CHAPTER VI
WISCONSIN STATE COLLEGE AT EAU CLAIRE:
BOTH LIBERAL ARTS AND SPECIALIZATION

The snow had fallen on the cornices of Old Main,
delicately relieving the solid appearance of the
square brick building. The skeleton of a new struc-
ture was beginning to rise to the east on Garfield
Avenue, across from the icy Chippewa River. Christ-
mas vacation was over, and students and faculty
members returned to face the first classes of the
new year of 1951.

The opening assembly of the second semester
marked the ten-year anniversary of William R.
Davies in the presidency of Eau Claire State Teach-
ers College, and he used the occasion to tell stu-
dents and faculty his hopes for the school:

The goal is a college of education that will
rank as one of the best in the Middlewest, with
a wide enough offering to truly serve the needs
of the college youth of northwest Wisconsin.
With this objective in mind, we press on into
the second decade, worried and depressed by
the international turn of events, but confident
in the ultimate triumph of the American way
of life. In this venture, we wish you every hap-
piness and good cheer. . . .

President Davies, who had been “responsible for
the Post-War Reconstruction Series which was try-
ing to look at the wider world — how it was going
to affect labor, how it was going to affect business,
how it was going to affect international relations”
— could not help but be saddened by the outbreak
of hostilities in Korea, so soon after the end of World
War II. Moreover, there was the practical con-
sideration of shortfalls in enrollment with students
already withdrawing from school to join the mili-
tary forces.

Four Interconnected Structures: the
Complex at Park and Garfield

The long-hoped-for educational facilities for cam-
pus school, teacher training, theatre, and physical
education were designed by the respected Milwau-
kee architectural firm of Eschweiler and Eschweiler.
The groundbreaking which took place in October
1950 was the first of three ceremonies celebrating
the complex. Governor Oscar Rennebohm turned
the first shoveful of earth with a gilded implement.
University of Wisconsin President E. B. Fred was
the speaker:

I see this ceremony today as evidence of
another good Wisconsin educational philosophy
— that we continue to improve the institutions
that we have rather than to let them deterio-
rate while we fly to unknown systems we know
not of . . . . The University is always ready to
sit down around the conference table and help
chart a course toward maximum educational
performance in Wisconsin.

The importance of the event was emphasized by the
presence of four college presidents — Rexford Mit-
chell of La Crosse, E. H. Kleimpell of River Falls,
Jim Dan Hill of Superior, and Verne C. Fryklund
of Stout Institute — and of three regents, including
William D. McIntyre, president of the board.
Edmund Nix, president of the student government,
was master of ceremonies, introducing John Walter,
president of the Alumni Association; Dennis Daniel-
son, representing the city council of Eau Claire;
Corwin Guell, chairman of the Area Committee;
John Lindner, chairman of the college committee
of the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce; Assembly-
man John Pritchard; Senator Arthur Padruitt;
Eugene McPhee, director of the Wisconsin State
Colleges, and other distinguished guests. The
members of the building committee of the complex, who
represented the various teaching areas incorporated
in the structure, were proud participants: Lester
Emans, chairman of the committee, Gretchen
Grimm, Leonard Haas, Ruth Hoard, Earl Kjer, and
Willis Zorn. The one person who had worked hard-
est for the first permanent addition to instructional
facilities since the founding of the school in 1916,
W. R. Davies, was absent from the groundbreaking
because of illness. The cornerstone was set in place
by him on September 19, 1951, and the complex was
dedicated on October 8, 1952. The Spectator head-
ed its editorial on the latter date: “$1,500,000 is
a Large Sum . . . But Look What It Bought!”

Actually, on the day of dedication, the new com-
plex was not finished. According to the recollection
of Dr. Emans, the building appropriation was
$100,000 short of the cost to finish the structure,
and the state architect, “all powerful,” would not
complete it. So the basement under the campus
school remained a sandy-floored space for some
years. On the lower level under the education build-
ing, the art room, headquarters of Gretchen Grimm,
was finished, and under the Little Theatre, the shop
area, shared by industrial arts, over which Robert Gunn presided, and the theatre, was completed.

The Little Theatre, designed by a specialist in theatre architecture from Northwestern University, was one of the finest for stage, workroom, wardrobe and dressing areas in the country. Earl Kjer and Grace Walsh, who comprised the speech faculty, and the Collegiate Players had worked for a number of years to raise money to help equip the theatre.

The campus laboratory school was innovative in design and function. Each classroom suite had a large room with desks, chairs and tables that were movable, an activity room with sink, and an office for the supervising teacher, and each had a display window on the main corridor. The children's library contained books for younger pupils and adolescents, and the library staff also taught in this room. The Bookmen of Wisconsin praised the curriculum library and instructional materials center, housed in the education building from 1952 to 1959, and developed by Frances Baker, and later Mary Rowe. There was one great disappointment: the observation deck of the laboratory school, from which practice teachers could see into the classrooms below through one-way glass, subject to the permission of the supervising teacher, had a sound system that did not work. The school was accepted from the architects under protest because of this deficiency, and it was some years later before it was fixed through the ingenuity of Richard Beckman and members of the college audiovisual staff.

The physical education building and gymnasium were the province of Bill Zorn, who arranged with the campus school principal hours in which the gym would be available for campus school programs. Both college and high school basketball competition took place in the gymnasium-fieldhouse, and it was also used for commencements and lectures. On the west side of the building was a suite of offices for the college health service.

Still needed were a library, a fine arts building, a natatorium, a student union, and dormitories; according to a report President Davies filed with the State Bureau of Engineering a month after the dedication of the new complex, he felt $2.4 million would need to be spent on new buildings in the next five years.
A Future in the Liberal Arts: Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire

The privilege of offering the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees was implemented for the teachers colleges in the summer of 1951. The institutions were renamed Wisconsin State College at the appropriate location, and the legislature followed by renaming the board of regents the Board of Regents of State Colleges. When the liberal arts programs were instituted at Eau Claire, there were majors offered in biology, English, French, Spanish, geography, history, mathematics, music, physical science, social science, and speech. In 1955, economics was added to the list, the first such major made available among the colleges; in 1956, chemistry; and in 1958, physics, political science, psychology, and sociology, and an interdepartmental concentration, Spanish American studies.

Requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degrees differed in that the B.A. demanded a foreign language and the B.S. substituted a second minor for the foreign language. In 1952 a program was authorized whereby the B.A. or B.S. could be obtained after three years of residency at Eau Claire and further completion of the requirements for a liberal arts degree accomplished after transfer to a professional school, with a maximum of 32 senior credits at the professional school counting toward the B.A. or B.S. Many students took advantage of this chance to shorten a combined college and professional education by one year, particularly by transfer to the University of Wisconsin law school.

The coveted accreditation with the North Central Association was won in 1950, but the faculty continued to send a member every summer to the North Central workshop at the University of Minnesota and their reports were made to the faculty in meetings of the whole. Under the direction of Dr. Wallin, the accreditation committee continued its work and, on the basis of a favorable evaluation, the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education renewed in 1953 the earlier accreditation granted in 1928. National recognition of outstanding students through listing in "Who's Who Among American College Students" came about in 1952.

Increased cooperation with the University of Wisconsin on transfer of credits on the undergraduate course level took Leonard Haas, dean of instruction, to Madison for a series of conferences beginning in the fall of 1951. Deans of the schools of commerce, engineering, journalism, law, medicine, and the office of advanced standing met with representatives of the Wisconsin State Colleges to suggest areas where strengthening of offerings would be helpful.

Talks were also going on with reference to graduate study at the colleges, and the graduate committee at Eau Claire, chaired by Dr. Axel Peterson, made some frank self-evaluations and surveys of library and laboratory facilities. The possibility of a joint program with the University of Wisconsin was discussed on the Madison campus in September 1956 with Dean Lindley Stiles and Professor Camella Lowe of the school of education and Dean Conrad Elvehjem of the graduate school, but further work was suspended for a time until the newly created Coordinating Committee for Higher Education could review the possibilities. At Eau Claire there was awareness on the part of the president and the dean of instruction that they should seek new faculty among Ph.D. holders, not only to satisfy the accrediting agencies but to become ready to offer graduate work. Thus a majority of the new people brought to Eau Claire in the decade of the fifties held the doctorate.

The College at Eau Claire: "A Warm Human Climate"

The reminiscences of a "faculty wife" who came to Eau Claire in 1953 are better than any words the authors can summon to describe the atmosphere of the college in that time. Emily Stowell has written:

"In the late summer of 1953, when the Stowells made a quick decision to leave Illinois College in Jacksonville for Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire, our Jacksonville friends thought we were mad to leave Governor Adlai Stevenson's balmy state for the frigid land of Joe McCarthy. However, we found a human climate warm enough to make up for the unaccustomed winters and had the fascinating experience of seeing the political climate change rather quickly.

"When we left Illinois, we bought a used bread truck and moved ourselves. Scarcely had we arrived at our newly purchased but ancient home at 420 Garfield Avenue when the warm human climate began to express itself. The friendly Kolkas next door greeted us with, 'You'll have to eat with us until you can get things unpacked,' and we did. Next to greet us was Bill Zorn, who sent a group of football players around to help unload the furniture, saying it was good exercise for their early practice and getting in shape.

"There was an auction that first week at the last house on Garfield across from the campus. A heavy rain frightened off the buyers and Ernest responded when the auctioneer said, 'Won't somebody bid $2.50 on this sofa, just to get it going?' The result was a very nice sofa added to the family furniture..."
for $2.50. President Davies dropped in to give us a hospitable greeting. He started to leave, then paused to say, 'Where is that $2.50 davenport? I'll have to try that out.' He came back in and stretched out full length on the new acquisition. This incident is typical of the easy family feeling that pervaded the campus in that year when there were just 800 students — up greatly, as I recall, from the previous year.

"Another incident a few years later comes to mind. The faculty wives were meeting at that beautiful old house on the corner of State and Garfield, and those of us who were entertaining arrived to find smoke pouring out all the doors. Did we call the head maintenance man? Yes and no. Nobody but me seemed to think it strange that someone dashed to the phone and called Bill Davies, who came rushing over to fix the malfunctioning furnace.

"There were eight new faculty members that fall, a record number in those days, and among the couples were the Bakkers, Fays, Lehmans, Lees, and Stowells. Later in the year the Robert Weekses were added to the new crop. The Gil Tanners had a group in for bridge one night, and this same group, with changes as people left and others came in, continued to get together as the spirit moved for fellowship and bridge, in that order, for all our years in Eau Claire.

"The next year we were away in Spain on a Ford Foundation grant, and when we returned we became even more involved in faculty, community, and church youth activities, which gradually became interdenominational. The American Association for the United Nations was formed to create support for that 'last best hope,' and Ernest served as president and I as secretary at different times. For me, it was a high point when Eleanor Roosevelt came to speak on the campus, and Eau Claire attorney Edwin Larkin, chairman of the United Nations Day, did a masterful job of diplomacy in overcoming the hostility of ultra-conservatives in the area.

"During the next few years I taught part-time at the college, either in freshman English or in Spanish. Together, Ernest and I directed various study programs abroad: at the United Nations Center in Patzcuaro, Mexico; in South America; in Jalapa, Mexico; and the 1960 summer tour of Europe with Howard Lutz and Gil Tanner cooperating. One year we had a 'winter session' for young Mexican university students on the Eau Claire campus. Wisconsin-Michigan Language Center Abroad, which Ernest founded in those years, is still providing foreign study experiences for many young people each year."

"The late Fifties were the days when two or three faculty members could not sit down together without having the conversation turn to their concern for the lack of social concern among the student body. The Second World War followed so closely by the disturbing Korean 'unwar' had produced a generation of bright young people who were dedicated solely to a search for security — it was the 'play-the-game, don't-make-waves, fight-for-safety-and-security, conformity-rather-than-ideals generation.' . . .

"Both our children had happy and rewarding years at the campus school, where they received an excellent foundation in their educations. We gave both of them the chance of where they could continue higher education, and neither we nor they have ever regretted that they chose to stay at Wisconsin State College/University-Eau Claire."

General Education and Interdisciplinary Studies

The basic work on a general education program at Eau Claire was accomplished between 1947 and 1951, and for twenty years thereafter the college and university required an ideal distribution of courses in communication, history, social science, science, humanities, psychology, and philosophy. It had the distinction of being the first of the state colleges to require three semester hours of philosophy. There was opportunity, within this framework, to develop interdisciplinary studies, and a beginning was made in the 1950s in natural science, physical science, and the humanities. Ironically, according to Leonard Haas,

Most of these efforts fell by the wayside. Largely because we did not have faculty who were dedicated to that particular approach, and of course we were fighting a losing battle in the '50s because instead of taking an interdisciplinary approach, what was happening in higher education was a greater and greater emphasis upon the particular specialization because specialization was taking over. . . . We couldn't find people who had the general studies point of view as we were growing in population.13

The minutes of the social sciences division reveal some carry-over of the idealism of the immediate postwar planning into the next decade. A four-page document, "Some Statements about General Education," distributed to all the divisions for study, quotes Kirtley F. Mather of Harvard University: "Only a new type of education for citizenship in a world society, as well as for the technical ability to earn a living, can hope to succeed."14 Dr. Schneider wished to introduce a new course in comparative
The Wisconsin State Colleges: Legitimation and Coordination

The legitimization of the Wisconsin State Colleges as colleges of liberal arts proceeded, step by step, through accreditation, additions of major programs, and granting of academic rank. At Eau Claire, 294 degrees in the liberal arts were granted at commencements from 1952 through 1960. Four times as many were granted to teacher education graduates, and in mid-decade President Davies was still defining the school as "a strong regional undergraduate college, primarily concerned with the preparation of teachers, and secondarily, with meeting the other needs of the area."
One important point was reached in the legitimation process when the board of regents in 1954 adopted a faculty rank system for the Wisconsin State Colleges. Four ranks were established — professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and instructor — with the proportion of faculty in each rank, qualifications, criteria for promotions, and salaries stipulated. In the ranking of teachers already on tenure, factors of classroom efficiency, administrative duties, preparation and experience, and evidence of continued growth were considered. This action of the board was accompanied by the first major revision of salaries in many years.18

Governor Walter Kohler, who served the state in the chief executive office from January 1951 to 1957, revived the persistent idea of integration of the University of Wisconsin and the state colleges:

Again in 1953 bills were presented dealing with the subject of integration. A single board of regents would have been appointed with powers to enact rules and regulations for the university system which would include the state colleges, the University, Stout, and the Wisconsin Institute of Technology. A chancellor with powers over the general administration of the system was to be appointed to whom the president of each geographic unit of the system would be responsible. A major point of controversy in this plan was that it provided that all degrees issued by the schools were required to be uniform, which was interpreted to mean that all of the institutions would be entitled simply “University of Wisconsin” with no distinction as to which school granted the degree. Since the policy-formulating power would still rest with the individual college head, this provision drew a storm of protest from those who believed it would seriously impair the value of a university degree. The bills failed to pass.19

Authorized by the 1953 legislature were committees to study higher education in Wisconsin, and bills were introduced into the 1955 session which provided for a single board of regents, but controversial features such as uniformity of degrees and the employment of an overall administrator were omitted. The bills were supported by the state college regents, but regents, alumni, and faculty of the University were opposed. The grassroots feeling in the state was that as the state colleges moved into the liberal arts field and into the graduate field, there was less reason to keep them separate and apart. Mr. McPhee recalled the compromise:

The Coordinating Committee was a compromise between Charlie Gelatt and Bill McIntyre even though Governor Kohler is given the credit for it. Gelatt and McIntyre as presidents of their respective boards spent about a week in the state capitol lobbying both sides of this question. They met and decided that they would work out a compromise that they would present to Kohler and then to their boards, and if they didn’t accept it, they would both resign. . . . in all these efforts there is a goal for control of the academic programs in order to prevent duplication, control of the building programs in order to balance the building needs of public higher education, and control of finance.20

The new act, providing for a coordinating committee of fifteen, composed of four members from the regents of the University, four from the state colleges board of regents, the presidents of the two boards, the state superintendent of public instruction, and four citizens, passed late in the 1955 session. By prior legislative action, Stout Institute and the Wisconsin Institute of Technology were attached to the state colleges, and the 1955 legislature instructed the new Coordinating Committee for Higher Education to merge the facilities and programs in Milwaukee, bringing them into merger with the University of Wisconsin as the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The Enrollment Increase and the Building Boom

On September 14, 1954, Francis Sand, of Phillips, Wisconsin, set a new record for registration at Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire when he was the 918th student to register. The previous record was 917 in 1949-50, and the Eau Claire Daily Telegram thought the occasion merited a photo of Sand with the 916th and 917th students, and with Lawrence Ziehm, college finance assistant, and Mrs. Frank Yuhas, clerk. Later registrations boosted the fall 1954 figure to 1,050. Each year thereafter, enrollment climbed until it reached 1,708 in 1959, a 70 percent increase. Other Wisconsin colleges had a similar growth pattern, which was attributed to the end of the Korean War with some students taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, to a national feeling of stability and belief in the future, and to prosperity and affluence.21

Already under way was a women’s dormitory, and in September 1954 President Davies sent Eugene McPhee a list of four buildings which “should be sufficient for the next twenty years”: a men’s dormitory to complement the women’s hall, and a student union, both of these to be built with funds obtained from the Wisconsin State College
Building Corporation, and a classroom building and a library.22

The building of residence halls represented the entering of the college upon a business enterprise and assuming the risks and responsibilities of a landlord. Projects of this kind in which the state, through the board of regents, could make or lose money were discouraged by the Constitution of Wisconsin.23 In 1953, however, the legislature began to clear the way for the establishment of non-stock companies, known as "dummy corporations," to finance and build such income-producing facilities as dormitories and college centers. Under a 1953 law, such a corporation could lease land and buildings to the regents. The corporation's holdings would be tax-exempt, mortgaged by loans from the Wisconsin Investment Board.24

The logical outgrowth was the Wisconsin State College Building Corporation. Its directors were the regents themselves, and its meetings were held in the board of regents meeting rooms in the capitol, immediately after the formal regents' meeting. The two Eau Claireans, William McIntyre and Eugene McPhee, served as the corporation's president and secretary respectively, the same posts they held with the board of regents.25

The plan was that the Wisconsin State College Building Corporation would adopt the building projects proposed in the regents' meetings and finance them through loans from the federal Housing and Home Finance Administration and large Midwestern banks. Agreements would be arranged with the aid of the corporation's trustee, the First Wisconsin Trust Company of Milwaukee. In the case of dormitories, the corporation would issue Wisconsin State College Building Corporation "Dorm Bonds." The regents would lease the completed structure from the corporation for a rent payment that would decrease over a period of time, not more than 50, often only 10, years, until the title was assumed by the regents and the structure had, in effect, paid for itself through user fees, for, under Wisconsin law, legislative appropriations to the regents could not be used to pay rent to the corporation.26

The women's residence hall at Eau Claire was encountering setbacks: in the spring of 1954 the site was flooded when Little Niagara Creek overflowed its banks, and in August construction workers refused to work with the non-union employees of a local flooring contractor. Not until December 1955 was the building opened, and it cost well over the $580,000 estimated. However, housing 140 women, it was the largest dormitory in the state colleges, and it contained recreational facilities for both hall residents and commuting students.27 The spacious lounge on the south side, whose tall windows gave a view of the Putnam Park bluff, became a very attractive center for college social gatherings, and it was the scene of the reception for delegates from all the state colleges when the Association of Wisconsin State College Faculties held its biennial meeting at Eau Claire in 1956.28

In 1954, land just to the west of the women's residence hall was acquired from the Putnam family through a quitclaim deed offered by Katherine Putnam Schrauff. Two years later, funds for a men's dormitory, budgeted at $545,000, were included in the $3 million loan obtained by the Wisconsin State College Building Corporation from the federal government to build dormitories on all nine campuses. Ground was broken at the site of the men's hall on May 2, 1957, and 240 men moved into the new building at the beginning of the 1958-59 school year.29

The College's Acquisition of Putnam Park

If the campus of Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire were to expand further, the direction would be to the west and south, for the Chippewa River was the northern boundary and on the east was the quiet residential neighborhood of Eau Claire's Third Ward. With the Owen purchase on top of the bluff and plans for athletic fields in that location, it became natural to think of the college's acquiring Putnam Park, the strip of wooded land between the college's existing and proposed facilities. Indeed, the "200 acres more or less" which Henry Putnam had given to the city of Eau Claire in 1909 had figured as a major consideration in choosing a site for the Eau Claire Normal School in 1916.30

In the late 1940s, William McIntyre and Eugene McPhee, whose wife was a Putnam relative, began quietly working with their friend, Eau Claire attorney James Riley, on acquisition for the college of the woodlands abutting the campus. In 1948, the principal Putnam heirs, Cleaveland Putnam and Katherine Putnam Schrauff, signed an agreement officially naming the college, with the city, as a party responsible for the administration of the park. The agreement was not made public until eight years later, when Regent McIntyre and Director McPhee appeared at a meeting of the Eau Claire city council to propose that the city cede the park to the college. The Putnam heirs quitclaimed their interest in the park to the board of regents in July 1956, setting off a controversy between town and gown, neighbor and neighbor.31

Battles over Putnam Park were fought on doorsteps of homes, in the papers, and at a public hear-
ing. Opponents of the transfer reminded their neighbors of the value of the park; they quoted the original Putnam deed to the city, “... you have a park that is unique ... none like it in the state.” Some homeowners in the vicinity feared an uncontrolled expansion of the college that might lower property values. Cynics suggested that the city give away all the parks to expansion-minded industries and agencies.32

The conflict reached a climax in the crowded auditorium of the city library on February 12, 1957, at a long public hearing presided over by Leonard Haas in his role as president of the city council. Presentations, carefully planned and rehearsed, were made by Regent McIntyre, members of the college administration and faculty, the state planner Henry M. Ford, the director of the board of regents Eugene McPhee, attorneys James Riley and Victor Wahl. Resistance to the transfer was eroded, and the city offered to the board of regents a formal agreement which was accepted by the latter at their meeting of April 26, 1957. The city retained certain rights, including continued public use of Garfield Avenue and Putnam Drive through the park, while the college, through the board of regents, obtained ownership and promised to maintain the land as a public natural park and laboratory.33

Within a year of the Putnam Park transfer, the college acquired the 28-acre Wilson property above the west bluff. Eugene McPhee asserted that the college “had enough land to last for a hundred years.” In an interview with the authors in 1973, Mr. McPhee acknowledged that his prediction had been off by 94 years, for in 1964 the university began acquiring land on the north bank of the Chippewa River.

“One of the Finest College Unions in the United States”

The student union was moved from the barracks to the old gymnasium in 1952, next to the cafeteria on the lower floor of Old Main. “Such a union,” Mr. Davies wrote to Mr. McPhee, “would always be substandard because of limitation of space and the impossibility of the proper arrangement of expanded food services.” A separate building would be necessary.34

In the Spectator of September 19, 1956, the formation of a union committee was announced: Lester Emans, chairman, Leonard Haas, Ida Hinz, Erna Buchholz, Charles Hornback, Robert Gantner, Lester Gilbertson, and Carroll Rusch. Members of the committee toured the union facilities of other colleges in Wisconsin during the winter, and President Davies took time off from his vacation to compare unions on several Midwestern campuses. The Building Corporation was able to arrange a loan of $645,000 from the federal home loan agency, to be paid off over the succeeding forty years. After a sampling of student opinion, a site was chosen for the union just south of Old Main, bordered by a relocated Little Niagara Creek.35

Even before the building was finished, Clayton Anderson, an alumni who was director of recreation at the Eau Claire Y.M.C.A., was hired to be in charge of the student union and its programs. The $750,000 structure was completed in June 1959. “One of the finest college unions in the United States” was the proud boast both of students and of the college administrators who entertained the Area Committee and community service clubs in the new facility. The mode of financing the union through the dummy corporation, and the fact that the building cost less than a mile of new highway construction, were brought to the attention of members of the public who were present at the first functions held in the building.36

The 1950s student body produced many champions. For the dedication of the new gymnasium in 1952, Bill Zorn invited the basketball team from his alma mater, the University of Chicago, and before 2,000 fans the Eau Claire team, with stars Roger Hanson and Stan DuFrane, won the game. Mr. Zorn was president of the NAIA in 1953-54. In 1955 the basketball team won the conference championship with a strong team consisting of men like Carl Glocke, Bob Morgan, Jim Bollinger, and Roger “Jet” Johnson, and in 1956 the team won the privilege of attending the NAIA tournament for the fifth time. Coach Zorn was elected in 1958 to the Helms Hall of Fame for his outstanding contribution to the sport of basketball.

In football Eau Claire won the state conference championship in 1956 with Don Pierce and Jim Bollinger as co-captains. Don Pierce was selected as “Little All-American” member of NAIA and Jim Bollinger ranked in the top 15 in the nation in total offense and passing. The next year Ade Olson yielded the position of head coach of football to James Rice, who came to Eau Claire to succeed Jerry Person in the department of physical education.

In addition to basketball and football, varsity athletics included baseball, tennis, track, golf, wrestling, and skiing. Early in the ’50s the Vann Klar Ski Club was organized.

Forensic competition also produced champions like Joan Reidy, who was named 1953 outstanding debater in the National Debate Tournament.
With Patricia Litsheim, Richard Bennett, George Gerner, and William Larson, Joan Reidy won the national discussion contest of the Speech Association of America on the topic, “How Can We Most Effectively Combat the Threat of Communism?” The judges commended them for handling the McCarthy issue “intellectually,” for original and clear thinking, and for excellent delivery. The year 1954 was the coming of age of television as a medium of public information when the Army-McCarthy hearings were broadcast. The International Debates, often with teams from Oxford and Cambridge, England, became an annual event from 1952. The speech fraternity, Pi Kappa Delta, was established at Eau Claire in 1951.

Interest in journalism grew following the establishment of the minor in 1954, and Pi Delta Epsilon, journalism fraternity, was formed in 1956. Two years later, the Eau Claire Press Company scholarships were established and Eau Claire hosted the first annual Wisconsin State College Press conference. The Spectator continued to garner top honors in various categories of national competition.

In 1955 honor students in English founded the Tatler, a magazine of original prose and poetry. Ruth Foster’s art students formed a club in 1954 called the Art Club, and in 1956 fifteen members qualified for membership in the national art fraternity, Kappa Pi. The first exhibit, May Fair, included work of both students and faculty.

Delta Zeta, a women’s social and service sorority, was organized in 1956, and their first project was the hostessing of the reception for the Association of Wisconsin State Teachers College Faculties in the lounge of the women’s residence hall in the spring of that year. A second sorority, Gamma Sigma Sigma, was founded in 1959.

Compulsory convocations made some students restless, but in 1953 the Student Government emphasized their importance: “Convocations do provide one means of broadening outlook and knowledge.” By 1955 the convocation requirement was merged with the Forum except for freshman meetings once a week. Discipline problems were minor, amounting to vodka drinking on a field trip or a rash of hubcap stealing. President Davies remained conservative, enlisting alumni, legislators, and citizens in an effort to defeat the “dangerous precedent” of allowing beer in the Marquette University union.

The Library: “Heart of the College”

In 1955, the instructional and activities requirements of the department of music were brought together “under one roof” in a two-story addition to the earlier rehearsal room adjoining the heating plant. The next academic building project, it was determined, should be the library, and in 1955 a committee was formed with Leonard Haas, chair-
man; Josephine Schneider, Erna Buchholz, and Delia Anderson, for the library; and Laura Sutherland, Eldon McMullen, and Louis Slock, for the faculty. Not only had the North Central Association examiners found deficiencies in the library in 1950, but the emphasis on the liberal arts and the growth of new academic programs and enrollment convinced the holders of the state purse strings that a separate library building was essential at Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire.

Erna Buchholz, head librarian, visited libraries wherever she traveled, and had literally surveyed them from “coast to coast,” including Harvard’s Widener Library. President Davies was particularly interested in reviewing the plans of the new Wartburg College library at Waterloo, Iowa, and the Wartburg concept of limited-access stacks and a third-floor penthouse documents area was adopted for Eau Claire’s building. Over the objections of Erna Buchholz, classrooms were provided on the south side of the library. Used primarily by the history department, which had offices nearby, the inclusion of these rooms in the plans postponed for a while the inevitable demand for a separate classroom building at Eau Claire.39

At the groundbreaking ceremony on May 20, 1959, for which classes were dismissed, Erna Buchholz turned the first shovelful of earth. President Davies was present, but before the placing of historical materials in the cornerstone, a quiet ceremony held on February 15, 1960, he had died. The four-day dedication was held October 27 through 30, 1960, and both the council of presidents and the board of regents arranged to meet in Eau Claire at the same time. At the formal dedication on October 28, Eugene McPhee, the principal speaker, spoke of the library as the “heart” of the college, from which “all intellectual activities radiate. . . the repository of man’s knowledge, of his hopes for progress and betterment.” Regent W. D. McIntyre said that he would be less than human and less than honest if he were not especially pleased with the development of the Eau Claire campus. Dr. Edward C. Blackorby of the history department chaired the committee arranging the dedication, which included tours open to the public, a special brochure, and a dinner for the Area Committee and honored guests.

The library, built at a cost of $1,140,000, was a three-story building facing Garfield Avenue and the Chippewa River, just to the west of Old Main. Walls in the entrance lobby were of Italian marble; the reserve library and reading room and curriculum library, moved from the campus school, were on the first floor; the main reading room, library desk, and browsing room on the second floor, with workrooms for the library staff and a classroom for courses in library science. The third floor housed government documents and the Area Research Center of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The new building was connected to Old Main, named in 1960 Schofield Hall, by a two-story glass-enclosed walkway, from which vistas of Putnam Park on one side and the river on the other were revealed.40

Specialization: The Introduction of New Programs

In a letter to Eugene McPhee written in July 1955, President Davies reported a demand in northwestern Wisconsin for “many commercial graduates with more education than can be secured in the vocational school. Certainly there is the opportunity to prepare many young people for public administration.” Though Whitewater had a specialty in business education, it was a common saying that its graduates would teach anywhere except “north of the Baraboo hills.” The proposal for academic work in business, when put to the social sciences division in 1956, was a dual one, advocating a teaching major in business education and a liberal arts major in business administration. The business education curriculum was developed with the department of education and offered in 1959 as an “opportunity to obtain a broad liberal arts college education combined with the professional education necessary for teaching.” Courses in accounting, business law, and finance were introduced into the economics department beginning in 1957, and the major in business administration was approved in 1960.41

Leonard Haas, dean of instruction, accompanied by John Gerberich, assistant professor of biology, appeared before the board of regents in 1955 to obtain approval of a program in medical technology. As no other state college was interested in such a program at the time, they met with no opposition and Eau Claire became the first state college to offer the degree in medical technology.42 Requirements for the degree were that three years and one summer session of study be completed at the college, with a fourth year of internship in an affiliated hospital, the degree and certification as a medical technologist to be awarded after passing an examination successfully at the end of the clinical year.43

The degree program in nursing, though not approved for Eau Claire until 1965, grew out of relationships established in the 1950s with the school of nursing of Luther Hospital, Eau Claire. In September 1953, students of the Luther Hospital school began to take regular college courses at Wis-
consin State College at Eau Claire in sociology, general psychology, and English 1. Taught at the hospital by college faculty were courses designed especially for nurses in microbiology, chemistry, and anatomy. Beginning in 1954, nursing students were enrolled at the college as regular college students for the first two semesters and the summer session of their first year, paying tuition directly to the college, and a coordinator of nursing education, who was paid partly by the college and partly by the hospital, was named. This arrangement continued for a number of years.\textsuperscript{44}

Under the guidance of Dr. Lester Emans, the curriculum in education was greatly strengthened in the 1950s. Many of the older 2-credit courses were combined into an 8-credit practicum and professional semester program, which required that prospective teachers devote most of the senior year to on-the-job experience and to college courses related directly to that experience. This was the first such program in the state colleges. Dr. Axel Peterson was supervisor of secondary student teaching and adviser to the Student Wisconsin Education Association chapter formed in 1951. Recently graduated teachers from Eau Claire and other colleges were encouraged to come to the annual inservice conferences scheduled to coincide with fall Homecoming.

Dr. Emans served as president of the Wisconsin Association for Student Teaching in 1957, and as chairman of the Wisconsin Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Standards from 1960 to 1965, representing the state organizations at many national conventions. Louis Slock, director of extended services, represented the college at the annual meetings of the Association for Field Services in Teacher Education, and in 1959 served as president of that organization and brought its annual conference to Eau Claire.

From contacts with public school teachers it became apparent that there was a need for preparation of teachers of retarded children, and in 1958, with the approval of the Coordinating Committee for Higher Education, a special education program to train teachers of the mentally retarded and physically handicapped was begun at Eau Claire. In the same year the coordinating committee recommended to both boards of regents that cooperative programs in teacher education be organized at the master's degree level. At Eau Claire, President Davies appointed a graduate council of "graduate faculty," defined as those holding the doctorate, to establish regulations covering graduate work at the college and determine the readiness of the departments to offer it. Dr. Melvin Rigg was appointed Eau Claire's representative on the joint Standing Committee on Graduate Education composed of one faculty member from each of the state colleges and four from the University of Wisconsin. In the summer of 1960, the program was inaugurated at Eau Claire with six courses offered in liberal arts and education foundations.\textsuperscript{45}

Following the development of the atomic bomb in the Second World War, the interest in science and particularly the peaceful uses of the atom grew enormously.\textsuperscript{46} The National Science Foundation, created in 1950, provided support for students of science and for institutes in the sciences. In 1956 Eau Claire succeeded in attracting the first effort of NSF to improve the teaching of astronomy by means of a summer institute. The institute's student body consisted of 50 teachers and supervisors of science and astronomy selected from small colleges and a few from high schools. William A. Calder of Bradley Observatory at Agnes Scott College was the director, and Charles Koelsche of Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire was assistant director. Faculty were drawn from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Indiana University, Cornell University, the University of Michigan, and Vanderbilt. Edward M. Palmquist, NSF program director for education in the sciences, was the introductory speaker on the first day of the institute. Several lectures were given for the public. A local amateur maker of telescopes, S. W. Casey, assisted with the night observing programs, lending his own handiwork, a 4 1/2-inch refractor.\textsuperscript{47}

The interest in the teaching of science, though real, did not prepare either the colleges or the public for the tremendous impact of the first satellite, launched by the Soviets in November 1957. There was an immediate demand for upgrading science courses from the junior high school level up, in order to produce technicians, engineers, and scientists who could beat the Communists at this new game. It was the campus school that initiated a formal discussion of the impact of the Soviet achievement on the schooling of young people. The Minneapolis Tribune education editor, Richard Kleeman, was persuaded by the parent-teachers association to hold one of his series of symposiums on the challenge of Sputnik in Schofield Auditorium, Eau Claire. Dr. Rufus W. Lumry of the University of Minnesota, professor of physical chemistry, was consultant to the panel, which consisted of Stephen Andrews, president of the Eau Claire board of education; Dr. Harold Conlon, parent, physician, and member of the Eau Claire Central PTA Council; Dr. Alan Lehman, associate professor of English at Eau Claire; and C. P. Olson, science teacher in the
campus junior high school. More hard study was urged, "watered" courses and "too little enrichment" were deplored, and it was suggested that imaginative teachers should get merit pay; parents, though interested, were not alarmed by the challenge.\(^{48}\)

**The Organization of the Foundation: Its Purposes**

The slogan of the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce, "Green Light for the Fifties," expressed the optimism that pervaded the city of 36,000 as it entered the decade, hoping to grow to 50,000 in population before it had ended. Appreciation of the college as an asset grew and was fostered by the series of Sunday evening radio broadcasts about the college and its programs which began in 1956 and lasted until 1961, when Dr. Haas began the regular television weekly presentations. The Eau Claire College Committee was one of Mr. Davies' devices for increasing interest in the school, and in 1957 he invited 30 citizens, the area assemblymen, the state senator, the regent, the city manager, the city council president, Leonard Haas, and the Chamber of Commerce committee on the college, to become members of such a group and meet twice a year. Mr. Davies also organized a college public relations committee of ten faculty members, three students, and two directors of the Alumni Association.

The scholarship committee of the faculty administered small amounts of loan money contributed by the AAUP, AFT, PEO, BPW, women's clubs, sororities, and individuals, and the Kathryn Davies Memorial Award fund, but the amount available seldom reached $1,000. One of the most active of the subcommittees of the College Committee was the Scholarship and Loan Committee headed by Richard J. Lewis, president of the American National Bank and Trust Company, and the report of that committee led to the creation of the Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire Foundation, Inc. The committee conceived in May 1958 that the National Defense Education Act providing student loans would require local funds to match the federal grants on a one to nine basis, and further study led to the incorporation on November 5, 1958, of the Foundation. At the first meeting on November 25, Louis Weinberg was elected president; Edwin Larkin, vice president; Bruce Pannier, treasurer; and Mrs. R. R. Richards, secretary.

The following May, the Foundation board took the initial action to match the first federal loan allocation with $1,600. Members and directors conducted the fund raising activities, and in February 1960 the Foundation was able to match an additional $41,693 federal appropriation by providing $4,632. The idea of a memorial fund for W. R. Davies was originated immediately after his death in December 1959, and the Foundation undertook a goal of $15,000 with Albert Larson heading the drive, which was successfully completed between May and September of 1960. Soon after the Foundation's incorporation as a legal depository for gifts and bequests, the existing Thorson fund was put under the umbrella of the Foundation and other funds were deposited as the Foundation's capability became known. In March 1961 President Haas suggested that the Eau Claire College Committee be abolished and the board of directors of the Foundation be enlarged. William R. Peters was hired as part-time executive secretary of the Foundation, to plan its expansion and conduct fund drives, in July 1962.\(^{49}\)

**Faculty Members as Servants of the Community**

Leonard Haas was elected to the Eau Claire city council in 1949 and served for four consecutive two-year terms and as president of the council in 1955-57. When the city manager form of government came under attack in 1957, Dr. Haas defended it as chief spokesman before a number of community meetings. He was active in the affairs of the Kiwanis Club, as president of the Eau Claire group, lieutenant governor of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District, and a member of the Kiwanis International Committee on Education and Fellowship, and in 1957 he was given the Kiwanis Achievement Award for Civic Service. For his church, Dr. Haas served on the Board of College Education of the American Lutheran Church, which had oversight of eleven small denominational colleges, and as superintendent of Grace Lutheran Sunday School in Eau Claire; in 1957 he was the recipient of the Lutheran Layman's Award. He was also a member of the boards of the Eau Claire Public Library, the Eau Claire Community Chest, and the Eau Claire County Guidance Clinic, which was given quarters on the campus of the college for several years.

Richard Hibbard, on leave of absence for government service in Washington, D.C., from 1953 to 1955, returned to Eau Claire to resume teaching and take on the office of director of admissions at the college. Dr. Hibbard was elected to the Eau Claire city council in 1957 and served four consecutive terms and as president of the council in 1963-65. Chosen by the council a member of the first Eau Claire city plan commission, he also served his church, the First Presbyterian of Eau Claire, as
chairman of its planning and expansion committee and as historian. He was active in the Rotary Club.

Already having served two terms in the Wisconsin legislature as assemblyman from Pierce County, Arthur Peterson became an instructor in political science at Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire in 1954. At the 1952 state Republican convention, delegate Peterson had been “booed, heckled, and physically threatened” when he rose to speak against a resolution praising U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy. He was on leave from the college in the first semester of 1956-57 to run for Congress against Lester Johnson, Democratic incumbent of the Ninth District; though he lost, Peterson gave Johnson the closest race he ever had.50

Another Republican on the faculty, Charles Hornback, principal of the campus school, tried for Congress in 1958 against Lester Johnson without success. Mr. Hornback ran into opposition from members of his own profession when the AFT Local 917, headed by Robert Weeks of the English department, passed a resolution condemning Mr. Hornback for his criticism of Walter Reuther, the great labor apostle of the day. Arthur Peterson defended Mr. Hornback in the local press. While exposing a division along political lines among the faculty, the Hornback incident also brought out prominent members of the community to criticize Mr. Weeks and other members of AFT.51

President Davies: His Views of the Larger World

As president, W. R. Davies must be counted as a force which shaped Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire into a more sophisticated institution in the decade of the 1950s. His concept of the college and his interest in the world beyond the campus rank with accreditation, faculty rank, curricular developments, the new buildings, and the Foundation as elements of the legitimating process. “You showed him a hornet’s nest and he’d go in there,” Mrs. Davies recalled. “If he thought he was right, you couldn’t budge him.” A faculty member of the fifties described Mr. Davies as a dedicated administrator who was willing to do anything “politically possible” for the college.52

Wisconsin as a state was far from the liberal center of the nation, and Eau Claire was an isolationist area of the state; often Mr. Davies would find the beliefs held by those with whom he came in contact in disharmony with the role he was attempting to build, the role of educator. To his credit, he tried to enlarge the thinking of students, citizens, and government officials, exerting influence whenever the opportunity arose.

A charter member of the Wisconsin branch of the American Legion, Mr. Davies was the recipient of 1953 Legion propaganda which, in a “Back-to-God” movement, attacked “higher education and worldly culture” as well as UNESCO, the education arm of the United Nations. Labeling the material “tommyrot,” and “a little more than I can swallow,” Mr. Davies asked the state commander, “Have the rabble-rousers taken over?”53

President Davies was a leader in the formation of an Eau Claire chapter of the United Nations Association, a national organization devoted to support of the work and ideals of the UN, and he became president of the state group in 1955. On April 20, 1954, Eleanor Roosevelt, the former First Lady, was the honored guest and main speaker at a United Nations Day in Eau Claire. The college’s gymnasium was the location of the afternoon rally which drew over 2,000 people to hear Mrs. Roosevelt.54

Inviting William O. Douglas, the Supreme Court Justice, to speak at commencement in 1956, President Davies wrote: “We are still in an isolationist area of the state and the expression of the kind of sound thinking you do on things international is needed not only for the graduates but for the parents and friends... even though they refuse to take the time to read an article.” When Justice Douglas was unable to accept the invitation, President Davies turned to Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, who was eventually the speaker at the 1957 commencement.55

The Forum which he originated continued to bring to the campus and the community many famous speakers from the outside world. The highest paid of the lecturers in the 1951-52 series was Arthur

Eleanor Roosevelt, W. R. Davies, Delpha Davies

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Schlesinger, Jr., the Harvard historian, who received $500. Others included Margaret Bourke-White, the photo-journalist; Dorothy Thompson and Louis Fischer, journalists; William Lawrence and Farrington Daniels, scientists; and Carlos Romulo, of the Philippines, and Jarmila Novotna, the opera singer, both of whom were entertained in the Davies home. Following the November 1957 appearance of journalist Roscoe Drummond, Mr. Davies scolded the student body for a three percent turnout:

I hoped that we had a large group of thinking students, but perhaps they are quite willing not to face the issues of the world that we hope they will live in tomorrow.

The science faculty he chided for their conspicuous absence from a lecture by Ralph E. Lapp, the renowned nuclear scientist. Forum speakers were often saved from total embarrassment by the participation of the community. “Don’t sell the community short,” Mr. Davies said to a student government leader after one speech, “without them last night we really would have looked foolish.”

When many were building fallout shelters, Mr. Davies voiced his opinion that “there is no longer any adequate defense against disaster, except through all-out efforts in mutual understanding and disarmament. In that direction we should concentrate all our efforts.” He believed in an active citizenry: “The apathy of the adult voter sets the pattern for the young Americans,” he wrote. When Joseph McCarthy died in 1957, Mr. Davies urged upon Governor Vernon Thomson thoughtful consideration of ways by which the vacancy in the Senate might be filled. He strongly supported the state president of the League of Women Voters when she visited Eau Claire to interest women in a local chapter, offering to circulate his own women teachers and the faculty wives.

Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire joined the AAUP list of institutions protesting the loyalty oath required of students receiving loans or grants under the National Defense Education Act of 1958. Of this requirement, U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy said, “it acts as a barrier to prospective students ... it is distasteful, humiliating, and unworkable to those who must administer it.”

The influence of President Davies on the members of the faculty and the administrators who learned so much by working closely with him was incalculable. Three young teachers — David Bowman, Karl Meyer, and Harry Bangsberg — went from Eau Claire to the office of Eugene McPhee, both to assist with central office curricular planning for the system, and to learn more of the administrator’s skills. As his retirement drew near, Mr. Davies told a friend that the college presidency was “a wonderful experience and a very busy one,” and that retirement brought one problem he was trying to solve, “the problem of leisure — a new experience for me.”

On September 8, 1959, President Davies wrote to Director McPhee:

I want to thank you and the members of the board for naming Dean Haas as acting president, thus relieving me of the countless details of administration, pending my retirement as president on January 5, 1960.

I would also be remiss if I did not tell you that, in my opinion, Dean Haas has to a very high degree all the qualifications for the position as president. He has been my colleague for eighteen years, both in the role of a most excellent history teacher, and since then the leader of the administrative group of the college. In every capacity his performance has been top-flight. I believe he has the undivided confidence of the citizens of the area and the faculty and student body, and is just a sort of “natural” for the position.

Meanwhile he has found time for real civic leadership, and he is also on the National Board of Christian Education of his church. He is young in years and spirit, and yet seasoned and ready to assume the heavy responsibilities of the office of the president. I commend him to you with no reservations.

In an unprecedented move for a college faculty, the Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire faculty voted unanimously for a resolution to the Board of Regents of State Colleges requesting that Dr. Haas be named president-elect. This the board did on November 16, 1959. Contrary to expectation, Dr. Haas succeeded to the presidency before the end of the decade, when William R. Davies died on December 10, 1959. At the memorial service held in the auditorium of Old Main, Dr. Haas gave tribute to President Davies’ “abiding faith in his fellowman, his belief in the essential dignity and integrity of all men, and his effort to apply his philosophy in the management of the college.”

CHAPTER VI — FOOTNOTES

1 W. R. Davies, text of speech, January 3, 1951, President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.


3 During the 1950-51 school year, 29 students withdrew to enter military service. Perhaps a number of young men had an experience similar to that related by alumnus Ted Wyman in the Whitehall Times, December 26, 1974: “In
1951 I saved up $28 over the summer and matriculated at Minnie Creek, as the institution was nicknamed... it took about three months for me to fully realize that college didn’t agree with me, and Uncle Sam was snapping up 19-year-olds like sixty, to send to Korea. So on December 9, 1951, I unmatriculated from Minnie Creek and matriculated in the Air Force. ... After four years I still hadn’t found myself, but, spurred on by that girl in the Blugold Room and encouraged by the G.I. Bill, I remaricated at Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire. This time, college agreed with me, and, in 1960, all that matriculating finally paid off.”

Alexander C. Eschweiler is referred to as “one of Milwaukee’s most distinguished architects” in Richard W. E. Perrin, *The Architecture of Wisconsin* (Madison, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1967), p. 84, and commended for his church designs and buildings at Milwaukee-Downer College.

2 E. H. Fred, speech text, October 31, 1950, Archives, UW-Eau Claire. The gilded shovel used in the groundbreaking, which bears the signatures of the dignitaries present, is preserved in the Area Research Center, UW-Eau Claire.

3 Letter, E. B. Fred to W. R. Davies, November 1, 1950, regretting the latter’s absence from the groundbreaking, President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.

4 It was assumed that the barracks used for classroom, college union, and housing could be removed soon after completion of the new complex, but they continued in use until 1955, when the regents provided the $24,000 needed to raze them. Local real estate interests proposed renting two old mansions near the business district to the college for student housing, but President Davies rejected the offers, noting that remodeling costs would not justify their use; letters, L. G. Arnold to W. R. Davies, June 26, 1950, and Davies to Arnold, August 9, 1950: Julius J. Dinger to W. R. Davies, December 2, 1954, President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.

5 Those who attended the workshops, beginning in 1948, were: W. Parker Clark, Leonard Haas, J. R. Wallin, Earl Kjor, Hilda Belle Oxby, Robert Gunn, Louis Slock, and Henry Kolka.

6 Accreditation Report of the AACTE, Archives, UW-Eau Claire. In 1954, on motion of J. R. Wallin, the accreditation committee was dissolved in favor of centering studies in the North Central committee. The college was visited by a North Central coordinator in 1956.

7 Sutherland, unpublished ms., chapter on “The Graduate Program.”

8 Minutes of the graduate study committee, office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, UW-Eau Claire.

9 Letter Emily Stowell to Hilda Carter, November 1974. Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Stowell left Eau Claire in 1965; “Gradually this work in foreign exchange seemed to offer us a larger scope for our personal efforts toward creating a climate of peace in a world which badly needs it, so we finally left the faculty to devote ourselves to Amity Institute, located at Del Mar, California, which brings some 150 young people from overseas and Mexico to teach in schools in the United States each year.”

10 Interview, Jenswold with Haas, May 28, 1975.

11 Distributed March 12, 1951.

12 Minutes of the Social Sciences Division, November 11, 1954.


14 Letter, Davies to McPhee, July 9, 1955, President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.


17 McPhee, interview with Fredrick, pp. 286-7.


19 Letter, Davies to McPhee, September 7, 1954, President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.

20 The fear of bankrupt government was with the framers of the Wisconsin Constitution (1848), who stipulated that the state could go into debt only for public defense and extraordinary expense to be covered by increased taxes. Even then the debt could not exceed $100,000.

21 Senate Bills 26, 27, and 28, *Senate Journal*, 1953. Dummy building corporations were simultaneously authorized for the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin State Colleges. Sanctioned projects were defined as “all dormitories, commons, field houses, stadia, indoor practice buildings, memorial unions, and all equipment therefor ... and all improvements.” (*Wisconsin Statutes*, Ch. 36.06 (6) (a) 2. Approval for State Colleges established in Ch. 37.02 (3). 1955 edition.)

22 Wisconsin State College Building Corporation, Proceedings, April 29, 1953.


24 The building of the women’s dormitory is traced in *Spectator*, May 5 and June 5, 1954; February 16, September 29, and November 23, 1955. The labor dispute is recorded in a series of letters between Davies, McPhee, the general contractor, and the flooring contractor, President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.

25 The newly formed Delta Zeta sorority was asked by Stella Pedersen to plan and hostess the reception; faculty adviser to the sorority was Mary Rowe; community representative, Hilda Carter.

26 *Spectator*, March 1, 1956; February 28 and May 9, 1957; September 25, 1958. The first dormitory was officially known as “Women’s Residence Hall” until March 1960, when it was renamed Katharine Thomas Hall, honoring a member of the first faculty of the Eau Claire State Normal School (*Spectator*, March 17, 1960). “Men’s Residence Hall” retained its original name until January 1960, when it was named Emmet Horan Hall after the Eau Claire businessman who as a regent was instrumental in the establishment of a state normal school at Eau Claire (*Spectator*, January 14, 1960). In 1962, the first residence hall was completed on upper campus, and, opened to men, it was given the name “Emmet Horan Hall.” The 1957 dormitory then became a women’s residence hall and was given its third name, Katherine Putnam Hall, honoring Mrs. Katherine Putnam Schrauff, who had quitted her interest in the piece of land on which it stood.

27 Henry C. Putnam, Quitclaim Deed, February 17, 1909. Prospects for normal school use were noted in *Eau Claire Leader*, February 1 and 2, 1910.

28 A precedent for quitaligning by the Putnam heirs was their 1954 action in making possible the building of the dormitory adjacent to the park. Documentation of the steps


Wahl, op. cit., correspondence and notes on the hearing, including outlines of the presentations of Messrs. Riley, McPhee, McIntyre, the state planner, Henry M. Ford, and biology professor Mark Fay. Agreement and provisions of the transfer in Wahl, op. cit., pp. 10-12, 34-37.

Letter, Davies to McPhee, December 29, 1955, President’s Correspondence. The public relations drive of the College Unions International (see “College Unions: Year Fifty,” 1964, and “The College Union Idea,” 1967), lifelong enrollments in the 1950s, the creation of the Wisconsin State College Building Corporation, and the success of the student union on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison probably influenced the state college regents in their decision to initiate unions on the nine campuses.

Plans for the building were illustrated in the Spectator of March 14, 1957. Other references on the progress of the union were contained in Spectator, May 17, October 21, December 6, 1956; March 1 and December 12, 1957.

Recollection of Hilda Carter, present at several of the early functions.

Joan Reidy Heggen, ’52, became mayor of Tallahassee, Florida, in 1976, and the following year was honored at the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce banquet by a certificate of merit for bringing fame and favorable publicity to Eau Claire. The late Patria Lithsheim Irgens, ’56, was a teacher in high schools and at Moorhead State Teachers College, Minnesota. Bennett, Gerer, and Larson did not graduate from Eau Claire. This discussion award was Eau Claire’s first national title in forensics, as described in Eau Claire Leader, article undated. A description of the atmosphere of the period is found in Wallace Stegner, The Uneasy Chair, A Biography of Bernard DeVoto (Garden City, New York; Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1974), p. 358: “It is difficult even for people who lived through it to bring back the atmosphere of oppression, fear, and silence that hung over the McCarthy period. But it was real and frightening and bewildering at the same time, a smog that tainted all American life. . . . Too few had the courage to fight back and call McCarthy the liar he was. The President sat on his hands, the Congress did nothing to control the member whom many of them deplored and despised. The public, for all one could tell, was apathetic, scared, or actively behind the witch hunt.”

Letter, Davies to John Pritchard, Assemblyman, July 5, 1957, President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.

Architect’s plans of the Warth Library are in President’s Correspondence, 1959. The federal documents stored in the campus school basement were moved to the new library, and the campus school lower floor was finished in 1958-59 to provide for the ninth grade of junior high school, initiated in order to conform with the city’s 6-3-3 plan.

The library architects were Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford and Jahn of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Letter, Davies to McPhee, July 9, 1955; Davies, circular letter to faculty, October 27, 1958; Leonard Haas, circular letter to faculty, September 3, 1959; President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire. Interview with Dr. Donald Ellicott, chairman of the department of economics, UW-Eau Claire, February 21, 1974; Ellicott joined the department in 1958.

Leonard Haas was acting president for several months in 1954 while Mr. Davies was ill; he often represented Mr. Davies at the council of presidents and at board of regents meetings. Dr. John Gerberich joined the biology faculty in 1954; in an interview, February 19, 1974, Dr. Gerberich stated that the curriculum in medical technology was designed to meet the requirements as prescribed by the Committee of Medical Technology of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Affiliation was made with Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis in 1955; with Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, in 1957; and with four other hospitals between 1961 and 1967, as the number of students in medical technology increased. A Med Tech Club was formed in 1956.

Helen Bruncik was the first coordinator of nursing education, appointed in 1954. Members of the Eau Claire college faculty served continuously on the advisory board to the Luther Hospital school of nursing from 1934 when Katharine Thomas was appointed. Others were Eugene McPhee and W. R. Davies, 1941-59, who was succeeded by Leonrard Haas.

Records, School of Graduate Studies, UW-Eau Claire.


Sky and Telescope, November 1956, pp. 15-16, has a good description of the institute.


“Historical Development of the Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire Foundation, Inc.” undated, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.


Daily Telegram, October 15 and 17, 1958; letters: Wilder Crane to Robert Weeks, John Lindner to Weeks, Weeks to Lindner, October 1958, in President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.

Impressions of W. R. Davies as given by Mrs. W. R. Davies and Dr. Arnold Bakken in interviews, winter and spring 1974.

Davies’ clashes with the Legion are documented in letters, Davies to editor of American Legion Magazine, December 1, 1953, and Davies to G. I. Sipple, October 29, 1955, both in President’s Correspondence.

Daily Telegram, April 21, 1954.

Cousins caused Mr. Davies worry by arriving very late in Eau Claire; his excuse was that he had become lost in Minneapolis. There followed an extensive correspondence with the editor and his agent regarding his fee; Davies to Lee Keedrick, June 10, 1957; Cousins to Davies, June 13, 1957; Davies to Cousins, June 18, 1957, all in President’s Correspondence.

Davies to Robert Southard, November 8, 1957; Davies to Lawrence F. Wahlstrom, February 29, 1956; President’s Correspondence.

Recollection of Hilda Carter, who met with the state president and Mr. Davies.


Letter, Davies to T. J. Litsheim, September 16, 1959, President’s Correspondence.

The accomplishments of W. R. Davies as president of Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire, his retirement and death were noted in a Resolution of Commendation, Joint Resolution No. 118, Wisconsin State Legislature, January 21, 1960. The board of regents had adopted a similar resolution on December 16, 1959, No. 1645. Both may be found in the President’s Correspondence, Archives, UW-Eau Claire.