

- an "original" written in 1983 -
Dr. Charles Burns

HISTORY OF BUJC

Many of my colleagues, among others have importuned me to rewrite the history of the first two years of BUJC from "Another Point of View" i.e. from the scientific side (pre-med or science side). Much has been written about Professor Frank Davis at Bucknell surveying areas for the need of a Junior College and while our area proved most fertile, magnetic forces were exerted locally by such men as Dr. Sam Davenport and Attorney Gilbert Mc Clintock. Credentials of a rigid nature were a pre-requisite to admission. If the potential candidate didn't possess the required standards an examination became necessary for admission. Thus, some 150 students were assembled, approximately 30 of whom were pre-med including pre-dental i.e. candidates for a BS in Biology. We occupied portions of the 1st floor and all of the 3rd floor of Wilkes-Barre Business College. Dr. Homer P. Rainey, a disciple of Dr. Charles Hutchins at the University of Chicago had become President of Bucknell University and, accordingly, insisted that we must take certain Survey Courses that would enable us to become well-rounded rather than lop-sided scientists. Consequently, we were enrolled in Survey of Western Man, Survey of World Literature, Survey of Music and Art, sociology, economics, religion, philosophy, and psychology in addition to our other vital subjects.

John Henry Eisenhauer with a masters in Education from Columbia was Director of the Junior College, assisted by Dr. Byron S. Hollinshead. Dr. George R. Faint a D.D. was the registrar. They occupied offices on the 1st floor. We had a certain number of resident professors while many of those involved in the Survey Courses motored from Lewisburg to deliver their portion of our education.

The rapport between student and teacher was unique and intimate and, I believe increased with years. The professors were as anxious to impart their knowledge as we were to absorb it. This phenomenon could have arisen as a result of the times i.e. the economics. I believe there was an over-supply of teachers as well as potential students. One professor who taught languages and allegedly spoke seven fluently, left Aliquippa High School at \$2100 yearly to teach at BUJC for \$2300.

Professor John Gold, our resident professor of mathematics teaching engineers, pre-meds among others and gave us one unique claim to fame. All the gold in the country had been called into Fort Knox by the government except for our resident professor of math. A rather rotund and jovial person, he was an excellent imparter of his subject.

Professor William Schuyler taught chemistry both 1st and 2nd years i.e. inorganic and organic respectively. A rather quite conservative research type chemist with John Gittens managed to give us the fundamentals of chemistry. Always accessible, he wanted you to know as much as he if possible, or Deming, author of our book.

J. Orin Olyphant occupied much of our time with the "History of Western Civilization" by Charles and Mary Beard from the University of Chicago. He was a dedicated historian who wanted us to understand our origin and present status in the Western Hemisphere.

Professor Byron S. Hollinshead, assistant to Dr. Eisenhower directed our courses, Survey of World Literature that extended from Aesculapius to Beowulf to Thomas Hardy. Various course lectures were delivered by specialists from the campus in each area.

Mabel Brooks babbled along in foreign languages, especially French. Her counterpart, Professor Vincent A. McCrossin taught German as well as certain of the World Literature courses insisting we know all about Goethe, Schilling, and Loeser.

Professor Forrest Keller taught economics and was faculty advisor for extracurricular activities such as play, etc.

Professor Gies, beloved by us all, taught music appreciation and insisted that we know how the cranio-sacral nerves were stimulated by classical music.

Professor Blanchard Gummo rounded out our well-rounded background by teaching art appreciation and you had to know Greek architecture by identifying the Corinthian, Dorian and Ionian Columns.

The second year saw occupation of the 2nd floor in the rear with the Zoology lab under the direction of Dr. Roy C. Tasker for the Biology student on the West side while Dr. Voris B. Hall taught Physics to the engineers on the East Side. Having taught at Cornell and studied in China, Tasker lost part of his name - the Mast part "Taskmaster" for he was a particular, precise taskmaster that we needed to prepare us for medical school. As an example, I was scheduled to get an A in the course 1st semester and although I knew the author of our textbook, I failed to know his occupation, Professor of Protozoology at the University of Indiana. In the 60 years since the "Taskmaster" taught me that, I have never read or studied a book that I didn't find out the author and his occupation. When I originally wrote this history at the time of our 50th, there was a student who had his grade upgraded for a similar incident it would give me straight A's in Science at BUJC.

One of our 2nd year courses in Religion was taught by Wilbur Crook who paradoxically taught religion and gave a night course in criminology.

Outstanding among our 2nd year professors was Professor Godcharles who taught Philosophy and Psychology. Using Wentworth in Psychology as our text, one chapter dealt with memory indicating its three major components, frequency, recency, and intensity, and I note that it affects the author in that the 10 years since I wrote my 1st edition of the history of BUJC has suffered the toll of time just as Godcharles predicted.

An interesting anecdote, I was always trying to find a way to crush bladder stones through the same instrument sheath as we use to remove the prostate because you then could do both procedures by passing one instrument. In order to accomplish this one must have a knowledge

of thermodynamics and who had that but Dr. Voris B. Hall. So I was continually plaguing him to help me develop such an instrument. Of course, we didn't do it but lo & behold didn't Dr. Hall develop a prostate condition and bladder stones and I had to use two procedures to accomplish the task.

Of approximately 30 pre-meds not including pre-dental, eight went to the campus. Of the eight, four got away to medical school. Dr. Eugene Gillespie went to Temple Medical School and graduated in 1941. After he served in WWII, he entered Public Health Service and returned therefrom and still lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. John P. Ruta although graduating from Bucknell in our class had a leg amputated because of osteomyelitis and was graduated from Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, PA in 1942. He interned at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA, practiced at South Washington St. until his death from uremia about eight years ago.

Dr. Alphone Warakowski graduated from Jefferson in 1942 and did general practice near Williamsport. He died pre-maturely apparently of cardiovascular disease in the late 50's. Two art students, Nicholas Loruso and Peter Posatko, both became MD's and I believe both went to Creighton. Nick became a general surgeon, practiced in Las Vegas, NV and expired about 10 years ago. Dr. Peter Posatko did general practice in Plains, PA. He was a diabetic, retired about four years ago and died two years ago.

Two pre-dental students went to Temple Dental School and finished in the pre-war years. Dr. Vincent Maslowski who stayed in the Navy after WWII and became a Commander died many years ago. Dr. Charles Connors did general dentistry on Lee Park Avenue and died approximately 20 years ago of pulmonary fibrosis.

Perhaps our most talented student among the engineers was Joseph C. Duddy. He was cited as the most outstanding student in his senior year in Chemical Engineering. He went on to become the Director of

Research at Exide Battery in Philadelphia. Among his outstanding achievements were 350 disclosures and 50 patents, which I was fortunate enough to obtain and present to Wilkes University at a scholarship meeting two years ago.

While at BUJC, A Biology Club was begun by the author under the tutelage of Dr. Roy C. Tasker our faculty advisor.

There could have been others and other incidents but I have written only those within my purview.

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DT/8/17/94

THE BIOLOGY CLUB

The Biology Club of Bucknell Jr. College had its birth in the Zoology lab on the 2nd floor of Wilkes-Barre Business College in about January or February of 1935. This was the first "ology" offered in Wilkes-Barre. As customary with the formulation of a club, somebody stands up and, now Dr. Charles N. Burns began the meeting and became club president. The club immediately became active and trips were arranged to Jefferson Medical College and Kirby Health Center. Dr. Joseph L. Finn, then a resident of Miners Mills and a senior at Jefferson arranged for us to see a surgical clinic conducted by Dr. Thomas A. Shallow. At the outset of the clinic, Dr. John Chalmers DaCosta, a world renowned surgeon, and now in a wheelchair was wheeled into the pit while we were there.

Later in the clinic a patient with a disturbance of his equilibrium was demonstrated. Dr. Shallow then operated upon him and we witnessed removal of a tumor from his cerebellum.

Later, in the spring, officers at the Kirby Health Center gave us a conducted tour of this magnificent philanthropic edifice. Also, the bacteriologist Dr. Pugh arranged for us to see how the bacteriological survey for the water supply to Luzerne County is maintained and the role of the Kirby Health Center in its maintenance.

Finally, Dr. Roy C. Tasker, our faculty advisor, gave a party in his apartment on S. Washington Street where we were treated to a Chinese meal and had to eat with chopsticks. Dr. Tasker spent time in China during his training years in Zoology. This was our final event of the year.