



The First Fifty Years of Clarion University—Venango Campus

50th Anniversary
CLARION
UNIVERSITY
1961-2011
VENANGO CAMPUS
1961-2011

A Golden Partnership of University and Community

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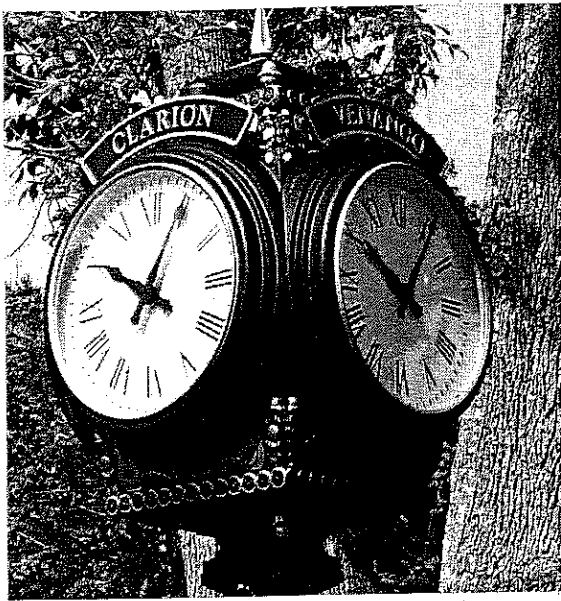
Jerri Gent
Fall 2011



Original Venango Campus classroom-library building, pond, and grounds. The flag flying at left was donated by the Oil City Moose Club. The gas lights in foreground were a gift of Venango Campus, Inc., the corporation formed to accept monies to construct the campus.



It is the policy of Clarion University of Pennsylvania that there shall be equal opportunity in all of its educational programs, services and benefits, and there shall be no discrimination with regard to a student's or prospective student's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation/affection, veteran status or any other factors that are protected under local, state, and federal laws. Direct equal opportunity inquiries to Assistant to the President for Social Equity, 207 Carrier Administration Building, Clarion, PA 16214-1232, 814-393-2109.



A Golden Partnership of University and Community

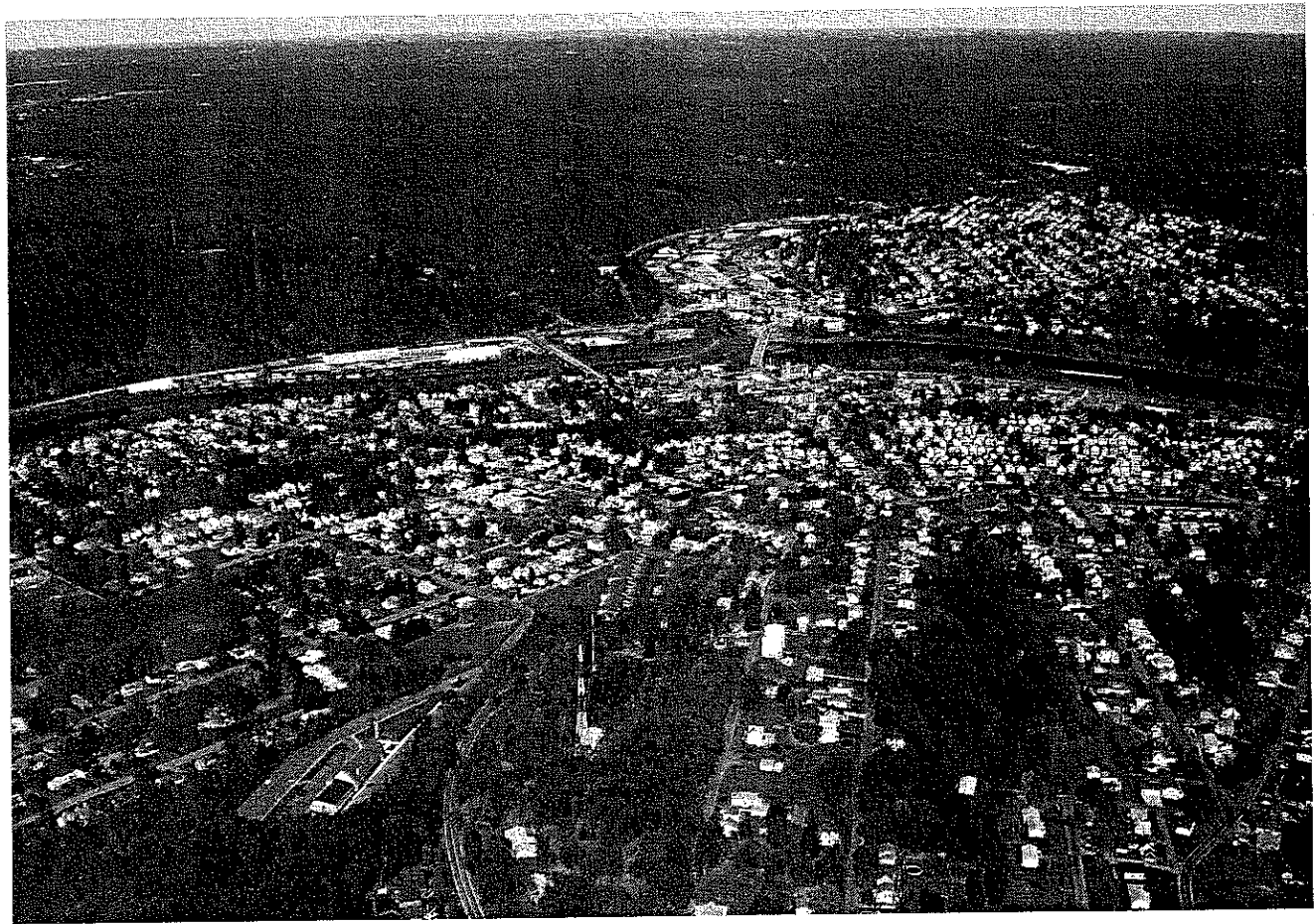
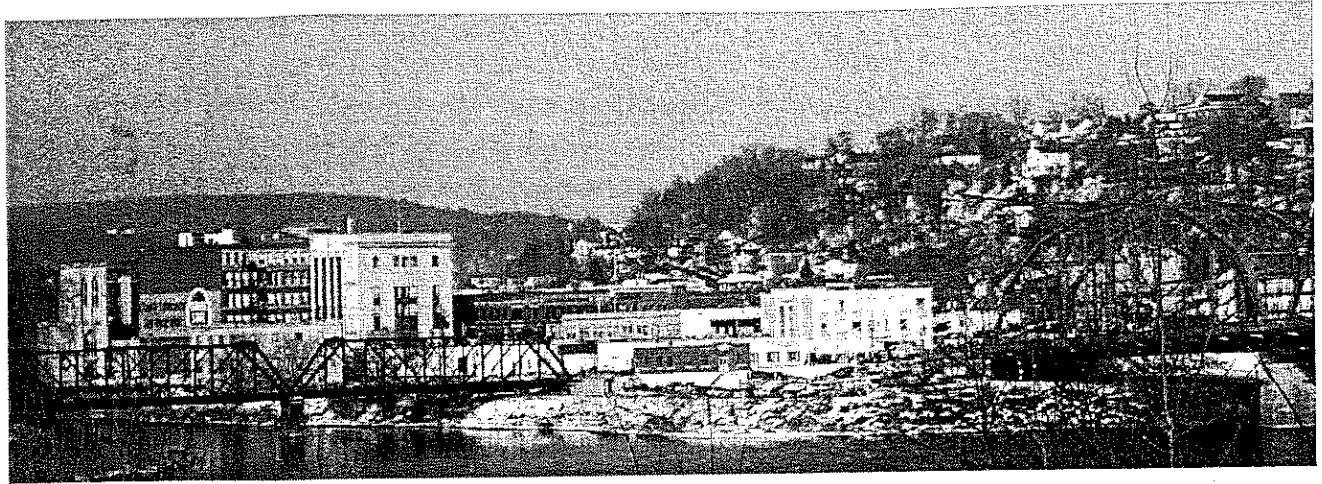
From its very beginning to the present, Clarion University–Venango Campus has been a product of community and university, working together to advance the needs of our region.

The history of Venango Campus is an inspiring story of the dedicated efforts of many people who raised funds for land, buildings and scholarships, and cut through miles of bureaucratic and legal red tape to build the first regional campus in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

It is also a story of partnerships, of finding ways to join forces with others in the fields of health care, industry, business and education to enhance and expand programs, extend outreach, share resources and meet the changing needs of the Commonwealth and its workforce in a dynamic and cost-effective manner.

For 50 years, heroes among us have changed lives, providing opportunities for students to achieve their dreams and helping to keep jobs—and the people who need them—here at home in our community.

It all began in 1960, when a group of community leaders envisioned the need for a higher education presence in Venango County and advocated the creation of what was to become Clarion University–Venango Campus.



The Oil City Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of President Robert W. Rhoades, executive president of The Derrick Publishing Company and vice president and general manager of Venango Newspapers, led the charge to establish a "junior college center" in Venango County. It was a truly unique and ambitious idea for its time: it would be the first off-campus branch of any of the 14 colleges in the Pennsylvania state system.

At that time, Clarion State College was one of three state colleges that specialized in the preparation of teacher-librarians. Clarion agreed to offer its freshman program in Venango County for the campus' first year of operation, with plans to expand the curriculum in subsequent years. Students who completed their first two years at the campus could move on to the main campus to complete bachelor's degrees in any of the four programs that Clarion then offered: library science, elementary education, secondary education and special education.

In April 1961, Clarion's new 11th president, Dr. James Gemmell, announced the opinion of Pennsylvania's State Attorney General that approved the plan, which read in part:

"We are of the opinion and you are accordingly advised that Clarion State College is authorized...to establish an off-campus center. We view the program...as an extension of Clarion State College pursuant to the authority of Section 2003 of the Public School Code of 1949 to provide other necessary facilities approved by the Superintendent of Public Education."

Mr. Rhoades announced that the chamber would mount a full-scale campaign to raise the \$350,000 needed to acquire land for the campus and to construct its first building. A non-profit organization named Venango Campus, Inc. was created to receive donations, purchase real estate and build and equip the new facility.

Several sites were considered, based on the criteria that it be within a 15-minute drive for anyone living in the Oil City and Franklin areas and just 30 minutes from Titusville and Tionesta. A site along West First Street in Oil City's West End was chosen, adjacent to property where a new Catholic high school was planned.



President
James Gemmell



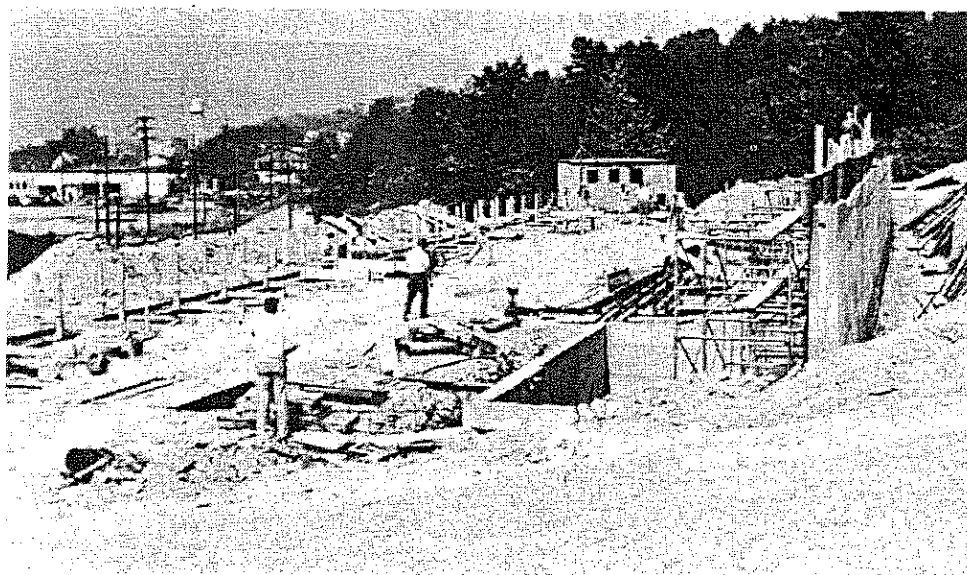
J.G. Montgomery

The Venango Campus Campaign Organization was led by general chairman J.G. Montgomery, president of United Natural Gas Company, and J.E. (Bob) Burns, of Gates & Burns, and included several hundred community leaders from Oil City, Franklin, Emlenton and Titusville, with well known names such as Charles L. Suhr, State Senator Richard C. Frame, Joseph S. Harvey, Edward P. Boyle, Benjamin G. McFate, Robert W. Rhoades, and Samuel E. Breene, to name just a few. Within three months, more than \$382,000—which equates to over \$2.8 million in current dollars—had been pledged by nearly 1,800 individuals, clubs and organizations.

In Oil City on May 23, 1961, Dr. Gemmell said, "Venango Campus is a combination of the best features of private contributions with public support. Such a partnership of private and public financing is in the best traditions of a free society and sets a pattern for other communities to follow."

L.O. Bouquin of Oil City was chosen as the contractor and the construction of what was then often referred to in the press as the "College Annex" began immediately.

Miss Jacoba Olmes of Oil City, one of 98 students who had already been accepted for the first class, turned over the first shovel-full of dirt.



Frame Hall under
construction 1961



Pictured at the campus' groundbreaking were, left to right, Hubert James, Wayne Blyler, student Jacoba Olmes, and Dr. Morgan. Mr James was the father of Lee James, current chair of the Clarion University Council of Trustees and long-time member of the Venango Campus Advisory Council.

Dr. Russell L.V. Morgan, assistant principal of Butler Area Senior High School, was named the first administrative head of the campus. Dr. Morgan, a Navy veteran, brought 31 years of educational experience to the position. Prior to going to Butler, he was professor of psychology and education and director of student personnel at Edinboro State College, after serving in administrative positions in several public school districts.

Serving with Dr. Morgan, who also taught courses in psychology, was a full-time faculty of seven and a librarian who doubled as Dr. Morgan's secretary.

One hundred and thirty-two individuals were enrolled for the 1961-62 academic year at Venango Campus, which began in temporary quarters



Dr. Russell L.V. Morgan

Oil City Trust Company Building



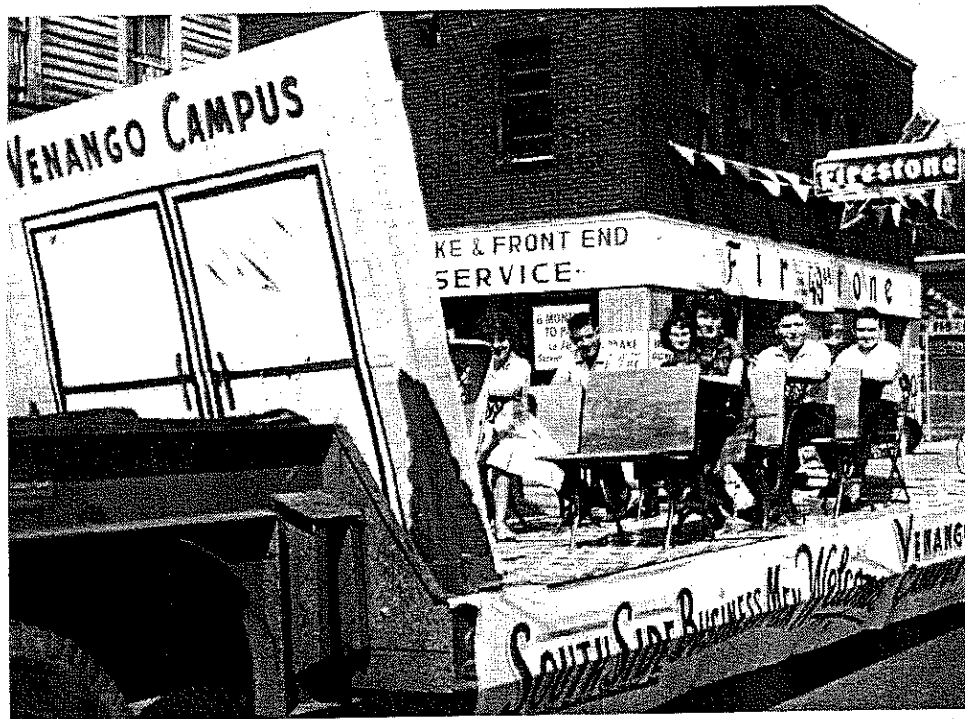
on the second floor of the Oil City Trust Company building that housed the Arlington Hotel and other businesses. Benjamin J. McFate and Louis Brody, owners of the building, contributed the space free of charge.

The curriculum that first year offered 18 credit hours in freshman courses, for a total cost for the year of \$235. According to a 1961 article printed in *The Derrick*, "For the price of a television set, one entire year of college is available to qualified applicants." Of course, books were extra. According to a college spokesperson, "The curriculum for the second year will depend upon the varied needs of those enrolled during the first year."

A week-long celebration was held for the new Venango Campus, beginning on September 17, 1961. The Community Playhouse staged a production of "Mother Was a Freshman" that week at the Belles Lettres Club to commemorate the occasion.

More than 300 people attended a Campus Ball, sponsored by the Oil City Junior Chamber of Commerce, at Wanango Country Club. Venango Campus students and their escorts were admitted for free.

An estimated crowd of 15,000 people was on hand to watch the celebration's culminating event, one of the largest parades Oil City had ever seen. Included in the lineup were the Clarion State College Band, fraternity and sorority members, faculty from the Venango and Clarion campuses, area marching units, floats and the excited new Venango Campus students.



College and local officials had hoped for an enrollment of 50 students for that first year, and were delighted when the campus attracted more than double that goal. Even at the end of the first term, there were 111 freshmen eager to move on into the brand new campus building. The majority of the freshman class moving to the new campus was from Oil City (36) and Franklin (33), with 14 students from Titusville and 28 students from various other locations.

The campus' first building, known as the library/classroom building, was opened for students in January 1962. The two-story structure contained five classrooms, a science laboratory with two adjoining preparation rooms, a library, a multi-purpose room, a student organizations' meeting room, a



First class

lunch room, men's and women's faculty rooms, a student lounge, a records room, and the administrative offices and file room.

A five-member advisory group for Venango Campus was appointed by the Clarion State College Board of Trustees. They included Dr. Thomas Gardner, Dr. H. Virgil Grumbling, J.G. Montgomery, Robert W. Rhoades and Samuel H. Strohm.

Course offerings were expanded from 18 to 47 for the 1962-63 academic year, and the student body grew to 190 students.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Williams was hired as head librarian that year, replacing Ms. Elizabeth Rupert. Mrs. Williams would serve in that capacity until her retirement in 1990 and continue to play a key role at the campus to this day, serving as a member and past long-time chair of the Venango Campus Advisory Council and on many committees.

Formal dedication of the Venango Campus was held on November 13, 1962, at the 50th anniversary banquet of the Oil City Chamber of Commerce.

J. G. Montgomery, Jr., president of Venango Campus, Inc., which had held title to the building and the site, and who was also chairman of the Campus Advisory Committee, presented the keys to the new campus building to Mr. R. R. Whitmer, president of the Board of Trustees of Clarion State College.

In his remarks, Mr. Montgomery unveiled the master plan for the development of the campus, which he termed "a dream for the future" that included dormitories and other future buildings, an athletic stadium, a memorial fountain, and the utilization of the West End Pond as an integral part of the campus landscaping.

Sixty-three students were in the first graduating class on Sunday evening, May 26, 1963. The ceremony marked the students' transition to the Clarion campus, where they would complete their degrees.

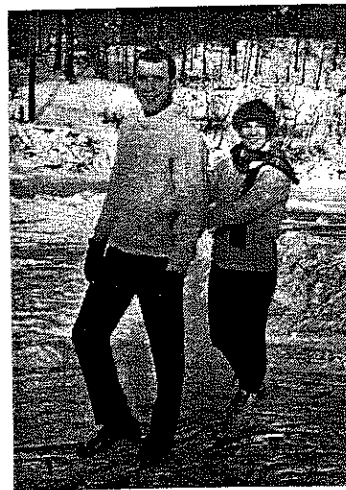


Vulcans in 1966

Co-curricular activities grew at the campus, and included bi-weekly record hops in the Multi-purpose Room, formal dances held off-campus at Wanango Country Club, Cross Creek Motor Lodge and at area lodge halls.

In 1964, the campus formed a basketball team, "The Vulcans," that played against such teams as Penn State's Behrend Center,

Clarion Junior Varsity and Edinboro State College. In addition, softball, archery, touch football, ping-pong, badminton, volleyball and quoits (a game similar to horseshoe pitching) were also enjoyed by students. A newspaper article from January 1965 reports that students were "planning ice skating parties on the beautifully renovated college lake, as soon as the weather will permit."



Ice skating on the West End Pond in the early 1960s

On June 25, 1965, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for a Venango Campus residence hall, located near the western end of the parking lot. A solid gold shovel was used for the festivities, which was later melted down and the proceeds contributed to the campus building fund.

The \$750,000 dormitory building itself was financed privately by the builder, Dor-May Company, Inc. of Murrysville, which operated three similar residence halls on the Clarion campus, two at West Virginia University, and one at California State College. It featured a central section with a kitchen and dining room on the first floor and a recreation area on the second floor, flanked on either side by wings to house 100 males and females each. Both wings were to be supervised by full-time adult residents.

"Enjoy your dorm—treat it well—and be proud of it to everyone," said Dr. Morgan to the student residents at the dedication in fall 1965.

Also, on the program were President Gemmell, Oil City Mayor Joseph W. Barr, Jr., and Mr. J. G. Montgomery, Jr., for whom the building was named.

Mayor Barr praised Mr. Montgomery for his dedication in leading the campaign to raise the funds to acquire the land and construct the first building.

"Monty's stamp has been on everything that has happened in connection with the campus since," he said. In recognition of the growing need for additional classroom, library and physical education facilities, Mr.

Barr said: "If you and I know Monty, these additional facilities will be arising out of the ground within the next couple of years."

Since Montgomery Hall wouldn't be ready to receive its new residents until mid-October, the community stepped in to help—once again—by providing temporary housing. The Oil City YWCA welcomed 44 young women in its gymnasium, and 56 young men bunked in the former businessmen's quarters on the second floor of the YMCA.



Cafeteria line in
Montgomery Hall

By fall 1967, the campus was bursting at the seams and Dr. Morgan was quoted in *The Derrick* describing faculty working conditions as "abominable."

"Thanks to the individual good nature of the faculty and the cooperative attitude of all concerned, we continue to get the job done," he said, but noted that faculty had no space for privacy or storage.

To alleviate the cramped conditions, temporary faculty offices were set up in a trailer near the site where the Robert W. Rhoades Center stands today.

A new library was very much needed. The American Library Association (ALA) required a minimum of 10,000 volumes for 2-year colleges, and the library was full to capacity with half that number. In addition, the ALA required seating capacity for 20 percent of a college's enrollment; at 39 seats, the library could seat just about 10 percent. Additional classroom space was also sorely needed, as was a space large enough to assemble the student body and to conduct physical education and sporting events.

But the solution wasn't as simple as raising the funds for additional buildings.

According to State Senator Richard C. Frame, the Venango Campus found itself in "a never-never land and not moving ahead" because of failure on the part of the Commonwealth.

The state had never accepted title to the real estate, so Venango Campus was still in the private ownership of Venango Campus, Inc., and was thus ineligible for state funds available for expansion as a branch campus of Clarion State College.

Though the Commonwealth had approved Clarion's establishment of Venango Campus just six years earlier, in 1967 it was taking a second look at branch campuses. The Council of Higher Education had commissioned a study that recommended that colleges divest themselves of branch campuses and that those campuses become community colleges. Until the study was completed, the state refused to accept the transfer of the property.

Meanwhile, the campus grew, as Dr. Morgan put it, "in every way but space," as the state considered its future.

To assist with the preparation of the update of its Master Plan for Higher Education, the Council of Higher Education contracted with Heald, Hobson and Associates, Inc. The consultants' recommendation was



Senator Richard C.
Frame

that a community college serving Venango, Crawford and Warren counties be established under the direction of the University of Pittsburgh, aided by Clarion and Edinboro State Colleges.

Months of public hearings followed, with Senator Frame working tirelessly to maintain Venango Campus' status as a branch campus of Clarion State College.

President Gemmell, Venango Campus faculty and staff and community members traveled to Erie in September 1968, where the State Board of Education heard statements from the Venango County Commissioners, Clarion State College, Venango Campus, Inc., Oil City Chamber of Commerce and the Oil City Ministerial Association. The commissioners' statement reflected the frustration of the community. "Abandonment of the original branch campus concept," it read, "would be a betrayal to the citizens who worked and contributed funds to the project."

Students took a very active role in preserving the campus' status, forming the Concerned Students of Venango Campus, which surveyed the community, researched avenues of action and circulated petitions. In an era when student activism often had negative connotations, these young men and women expressing their loyalty and concern for their campus were impressive representatives of the institution they defended.

By spring 1969, Senator Frame reported encouraging signs. The State Board of Education had adopted new criteria for designating branch campuses. Almost another year passed before, at long last, the Commonwealth accepted the campus property. On March 13, 1970, Senator Frame and Assemblyman Alvin Kahle presented the deed to Venango Campus to the state for recording at the Venango County Courthouse, ending the long uncertainty of the campus' future and allowing its expansion.

In less than a week, plans were announced by the legislators for the preparation of a master plan, a library/classroom building and an instructional complex, with a total price tag of \$1,750,000, to be included in the state's capital budget.

In June 1968, the state announced its approval of an associate degree in nursing, added under a special exemption from a state rule that allowed only community colleges to grant associate degrees. Ms. Ruth Benfield of Pittsburgh, who had served as director of nursing at Oil City Hospital at one time, was hired to lead the program. Ms. T. Audean Dahle, who later became T. Audean Duespohl, was appointed assistant director of nursing.

The first class of students was admitted in 1970 under provisional approval by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners, which granted full approval in 1975.

In July 1983, the ASN program was granted initial accreditation for eight years by the National League for Nursing Board of Review. By that time, 315 students had earned Clarion University associate degrees in nursing.

The program would flourish over the years, and its graduates would go on to complete bachelor's and, often, master's degrees in nursing.

Clarion University Foundation, Inc. was organized in 1969 to "promote educational purposes in connection with or at the request of Clarion University." The Foundation is the organization designated to receive and manage private sector gifts provided for support of the activities and programs of the university. Throughout the years, the Foundation has been a valued partner of Venango Campus, playing a vital role in raising the funds for scholarships and renovations, including two renovations of Montgomery Hall. In the last eight years, the Foundation has been instrumental in developing the private funding for the student apartment housing that has been so important to the campus' growth and in the renovation of Robert W. Rhoades Center, among other projects.

Dr. Morgan retired in August 1971, completing 42 years in education in Pennsylvania, 11 of them as the administrative head of Venango Campus. Dr. William Ellsworth Vincent, the associate secretary of the American Association of University Professors, was named to succeed Dr. Morgan.



Vice President for Student and University Affairs Harry E. Tripp has played a leadership role in Venango Campus' development.



Dr. William Ellsworth Vincent



Robert W. Rhoades

In fall 1974, the campus launched a two-year program in business administration to prepare students for supervisory positions in business offices. Because the Commonwealth still held that only community colleges were permitted to offer associate degrees, students received a letter of attainment upon successful completion of the program. They could, however, continue at the Clarion campus for two additional years and earn a bachelor's degree in business administration.

In January 1976, the new 18,000 square foot, \$765,000 student center and instructional complex at the Venango Campus was ready. It featured a gymnasium, locker rooms, an auditorium that was also used for classes, a study lounge, recreational areas, and a fully-equipped kitchen.

The building was named in honor of Robert W. Rhoades, one of the driving forces behind the development of the campus, who had died in 1967.

The new library opened in July that same year. It featured space for about 24,000 books, work and circulation rooms, offices for the librarian and her staff, and study areas.

It was named in honor of the late Charles L. Suhr, the former president and chairman of the board of Pennzoil, who had played such a key role in the development of the campus and whose grandson, Hank Suhr, has continued to support the campus for many years. Hank remains an active member of the Venango Campus Advisory Council.



Charles L. Suhr



Dedication ceremonies were held on October 25, 1976, for the new buildings. Speakers included Dr. Vincent, President Gemmell and State Senator Frame. Events scheduled throughout the day included an arts and crafts display in the library, a display of physical activities in the gymnasium and blood pressure screenings offered by nursing students.

A short play depicting a "Dramatic Review of Events in Campus History," written by Mr. Frank Clark, was performed in the auditorium, and a dance was held in the lounge. The day ended with a performance by the Clarion State College Lab Jazz Band, under the direction of Dr. Rex Mitchell.

The library's move from the classroom building created space there to expand the nursing department. Dr. Vincent announced plans to add a nurses' laboratory, a nursing department office and storage space. The administrative offices were enlarged, the former library reading room was converted into a classroom and bids were sought to renovate the top floor of the building.



Hank Suhr



Tour of Suhr Library during the Open House and Dedication Ceremony of Robert W. Rhoades Center and Charles L. Suhr Library on October 25, 1976. Pictured left to right are J. G. Montgomery, Chairman, Venango Campus Advisory Group; Mary E. (Libby) Williams, Head Librarian; and Albert B. Iorfido, President, Venango Federal Savings and Loan, one of the four savings and loans that owned Montgomery Hall.

But enrollment declined at the campus. There were 284 students enrolled in fall 1976, down from 377 the previous year. Enrollment of commuter students remained fairly steady, but there were only 55 students living in the residence hall that could accommodate 200. Dr. Vincent called the situation a "serious crisis" and cited the lack of two-year associate degree programs that could provide career training in special skills areas as the most important factor limiting enrollment.

In an article he wrote for *The Derrick*, published on August 31, 1976, Dr. Vincent expressed his frustration with the State Board of Education for its reluctance to allow state-owned colleges and universities to offer associate degrees:

The campus has been a precedent-setting institution: it was the first branch campus of a state college established and the only one with facilities purchased and constructed with local dollars; it is the only state-owned branch campus to have expanded with new construction under the Department of General Services; and it is the only state-owned campus housing an associate degree in nursing program....It is no exaggeration to say that the campus enjoys an unusually high level of support from all public agencies in the city. There is no reason to suppose the Venango Campus cannot operate effectively in such an environment to develop career programs in response to the needs of the community. The Campus Advisory Group, Venango Campus, Inc., the Chamber of Commerce, and the many other friends of the campus have supported this common cause in countless ways. These people have understood the potential of Venango Campus all along. I believe in time that potential can be realized and their faith and work can be rewarded. But, unfortunately, it won't happen tomorrow. It may not happen at all unless the voice of this community is heard loudly and in the right places.

In November, the State Department of Education approved the Associate of Arts in Business Administration degree, pending the approval by the Regional Council of Colleges and assessment by state officials.

Soon after, Clarion State College sought approval for three additional degrees: Associate of Arts in Business Data Processing, Associate of Arts for Library Media Technician and Associate of Science in Life Management Services.

Dr. Vincent announced his resignation, effective November 1, 1976, to become the dean of academic affairs at Montgomery County Community College.

Mr. Frank Clark was appointed acting administrative head. An associate professor of speech communications and theater, Mr. Clark was responsible for a very active and popular theatre program, many of the productions in partnership with Oil City's Community Playhouse.



Frank Clark

Just when associate degrees had been approved and could offer the key to the future success of the campus, the owners of the financially failing Montgomery Hall threatened to close the dormitory at the end of the fall semester.

The builder, Dor-May Corp., had defaulted on the mortgage and owed approximately \$357,000 in taxes. The building had been sold at a sheriff's sale in 1972 for \$10,400 to four savings and loan associations that lost \$20,000 on the property in 1975 and were predicting losses double that amount for 1976. The college agreed to lease the dormitory for a semester.

However, in spring 1977, Clarion State College President Clayton Sommers notified the savings and loans that the college would not renew the lease. At that time, just 37 students lived in Montgomery Hall. College officials cited a clause in the lease that stated the dormitory would revert to state ownership if the building was not used to house students at the Venango Campus.



President
Clayton Sommers

The owners of the building disagreed with that interpretation of the deed and responded with a proposal of a fee of more than double that of residence hall space at the Clarion campus, contending that they were operating a residence hall—but nobody was willing to pay the proposed rate. The building owners resumed operating the building, with fewer and fewer tenants.

In June 1977, the Board of Trustees of Clarion State College voted unanimously to name the classroom building at Venango Campus in honor of Senator Frame, who had been killed when his plane crashed near Harrisburg the previous February.



Charles Blank

Charles Blank, the associate superintendent of education at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, became the third campus administrator in fall 1977. He found campus enrollment at just 124 for full-time and 166 for part-time students, the lowest in the campus' history. Five years later, both numbers had doubled.

In an interview with a reporter from *The Derrick*, Mr. Blank said that he had begun with what he called his "program basis, a positive attitude both on the campus and in the community, by informing the public of the opportunities available at the campus."

Mr. Blank fortuitously predicted the future expansion of medical programs at the campus.

"I would hope that we will be able to expand our allied health field here," he said, suggesting programs in radiology and respiratory care.



President
Thomas A. Bond

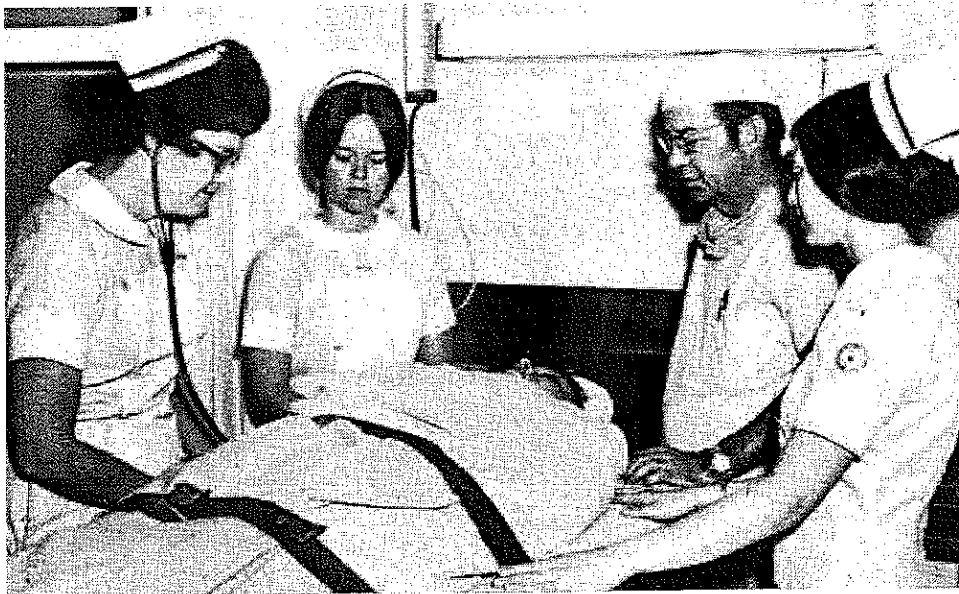
Dr. Thomas A. Bond was named Clarion State College's 13th president in August 1980. Dr. Bond came to Clarion from Eastern Illinois University, where he served as provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Sometime around one in the morning on Saturday, April 4, 1981, vandals caused thousands of dollars of damage to Montgomery Hall, leaving a scene described in an *Erie Times-News* article as "something out of 'Animal House.'"

Fifty-two students were evacuated; the other 26 student residents were away for the weekend. When police arrived, they found some students splashing through ankle-deep water in the dormitory's halls.

That spelled the end of Montgomery Hall as a residence hall, but it would have a bright future in the years ahead, once the dispute of its ownership was resolved.

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree was introduced in January 1982, the only baccalaureate nursing program in the northwest Pennsylvania region that included Erie, Warren, Venango, Clarion, Crawford and Bradford counties. The new degree was developed in response to a 1979 survey that indicated that 280 registered nurses in the region were interested in furthering their education. T. Audean Duespohl, chair of the department of nursing, was named director of the BSN program.



Early nursing students

In 1982, through an act of the state legislature, the 14 state colleges were moved from the control of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to a new organization, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. The act also changed the status of the colleges to universities and allowed them more latitude in the development of academic programs.



Dr. Thomas Rookey

Dr. Thomas J. Rookey became administrative head of Venango Campus on June 1, 1983. His most recent position had been as executive director of a New Jersey educational improvement center, a facility comparable to an intermediate unit in Pennsylvania. Dr. Rookey said that a deciding factor in accepting the position was the "unusually supportive and cohesive" attitude of the faculty, staff and members of the community he encountered when he came for his interview. He said that he "never met a group of people who were as involved in the future of an institution."

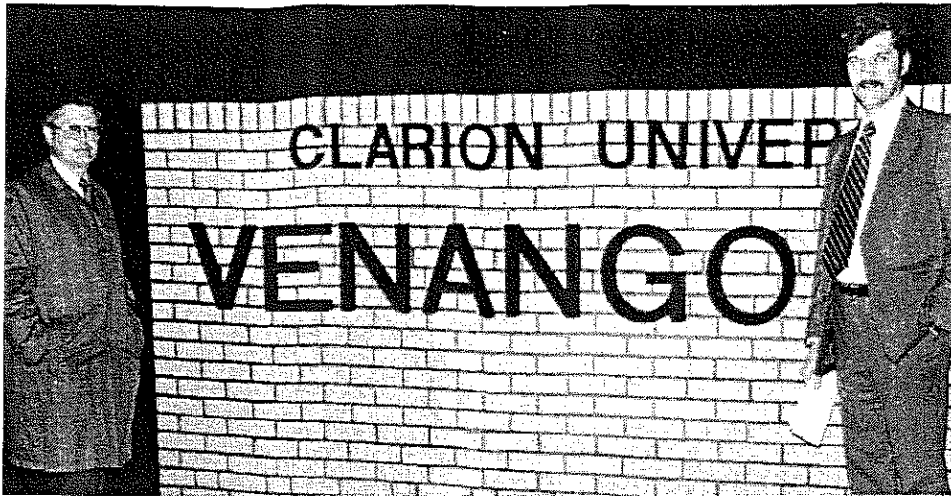
Dr. Rookey predicted that "adult education and career retraining will become a dominant force in higher education."

Venango Campus held the first commencement ceremony in its 23-year history on May 12, 1984. Previously, Venango Campus was represented by one Venango Campus graduate designee at the Clarion campus ceremony, while other Venango Campus graduates were invited to attend.

At an outdoor ceremony attended by more than 500 people, 60 students were awarded degrees in business, nursing and habilitative services. Joseph S. Harvey, chair of the Venango Campus Advisory Council, served as honorary marshal, and Christy Helck, president of the student senate, served as student marshal.

In addition to Mr. Harvey, advisory council members at the time were Joseph W. Barr, Jr., Ronald E. Black, E.P. Boyle, William H. Clark, Jr., William Daugherty, Dr. Thomas Gardner, Wesley Hill, Kim Lyttle, Layton Matchulet, Robert Price, Henry Suhr, Jr. and Dr. Syed R. Ali-Zaidi.

State Representative Joseph Levi presented the campus with a flag that had flown over the capitol, which was displayed during the ceremony.



President Bond, left, and Dean Rookey unveil the new Venango Campus sign that reflects Clarion's university status.

At the time, the campus offered associate degrees in habilitative services, liberal arts and nursing, and business degrees in accounting, office management and computers and the bachelor's degree in nursing.

The Venango Campus Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society (which is now international), received its charter in fall 1984. The charter was petitioned in response, said Dr. Rookey, "to the growing excellence as evidenced by an increasing achievement level" of Venango Campus students. Seven students were approved as charter members: Dale Powers, a business major from Franklin; Joseph Sparks, a nursing major from Oil City; Judith Flis, an accounting major from Seneca; Helen Aylesworth, a habilitative services major from Polk; Harold Andrews, a habilitative services major from Cochran; Vicki Amsdell, a business administration major from Oil City; and Jamie Davidson, a nursing major from Titusville.

Another organization got its start on campus that fall. "Adult Learners" was organized to address the unique needs of students who had been out of school for more than two years. More than half of the 218 full-time and 353 part-time students at Venango Campus at that time were over 22 years of age.



Charlotte Boyles, longtime Venango Campus administrative assistant, retired in October 1984.

In summer 1985, the university expanded its grade-school summer enrichment program to Venango Campus.

"The response to our programs offered to students in grades one through six was so great, we had to turn some away because our classes were filled," said Dr. Rookey.

Venango Campus set a new all-time enrollment record in fall 1985, with 235 full-time and 377 part-time students.

The saga of Montgomery Hall continued. Three tax sales, where the county had hoped to recoup the more than \$100,000 in real estate taxes owed by the savings and loan group, were held in 1984, but no bidders came forward and the property remained on the county tax assessment rolls. The owners claimed that they shouldn't be held liable for the taxes because of a clause in the deed: in 1998, the property would revert to the state anyway.

In October 1985, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education agreed to assume ownership of Montgomery Hall on two conditions: that the Clarion University Foundation hold the title until the lower two floors could be renovated and that a clear deed be attained. The Foundation agreed to the first term and began making plans to raise the private funds necessary to renovate the first two floors into classrooms and faculty offices. The long-term plan was to use the upper floors as residence halls, but that would have to wait until the state held the clear deed and state funding was available.

In order to acquire a clear deed, back taxes would have to be forgiven by the Oil City Area School District, Venango County and the City of Oil City and those taxing bodies would have to agree to waive their interest in seeking payment of taxes on the building. Months of negotiations ensued in an effort to achieve forgiveness of the taxes and any liens on the property. While the city, county and school district continued their efforts to collect real estate taxes dating back to 1978 from the four savings and loans, quitclaim deeds were acquired from all necessary parties and the Clarion University Foundation assumed temporary ownership of Montgomery Hall.

Renovations could finally begin. With the help of State Senator John Peterson and State Representative Ron Black, \$360,000 in state funding was secured to renovate the lower floors, but another \$300,000 was still needed. Approximately \$150,000 was donated by the Samuel Justus Charitable Trust, Edith C. Justus Charitable Trust, Laura Smedley Charitable Trust and the Dr. and Mrs. Arthur William Phillips Charitable Trust.

Another \$50,000 was provided by the organization that started it all. After 25 years, the last two original members remaining on the corporation board of Venango Campus, Inc., Joseph S. Harvey and E. P. Boyle, decided that the corporation had fulfilled its mission.

The corporation had been formed in 1961 to raise \$350,000 to purchase land and build what later became known as Frame Hall. More funds were raised than were needed at the time, however, so the corporation retained the funds, and its board members contributed more money each year for the betterment of the campus. Over the years, the corporation funded such projects as lights for Rhoades auditorium, exterior lighting, the campus sign at the end of the drive and the cleaning of West End Pond.

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Boyle voted to donate the balance of its funds, \$50,000, to the Montgomery Hall renovation project and instructed their attorney to file papers to dissolve the corporation. The sum of \$150,000 was still needed to complete the Montgomery Hall renovation project.

Fittingly, administrators of Oil City, Franklin and Titusville Hospitals were named to chair the drive to renovate the building that would allow for the growth of the School of Nursing. More than half of the 200 graduates of the nursing program were now working at one of the three hospitals.

Neil Todhunter, president of the Oil City Area Health Center; Jim Reber, administrator and chief executive officer of Franklin Regional Medical Center; and Bill Likar, president of Titusville Hospital, were named to chair the successful campaign, entitled "Invest in the Health of the Tri-city Area."



E.P. Boyle



Joseph S. Harvey

In November 1985, the Division of Nursing became the School of Nursing, as approved by the Clarion University Council of Trustees. The change was due to increasing enrollment and diversity of the program, now in its second year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, in addition to the Associate of Science in Nursing degree. The new designation was also expected to enhance the image of the nursing programs in the Venango Campus' market area.

Venango Campus celebrated its 25th anniversary in May 1986. Approximately 200 people attended a dinner dance at Wanango Country Club, where it was announced that a new award—the Venango Campus Distinguished Alumni Award—would be presented each year to campus alumni who distinguished themselves through community service or career achievement.

Since that time, the Clarion University Alumni Association has honored these Venango Campus alumni who have made the campus proud.

Library technicians
Brenda Sturtz and
Sylvia Wiegel



The campus continued to expand its curriculum and an Associate of Arts in Arts and Sciences degree was added in fall 1986.

The Nursing Honor Society at Venango Campus held its first induction ceremony in May 1987. This was the required first step toward the establishment of a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. Membership was based on academic achievement in a baccalaureate nursing program, community nursing skills and demonstrated achievement and strengthening commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.

In 1990, the society was officially chartered as a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

Work was underway at Montgomery Hall to turn irregularly shaped and small residence hall rooms into usable classroom spaces and create a modern nursing lab.

Plans called for the lower floor to house a faculty lounge, a meeting room large enough for 60 people, storage areas, four classrooms and clinical areas, with two lecture areas arranged amphitheater-style to accommodate large classes. The nursing department offices would be centrally located on the second floor, with other faculty offices and student activities program areas in the two wings on either side.

In May 1987, with renovations to the first two floors of Montgomery Hall completed, the title of the building was at last transferred to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. This move would allow future renovations to be funded through the university.

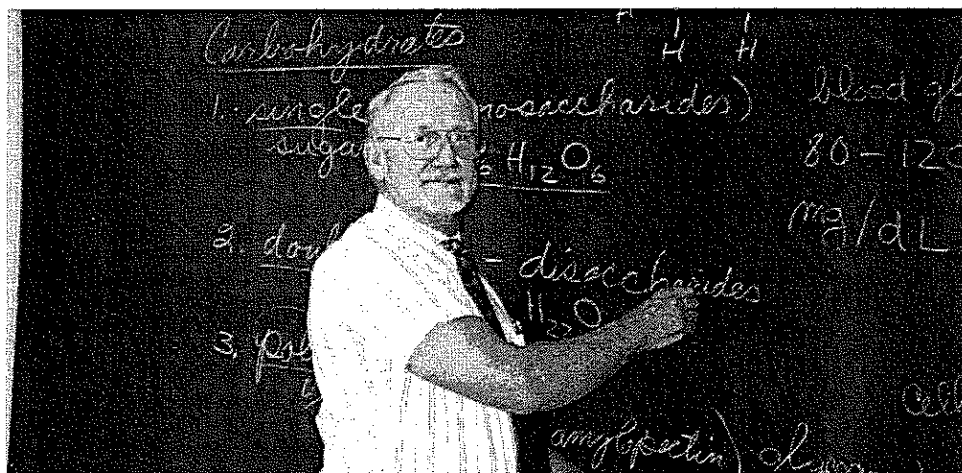
In November 1987, the School of Nursing received approval to establish a satellite program at West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh to offer nurses and nursing students in the Pittsburgh area an opportunity to complete the requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The program was developed at the request of West Penn Hospital because

the only BSN-completion programs available in the Pittsburgh area were offered at expensive private institutions.

The Associate of Science in Allied Health degree would later be offered at the West Penn Site, with West Penn's NLNAC*-accredited Nursing Diploma Program forming the technical concentration for the degree, and Clarion offering general education and support courses.

Chemistry professor Dr. Glenn McElhattan, who had joined the Venango Campus faculty in 1968, was serving on the university's Faculty Senate sub-committee that represented Venango Campus when he and fellow teacher Dalph Cook agreed that Venango Campus deserved its own faculty group. They established Faculty Forum, which would become a key campus organization that evolved into Venango Forum, bringing together faculty and staff to exchange campus and university information and ideas.

Dr. Glenn
McElhattan



Dr. McElhattan became better known for developing an outstanding Venango Campus scholarship program that flourished under his leadership for some thirty years until his retirement in 2007 and continues to this day. Through his tireless efforts and generous personal support, the Venango Campus scholarship program has provided life-changing opportunities to

* National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission

hundreds of students who might not otherwise have had an opportunity to pursue a college education.

Dr. McElhattan continues to provide much-appreciated guidance and assistance to the campus. He is serving as the chair of the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee and a year-long celebration during the 2011-12 academic year.

* * * * *

The newly renovated Montgomery Hall was rededicated on Sunday, January 17, 1988. The program included comments from President Thomas Bond, Jack Blaine, vice president for development, and Dean Rookey.

"This is a fine example of a community which is dedicated to the general needs of higher education," said President Bond.

* * * * *

An Associate of Science in Paralegal Business Studies degree was approved by the State System of Higher Education in February 1988. The program was an outgrowth of an existing concentration offered under the associate degree in business administration. Fifty-seven law firms were consulted in the development of the degree program.

* * * * *

Dr. Diane Reinhard was named president of Clarion University in June 1990. She came to Clarion from West Virginia University, where she had served as teacher, dean and interim president.

When she later reflected on her 13 years as president, Dr. Reinhard said of Venango Campus, "Our Venango Campus stands as a tribute to providing educational opportunities in new and different ways. An evolving resource for the Venango County area for more than 40 years, today's revitalized Venango Campus looks forward to a bright future. Important to that future will be new partnering efforts, such as the campus' recent introduction of non-credit certificate programs aimed at workforce development."

* * * * *



President
Diane Reinhard



Dr. James W. Blake

In April 1990, Dr. James W. Blake was named executive dean of Venango Campus. Dr. Blake came to Venango Campus from Marshalltown Community College in Iowa.

When Dr. Blake suffered a heart attack during the 1993-94 academic year and requested reassignment to teaching duties the next fall, Dr. Joseph P. Grunenwald, a long-time Clarion faculty member, became interim executive dean at Venango Campus. Dr. Grunenwald was a professor of marketing and department chair, who would later become president of Clarion University.

In January 1995, the Clarion University Council of Trustees approved a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a nurse practitioner concentration. The program, a collaborative effort of Clarion and Slippery Rock Universities, and eventually Edinboro University, was developed in response to a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Task Force and would serve as a model for collaborative efforts within the State System. A nurse educator track was later added.

The program is offered today as a partnership of Clarion and Edinboro Universities.



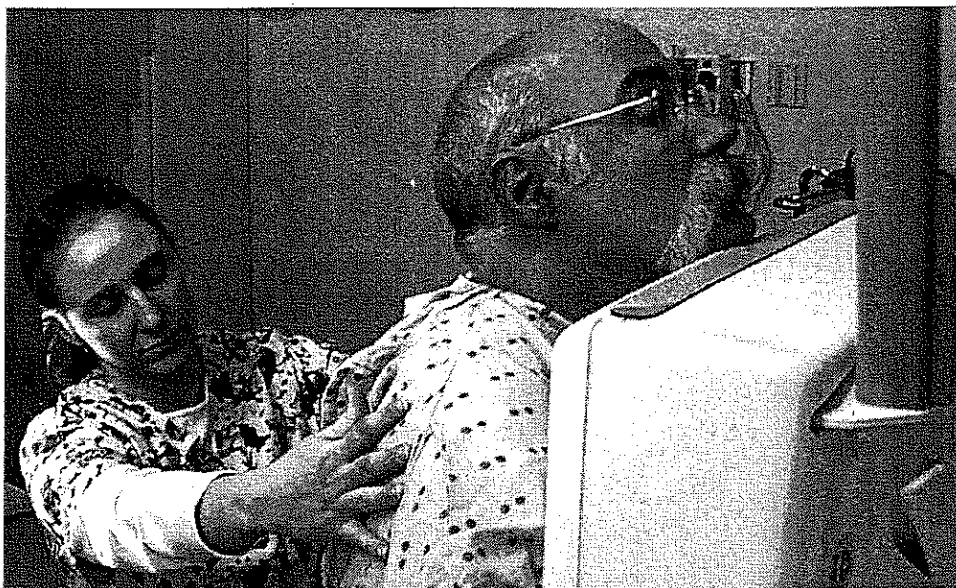
Dr. Arthur J. Acton

In fall 1995, Venango Campus had a new executive dean, Dr. Arthur J. Acton, who came to the campus from Chatham College in Pittsburgh, where he had served as vice president for academic affairs.

His arrival came at a time when the area was reeling from the departure from Oil City of the corporate headquarters of Quaker State Corporation.

"We recently held two workshops for dislocated Quaker State employees," he said in an interview with *The Derrick*, "letting them know about all we can provide in the form of traditional education, career counseling and resume preparation."

Dr. Acton also developed "distance learning" capabilities at the campus, renovating the upper floors of Montgomery Hall into a technology center. Utilizing interactive television, students could now take courses at the Venango Campus previously available only on the Clarion campus.



In 1998, the School of Nursing launched a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences degree program in collaboration with Northwest Medical Center, which later became UPMC Northwest. The program would grow over the years, becoming the B.S. in Medical Imaging Sciences program, a partnership of Clarion University and six hospitals that offers five clinical concentrations.

Distance education came to play an increasingly important role in the delivery of university programs, and Dr. Acton divided his time between his campus duties and overseeing distance education programs. As the distance education commanded more and more of Dr. Acton's time, he was named assistant vice president for academic affairs for the university and Dr. T. Audean Duespohl was named interim executive dean.



Dr. T. Audean Duespohl

Campus enrollment had fluctuated over the years, but in 1999, with enrollment at less than 400 students, the future of the campus was again uncertain. A marketing firm from Florida was hired to analyze the situation and assess the campus' viability.

After months of research in early 2000, which included analysis of demographic, educational and economic trends of the Venango County area and nearly a thousand interviews with a broad spectrum of constituents, the consultants found that "Venango Campus is in a crisis situation." Their report indicated that the campus possessed "overarching strengths" that justified keeping it open, but it would require "rapid and authoritative action" to arrest its decline.

Clarion University resolved to take that action and to provide the support that would allow the campus to make strategic plans for its future success. A national search for an executive dean was launched.



Administrative office
secretaries (l-r)
Bonnie Kostek,
Penny Shaughnessy
and Cindy Busch

In 2001, the ASN program, in addition to offering traditional courses, formed partnership agreements with UPMC Northwest and Meadville Medical Center to deliver the program to employees and prospective employees. Under this creative model, instruction could be provided part-time over a four-year period, mostly at the hospitals and online, through contracted programming. Hospitals provided full tuition assistance in order to "grow their own" nursing workforce.

In 2005, the first cohorts of UPMC Northwest and Meadville Medical Center staff, who attended classes part-time while working full-time at the hospitals, earned their associate of science in nursing degrees and became registered nurses. Because of the success of that program, two new cohorts of more than 50 UPMC Northwest and Meadville Medical Center employees and affiliates began the program in fall 2006. Since that time, an additional two cohorts have begun the program.

The Division of Continuing Education was established in 2001, with a mission to increase the campus' visibility in the community by bringing more residents to campus. Its first charge was to establish the SeniorNet Learning Center to help people age 50 and older learn to use computers and the



Internet. The Kids in College summer enrichment program for children in kindergarten through 12th grade was also launched that first year.

The continuing education program rapidly expanded, adding additional adult classes, personal enrichment courses and certificate programs. It also offered the College Level Examination Placement exam (CLEP), which provides students an opportunity to receive credit for particular courses by earning a passing grade on the exam.

Continuing education at Venango Campus continues to grow by addressing critical job training needs, offering both for-credit and non-credit courses.

* * * * *



Dr. Christopher M. Reber

Dr. Christopher M. Reber was named executive dean in July 2002. He came to his new position after having spent eighteen years at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, where he served on the senior management team in several positions, including Behrend's equivalent of two vice presidencies: chief development, university relations, and alumni relations officer; and chief student affairs officer.

* * * * *

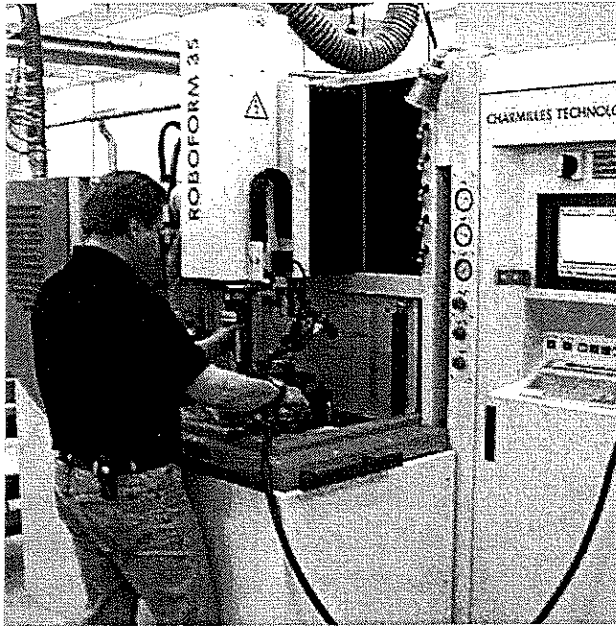
At that time, the local economy continued to feel the effects of the loss of Quaker State, Pennzoil and other industry. The results of an economic development study conducted at the urging of U.S. Congressman John E. Peterson suggested the critical need for a workforce with specialized technical skills and the educational background to move into leadership positions.

Venango Campus had considered associate degrees with technical concentrations before, but the stumbling block had always been the same: the difficulty in recruiting a critical number of students that would make the investment in equipment and faculty feasible.

In 2003, the university found the solution, utilizing a creative partnership approach, and launched a new Department of Applied Technology with its academic home at Venango Campus.

Under this unique model, students could complete general education and business courses at the Venango Campus and the technical component

of the degree through licensed, certified, accredited and/or otherwise approved technical education partners, graduating with an Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Technology degree from Clarion University. In this manner, just one or two students could take advantage of a particular concentration, because they could enroll in already established classes



offered at both the campus and through the technical education partners.

In 2006, the State System approved a new Associate of Applied Science in Administration Technology degree, designed to prepare students for entry-level careers in auctioneering, business office professional, certified web designer, insurance and office technology. The program provides students the foundation for further education and advancement into positions beyond the entry level offered through the Department of Applied Technology.

In November 2009, the Industrial Technology program was awarded national accreditation by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE). ATMAE is recognized as the premier professional association for the accreditation of industrial technology programs in colleges, universities and technical institutes. Clarion's is the only associate degree program in industrial technology to achieve this prestigious distinction in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Applied Technology enrollment now exceeds 100 and is growing steadily, with a graduate job placement rate of over 95 percent.



President
Joseph P. Grunenwald

Dr. Joseph P. Grunenwald became the 15th president of Clarion University in July 2003. He brought to the presidency a long and respected record of professional service as a professor of marketing and department chair, interim executive dean of the Venango Campus, director of continuing education, dean of the College of Business Administration and provost and academic vice president.

Dr. Grunenwald had spent 25 years at Clarion University prior to his presidency and, as interim executive dean of Venango Campus, had seen the campus go through its ups and downs. A consummate marketer, he provided the support the campus needed at the perfect time in its development.

"It was clear to me," said Dr. Grunenwald, "that with the proper programs, approaches and support we could deliver on the promise of the Venango Campus that the founders had envisioned. On our fiftieth anniversary, I am convinced that those founders would be proud of what we accomplished: faculty, staff and administrators all working hard to advance a community through education."

A new Associate of Science in Criminal Justice degree was created in the fall of 2004 to prepare students for a myriad of career opportunities, including criminal investigation, corrections, probation, parole, and court administration. The program provides a solid, broad-based education in all five areas that comprise criminal justice, including policing, juvenile justice, criminology, law adjudication and corrections.

Clarion University-Venango Campus began a new chapter in its development when it opened the first two of seven planned student apartment buildings in August 2004 on a 2.6-acre tract across West First Street from the campus.

The Edward V. and Jessie L. Peters Charitable Trust provided a gift to fund a two-story building named in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Peters, through the generosity of Mrs. Peters' son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Joyce Hughes.



Elizabeth S. Black Hall was funded primarily by the Elizabeth S. Black Charitable Trust, Hank and Beverly Suhr, and the Dr. and Mrs. Arthur William Phillips Charitable Trust, with additional support from the Laura Smedley Charitable Trust, the Frederick & Ellen Fair Charitable Trust and John K. Henne of Titusville.

The buildings were designed by Ligo Architects of Slippery Rock, constructed by Whalen Contracting, Inc. of Franklin and are owned and managed by the Clarion University Foundation, Inc. as are all the apartment buildings that have followed.

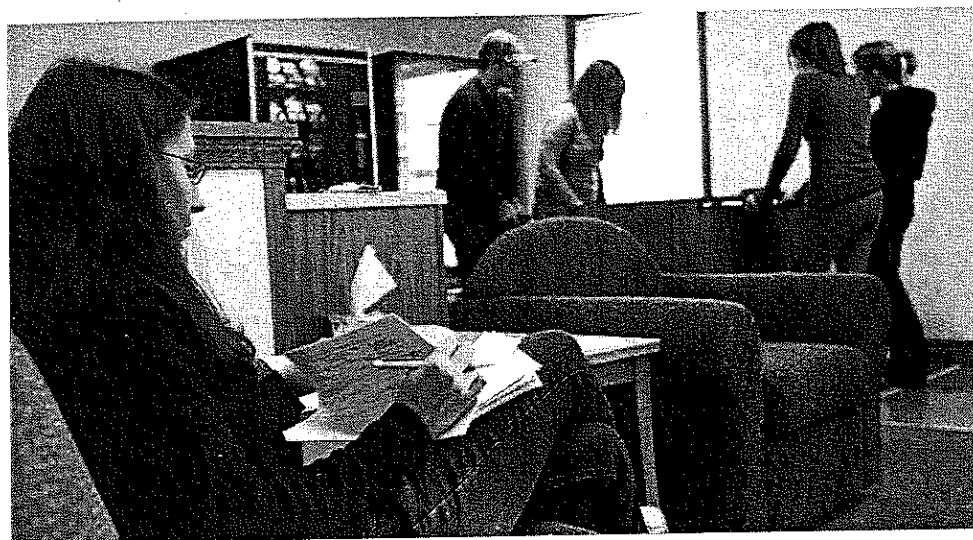
Michael F. and Joyce I. Hughes Hall, which opened in fall 2006, was made possible primarily through donations by the Edward V. and Jessie L. Peters Charitable Trust and the Jessie L. Peters Charitable Lead Annuity Trust. Additional support was provided by Hank and Beverly Suhr and the Dr. and Mrs. Arthur William Phillips Charitable Trust. The three-story building, housing 20 students, features a community center where all residents of the complex can gather for study or socializing.



Hank and Beverly Suhr



Joyce and Mike Hughes



Community room
in Hughes Hall

"We are very happy to be part of the wonderful growth of the Venango Campus," said Mrs. Hughes at the building's groundbreaking. "It's exciting to support the construction of another beautiful residence. These apartments make college living more convenient and enjoyable for the students, which is a very important part of the college experience. It's really what the campus—and the region—need to move forward."

Dr. Reber thanked the donors at the event, saying, "Donors like Mike and Joyce Hughes, Hank and Beverly Suhr, and the trustees of the Elizabeth S. Black Charitable Trust and the Phillips Charitable Trust are all heroes. They believe in the future of the campus and support its mission to provide high-quality educational opportunities in our region. These fine people have been instrumental to our all-time record enrollment and our ability to develop new programs to address increasing workforce demand. My university colleagues and I, and especially the students who are the beneficiaries of their generosity, are extremely grateful."

Two additional student apartment buildings were completed in fall 2009.

Mike and Joyce Hughes continued their exceptional generosity with the gift of Leadership Hall. The building's name recognizes the leadership contributions of hundreds of men and women who have helped to provide educational opportunities for the residents of the region since the campus' inception in 1961.

A bronze plaque was mounted on Leadership Hall with the following inscription, approved by the building's donors:

Leadership Hall

Dedicated by Michael F. and Joyce I. Hughes to the Many Men and Women
Whose Vision and Hard Work Have Guided the Growth and Development of
Clarion University-Venango Campus.

These University Leaders Represent the Hundreds of Individuals,
United in a Partnership of Community and University,
Who Helped Make Life-changing Educational
Opportunities Possible for the Residents of the Region

Dr. T. Audean Duespohl, Dean Emerita, School of Nursing

Dr. Joseph P. Grunenwald, President

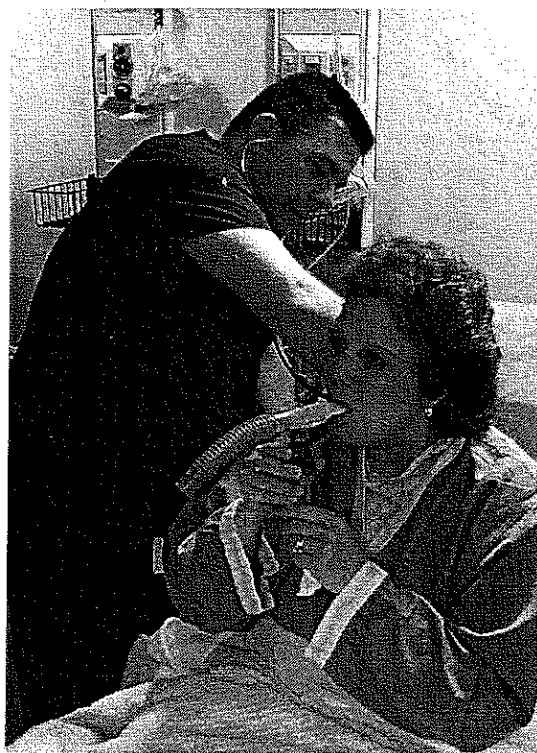
Dr. Glenn R. McElhattan, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry

Dr. Christopher M. Reber, Executive Dean

Bradford George Carmack Barnes Hall was funded by retired accounting professor Gregory Barnes in memory of his son. Mr. Barnes also made a gift to fund the new Gregory Barnes Center for Biotechnology Business Development at the Clarion campus.

With the two new buildings, the student apartment complex brought the campus' housing capacity to 89 students in five buildings. When complete, the planned seven-building complex will house 132 students.

Clarion University restructured its School of Nursing in 2004 to accommodate growth in its student population and programs. The reorganization created the School of Nursing and Allied Health, with a Department of Nursing, academic home to the university's associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs in nursing, and a new Department of Allied Health, which included current degree programs in radiologic science and allied health. Nursing and Allied Health enrollment now



exceeds 600, making this collective Venango program one of the largest in the State System.

In 2006, an Associate of Science in Respiratory Care degree was added. The program was created in partnership with UPMC Northwest in Seneca and UPMC Horizon, with hospitals in Greenville and Shenango Valley. The hospitals had approached Venango Campus because of a critical need in the region for respiratory therapists.

The respiratory care program received full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) in December 2009. Program graduates have exceeded national averages on the National Board for Respiratory Care credentialing examinations. In 2010, the university assumed full ownership of the program.



Stephen P. Kosak

In order to invest youth in the future of the region, the Venango Vision Regional Leadership Institute was developed in fall 2005. The program was designed by more than fifty community members, led by Venango Campus Advisory Council Vice-chair Stephen Kosak. Under the direction of the campus' Division of Continuing Education, Venango Vision was designed to bring together youth, young professionals and seasoned leaders in the community to develop future leaders to tackle the challenges that face the region and to identify a clear vision for the future.



Left to right, Venango Campus Executive Dean Christopher M. Reber, Thomas A. Harvey, Joseph S. Harvey, Judy A. Harvey, David G. Harvey, Joseph S. Harvey, Jr., and President Joseph P. Grunenwald at the dedication of the Barbara Morgan Harvey Center for the Study of Oil Heritage on October 18, 2005.

The Barbara Morgan Harvey Center for the Study of Oil Heritage, an endowed clearinghouse for scholarship and research about Pennsylvania history, was dedicated with a two-day celebration that began on Tuesday evening, October 18, 2005.

The center consists of a collection of historical items, which includes books that document the history of the region, newspaper clippings from the early 1900s, minutes from meetings of early oil companies from the late 1800s, maps, photographs, and other materials. These were donated by Joseph S. Harvey and his children, Joseph, Thomas, David and Judith in memory of Mrs. Harvey. An endowment was also created by the family to fund ongoing cultural events designed to bring regional history to life. Mr. Harvey, retired president of First Seneca Bank, was one of the leaders in the campaign to create Venango Campus.

Mrs. Harvey was a well-known Oil Valley historian who spent many years researching and accumulating books that document the history of the region. Her great-grandfather, Gib Morgan, was an early Pennsylvania oil legend known as "the minstrel of the oil fields." Morgan entertained people with his tall tales while working as a driller and tool dresser in the Appalachian oil fields.

"The Harvey family is happy that the collection is intact and secure in the Clarion University-Venango Campus library and will be accessible to students, community members, researchers and historians," said Mr. Harvey at the time. "But most important to her family was that her memory be kept alive. That's so important to her children, and so it is of paramount importance to me, a beloved spouse of more than fifty years."

"Scholars from the region and beyond will be forever grateful to the Harvey family for their vision and generosity," said Dr. Reber, "and to Barbara Morgan Harvey, whose love of oil history will inspire other community members and scholars for generations to come."



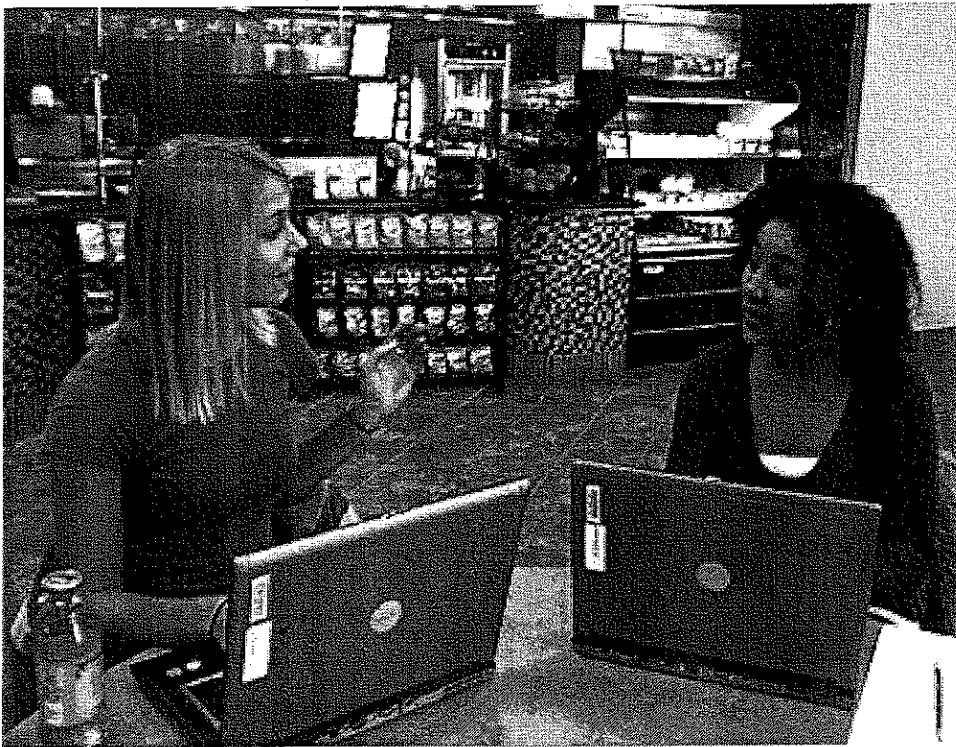
Debra Sobina,
Venango Campus
Director of Finance
and Administration,
in costume for
Community History
Days 2008

The endowment sponsors an annual Community History Days each June, featuring activities celebrating the rich historical heritage of the Oil Region. Each fall, the Harvey Center also offers a lecture about the history of the region. The popular evening lecture has been expanded in recent years to include related programs that bring area middle and high school students to the campus.

An important Harvey Center project nearing completion is a series of oral histories, interviews with

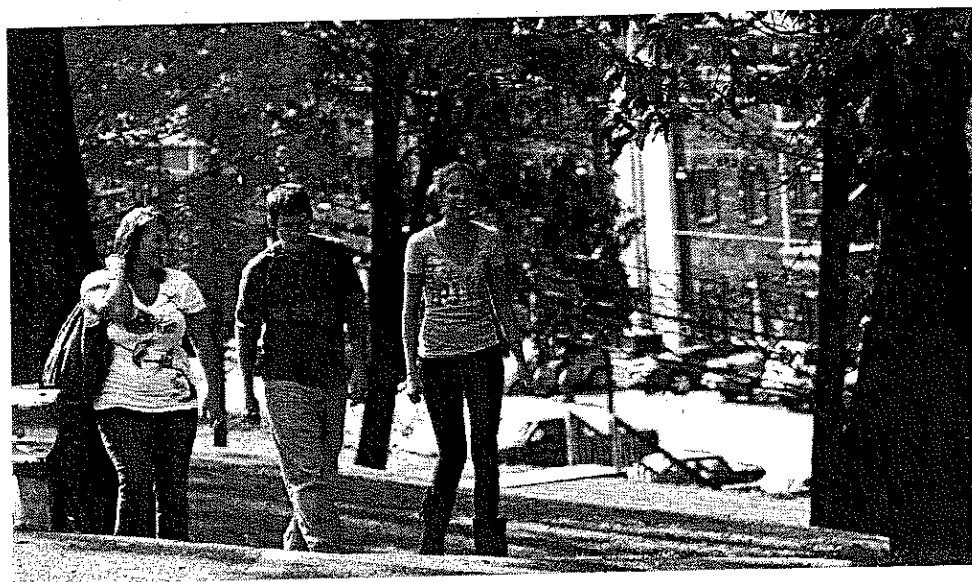
individuals throughout the region who address a wide range of interests and historical perspectives. Together, these interviews paint a rich portrait of the Oil Region and the people who played key roles in its heritage.

Facility improvements have continued and the Robert W. Rhoades Center reopened in October 2006 after major renovations and expansion. The hub of student and community activities, Robert W. Rhoades Center now includes a new, larger bookstore; a new and enhanced food service area, with an expanded menu and a cyber café; new offices for Student



Affairs staff and student organizations; a new meeting room; a new fitness center; an elevator and a new auditorium curtain, seating and décor. The following summer, newly renovated locker rooms on the gymnasium level were added.

Enrollment reached an all-time high in fall 2006, with the campus serving more than 1,000 students in campus and campus-based programs, an increase of 156 students (22 percent) above the previous year and 500 students more than were enrolled in 1999. The growth was due, in large part, to its growing network of educational partnerships with organizations in business, industry, health care, education and other sectors for which Venango Campus had become known in recent years. These partnerships allowed the campus to enhance and expand programs, extend outreach, share resources and meet the changing needs of the Commonwealth and its workforce in a dynamic and cost-effective manner.



"To have an effective and successful partnership," said Dr. Reber, "one must find the appropriate match of institutional mission, vision, goals and needs. We have been exceptionally fortunate to have found such partners, particularly those in applied technology, nursing and allied health, programs that are located at the Venango Campus. The outcome of these partnerships for students is truly greater than the sum of the parts."

The growth of the campus in enrollment and academic programs and the introduction of the student apartment housing attracted a growing population of students whose abilities and interests warranted enhanced academic programming and out-of-class activities.

An Honors Program was the logical next step in the campus' evolution. The program was launched in fall 2007 to provide an opportunity for students to broaden their conventional college experience and curriculum through special classes and out-of-classroom activities, such as lectures, films and cultural events designed to stimulate intellectual interest, social interaction and creativity.

Under the direction of Dr. David Lott, associate professor of biology, and Dr. Ellen Foster, associate professor of English, the program has continued to grow. Students present research projects at the end of each

semester to faculty, staff, family members and community leaders. In spring 2010, Venango Honors Program students' presentations and poster projects kicked off Clarion University's Academic Excellence Series.

In partnership with the College of Business Administration, Venango Campus offered an Executive-style MBA program in 2007, created with the input of business leaders in the community, to accommodate the busy schedules of working individuals.

"Many organizations and community leaders expressed interest in an advanced business degree program with a flexible schedule that combines the stimulating interaction of live instruction with the convenience of web-based classes," said Dr. Reber. "My colleagues and I have spent almost two years incorporating the input of area business leaders into the design of the program and we've had very positive feedback."

The courses were offered through a blend of traditional live instruction on Saturdays and web-based instruction. Beginning in fall 2007, the cohort of students progressed through the program and graduated in December 2009.

The campus' role as a community cultural center continued to grow with an expansion of lectures, concerts, coffee houses, art exhibits and the works of independent filmmakers from around the world. For the last several years, the campus has celebrated diversity with Dare 2 Care Week, a series of activities designed to encourage students, faculty, staff and the



How Linda Hooper, a Middle School Principal, inspired her students to collect six-million paper clips to honor the Holocaust victims.

community to think about, discuss, understand and accept differences in people, and diversity in all of its forms. The Oil City Playhouse regularly

mounts plays on campus for community audiences. Featured speakers are also offered regularly for the university and surrounding communities. Further, area schools utilize campus facilities for sporting activities, including practices, tournaments, physical education classes and other events.

In September 2007, a group of interested Venango Campus alumni formed the Venango Campus Alumni Chapter. The chapter is open to anyone who has attended classes at the Venango Campus and other friends of the campus who are interested in getting together to socialize and advocate for the campus.

A Venango Campus Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies degree program was introduced in 2009, offered through a blend of traditional classroom instruction at the campus and online courses. The program offers students the opportunity to explore a wide range of academic disciplines, creating a customized concentration in their own area of interest. The liberal studies degree is designed for students who want to earn a bachelor's degree for career advancement, as well as those who have completed an associate degree through Clarion University–Venango Campus or another institution of higher education, or have completed credits toward a bachelor's degree but never finished the degree.

Students actually earn two degrees as they progress through the bachelor's degree program. After completing 64 credits toward the 120-credit bachelor's degree, students are awarded an Associate of Arts in Arts and Sciences degree, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies degree upon completion of the program.

Leaders in health care and industry were increasingly turning to Venango Campus for help with workforce development as the campus' reputation for career-focused educational programs offered through technical and clinical education partnerships generated significant interest.



Chancellor John C. Cavanaugh, center, with President Grunenwald, left, and Executive Dean Reber at Venango Campus

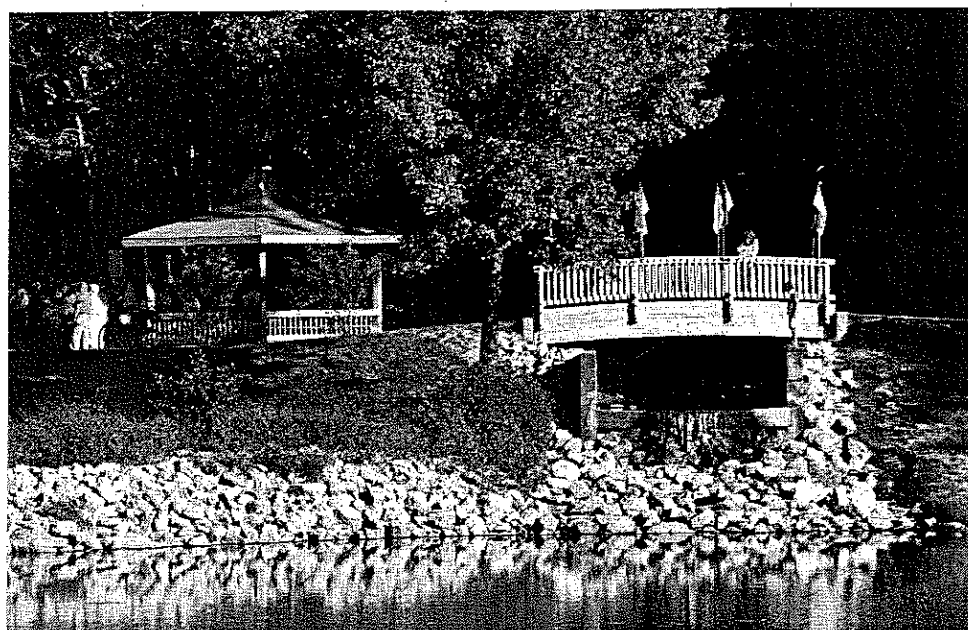
In a few short years, the campus had positioned itself to respond to the region's needs and employers and others were taking notice.

As the troubled economy forced plant closings and layoffs, the campus' Department of Applied Technology was called upon to create specialized programs for displaced workers in their home towns. The campus provided learning support to help students, many of whom had never before contemplated higher education, succeed.

In 2009, the new Chancellor for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, Dr. John C. Cavanaugh, asked Dr. Reber and Dr. Grunenwald to present Venango Campus' educational partnership model to the State System Board of Governors and the other 13 presidents of the system universities.

* * * * *

A celebration was held in September 2009 on the occasion of the opening of Leadership Hall and Bradford George Carmack Barnes Hall. Another very important cause for celebration was the completion of the restoration and enhancement of West End Pond. This treasured community landmark and important natural resource was restored to its original size and lighted walkways, a pavilion to be used for entertainment,



Gregory Barnes

a fire pit, a Victorian clock and other amenities were added to provide additional recreational and educational opportunities. The project was funded by private, corporate and charitable donations, grants made possible through the help of state and local legislators and community leaders, and university investment. Of particular assistance was the Venango County Board of Commissioners, under the leadership of chair Sue Smith.

Several hundred people attended the event, which honored Mike and Joyce Hughes, Professor Gregory Barnes and the many benefactors and others who made the pond project, under the leadership of Venango Campus Director of Finance and Administration Debra Sobina, a reality.

Clarion University-Venango Campus was honored by the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce in April 2010 with the Partner in Business Award. Given for the first time by the chamber, the award is a companion to the long-standing Business of the Year Award and recognizes a non-profit, governmental or educational organization that has developed a close partnership with the business community.

"From the very beginning, when community leaders and members of the Oil City Area Chamber of Commerce envisioned the need for a higher education presence in Venango County, to the present, Venango Campus has been the product of community and university, working together to advance the needs of the region," said Dr. Reber at the ceremony. "To be recognized with the Partner in Business Award by the organization that played such an integral role in the creation of the campus is truly an affirmation of our mission for which we are extremely grateful."



Lance Titus of Northwest Savings Bank, recipient of the Business of the Year Award, with Chamber Executive Director Susan Williams and Dr. Reber

Venango Campus held the largest commencement in its history in May 2010. Associate degrees were awarded to 218 students at the evening ceremony, where State Senator Mary Jo White was the keynote speaker. In addition, 77 students enrolled in Venango Campus programs were awarded bachelor and master's degrees in a commencement ceremony held earlier in the day at the Clarion campus.



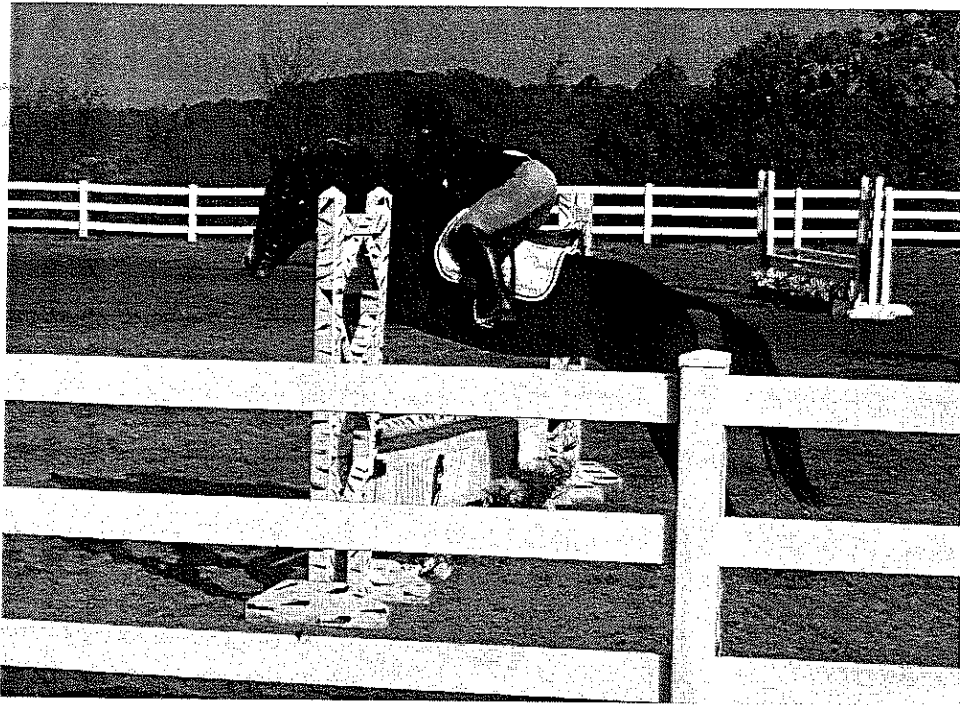


President
Karen M. Whitney

Dr. Karen M. Whitney became the 16th president of Clarion University in July 2010. Dr. Whitney came to Clarion University from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, where she served as vice chancellor for student life and dean of students. On her first day in office, she visited Venango Campus and has championed its entrepreneurial approach to career-focused education that meets the needs of the region.

“The founding and success of Clarion University’s Venango Campus is the classic story of how American public higher education transforms communities. It is a story of 50 years of hard work and dedication on the part of educators, civic leaders, business owners and, foremost, our students and their families to the ideal that a great democracy and a productive economy requires an educated citizenry,” said Dr. Whitney.





In fall 2009, Venango Campus launched an Intramurals and Recreation program, designed to promote health and fitness, increase physical, social and leadership skills, demonstrate civility, and provide opportunities for the development of lifelong healthy habits.

Two new club sports teams were added in 2010, a bowling team and an equestrian team, which are competing against other colleges and universities at a national level. The Venango Campus Bowling Team is a member of the United States Bowling Congress Collegiate (USBC), which offers the team the opportunity to compete at all NCAA division levels, against colleges and universities that offer full bowling scholarships. The Venango Campus Equestrian Team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The IHSA provides collegiate riders of all skill levels the opportunity to compete individually and as teams in equestrian competition.

Most recently, in 2011, Venango Campus added two bachelor's degrees in the high-demand fields of court and community services and in ultrasound to its growing roster of academic programs.

"My colleagues and I are very pleased to announce these outstanding opportunities," said Dr. Reber. "Job growth projections for both programs are tremendous and offer great advancement potential for graduates."

The Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitative Sciences degree with a new court and community services concentration is approved by the American Bar Association and is the only program of its kind in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is designed for students who are interested in the growing human services fields that work closely with the court system. The program is offered entirely at Venango Campus in collaboration with Clarion's College of Education and Human Services and the College of Business Administration. Graduates of associate degree programs in paralegal studies, rehabilitative services or criminal justice may build upon those degrees to complete the bachelor's degree.

The Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Sciences, with a concentration in diagnostic medical sonography, or ultrasound, was developed in partnership with Great Lakes Institute of Technology in Erie. Students will complete the clinical portion of the program in Erie and at affiliated clinical sites and the general education components of the program at the Venango Campus or online. The program specializes in general sonography, focusing on the abdomen, small parts of the body, obstetrics and gynecology.

* * * * *

Plans are underway for new academic programs at the associate, bachelor's and graduate level, a new state-of-the-art nursing and allied health simulation laboratory and other programs to fulfill Venango Campus' mission to serve the community. Every new endeavor must meet two key criteria: it must address a critical regional need and be something the campus can do well.

A proposed B.S. in Allied Health Leadership degree has been developed and approved at all university levels and is currently under review in the State System's Chancellor's office. The program would be

offered online in the junior and senior years to provide associate degree graduates at Clarion and other institutions an opportunity to continue their education while working and raising families.

For applied technology graduates who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree, the Department of Applied Technology has developed a proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Technology Leadership online degree-completion program that has been approved at all university levels and, at the time of this printing, is also under review at the office of the Chancellor of the State System.

* * * * *

The generous spirit of scores of men and women who dreamed of a center of higher education for Venango County lives on today. It has made it possible for Venango Campus to transform the lives of thousands of individuals in the region and beyond and help them realize their full potential. These early heroes and the many others who followed could only imagine the current and future success of Venango Campus, but the seeds they planted are bearing fruit today.

More than \$11 million has been raised in the community for campus scholarships, programs and facilities within the past eight years, and a very active Venango Campus Advisory Council provides strong community leadership and advocacy for the campus and its programs. Bolstered by the support of the community, campus enrollments have grown steadily for eight consecutive years, bringing current enrollment to more than 1,000 students in campus and campus-based programs, a record level.

The future of Clarion University-Venango Campus is bright and it remains committed to serving the needs of the people of this region, the men and women whose trust and belief in its mission have guided its growth for 50 years and will continue to do so for the next 50 years and beyond.

Venango Campus Distinguished Alumni

1990	Dr. Jayne K. Kribbs '68
1991	Dr. David L. Lavery '71
1992	Dr. Marilyn M. Russell '79, '80
1993	Dr. Beverly H. Settlemyre '71, '75
1994	Kay E. Ensle '76, '78
1995	Dr. Charles W. Snyder '71, '72
1996	Dr. Vickie S. Harry '81, '86
1997	Dr. John A. Best '90
1998	Dr. Dennis S. Lavery '68, '70
1999	Dr. Susan B. (Cramer) Winters '82, '85
2000	Raymond E. Schwabenbauer '76
2001	Malachy R. McMahon '72
2002	Dr. Richard A. Sabousky '84, '86
2003	Linda A. Greenfield '79, '81
2004	Marilyn Neely '83
2005	Patricia P. Feroz '80
2006	Dr. George M. Veloudis '87
2007	Royce E. Freebourn '80
2008	Rhonda L. Steigerwald '75
2010*	David P. Gibbons '86, '92
2011	Samuel R. Zuck '74

*Because the Clarion University Alumni Association moved the alumni awards celebration from Homecoming to spring, there was no honoree for 2009 to avoid naming two honorees in the same calendar year.

**Charter Members of Sigma Theta Tau,
international nursing honor society**
(according to an article in May 1987 in *The Derrick*)

T. Audean Duespohl, associate professor and dean of
nursing at Clarion University

Sheila B. Barlow, clinical instructor at Butler Community
College

Gloria E. Baughman, director of patient care services
at Oil City Area Health Center

Constance M. Best, patient education instructor
at Oil City Area Health Center

Kathy J. Cochran, nurse manager for the hospice program
at Visiting Nurses of Venango County

Patricia A. Gracy, assistant professor of nursing
at Clarion University

Cheryl P. Gruber, staff development coordinator,
and floor supervisor at Rouse Home, Warren Co.

Lee-Olive Harrison, assistant professor of nursing
at Clarion University

Elinor R. Jeffrey, part-time instructor of nursing
at Clarion University

Mary Claire W. Johnston, head nurse of DuBois Hospital's
substance abuse unit

Patricia J. Kaufmann, associate director of Visiting Nurses
of Venango County

Mary Kavoosi, assistant professor of nursing
at Clarion University

Sandra A. Leta, director of nursing at Presbyterian Home

Lela A. Moody, head nurse of the ICU at Oil City Area Health Center

Sherry L. Mosurea, instructor, Venango County Vo-tech

Ruthanne Nerlich, executive director of Visiting Nurses of Venango County

Sheila S. Petulla, nursing education counselor at Franklin Regional Medical Center

Heather D. Probst, assistant administrator and director of nursing at Rouse Home

Elaine M. Resler, patient education coordinator at Oil City Area Health Center

Louise M. Schwabenbauer, educational manager at Oil City Area Health Center

Colleen M. Smith, nursing supervisor at Clarion Hospital

Linda L. Steiner, nursing supervisor at Clarion Osteopathic Community Hospital

Barbara B. Stubler, health services coordinator and school nurse for Oil City Schools

Dennis L. Wickline, vice president for patient care services at Brookville Hospital

Mary Wise, head nurse, adult medical-surgical unit, Oil City Area Health Center

Inductees recognized for superior academic achievement were:

Kimberly S. Carson, 1987; Linda L. Clymer, 1987;
Susan B. Cramer, 1987; Linda D. Deeter, 1987;
Mary Ann S. Graham, 1984; Jerilyn D. Reddinger, 1984;
and Cynthia A. Russell, 1986.

The 50th Anniversary Steering Committee

Dr. Glenn McElhattan, Chair

Emily Aubele

Tammy Beach

Cindy Busch

Linda Cheresnowski

Deb Eckelberger

Kay Ensle

Ryan Eggleston

Dr. Sharon Falkenstern

Charlotte Foresther

Daly Fuller

Elizabeth Griebel

Jerri Gent

Bobbie Haag

Sonja Hawkins

Dr. Terry Latour

Dr. David Lott

Linda Lusher

Theresa Nestor

Dr. Christopher Reber

Debra Sobina

Ashley Stroup-McCauley

Mary E. (Libby) Williams

Susan Williams

**Venango Campus Advisory Council
2011-12 Academic Year**

Patricia P. Feroz, Chairperson

Dr. Joseph L. Carrico, Vice-chairperson

Ronald E. Black

John E. Boyle

Richard A. Clark

Nancy Cubbon

Bobbie J. Haag

David P. Gibbons

Rod Griffin

R. Lee James

Stephen P. Kosak

Robin K. Lutz

Robert W. McFate

Sam Sanfilippo

Dr. James D. Schwab

Henry B. Suhr, Jr.

Bruce Taylor

Mary E. (Libby) Williams

Samuel R. Zuck

EX OFFICIO

Dr. Karen M. Whitney, President

Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk, Provost and Academic Vice President

Dr. Christopher M. Reber, Executive Dean

Jerri Gent, Director of Marketing and University Relations

With much appreciation to Libby Williams, for her years of careful clipping, sorting and cataloguing Venango Campus' treasured history; The Derrick Publishing Company, for the use of its archives; Brenda Sturtz and Sylvia Wiegel, for their patient guidance through Suhr Library's resources; and to Brenda Stahlman at PAGES (Clarion's publications department), the most creative person I know, whose design has turned my words into this beautiful book... on time.

Jerri Gent
Director of Marketing and University Relations
Clarion University-Venango Campus

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