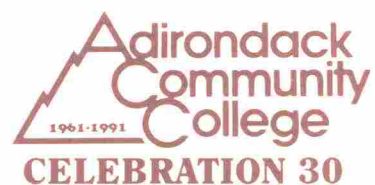
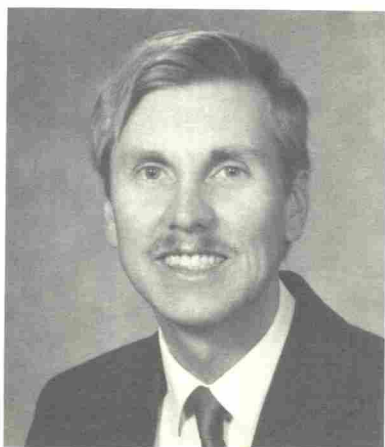


Reflections

*Insightful, thoughtful, and humorous
narratives about ACC as the College turns thirty*





REFLECTIONS ON REFLECTIONS

Believe it or not, ACC is 30 years old!

Throughout the 1991-92 academic year, ACC will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. Many activities and events are planned to commemorate the first offering of classes in September, 1961.

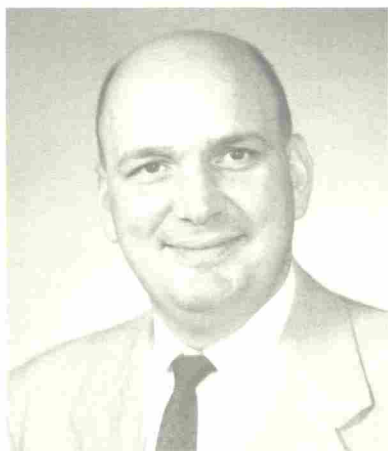
Reflections represents the special remembrances of our campus from former and current trustees, faculty, administrators, and staff as well as alumni and prominent community residents. All of these special people have had a long or significant association with ACC.

Collectively these informative essays help explain how this community college has grown and matured into a comprehensive, dynamic, responsive institution which features a modern, attractive physical plant, offers more than 30 major programs, and serves over 3,500 students in credit programs each semester and over 7,500 students in continuing education offerings annually.

Because of his passing in February, this collection does not include the unique insights from founding president Dr. Charles Robert Eisenhart. His wife, Judith, has graciously shared her recollections with us. *Reflections* is dedicated to the memory, contributions, spirit, and ideals of Bob Eisenhart.

Dr. Roger C. Andersen
President
Adirondack Community College

Reflections



***Herbert D. Brock
Dean of Administration
1961 - 1983***

Birth Of a College

On October 11, 1960, in a conference room of the Queensbury Hotel, a college was born. For convenience, it was given the name Warren-Washington Community College. On February 2, 1961, the first president was appointed, Dr. Eisenhart, former Dean of Defiance College in Ohio. Meanwhile, the name Adirondack Community College was given the new college. With this change, ACC got off to a fast start and has never stopped growing and improving.

Much credit for the success of the College over these many years has to be given to the original trustees and to their commitment and dedication, and to Bob Eisenhart for his leadership, enthusiasm, and demand for academic excellence. Among those first trustees were Alex Miller, Ted Buckley, Hudson Barton, Charlie Wright, John Goetz, Homer Dearlove, and Mike Scoville, who together gave 120 years of service to the Board and ACC, with the latter three having given 78 of the total. For this, these early "pioneers" merit special recognition in a substantive form.

In May of '61, Walton Brown and I joined the "great adventure" with the President to make up the administrative team, Walt as the college dean and I as business administrator.

From a tenured position and seventeen years of public school teaching and administration, I took a chance. We all did, but for each of us it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change a fascinating idea into a tangible creation and achievement. I had twenty-three wonderful years at ACC and met a lot of nice people. I still have a feeling of great pride each time I visit the campus. ACC will always remain a very special part of the lives of all of us who helped to create it.



Lee Brown
Director of Admissions
1970 - present

The Seventies

From the Spring of 1970 to September 1979, I had the pleasure of serving as the Student Activities Director.

Here's a brief sampling of some of my memories of the '70s —

- GDU, GDI and SDI
- The BKN boys with advisor, Milt Crader
- The Student Center secretaries
- Shirley Spaulding, Jean Middleton and Rosemary Germaine - how did they survive?
- Roger Durban and Jim Denver coordinating the clothing drive to Kentucky
- Ron Marquette escorting Rod Serling around the ACC campus
- Cue and Curtain's performance of *The Wizard of Oz*
- The National Shakespeare Company - *Pioneer* and *ExPressions* - some great issues
- Selling balloons and t-shirts at the balloon festival
- The Mountaineer Broadcasting Association (WACC), now WGFR-FM, and its humble beginnings broadcasting from the activities office closet
- Circle K and all of its great community service projects
- Spring weekend picnics at Top-of-the-World and Dunham's Bay Lodge
- Orientation boat rides on the Ticonderoga and Minne-ha-ha - Coffee house programs

- The annual Spring Flings
- The Student Government Presidents
- Charlie Paul, Roger Durban, Jim Denver, Michael Geraghty, Paul Macey, Michael Barody, Rich Schielke, Phil French, Tom Linton, Doug Speer and Richard Dixon thanks for all your help!
- Coach Paul Snyder and his soccer players
- Chris Bergeron, Cindy Smith and Donna Morris - ACC's first National Champions
- The wooden indian in the Student Center - where is it now?
- The FSA ladies - Bea, Lee and Dee
- Dub Bascom - Bookstore Manager
- Mixers in the Cafeteria, especially at Halloween
- Mixers at the Glen Lake Casino
- The Amazing Kreskin
- Chuck Berry in concert
- New York Rock Ensemble
- Doc Jensen's picnics and buffets
- Newman Club's Thanksgiving and Christmas parties for Headstart children - Bob Clayton's chess match challenge in the Student Center

I would like to end by offering my sincere thanks to all the student government presidents, their Senates and all the club members for working so hard on so many different activities during the seventies. It was really a fun and rewarding time for me.



A. Nicholas Buttino
Professor of Business
1966 - present

Trumpet Announced Fire Drill

I came on board in fall 1966 so I was lucky enough to experience one year at the **old campus**. Our offices were great: rented homes which we looked at as being our own frat houses. For a newcomer, working out of those facilities was an excellent way to get acquainted with fellow faculty. I still feel close to those I shared that space with.

This might sound strange but the most memorable events I remember at the old campus were the fire drills. President Eisenhart would step out into the hallway and blow into a trumpet (or whatever it was!) and alert everyone of the pending danger.

The new campus brought functional and aesthetic wonderment. Unfortunately it also began the defusion of the faculty, students and staff. Now each group had their own territory and co-mingling became a thing of the past.

The new facilities did encourage academic and student activity development. I remember the Ice Sculpture contests where a few of us crazies would freeze our you-know-what's so all could go "ooh and ahh" at the majestic works of art. The great faculty debates of the '70s were led by the immortal Sam Robinson, who would receive standing ovations after each of his inspired orations on pedagogical freedoms - he was great! Ah yes, those faculty meetings, as they were once called, drew SRO crowds.

Who could forget the series of bomb scares during the confusing Vietnam years?

I remember the early marijuana years when students were walking in and out of the woods in anticipation of the now functioning nature/ fitness trail.

I remember the great snow days which strangely we always had off in May! Too bad the popular TV show "America's Craziest Videos" wasn't a hit before the rubberized weather mats were placed over the slate in the entrance ways to Eisenhart Building. Some of the spills taken by people over the years have been classics! One student's books flew half way down the hall (approximately 100 feet) - a record that will undoubtedly stand due to the current safety concerns.

Another reflective moment was when we received word from the FCC that ACC had been awarded a license to operate a 10-watt educational FM radio station. This was the culmination of 9 years of hard work, an effort that began when two students asked me if it would be possible to start a radio club at ACC.

The greatest reflection? Just having the privilege of being part of the growth and development of the "star" of the SUNY system.



*Mansir "Mac" Edwards
Professor of Business
1962 - present*

Success Due to Commitment

My first experience with Adirondack Community College took place in February 1962. I had an appointment with Dr. Eisenhart for my initial interview. My wife and I, with our three-year old son, entered the office with great anxiety not knowing what to expect from this "College President". Our experience with college presidents was non-existent. When Dr. Eisenhart pulled out the pad of paper and pencils for our son, propped his feet on his desk, leaned back in his chair, and poked his finger into the smoke rings he was blowing, I knew that I could be comfortable working at ACC. This was reinforced at my second interview when Dr. Eisenhart met me at the door of his home in his coveralls with a trowel in hand. He was plastering walls.

During Adirondack's six-year residency in Fort Edward/Hudson Falls, the term "community college" was certainly appropriate. Faculty offices, classrooms, laboratories, and the athletic programs were widely distributed throughout the greater Glens Falls area. When I arrived at ACC in the fall of 1962, I was informed that I would share an office in the Maplewood Dairy next door to the main building. During my first year as a college instructor, my office had its own private door to the ladies room in the Maplewood Dairy Bar.

Besides the Maplewood Dairy, faculty offices were located in the "White House" just north of the main building. Shortly after moving most of the faculty into this building, we discovered an exterminator was needed to rid the building of all the "creatures" that inhabited this residence.

The College has grown significantly since its early days on Route 4. Adirondack's success is the result of hard work and a commitment to the community college philosophy on the part of administrators, faculty, staff, as well as the continued support of the community.



Mrs. Judith Eisenhart*
ACC's First Lady

Building A College

Very few people have the chance to build a college from the ground up. My husband was one of those privileged few and I was fortunate to be present to listen to and watch the outstanding enthusiasm of the community, supervisors, trustees, faculty and staff, as the idea of Adirondack Community College became a reality. When Bob was hired, he was it — all the visible form of ACC there was — but soon an actual building was in the process of conversion from a furniture store to an institution of higher learning where were gathering the beginnings of a faculty and staff. In those first years, everyone involved pitched in, no matter what the job, to make the college work. A strong sense of family permeated this group of people, small enough in number that the graduates' reception (my, what a proud day that first Commencement was!) took place on our lawn for several years. The fact that it never rained was a sure sign of the Almighty's approval! And the Christmas caroling around my piano! It was complete with crumbs on the carpet, coffee cup rings on the furniture, and a thoroughly good time had by everyone.

When construction of the new campus began, every Sunday afternoon Bob dragged me over every inch of the budding facilities from room to basement, walking on planks that would soon be staircases, checking each brick and pipe and wire to ensure that every aspect would be as perfect and right as the community and college deserved. With the new campus, the intimacy of the enlarged staff and faculty necessarily diminished in the realities of a growing public institution, but though there were squabbles, most of the thorns in flesh were easily removed by the appearance of roses.

Through the years, I've watched the arrival of new faculty and new children, and suffered the loss of loved and respected colleagues and friends, but what a wonderfully fulfilling experience it has been, not only for my husband but for my children and me as well. May ACC's next thirty and even three hundred years be as richly rewarding for all those associated with it as they have proved for us.

** Dr. Charles R. Eisenhart, Founding President of Adirondack Community College (1961 to 1978) passed away in February of 1991.*



*M. Florita James
Professor of Business
1962 - present*

Twenty-Four Students — Three Typewriters

I arrived on campus in September, 1962 and soon discovered that there were only two female faculty members; Cindy Weiner and I (Jewish, Black, respectively). Affirmative action in place.

Secretarial education has always been on the cutting edge of change, especially equipment changes. My challenge was to get ACC's business manager to obtain the equipment for the changes — instructional changes.

My first encounter with obtaining equipment was the transition from manual typewriters to electric typewriters. I budgeted 12 electric typewriters (ETs). The request was ignored or whatever — I didn't get the ETs. I had a conference with Division Chair and Business Manager. The following year I requested 12 ETs. I received 3 plus some items not requested. Imagine teaching a typing class with 24 students with 3 ETs! What rotation plans would accommodate instructing 24 students with 3 machines?! In time, this - and other instructional dilemmas - were ironed out.

Once upon a time graduation parties were held on Dr. Eisenhart's lawn the Sunday before graduation. Believe it or not, some potential graduates found out **at this event** that they would **not** be graduating! (Oops, these were slip-ups.)

We often looked forward to holding the graduate ceremony outside on the lawn (instead of the hot, sweltering gym) if only the weather would cooperate. But just as sure as there are clouds in the sky, it would rain before graduation. We got lucky once and held graduation outside on the lawn, the first and only time. It was sunny and over 90 degrees, I suspect. Everyone had a beautiful suntan after the ceremony. Were we REALLY lucky? I remember it was 1987, the year President Eisenhart retired.



John McClure
Director of Facilities & Maintenance
1967 - present

Can You Remember?

My experience began at the campus on Bay Road in 1967. There weren't any lawns, athletic fields, or tennis courts. Dearlove Hall, Randles Conference Center, Child Care Center, the Solar Laboratory (greenhouse), and Maintenance Building were yet to be built.

Since 1967 can you remember:

When the College had only one College car which was assigned to the President? If College personnel needed to use the car they had to leave their own vehicle with the President for his use.

When the Adirondack Balloon Festival was held on campus for the entire weekend?

When personnel came to work on time and worked a complete day?

When carbon paper was used and the College paper supply came on a pickup truck instead of a tractor trailer?

When classes were held in the Maintenance Building?

When Bob Harris was involved in an accident with the College vehicle? He was hit by a sailboat on the Northway by Exit 19!

When the campus had ten computer terminals, twelve telephones and one copy machine?

When the College had cultural entertainment with programs by Chuck Berry, Kreskin, Dr. Spock, Rod Serling, Mildred Dunnock and The New York Rock Concert?

When John O'Kane missed an event when food was being served?

When you went to the Dean of Administration's Office (Dean Brock) with a question/request and the first answer was "No", next visit's answer was "Maybe" and you didn't go back for the final yes or no?

When the College never shut down for snow, hail or hurricanes, etc.?

Working at the College, in the world of education, especially with all the changes, has been a learning experience for me. The growth of the campus has made my association with the College exciting, sometimes entertaining and personally rewarding.

The real pride of ACC is when you know that former students have become lawyers, doctors, educators, bankers and just better individuals because of their education at Adirondack Community College.



Shirley Weiner
Professor of English
1962 - present

Ageless Problem of Parking

My memory of ACC winds back to its second year, when I joined 11 other newly-appointed faculty members, doubling the teaching staff from its original 12 to 24. I remember the sparkling classroom which had been added to the attractive grey stone building in Hudson Falls, formerly the office of an area lumber company. I remember the tiny bookstore, which had been carved out of a storage closet on the bottom floor, close to the handsome one-room library and the one-room student lounge down the hall.

I remember rubbing elbows with almost every student and every faculty member and administrator each day as we moved about the single building that housed us all — until we rented an empty house next door for faculty offices (which turned out to be flea infested!)

I also remember competing with the students for parking space in our tiny, unpaved lot, knowing that unless I arrived early I would have to travel several blocks further down the main street searching for parking spots. And I vividly remember a rainy day when a faculty member stepped out of her car feeling triumphant because she had just managed to capture a space in the College lot - until a student racing past struck a pothole filled with muddy water and splashed her from the tip of her open-toed shoes to her horror-stricken eyes. (And I remember a male faculty member racing after the culprit and demanding that he apologize to me.)

I remember moving to our 141-acre brand new campus, with its extensive line of trim buildings, eternally well-manicured lawns, and formidable speed bumps. And finally, I remember relishing the fact that, spread out as we were, I still managed to keep intimate relationships with many of my colleagues and especially many students.