

Bloomsburg University Sesquicentennial



1839 — 1989

The year nineteen hundred eighty-nine marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Bloomsburg University.

We invite you to join with members of the university community as we celebrate during special events planned to honor our heritage and herald the future of one of Pennsylvania's finest institutions of higher learning.

"A Legacy of Learning," the theme chosen for our celebration, is intended to acknowledge both the legacy entrusted to us by those men and women who preceded us and our responsibility to those who will follow.

The variety of special events planned to highlight the sesquicentennial during October will be truly memorable. The Bloomsburg Players will present a production of *Ladyhouse Blues*; Yehudi Menuhin and the Warsaw Sinfonia will perform; the university will host a special sesquicentennial symposium on the environment; the Celebrity Artist Series will sponsor *My Fair Lady*; and a Juried Art Exhibition will begin this month. In addition, there will be a variety of sporting, musical, and alumni events throughout the month.

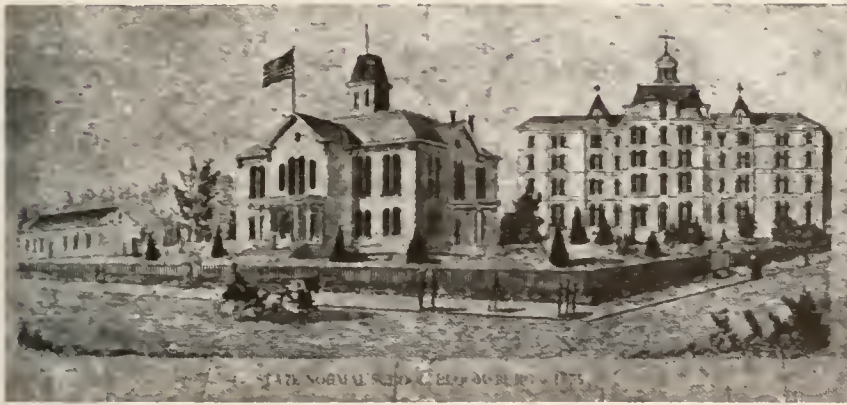
As we join together in celebration, our eyes and our hearts will look back and remember. We will tell of things past and appreciate what was, but we also will keep our vision fixed firmly on the future — a future that holds promise beyond our most optimistic imaginings.

Come join with us in our celebration and enjoy this commemorative booklet as we observe our one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.



Harry Ausprich

Bloomsburg – “A Legacy of Learning”



Providing the youth of the community with an opportunity to secure the fundamentals of a classical education became a reality with the establishment of the Academy, the forerunner of Bloomsburg University, in 1839. The Academy was first housed in a building located at the corner of Third and Jefferson streets. When the first teachers proved incompetent, a group of citizens persuaded Charles P. Waller, to head the Academy. Waller remained at the school for two years. When he left, the institution was well established. In the years that followed, the Academy experienced periods of fortune and famine.

The growth of the school was such that in 1856, the Rev. D.J. Waller Sr. prepared a charter, and a corporation was legally formed to sell stock and to open and manage an academy to be known as the Bloomsburg Literary Institute. The Institute struggled along through the critical years of the Civil War, but the end of the conflict was accompanied by expansion and increased enrollments. In May 1866, the charter of 1856 was revised, a search was initiated for an educator of established reputation to head the Institute, and the sale of one thousand shares of stock at \$20 per share was authorized.

Henry Carver, a native of Binghamton, N.Y., was visiting Bloomsburg on a pleasure trip. He was introduced to the Rev. D.J. Waller and others who persuaded him to remain and reopen the old Academy. Late in June 1866, the trustees passed a resolution to erect a building to accommodate 300 students. Five sites were discussed including three acres of land owned by William and Alice Snyder above the Forks Hotel. The hotel stood squarely across Main Street between the Town Hall and Housemick's Garage. The owners of the Forks Hotel agreed to move the building within a reasonable time to allow for the opening of Main Street up the hill to where Carver Hall now stands. The stockholders voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Snyder property at a meeting in the Court House on June 16, 1866. The new building was dedicated April 4, 1867.

While passing through Bloomsburg on a train in the autumn of 1867, J.P. Wickersham, state superintendent of public instruction, saw the new school on the hill "ablaze with light." The location of a new Normal School in the Sixth District was pending, and Dr. Wickersham returned to Bloomsburg. On February 19, 1869, a committee appointed to consider the chartering of the Literary Institute as a State Normal School, gave a favorable report — which is the birthdate of the State Normal School of the Sixth District. In 1870, a difference of opinion developed between Professor Carver and the trustees regarding duties assigned to the principal. Apparently, the disagreement could not be resolved, and Mr. Carver left the institution. On December 19, 1871, at the suggestion of Dr. Wickersham, the trustees elected Charles G. Bardeley as principal. Dr. Bardeley agreed to serve only until it would be possible to find a successor. Although the trustees would have liked him to remain, he asked to be relieved of his duties on March 27, 1872. The third principal, Rev. John Hewitt, was elected when Bardeley's resignation was accepted. He also accepted the appointment on an interim basis and served until June, 1873.

Dr. T. L. Griswold was elected principal June 14, 1873. When the term began in 1875, the school had the largest enrollment in its history. On Saturday afternoon, Sept. 4, a fire

From left: Early drawing of the campus – 1875; Ariel photo of the campus – 1987; A gift from the Bakeless family, the "Bakeless Gates" led from the Long Porch of old Waller Hall to the court yard.



destroyed the dormitory in about two hours. No lives were lost. The following Monday arrangements were made to place students in boarding houses and begin a campaign to raise money to supplement the \$30,000 paid by the insurance company. The new dormitory was the first section of several wings that would constitute old Waller Hall. The dormitory was dedicated on April 26, 1876.

In June 1877, a committee appointed by the trustees began an investigation of the report that certain objectionable teachings, comments upon the Scripture, and apparent approval of clairvoyant and spiritualism tenets prevailed. It was charged that the teachings of Dr. Griswold, in class, were such as to unsettle former convictions and to confuse the minds of students. A motion was adopted by the trustees July 19, 1877, to notify the Bloomsburg Banking Company that Dr. T. L. Griswold was no longer principal of the Bloomsburg State Normal School. The following month, Dr. Griswold was requested to vacate the rooms that he and his family occupied in the dormitory.

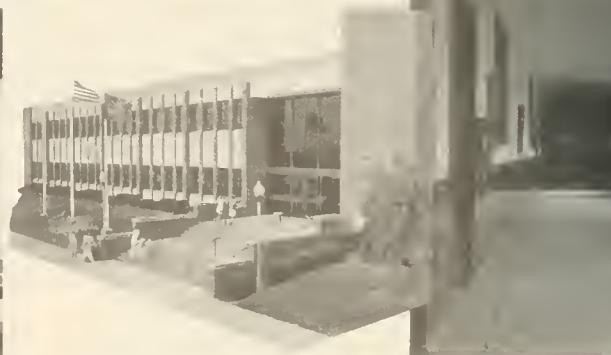
Dr. David J. Waller Jr., an ordained Presbyterian Minister, had been installed as the fifth principal of the institution when the Fall term began in 1877. In October 1885, bids were received to erect a building between Carver Hall and the dormitory. This building, known as Noetting Hall, was connected to Carver Hall by an enclosed bridge. In a letter, dated July 1889, Dr. Waller noted that the number of students had grown to larger than ever. To meet the crowded conditions, a new wing for the dormitory was started in 1889, extending toward the river. A long piazza (Long Porch) was built across the end of this wing to the front of the building.

In 1890, Dr. Judson P. Welsh became the sixth principal when Dr. Waller left for Harrisburg to begin his duties as the new superintendent of public instruction. Described as one who had the vision and zeal of a promoter, the new principal helped plan for several new buildings and the renovation of others. The last addition to the dormitory, connecting Waller and Noetting Halls, was dedicated on Feb. 22, 1894. At the same time, a new gymnasium was built with a running gallery and provisions for a full-size bowling alley.

Dr. Welsh resigned, effective Sept. 1, 1906, to accept the position of vice president of Pennsylvania State College. Dr. Waller, then principal at the Indiana State Normal School, accepted an invitation to return to Bloomsburg where he had served as principal from 1877-1890. He headed the institution for another 14 years until his retirement in 1920.

Negotiations began in 1913 for the sale of the school to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The final transaction occurred in May, 1916. Early in 1920, Dr. Waller notified the trustees that he planned to retire. He was 74, and was principal at Bloomsburg for a total of 27 years during two different tenures in office. Dr. Charles H. Fisher, a staff member of the Department of Public Instruction, was elected the eighth principal in July, 1920.

The present conception of professional education has been a process of evolution. This became evident in 1920 when the



Presidents



Henry Carver
1886-1871



Charles G. Barkley
1871-1872



John Hewitt
1872-1873



T.L. Griswold
1873-1877



From left: The class of 1892 in front of Institute Hall (Carver Hall) - 1892; the dormitory building (after 1927 would be known as Waller Hall) with original piazza or porch, later called the Long Porch - 1911; Side entrance to Noetling Hall; North wing entrance to old Waller Hall before the addition of the tiffany windows - prior to 1920; Coeds of the Bloomsburg Literary Institute and Normal School - 1898; Portrait of a Bloomsburg student - circa 1880; Members of the faculty - 1887; Old Science Hall - circa 1930s.



David J. Waller, Jr.
1877-1890



Judson P. Welsh
1890-1906



David J. Waller, Jr.
1906-1920



Charles H. Fisher
1920-1923

Normal School curriculum was differentiated from that of the secondary school. Admission requirements were increased to graduation from a four-year secondary school or its equivalent. The preparatory course was abolished in 1920 when the superintendent of public instruction decreed that the Normal Schools were to be used solely for the preparation of teachers for the public schools of Pennsylvania.

In late June 1923, Dr. Fisher resigned, and Dr. G.C.L. Riemer, who was serving in the Department of Public Instruction, was elected principal. In November 1925, Dr. Riemer reported that student enrollment was 751, with 54 members of the faculty and 16 cooperating teachers. A change in the school's name was announced rather dramatically one evening in May 1927. A party was in progress in the old gym. Dr. Riemer, who had been to a meeting in Harrisburg, suddenly appeared in the doorway, clapped his hands, and called for silence. He made this request, "I want everybody to sing the old school song, but put the word 'College' wherever 'Normal' has been sung." The change of name to Bloomsburg State Teachers College was accompanied by approval to grant the bachelor of science degree.

On April 11, 1927, the trustees elected Dr. Francis B. Haas as principal to succeed Dr. Riemer. The man who was to serve as the last principal and the first president of Bloomsburg was known as an able administrator and a leading educator long before he came to campus. When Dr. Haas helped plan and execute changes that made the institution a college in fact as well as in name. A new era of scholastic and material development and expansion began.

The curriculum was revised again to give more attention to methods and the professional aspects of teaching. This trend indicated the early attempts to make teaching a profession. It was during this period of growth that Harvey A. Andruss joined the faculty and developed a curriculum in business education to begin with the college year 1930-31. The next major curriculum revision took place in 1937 when Dr. Andruss succeeded Professor Sutliff as dean of instruction following the latter's retirement. The number of methods courses was reduced, and professionalized subject matter courses were introduced. From that time on, there has been a continuing study and revision of the curriculum, a cooperative endeavor involving both faculty and administrative officers.

Two new buildings, the Benjamin Franklin Elementary Laboratory School and the laundry, were completed for use in 1930. The Depression, which began in 1929, shrouded the



G.C.L. Riemer
1923-1927



Francis B. Haas
1927-1939



Harvey A. Andruss
1939-1969



Robert J. Nossen
1969-1972



From left: Carver Hall – circa 1910; College dining room – Christmas 1946; Dorm room – late 1970s/early 1980s; Sutliff Hall – 1964; Girls room in the dormitory building (after 1927 would be known as Waller Hall) – 1907; Secretarial Office Practice class – circa 1955; Portrait of M. Margaret “Maggie” Elliott (Mrs. Edward Y. Seidel) – class of 1885.



Charles H. Carlson
1972–1973



James H. McCormick
1973–1983



Larry Jones
1983–1985



Harry Ausprich
1985–present

entire nation by 1931 and had a considerable effect on activities at the college. When the national government took steps to mobilize the nation's resources and revitalize the economy, aid was made available to state and local governments for construction purposes. Toward the end of Dr. Haas' tenure, three buildings and an addition to the heating plant had been completed.

Thousands of alumni, friends, and former faculty returned to the campus in May 1939 to participate in the Centennial Celebration. A little more than two months after the centennial activities, Dr. Haas resigned to assume, for the second time, the duties of superintendent of public instruction. Dr. Harvey A. Andruss, dean of instruction, was appointed acting president on Aug. 29, 1939. One of the most pressing problems, calling for decisive action on the part of President Andruss and the trustees in late 1939, was to find a way to get adequate funds to equip, open, and operate the three new buildings — Centennial Gym, the Junior High School (now Navy Hall), and the maintenance building. The approach to many problems had to be modified as the world faced the grim realities of another world war.

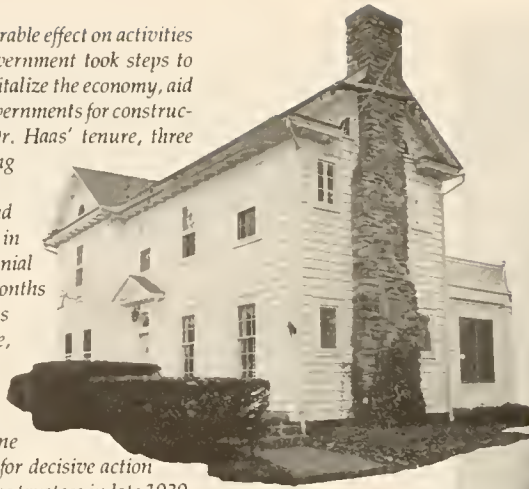
The forward-looking policies of the Board of Trustees and college administration at Bloomsburg have been summed up in these words. "During the four-year period of War Programs, the college taught 1,000 people to fly, had 500 Navy Officer Candidates, housed 2,000 students for engineering, science, and management war trainees, and offered courses to nurses from the Bloomsburg Hospital. This enabled the college to offer employment to the faculty, maintain the college plant in times when material was available only on priority, make a substantial contribution to the war effort, and develop the Aviation Program.

In September 1941, one of the six Naval Flight Instructor Programs was located at Bloomsburg. Others were inaugurated at the University of Georgia, Purdue University, Texas Christian University, Northwestern University, and the University of Arizona. The first contingent of Navy Aviation Cadets (V-5's) began to arrive at the college in August 1942. Bloomsburg was one of 140 institutions approved for the Navy Officer Candidate Program (V-12). Of the 11 programs in Pennsylvania, Bloomsburg was the only State Teachers College selected.

The student population began to increase with the wave of ex-G.I. students from the Korean Conflict, the population explosion, and the tremendous expansion of knowledge after the Russians launched the first Sputnik. Dr. Andruss and the trustees planned an annual enrollment increase of 10 to 15 percent, a gradual growth to meet the increased pressures for admissions without sacrificing the quality of instruction.

The Division of Special Education was created by Dr. Andruss in 1957. In January 1960, Bloomsburg and its 13 sister institutions were designated State Colleges by act of the General Assembly. In the same year, Bloomsburg was given approval to inaugurate a program of graduate studies leading to the master of education. The scope of curriculum offerings was broadened again in May 1962, when Bloomsburg was granted permission to award the bachelor of arts degree in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. In 1967, the

From left: Centennial Gym — 1987; Dr. Andruss and Dean John A. Hoch remove "Teachers" from the name of the school — 1960; "Socialized Recitation," Bloomsburg State Normal School — circa 1920; Recreational boating at Arbutus Park — circa 1912; College Library — 1938; North Hall men — circa 1933; Twenty-fifth reunion of the 1885 class — 1910; Navy Hall — circa 1950s; Training school classroom — 1921; Dr. H. Keffer Hartline, Nobel Prize Laureate in Physiology and Medicine for Vision Research. Hartline Science Center is named in honor of him, his father Daniel S. Hartline, and his mother Harriet Franklin Keffer Hartline; Haas Center for the Arts — 1987; Ariel photo of upper campus — 1975.





division of business education received state approval to institute a new curriculum to train managerial personnel for the business world. In June 1967, the last sessions at the laboratory school were held on campus. Bloomsburg was given permission to grant the master of arts degree in 1968, the master of science in 1970, and the master of business administration in 1976.

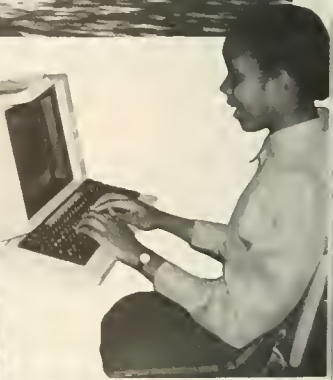
On January 22, 1969, Dr. Andruss announced that he would be retiring. Dr. Robert J. Nossen was selected as the next president. Nossen served three years and then amid conflict and confusion, resigned on Sept. 1, 1972. Charles H. Carlson was named acting president and began his one-year tenure while a search committee screened applicants for the permanent position. Carlson, as acting president, was credited for bringing some sense of order back to the campus.

The 1960s and early 1970s would be characterized by a large number of building projects that would greatly change and expand the campus' physical appearance. Seventeen new buildings were constructed during this decade and a half. Sutliff Hall and New North Residence Hall were built in 1960. Montour and Schuylkill Halls, simply known as Dormitory - East Hall and Dormitory - West Hall at the time, were built in 1964. The campus' desperate need for additional library space was solved in 1966 with the completion of the Harvey A. Andruss Library. In 1966, Old North Hall was torn down and in 1967 South Hall, later called Luzerne Hall, was built on the site. The Francis B. Haas Auditorium was also completed in 1967. In 1968, Elwell Residence Hall was built on a site opposite Noetling and Waller Halls on the south side of East Second Street. Hartline Science Center, also completed in 1968, provided a new home for the departments of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Earth and Space sciences, and Mathematics. In 1970, the William W. Scranton Commons was built on the former site of Noetling Hall. The Bakeless Center for the Humanities, Columbia Residence Hall, and the Campus Maintenance Center were also completed in 1970. Construction of the Waller Administration Building was completed in 1972, along with the Marguerite W. Kehr Union, the E. H. Nelson Fieldhouse, and a multi-level parking garage. In 1976, construction of Lycoming Residence Hall was completed on the former site of old Waller Hall.

On Aug. 30, 1973, James H. McCormick became the 14th president of Bloomsburg State College. Two additional graduate level programs were added in 1982, the Master of Science in Nursing and a cooperative doctoral program in elementary education. McCormick would head the institution until July 1983, when he would be granted administrative leave to serve as interim chancellor of the newly formed State System of Higher Education. Created by state law, SSHE would encompass the 13 state colleges and I.U.P. On July 1, 1983, Larry Jones was asked to assume the position of acting president. On that same date, the school's name was changed again when, by decree from the chancellor and the Board of Governors, the institution became Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. The Fall of 1984 saw the completion of the McCormick Human Services Center.

In September 1985, Dr. Harry Ausprich became the 16th president of the institution. In that same year, the university purchased a home on Lightstreet Road to be used as an Alumni House. The Magee Center, former residence of the late industrialist Harry L. Magee, was donated to the university in September of 1988, and the most recent construction on campus was completed this fall with the opening of the Montgomery Apartments on the upper campus.

Looking back over Bloomsburg's 150 years, the objective signs of growth give some indication of what the future may hold. The student body has increased from 378 to over 6,900 students; the number of faculty has grown from less than 10 to more than 345; three acres of campus have expanded to an upper and lower campus with a total of 173 acres; a physical plant that began with a two story brick building now includes 46 structures; a program of instruction to prepare students for college has changed to programs that now lead to the bachelor's, master's, and cooperative doctoral degrees. Providing our youth with opportunities to gain an education was the goal of the founders of our institution. Our responsibility is to build on their efforts and continue our "Legacy of Learning."





From left: Lobby in old Waller Hall; The Long Porch – 1956; Ariel photo of Elwell Hall’s construction with Waller Hall and the Commons – 1968; Benjamin Franklin Elementary Laboratory School – circa 1958; Carver Hall Auditorium – prior to 1926; New faculty members – 1969; Tennis courts – 1921; Homecoming float building – late 1960s/early 1970s; Studying at Kehr Union – circa 1970’s; Husky Lounge –1965; Columbia Residence Hall – 1987.

Sesquicentennial Sp

DATE AND TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
October 1 – 31	<i>Exhibit of University Memorabilia</i>	Haas Center Gallery
October 1 8:00 p.m.	<i>"Ladyhouse Blues" — Bloomsburg Players</i>	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
October 4 – 8 8:00 p.m.	<i>"Ladyhouse Blues" — Bloomsburg Players</i>	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
October 7 2:00 p.m.	<i>"Ladyhouse Blues" — Bloomsburg Players</i>	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
October 12 8:00 p.m.	<i>Yehudi Menuhin and the Warsaw Sinfonia</i>	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
October 13 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.	Parents' Weekend Events Pre-registration Film — <i>"Mississippi Burning"</i>	Kehr Union Carver Auditorium
October 14 9:00 a.m. – noon 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.	Registration Information Stations Pennsylvania Dutch Luncheon Soccer Game — Pace University Football Game — Cheyney University Dinner/Buffer — <i>"An Evening In Paris"</i> Celebrity Artist Series Event — <i>"My Fair Lady"</i> <i>"Friedhoffer: The Mad Man of Magic"</i> Program Board Event — Cheers	Kehr Union Kehr Union Nelson Fieldhouse Upper Campus Redman Stadium Scranton Commons Mitrani Hall Carver Auditorium Kehr Union
October 15 2:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Student Showcase Film — <i>"Mississippi Burning"</i>	Carver Auditorium Mitrani Hall
October 17 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Sesquicentennial Tree Planting Birthday Cake Celebration	Campus and the world Library Mall
October 17 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Sesquicentennial Environmental Symposium National video teleconference — <i>"Global Change and Our Endangered Environment"</i> Panel Discussion — <i>"How Global Change Affects Pennsylvania and Vice Versa"</i> Featuring: M. Scott Carpenter, former astronaut; Secretary Arthur Davis, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources; Edwin B. Erickson, Regional EPA Administrator	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
October 18 9:00 a.m. – noon	Panel Discussion — <i>"Environmental Dimensions of Energy Policies in Pennsylvania"</i> Topics include: acid rain, nuclear waste, coal mining practices, and other energy issues	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center

Special October Events

DATE AND TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion — "Waste Management and Water Quality Problems and Solutions in Pennsylvania"	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion — "What Can Education Do to Help?" Topics include: environmental issues from an Earth systems science perspective, education's response to the need to educate students of all ages about environmental responsibility, and is society ready to do what is necessary to save the environment?	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
October 21	Community Weekend Events	
7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Hot Air Balloon/Kite Festival	Upper Campus
1:00 p.m.	Soccer Game — Monmouth College	Upper Campus
October 22		
2:00 p.m.	Dedication of Montgomery Apartments	Upper Campus
3:00 p.m.	Reception/Tours	Montgomery Apartments (inclement weather — Nelson Fieldhouse)
October 27	Homecoming Weekend Events	
3:00 p.m.	Alumni-Student-Faculty Mixer	Kehr Union
7:00 p.m.	Pep Rally/Fireworks	Waller Parking Lot
7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.	Film — "Rain Man"	Mitrani Hall, Haas Center
October 28		
8:30 a.m.	Judging of Decorated Residence Halls	
9:00 a.m.	Alumni Registration	Carver Hall
9:50 a.m.	Pre-parade of Classes	Market Square, Bloomsburg Town/Campus
10 a.m.	Homecoming Parade	Fenstermaker Alumni House
11:30 a.m.	Luncheon — Berrigan's Subs or Picnic Basket	Fenstermaker Alumni House
12:30 p.m.	Dedication of Veterans Memorial	Redman Stadium
1:30 p.m.	Football Game — Millersville University	Upper Campus
3:00 p.m.	Soccer Game — District of Columbia	Days Inn, Danville
6:00 p.m.	Alumni Reception-Dinner-Dance	Kehr Union
8:30 p.m.	Program Board Dance	
October 29		
9:30 a.m.	Non-denominational Church Service	Carver Auditorium
2:00 p.m.	Film — "Rain Man"	Kehr Union
2:30 p.m.	Pops Concert	Mitrani Hall
October 8 – December 3	Juried Art Exhibition	Haas Gallery

How 'bout them Huskies

The start of a formalized athletic program, particularly in the sports of basketball, baseball, and football, dates back to 1895 when A.K. Aldinger joined the Normal School faculty. Aldinger organized athletics on a permanent basis and made the physical activities program part of the teacher training.

An athletic field was created on the site of the current Old Science Hall. It would be the first site of several fields on campus before the development of facilities on the upper campus that now serves as home for most of the athletic teams.

The early teams enjoyed moderate success with limited schedules but, more importantly, established a solid base for future teams to build upon. In the decade immediately prior to World War II, the school's athletic teams began reaching new heights. Coach George Buckheit's track and field squads won four consecutive state championships, and his basketball units in the late 1930s were among the top clubs in the State Teachers College circuit.

Dr. E.H. Nelson, for whom the current fieldhouse on the upper campus is named, had some outstanding baseball teams including an undefeated team in 1935. It was also during this time period when athletic teams at Bloomsburg would start being known as the Huskies. On Oct. 9, 1933, the student body voted unanimously to adopt the nickname, influenced by Professor George Keller, who raised the animals and characterized them as "the most stubborn fighter in the canine family."

Most athletic activities were wartime casualties, but some sports, manned by Navy personnel, were scheduled on a limited basis. The end of the war saw the resumption of the programs, and the football, basketball, and baseball teams provided immediate success. From 1946-55, the Husky football team was 61-16-2 including the school's lone unbeaten seasons in 1948 and 1952. The 1948 team had the distinction of being the lone undefeated, untied team in the state of Pennsylvania that season. The basketball team was 95-71 during that time period and won the conference title in 1953 under coach Harold Shelly, while the baseball team won 70 of its 103 outings and was undefeated in 1949.

Wrestling was revived as a sport in 1955 after an 18-year absence. Coach Russ Houk built a powerhouse and eventually became one of the top teams in the nation winning three national crowns in addition to five PSAC titles.

More programs were added as swimming and diving and country were reinstated in the early 1960s.

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From left: The "B Club," an extra-curricular activity for women students interested in athletics and physical education - circa 1930; One of two undefeated Bloomsburg football teams - 1948; Bloomsburg State Normal School men's basketball team - 1908; baseball team - 1899; Tennis team captains: Milton Van Winkle, Coach Bob Norton, Charles Wilson - 1966; Womens basketball team - 1897.



The basketball program started a streak of winning seasons which continues presently at 23 years in a row, the last 18 under coach Charlie Chronister. Coach Burt Reese's tennis team is in the midst of a winning streak that stands at 18 seasons, making those programs the two longest running success stories in Bloomsburg athletics.

The most significant change since the beginning of athletics on the campus took place in the 1970-71 season when basketball became the first varsity sport for women. Prior to that time, women wishing to compete in intercollegiate athletics were limited to "extramurals," an organized activity held with several schools competing at a site for competition, but no records of statistics were kept.

The women's basketball team proved to be the sign of good things to come as the first four seasons saw the club win 30 contests while losing only six.

More teams followed in gaining varsity status with tennis, field hockey, and swimming and diving, giving women more opportunities to compete at the conference and national levels. Softball, track and field, and lacrosse were added in the late 1970s along with soccer for men, and finally cross country in 1980 brought the women's program to a total of eight teams.

Not to be outshone by an already established and highly successful men's program, several of the Huskies' women's squads made fast impacts on the conference and national scene. Tennis captured three PSAC championships and crowned numerous individual champions. Field hockey was to become one of the nation's dominant teams in the sport winning four national titles in the 1980s, and swimming and diving has had several national champions and has been one of the PSAC's top squads for many seasons. The latter two teams started under the direction of Mary Gardner, who now serves as the university's athletic director.

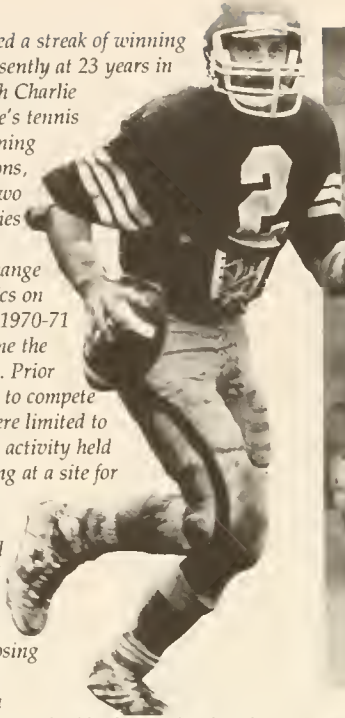
Softball also won a national title, that coming in 1981, giving coach Jan Hutchinson the unique distinction of coaching two national titlists in the same year as her field hockey team also claimed the nation's top honor.

The stability of the program is evidenced by the fact that many coaches over the years have spent long tenures in charge of the various teams, and currently there are just three head coaches at Bloomsburg with less than five years in their respective positions.

The Bloomsburg University athletic program has an all-time overall winning percentage of better than 59 percent. Just four of the 18 sports have overall winning percentages of under 50 percent, and nine of the teams have won more than 60 percent of all the head-to-head events in which they have competed since the sport was introduced at Bloomsburg. The men's basketball program heads the victory list with more than 880 wins, while field hockey has the top winning percentage at just over 82 percent.

No matter the surroundings — from the first athletic area at Old Science Hall to the gymnasium in Noetling Hall to the slopes of Mt. Olympus, or Centennial Gymnasium or Athletic park in downtown Bloomsburg or even the newest facilities on the upper campus such as the Nelson Fieldhouse, Redman Stadium or Litwhiler Field — Bloomsburg's athletic program has always been successful.

— by Jim Hollister
Sports Information Director





From left: Football team - 1896; Men's basketball team - 1900; Junior field hockey team - 1929; Tennis team - 1935; Football team - 1923; Track and Field team - 1931; Baseball team member, Arron Killmer - 1902; Wrestling team - 1931.



A Rich History of Traditions

During our 150 year history events, ideals, and activities have emerged that, repeated through the years, have become Bloomsburg traditions. Some remain steadfast, other traditions have fallen away with the passage of time, still others are yet to be made.

The Ivy Day celebration started around 1909. In the earliest Ivy Day ceremonies, the lengthy programs combined all the features of a class night — class poem, prophecy, song and class will with a serious oration by a chosen member of the class, a speech by the principal or a member of the faculty, and the planting of the ivy at the walls of one of the buildings. For a time, about 1912, the seniors were "gowned in class colors." Then followed a time when the members of the class wore white dresses and suits. Somewhere through the years, the seniors began wearing the commencement caps and gowns, the custom continuing through the 1950s. Until the pergola was built in 1917, the exercises, which took place in the grove, used either a temporarily built platform or a carpet of evergreen boughs. In 1925, the "class night" activities and the faculty speeches were eliminated from the Ivy Day program and in their places were dramatizations, poetry reading, and folk dancing. 1934 saw the simplification of the tradition to include only the senior oration, school songs, and the planting of the ivy.

From 1945 until 1951, the Ivy Day ceremony followed the baccalaureate service. For a few years in the 1960s, trees became the symbol of the Ivy Day. The change in tradition still contained the idea of the graduating class leaving a living, growing remembrance on campus.

The tradition of May Day festivities started in 1910. The students, faculty, and patrons of the school gathered on the front lawn of the campus before Institute Hall (Carver Hall) for the ceremony. A senior girl, Lyla Atwyl of Edwardsville, was crowned the first May Queen. The model school children performed folk dances and sang May Day songs. The members of the literary societies read May Day poetry, and girls from the physical culture classes wound May poles, three of them. Following the ceremony, the faculty and students strolled to the grove where they played games until suppertime. After a picnic under the trees, May Day ended as the students returned to study in their rooms.

The traditions of May Day grew and spanned many years. Music and dancing were always part of the celebration. Sometimes skits or dramas were presented, especially after the pergola was built. Many times during the afternoon and early evening of May Day, the literary societies held an ice cream festival on campus. Occasionally, the residents of the town joined the school in staging a town parade. After the ceremony of the crowning of the queen, the town band would march up the hill to the campus where the student body would fall in line and march back down into town. Sometimes from front campus to





From left: May Queen, Joan Livzicy - 1962; Ivy Day - circa 1930s; May Day - 1916; Homecoming float - 1964; May Queen, Josephine Duy (Mrs. Franklin S. Hutchison) - 1915; Dance Marathon - circa 1979; Eagles atop senior walk - circa 1915; Washington trip - 1910; Commencement - 1988; Mock political convention - 1960; Freshmen Customs - circa 1965; May Day - 1938; Saluting senior walk lion - circa 1955; Tiffany window - circa 1970s.




IVY DAY
PROGRAM

1911

NORMAL GROVE
BLOOMSBURG STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
JUNE 27TH
2 P M




 The Class of Nineteen Hundred and Eight
 Bloomsburg State Normal School
 Commencement Exercises
 Wednesday morning, June the twenty-fourth
 at ten o'clock
 Auditorium



North Hall, the graceful terraces were one huge mass of whirling, weaving May poles wound by freshmen girls in pastel bouffant skirts. Many years, the elaborate plans for the exercises brought so many visitors to the back campus that bleachers stretched from Carver Hall to Science Hall. Unfortunately, the social and political unrest of the 1960s took their toll on traditions. May Day and Ivy Day were both abandoned and became part of our history.

Nov. 17, 1928, saw the first Homecoming Day on campus. The football game in the afternoon was with Wyoming Seminary on (old) Mt. Olympus. Following the game, there was an informal reception in the gymnasium for graduates, and in the evening, a dance ended the festivities. Homecoming had been a great success and was on its way to becoming a tradition.

On Oct. 9, 1933, the students met in an assembly, and by an almost unanimous vote, selected the husky as the school's mascot. The first husky to serve the college in this capacity was one of Professor Keller's team. Roongo, a contraction of Maroon and Gold, was the first mascot's name. It was said he was one of the huskies of Professor Keller's which had gone to the South Pole with Admiral Byrd. Roongo was succeeded by Roongo II, Roongo III, and various other huskies.

Throughout the years, dances have been held at Bloomsburg. The Freshman Hop, Sophomore Cotillion, Junior Prom, and Senior Ball, all were program dances evenly spaced throughout the year and each brought out the colorful and graceful evening gowns of the era. Faculty and students alike danced away the evening. When the band started playing "Goodnight, Sweetheart," the dancers drifted to the hall to say goodbye, the girls going up library stairs to the dormitory, the boys leaving campus by Senior Walk, or heading past the post office for Old North Hall.

For a half century, the memorial of the Class of 1912 was known as Senior Walk. Originally when planned, the walk was said to lead from "front campus" to the "upper campus." The path from Institute Hall (Carver Hall) had a definite and decided elevation as it ran past the clump of hemlocks that grew at the side of the Model School and went on to the front door of the main dormitory. At the point of steepest rise, the class's plans called for steps to be constructed, flanked by low pedestals that would hold large bronze lions at the top and large bronze eagles at the bottom.

When the steps were completed, a complaint was received at the Principal's Office concerning the positioning of the eagles. The British lion, some patriotic student or faculty member pointed out, should never rest above the American eagle. Immediately, the bronze castings were reversed.

Somehow through the years, this walkway became known unofficially as "Senior Walk." No one knows when or why, but quite likely it gained its name because of its use each year by the graduating classes in robed procession from the lobby of the dormitory to the auditorium for commencement exercises.

In time, as the wings and the beaks of the eagles were broken by wear and the weather, the birds were removed from their pedestals and electric lanterns were installed in their places. The lions, through the years, continued the stationary stance at the foot of the steps until, with the construction of Scranton Commons, the area they guarded was taken for building purposes and the lions were stored various places on campus.

For many years in the late 1970s and early 1980s, a dance marathon was held to raise money for a deserving organization in the community. In Centennial Gym, the 50 hours of dancing to the music of local bands was anchored by the campus station, WBSC, and by WHLM of Bloomsburg.

The traditions at Bloomsburg are many. Some have been discontinued, others have remained intact — although altered as the years have past. From the Ivy Day and May Day celebrations, to the ideas of Homecoming and the husky, traditions have always been an important facet of life at Bloomsburg.

— taken from *Profile of the Past*,
A Living Legacy by Eda Bessie Edwards



From left: May Day — 1917; Mock political convention — 1917; Carver Hall — 1975.

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