

An wide-angle, uphill photo of the Mount Marty College campus, probably taken sometime in the 1960s. (P&D archive photo)

MMC

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very committed to our Benedictine tradition and help us follow our mission statement."

CHANGING TIMES

Bob Tereshinski is one of those lay members, joining the MMC staff in 1987. Over the years, he has filled a variety of roles, from faculty and coach to his current administrative role as interim dean of academic affairs.

Tereshinski made the MMC baseball team a regional power. During the past quarter-century, he has seen the Lancers and Lady Lancers move from an independent program to membership in the South Dakota-Iowa Conference and now the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) with its national prominence.

Most recently, the archery program — instituted at the request of students — finished in the top 10 in national competition during its first year of existence, he said.

The college's top majors remain health care, business, education and anesthesia, but other majors and courses have been added, he said.

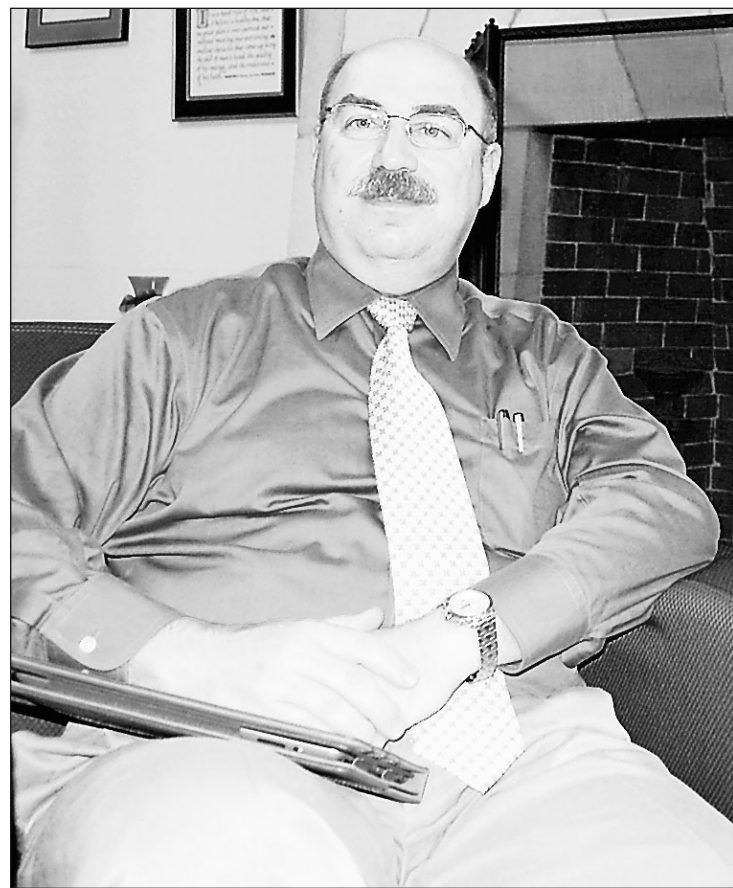
"The anesthesiology program was huge when we started out. It was the first undergraduate anesthesiology program in the nation," he said. "We have a master's degree, and they are talking about a doctorate. It's all part of our health mission."

The school has also added a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program because of the growing demand, particularly in nursing homes, he said.

The new science and health care center will provide a major boost, Tereshinski said.

The school has also made strides in its fine arts programs, including renovation of the Bistro for theater productions, he said. The music department has also received national recognition, he added.

Because of its small size, MMC has shown great flexibility in implementing academic programs to meet student demand, Tereshinski said. However, the college also carefully uses its resources and will only add programs with a long-term future, he said.



"Over the years I have been here, Mount Marty has been run pretty conservatively and sensibly," he added.

MMC benefits from faculty on staff for 25 years or longer, which gives the school great stability, Tereshinski said. The faculty also wears different hats, interacting with students in many ways, he said.

"Where else does a student go on a fishing and camping class with the vice president of academic affairs?" he said with a grin, referring to his role with the popular class.

MMC makes use of jobs and internships not only to give students experience but also to connect the college and community, Tereshinski said. MMC students and faculty also play a major role in helping with everything from youth athletics to service organizations, he said.

That connection encourages more MMC graduates to remain in Yankton and the surrounding area, he said.

Mount Marty has also embraced the concept of lifelong learning, ranging from its online courses to its two-year degree at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp, Sister Cynthia said. More

non-traditional students are taking courses, whether for the first time or to upgrade their skills, she said.

"I admire these folks who take classes while they have full time jobs and kids, and most do 'A' work. They are a wonderful addition," she said.

The non-traditional students bring a mature, worldly outlook that is picked up by the younger students, Sister Cynthia said.

"The kids, the way they looked in class after (the terrorist attacks on) 9/11, they had these glazed-over looks in their eyes," she said. "They were looking to the adults in their classes, who were in the middle of life and raising their own kids, for reassurance and guidance."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Seventy-five years after those early struggles, MMC enrolls around 1,000 students at campuses in Yankton, Sioux Falls and Watertown. MMC has gained national recognition for its academics, arts and athletics.

In honor of its diamond jubilee, MMC has announced a year-long schedule of activities — including the inauguration of its new president, Dr. Joseph Benoit,



ABOVE: Sisters from Sacred Heart Monastery have always been an integral part of the faculty at Mount Marty College. (MMC archive photo) LEFT: Dr. Joseph Benoit became Mount Marty College's new president July 1. He looks forward to new building projects and other progress as the Catholic college, founded in 1936, celebrates its 75th anniversary during the coming academic year. (Randy Dockendorf/P&D)

who took office July 1.

The Yankton campus has completed a number of building projects in recent years. Benoit has begun work with major projects, including the Marian Hall renovation and the upcoming remodeling of the old library into a new science and health care center. The latter received a major boost with a \$750,000 donation from the Avera health system.

"My family and I are getting settled in," he said. "I'm excited by what I see so far here at Mount Marty. We have a full complement of courses. The student enrollment looks good, and the athletic recruiting is going well. I'm looking forward to the arrival of students on campus this fall."

Benoit takes the reins of a college with a rich tradition, even if it is young by most standards, and prepares to take Mount Marty into a new era. He will deliver his State of the Campus address to faculty Aug. 23. His inauguration date hasn't been decided but will be part of the diamond jubilee activities, he said.

"At my inauguration, the focus will be more on Mount Marty rather than me as president," he said. "We will celebrate as a college, as faculty and students. It's an opportunity for all of us."

The anniversary year kicks off Sept. 19 with the opening Mass that morning with Archabbot Justin DuVall of St. Meinrad's

Archabbey as presider and homilist. The evening features the anniversary Bratfest Kickoff Event with birthday cake for the campus and Yankton community. The program includes a Bishop Marty first-person portrayal by Lenny Koupal.

The anniversary continues with the Benedictine Lecture Oct. 25 in Watertown and Oct. 27 in Yankton, featuring Linn Maxwell's portrayal of Hildegard of Bingen.

Other events include the fall musical, "Once Upon A Mattress" Nov. 10-12, High Tea on Founder's Day Nov. 11, Vespers Nov. 27, the National Players' "Of Mice and Men" and "Taming of the Shrew" April 16-17, a rock concert in April or May, performance of a commissioned musical composition by Dr. Stephen Yarbough in conjunction with the spring choir concert.

The all-school reunion is set for June 29-July 1, completing the anniversary year.

Plans also call for the MMC choir to tour Europe during the anniversary concert, presenting a concert at the Sacred Heart Monastery's founding convent of Maria-Rickenbach, Switzerland.

The year-long diamond jubilee celebration seeks to offer something for everyone, including the rock concert for students, Benoit said.

"The rock concert on campus is something the students have

wanted for a long time. We have set aside the funds and are working to book a Christian rock band," Benoit said. "It should be a lot of fun and draw people not just from campus but the surrounding communities."

Benoit wants Yankton to think of MMC as its college and a valuable resource for economic development, culture and entertainment.

"As the sole provider of this type of programming in the community, we hope to do more and offer more," he said.

MMC will turn up the volume in getting out its message, Benoit said.

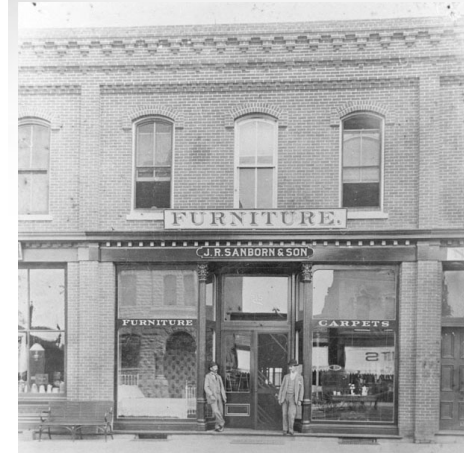
"We will talk to anybody about everything we do here. What we are already doing well, we will do better," he said. "We enhance the quality of life. The opportunity to have a strong college makes the community strong."

Tereshinski firmly believes in MMC's future.

"Mount Marty has its niche and will continue to succeed and thrive," he said. "I'm the product of private education, and I believe in it because of the individual attention provided each student from the moment they come through the front door for the first time until they leave us to go out into the world."

Our Roots Run Deep

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Funeral home was located on the corner of 5th & Cedar Streets in 1925.



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- * 1919 - Mr. A.G. Schenk and W.S. Donohoe purchased the business.
- * 1961 - Floyd Schenk purchased the business from the A.G. Schenk estate.
- * 1977 - Stan & Judy Ray purchased the mortuary business.
- * 1986 - Stan & Judy Ray built the new funeral home at 2901 Douglas.
- * 2000 - The Wintz family of Nebraska merged their funeral home business with Jim Cantrell & Stan Ray and changed the name of the business to Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

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- * We serve people of all faiths.

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