

## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN- EAU CLAIRE

### A BRIEF HISTORY

#### Eau Claire State Normal School (1916-1927)

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire began its existence in September of 1916 as the State Normal School. A single building, now known as Schofield Hall, was constructed on a 12-acre site donated by the city of Eau Claire. Opening its doors to a student body of 159 and a faculty of 20, the School offered one-year and two-year elementary and three-year secondary teachers' courses, and a principal's course. Although the education of teachers was the major reason for the establishment of the institution, from the beginning it made available two years of general education or pre-professional study for persons not expecting to teach.

Harvey A. Schofield was appointed president of the new School, and his leadership saw it through the first 25 critical years of its existence.

#### Eau Claire State Teachers College (1927-1951)

In 1927, the Legislature changed the name from State Normal School to Teachers College, with authorization to offer four years of higher education and to grant the degree of bachelor of education. In the same year, State Teachers College was accredited by the American Association of Teachers Colleges. In 1937 it was authorized to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science in education.

William R. Davies became president on January 1, 1941, and guided the College through the war years, providing acceleration of teacher education to meet a shortage in area schools, and accommodations and instruction for a 300-man detachment of Army Air Corps cadets.

Several directions for future growth were established during the next decade. In 1943, the installation of a chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (Education) brought the first of many national honor societies to the campus. The formation of the Chippewa Valley Forum, the Chippewa Valley Orchestra, and the Area Committee set a pattern for collaboration between the College and the community. In 1946, twenty acres on top of the bluff overlooking the lower campus were acquired to provide for future physical education facilities. This was the first substantial increase in campus size since the founding of the School.

The decade of the forties was also marked by the institution of programs of orientation for freshmen, the inauguration of the faculty advisement system for upperclassmen, and the advancement of teacher education and extension services. The adoption by the faculty of a philosophy of general education paved the way for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1950.

#### Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire (1951-1964)

In 1951, the Board of Regents authorized Eau Claire to grant the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees in liberal arts, and the official name of the College became Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire.

The adoption of a faculty rank system in 1954 was a milestone in the academic progress of the fifties. A degree program in medical technology was begun in 1955; teacher education programs were augmented in 1958 by courses for the training of teachers of special education and by specialization in junior high school and business education.

In 1952, a complex of four buildings—campus laboratory school, little theatre, education building, and field house—was completed, marking the first major campus development since the construction of the original building. Katharine Thomas Hall and Katherine Putnam Hall were built in 1955 and 1958.

Expansion of the college campus was made possible through the gift from the city of Eau Claire of 200-acre Putnam Park and the purchase of 23 additional acres for the upper campus in 1958.

President Davies died in office December 10, 1959. Leonard C. Haas, an alumnus who had been a faculty member since 1941 and Dean of Instruction since 1948, was chosen by the Board of Regents to succeed Mr. Davies. During the first decade of his administration, enrollment of students increased from 1,709 to approximately 8,200 and the faculty grew from 112 to 550.

## Wisconsin State University-Eau Claire (1964-1971)

In June 1964, the Board of Regents gave university standing to the state colleges, and the institution at Eau Claire was renamed Wisconsin State University-Eau Claire. Three Schools within the University structure were created in 1964: Arts and Sciences, Education, and Graduate Studies. In 1965, the School of Nursing was formed, and in 1966 the School of Business.

Under President Haas's leadership, a 50-million-dollar building program was realized. Seven additional residence halls, including the 1,242-bed Towers, and two food and recreational centers, the Crest Commons and the Hilltop Center, increased the amenities of student life and created an upper campus. The W. R. Davies University Center, built in 1959, was doubled in size in 1964. The L. E. Phillips Science Hall was opened in 1964 and expanded in 1968-69. Schneider Social Science Hall was occupied in 1967, the McPhee Physical Education Center in 1969, the School of Nursing building also in 1969, and the Fine Arts Building in 1970. A six-story addition to the W. D. McIntyre Library was completed in 1971.

## University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (1971--)

With the merger of the Wisconsin State University System and the University of Wisconsin System, completed in 1971, the name of the institution was changed to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. At that time President Haas was on leave, having accepted appointment as Executive Vice President of the newly created University of Wisconsin System. Richard E. Hibbard, an Eau Claire alumnus, former Dean, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, became the Interim Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and served in that capacity until his death in 1972.

A new academic building, the Richard E. Hibbard Humanities Hall, was named in honor of the Interim Chancellor at its dedication in 1974. In 1977, construction on a major addition to Davies Center was completed. During 1977-78, Schofield Hall was remodeled to furnish more efficient and attractive quarters for the main administrative offices of the campus and for various support services.

M. Emily Hannah succeeded Leonard Haas as Chancellor in 1981. In 1982, the Allied Health and Clinical Services Building, on the north bank of the Chippewa River, was completed. Construction of an addition to the Nursing Building was begun. The addition opened for occupancy in the summer of 1985.

Larry G. Schnack was inaugurated as the fifth Chief Executive Officer of the University in October 1985. Under his direction, major additions and remodeling projects were completed for the W.D. McIntyre University Library, the McPhee Physical Education Complex, W.R. Davies University Center including the Student Organizations Complex, as well as the L.E. Phillips Science Hall. Sophisticated technology was implemented and improved across the campus, and there was an emphasis on coordinating the instructional services provided by the Library, Media Development Center and Learning and Technology Services. The concept of differential tuition was introduced and ultimately approved by the System Board of Regents, providing current students with the opportunity to assess themselves additional tuition (which began as \$50/semester/student) and to advise the direction of the use of the funds for such services and programs as advising, undergraduate research, diversity, etc.

Donald J. Mash became the sixth Chancellor of UW-Eau Claire in August 1998. One of his first official acts was to preside over the ground breaking ceremony for a new 324-bed, apartment-style residence hall on the west end of the upper campus, the first such campus structure in nearly 30 years. Under his direction, private fundraising and advancement activities were enhanced, resulting in the April 2002 public kick-off of UW-Eau Claire's first-ever comprehensive private fundraising campaign. The five-year campaign exceeded

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its original goal of \$35 million 15 months ahead of schedule. The campaign raised a total of \$54 million by its conclusion in 2007. In consultation with the faculty and staff, Chancellor Mash provided leadership to create the College of Education and Human Sciences and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, replacing the College of Professional Studies and relocating the academic departments formerly housed there. The new colleges joined the existing College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business.

Vicki Lord Larson served as Interim Chancellor from March 2005 to May 2006.

Brian Levin-Stankevich began serving as the seventh Chancellor of UW-Eau Claire on June 1, 2006. His comprehensive strategic planning process has resulted in the Centennial Plan outlining UW-Eau Claire's vision of becoming the premier undergraduate learning community in the upper Midwest. The first of many challenges will be aligning the budgeting process with the delineated priorities. One of Chancellor Levin-Stankevich's personal goals is to enhance equality, diversity, and inclusivity in the UW-Eau Claire community. Levin-Stankevich has also committed to improving campus sustainability, signing the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment in August 2008.

