Walking Tour of Historical South Orange Campus

Introduction
Welcome to Seton Hall University! Founded in 1856, the Catholic University of New Jersey is the largest diocesan institution of higher education in the nation and features a student body representing nearly every state in the union and a vast number of visiting scholars from across the world.

This tour will provide some historical insights into the buildings and structures that make up the South Orange campus. As you are likely aware, the South Orange campus is not the original campus which was located in Madison, New Jersey. The university took up residence on this site starting in 1860. Historically, Seton Hall has also operated campus locations in Paterson and Jersey City. In present day, the Seton Hall Law School is located in downtown Newark, New Jersey. A new campus for the School of Medicine is being established in Nutley, New Jersey.

Also of interest is that this campus location provided a home to multiple institutions beyond just the college/university. For example, Seton Hall Preparatory was located at this location until the 1980s when it moved to its current location in West Orange. Additionally, Immaculate Conception Seminary has been an important part of campus life, having returned to campus in 1984 after a period of time in Darlington, NJ.

The tour is organized to follow the chronological development of the South Orange campus over time. It can be divided into three sections that outline the development of the campus chronologically: (1) Early Development of South Orange campus; (2) Post-War Years 1940-1960s; (3) Re-orientation of Campus (1970s – 2000s). We begin our tour with the earliest set of campus buildings, located here at the foot of Presidents Hall.

Seton Hall University
Charter Day Planning Committee
2018

Edited by Bryan Meadows, Ph.D.
SECTION ONE: EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH ORANGE CAMPUS (1860s – 1930s)

(1) Presidents Hall (1867)
Presidents Hall is perhaps one of the earliest buildings on campus and a longtime hub of university operations. It is named in honor of the chief executives of Seton Hall University. In 1860, a portion of 125-acre Elphinstone Estate (S Orange NJ) was purchased by Bishop Bayley on behalf of the Diocese of Newark. The institution was incorporated as Seton Hall College by the NJ State Legislature in 1861. Where Presidents Hall stands today was a large mansion known as Elphinstone Manor. That mansion was destroyed by fire in 1867 and Presidents Hall was built on that site. In fact, two stones remain in the foundation from the original Elphinstone Manor. The building is in a Gothic design and manufactured in dressed brownstone. The building originally functioned as a seminary and student dormitory during the 1800s. The first floor of the interior features portraits of past presidents and an 1866 stained glass window depiction of St Elizabeth Ann Seton. At the current time, Presidents Hall is occupied by university administration including the Office of the President. Alum R. Kopacz (2000) reports that Presidents Hall reminds him of when he used to see Monsignor Sheeran around campus.

(1a) McNulty Gate
Directly behind us is McNulty Gate. This was the original main entrance to the university. In the late 1980s Farinella Gate was constructed and that became the primary entrance. Until 1922 the land on the other side of McNulty Gate belonged to Seton Hall and was a large farm, which provided fresh produce for students and faculty. The farmer’s house is reportedly present-day 497 South Orange Avenue.
(1b) University Seal
Located on the University Green, this gray circular disk featuring the school name, year and school seal can be found in the center of the walkways bisecting and leading to the University Center, Jubilee Hall, Immaculate Conception Chapel and President’s Hall. It serves as an unofficial focal point to the campus. Legend has it that it is bad luck to step on this stone for fear and risk of a failing grade each time it is touched by a student. It is worth noting that the current design of the University Green was not formed until the 1990s.

(2) Chapel of the Immaculate Conception (1870)
The chapel is named for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Construction of the chapel was completed in 1863 but was not formally dedicated until 1870. It is a Gothic Revival brownstone building built during the American Civil War. Stained glass windows, made in Munich, depict the creation and bestowal of the sacraments, as well as some apostles and famous priests whom seminarians in former days were urged to emulate. The window in the organ loft shows the three patron saints of music: Gregory, Cecelia and David. A small oratory is dedicated to St Elizabeth Ann Seton. On the right interior wall of the Chapel is a memorial plaque to “Benny” Savage, who worked for many years tending the herds of cows that supplied milk for Seton Hall. He lived in the barn and received a salary of 16 cents per week. When he died in 1933, at the height of the Depression, he left SHU an insurance policy of $5,000 which today approximates $50,000, the first major bequest in the university’s history. The Chapel was last renovated in 2008. At the current time, the chapel is home to daily mass services and many alumni return here for marriages and baptisms. Alum Alonso Tangarife (2005) recently shared his campus memory of the Chapel: “Getting married to my wife at the Chapel in 2014.” Alumni Virgina and Ron Liss (1968) shared that they were married in the Chapel in 1971 by their friend, Father Robert Grady, in the presence of family and friends. They characterized this memory as “what is still today the most cherished memory of our lives”.

(3) Alumni Hall (1883)
Opened as the first recreation building on campus, Alumni Hall was a 25-year anniversary gift of the Seton Hall alumni association. The original design featured two stories: billiard rooms for students and a recreation room for seminarians on the lower floor; a meeting hall for 250 people on the upper floor. For a brief time, the building was repurposed for dorms and classrooms in response to the 1886 fire damage to the main college building. After the college building was restored, Alumni Hall was reconverted back to its original function as a recreational center. The 1915 Seton Hall Catalogue has this to say about the Alumni Hall building:

*A physical and chemical lab occupies the 1st floor; bldg. is encircled by broad piazzas, which afford a covered walk for exercise in inclement weather.*

In 1923 Alumni Hall was made into a science building and, in the 1935 Setonian, it was noted that the white lines of the former basketball court could be seen in the physics lab floor. At the current time, Alumni Hall houses the Seminary Chapel and Seminary administrative offices.
(4) Marshall Hall (1897)
This building was established as the first formal library building in 1898. The building was named for Rev. William F. Marshall, President of Seton Hall College (1888-1897). At the current time, Marshall Hall provides meeting space for the Board of Trustees and Regents.

(5) Stafford Hall / Academic Classroom Building (1860s)
The current Stafford Hall occupies the site of the original college academic building, which was established here in the 1860s, soon upon Seton Hall’s arrival. There have actually been a number of academic buildings at this site. There were three successive fires in 1866, 1886, and again in 1909 but each time the academic building had been rebuilt and redesigned. The name Stafford Hall was given in 1960 as a way to honor Rev. John A. Stafford, who was college president from 1899-1907. The current building, completed in 2014, is home to academic classrooms.

(6) Mooney Hall (1910)
Mooney Hall is built of white brick, stone and terra cotta, with an interior of reinforced concrete. The building was named for Msgr. James Mooney, President of Seton Hall College 1907-1922 (longest presidential tenure to date). An early catalogue described the building the following way:

*It contains classrooms, living rooms, study halls, a dining hall, and dormitories. It is fitted out with the most modern methods and appliances in the matter of heating, lighting and sanitation, and is thoroughly fire-proof in every details of its construction.*

For a time, Mooney Hall was used as the main college building with classrooms downstairs and housing/study lounges upstairs. It was home to Seton Hall Preparatory School 1956-1986. At the current time, it is home to Freshman Studies and ROTC.

(7) McQuaid Hall. (1900/1901)
McQuaid Hall was named in honor of Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, the first president of Seton Hall College 1856-1857 and again 1859-1867. The building was first used as a laundry and cleaning building for students in the early years of
the school. Immigrant women, hired to do the cleaning and laundry, lived in the residential quarters inside the building. Later, the building functioned as a convent for the Sisters of Charity. At the current time, the School of Diplomacy and International Relations and the School of Health and Medical Sciences are located here.

**Infirmary/Convent**
*(present-day McQuaid Hall)*
*1931*

---

(8) **Bayley Hall (1913)**
Bayley Hall was named for Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, the first Bishop of Newark and founder of Seton Hall College in 1856. He was the nephew of St Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint and namesake of the university. The building was home to the Seton Hall grammar school until 1926. At the current time, it features campus offices including Financial Aid, Registrar and Bursar. It also houses The Career Center.

---

**SECTION TWO: SETON HALL UNIVERSITY**
*Post-War Growth 1940s – 1960s*

(9) **Bishop Dougherty University Center (1962)**
The University Center is named for Bishop John J. Dougherty who was Seton Hall University president (1960-1970). This building houses campus cultural, social, and recreational activities with meeting spaces for clubs and other campus events. The Center holds The Caf, Pirate’s Cove, and Theatre-in-the-Round. The building underwent an expansion in 2017 to the student dining area. Alumna Elizabeth Santangelo (1975) recalled attending ABC-TV’s public exposé of the Willowbrook School on Staten Island.

---

**END OF SECTION ONE**
(10) Duffy Hall (1948)
Duffy Hall was named for Msgr. William Duffy, Headmaster of Seton Hall Preparatory School, which occupied this building until 1985. There was an addition constructed in 1972 which expanded the square footage for academic classroom spaces. In the late 1980s, students enjoyed pizza at Aliello’s Pizza Emporium. At the current time, the building houses the university bookstore, and the offices for Housing and Residence Life, Parking Services, Card Access and Disability Support Services.

(11) Walsh Gymnasium and Richie Regan Athletic and Recreation Center (1940)
Walsh Gymnasium was named for Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh, former Bishop of Newark. The gymnasium holds 2600 people. The gymnasium building has served multiple functions. For example, WSOU student radio, one of the first FM student stations in NJ, got started in this building in 1948. There are 1940s photographs of a bowling alley underneath the gym floor. Later in 1987, Walsh Gymnasium became part of an expanded recreation facility formally named the Robert E. Brennan Recreation Center.

In 2004, the facility underwent renovations and was co-named in honor of Richie Regan and his wife Shelia. Richie Regan was a legendary basketball player and administrator. The Richie Regan Athletic and Recreation Center currently houses the Fitness Center, coaching offices, Walsh Gymnasium and WSOU-FM, the award-winning student-run radio station. Also in this area was the Bubble. The Bubble was constructed in 1972 at the current site of the parking deck. The Bubble was described as an “air-supported vinyl dome, 300 feet long and 115 feet wide and 30 feet high”. There was an indoor track, basketball courts, batting cages and other gym facilities. Reminiscing on his experiences on campus, alum Ron Alvarez (1957) shared the following:

_Four of us parked in the parking lot [in front of Walsh Gym] for four years. Some days there were no spaces, place was packed...No girls all boys. Went to summer classes because females attended. Great education, great school, great memories._

(11a) Pirate Statue (1998)
On June 4, 1931, the Pirate was adopted as the nickname for school athletic teams. The mascot was selected after a surprising come-from-behind baseball victory against Holy Cross College. Reportedly, a local sports writer exclaimed with disgust: “That Seton Hall team is a gang of pirates!”. Upon learning of the remark, the Seton Hall team adopted the pirate as their mascot. The pirate statue was established in front of the Brennan Recreation Center in 1998. It was commissioned by the Young Alumni Association and created by artist Brian Phanlon.
(12) McLaughlin Library / Jubilee Hall (1954)
McLaughlin Library functioned as the campus library for forty years (1955-1994). The 1956 Summit Centennial described McLaughlin Library in the following way:

This structure offers every conceivable aid and service in the field of library science. Included in the four floors are graduate study rooms, seminar rooms, typing rooms, student lounges, a complete lecture hall with the latest in audio-visual equipment, a book bindery, and special photographic darkrooms.

With the construction of Walsh Library in 1994, the McLaughlin Library building was demolished to make room for Kozlowski Hall. Later the building would be renamed Jubilee Hall in honor of the Papal Jubilee. The bell tower in front of the current building is dedicated in honor of the deceased of the 2000 Boland Hall fire. At the current time, Jubilee Hall is primarily an academic building that includes a 390-seat auditorium. It is home to the College of Education and Human Services, the Stillman School of Business, and some College of Arts and Sciences classrooms and offices.

(13) Corrigan Hall (1964)
This building is named for Bishop Michael A. Corrigan, President of Seton Hall College (1867-1876) and Bishop of Newark and later New York. Also, it is named for his brother, Reverend James H. Corrigan, President of Seton Hall College (1867-1888). The building currently houses the Music Department, classrooms and the Mobile Computing helpdesk.

(14) McNulty Hall / Science and Technology Center (1954)
This building was named in 1960 for Msgr. John L. McNulty, President of Seton Hall University (1949-1959). At the present time, the official name is the Science and Technology Center. The 1957 campus yearbook had this to say about McNulty Hall:

Thru the utilization of the most modern equipment available and under the supervision of some of the country’s finest scientific minds, the study and research leading to tomorrow’s discoveries is carried on.

The original front of the building featured a large relief known as the “Atom Wall”. It depicts the gift of scientific knowledge from God to humankind. During a major renovation of the building in 2007, the Atom Wall was preserved in the building atrium lobby. The building formerly housed the College of Dentistry. At the current time, McNulty Hall houses the departments of Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. The building includes classrooms, labs, and a rooftop greenhouse and observatory. Alum R. Kopacz (2002) shared these memories of McNulty Hall: “Sunniest location on campus besides the Green. Good place to sit and wait for friends still in class.”
This dormitory was built in the early 1950s to replace 13 temporary barracks housing veteran students on the site following World War Two. (The collection of barracks were formally dedicated as Veterans' Village in a 1947 ceremony.) Originally, the dormitory was known as Bishop’s Hall. The 1957 yearbook introduces Bishop’s Hall in the following way:

The modern appointments of the dormitory offer an atmosphere that is both comfortable and conducive to study to the Seton Hall residents.

Later, it was given the name, Boland Hall, to honor Thomas A. Boland, former Archbishop of Newark. Boland Hall actually consists of two structures. The first, South Boland, was built in the 1950s and houses 300 students. The second, North Boland, was built in the 1960s and houses 460 students. Boland Hall became the first dorm to house female students in the late 1960s. Boland Hall is also the site of a 2000 tragic fire that resulted in the loss of three undergraduate lives and personal injury to 60 others. A memorial was created for the undergraduates who lost their lives, Aaron Karol, John Giunta and Frank Calibilota and their contributions and lives remain forever sacred. Currently Boland Hall functions as the largest freshman residence on campus. It also is home to Campus Ministry, the pastoral presence of the Catholic Church on campus.
(16) Farinella Gate (1988)
The establishment of Farinella Gate in 1988 moved the main university entrance from the McNulty Gate to the intersection of Center St and South Orange. The move was designed to divert cars away from the pedestrian-heavy Student Center area. The new university entrance was part of a larger redesign of the South Orange/Center intersection. The gate was named for Frank P. Farinella, Seton Hall alum and member of the University Board of Regents.

(17) Father Monella Arts Center / Carriage House (1974 / 1887)
This structure, currently functioning as the Arts Center and home to the College of Communication and the Arts, was originally a Victorian carriage house on the summer estate of a wealthy South Orange banker. In 1887, it was incorporated into the university as a carriage house and sat adjacent to the former home of the Bishop of Newark. The structure was restored and re-dedicated in 1974 as the Father Vincent Monella Art Center. The structure holds National landmark status and is listed in the NJ Register of Historic Places.

These residence halls house around 500 upper classmen students. They were opened in the late 1980s as coeducational student dorms. Cabrini Hall is named after Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first US citizen to be declared a saint and was the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Neuman Hall is named for St John Neuman, former Bishop of Philadelphia and first bishop to prescribe Forty Hours of devotion within his diocese. Serra Hall is named for Blessed Junipero Serra, venerated in 1985. Blessed Junipero Serra was a Spanish Franciscan who worked along the Pacific Coast to bring Catholicism to local populations.

(19) Fahy Hall / Humanities Center (1968)
Originally this building was known as the Humanities Center. In 1988, it was named for Msgr. Thomas Fahy, President of Seton Hall University (1970-1976). At the current time, Fahy Hall consists of numerous academic departments, classrooms, a language lab, computer labs, the Pirate TV Studio and the University Honors Program.

(20) Arts and Sciences Hall /School of Business (1973)
This building originally housed the School of Business. The building was designed as part of a nursing/business complex connected by a walkway in the north wing. The School of Business relocated to Jubilee Hall in 1997. Currently, the building houses classrooms for the College of Arts and Sciences and the Academic Resource Center.

(21) Caroline D. Schwartz College of Nursing (1973)
This building was named for the first dean of the College of Nursing and university donor, Caroline D. Schwartz. The building serves largely academic purposes. It features a multipurpose practice and demo room with hospital beds and stretchers. The building is home to the oldest college of nursing in New Jersey. It also contains state-of-the-art Patient Simulation Labs.
(22) Xavier Hall (1986)
This dormitory, which houses over 500 students, was named for St. Francis Xavier. St Francis was a Spanish Jesuit who worked in India and Japan to bring Catholicism to Asian populations. A reflection room known as Mother Seton Chapel is located in this building. Xavier Hall currently is the largest upperclassmen residence hall. For the first two years of its existence, the dormitory was referred to as “New Residence Hall”. With the planned addition of Cabrini, Neuman, and Serra residences, the name Xavier Hall was attached in 1988. Alum Alonso Tangarife (2005) recently shared this personal memory of the building: “Watching the Twin Towers smoke from the top of Xavier Hall on 9/11/2001.”

(23) Walsh Library (1994)
The campus library was named for Frank E. Walsh Jr., a University Regent and Donor. The building has been referred to as the “Jewel of the Campus”. It hosts the university library, study rooms, archives, special collections, an art gallery, and the Teaching, Learning and Technology Center. Alum R. Kopacz (2002) recently commented that Walsh Library has always been the “quietest place on campus and packed during finals.”

(24) Lewis Hall/Immaculate Conception Seminary (1982)
Lewis Hall was named after Milton and Rita Lewis, Benefactors to the Archdiocese of Newark. Inside Lewis Hall is residence space for approximately 100 seminarians, faculty quarters, a dining hall and a library of religious volumes. Lewis Hall is built around Alumni Hall to house the Immaculate Conception Seminary which returned to the university in 1984 from its location in Darlington NJ.
(25) Alfieri Hall (1987)

Originally referred to as the “seminary academic wing”, the building was formally named for Dominick Alfieri, former secretary of the Board of Regents and member of the Design and Construction team of the building. Currently Alfieri Hall is serving as an academic building.

(26) Aquinas Hall (1971)

Aquinas Hall was first established in 1971 as a female-only dormitory and was originally noted on campus maps as simply “residence hall” or “west residence”. The three-story brick structure is built in a U-shape centered on a courtyard. The first semester of student residents experienced many inconveniences due to the incomplete construction at the time of opening. A newspaper article in The Setonian noted:

The only existing dorm rule in force pertains to male visitation. In accordance with university policy, the dorm is open to male visitors from 12 noon to 12 midnight during the week and 2am on the weekends. All other rules are based on self-regulation.

In 1988, the dorm building was named for St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), the noted Italian scholar and theologian. Aquinas Hall underwent a recent renovation and now functions as a freshman residence.

(27) Gerety Hall (1989)

Gerety Hall is named for Peter Leo Gerety, former Archbishop of Newark. The building replaced a house and garages standing adjacent to Corrigan Hall. Currently, the building functions as a residence hall for various clergy on campus.

==END OF SECTION THREE==

References


Seton Hall College (various dates). Undergraduate Catalogues. Available at http://scholarship.shu.edu/undergraduate_catalogues/


Seton Hall University (various dates). Seton Hall University Yearbooks. Available at http://scholarship.shu.edu/yearbooks/index.3.html.


The Setonian (Mar 5, 1992; p. 8).

The Setonian (Sept 4, 1997; p. 5).

Alumni Contributors

Ron Alvarez ('57)
Jack Kelly ('66)
R Kopacz ('02)
Virgina (Furman) and Ron Liss ('68)
Elizabeth Santangelo ('75)
Alonso Tangarife ('05)