

Mansfield Local Assembly Minutes

Thursday, October 30, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

Retan G-1 and Zoom

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

In Attendance (in person): K. Billmeyer, N. Bliss, N. Book, M. Cicora-Cecce, J. Crowley, J. Demchak, T. Doerksen, D. Donlick, E. Evans, C. Jackson, X. Ji, J. Kagle, M. Kiec, J. Knarr, B. Lint, A. Longcore, R. MacNamara, A. McEvoy, G. Moyer, C. Myers, J. Osgood, L. Pifer, A. Rose, J. Rothermel, G. Sechrist, K. Verno, H. Werner, N. Werner-Burke, L. Wiest

(online): P. Carl, M. Decker, M. Feeney, H. Feldhaus, R. Goulet, M. Houseknecht, D. Jowi, D. Knorr, C. Lapos, N. Lefelhoc, M. Lockwood, T. Maurer, N. Mayo, J. Moyer, D. Neill, C. Paddick, M. Phillips, B. Rossi, K. Shelton, A. Swain, S. Wagner, J. Welch, T. Welch, J. White, S. Williamson, X. Zhou

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes ([August 28, 2025 Mansfield Local Assembly Meeting](#)) Approved

III. Announcements, Issues, and Updates

- A. See [CU Senate website](#) for membership, policies, and schedule
- B. Upcoming CU Town Halls
 - Mansfield In-Person Town Hall: Thursday, Oct. 30 at 11 a.m. (Allen Hall 104)
 - Virtual Town Hall: Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 3:00 p.m. ([Zoom](#))
- C. Senate Constitution Amendments (M. Decker)
 - Multiple articles are being changed. Documents will be put up for review like regular policies after next week
 - Summary of changes to be presented at Senate Executive and Senate
- D. CIO and CFO Searches (D. Knorr)
 - CIO search at end of process, reference checks are being finalized
 - CFO search first round interviews are complete, candidates are being invited to campus. Working with Greenwood Asher. Hoping to have visits before Thanksgiving
 - The Chancellor initiates the Presidential search.
- E. Strat Comm & Marketing (R. McNamara)
 - Mountie Mascot is now Work-Study. Use [Gomounties.com/mascot](#) to request that the Mountie attend something.
 - They are working towards a more advanced site search for the website. If there are issues, let someone on the web team know.
 - Admissions has a pop-up on the website, trying to personalize the school search with Commonwealth, which launched about 10 days ago, already has about 350 leads from that
- F. Red & Black Committee (J. Rothermel)
 - Had Fall Fest with Chili Contest
 - Next event is Nov. 13 Banter and Breakfast, North Hall Third Floor
- G. Mansfield Local Assembly Scholarship (S. Ulmer/B. Lint)
 - The original Mansfield University Senate Scholarship was established in 2016 and awarded \$1,000 annually to a student demonstrating financial need. The treasurer

collected donations at Senate meetings, and employees were later encouraged to contribute via small, regular payroll deductions. We currently have 18 donors: several who used to donate have retired. Local Assembly and SGA leadership already emailed thanks to all faculty and staff who donated so far this year. Due to an oversight, the scholarship wasn't awarded last year, so two students received it this year.

- To streamline and formalize the process moving forward, a new Amendment to Scholarship Agreement changes name to Mansfield Local Assembly Scholarship, sets criteria as CU Mansfield student with extreme financial need as selected by the Financial Aid Office, and stipulates scholarship will not be renewable or awarded to the same recipient twice. Local Assembly and MUMF leadership will sign off on the new agreement.
- The timeline includes January-February student application for the next academic year, June-July student notification along with financial aid packages in, Sep-Oct Foundation notification of Local Assembly leadership and collection of student thank-you notes, and Mar-Apr luncheon with recipients.
- All faculty and staff are encouraged to contribute via the Faculty Staff Giving Form. A gift of just \$2 per pay period results in a \$50 annual contribution to the student scholarship: see appendix for other recurring gift options/examples. We would love to increase the \$1,000 amount or award to more than one student. Discussion about fine-tuning the form to add a signature line and other scholarship opportunities.

H. Ongoing Concerns

- North Hall Roof (S. Wagner): the insurance company pushed back on the estimate to repair the roof. Three additional estimates are in process. They are hoping, with that, that the insurance company will be able to give more clear guidance on next steps. \$2.94 million is the estimate for the storm damage, \$8 million is the estimate for the full roof replacement. They are looking for grants or other options to repair it. The scaffolding in the proposal for the storm damage repair was for the entire North Hall, so should the roof be repaired while the scaffolding is up? Jeff volunteers to be hoisted up. ☺ B. Lint reiterated importance of North Hall to campus and community, noting its three-century history includes congratulations from Ulysses S. Grant as well as contributions over the years from North Hall Scholars, the Save North Hall Committee, the Flashlight, and writers and television shows focused on legendary North Hall denizen [Sarah](#). Please see Appendix for a few resources.
- Lower Manser (S. Wagner): anxious to get the master plan finalized. J. Knarr: ideas for how to use the space, but students have concerns about the cleanliness of Lower Manser, dust from the construction and full garbage cans, etc. Probably Aramark was responsible for cleaning that space, but it may not have been reassigned, so that is being changed. There should be a marked difference very soon.
 - When will the work on the exterior of Manser be completed? The elevator install is complete, first set of stairs was not acceptable, so they are re-doing those. Stairwalk is poured and complete. Still on track for completion by mid-November, with only some of the outside finish to the elevator delayed to December or early January, but it will be usable by mid-November.
 - Is there not a master plan in place? Hoping to have that RFP put out by the end of the calendar year. J. Osgood: we do not have a unified comprehensive master plan for CU- each of the campuses has a legacy plan. This would be a new master plan for the

entire CU, working with locals on each campus. Bob Thorn is working on getting PASSHE to pay for it- this is over \$1 million.

- Facilities Fees (S. Wagner): the administration is working to figure out how much it costs to support these events. What can they charge to cover costs? How can we fund that? Is there a way for the university to help supplement in another way to make this happen? There will be changes.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee (R. Goulet):

- Graduate faculty status interim policy sent to President
- A few interim policies are in the pipeline
- October 9, R. Goulet visited Bloomsburg, October 16 at Mansfield
- Elections Subcommittee (N. Delaney):
 - Volunteer needed for a seat vacated earlier this semester
 - Contact Nick or Heidi with updated Senators
- Space and Facilities Subcommittee (S. Wagner): updating bylaws to be able to break off into campus-specific groups to work more specifically on space usage

B. Academic Policy Committee (J. Kagle): working on several policies right now

- Enrollment Management Subcommittee (S. Lee):
 - transfer policy is out for feedback
 - Justin White is new Interim Associate Director of Admissions, has been recruiting for all three campuses for the past two years
 - Needs to hire a new Assistant director of Admissions
 - CU ahead 3.2% for applications, MU is running about similar to last year
 - Thank you to everyone for helping Admissions
 - M. Cicora-Cecce: major showcase days increased this year, same with bus visits, VIP Day had 74% show rate, open house Nov. 15, 123 registered right now, ahead of last year for that right now
- IT Subcommittee (S. Ji):
 - New policy up for second reading

C. Advancement Committee (K. Billmeyer):

- Met Oct. 21, welcomed new members
- Mountaineer Foundation, 3 major gifts so far this year- Peggy Dettwiler made a significant future gift
- Save the date April 16-17 for All In online fundraiser

D. DEI Committee (C. Cummings): No Report

E. Finance Committee (T. Welch): No Report

F. Student Affairs Committee (H. Jackson):

- Beginning to work on a couple of policies
- First Year Experience Subcommittee (L. Pifer):
 - Meets every other week, working on greater consistency across different sections of FYS, working on some textbooks for people to use, etc.
 - Trying to figure out how to reduce load for FYS. Flexible schedule does not seem to be working well. Looking at midterm grades- in 2023, 12% were D's and F's. 2024, 13%, 2025, 16%- as the classes get larger, there appear to be more students struggling.

- Is there any data yet to link the students with failing grades to see if they are failing other courses?

V. Constituency Reports

- A. Alumni and Professional Engagement (D. Donlick, N. Lefelhoc):
 - Thank you for helping with Homecoming
 - Career Intensive Bootcamp Nov. 15, encourage your juniors and seniors to sign up
 - See slide for upcoming events
- B. Athletics (J. Evans):
 - New athletic director is Andrew Petko
 - Winter sports are gearing up, fall sports are winding down
 - J. Evans is retiring in Jan. 2026
- C. Center for Teaching and Learning (J. Demchak):
 - Please read your emails
 - We still have a lot going on
 - Starting summer 2026, all courses have to be accessible
 - All day conference Jan. 22- AI in Action at Bloomsburg
- D. Student Government Association (J. Knarr):
 - Homecoming- many students said it was the best one, Homecoming Court elections were very successful
 - Fall Fest had about 80 students show up
 - Looking forward to spring
 - Concerns: Mountie Bites- students had expectations that have not been met- students thought it would be grab and go, but there is only one station so lines are too long. There was talk of better food options, but students are not happy, and price has increased significantly. Upper is \$15, and Mountie Bites is even more. The Grub Hub app is not yet functional with Flex, but it is possible with a credit card. Getting that working should help some with wait times.
- E. Campus Administrator (G. Sechrist):
 - Thank you for your support
 - Field Hockey senior day Saturday
 - Sprint Football Nov. 8
 - Women's and Men's Home Basketball Dec. 3
 - Fun things planned for basketball halftimes
 - Homecoming Sept. 26 2026
 - The narrative about MU in the region- how can we promote this university?
- F. Provost (M. Kiec):
 - Finalizing the academic program array for each of the campuses, MU is going to be completed first, should be this semester
 - Broad strokes should be available in the next couple of weeks
- G. President (J. Osgood):
 - Town Hall today was great
 - Still working through what he thinks is common sense stuff, like having fall commencements on all campuses
 - Homecoming was a blast

- Working with Michelle and Gretchen try to restore as much in-person instruction as possible
- We need a VP for Student Affairs, which will not be an addition, there will be leadership changes to offset that
- There will be some surveys asking about input on the VPs and Deans in the next few weeks

VI. Policy Review

- A. Process Reminder: spring committee work is for fall, fall for spring
- B. [Policy Feedback Form](#) (by Nov. 3)
- C. Open Floor: policies for CU Senate second reading (Nov. 13)
 - [Grade Correction Policy](#) Academic Policy Committee
 - [Incompletes Policy](#) Academic Policy Committee
 - [Preferred Name Policy](#) Academic Policy Committee
 - [Withdrawal from University Policy](#) Academic Policy Committee
 - [Time, Place, and Manner Policy](#) DEI Committee
 - [Undergraduate Leave of Absence Policy](#) Enrollment Management Subcommittee
 - [Undergraduate Student Transfer Policy](#) Enrollment Management Subcommittee
 - [Acceptable Use of Technology Policy](#) IT Subcommittee

VII. Open Forum & Remarks for the Good of the Order

- N. Book: Edith Gallagher was honored as a Keeper of the Flame recipient at the PASSHE Summit
- N. Book: Nov. 11 12-1:30 PM, Dr. Kevin McClure speaking on reimagining higher ed
- N. Book: Inclement weather policy is an interim policy, so let her know if there are issues
- B. Lint: Trick or Treating on Campus (see appendix)
- B. Lint Fall Commencement
- B. Lint Registration ongoing
- A. Rose Upcoming opera performances Nov. 7-8 @7:30 and Nov. 9 @2:30
- A. McEvoy thank you for approving the tenure-track conversions for music

VIII. Adjournment 5:34 PM

Fall 2025 Meetings		
CU Senate Executive	Thursday, 11/6/25	4 pm via Zoom
CU Senate (second reading of policy)	Thursday, 11/13/25	4 pm via Zoom
Spring 2026 Meetings (Tentative)		
Mansfield Local Assembly	Thursday, 1/29/26	4 pm in-person and via Zoom

Recurring Gift Options/Examples

\$ per pay period

Yearly gift

\$.96

\$ 25.00

\$ 1.92

\$ 50.00

\$ 3.84

\$ 100.00

\$19.23

\$ 500.00

\$38.46

\$1,000.00

Alumni & Professional Engagement



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



GET COMFORTABLE
networking with employers

GET CONFIDENT
talking about your strengths

GET READY TO GET HIRED

CAREER INTENSIVE BOOT CAMP
November 14-15 | Mansfield Campus

Specifically for 3rd and 4th year students | alumni and employer networking | alumni keynote and panels
Register on Handshake: commonwealthu.joinhandshake.com | Registration Deadline: Friday, Oct. 31

Registration Includes:

- Etiquette Dinner (fancy food AND how to eat it!)
- Professional Headshots
- Networking Lunch
- Mock Interview w/ an alum
- Resume Review w/ an alum
- Keynote Speaker
- Swag Bag!

Alumni Will Share Tips On:

- Salary Negotiation
- Student Loan Repayment
- Personal Budgeting & Finance
- Understanding Benefits
- Balance Work & Life
- Interviewing Tips
- Jump Starting the Job Search



**HELP FUTURE
YOU!**



REGISTER ON
Handshake

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield
COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

GET READY TO CLIMB

....the professional ladder
(a career coach can help!)

Weekly Virtual Labs

Resume Labs: Tuesdays @ 4:30PM

LinkedIn Labs: Wednesdays @ 4:30PM

Register on Handshake: search 'lab' under events



Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

Professional U

Upcoming Alumni Events

2025

- November 12 - Alumni Book Club
- November 22 - Chickie's & Pete's in Bordentown, NJ
- December 3 - PSAC 75th Anniversary
- December 6 - Dickens of a Christmas
- December 10 - Alumni Book Club
- December 20 - Women's & Men's Basketball Alumni Day

2026

- January 14 - Alumni Book Club
- January 23 - CU Hockey in Hershey, PA
- February 11 - Alumni Book Club
- February 14 - Mountie Sound Machine Alumni Band 2026
- February 26 - March 2 - Florida Events
- March 11 - Alumni Book Club
- April 8 - Alumni Book Club
- May 2 - Mansfield Student Showcase
- June 26 - 28 - Alumni Weekend 2026

Trick OR Treat

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

&

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

100
KIDS



The local childcare centers are coming to campus on 10/31 AND 11/3! Gather your office or campus organization on South Hall Mall to hand out treats (healthier options encouraged!) and enjoy seeing all the fun costumes. We are expecting 100 kids.

Don't miss this adorable campus tradition!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

11:00 a.m. - YMCA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

9:45 a.m. - Stepping Stones

10:00 a.m. - MANS & Joyful Happenings



1874: DEDICATION OF NORTH HALL

President Ulysses S. Grant Sends Congratulations

The dedication of North Hall awakened much interest, not only in Mansfield, but throughout the entire county and adjoining counties, which were well represented in the large throng that winded its way to the Normal. The Mansfield Comet Band and the Orphan Band went to the train and escorted the visitors up town. At the corner of Main and Wellsboro streets the two bands consolidated, and marched to the Normal grounds to the tune of "Red, White and Blue," followed by a procession of visitors and citizens.

The new building is a most imposing structure, and in its prominence is truly an ornament to the village and a credit to the energy and perseverance of the trustees.

Prof. V. R. Pratt then read a letter at the dedication from President Ulysses Grant, who regrets he could not attend. Afterward, the assemblage adjourned to the dining hall of the new building, where the tables were arranged for dinner, and presented a most pleasing and tempting sight. Flowers, pyramids of cake, chicken pie, and hosts of other good things graced the tables, and gave evidence of the energy and excellent taste of the ladies who had the superintendence of those matters. — Hundreds after hundreds of the hungry multitude were fed, and the untiring refreshment committee still had something left.

The school opened last Wednesday under the most encouraging circumstances and with the brightest prospects for a prosperous and glorious future."

Source: **Wellsboro Agitator**
September 11, 1874



North Hall

An expansion was started in the mid-1890's, but not completed until about 1908. Note that some of the architectural features in the above drawing were never incorporated in the building.



NORTH HALL DINING ROOM. As described in **The Normal Quarterly** (January, 1898): "Three times each day, at 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the spacious dining hall is filled with students and teachers, and at such times, a picture is presented full of animation and interest. Finished in oak, the dining room is architecturally of the Ionic order, the gilded capital blending harmoniously with the rich tints of the walls. One hundred and twelve incandescent lights furnish brilliant illumination. The school is justly proud of the room and confidently asserts that its equal is not to be found in any other educational institution of the State.

1890 - 1899



Prosperity continued during the 1890's. In 1891, plans were announced for the complete reconstruction and expansion of the Ladies Building (North Hall). At the time, North Hall was 150 feet in length and four stories in height. The plans called for it to become 270 feet in length by 700 feet wide, and five stories high. The building was to be heated by steam, and an elevator installed in the central portion of the building.

The new North Hall included an elegant dining room, finished in oak, large enough to serve five hundred students. In addition, there was space for a kitchen, a bakery, a reception room, dormitories for the ladies, an infirmary, and suites of rooms for the Art Department and the Normal School of Music.

In 1895, a natural beautification program was launched and a large number of trees were planted on the hill behind the school and throughout the campus. By the late 1890's, all of the buildings on the campus had electricity.

Meanwhile, in 1892, Dr. Thomas was succeeded by Dr. S. H. Albro. As noted by Harvey J. VanNorman (1905):

"With the advent of Dr. Albro as principal, there was inaugurated an era of high ideals . . . Loved and respected alike by teachers and students, he impressed everyone with the fact that he was a past-master in the art of instruction and discipline. He was a fascinating speaker, his lectures never contained a dull statement, packed as they were with thought, expressed in clear simple diction, and enlivened by quiet humor."

Under Dr. Albro's leadership, the number of faculty expanded from 13 to 18 members, and the enrollment steadily increased as a growing number of students from outside Tioga County began to attend Mansfield. In fact, by 1897, about one-half of the students came from outside the county. At the time, it was said that the expenses at Mansfield were lower than at any other school of its type in the Commonwealth.

1962-1963: TURMOIL AT MANSFIELD STATE COLLEGE

December 5th: FEMALE STUDENT COUNSELORS PROTEST DISCRIMINATION

They complain that the administration requires them to work more than their male counterparts, yet they receive the same pay. Miss Florence Ludy, Assistant Dean of Women agrees with students demand for immediate change. Dean Priscilla Morton disagrees. She says it is not timely.

December 8th: FRATERNITY CLAIMS MSC ADMINISTRATION VIOLATES THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS

The Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity is asking area legislators for aid in their dispute with the MSC administration regarding campus privileges.

January 10th: MISS LUDY WILL NOT RESIGN

Students are protesting the threatened dismissal of Miss Ludy. Students say if she goes they will not comply with dormitory regulations . . . Miss Ludy decided to stay after offering resignation.

March 16th: MISS LUDY LEAVES CAMPUS AMIDST CONTROVERSY

She claims she was harassed by other administrators and that President Rathgeber's mother struck her with a rolled-up newspaper. Students want Miss Ludy back.

March 27th: RATHGEBER INVITES MSC GIRLS TO DISCUSS "GRIEVANCES"

He issues "open-door" invitation to all female students to resolve differences.

March 28th: MSC OFFICIALS CLAIM MISS LUDY WAS "IRRESPONSIBLE"

She is described as a "troublemaker".

March 28th: RATHGEBER HAS NO PLANS TO RESIGN

He denies report.

March 28th: STATE APPOINTS 3-MAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE MSC UNREST

Rathgeber charges "partisan politics." He says the investigation is a "political conspiracy." He notes that there is a newly-elected Republican governor. He points to five years of solid growth and increased prestige at MSC under his leadership.

March 28th: LT. GOVERNOR SHAFFER MEETS WITH NORTHERN TIER LEGISLATORS ABOUT MSC

Representative Warren Spencer reports that "the only solution to restoring the morale of the student body is to get rid of Rathgeber."

March 30th: GOVERNOR SCRANTON DENIES THE INVESTIGATION IS DUE TO PARTISAN POLITICS

Governor's office claims that there has been a "mass of correspondence" from students alleging that the MSC administration is undemocratic and repressive.

March 30th: STUDENTS CIRCULATE PETITION SUPPORTING RATHGEBER

Four MSC students gathered nearly 400 signatures on a petition in support of President Rathgeber.

March 31st: RULES? RIGHTS? PHILOSOPHY OF MSC FACULTY VARIES ON HANDLING STUDENTS

Some professors see need for greater order. Others, a need for more freedom.

March 31st: MSC STUDENT PAPER GOES UNDERGROUND

A clandestine student newspaper, "The Primer" is operating underground. In an article entitled "The Students," there is an illustration of a classroom with two vegetables, preceded with the following message: "See all the MSC students. See them all dress alike. Hear them all think alike. Think what they're told to think. Think . . . Think . . . Think. Someday they will teach others to think. Won't that be a riot?"

April 2nd: MSC STUDENT COUNCIL PLANS "PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION" FOR BETTER CAMPUS FACILITIES

North Hall is described as "antiquated." Students complain about foul quality of water, and Rathgeber agrees there is a problem. But, he says the water problem is "an act of God" — the spring rains.

April 5th: MSC STUDENTS CALL OFF DEMONSTRATION AS FACT-FINDERS COMPLETE PROBE

April 21st: MISS LUDY RETURNS TO SPEAK AT MANSFIELD'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Her topic — "Thy Love I Share."

June 8th: PROBERS FIND "FEAR AND TENSION" AT MSC

In a 15-page report, the investigation team concluded that Rathgeber was absent from campus excessively, that there was overcharging for books, that there was an unnecessarily high turnover of faculty, and that the administration acted arbitrarily. But they also concluded that "Rathgeber had the good of the college at heart."

August 9th: RATHGEBER SUBMITS RESIGNATION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 4th

September 10th: GOVERNOR SCRANTON SELECTS COSTELLO TO SERVE AS ACTING PRESIDENT

Tom Costello, Dean of Students, is appointed acting-president.

Source: Selected issues of the *Elmira Star-Gazette*, December-September 1962-63



NORTH HALL "SCHOLARS"

Throughout the 70's North Hall was a "hot" topic of debate. Its demolition was scheduled to follow the construction of the Cedar Crest Dormitory (1976), but due to a series of moratoriums it remains standing. Though vacant, the faces on its exterior walls seem to keep it "occupied."



administration and information processing programs. New programs were established in art, broadcasting, technical theatre, community psychology, regional planning, travel and tourism, medical technology, music therapy, pre-engineering, public relations, social work, and special education.

Mansfield University 1983 - present

By 1983, the Pennsylvania State Legislature had created the State System of Higher Education and all of the state colleges, including Mansfield, became universities. The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) is led by a Board of Governors that sets policy and direction for the System and the universities. The state provides funding to aid in operating expenses and help hold down tuition costs.

In 1984, interim president Rod C. Kelchner was officially named president. Kelchner was popular with students, faculty, and the larger community. After serving the university in numerous capacities over the course of three decades, Kelchner retired in 1998. The Council of Trustees held a meeting and secretly voted to name the recently-completed fitness center in his honor. The announcement was made at a public gathering in front of the building just before the surprised president was formally retired.

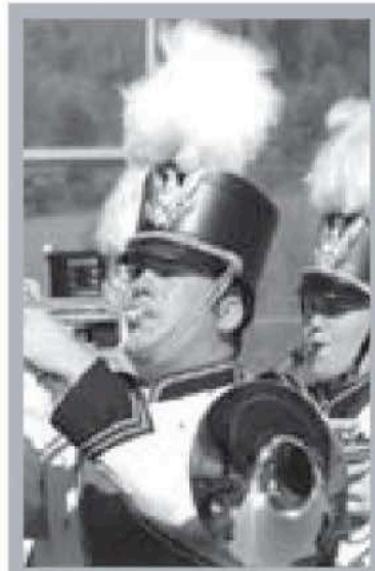
By the mid 1970s, historic North Hall was no longer used as a residence hall and was closed completely in the early 1980s. Many discussions

focused on whether to demolish or renovate the building. Kelchner, along with many others, was interested in saving and preserving North Hall. Finally, the "Save North Hall" committee raised enough money and the state released funds for a renovation. North Hall reopened as a library and administration building in time for the 1996 fall semester and houses the main library, music library and education library on the first four floors and administrative offices on the fifth floor. The sixth floor holds a community meeting room. When it

opened in 1996, the North Hall library was described as being "one of the most elegant and electronically advanced libraries in the United States." Alumni Hall, which had previously housed the main library, was renovated into a student union building which opened in 2000.

In 1998, Dr. John Halstead was named president and served until 2005. Notable changes during this period included the demolition of the old gymnasium, which was replaced with a parking lot between Straughn and Belknap, and the construction of a child care center, named for associate provost Dr. Sandra Linck. In August 2006 South Hall was demolished. A new South Hall is scheduled to be erected in the same spot, the site of the original Seminary Building.

Responding to a projected shortage of certified school librarians, Mansfield University established a Master of Education in School Library and Information Technologies program in 2000. The

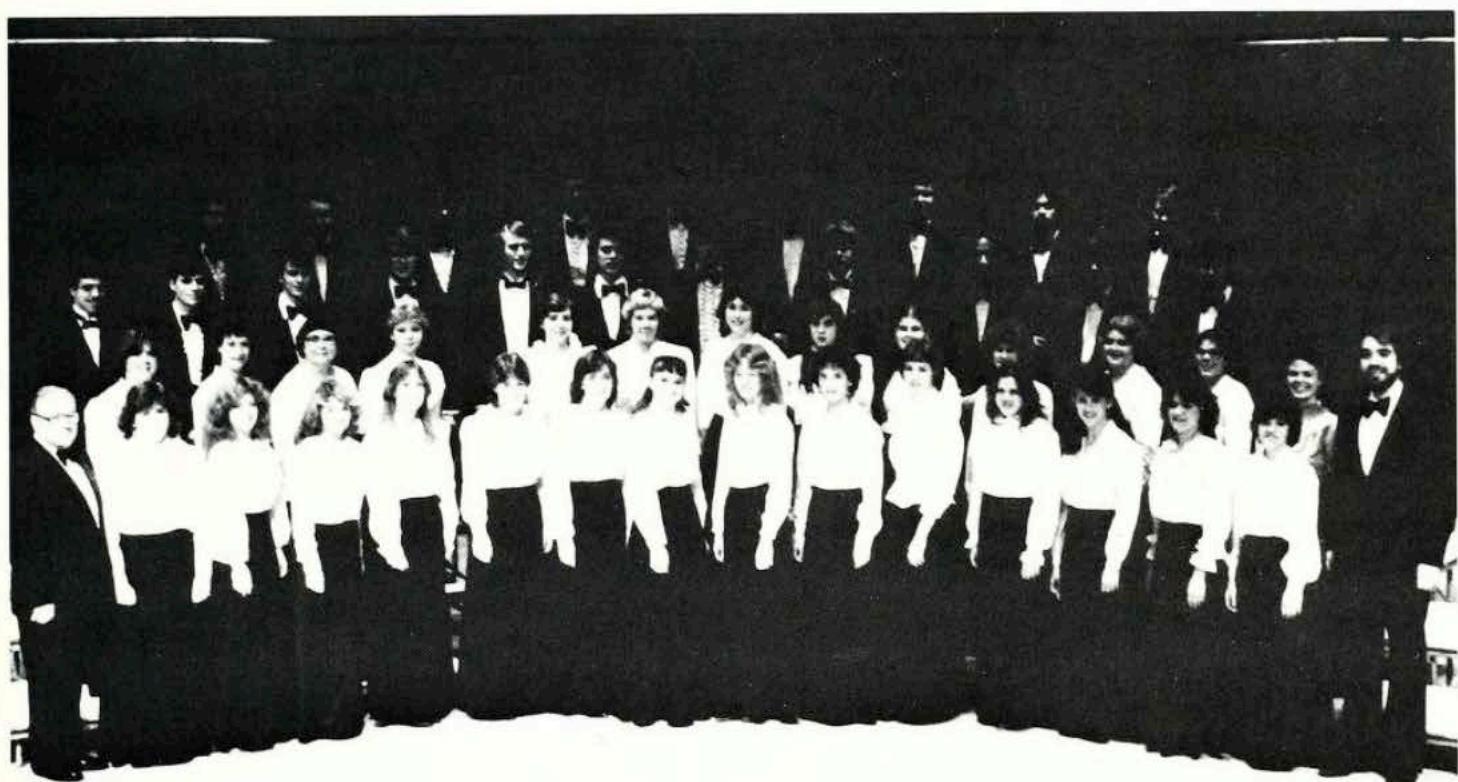




L.N.

COMMITTEE TO SAVE NORTH HALL

Mary Ann Smale
Cheryl Sharpless
Bill Hettel
Stella Book



L.N.

CONCERT CHOIR

David Dick, Judy Harriman, Cynthia SteinKirchner, Teresa Jani, Laura B. Marinna McKenna, Ginny Williamson, Rosemarie Dick, Melissa McHenry, Doua Bass, Judy Saxton, Irene Busia, Patti Hughes, Joy Detweiller, Karen Pfluger, Kay Knarr, Gail Bender, Barbara Trowbridge, Laurie Beach, Regina Lynch, Liz Monn, Erin Antrim, Alicia Smith, Julie Jones, Brenda Moon, Sherry Hesser, MaryLou Pomeraring, Heather Wolf, Joe Detato, Todd Colyer, Jim Keenly, Paul Zona, Carl Kelein, Mark Brumbach, Phil Thorpe, Tony Yadzinski, Pete Marsh, Glenn Evans, Churs Zinkievich, Angelo Mecca, Dave Moore, Jeff Baer, Jim Ploskarka, Jeff Felterberger, Robin Bailey, Duane Wright, Doug Smith, Bill Squire, Mark Hoyt.

Stars in our Crown

Rochester Institute of Technology

Diversity gives strength

Gamma Iota Chapter has a favorite saying we use to describe our chapter. This saying is "our diversity gives us strength."

Sometimes the diversity is so apparent that many of us are a bit surprised how much strength we continue to have among us.

For instance, we have members that come from every one of the assorted majors offered at R.I.T., from business to the arts. We have members that are involved in both on- and off-campus activities. And of course, the choice of fraternities to associate with is divided up in nine different directions, each being partial to at least one particular house.

The diversity is not looked upon as a downfall but, on the contrary, a cause for us never having a dull moment within the sisterhood. We even support each other in many ways, such as visiting one of the tennis player's matches or attending a concert in which one of the members may be playing.

Many may believe that sororities are groups of girls that conform to walk, talk, dress and breathe alike, but we can honestly say that we could most definitely prove that to be wrong. We truly mean it when we say, "our diversity gives us strength."

Judy Caputi

Mansfield State

Sentimental value

North Hall, one of the oldest standing steel structures in the United States, is a very unique part of Mansfield University. The seven-story building has an old-fashioned look about it. There are stories that ghosts live there and can be seen from the top window.

The building was closed because it needed repairs. A new plumbing system, central heating, painting and a sprinkler system must be added. Because of the lack of funds, the university had to close the building. Some school officials want to tear the building down; it would be cheaper than trying to restore it.

The building does have a sentimental value to this campus. Some alumni

and students have put together a committee to save North Hall. As of now, there will be no sudden decisions of the future of the building. Each day we can enjoy the mystery and beauty it provides for Mansfield University.

Ann Reece

University of Delaware

Pulling together

At the University of Delaware, one sorority remains apart from the rest due to the individuality of the members. That sorority is Delta Iota Chapter of AΣΑ. But even though each member is an individual, we all share a common love of sisterhood and friendship.

This past fall semester Delta Iota filled quota for the first time. But instead of causing problems as the chapter tried to adjust to so many pledges, the new pledges have caused the members of Delta Iota to become closer. We have formed into a very strong chapter that exemplifies that four aims set by our five founders.

Spiritually, we have grown together as a whole and share a bond unique to other chapters. The adjustment was hard work, but together we have developed into a unified group.

Intellectually, five members of ΔI were elected to Order of Omega. They are Marianne Fusco, president; Linda Jacobs, rush chairman; Harriet Berkowitz, fundraising; Robin Martini, athletic chairman; and Emily Stavis.

Physically, we won a trophy for the volleyball tournament held during fall Greek Week.

Socially, ΔI's have been very active with many of the fraternities and sororities on campus. Activities include mixers, tailgates, pumpkin carving, fraternity night and winter formal.

Delta Iota is a strong chapter and next semester, at 65 strong, we plan on becoming even closer. Sisterhood and friendship—that's Delta Iota.

Kimberly Kokesh

Indiana State University-Evansville

Homecoming queen

Delta Kappa Chapter is very proud

to announce that Vicki Johnson was chosen as homecoming queen.

On Feb. 25 ISUE had their homecoming basketball game. Vicki was crowned queen from among 12 candidates.



Vicki Johnson, ΔK

Vicki pledged in the spring of 1983. She is a very active member in the sorority and in other organizations. She has helped start an International Club at ISUE and is very active in the activities programming board.

Vicki wasn't the only Alpha Sig winning an award at homecoming. The chapter won three other awards, including the spirit contest, which lasted through many games but ended on homecoming. The prize was \$100, a plaque and a traveling trophy. We also won two second place trophies—in the banner and float contest for the homecoming game.

In addition, each year the Evansville City Panhellenic gives a scholarship to a girl from ISUE and the University of Evansville.

This year, however, the city Panhellenic was in need of cash to continue granting these scholarships, and they sponsored a raffle.

Delta Kappa sold more tickets than any other sorority in the city (which includes two universities).

Helping with this raffle was even more rewarding when Melanie Ayers won the scholarship.

Editorial

The restoration of North Hall, which has been in a dream for some and a nightmare for most, is still caught in a void of bureaucratic red tape. Each year rolls quietly by and North Hall remains as a subtle reminder of the inadequacy of government as pieces of the massive structure continue to drop off.

To date, no decision on whether to restore the building or to level it has been made by Govenor Casey of Pennsylvania. The former administration was close to signing the paper which holds North Hall at bay and releases the 6 million dollars already earmarked for the project. The elections came at exceptionally poor timing and the North Hall paper was lost in the political shuffle during the administrative change over.

The project has covered too much ground in the political battle already to be beaten by the pen. The state school system, SSHE, was convinced that there was hope for the restoration. DGS the Department of General Services, has done feasibility studies on the building and has affirmed North Hall to be structually sound.

The bottom line in the North Hall perdicament lies upon two men's shoulders, Govenor Casey and the Budget Secretary of the Commonwealth, even though many other individuals are positive the project is a valid one.

Even if the plan is approved by October 1st, DGS will undergo a concept planning phase and the building probably would not be completed for five years. In simple language, no student at MU today would see North Hall completed.

We should not let this sour news discourage our efforts and let the issue slide down the pole. Make a difference in policy and send your letters of concern to the **FLASHLIGHT** office where they will be forwarded to Govenor Casey. It's your tax money,

MAKE AN EYESORE AN EYEFUL OF BEAUTY!

Corbin Woodling
Editor-in-Chief

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ABOUT THE CAMPUS:

NORTH HALL RENOVATION

By David Myers
Staff Reporter

Imagine that the high school that you spent four years in was suddenly closed and plans for demolition were in the works. What would you do? The alumni of Mansfield University were confronted with a similar situation. They banded together in an effort to save North Hall from the wrecking ball. The structure was saved through the efforts of President Rod Kelchner and PA State Representative Fred Noye, an alumni of the Class of 1968, who took a personal interest and was instrumental in beginning efforts to restore the building.

Mr. William Yost, Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Larry Nesbit, Director of Libraries, are two of the key administrators working on the project, slated to begin in the Fall 1989. Architects for the project have recently completed preliminary studies on North Hall and plans for renovation have been made with contractors. The estimated costs of the project are totalled at \$9 million, with \$6 million coming via state grants and \$2-3 million to be raised from a capital fund drive

slated to commence this semester.

Plans for North Hall include the consolidation of the three libraries, relocation of the administrative offices and possibly the construction of an art gallery and an alumni lounge. This move will allow the emptied Alumni Hall and Main Library to be used as a new student center, including various activity offices, a student union, a recreation lounge and a new Zanzibar.

North Hall, rich in historical value, is the oldest steel framed structure in Pennsylvania and the oldest building on the Mansfield campus. The historical significance to the University, as well as the need for space, the need to consolidate the libraries, and the need for a larger student center were some of the more important factors for the restoration project.

The intent of the North Hall project is to restore the exterior of the building to its original beauty with the interior being modernized to satisfy the growing needs of the campus community. The anticipated date of completion on North Hall is the fall of 1991.



North Hall, as it looks today. Soon the grand old building will be brought back to life, with the consolidation of the libraries, the inclusion of administrative offices and much, much more. Now Sarah, the legendary ghost of North Hall, will have some company!!

PHOTO BY SULLIVAN

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STUDENT PARKING UPDATE

By Amy Welch
Associate Editor

New commuter student parking spaces were also added over the summer. There are now

Good news on North Hall ... finally

\$9 million renovation could begin in spring

by Jeanne Spengler
news editor

For years, the biggest joke in Mansfield has been that North Hall, the historic deteriorating building in the heart of campus, will be renovated into a state-of-the-art library before you graduate.

But guess what? It just might be true.

On June 7, Governor Robert Casey finally released \$6 million to Mansfield University to begin the long-awaited reconstruction of North Hall.

Although the funds have been made available for the go-ahead on the restoration project, there is still a major problem that the university faces: the projected cost of the restoration is \$9 million, according to Stephen Bickham, the chairperson of the Save North Hall committee. That leaves Mansfield University having to raise \$3 million, and to date only about half that amount has been raised.

While Harrisburg is getting ready to release bids to several contractors, the university is continuing its campaign to raise \$3 million.

"Our fundraising campaign has been ongoing for two years, and we've raised over \$1.5 million," President Rod Kelchner said. "We started with a 'quiet' campaign, asking friends and supporters for a lead gift." The fundraising committee then went to university faculty and staff for contributions, then made public announcements to businesses and alumni.

The W.G. Eckles Co., an architectural group based in New Castle, Pa., is working on the design for the new library to be housed in North Hall.

"The Department of General Services, in Harrisburg, is overseeing the project," Kelchner said. "The W.G. Eckles Co. is revising their design to meet all state codes and regulations. Then the DGS will send out bids."

The design should be ready to be sent out for bidding by October 29, according to Bickham.

Even if the balance of the \$3 million the university must raise can not be raised this fall, the renovation will go forward. The university could borrow the money and continue the fund-raising campaign, Bickham said.

"Construction may start sometime in the spring. The reconstruction will take about 18 months," Kelchner said.

"The project is moving- it's been terribly slow and frustrating, but that's behind us now. It's time to move on," Kelchner said. "Many individuals and groups have worked hard."

"The Save North Hall committee (chaired by Bickham and including members of the alumni association, students, and faculty members) worked hard and were instrumental in having the project move ahead," Kelchner said.

The committee was formed at the beginning of last year to try to monitor the reconstruction project, according to Bickham.

"We are functioning as citizens for this project, writing letters and working with Matt Baker, a local representative, and Roger Madigan, our local senator," Bickham said. "We have also worked with the trustees. I believe we played a part in moving this project. We want to let the government know how important this project is to the university."

"We want North Hall to be a symbol of academic excellence, and we want to try to preserve the heritage of Mansfield University," said Mr. Larry Nesbitt, director of Library Service and Instructional Resources.

Photographs and memorabilia will be exhibited throughout the new library building, according to Nesbitt. Certain areas have been designed for the purpose of displaying art and photos.

In addition, there will be

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A facelift may be in North Hall's near future.

small seminar rooms, a large seminar room, individual and group listening and viewing areas, as well as formal reading rooms and casual seating areas.

"We will truly be able to consolidate all of our collections,

because all three libraries will be consolidated into one," Nesbitt said.

The current libraries total 38,000 square feet, and house 220,000 books. The new library will provide 80,000 square feet and house over 320,000 books, according to Nesbitt.



Campus adds night safety precautions

Police hope new phones and shuttle make campus safer

campus police student workers that

Marcella Hyde-Smith Obituary

Published by Legacy Remembers on Jul. 25, 2014.

On the morning of Wednesday, July 23, 2014, lifelong Bradford County resident Dr. Marcella (May) Hyde-Smith passed away peacefully at her Canton residence after a long and valiant struggle with cancer and Alzheimer's Disease. She was 86 years of age.

Born Nov. 6, 1927 in Granville Township, she was the daughter of Martin L. and Lucy (Shoemaker) May. She was a graduate of Troy High School and in 1956 received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Mansfield University. She went on to earn her master's and doctorate degrees in education from Penn State University. In addition to her work in the Pennsylvania public schools as a teacher, reading consultant, coordinator and Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs, Dr. Hyde-Smith was an adjunct faculty member at both Mansfield and Penn State. Marcella was married to fellow educator John Hyde for 50 years until his passing in 1998. In 1985 she authored a book, "Bradford County, The Story of Its People." In 1988 she received the Distinguished Educator Award from Mansfield University. Her volunteer service to Mansfield spanned more than 35 years and included serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors as a member of the steering committee to save North Hall, and in a leadership capacity for the Mansfield chapters of Phi Delta Kappa and Delta Kappa Gamma. A charter member of the Mansfield University Foundation, she served from 1974 to 2006, and was recently made an honorary member. Her vision and leadership were instrumental in growing the foundation's funds, which has allowed the foundation to provide increased financial support to the university. She received the Elsie Burke Service Award in 2007 and established and funded two student scholarships at Mansfield University, and was firm in her conviction that the welfare of the students be foremost in the decision-making process of the board. In addition, she and her husband, Al, donated a Steinway grand piano to the university's music department as part of their initiative to become an "All Steinway School." As a tribute to her service to Mansfield, in 2007 she was the recipient of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Eberly Award for volunteerism.

Three Alumni awarded Presidential Coin for Excellence

By Terry Day – Posted on March 9, 2015

MANSFIELD, PA— Mansfield University President Fran Hendricks awarded the Mansfield University Presidential Coin for Excellence to three alumni; Lew Lee '62, Donna (Congdon) Mokrzynski '55 and Dr. Donald Stanton '53, at an alumni and friends event held in University Park, FL on March 7.



Donna (Congdon) Mokrzynski '55 served six years on the MU Alumni Association Board of Directors, including two as president. She led the Class of '55 reunion effort in 2005 and served on the [Save North Hall Committee](#), among her many efforts to support Mansfield. In 1999, Mokrzynski received the Elsie Burke Service Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership, loyalty and service to MU. Professionally, Mokrzynski taught for 33 years.²⁶

150 YEARS OF PERSERVERANCE:

THE STORY OF NORTH HALL IS THE STORY OF MANSFIELD

By Ryan McNamara

For 150 years, North Hall has stood guard at the campus “high upon the eastern hill,” an inescapable landmark of the university and the town it serves. With construction of the original North Hall completed in 1874, no one could imagine what those bricks would see in their lifetime.

Former president, Rod Kelchner, captured the spirit of building and university when he said “Mansfield survived many struggles. North Hall is a microcosm of similar challenges.”

Known as the “Ladies Building,” North Hall was built to serve as the women’s dormitory and to house the campus kitchen and dining hall. From those origins, it expanded, adapted, fell into disrepair, closed, was renovated, and now stands as a proud symbol for Mountaineers of all generations.

“Mansfield always came back. It overcame challenge after challenge and emerged stronger and stronger,” says Kelchner.

The idea of a comeback is nothing new to Mansfield. It is engrained in the DNA of the university.

Mansfield Classical Seminary opened its doors in 1857. Three months later, the school’s only building burned to the ground. The founders immediately vowed to rebuild and continue their dream of making Mansfield a hub for education and growth.

The potential and possibility of education was not lost on one of Mansfield’s most notable figures and a founder, Simon B. Elliot (1830-1917). At the dedication of North Hall, Elliot laid out his vision for the institution, “that the rich and the poor; the child of him who has power and place, and of him who treads the lowly paths of life shall receive alike



the blessings of education.” Elliot dedicated the building for the uses of education, “equally and alike without distinction of sex, or race, or creed, or party.”

As student enrollment grew, so did North Hall. By 1894, the central and north portions of the building as we know them today were finished. Electricity was incorporated in 1897—five years after Mansfield played the world’s first night football game at Smythe Park—and by 1909 the southern portion of the building was completed.

As the institution evolved from Mansfield State Normal School (1862-1927) to Mansfield State Teachers College (1927-1960), North Hall also saw several renovations to adapt and modernize its facilities.

The 60s were a time of great change for both the college and North Hall. As the campus grew, areas of the campus transitioned into office space, lounges, and classrooms, while the name evolved into Mansfield State College (1960-1983). It was also an era where plans were made to demolish the building.

The grand staircase was removed in 1969 to make way for the construction of Memorial Hall. Architects changed plans that would have built Memorial over a portion of North Hall following strong protests to save the building.

North Hall was closed in 1982 as Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) took shape and Mansfield University of Pennsylvania (1983-2022) was born. It was then that plans were made for a modern, renovated building.

Tireless work from many individuals, a state appropriation, and a capital campaign secured the funding to renovate North Hall. Completed in 1996, an 18-month project transformed the building into a modern library with internet, executive offices, and dedicated student spaces. The once doomed building was now the proud centerpiece of campus, ready to serve students into the new millennium.

Now, almost three decades after its renovation, North Hall continues to evolve and adapt to meet the needs of its students like the university that surrounds it. Students can learn about the Victorian era the building was constructed in—and lifetimes of information—through a book, over Wi-Fi internet, or in the virtual reality lab.

Meeting the needs of the modern higher education landscape, Mansfield joined forces with Bloomsburg and Lock Haven to form Commonwealth University (2022 to present). Mansfield’s campus, like its prized North Hall, continues to evolve with dogged determination as a bastion of learning and opportunity.

North Hall: Three Centuries of Education

By Jamie Curtis, class of 2010

<https://library.commonwealthu.edu/mansfield-buildings/northhall>

The majestic Victorian-era North Hall has symbolized the spirit of Mansfield University for more than a century. Located in the heart of the campus, it originally housed the women's dormitory and today serves as one of the most elegant libraries in the United States.

The original North Hall, known as the "Ladies Building" was built in 1874. The four-story wooden and brick structure was 150 feet long with a covered walkway that connected it to South Hall and Alumni Hall. The kitchen and dining hall were moved from the seminary building to the new ladies dormitory. Building materials for North Hall totaled about \$15,000.

During the dedication ceremony for the new structure, Dr. Simon B Elliott, state trustee and one of the most important figures in Mansfield history, unveiled his vision of higher education that was far-reaching and decades ahead of its time: [Source: Mansfield Normal School College Catalogue 1874-75.]

"To the end that intelligence and education shall be universal; that the rich and the poor; the child of him who has power and place, and of him who treads the lowly paths of life shall receive alike the blessings of Education-the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the people of this community built and now dedicate this building to the uses of education and to the moral and religious instruction and in rite equally and alike without distinction of sex, or race, or creed, or party, the children of all who may desire to participate of the opportunities which shall be here offered." -- Dr. Simon B Elliott, State trustee. [Source: "The History of Mansfield University to 1912: An Address by Simon B Elliott." Published by Mansfield University 2007.]

As student enrollment grew, Mansfield needed to expand. In 1891 construction plans were drawn up by Elmira, NY architects, Pierce and Bickford. The original plans called for a steeple. While very imposing and fanciful on the drawing board, it was scaled back by the board of trustees due to financial constraints.

From 1891-1894 the northern section of the 1874 structure was removed to allow the incorporation of the North Wing into the central portion of the building where the atrium or "well" is located. By 1894 the North and Central parts of the building as we see it today were finished. The expanded atrium joined the new north wing of the building with the original 1874 central portion of the original building. Electricity was also installed in 1897.

The southern portion of the building was not completed until the early 1900's, due to a lack of funds. In 1908, the rest of the 1874 structure was torn down. By January 1909 the first three floors of the new south wing were occupied, and by summer of 1909 the construction of the new south wing was completed. [Source: Mansfield Normal College quarterly, 1909.]

The 270 x 100 foot, seven- story structure housed the women's dormitory, an elegant oak dining room for 500 (located where the children's library is today), kitchen, bakery, infirmary, fraternity rooms, suites of rooms for the art and music departments, reception rooms, principals/faculty quarters etc. The rooms in the attic on the 7th floor served several purposes over the years, one of those being musical practice rooms.

The final touches to the building were completed by 1911. A raised walkway was built connecting the 3rd floor of the south wing to the Alumni Hall, South Hall and the Gymnasium, where Manser dining hall is today. A grand stairway, creating an entrance to the first floor, was also built on the west side of North Hall at a cost of \$1,800.

North Hall did not undergo any other major renovations until the summer of 1930 when the atrium/well openings were covered with flooring and the rails were removed. The atrium openings were considered a fire hazard, and sealing off these openings was a preventative measure as there were no sprinkler systems at the time. Many students were disappointed about the changes, and groups of students would often gather around the banisters on each level of the atrium to sing. According to local historian Stephen Orner, girls also used to leave their outgoing mail on the banisters of the well.

In the mid 20th Century, the Women's Dormitory underwent another face-lift. In 1950, the kitchen was modernized. In the summer of 1953 fire escapes were installed, the 10 dormers were removed, and a new slate roof was added. Students on each of the women's floors decorated over what was the atrium at Christmas time and had contests to determine the best decorated floor.

The 1960's were a time of great change on campus. Mansfield State Teachers College became Mansfield State College.

The face of the entire campus was evolving as new dormitories and Manser Dining Hall were constructed. The completion of these facilities left vacant space in North Hall. Some areas of the building were turned into office space, commuter lounges, classrooms, and computer rooms. The print shop and A/V studio were also there. State officials by this time were nervous about the continued use of the building as a residence hall due to the outdated wiring the in building which was considered a fire hazard. All inhabitants were moved to the first two floors where special outlets were added to handle modern appliances.

By the early 1960's, plans were in the making to tear down North Hall and replace It with both a student center (Memorial Hall) and a parking lot. The grand staircase on the west side of the building was removed in 1969 to make room for Memorial Hall.

Since the plan was to demolish North Hall, Memorial was built beside it, where the North Hall entrance stairs had been. Plans called for part of Memorial Hall to be built over a portion of North Hall site, but because of strong protests to save the North Hall, architects had to change their plans and re-design Memorial, which was completed in 1970.

According to former Mansfield Archivist Robert Unger, in 1974 when MU was under the direction of President Lawrence Park, the general assembly appropriated a quarter of a million dollars to demolish North Hall in hopes of receiving funding for a more modern facility.

North Hall continued to serve as a women's dormitory until 1976 when Cedarcrest opened. North Hall's first two floors were then utilized as office space until the early 1980's, and the basement housed the TV studio. The campus police station was located on the northwest corner of the ground floor of the North wing. Today this section of the building serves as a staff/faculty lounge and a tutoring center for athletes.

North Hall was closed in 1982. It was at this time plans to save the building and re-renovate it into a usable, modern facility began to take shape.

Things really began to press forward when President Rod Kelchner was named president in 1983. He had long opposed the state's plans to demolish the building and now was in a better position to take the necessary steps to save it. He spent many hours lobbying in Harrisburg to save the building, obtaining the necessary funding, and helping to determine that the building become a library.

"North Hall embodies the spirit of Mansfield," Kelchner said. "A spirit that I often referred to as 'dogged determination.' The history of our school is characterized by struggle and challenge. Beginning with a fire that destroyed the original building Seminary Building just four months after it opened, to a series of fiscal issues, enrollment challenges, and threats to close the school. Mansfield survived many struggles. North Hall is a microcosm of similar challenges. From the centerpiece of the campus which housed classrooms, student rooms, the Office of the President, a dining hall, and meeting rooms, it slowly deteriorated to a dilapidated structure that was a campus eyesore. However, Mansfield always came back. It overcame challenge after challenge and emerged stronger and stronger."

Other key players in the preservation of North Hall were Library Director Dr. Larry Nesbitt, and Bill Yost, vice president for administration and finance. In 1984, the general assembly appropriated \$6 million funding for the renovation project. State Representative Fred Noye, MU class of '68, was influential in persuading the general assembly to appropriate the funds. The original plan was to renovate the structure into a student center. Later it was determined that North Hall would better serve as a library. However, it was a long time before the funds were actually released. The battle to save North Hall was a long and difficult one.

Before any further steps could be taken, the building needed to be evaluated by an architect to determine if modifications could be made to support a change in weight capacity. According to Nesbitt, the weight-bearing capacity differed between a residence hall and a library. A typical library needs at least 150 pounds per square foot versus the 60 pounds per square foot required of a typical residence hall. In order to update the building there needed to be steel rods in the framework. The university got lucky. In 1985 Treby-Howard Phillips, an architectural firm from Allentown, PA surveyed the North wing and found the building structurally sound. The components needed to convert the old dormitory into a library were there. "If they had torn apart the south wing first, the building would have been torn down. So it was a pure stroke of luck," Nesbitt said.

In 1987 Governor Robert P. Casey sent Kelchner a letter saying that the state would release \$6.5 million to begin renovations on North Hall. Casey's letter stated: "Due to the historical value of this building, it is important to the commonwealth that it is preserved and reopened for use... not only will this project enhance the academic facilities on the Mansfield University Campus, but it will also restore the building's historical value in the community." (The North Hall Dedication Program Oct. 26th 1996). The program also states what the three proposals were in creating the new building.

1. Combine the campus's three libraries into North Hall.
2. Prepare for the next century by wiring the building for exploding electronic research technology.
3. Preserve the building's elegant 19th century heritage.

The \$6 million that was initially allotted by the state was not enough to complete the project. Another three to four million was needed. Dr. Stephen Bickham, professor of philosophy at Mansfield, created the Save North Hall committee as part of a fundraising effort. "The Save North Hall Committee was a faculty, alumni, student group of Pennsylvania citizens interested in supporting the university." Bickham explained.

"We had no official status with the university, though they knew who we were and what we were doing. I asked one other faculty member to be on the committee with me--Howard Travis, of the Communications Department. The names of all the committee members are on a plaque just outside the main library door," Bickham said. "What we did mostly was make telephone calls. We'd meet in my office once or twice a week and phone Harrisburg. . . . We learned our way around the bureaucracy."

Bickham said that he, himself, made very few of these calls. "We found that the alumni and students were much more effective than anyone else on the phone. The Pennsylvania Department of General Services (DGS) as well as our elected officials were charmed by the students being interested enough in this important project to make the calls."

Eventually the project began to move. "We knew where the finish line was," Bickham said. "That point was when the state would advertise bids for the project. It was a multi-million dollar deal, and there would be plenty of companies interested in getting the work. Once the winning bids were announced we would know we had won."

Bickham said committee members' work kept the project alive and, more importantly, a sense of hope that North Hall could be saved. He also painted a picture of what the building was like before the renovation. "Gradually the building became a derelict in the middle of campus. Windows were boarded up, and the ones that weren't boarded were broken by people throwing stones. You could hear water gushing down the inside steps of the building. The building was vulnerable to fire since there were no internal fire protection or fire notification systems." Bickham said.

Each floor had about 38 rooms. The hallways were dark and narrow. There were stories about homeless people living in North Hall and cooking pigeons to eat. . . . In the early 1990's before the renovation campus police were sent to North Hall to investigate a disturbance. The suspicious noise turned out to be from a great horned owl.

In June of 1993 bids were released to five different contractors. These included G.M. McCrossin Inc. of Bellefonte, PA.; Silvertip Inc. of Lewisburg PA; Schoonover Plumbing & Heating of Canton PA; G.O Wick Electric Inc. of Elmira NY; and Aven Fire System, Inc of Newcastle PA. The head architects during the Renovation was Eckles

company/architects from Newcastle PA. The building systems engineer was Pascoe Engineering Consultants Inc., also from Newcastle. The project was overseen by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services.

The renovation, which began in August 1994 took 18 months, and cost \$10 million. According to Nesbit, the renovation included adding more steel columns to increase the weight support needed for a library. All steel beams are camouflaged by white columns. Other major renovations included restoring/reopening the atrium, incorporating internet access, and encasing the porches in glass. "The challenge of a school is to use buildings as a primary indicator of academic vitality and student success," Nesbit said. "Before the North Hall renovation, all MU had buildings looked like shoe boxes... we had no building in use that stood out and made the statement that we're a good school."

North Hall was the first library in the U.S. that was planned with complete internet access. All the furniture in the library has an 1890's feel, and was designed by Brodart Furniture Company. Nesbit mentioned that the shape of the 1912 plaque, which is arched at the top, was the inspiration for the architectural design that appears as a theme throughout the library. Nesbit was involved in every detail of the renovation process, right down to the types, colors and shapes of the nuts and bolts.

The library officially opened on July 1, 1996. The transformation was unlike anything in campus history. "If you have a little money and persistence it's just phenomenal what you can get," Nesbit said. The Traditional Reading Room was dedicated to Dr. Larry Nesbit upon his retirement in 2005.

Today, North Hall continues to play an important role on campus for students. There have been some additions to the library since the renovation. These include energy efficient lights and windows, as well as the incorporation of wireless internet from anywhere in the library. Bean bag chairs for the students were also added. "I want this library to be the student's library. You want them to be comfortable and respectful of it and they always have been... they are fantastic with that," said Scott Dimarco, the current library director. "We want a library for the next generation of students, one that says to students we're here for you."

Other Sources used:

- Wellsboro Gazette Newspaper Archives- Green Free library
- Flashlight Newspaper Archives
- Mansfield University Archives
- 1957 Carontawan yearbook, published at Mansfield University

Special Thanks to:

- Dr. Stephen Bickham. Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Mansfield University
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- Mr. Joseph Maresco- former Vice President for Student Affairs
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