

4-30-1990

Renaming the Faculty Office Building

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution 23 1989-90

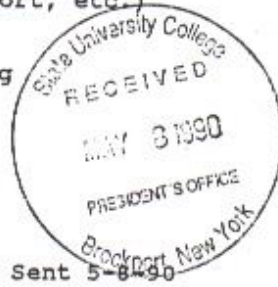
Faculty Senate

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on 4-30-90
(Date)

RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
X II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Renaming the Faculty Office Building



Signed *James J. Sullivan*
(For the Senate)

Date Sent 5-8-90

TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

- a. Accepted. Effective Date _____
- b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on _____
- c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III.

- a. Received and acknowledged
- b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: *Action pending report of Ad Hoc Committee*

All attached files

Distribution Date 10/17/90 Signed: *[Signature]*
(President of the College)

DATE: April 24, 1990

TO: Faculty Senators

FROM: Standing Committee on the College Environment

RE: Resolution on Renaming the Faculty Office Building

The College Environment Committee plans to introduce the attached resolution, as an added item of business, at the 4/30/90 meeting of the Senate. This document asks the body's approval of a resolution recommending that the Faculty Office Building be renamed "The Raye H. Conrad Building."

Included in this packet is supporting documentation -letters from students, colleagues, and professional associates as well as biographical information.

The Committee thanks the Senators for their consideration of this resolution.

RESOLUTION ON THE RENAMING
OF THE
FACULTY OFFICE BUILDING

- WHEREAS Dr. Raye H. Conrad served the College with distinction for more than 27 years as a Professor of Education, as Chair of the Education Division, as Dean of Students, as Director of Admissions, and Dean for Certification;
- WHEREAS Dr. Conrad, an outstanding teacher, with his ability to inspire and guide students and his mastery of subject matter, made a lasting and profound impression as an educator; and
- WHEREAS Members of the SUNY Brockport faculty acknowledge and recognize Dr. Conrad's many significant and diverse contributions to the educational mission of the College,
- BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that the facility now designated the "Faculty Office Building" be renamed the "Raye H. Conrad Building."

Approved unanimously by the Standing Committee on the College Environment at its April 20, 1990 meeting.

(DR. JACK CRANDALL'S LETTER, SIGNED BY HIM, HAS BEEN RETYPED FOR APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION.)

Overlook Terrace
Bemus Point, NY 14712
April 10, 1990

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to register my most enthusiastic endorsement of the proposal to name the Faculty Office Building in honor of Dr. Raye Conrad. As a participant in and observer of the Brockport scene for over forty years I can think of no one as deserving of that honor and recognition as Raye Conrad. It is altogether fitting and proper that a tangible immortality be attached to the intangible, but nonetheless real, immortality that Dr. Conrad achieved in the hearts and minds of countless students, parents, colleagues and fellow educators in his long and distinguished career.

In the first place it is singularly appropriate that this educational edifice which has borne the official title, Faculty Office Building, should bear the name of an exemplary member of the Brockport faculty. Raye Conrad fits that specification perfectly in its ideal sense and its multiple meanings. In the many roles and responsibilities he assumed - Coordinator of Field Services, Dean of Students, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education, Director of Special Projects including Teacher Certification and Professor of Education - he was a model for the rest of us to emulate. He was the ideal representative of "the best at Brockport."

Raye Conrad was an ardent apostle of education, a strikingly effective and eloquent spokesman for the critical importance of public education in our society, an inspiring recruiter of young people into the teaching profession, a tireless campaigner for gaining widespread recognition of teachers as professionals, a vigorous proponent of higher standards for teacher certification and a masterful, multi-talented teacher himself.

It is difficult to talk about Raye as a teacher without seeming to succumb to hyperbole. The word that always comes to mind when I think about his teaching is "inspirational." He inspired his students to learn and to love learning; he inspired them to become teachers, to be proud of their chosen profession and to join him in the fight for educational causes. Over the years I have talked with a great many of his students and former students and have yet to hear anything but rave reviews - and from all age groups. A large number of them give him credit for their decision to become teachers and for helping them to become better teachers. His pedagogical career brought life and real meaning to the old cliché, "a teacher's teacher." He was endowed with a quick wit, a keen sense of humor and an aptitude for the apt anecdote. He made learning enjoyable - even fun - but he was deadly serious in executing his teaching tasks and achieving his educational goals. He had high expectations and inspired his students to rise up to meet them. He was as popular a teacher as I have ever known. He taught in the B.C.A. era (Before Chancellor's Awards). If he had come along a little later he would have won an Award for Teaching Excellence hands down.

Some of those talents which made him a great teacher - Wit, eloquence, stage presence, a sense of mission and a sense of humor - made him a much sought after speaker at commencements, honors convocation, conferences and other special events. Even after his retirement he remained in demand as a speaker and Master of Ceremonies at important special events. I don't have the data at hand but I'm sure that a simple listing of his platform performances would fill more than several pages. Even then it would be only a quantitative assessment. Qualitatively his contributions in this category are immeasurable. Both by precept and example he was the ideal representative of Brockport College in particular and public education in general.

His understanding of young people and his commitment to their welfare made him "a natural" as a Dean of Students, an office he filled with distinction. His dedication to educational excellence and innovation inevitably led to his leadership role as Director of Elementary and Secondary Education. His grasp of educational problems and the special needs of various groups brought him assignments to conduct seminars for teachers of the disadvantaged such as the children of migrant workers. His expert knowledge of the intricacies of teacher certification and his ability to thread his way through the bureaucratic maze of structures and procedures of the licensing process made him the one everybody turned to for the answers in that critical area. In that role he was both the faithful guardian of standards and the compassionate cutter of red tape when such action was justified. But even in the face of these multiple responsibilities he continued to teach to overflowing classrooms of happy students in extension and evening courses.

I could go on much longer with sincere ~~encomiums~~ and passionate ~~panegyrics~~ but I think that I have already "struck oil and should stop boring." I will conclude with a personal note and vivid memory of the first time I heard about Raye Conrad. It was the Summer of '48 and as a candidate for a position (successful it turned out!) I was being interviewed by President Donald Tower. In the course of that interview Dr. Tower said, "I want you to meet Raye Conrad. He's the hit of the State." He was referring to Raye's spectacular record in recruiting students to Brockport in his role as Coordinator of Field Services. There had been some lean years for the institution on the banks of the Erie Canal but the growth years were emerging due in no small part to the recruiting efforts of an inspiring young educator named Raye Conrad. And that was only the beginning of his contributions as noted above. Over a span of nearly three decades he played a critical role in attracting students, inspiring them to become teachers, expanding the educational programs, enhancing the image of Brockport with his frequent public speaking, always fighting the good fight for public education and winning the hearts and minds of his students and colleagues.

Can you think of anyone who deserves more to have his name affixed to the Faculty Office Building? I can't.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack Crandall
Professor Emeritus (History)

(LETTER RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY 1990 FROM A STUDENT WHO WAS UNAWARE OF DR. CONRAD'S PASSING.)

"Typed from handwritten letter for legibility."

February 5, 1990

Dear Dr. Conrad:

I have just written the college requesting copies of my transcript of the course in Migrant Education I took with you during the summer of 1967. In case the college still had contact with you I wanted to let you know how much that experience meant to me. You brought a sense of excellence and inspiration which I believe touched each of us to tune into our own sense of excellence and our own inspiration.

I'm applying to SUNY New Paltz to take my Masters in Special Education with a focus on Migrant Education.

The spring following your course I was married and have three children -- a daughter, 19 (who is a staunch environmentalist - sophomore in college) and two sons - one a senior in high school going into Architectural Design and my youngest, a 15 year old, who is definitely heading towards a career in Art.

I've been privately tutoring, substituting, had my own pre-school and am home-teaching students unable to be in school for one reason or another.

Even if you don't remember me it's always good to know our work has had a long range effect. (I do remember that you told me I reminded you of your daughter.)

My fondest regards to you and your wife for a continuing rich life.

Gail Bernard

(Gail Reinhard)

To Whom it May Concern:

REQUEST FOR THE NAMING OF THE FACULTY OFFICE BUILDING ON THE
SUNY BROCKPORT CAMPUS THE RAYE H. CONRAD BUILDING

Although the present Faculty Office Building houses only a part of the Brockport Faculty, it does house the majority of men and women who guide, counsel, and impart knowledge to the hundreds and hundreds of students who pass through SUNY Brockport. The Faculty Office Building is symbolic of the College's Mission Statement which says in part:

"It (Brockport) prepares graduates who are conversant with the traditions of the liberal arts, who are oriented toward lifelong learning and post-graduate studies, and who are trained in employable skills."

Each of the more recent buildings to be named on the Brockport Campus had in its specific mission and utilization a very special relationship with the ideals and accomplishments of the person for whom the building was named (e.g.: Physical Education Complex.. ..Tuttle; Administration....Allen; Student Center....Rakov; Fine Arts....Tower). It is therefore most appropriate to consider the naming of the Faculty Office Building in honor of that very special educator, Raye H. Conrad, who epitomized the very heart and core of the "great teacher".

Dr. Raye H. Conrad had a most illustrious career as a renowned educator in New York State; most of his professional career being spent as a member of the Brockport Faculty. Although he wore many hats during that career such as: teacher, administrator, student dean, program developer and migrant educator it was in the area of teaching, in the very art of teaching, where he excelled and left his most lasting mark.

We are certain that all teachers aspire to be the best and do the best for the students who are placed under their responsibility; each works at being that teacher who imparts, inspires, guides and in essence leaves a lasting impression upon the student both in relation to the particular subject matter at hand and probably, more importantly, in respect to life in general. Raye H. Conrad was the "all teacher". He accomplished each of the above teaching responsibilities at every moment that he was with his students in a superb fashion. He "knew" his subject matter; he possessed the "wisdom" of how that subject matter related to the reality of the time; he understood his students and was able to guide them, one by one, to achieve their own successes; he was the greatest ambassador for his chosen profession "teaching".

RAYE H. CONRAD REQUESTP.2

Raye H. Conrad in every moment of his professional life lived the meaning of the Brockport Mission Statement phrase quoted above; he became Brockport's "Doctor Teacher" whether in the formal classroom setting or in the informal relationships with students and public.

We can think of no more appropriate testimony to this man's accomplishments than to tie them forever to the symbol of SUNY Brockport's mission of teaching and guiding students (the present Faculty Office Building) by naming of this building "THE RAYE H. CONRAD BUILDING."



Andrew D. Virgilio, Professor Emeritus (Educational Administration)

17 Lynwood Drive
Brockport, New York 14420

April 20, 1990

BROCKPORT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

State University of New York
College at Brockport
College Development Department
Office of Alumni Affairs
Brockport, New York 14420
(716) 395 1465

September 3, 1988

Ms. Jeanette D'Agostino
20 Hillcrest Parkway
Brockport, New York 14420

Dear Jeanette:

After hearing of the proposal under development to dedicate the Faculty Office Building to the memory of Dr. Raye Conrad, I wanted to formally let you know I wholeheartedly support the recommendation.

Dr. Conrad's name was synonymous with education for those of us attending Brockport during the years it was Brockport State Teachers College. As Director of Elementary Education and an outstanding, popular professor, he was a role model for those of us preparing to enter the teaching profession. The dedication of a significant part of the campus in his memory is fitting, proper and overdue.

As Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Brockport Alumni Association, I have discussed the concept of a memorial to Dr. Conrad with alumni I see at committee meetings and Board of Directors meetings. Without exception, everyone has unanimously supported the proposal.

Please include me in what, I am sure, will be a long list of faculty, emeriti, alumni and friends of the college who endorse this proposal.

If I can be of assistance in seeing this recommendation become reality please call on me.

Sincerely,

Elaine

Elaine Leshnowar '61

TO: College Environment Committee
Steve Buckley, Chair
Faculty Senate
SUNY Brockport

FR: Jeanette D'Agostino Banker
Associate Professor Emeritus
for the Conrad Committee*

Jeanette D'Agostino Banker

DATE: April 20, 1990

Please accept this request that the Faculty Office Building
be named the

"Raye H. Conrad Building"

to honor the memory of Dr. Raye H. Conrad (1915 -1986) who
served the College and the University from 1945 until 1973.

Dr. Conrad was an exceptionally gifted and talented teacher
who made significant and diverse contributions to the mission
of the College and SUNY during his twenty-eight years at
Brockport.

There are numerous alumni, emeriti, faculty, administrators
and professional friends who knew Dr. Conrad and strongly
support this request. We have selected a representative
group of support letters for presentation.

* The Conrad Committee

Lyman Bement, '54 (Vice President, Brockport Alumni
Association)
Walter Brautigan (Education and Human Development)
Marguerite H. Browne (Education and Human Development/
Emeriti Affairs -Brockport Foundation)
Jack Crandall (History)
Elaine Leshnowar, '61 (Secretary, Brockport Alumni
Association)
Richard Mancuso (Physics/Friends of Brockport Athletics)
Donald McWherter (Political Science)
Anne O'Toole (Librarian)
John Phillips, Jr. (Dean, School of Professions)
Ray Samson, '65 (Past President, Brockport Alumni
Association)
Andrew D. Virgilio (Educational Administration)
Frances Moroney-Whited (Reading Education)
Clark Whited (Sports Science)
Ara Zulalian (Health Science)
Jeanette D'Agostino Banker (Education and Human
Development)

BIOGRAPHY

Raye Howard Conrad

Raye Howard Conrad received the Bachelor of Science degree from the New York State College for Teachers at Buffalo in 1937. Niagara University granted him the Master of Arts degree in 1942. The Pennsylvania State University awarded him the Doctor of Education degree in June 1952.

Dr. Conrad had thirty-six years of experience in education. He taught on levels ranging from grade one through college in New York State. He spent one year in teaching the eight grades in a rural one room school house. Four years were spent in teaching academic subjects in a small town junior-senior high school. Three more years were spent in a large junior high school as English teacher and vice principal.

Throughout these early years he was actively involved in leadership: president of his class during each year of High School in Riverside (Buffalo) and College at Buffalo State. At the age of 23, he was elected president of the Niagara County Teachers' Association. During his third year of teaching in 1939, he helped in the New York State Teachers' Association's successful effort to get the State legislature to extend tenure to rural teachers. In 1945 he accepted a position as Instructor of Education and Supervisor of Practice Teachers at the State University College, Brockport, New York. In 1947 he was appointed Coordinator of Field Services at Brockport. On September 1, 1952, he was designated as Dean of Students at Brockport. On September 1, 1957, he resigned as Dean of Students to accept a position of Professor of Education at Brockport. On July 1, 1958, he became Director of Elementary and Secondary Education at Brockport. When he retired in 1973 he was serving as Dean for Certification Programs.

Dr. Conrad was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, the New York State Teachers Association, the National Education Association, the New York State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and American Association of Higher Education. He was a life member of the State Congress of Parents and Teachers, and had served as a State Vice President of this organization. He was a member of the State Education Department Advisory Committee on Migrant Education and also a member of the Rural Poverty Advisory Committee of the Monroe County Human Relations Commission. For four summers prior to retirement he served as Director of the Brockport College Workshop for Teachers of Migratory Children.

Dr. Conrad retired from State University in 1973. He spent the next thirteen years traveling with his wife, Bea.