology major. The answer was easy—Lawrence because physics was not a requirement for that major.

With that solved, I then had to face my apprehensions about co-education. I had some pretty warped ideas about the perfection of men, having attended an all girls' school from grade school on. The fact that Lawrence was the best fit for my interests quickly put that question to rest, which was a blessing.

Entering Lawrence as a junior I missed the allure of sororities that I might have had as a freshman. That aside, compared to MDC, the environment that Lawrence provided was beyond comparison—people came to campus to talk like the then presidential candidate, Richard Nixon; then there was the all-school chorus of Handel's Messiah sung at Christmas; ice skating next to Main Hall; and, endless card games played in the Union—to mention only a few things I can now recall.

There's no question I am deeply grateful for the merger. Attending Lawrence forced me out of my comfort zone, and introduced me to the real world.



Nan Elizabeth Tully Willett '66

I was also one of the last to get an OT degree from MDC. I retired 12/31/16 after a fantastic career in mental health, skilled nursing rehab and home health. Pretty good for someone who never heard of OT until I got to Downer.

Making the choice to go to Downer was one of the best decisions I ever made. I could not make up my mind where to go to college, having looked at Lawrence, Denison, and Oberlin. My Mom suggested I go to Downer for a year and transfer later if I didn't like it. I had never heard of Downer, but as a Wisconsin native, she had. I agreed. Seemed like the easiest thing to do. I never would have left Downer if I hadn't had to!

Dane Purdo told me years ago that he could "spot a Downer girl anywhere." I think he was right. I learned to be proud of my academic skills, class participation, Downer culture and history in the two short years I was there. It was easy to "spot a Downer girl" in my non-OT Lawrence classes because we were the ones who raised our hands in class, participated in discussions and asked questions. Yes, it was the early '60s; maybe other young women had been given the advice I got from my Mom which was: "It isn't smart to let the boys know how smart you are." Those two years at Downer taught me something different. I'm sure someone must have said that to my Mom who was a smart woman who hid her light.

I was devastated at the news of the merger, felt betrayed and anxious. I was young and naive enough to believe that "institutions" lasted forever. They don't, but what is learned from and in them does.



Judy McNatt '67

I do recall when we were all gathered in the auditorium to be told by the president of the Board of Trustees, whose somber, stone-faced appearance was memorable, that MDC was merging with Lawrence College (to become Lawrence University) and that the school would close at the end of the school year (1964). I was six weeks into my freshman year so it was quite a shock and we were all very weepy and sad. The rest of the year was spent doing and recording the last of various traditions—the Faculty Follies and the Hat Hunt, in particular.

There were only 32 girls in my freshman class; only seven of us transferred up to Lawrence. I had initially chosen a girls' college in a city, and ended up at a coed college in a smaller city, but for me it was just easier to go along with the merger. Although I succeeded at Lawrence and am glad that I transferred there for my next three years (graduating in 1967), it wasn't always so easy for those of us MDC girls or faculty. I remember we thought that some of the Lawrence faculty was resentful of having to take in the MDC faculty and I felt sorry that our faculty had to go through that.

As for me, I was pretty flexible and survived nicely. However, two incidents/comments stand out negatively in my mind, even to this day.

I recall sometimes being called “the nice Downer girl”, presumably a compliment but I didn't know why I was singled out; perhaps it was because I wasn't bitter and didn't show any anger about the merger.

My only other comment about the transition is that Lawrence, like most other colleges/universities, had orientation programs and events only for incoming freshmen, not for upper classmen coming in. So, it was harder to get involved and get to know our classmates, and those of us from MDC didn't get either the benefit of Freshman Studies or the ability to refer to it during our time at Lawrence.

The Downer Legacy

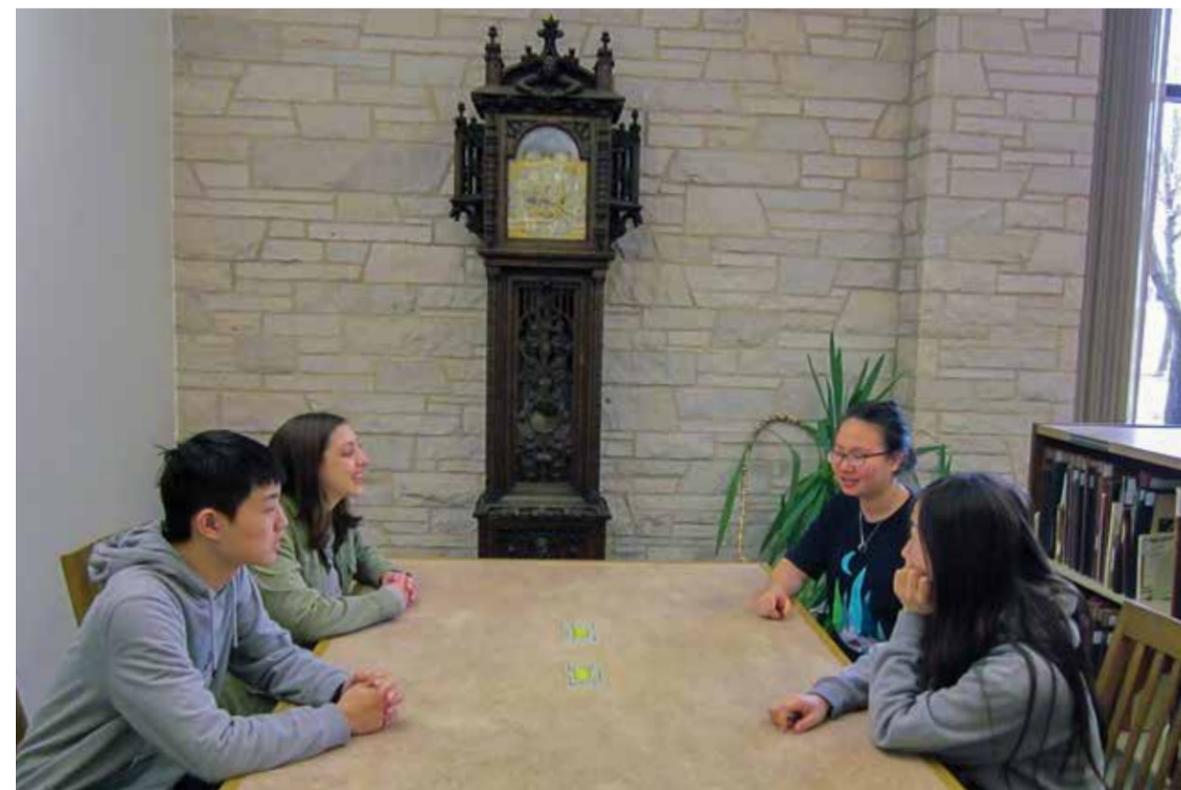
President Warch (1979-2004) preferred to refer to the merger as a “consolidation” of the two colleges since a merger occurs when “one school disappears into another.” He and Carol Butts, the Lawrence Archivist (1993-2004), along with Gil Swift '59, Director of Alumni Relations (1974-1995), and numerous Downer alumnae made every effort to ensure that Milwaukee-Downer College be an active part of what Lawrence University is today.

- A new campus food service opened in 1968 in a building named Jason Downer Commons. Shortly afterwards the Downer Chapman Teakwood Room was installed on the second floor. This building was renovated in 2013 and is now Alice G. Chapman Hall.
- A Milwaukee-Downer Room was initially added to Colman Hall and then moved to the Seeley G. Mudd Library in 2001. The room now includes 3,400 rare books and memorabilia such as the “Downer Hat.”
- Eight Downer grandfather clocks made it to the Lawrence campus and can now be seen in the library, the president's house, and Chapman Hall.
- Downer's Steinway and Baldwin grand pianos and a Kimball upright piano were added to Lawrence's Conservatory of Music.
- The sundial from Merrill Hall in Milwaukee was moved to the south side of Lawrence's Main Hall in 1975 by the Milwaukee-Downer class of 1932.
- Hawthornden, a beloved grove of Hawthorn trees, has been recreated near Colman Hall. It was rededicated in 1991.
- Lucia R. Briggs Hall, named after the second president of Milwaukee-Downer College, was dedicated in 1997 as the new home of Lawrence's mathematics and social science departments, and the current Center for Academic Success.
- The “Katie,” one of Downer's rowing shells, was put on display in the Seeley G. Mudd Library in 2013. Lawrence brought back crew as a club sport in 1989.
- A 220-piece La Vera Pohl art collection, bequeathed to Milwaukee-Downer, is now part of the Wriston Galleries' collection at Lawrence.
- There are 10 Milwaukee-Downer endowed faculty chairs, 32 endowed scholarships, and the Elizabeth Richardson Prize in Art. One of Lawrence's most prestigious annual alumni awards is named in honor of Lucia R. Briggs, the second president of Milwaukee-Downer.
- The Downer Feminist Council, a student organization that promotes feminism on the Lawrence campus, has been active since the 1970s.
- The tradition of assigning a color to each incoming class was revived at Lawrence in 1988.
- The Lawrence University Archives has a large set of collections documenting the history of Milwaukee-Downer College.

Not all of the Downer traditions have survived the consolidation. The Hat Hunt, school rings, class rings, the Lantern Night Christmas procession, the Spring Regatta, and the Downer Chorus all presently belong to the past and the memory of the Downer alumnae.



The one-time Jason Downer Commons now bears the name of long-time Milwaukee-Downer College trustee and benefactor Alice G. Chapman.



"Let's meet by the clock" Flanders Clock in the Lawrence's Seeley G. Mudd Library. 2018



The Chapman Teakwood Room was installed on the second floor of the Alice G. Chapman Hall.



The "Katie," one of Downer's rowing shells, is on display in the Seeley G. Mudd Library.



Lucia R. Briggs Hall, named after the second president of Milwaukee-Downer College, was dedicated in 1997 as the new home of Lawrence's mathematics and social science departments and the current Center for Academic Success.



Hawthornden at Lawrence University, 2018
Milwaukee-Downer College Class of 1961 gave this sculpture in honor of their 40th reunion.

Part III

Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alumnae:

The change we anticipated having time to prepare for should it come in the next few years is now upon us. The decision to merge with Lawrence College and sell the campus was not made without a full appreciation and understanding of what the loss of the campus would mean to the alumnae.

Naturally, there have been both extremes of alumnae reactions to the decision. I am proud to report, however, that the general tenor of comments—tinged with sadness, of course—is one of looking forward, with a desire to do everything possible to preserve at Lawrence those things which we know are vital in influencing the lives of future alumnae.

Since the announcement of the merger, Ruth Kuemmerlein and I have conferred with Dr. Curtis W. Tarr, president of Lawrence, and Mr. John Rosebush, director of alumni affairs, about future plans for the Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae Association. There is no question about our continuing as an association carrying on our traditions and activities through the chapters, class secretaries, reunion, etc., but with the additional stimulation of activities offered by the Lawrence Alumni Association. One of these, for example, is an alumni college planned on the Lawrence campus June 14-16, 1964. Provision is being made for Milwaukee-Downer alumnae trustees to be elected to the Lawrence University board.

On February 15 Dr. Tarr and Mr. Rosebush will meet with your alumnae association board of directors to discuss these plans. This will be an open board meeting, and each of you is cordially invited to join us from 10:00 a.m. to noon on that day.

June reunion will be our transition into the new era for the College. True, it is the last event we will hold at 2512 East Hartford Avenue, but there will continue to be many alumnae events held in many places all over this country to keep the name and reputation of Milwaukee-Downer College alive. The projects chapters have conducted this past year are examples of what can be done. No action can ever take away from us the influence which our years at M-DC have meant to us and to others whose lives we have touched.

Sincerely,

Florence Otto

President of the
Alumnae Association

Florence Otto's letter was followed by a series of events and actions which led to the consolidation of the Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association and the Lawrence University Alumni Association.

The Milwaukee-Downer Alumnae met in the Downer Room of Lawrence's Colman Hall on February 25-26, 1965. President Marlene Crupi Widen '55 urged the development of a set of bylaws to serve both Lawrence University and Milwaukee-Downer College. At that time, one member of the Milwaukee-Downer College Alumnae Association was appointed to each of the six major committees on the Lawrence University Alumni Association.

At the April 11, 1967 meeting, Downer's Long-Range Planning Committee introduced initial steps to be taken to consider the ultimate merger of the Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence University Alumni Associations. It was recognized that they "had been working evermore closely together with common goals and problems, and that their individual strengths could benefit each other." At the September 8, 1967 meeting of the Lawrence Alumni Board, Chairman Elmer Otte '36 appointed a Consolidation Committee to rewrite and re-adapt the Lawrence Alumni Board's constitution and bylaws. John T. Leatham '58 was appointed chairman of the committee. The revisions were to be considered for ratification at a meeting in Milwaukee scheduled for February 10, 1968. There was considerable informal discussion of the proposed revisions. The revised constitution and bylaws of the Lawrence Alumni Association was introduced on February 10, 1968 by Downer's Barbara Gray Spoerl '44. It included Milwaukee-Downer College. There were no negative votes at the Milwaukee meeting. There were 703 "yes" votes and 62 "no" votes from Downer alumnae that were received by mail.

Some of the favorable comments were:

- "I will vote with the Downer alumnae officers."
- "It seems the most sensible thing to do under the present situations—greetings!"
- "I'm very sorry I cannot attend the meeting—sounds most worthwhile."
- "It appears that all contingencies have been thoughtfully considered."
- "I realize this card is being mailed too late, but I am sending it anyway just to show my whole-hearted support for the change."

At a March 12, 1968 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Lawrence Consolidation Committee recorded 513 "yes" votes and 62 "no" votes from the Downer alumnae; and 3,000 "yes" votes and 26 "no" votes from the Lawrence alumni. The consolidation became official on June 3, 1968.

There was, however, a segment of Milwaukee-Downer College alumnae who chose to remain as "independents" without affiliating with Lawrence University. Among them was the last Yellow Class to graduate from Milwaukee-Downer College. They held seven reunions of their own in 1970, 1989, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2003 and 2008. Other Milwaukee-Downer College alumnae preferred independence but were not as well organized.

**LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE
1968 ANNUAL REPORT**

Consolidation has been accomplished.

Through the good work and efforts of many individuals in both the Lawrence and Downer Alumni groups, the Lawrence University Alumni Association was formed on February 10, 1968. Those of us on the Consolidation Committee, wish to thank all concerned for the constructive help during the eight month period in which we wrestled with many of the problems and concepts involved in marrying these two groups.

Our task is through and our committee disbanded.

June 3, 1968

**John T. Leatham
Chairman**

In 1979, Clarmarie White Voss, M-D'35, president of the Lawrence University Alumni Association, noted that "Approximately 2,700 Milwaukee-Downer alumnae represent about 20 percent of the total alumnae body."



Professor of English Thomas Dale speaks at the dedication of the Sundial on the south wall of Lawrence University's Main Hall. The Sundial was moved from Downer's Merrill Hall in 1975. Downer alumnae Betsy Morton Johns '32 and Fern Kruse '32 led the effort to transfer the Sundial.



Rondel and Explication:

At the Dedication of the Downer Sundial

By Thomas R. Dale
George P. and Annie M. Miller - Martha
Wheelock Professor of English

By light we find ourselves in time and space
Where colors blend into the perfect light.
Though cloud or dark or dust confuse our sight
Moments of light come, shadows help us trace
The sun's course, while the varied colors chase
Each other and confuse us with delight.
By light we find ourselves in time and space.
All colors blend into more perfect light.
In Downer's light and time we found our place;
Her varied colors still are memories bright
Blending with Lawrence's to radiant white:
Still, as the shadows cross the dial's face
By light we find ourselves in time and space:
Our colors blend into the perfect light.

By light we find ourselves in time and space. Quite literally, if we could read the message of this sundial rightly, if we observed the shadow of the gnomon projected by sunlight on the stones above us, and observed it accurately enough and long enough, we could confidently assert that we are at $44^{\circ} 15' 44''$ north latitude. With some other observations based on our perceptions and other observers' perceptions of sunlight, moonlight and starlight, we could add that we are at $88^{\circ} 23' 56''$ west longitude at about 17 hours, 43 minutes G.M.T. on the 18th day of October, 1975 years from the birth of One who has been called the Light of the World. And if we added yet other data - this dial's former position on Merrill Hall, and an accurate measurement of the distance from there to here, (measurements by means of light again) - we could calculate our distance from the sun, the source of physical light.

I remind you of these very simple facts,

apologizing by the way to my Science Hall colleagues for belaboring the obvious, because they relate symbolically to all that we are doing today, to what Milwaukee-Downer College and Lawrence College stood for from their beginnings, and to what Lawrence University stands for now.

By light we find ourselves in time and space. The sundial is a simple instrument used in measuring chronological time, material space. The college is a strange and complex human organization which, by whatever light it can command, measures, or attempts to measure, where we and our fellow human beings are in terms of our complex, relative time-schemes, our inner and non-Euclidean, non-Newtonian space. The Downer motto SIT LUX and the Lawrence motto VERITAS EST LUX are as relevant as ever; for if a seemingly overwhelming flood of sheer raw "lux" and miscellaneous "veritas" rushes on us in books and journals and the amazing mechanical memories of computers, we have the greater need of a gnomon - the pointer of the sundial, which also means the interpreter, the guide - whose shadow measures where we are in time and space.

Unlike the gnomon of the sundial, whose simple, functional grace we are now admiring, the college is composed of many parts. It is made up of human beings who do not always agree upon what they are measuring or what their standards of measurement are. It is far more complex, far less accurate; it attempts to measure far more, but can arrive at far less certain results than the sundial. Yet it cannot do its proper work without this diversity and complexity, without its conflicts and apparent contradictions. Because of our human limitations, we students - whether we are working here on the campus or carrying on our studies in our homes, businesses and professions - cannot deal with all kinds of light, all kinds of truth. As individuals we can examine and measure only part of the spectrum. Yet we must remember that all colors blend into one perfect light.

All colors blend into one perfect light. Nearly all of us here remember the ritual Colors Day speeches at Downer, when the orators exercised all their ingenuity to celebrate the glories of their own class color and denounce the infamies of the opposing color. This humorous wit-combat deliberately exaggerated class differences, bringing them into the light of consciousness and, perhaps, preparing for the later discovery that differences are quite compatible with harmony and essential to the search for truth.

And whatever colors we may imaginatively assign to the natural sciences, the

social sciences, the arts and the humanities, we may be sure that the enthusiast of whatever color will see its own glories most clearly and tend to be aware of the shortcomings of other colors, other kinds of intellectual and creative enterprise. We are all fallible human beings and we need all the more to cling to the faith that all colors blend into the perfect light.

So I have spoken of the two symbols: the sundial from Milwaukee-Downer College - which will henceforward remind the Downer and Lawrence people at this university that by light we find ourselves in time and space; and the renewed memory of Colors Day - which asserts that all colors blend into the perfect light. These are not empty symbols; they stand for specific realities attested to by your presence, and mine, here today, the realities of the Milwaukee-Downer contribution to this combined university. The gifts of Milwaukee-Downer benefactors in books, painting, money and grandfather clocks, (not to mention the Teakwood Room) are still contributing to the education of young women - and young men too; the interest of alumnae, those who are here today and those who would be here if they could, is real and important in the continuing life of Downer at Appleton. The sundial is here because Downer is here, contributing to the light by which we measure where we are in time and space.

And when we look at the varied colors of the Lawrence faculty spectrum we are aware that Downer people are no small part of it - most notably in the art department, whose great and enduring contribution can be seen today in our late, beloved Emily Groom's work, and in the continuing work of Carl Ritter, Arthur Thrall and Dane Purdo. As you know, the rest of us are spread all over the curricular divisions, contributing our differences, our diverse knowledge and viewpoints, which were shaped in our Downer experience. To speak only of myself, I know that as Miss Hadley's successor in the English department I drew on her unique blend of wisdom and sound learning and genial humor. I owe much to her, and I believe she would have acknowledged a debt to her predecessor, Miss Brown. Not that Miss Hadley slavishly copied Miss Brown or that I copied Miss Hadley, but that we learned from and transmitted some parts of a unique tradition of learning and teaching. And as time passes I trust that I am contributing to the united tradition of the humanities here.

Thus the colors transmitted by and through us blend into a more perfect light. We need not ask where Downer is: the light now falling on the sundial tells us that Downer is here and now.

Milwaukee-Downer Still Here and Now

The merger 15 years later:

By Clarmarie White Voss, M-D'35, President of LUAA

“We need not ask where Downer is; the light now falling on the sundial tells us that Downer is here and now.”

That was the conclusion of Thomas R. Dale’s speech as he dedicated the sundial in its new home on the south face of Main Hall, at Milwaukee-Downer’s 125th anniversary celebration Oct. 18, 1975. The dedication was four years ago, and Downer and Lawrence had merged only 11 years before that. Yet today’s students walking past the sundial may find it hard to believe it hasn’t always been there. Like the other visible symbols of Downer’s past - the Alice G. Chapman Teakwood Room, Jason Downer Commons, the Heritage Room, the Hawthorn Den, the Downer Room - the sundial has become a familiar landmark.

But important as the symbols are as reminders of Downer’s past, of greater significance to Lawrence students and faculty are the Milwaukee-Downer endowed chairs (there are 10, 7 of which are held by Lawrence faculty members), the scholarships (29 of them), the Elizabeth Richardson Prize in Art (which this year went to Susan Henderson Choate, '80) and the Downer Feminist Council (which has brought state and national leaders in the women’s movement to the campus for women’s week and champions feminist causes throughout the year).

A further example of the strength of the Downer tradition of scholarly excellence continuing at Lawrence are the transferred faculty members who still teach at the university. They are Dale, the George P. and Annie M. Miller - Martha Wheelock Professor of English; Professor of Music Marjory Irvin; Associate Professor of Physical Education Mary Heinecke Poulson; Professors of Art E. Dane Purdo and Arthur Thrall, and Professor of Geology Ronald W. Tank.

Commencement brings another reminder of the past each year: The degree certificates received by all women graduates are conferred by “Downer College of Lawrence University.” The designation of Downer College for Women was one of the stipulations of the merger agreement.

Finally, just as important for its impact upon the Lawrence community is the activity of the Downer contingent of the Lawrence University Alumni Association. The approximately 2,700 Milwaukee-Downer alumnae represent about 20 percent of the total alumni body. Through the years, they have become more and more active in the LUAA as their enthusiasm for the university has grown. One recent example: Last June an effort was begun to refurbish the Downer Room in Colman Hall. The room is used as a meeting and study room for Colman residents and as an activity center for Downer alums at reunion and homecoming. The M-D class of '28 has contributed a sum of money and provided a list of suggestions for redecorating the room with period furniture. A committee of Mary Louise Mackay Riemenschneider, M-D'36, Louise Muench Klug, M-D'36 and Marlene Crupi Widen, M-D'55, is working to make improvements, selecting furnishings and art for the room and reproducing and framing the portraits of the three Milwaukee-Downer presidents: Ellen Sabin, Lucia Briggs and John B. Johnson.

Lawrence Today, v. 59:4, 1979.



Named in honor of the alumnae of Milwaukee-Downer College, this study area, exhibition space, and rare book room was dedicated as the Milwaukee-Downer Room in October 2001. Modeled after the Oak Room in Downer’s Alice G. Chapman Memorial Library, the Milwaukee-Downer Room serves as a permanent home for memorabilia such as the Downer Hat and other objects related to the long and rich history of Milwaukee-Downer College.

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DOWNER
COLLEGE
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