1949

Southern Illinois University: the First Seventy-Five Years

Southern Illinois University

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This book was published for Southern Illinois University's 75th anniversary, the Diamond Jubilee. It was published in tribute to the faculties, administrators, alumni, and friends who contributed to the university's growth since it held its first classes in 1874. The book provides a good introduction to SIU's administrative history and a history of Old Normal and the Temporary Building. Included is a timeline of important dates.

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Southern Illinois University

THE FIRST SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

1874 — 1949

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHARTERED 1854
On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Southern Illinois University, this brochure is published by the University, in tribute to the faculties, administrations, alumni, and friends who have made Southern a respected institution in teacher education for three-quarters of a century, and who laid the foundations for a great regional university now emerging.

Carbondale, Illinois
1949
Normal School Period
Southern Illinois Normal University
1874-1929

Teachers College Period
Southern Illinois Normal University
1929-1943

University Period
Southern Illinois Normal University
1943-1947
Southern Illinois University
1947-....

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Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Observances
July 2, 1949—Re-enactment of "The First Day of School, July 2, 1874"
Cornerstone Laying for New Education Building
October 20-22, 1949—Diamond Jubilee Homecoming
Dr. Robert Allyx, the first president of the Southern Illinois Normal University, assumed his duties with the opening of school in 1874, and served until his resignation in 1892. Born in Connecticut, January 25, 1817, he was graduated as an honor student in classics from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, in 1841. He taught in public schools and academies, and served two years in the legislature of Rhode Island and two terms as state superintendent of public instruction in that state. He came to Southern from the presidency of McKendree College, Lebanon, Illinois.
Southern Illinois University began as a normal school seventy-five years ago. In this Diamond Jubilee year, the University looks back in retrospect to the progressive stages of its development with ever widening horizons from small beginnings to great fulfillment.

The normal school of seventy-five years ago had its inception in the great need for trained teachers for the common schools of Illinois. The normal school movement came westward from Massachusetts to Illinois in the 50's of the last century and was part of the educational renaissance in Illinois which saw the formation of the Illinois Educational Association, the publication of an Illinois school journal, the creation of the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the first law providing a system of free schools, and the establishment of the Illinois Normal University at Normal, Illinois, in 1857.

Twelve years after the first Illinois normal school was created on the model of the Horace Mann system of teacher training, the urgent need of Southern Illinois resulted in the creation of a similar school at Carbondale, with the high sounding name, Southern Illinois Normal University. Meetings of educators and public spirited citizens at Salem, at Carbondale, and at Centralia, during the summer of 1868, brought effective pressure for the creation of such a school. Ably assisted by State Superintendent Newton Bateman and President Richard Edwards of "Old Normal," the cause was won when the Illinois General Assembly passed the Charter Act which was signed by Governor John M. Palmer, April 9, 1869. "University," as it appears in the Charter name of the Old Normal and Southern, was added to the title to enable the normal schools to share the public land or seminary funds.

The first board of five trustees appointed by Governor Palmer was confronted with the difficult task of finding the best location for the newly authorized normal and of carrying forward the erection of a building. The location problem became immediately a controversial issue
PRESIDENT HULL

Professor John Hull, who was born near Salem, Illinois, was graduated in 1863, from Illinois State Normal University. He taught mathematics at Normal for three years, and served as superintendent of the city schools of Bloomington and as county superintendent of McLean County before joining Southern's faculty, in 1875. He was elected to the presidency in 1892, when Dr. Allyn resigned, but served only one year.

PRESIDENT EVEREST

Dr. Harvey William Everest, a native of New York state, was educated at Hiram College in Ohio, at Bethany College, in West Virginia, and at Oberlin College, in Ohio. He served as president of Hiram College, of Eureka College, of Butler University, and of Garfield University, Wichita, Kansas. A minister, he held important pastorates in Illinois in the Christian Church. He was serving as pastor of a large church in Hutchison, Kansas, when he was called to the presidency of Southern, in 1893. He resigned in 1897.
among several rival competitive bidders, resulting in much bitterness, which persisted as a handicap for many years in the early history of the school. Even yet one hears repercussions of that heated controversy.

Carbondale secured the coveted prize, outbidding other claimants by an offer of $150,000 in bonds as well as in gifts of land. Construction was started in the autumn of 1869, but misfortunes delayed its progress. The accidental death of the contractor, J. M. Campbell, during the building, necessitated a reorganization and additional funds by legislative appropriation. A beautiful three-story structure, a model for its time, was finally dedicated July 1, 1874, and opened its doors for students immediately.

The first historic session of Southern Illinois Normal University was a summer institute, with a first faculty of eight members and an enrollment of 53 students. First regular session of the school opened September 6. Dr. Robert Allyn, a New Englander and Methodist minister who had previously held three college presidencies, was called from the presidency of McKendree College to head the school.

Dr. Allyn had a competent faculty and eager student body, but it is difficult to comprehend how great was the problem confronting him. To create a college of high scholastic standards out of the raw material at hand required the patience and ripened wisdom of a statesman in education, such as Dr. Allyn proved to be. An ambitious classical curriculum of that time had to wait for preparatory training of a multitude of Southern Illinois youth, whose meager preparation in common branches was hardly sufficient for admission to a modern accredited high school. The school had been brought into being primarily to train teachers for the Southern Illinois common schools, and this task dominated its aim in the first decades of its history. It was endless drill for thoroughness in the common school subjects and emphasis upon teaching technique which made it distinctly a normal school. An effort to create a law school, for which Judge A. D. Duff was appointed dean, came to naught for lack of students. In the field of science, however, a significant advance, approaching a college level, was made under the leadership of Dr. Cyrus Thomas.
Henry William Shryock was principal of Olney High School when he was elected to the faculty of Southern, in 1893, as head of the English department. One of Southern’s ablest and most popular teachers, he became vice president and registrar under President D. B. Parkinson. He succeeded to the presidency on the retirement of Dr. Parkinson, in 1913. Mr. Shryock’s presidency was a period of great expansion, culminating in the full recognition of Southern as a Class-A Teachers College.

Dr. Daniel Baldwin Parkinson, son of a Highland, Illinois, farmer, graduated from McKendree College. He served as principal of the Carmi public schools and as science teacher in Jennings Seminary, at Aurora; took advanced study at Northwestern University; and was called by his friend, Dr. Allyn, to serve on the first faculty at Southern. He was elected to the presidency in 1897, serving until his resignation in 1913, when he was made President Emeritus.
The first building was destroyed by fire, a major disaster, November 26, 1883, in the ninth year of the pioneering struggle of the institution. Much of the equipment, including laboratory apparatus, library, and furnishings, was saved by the heroic action of students and faculty, and, with no more than a week-end delay, instruction was resumed in temporary rooms provided by the churches and business men of Carbondale. A temporary building was completed, at a cost of $6,000 raised by Carbondale citizens, in early January, 1884. This wooden structure in the form of a Greek cross, erected on the site of what is now the Old Science Building, served the school for three years, from 1884 to 1887. The exercises of commencement week were carried on in a tent. It is noteworthy that there was no decrease in enrollment but, rather, a slight increase in these tragic years. A new building was provided by act of the Illinois legislature, approved June 27, 1883. This building, now called "Old Main," was dedicated and first occupied February 24, 1887. It served all purposes of the school for a number of years and still provides seventy per cent of the classroom space of the University.

On the retirement of Dr. Robert Allyn, the board of trustees elected Professor John Hull, a native of Southern Illinois and a member of the faculty, to succeed him as president. Professor Hull had been brought to the faculty from the Old Normal, to reorganize and superintend the training school, a work which he accomplished in the best tradition of the normal school. His personal unpopularity made the one year of his presidency an unhappy one for himself, but he gave the young institution a wide and favorable publicity in the fine exhibit which he prepared for display at the World's Columbian Exhibition at Chicago, in 1893.

A new board of trustees, appointed by Governor John P. Altgeld, called Dr. Harvey W. Everest to the presidency. President Everest, like Dr. Allyn, was a minister who had achieved a distinguished career as a college president, first as the successor of James A. Garfield at Hiram College, and then as the president of Eureka College, of Butler University, and of Garfield University. The four years of Dr. Everest's presidency of Southern saw a distinct trend toward the liberalizing of the curriculum, with more emphasis upon the liberal arts tradition. A new
Roscoe Pulliam, a very able superintendent of city schools at Harrisburg, Illinois, was elected president of Southern in June, 1935, a few months after the death of President Shryock. He greatly enhanced the school's prestige and increased its service to the area, attaining, in 1943, a limited university status for Southern.

George Dorritt Wham, a brilliant member of Southern's Class of 1896, became a member of the faculty in 1906, after having served as superintendent of Olney City Schools. He became head of the Education Department in 1913 and dean of the faculty in 1923. As dean of the faculty he assumed the responsibilities of the presidency on the death of Mr. Shryock, April 13, 1935, and carried on the administration of the school until President Pulliam's election.
building to provide for an expanding library and museum, laboratories, and gymnasium was erected during Dr. Everest's presidency, at a cost of $40,000. This, the second building in Southern's expanding physical plant, is now called “Old Science” and is noteworthy for its distinctive type of architecture, suggestive of a medieval castle.

Dr. D. B. Parkinson was made acting president in 1897 and elected president the next year. He had been a member of the faculty from the beginning and had served both as registrar and as vice president. Under his administration Southern reverted to the normal school emphasis. The influence of the school was becoming more widely felt as a result of the trained leadership it had sent out. A much better co-operation of school superintendents was attained, and a much needed expansion of physical plant facilities was achieved. Dr. Parkinson's effective campaign for new buildings came to fruition in securing appropriations of $25,000 for the present Wheeler Library, 1903, and $50,000 for a model school for practice teaching (Allyn Building), in 1907. His most persistent effort, against strong resistance, was for dormitory facilities, which he finally accomplished in the last year of his presidency, when Anthony Hall, accommodating 75 girls, was dedicated in September, 1913. Thus far, this is the only provision which has been made by state appropriation for this first among many musts, the adequate housing of students.

Professor H. W. Shryock, like President Parkinson, came to the presidency from the ranks of the faculty, having served as an inspiring teacher of English and as registrar and vice president. Among the chief aims of his administration as statesman-builder was to make Southern more adequately serve its area, especially in the improvement of rural schools. He gave college athletics a recognized, important status; he achieved the recognition of Southern as a fully accredited degree-granting institution. To attain these ends, the first rural teacher-training program, under the direction of W. O. Brown, was instituted at Southern; and William McAndrew began to make athletic history for Southern. The great increase in faculty required for the rapidly growing school gave opportunity for raising the scholastic level of the staff,
Dr. Chester F. Lay, a native of Golconda, Illinois, attended high school at Illinois State Normal University and received the bachelor of education degree there; he received the doctor's degree from the University of Chicago. He taught in the public schools of Illinois; in Robert College, Constantinople, Turkey; in Oregon State College, and in the universities of Arizona, Washington, Colorado, and Texas. He became seventh president of Southern, January 1, 1945, and served until September 10, 1948, when he resigned to accept a position at Southern Methodist University.

Dr. Bruce Welch Merwin came to Southern from the faculty of the University of Kansas where he had received the degrees, bachelor of arts, bachelor of science in education, master of arts, and doctor of philosophy. He was made director of teacher training in 1928, and was elected acting president by the Teachers College Board on the death of President Pulliam, in March 1944. During his brief ad-interim presidency, Southern's Graduate School was organized.

Dr. Bruce Welch Merwin

President Lay
and outstanding men and women of high specialization added strength to Southern.

Under the Civil Administration Code of the Governor Lowden administration, Southern was brought, in 1917, under the control of a unit board headed by the governor's director of the State Department of Registration and Education. This loss of autonomy, which prevailed under the old local board of trustees, has not always been attended with happy results to Southern. Among other handicaps, its building program has been governed, not by actual needs, but by a system of rotation of allocation among the five teachers colleges under the board's control.

On the sudden death of President Shryock, in April, 1935, Dean George D. Wham served as acting president in the few months' interim until the election of Mr. Roscoe Pulliam, who came to the presidency of Southern from the superintendence of Harrisburg city schools.

President Pulliam's policy was to carry forward, with the same general aims, the unfinished work of his predecessor. He was a dynamic leader who, with a strong faculty, made Southern widely known locally and throughout the nation as one of the highest ranking teachers colleges. Southern's participation as a co-operating institution with other leading colleges and universities in a nationwide study of teacher education, under the direction of the American Council of Education, won for Southern an enviable recognition. A democratizing of college administration with large participation by both faculty and students was a distinctive feature of President Pulliam's policy. His greatest achievement was to win for Southern its university status, by act of the Illinois legislature in June, 1943.

President Pulliam's death, in March, 1944, at a critical period of Southern's new and ill-defined status was most unfortunate. Professor Bruce W. Merwin of the college faculty was permitted, as acting president for a few months, to do little more than carry on the routine matters of administration. Dr. Chester F. Lay was brought to the presidency from the University of Texas, in January, 1945. The post-war period of unrest, the rapid growing pains of a new Southern—these and
Dr. Delyte Wesley Morris, was born at Xenia, Illinois, April 11, 1907. Educated in the public schools of Xenia and Flora, he obtained the bachelor's degree from Park College, Parkville, Missouri; the master's degree from the University of Maine; and the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Iowa. He taught in a public school in Oklahoma, in the University of Maine, in the Junior College of Kansas City, Missouri, and in the Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute, Indiana. He came to Southern as eighth president, September 10, 1948, from Ohio State University, where he had been serving as professor of speech and director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic. Dr. Morris was inaugurated, May 5, 1949.
many other factors—contributed to make it an unhappy period of un­
certainty and unrest. A notable victory was achieved in the passage, by
the legislature, in 1947, of the bill which gave Southern its legitimate
name, Southern Illinois University.

President Lay's resignation in August, 1948, was followed by the
election of Dr. D. W. Morris, who came to Southern from Ohio State
University. The new president had to plunge immediately into the strug­
gle to gain for Southern its most essential needs. That fight now goes on
with a highly gratifying support from all Southern Illinois. President
Morris is a superb leader who inspires confidence. A brighter day is
dawning for Southern.

The retrospect of 75 years of Southern's history is best understood
in terms of the institution's influence in shaping the lives and destinies
of the many thousands of its sons and daughters who have spent happy,
fruitful years within its walls. Trained leaders have gone out to win dis­
tinction in all fields of worthy endeavor. Southern is proud of its chil­
dren.

Formative influences which have done most, perhaps, to produce this
leadership do not appear in this brief sketch. Extra-curricular activity
and student life in general at Southern have a unique and distinctive
history.
OLD MAIN TODAY
(1887)

OLD SCIENCE BUILDING
(1896)
ANTHONY HALL (1913)

OLD POWER PLANT
(1915)
SHRYOCK AUDITORIUM (1916)

GYMNASIUM (1925)
NEW EDUCATION BUILDING
(under construction)
(Architect's Drawing)

NEW POWER PLANT
(under construction)
(Architect's Drawing)
FIRST FACULTY—1874

Robert Allyn, Principal, Mental Science, Ethics, and Pedagogics
Cyrus Thomas, Natural History and Physiology
Charles W. Jerome, Registrar, Languages, and Literature
Enoch A. Gastman (elect), Mathematics*
Daniel B. Parkinson, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry
James H. Brownlee, Reading, Elocution, and Phonics
Granville F. Foster, History and Geography
Alden C. Hillman, Principal of High School; Teacher in Normal Department
Martha Buck, Grammar and Etymology
Julia F. Mason, Principal of Primary and Model School
Hon. A. D. Duff (elect), Dean of Law Department*

* Neither Mr. Gastman nor Mr. Duff ever taught, although their names appeared in the first catalogue.

FACULTY OF 1893

(Front row) Samuel M. Inglis, Inez Green, John Hull, Matilda F. Salter, Daniel B. Parkinson.
(Third row) George V. Buchanan, George H. French, William F. Rochelean, George W. Smith, William H. Hall, Mary A. Roberts, John M. Pierce.
The Spirit of Southern

The recent fine spirit of united loyalty of students, faculty, alumni, and citizens in the face of great need of an expanding university is but a manifestation of the best tradition of Southern. An effective fighting front has always met every crisis, and none better than during the heroic interlude following the major disaster of the fire which destroyed the first building, November 26, 1883.

A soot-begrimed, disheveled, heartsick man plodded slowly homeward at sunset on that tragic November day. He stopped to look back occasionally at the glow from the smouldering ruins of that great building,

THE BURNING OF OLD MAIN—1883
the pride and hope of Egypt. Nine years he had led his faculty and the friends of education in Southern Illinois in building a great institution. He now felt more than the weight of his sixty-six years of age. But the indomitable spirit of the builder in Dr. Robert Allyn was proof against despair. He would begin again tomorrow.

Dr. Allyn and his faculty discovered the finer metal in the raw material of youth with which they had been working, and a degree of maturity, of responsible adulthood, and of potential leadership quite surprising in a campus community strictly regimented.

In the mid-afternoon of that November day, the alarm of fire which had started in the mansard story of the building did not produce a panic. Four hundred students filed out of classrooms and study hall and went to work, first in the vain attempt to save the building, and then in salvaging all that could be saved. Furniture, including the pianos, valuable equipment, and the precious library were brought out of the rapidly developing inferno. Only the museum, in the southeast fourth floor where the fire started, was a total loss. Dr. Allyn was everywhere inspiring and directing this orderly confusion of impromptu teamwork. Reckless hazards were sometimes taken, but no injury resulted to anyone. And then, at eventide, a grief-stricken faculty and student body made their way to homes and boarding places with the feeling that this was the end of their hopes.

A mass meeting of citizens at the Opera House on the evening of the fire brought forth the offer of store rooms, offices, and churches for the accommodation of the homeless school. A subscription of $1,800, headed by Carbondale's architect, Isaac Rapp, was started that night and reached $6,000 by the end of the week. The temporary building was started immediately and was ready for occupancy by mid-January. This was the prompt answer to some communities which revived the old controversy of the location of the school.

The school assembly in the Baptist Church on the day after the fire was addressed by leading students as well as by faculty, and showed that even disaster has its compensations, for a new and greater Southern was brought into being. The self discipline of those trying days of mid-
winter, 1883-84, in cramped and ill-furnished quarters, was a wholesome experience in the building of a great institution. It was almost literally a case of Mark Hopkins on one end of a log and Jim Garfield on the other.

Legislative appropriation for a new building had to wait the convening of the Illinois General Assembly, in 1885. Rebuilding, begun in the late summer of that year, was somewhat expedited by the use of the stone foundation of the first building. The structure, now known as Old Main, was less beautiful than the original but functionally better adapted to the need of its time. It was completed and dedicated, February 24, 1887.

In the meantime, the school made shift to carry on in the temporary frame building which had been completed at a cost of $6,000 in January, 1884. It was in the form of a Greek cross, located approximately where Old Science now stands. The center was an assembly and study hall, accommodating 275 students. It was lighted by a skylight cupola and by a small window space at each of its corners. The arms of the cross provided fourteen classrooms, including a room for the Model School. The thin, unplastered walls gave no protection against competing sounds of elocution and music and loud-voiced teachers. Lack of any adequate assembly hall to accommodate the large concourse of people who were attracted to the exercises of commencement week led to the use of a tent for those occasions. The tent afforded some amusing incidents and some not at all amusing to those who were participants. It was jokingly referred to by underclassmen as “the circus”.
The Eventful Years

Events make history, and chronology is its sequence.

1868 Meeting of a thousand leading school men in Carbondale, June 1-3, to promote a Normal School in Southern Illinois.
Similar meeting in Centralia, September 1-3.


1870 Cornerstone laying of first building, May 17.

1873 First meeting of regular Board of Trustees in Chicago, October 28, addressed by Governor John L. Beveridge.

1874 Dedication of first building and inauguration of Dr. Robert Allyn as first president, July 1.
"First day of school", July 2.

1875 First Southern Illinois Normal University catalog issued.

1877 Establishment of Douglas Corps Cadets and beginning of a program of military training under authority of the United States War Department.

1883 Destruction of the first building by fire, November 26.

1884 Temporary frame building occupied, January 24.

1887 Present Old Main completed; dedicated, February 24.

1892 Retirement of Dr. Allyn, and election of Professor John Hull as second president.

1893 Elaborate exhibit prepared for the World Columbian Exposition, Chicago.

1894 Inauguration of Dr. Harvey William Everest as third president.

1895 Adlai E. Stevenson, vice-President of the United States, commencement speaker.

1896 Old Science Building (The Castle) completed.

1898 Dr. Daniel Baldwin Parkinson elected fourth president.

1899 First yearbook, the Sphinx, issued by the Junior Class.
Souvenir History of first quarter century published by Alumni.
1903 Wheeler Library completed.
1908 Allyn Training School completed.
1910 William Jennings Bryan, commencement speaker.
1912 Acquisition of State Farm.
1913 Anthony Hall dedicated. Inauguration of Henry William Shryock as fifth president.
1914 First Obelisk, school annual, published.
1915 Power House completed.
1917 The Normals and Teachers Colleges of Illinois brought under administrative authority of the Department of Registration and Education and a unit state board of control.
1918 Shryock Auditorium dedicated; address by ex-President William Howard Taft.
1920 Publication of Egyptian as a weekly campus paper.
1922 First class to receive degrees at commencement.
1923 Discontinuance of vice-presidency and creation of office of Dean of Faculty.
1925 New Gymnasium completed.

**UNIVERSITY GLEE CLUB—1899**

**FACULTY QUARTETTE—1899**
Miss Mary M. McNeill, Prof. H. J. Alvis, Miss Adda P. Wertz, Prof. George W. Smith.
with the American Association of Teachers Colleges (now American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) and the American Association of University Women.

Differentiating a university from a college are the wider range of functions which a university must carry on to be worthy of the name. The function of a college is to teach, to impart knowledge to students. A university must teach, but it must also add to the world's store of knowledge, through research; and it should put its technical, scientific, and practical knowledge into service for the people in its area.

As a teachers college, Southern carried on activities of service to the people of Southern Illinois, especially in such fields as extension classes for teachers, consultation, and other services for the schools of the area.

As a university, Southern has been broadening and strengthening its services—to its students on the campus; to the teachers and the school systems of the region; and to industrial, commercial, and other groups. It has made it possible for a number of its faculty members to engage in research and has established a large scientific research program in microbiology.

More significant than perhaps any other development, Southern has won the awareness of the people of Southern Illinois and has enlisted the active support of the entire region for its program of future progress. Students, faculty, alumni, businessmen, housewives, civic clubs, church groups, political leaders of both parties—all have joined hands in a concerted drive to secure finances sufficient for Southern to provide an adequate physical plant and a broad, enlightened educational program for the young people of Southern Illinois and to furnish a program of technical and scientific training, of leadership, and of service that conceivably may re-vitalize the economic, social, and cultural life of the whole region.

So, in its Diamond Jubilee festivities, Southern is looking—not backward—but forward... looking toward a dawning new day of a greater university and a greater Southern Illinois, linked together for mutual strength and vigor.
SOUTHERN'S STUDENT BODY — 1949
NOTES AND AUTOGRAPHS

Diamond Jubilee Committee
E. G. Lentz, Chairman