

# Roger Williams University

A Virtual Look Back

with Heidi Benedict, University Archivist



Roger Williams University can trace its beginnings back 100 years to its time as a branch campus of Northeastern University. Known then as the School of Commerce and Finance, it offered classes at the Providence YMCA.

# NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

PROVIDENCE DIVISION



*School of  
Commerce  
and Finance*  
EVENING SESSIONS



The New Y. M. C. A., Providence, R. I.







Although the YMCA took control of the school and its name changed more than once over the next 50 years, classes remained in Providence.



# ROGER WILLIAMS JUNIOR COLLEGE

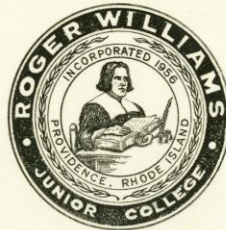
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

BE IT KNOWN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
UPON THE NOMINATION OF THE FACULTY HAS CONFERRED UPON

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## THE DEGREE OF ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

WITH ALL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND HONORS PERTAINING TO THAT DEGREE  
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF WE HAVE AFFIXED OUR SIGNATURES AND THE  
SEAL OF THE COLLEGE THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_



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PRESIDENT

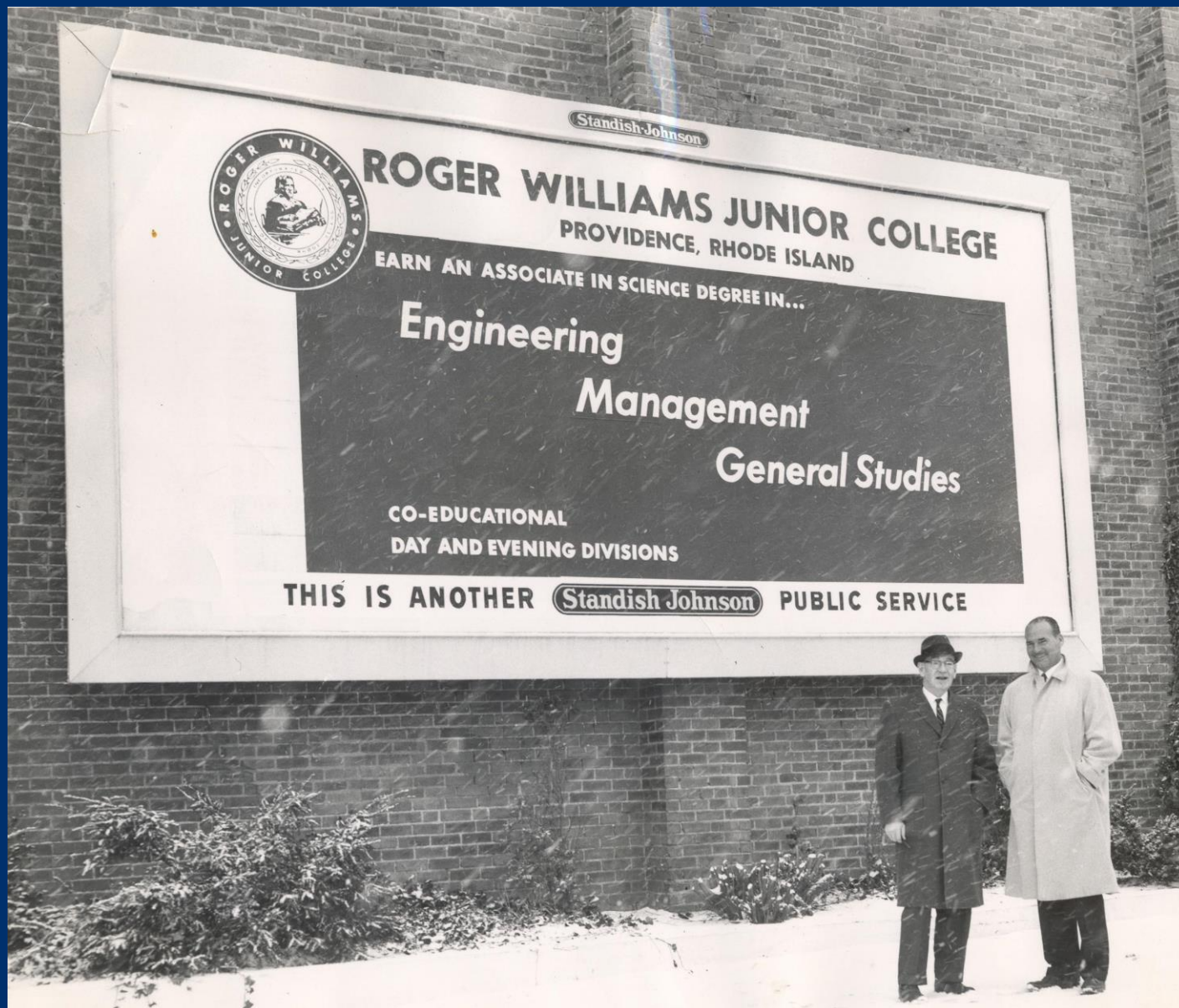
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CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WARDS - BOSTON

The school with Roger Williams as its name, began in 1956.  
Chartered first as a junior college, it offered two-year degrees in engineering,  
management, and accounting. A program in general studies was added later.





ROGER WILLIAMS  
JUNIOR COLLEGE





Anthony Fursaro teaches pre-college class in American history. Class has two of five coeds in Roger Williams.



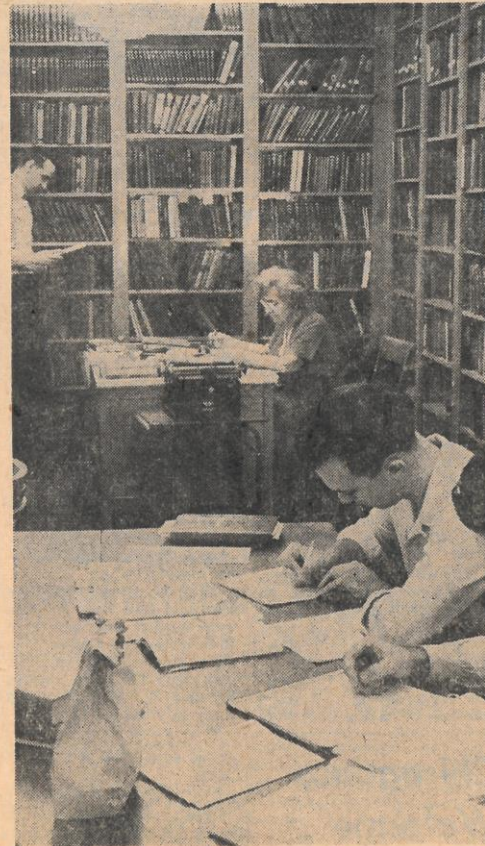
Anthony Parisi, college accountant, and student in college bookstore.



Central lobby of college is crowded during class break.



Class in engineering drawing is taught by George Lemieux, dean of engineering.

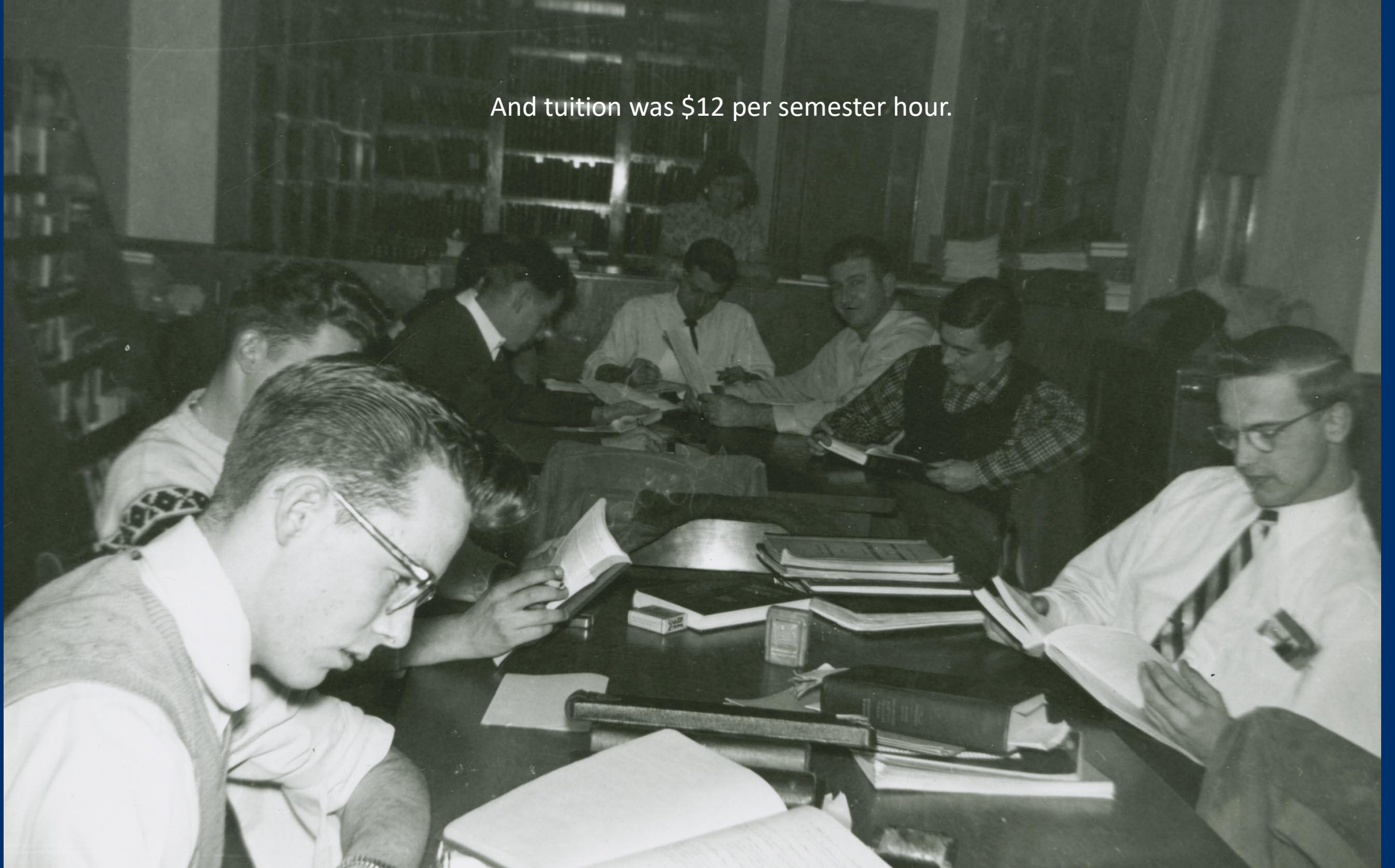


Library has two rooms, 3,000 volumes.

With about 311 day and evening students combined, classes were held at the YMCA and other locations in Providence.



And tuition was \$12 per semester hour.

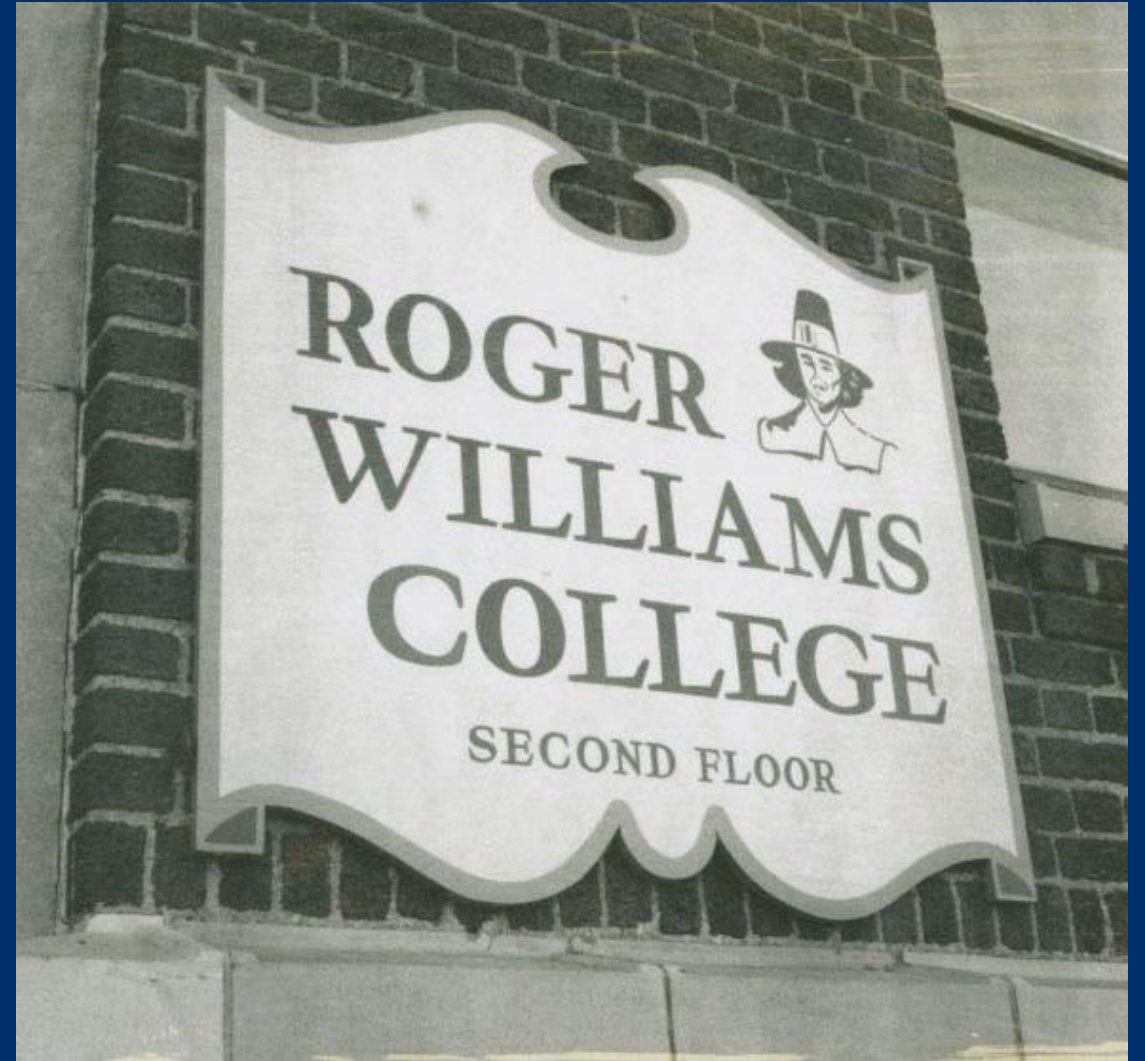




**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF  
ROGER WILLIAMS JUNIOR COLLEGE  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND  
TAKES PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING THAT  
THE COLLEGE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED  
BY  
THE RHODE ISLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AND  
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND  
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
TO OFFER A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM,  
CONFER BACCALAUREATE DEGREES  
AND CHANGE ITS NAME TO  
ROGER WILLIAMS COLLEGE  
JUNE 16, 1967**

In 1967 the junior college was authorized by the state to offer a 4-year program and confer baccalaureate degrees. Accordingly, it dropped junior from its name and became Roger Williams College.



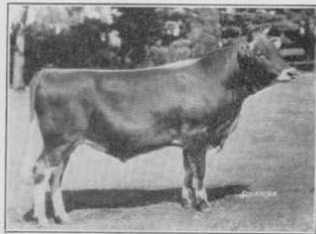




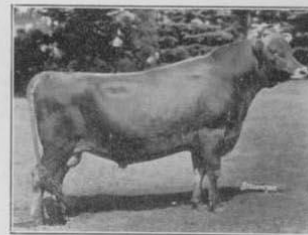


Now let's take a closer look at how campus came to be here Bristol and how it has grown over the past 50 years. Before the campus was built, the land was home to Ferrycliffe Farm, known for its cows and dairy products.





# Ferrycliffe Farm



PURE BRED JERSEYS

1877—1930

HERD FEDERAL ACCREDITED

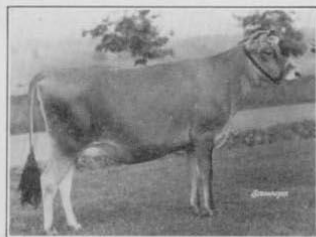


GRADE A MILK and CREAM

Thanksgiving Turkeys

Poultry, Eggs

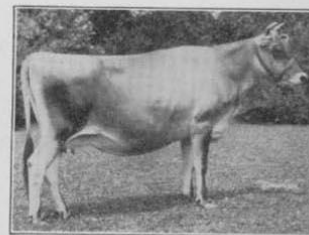
and other Farm Products



*Owners*  
DR. AND MRS. HALSEY DeWOLF

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*Manager*  
GLEN E. SMITH



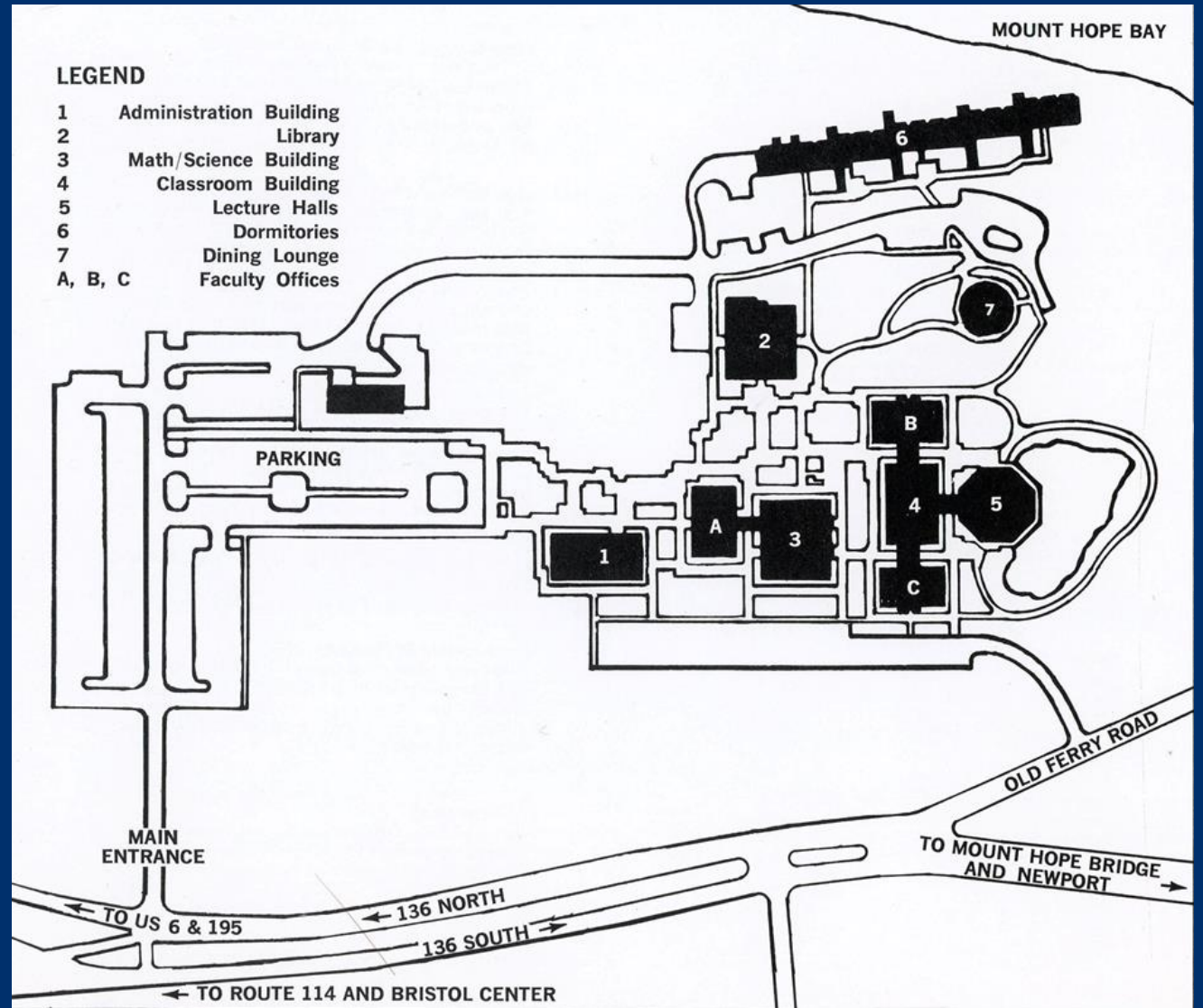
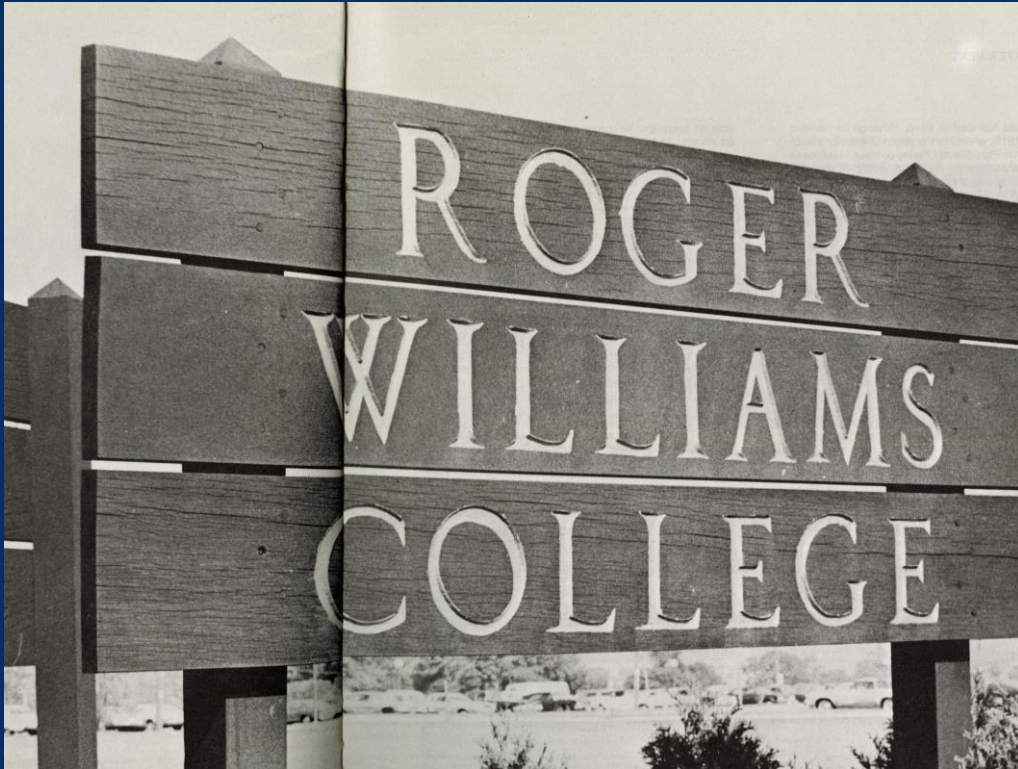




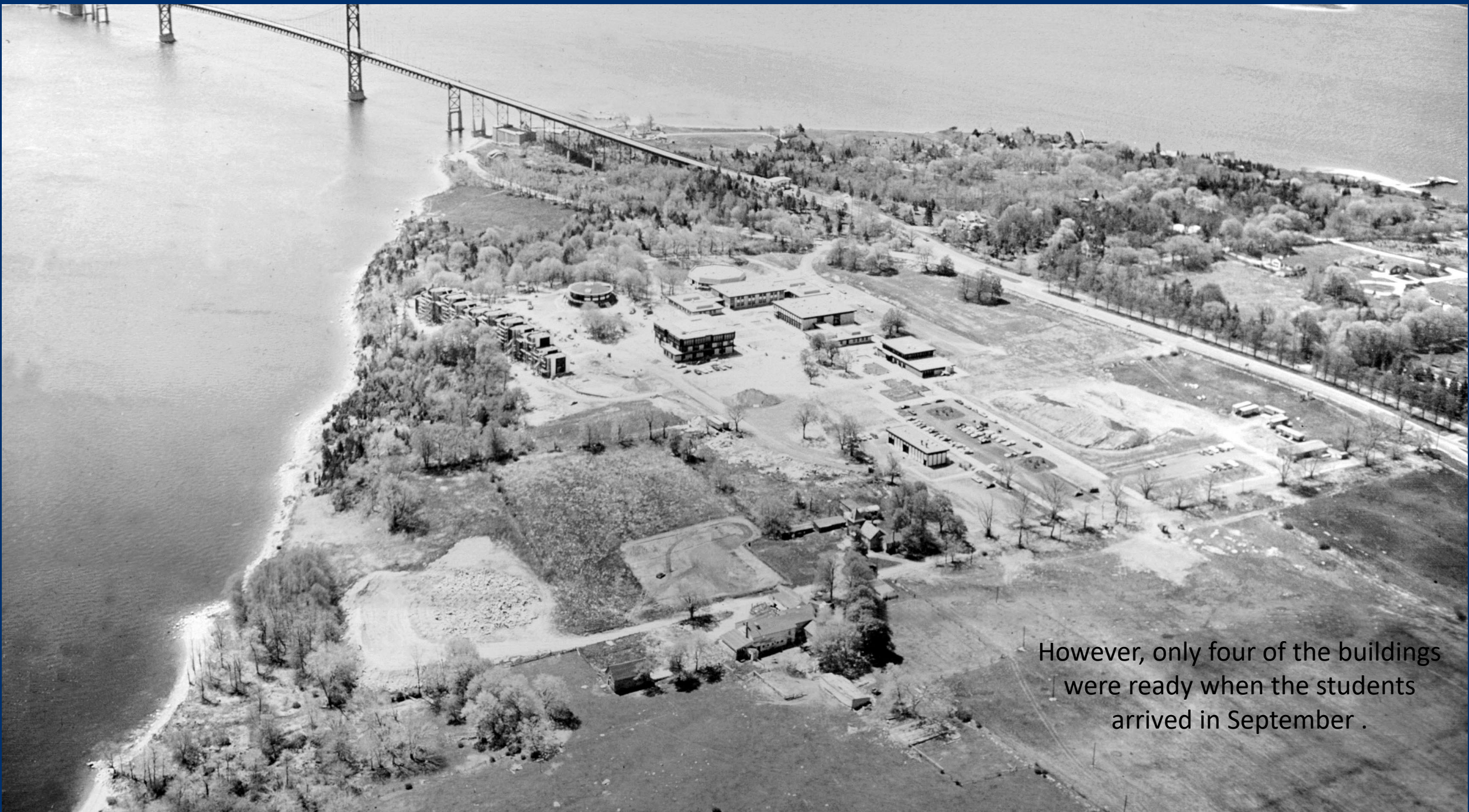
With its waterfront views and beautiful landscape, Bristol seemed the ideal location for a new campus and so in the mid-1960s the college acquired about 60 acres of farmland from the Fulton family.



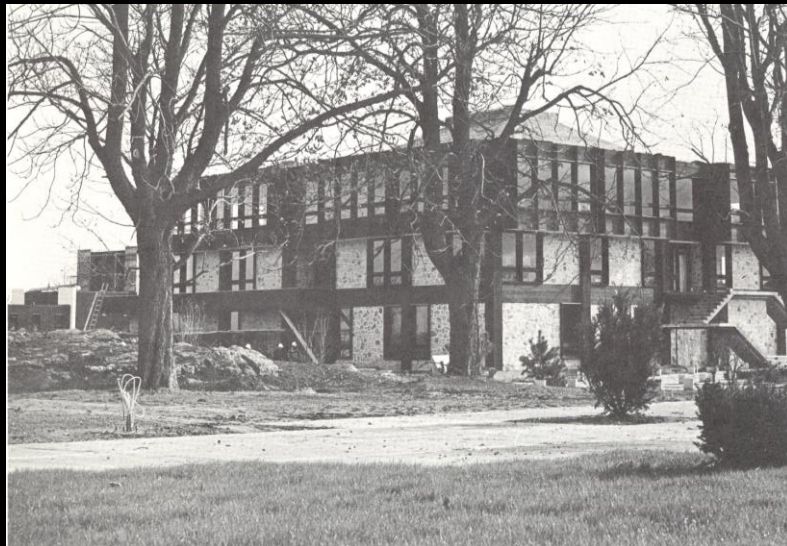
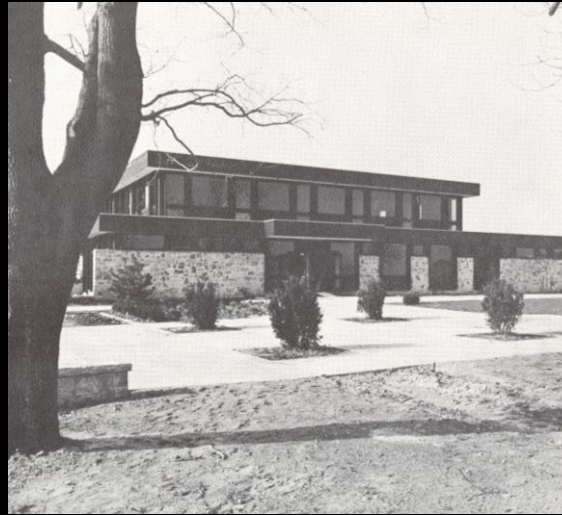
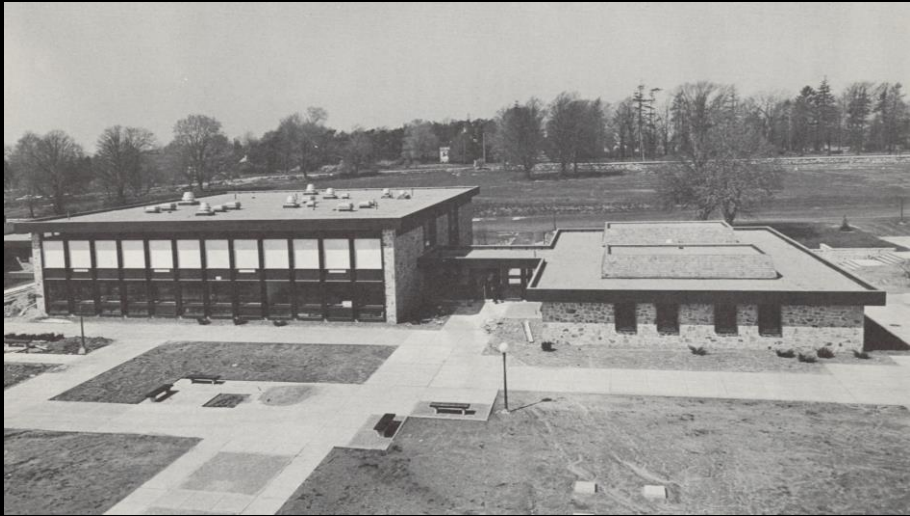
When the college opened in the fall of 1969  
there were 7 buildings on the campus  
and about 1300 students.











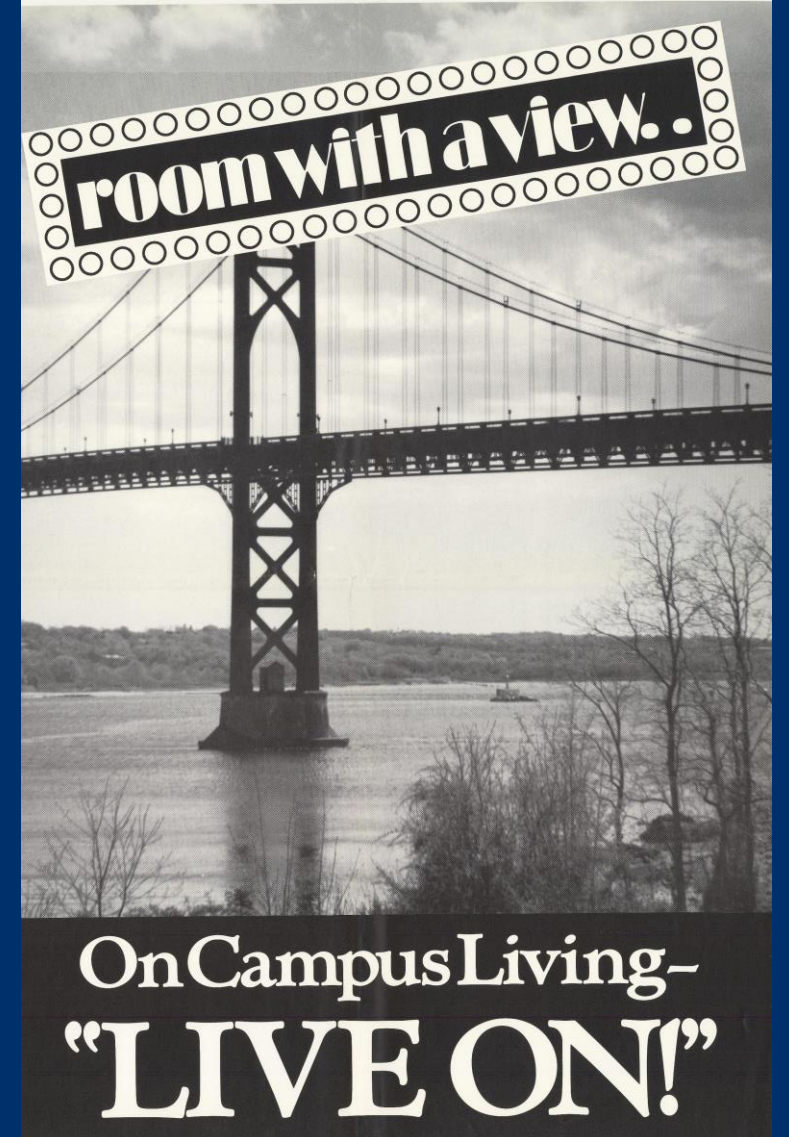
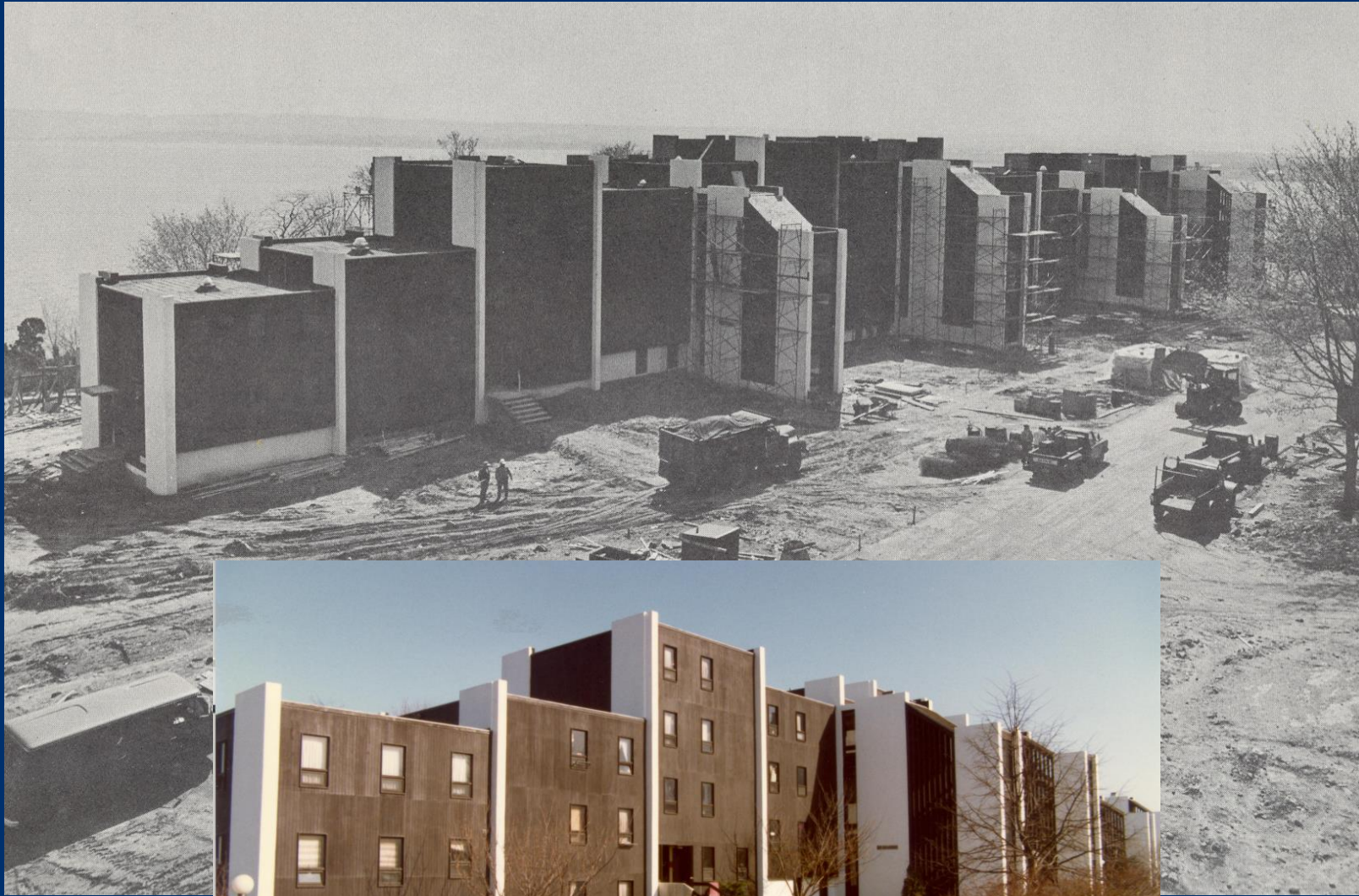
The Administration Building,  
Classroom-Lecture Building, and  
Math-Science Building (above) were  
ready in September, as was the  
Boiler House (not shown).

The Library (left )and Dining Lounge  
(right) were not completed until  
October and November, respectively.





And the only dorm, known then simply as Residence Hall #1,  
wasn't ready until the middle of the spring semester.





You can easily recognize the original buildings with their modernist architecture and stone facades.

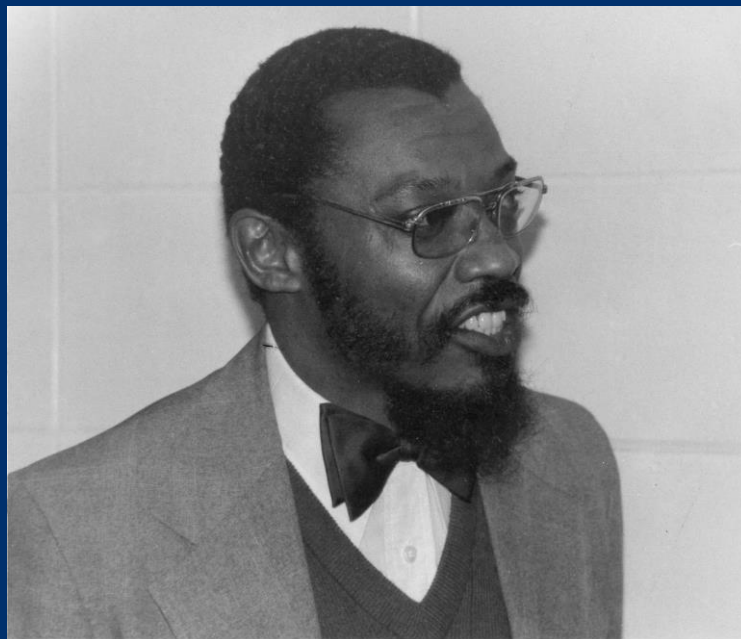
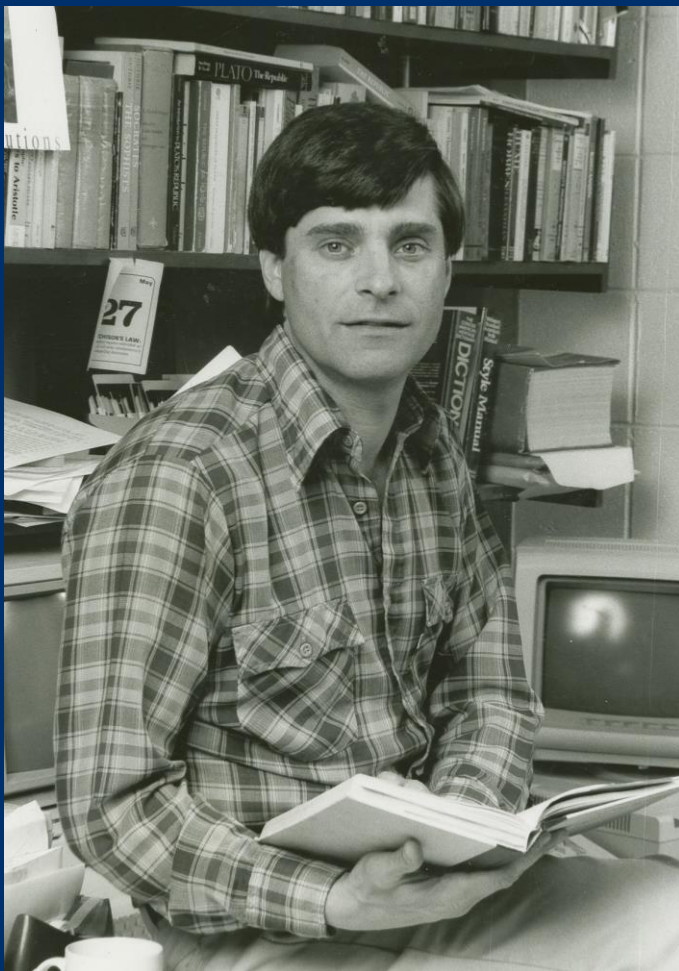




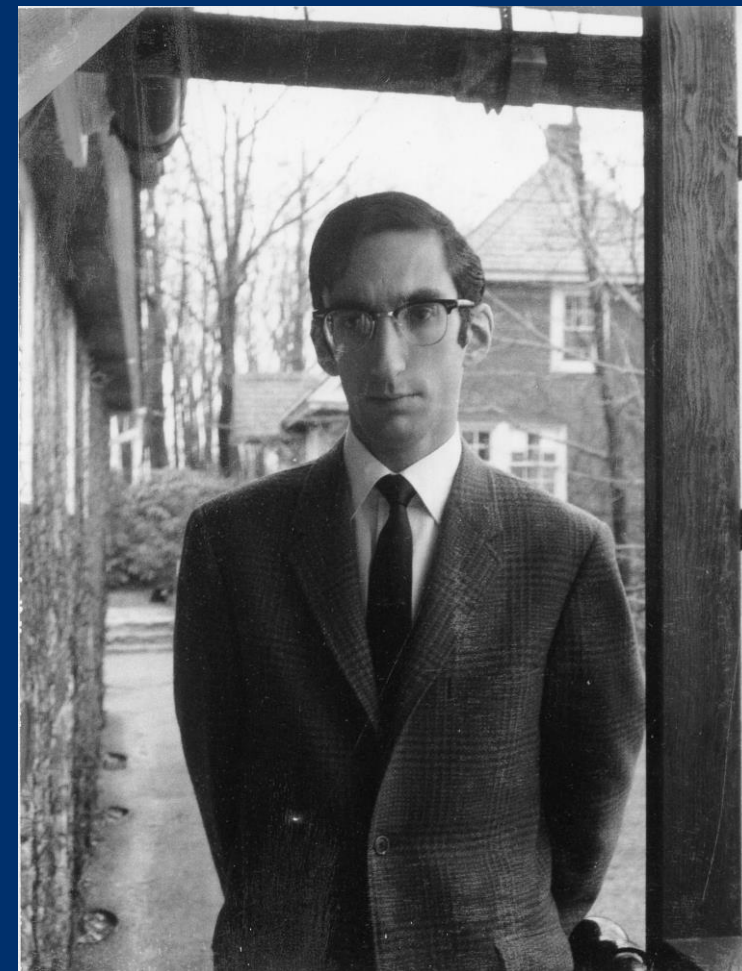
Although the buildings serve different purposes today,  
all of them still stand, with the exception of the boiler house.







There are still a few faculty from  
our early years in Bristol here  
teaching today, including  
Professors Bob Blackburn,  
Ben Carr, and  
Mel Topf.





Residence Hall #2 opened in 1972.





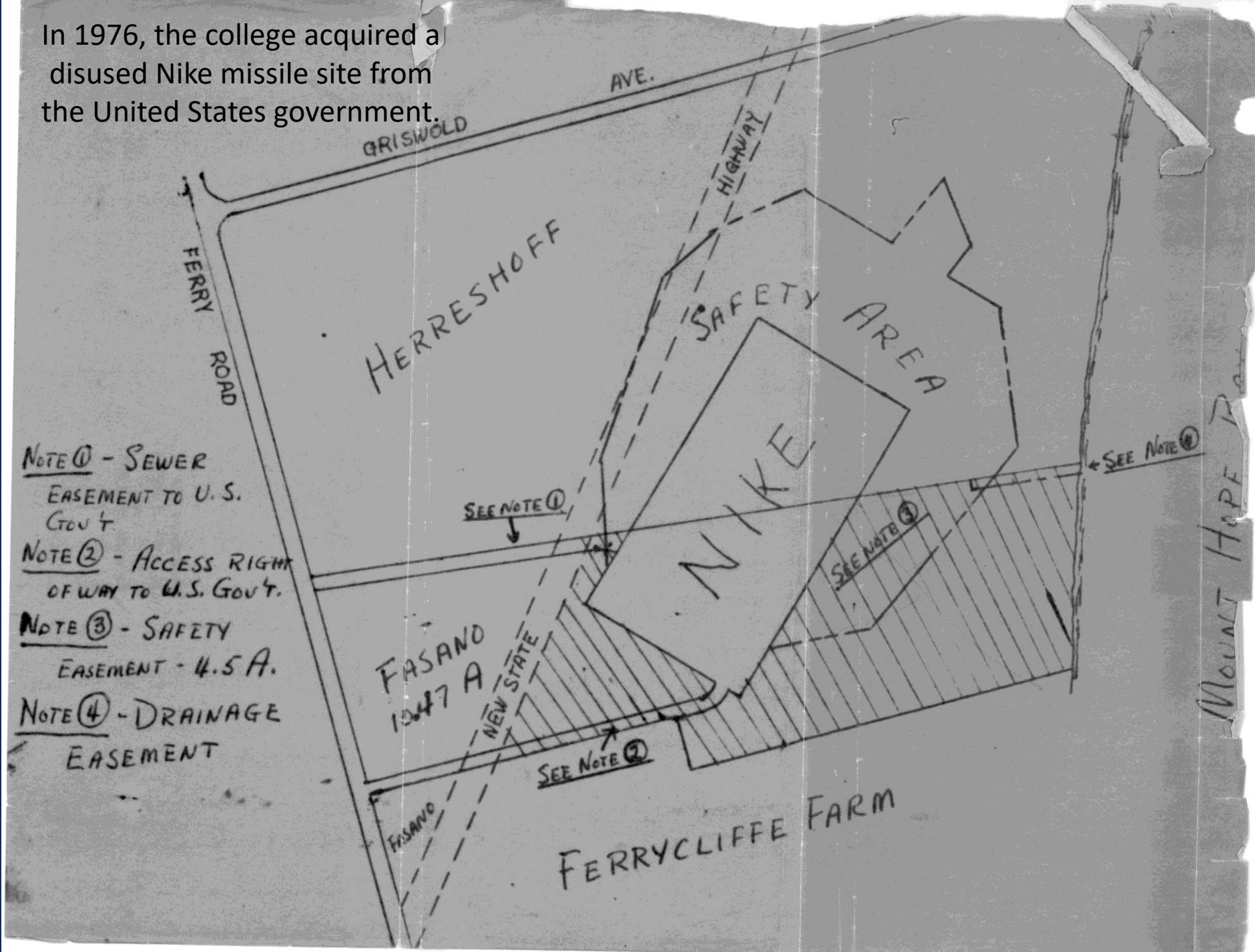


In 1974, the College opened its first student union, with a cafeteria on the main level. On the lower level, students could play pool in the game room, get a bite to eat at the snack bar, and even enjoy a glass of wine or draught beer at the Rat. The bookstore and health services also shared the space.

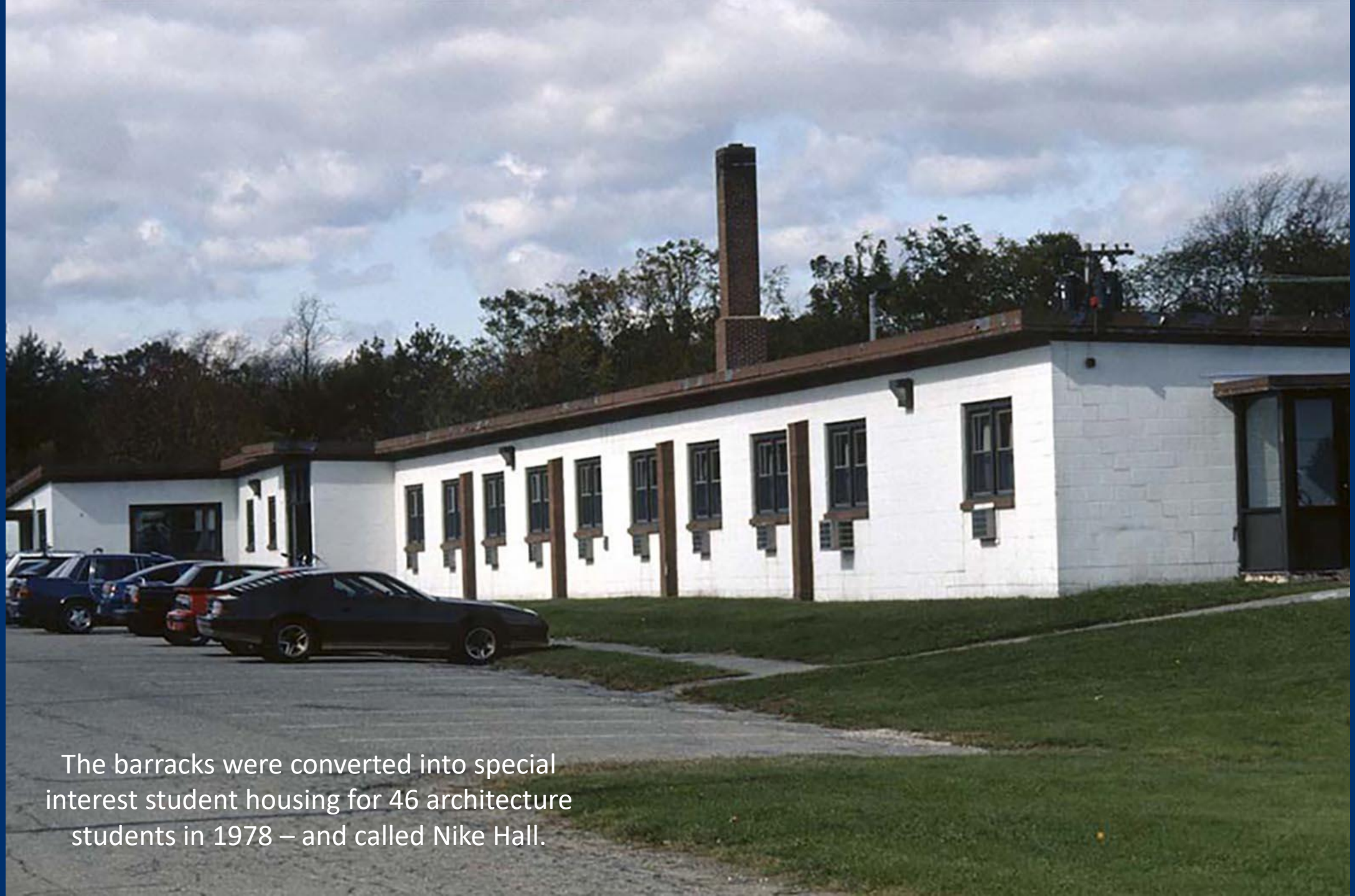




In 1976, the college acquired a disused Nike missile site from the United States government.







The barracks were converted into special interest student housing for 46 architecture students in 1978 – and called Nike Hall.





Ramada Inn

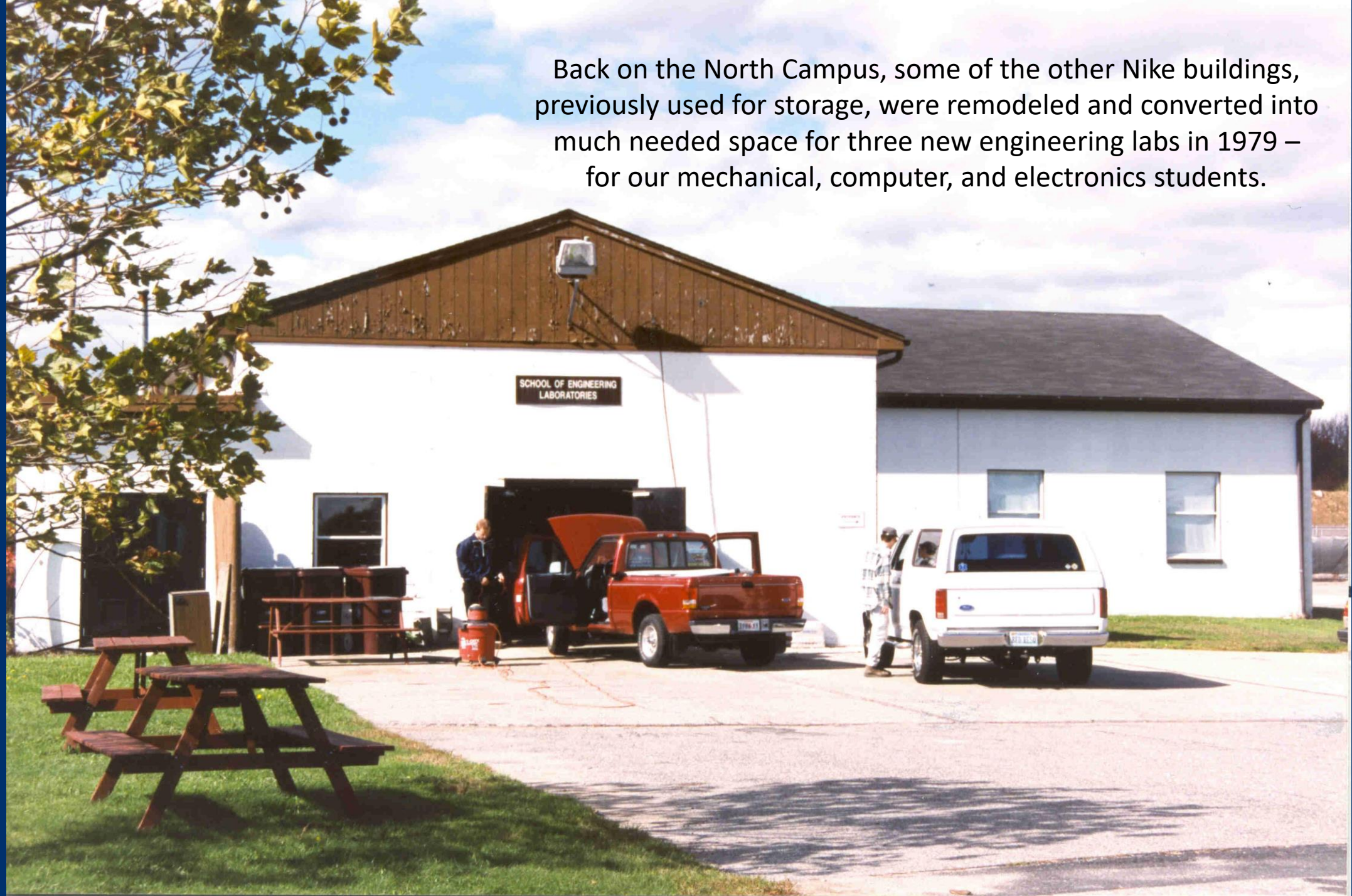


Aquidneck Hall

Increased enrollment forced the college to seek off campus housing options for students over the next 10 years.



Back on the North Campus, some of the other Nike buildings, previously used for storage, were remodeled and converted into much needed space for three new engineering labs in 1979 – for our mechanical, computer, and electronics students.







That same year the college purchased Almeida Apartments on Bayview for yet more student housing. A third residence hall was finally built on campus in 1983 – called, you guessed it, Residence Hall #3. (The first 3 dorms were eventually renamed Maple, Cedar, and Willow.)

*The spacious air-conditioned living areas are furnished, and have wall-to-wall carpeting and sliding glass doors that lead to a private veranda or patio.*



*The modern, well-appointed kitchens include a refrigerator, stove, garbage disposal and some include a dishwasher.*

*One- and two-bedroom apartments are available in a variety of configurations.*

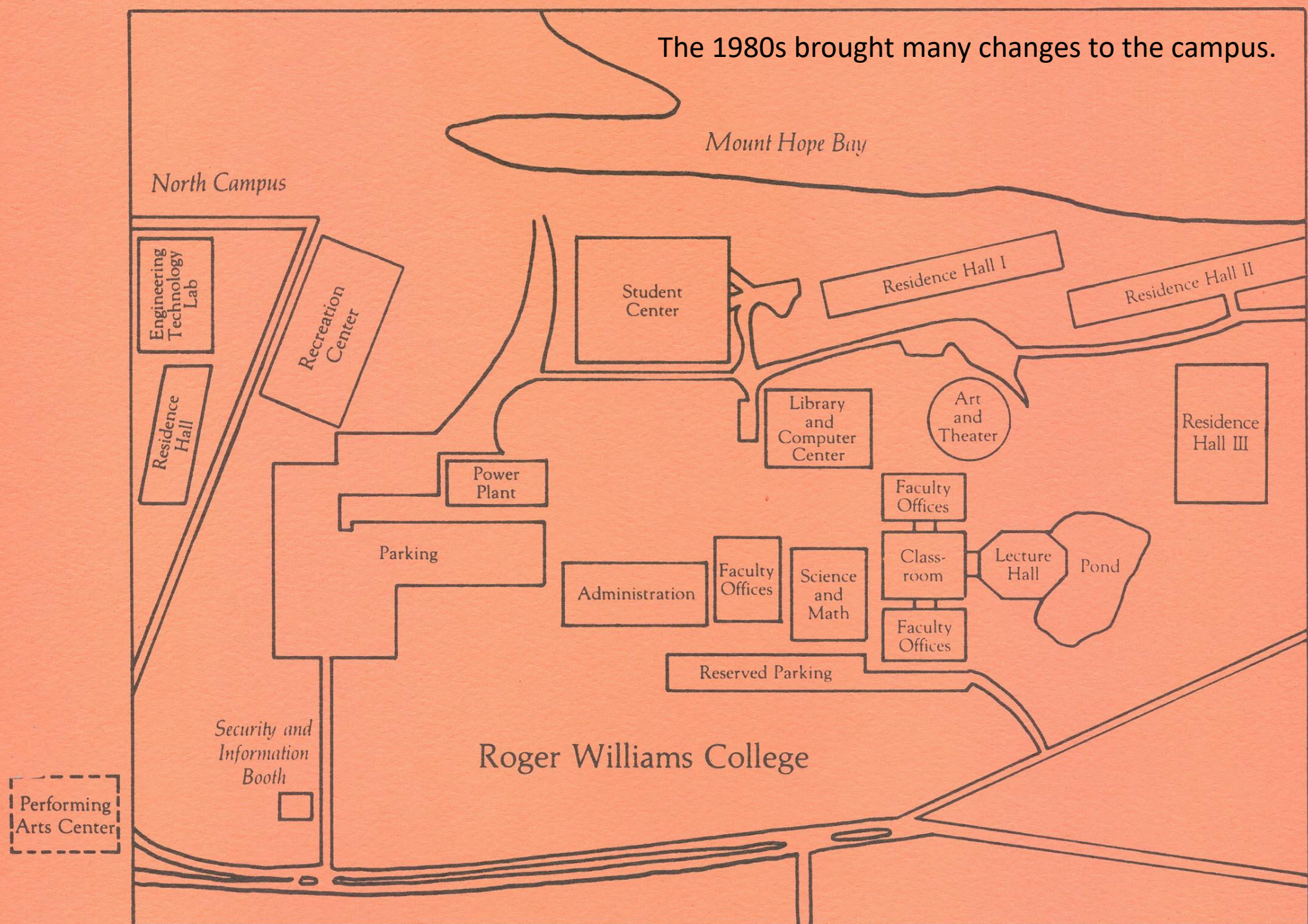


*The courtyard apartments offer ideal accommodations for students or summer visitors.*

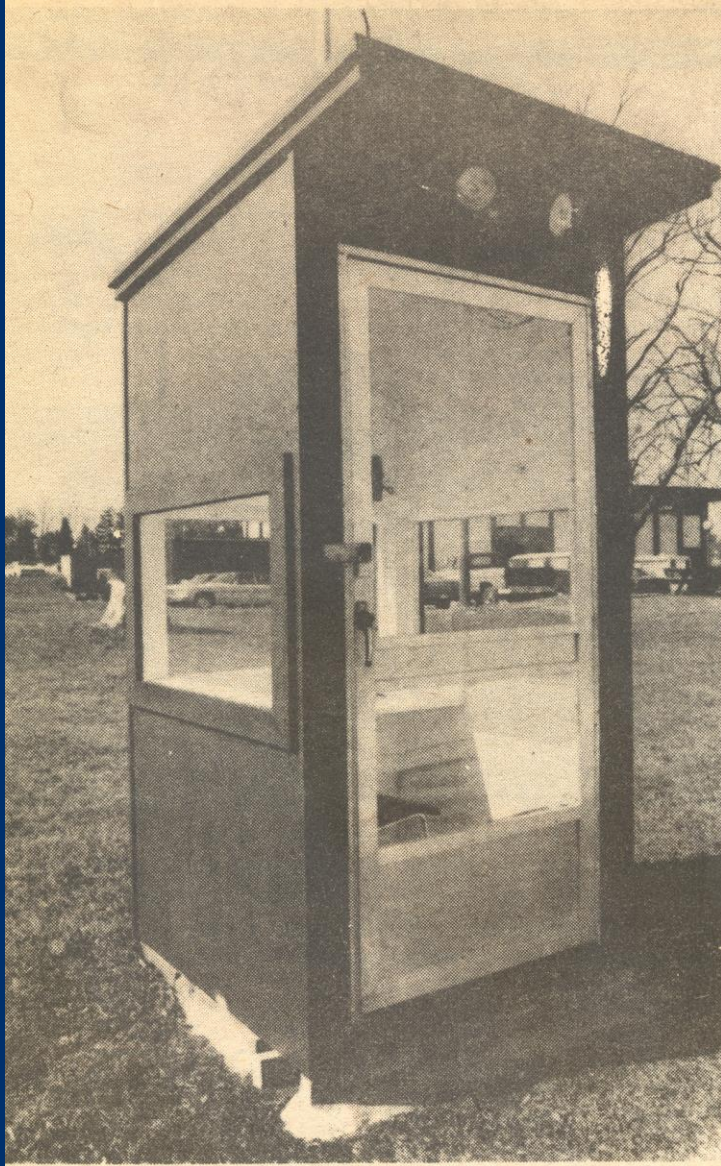




The 1980s brought many changes to the campus.







A new security and information booth was built in 1981, replacing the older shack.



The college's first recreation center opened in 1983.  
From then on, commencement no longer had to be moved to an off-campus location  
in the event of rain, as it did in 1982.





An addition to the original recreation center was completed in 2003, featuring a swimming pool and fitness center.





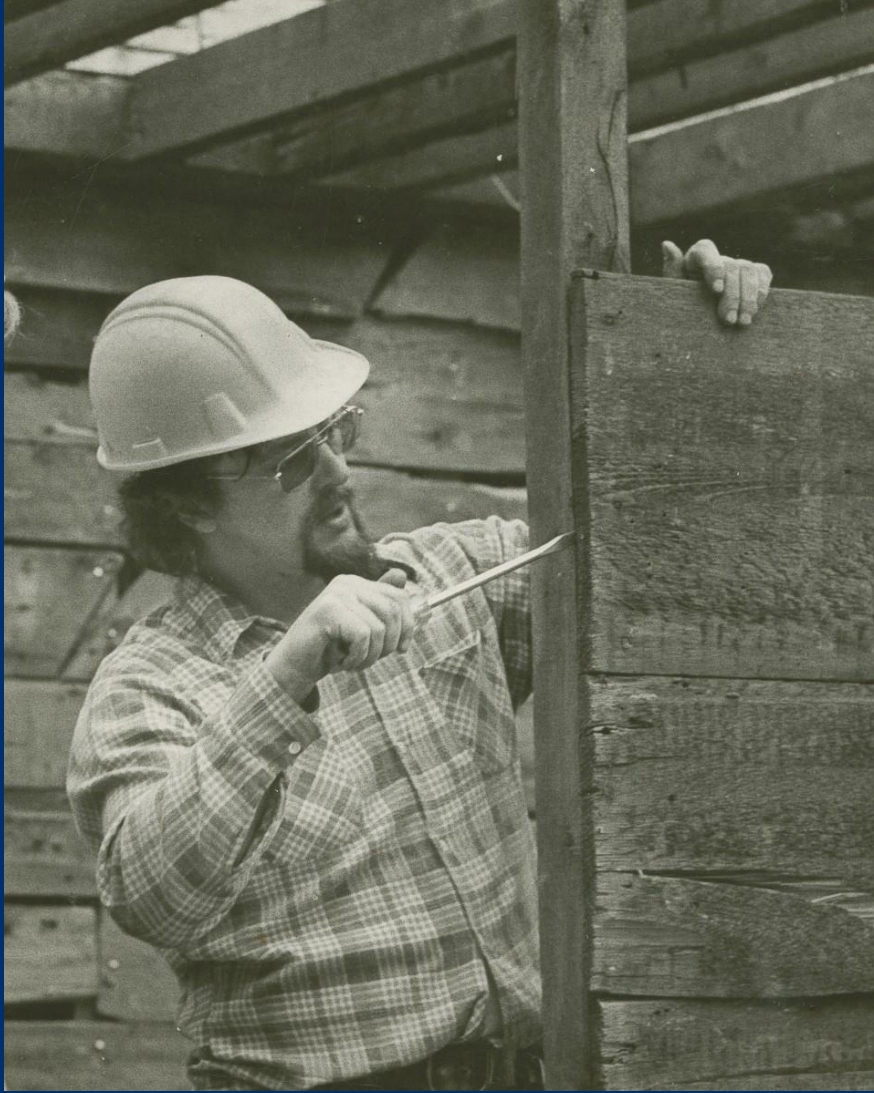


The Performing Arts Center, made from two horse barns, originally located in Glocester, was the next building on campus.



The two 1890s barns were dismantled and reconstructed on our campus by our own historic preservation students, under the leadership of Professor Kevin Jordan in 1984, seen on the next slide.







Roger Williams has hosted a number of concerts and special events over the years.

The Roger Williams College Student Senate  
presents in concert

# TAJ MAHAL



with special guests

**POUSETTE-DART BAND**

*Friday, November 19, 9:00 p.m.*

**Roger Williams College**

**Student Union**

**Tickets—\$4.00 for Roger Williams College Students**

**\$5.00 for others**

**On Sale at the RWC BOOKSTORE. Bristol, R I**

**EEK! IT'S FREE!**

**ROGER WILLIAMS COLLEGE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT**  
presents

## A BLUES THING

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1971**

All Afternoon, All Evening!

On the Bristol Campus Green

★ ★ ★

**JOHN LEE HOOKER**

**BIG MAMA THORNTON**

**JUNIOR WELLS and  
the ALLSTARS**

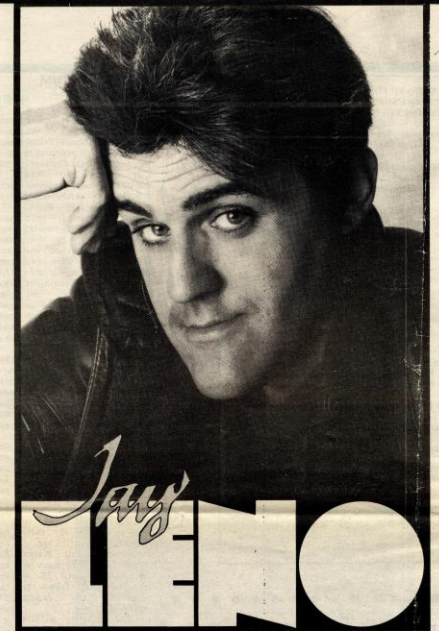
**BUDDY GUY BLUES BAND**

Many Local Artists Will Also Perform.

★ ★ ★

*come and get it!*

R. E. SMITH PRINTING CO., INC.



"Jay Leno is the funniest comedian working today."  
— David Letterman

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1988**

• **Paolino Recreation Center** •

Showtime: 9:30 p.m. • Doors Open at 8:30 p.m.

RWC Student Tickets: \$10.00 each in Advance  
\$12.50 each at the Door

Sponsored by:







ROGER WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Lecture  
By



# GLORIA STEINEM

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1989  
at 8:30 p.m. in the  
Roger Williams College  
Student Center

**Free & Open to the Public**

Co-Sponsored By:

- Minority Affairs Committee
- Contemporary Forums
  - Career Services
- RWC Women's Center

Doors open for the RWC Community at 7:45 p.m.  
and to the General Public at 8:00 p.m.

For More Information Contact Scott Yonan at 253-1040 ext. 2400

Campus Entertainment Network Special Events Committee  
of Roger Williams University  
presents

# MAROON 5



with Special Guests

Sara Bareilles and Kate Earl

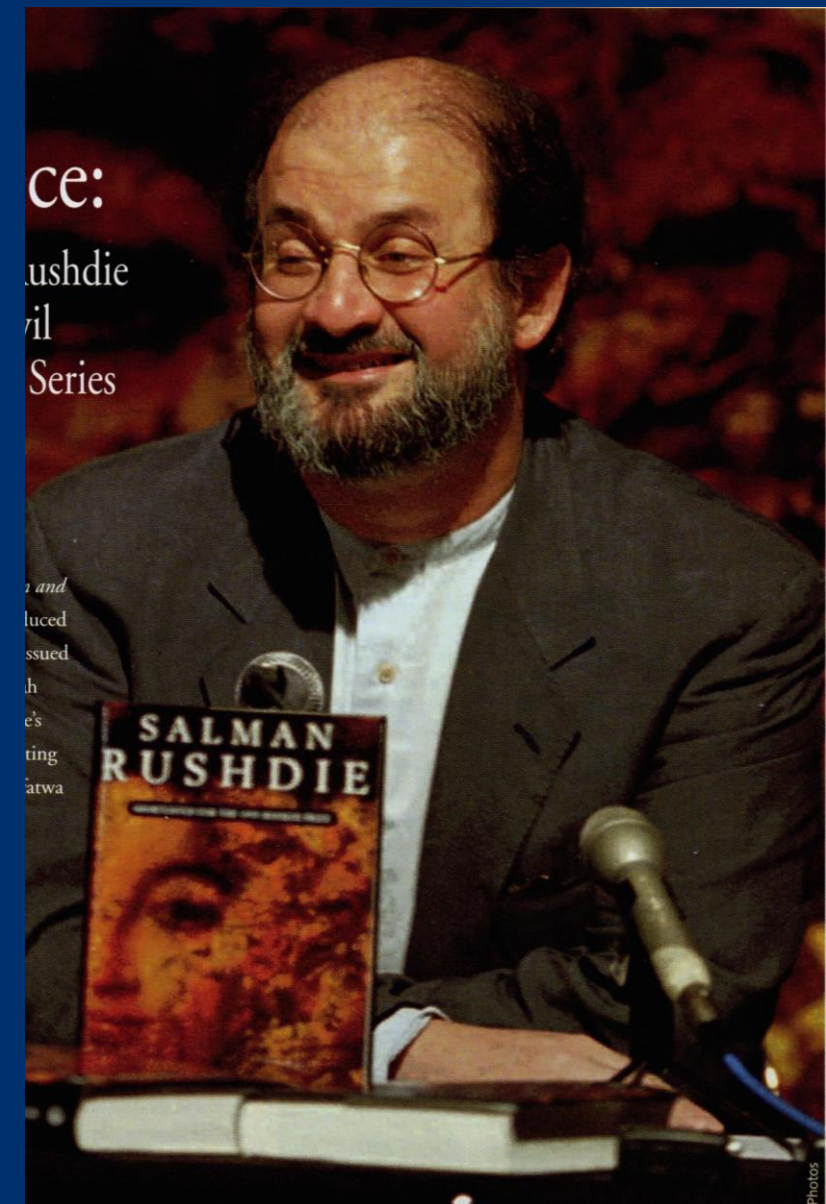
## Thursday, April 22

**Tickets:** \$10 in advance for students, \$12 at the door, \$20 non-students  
Show is 18 plus. Admittance requires proof of age or RWU I.D.

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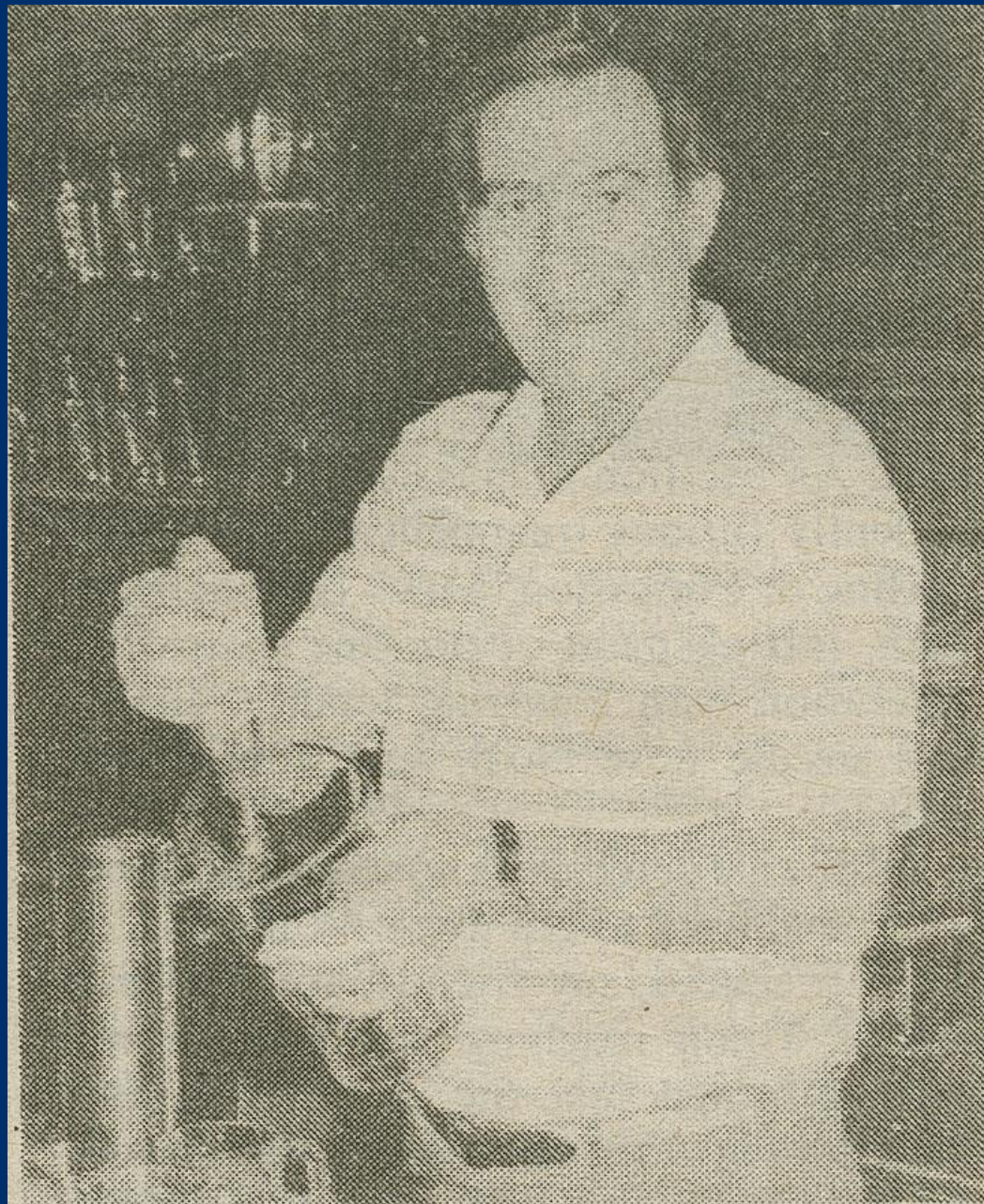
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Photos



When the drinking age was raised to 21 in 1985, the Rat closed its doors.



**The Rat Bartender, Harley Simmons**





In 1986, the Mount Hope Bridge closed for construction, from March 10 - June 30.  
The Bridge first opened on October 24, 1929.  
At that time, it was the seventh largest bridge in the world.





Do you remember when the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority finally dropped the 30-cent toll?

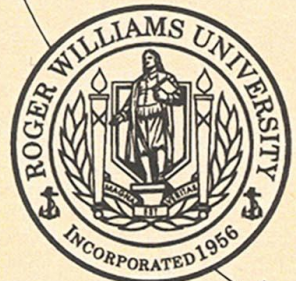
That was in April 1998.



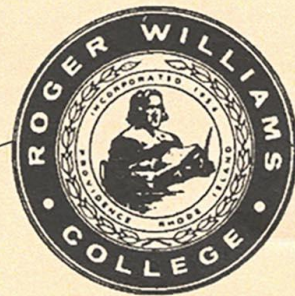
Over the years, the college has changed its logo and seal. "Book over Water" was issued in 1986.



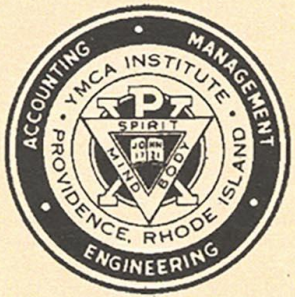
Prior to 1993



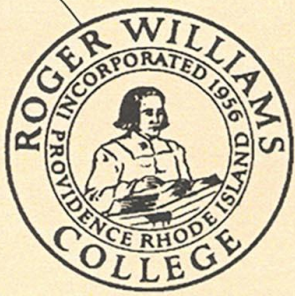
1993



1970



Prior to 1956



Prior to 1970



1956

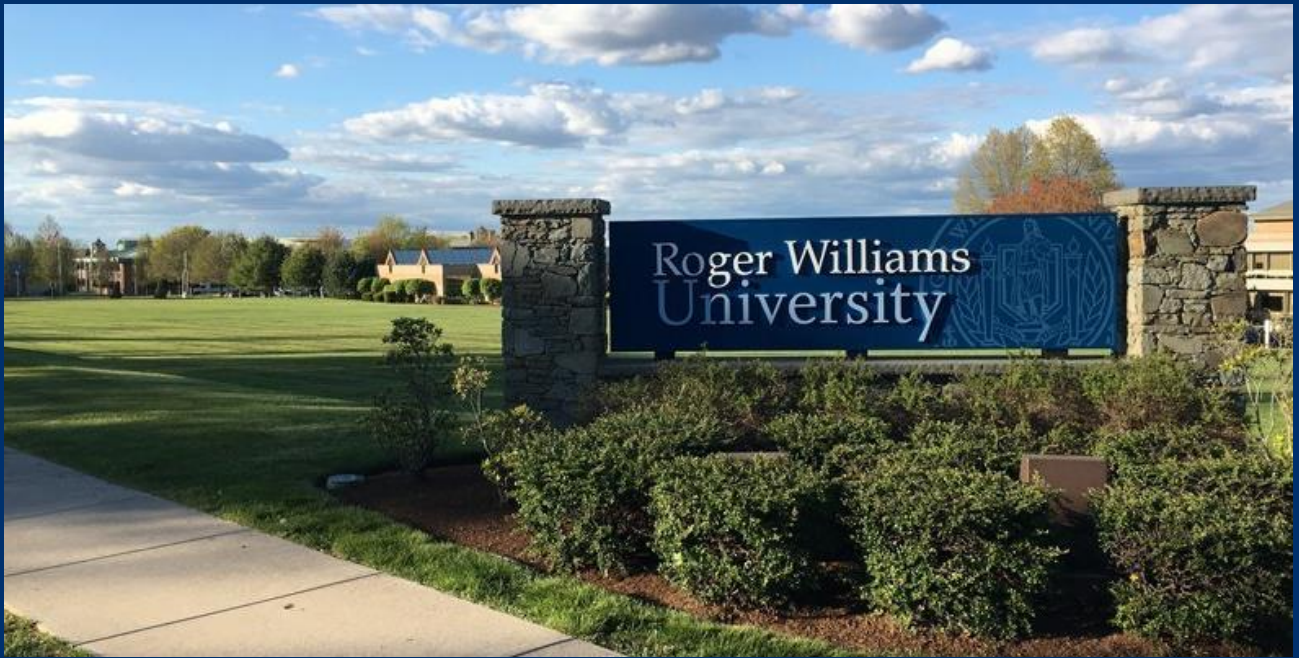
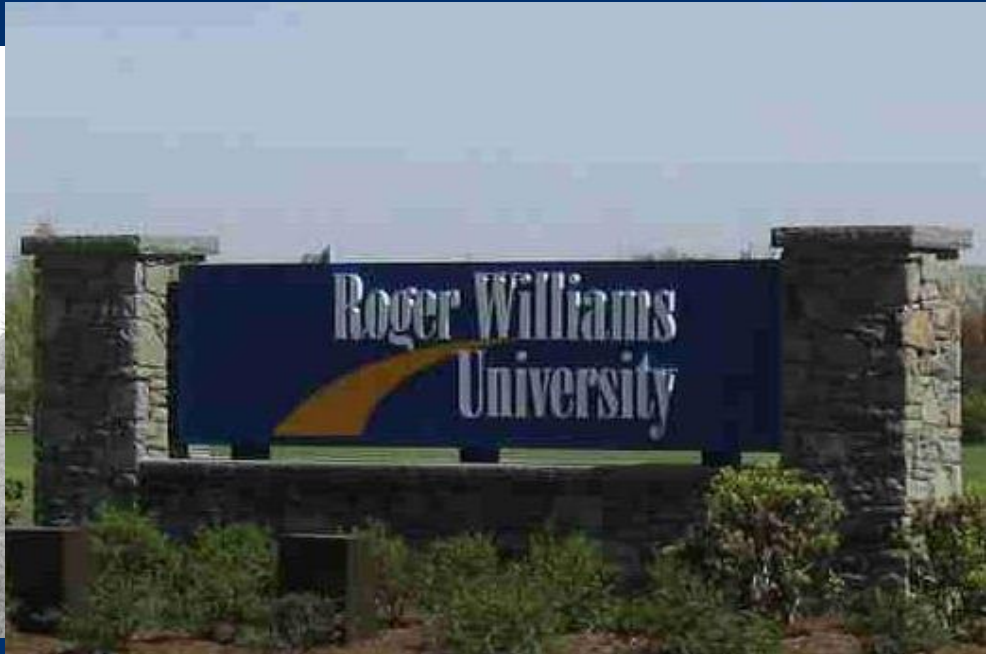
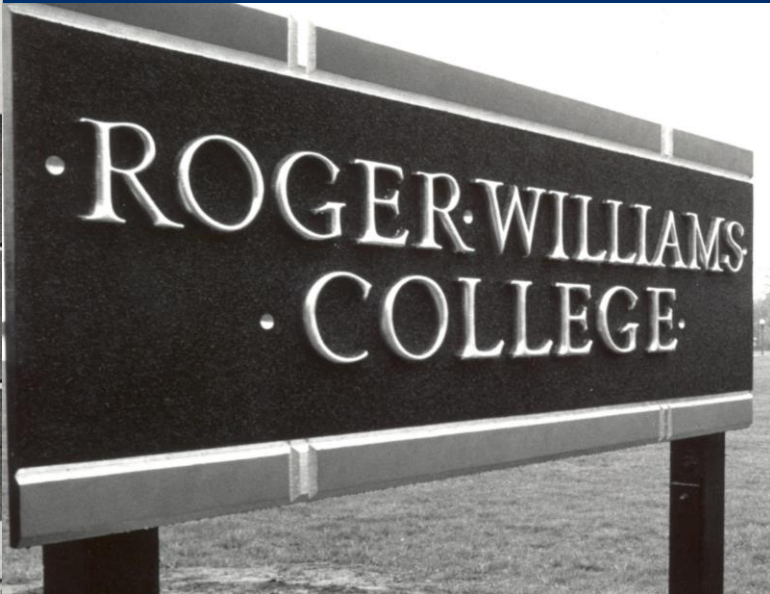
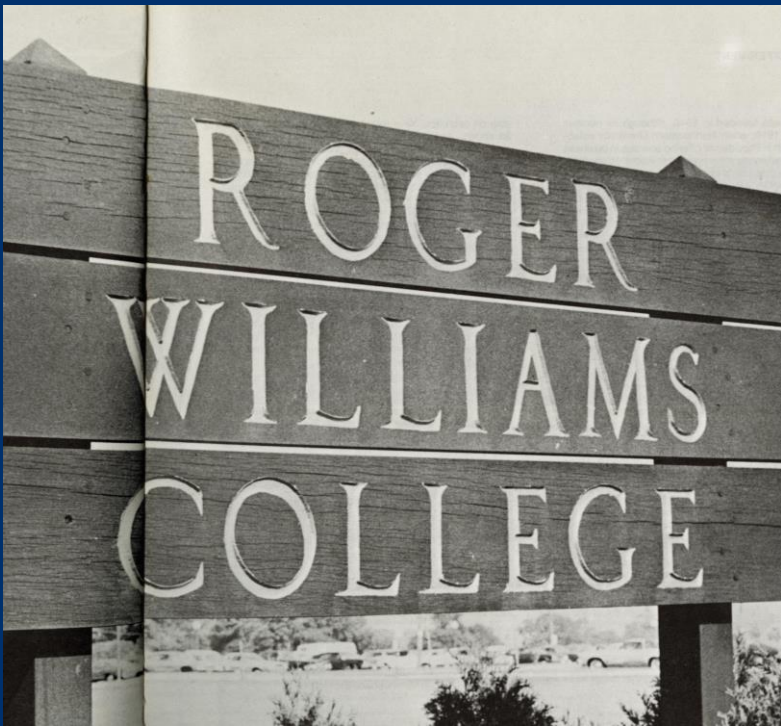


# Roger Williams University



And today this is our logo and seal.  
Our signs too have changed since we first opened the  
campus in Bristol, as you can see on the next slide.









With the completion of the School of Architecture building in 1987, our architecture students no longer needed to be transported to and from classes at the Coggeshall School in Portsmouth.





A new library was completed in 1991,  
and the old library became home to  
the School of Business.





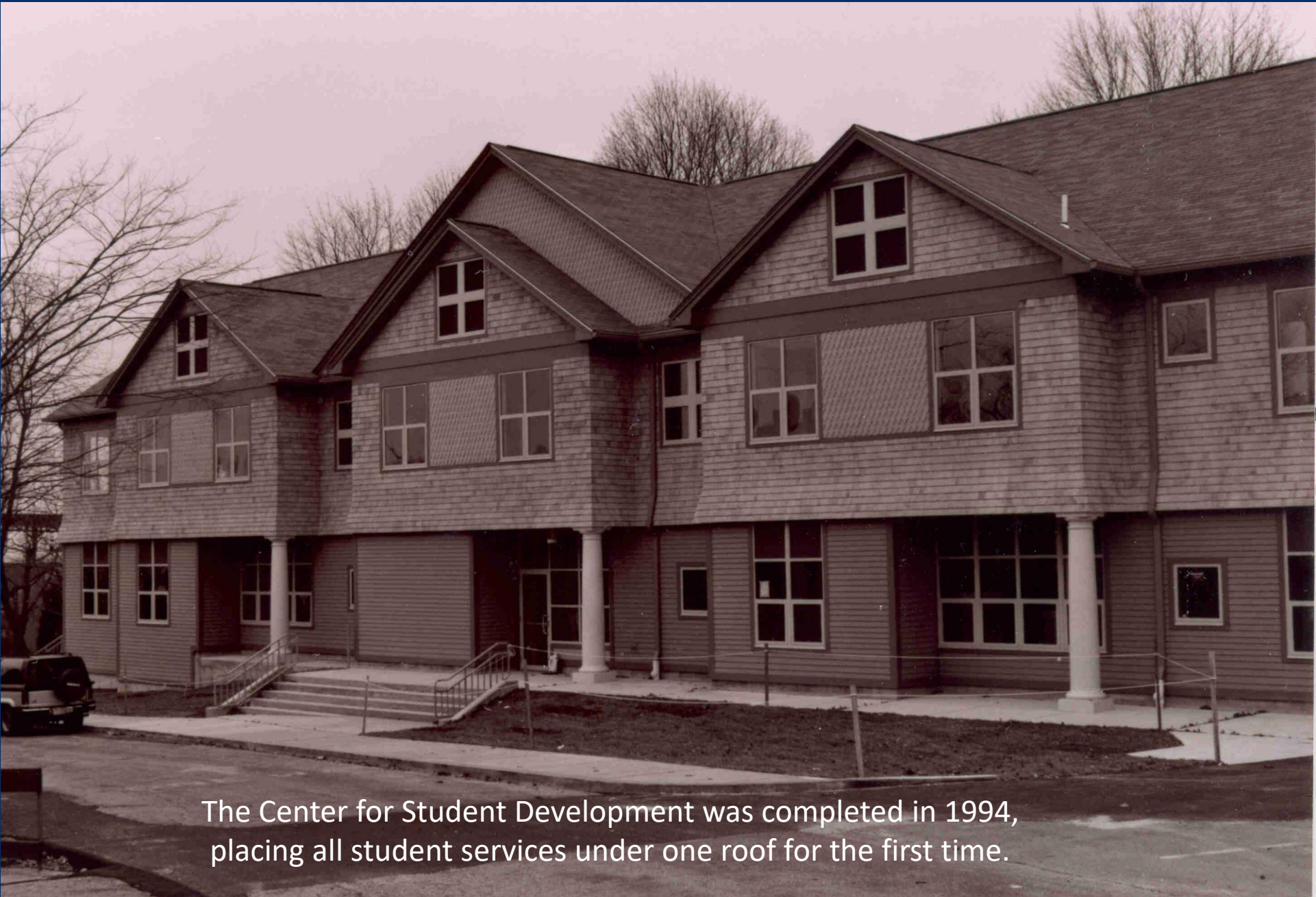
With a law school on the way, the board of trustees voted to rename the college Roger Williams University in 1992. Approximately 654 degrees were awarded on May 22, 1993 at our first commencement as a University.



The college purchased another 50 acres of farmland from the Fulton family in 1992, as well as the stables and farmhouse.



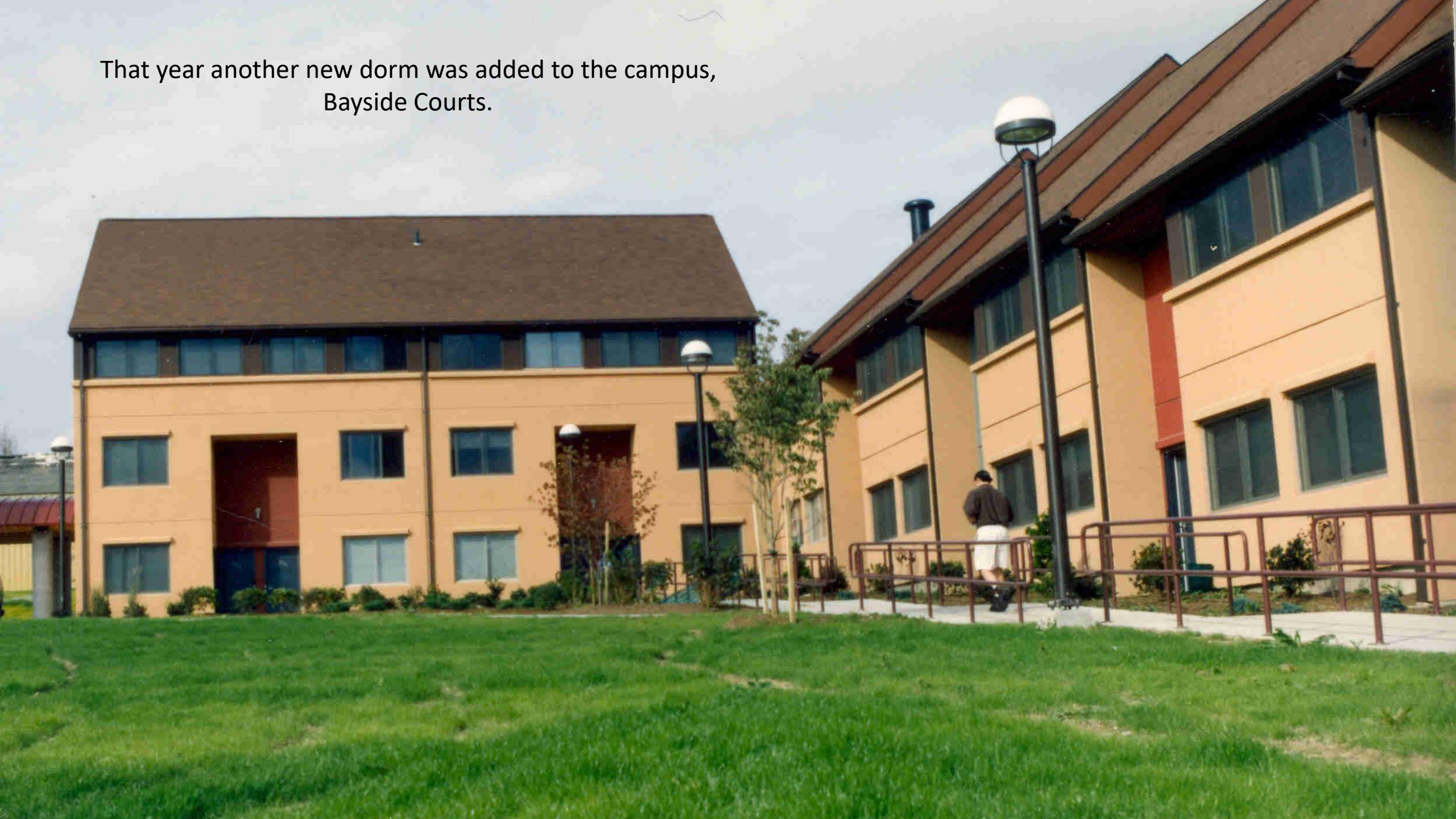




The Center for Student Development was completed in 1994, placing all student services under one roof for the first time.



That year another new dorm was added to the campus,  
Bayside Courts.







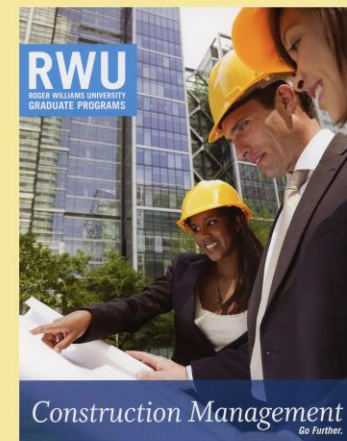
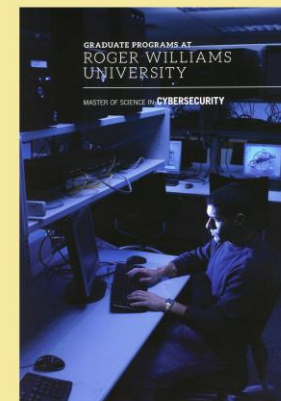
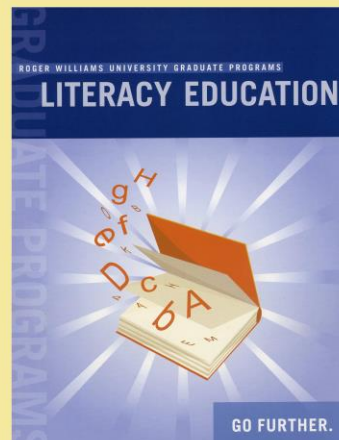
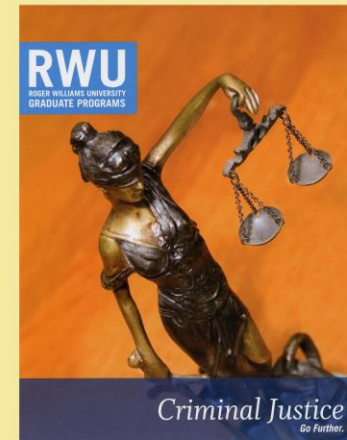
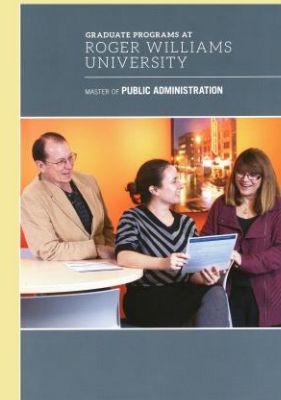
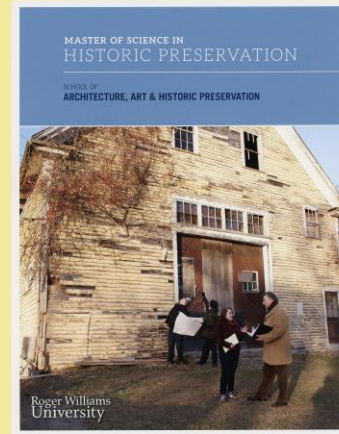
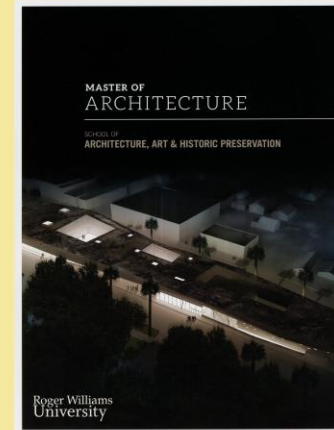
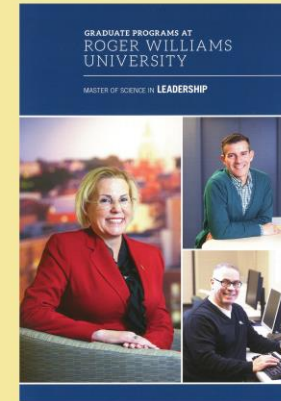
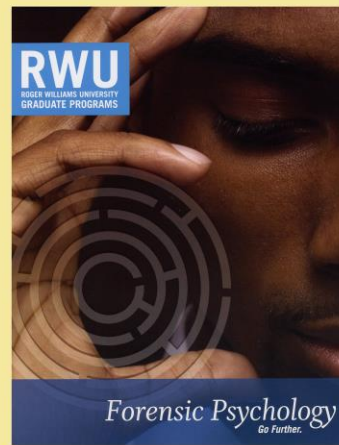
The Center for Economic and Environmental Development opened in 1997 for our biological and physical sciences departments, allowing the School of Engineering to move into the former Math-Science Building. The Center was renamed the Marine and Natural Sciences Building in 2003.





The University offered its first master's program in Criminal Justice in 1999.

Today the University offers master's degrees in these other fields, as well.







2001 saw yet another residence hall added to the campus – Stonewall Terrace, which also serves as home to the Honors' Program.





Even with this new dorm, the University once again had to turn to the local community for alternative housing options here at King Philip on Metacom, in Bristol, and at Founder's Brook Motel and Suites in Portsmouth. Neither place had laundry facilities on-site.





More recently, the school acquired Baypoint in Portsmouth, after leasing it for several years. It is still used today.





# The Quill

VOL. I, NO. 1

Roger Williams Jr. College, Providence, R.I. December 15, 1961

## Plante Names Newspaper: "Quill"

Mr. Donald Plante, a first year student, gave this newspaper its name, "The Quill."

Mr. Plante's suggested name was submitted in scores of entries during a recent three-day contest at the school to name this newspaper. His suggested name was selected by a committee of faculty members, and Rhode Island professional newscasters and journalists.

Mr. Plante, who later joined the staff of this paper, and subsequently became sports editor, returned his cash prize to the newspaper's treasury.

## QUILL WELCOMES READERS THANKS WORKERS, ADVERTISERS

The purpose of this newspaper is to present an objective, comprehensive treatment of events at and relating to Roger Williams Jr. College. We hope that from this, our first issue, that we have told and will tell you what the students, faculty, alumni and administration of Roger Williams is thinking, saying and doing.

We welcome you—our readers. For our very life depends upon you. And we invite you to offer us, at any time, your criticisms and suggestions and to present information to us for use in our news columns, and to express your opinions on matters relating to our college in our "Letters To The Editor" section.

This newspaper will be published once each month and distributed free to students, faculty and friends of Roger Williams. We sincerely hope we fulfill our purpose of performing the valuable service of informing all interested in this college on what is being thought, said, and done here.

We thank all those who have given of their time and energy to making this first edition possible—our faculty advisor, Mr. John Worsley; our reporters and writers, our advertising salesmen, our photographer, our typist, and our business manager. We are grateful to them all, for beginning any venture demands great zeal and dedication. We especially thank all of our first advertisers, without whose support this newspaper would not be possible. And we urge all friends of this newspaper to show their appreciation by patronizing our benefactors.

The Editors.

## PARKING SPACE IRKS STUDENTS ADMINISTRATION SEEKS ANSWER

An ever-increasing problem at Roger Williams is parking space. There are a great many more cars than the limited parking spaces behind the YMCA, and the special school parking lot, off Pine street, can handle. Consequently, some students are forced to park illegally, and many students have paid illegal parking fines, while many more have either missed or been late for class because they were hunting for a parking spot.

What can be done about the parking problem? Will there be more parking spaces?

In searching for answers to these and other questions this newspaper has surveyed the parking problem. Reports are carried below.

### Student Petition May Solve Parking Problem

By George Garvey

There are two rays of hope towards solution of the problem of student parking facilities.

The first, and quickest available, although not the most satisfactory, comes from Mr. Clinton Adams, Providence traffic engineer. Mr. Adams said that a student petition, submitted by the Roger Williams Student Council to the Providence Traffic Department, might result in extension of present one-hour parking limitations to two-hour parking spots.

continued page 4

### College Acquires Land For Student Parking

By Vincent Ricci

"The situation is fluid."

That, in essence, is how our president, Mr. Harold W. Schaughency, sums up our parking situation.

The parking problem is not a new one, Mr. Schaughency asserted. In past years, the faculty, including Mr. Schaughency, have had to find their own parking spaces, paying whatever rate was charged by local parking lot private parking lot owners.

Presently, the only land parking sites available to students are at the

continued page 4

### Segments Rt. 95 Near School Ready Next Dec.

By Herbert Lawson

Sections of Route 95—the state's North-South Freeway—being constructed in the area of the college are expected to be completed by December next year.

That estimate was made recently by John Q. Calista, public relations officer for the R.I. Department of Public Works.

The Rhode Island sections of Route 95—a 1,700-mile U.S. highway, stretching from Maine to Florida—is being built in 11 stages, with stages

continued page 3

In 2005, a new parking structure on North Campus was completed bringing much needed relief to the those looking for parking. According to the first issue of the student newspaper, The Quill, published in December 1961, there were similar parking problems even back then in Providence.







The Commons opened in the fall of 2006, with dining facilities and a bookstore. There was no longer a need for the former student union, and so it was razed in 2008 to make way for Global Heritage Hall – a more modern and accessible space with plenty of classrooms and faculty offices.



The entrance to our campus was redesigned in 2007, with a new gatehouse and fountain.

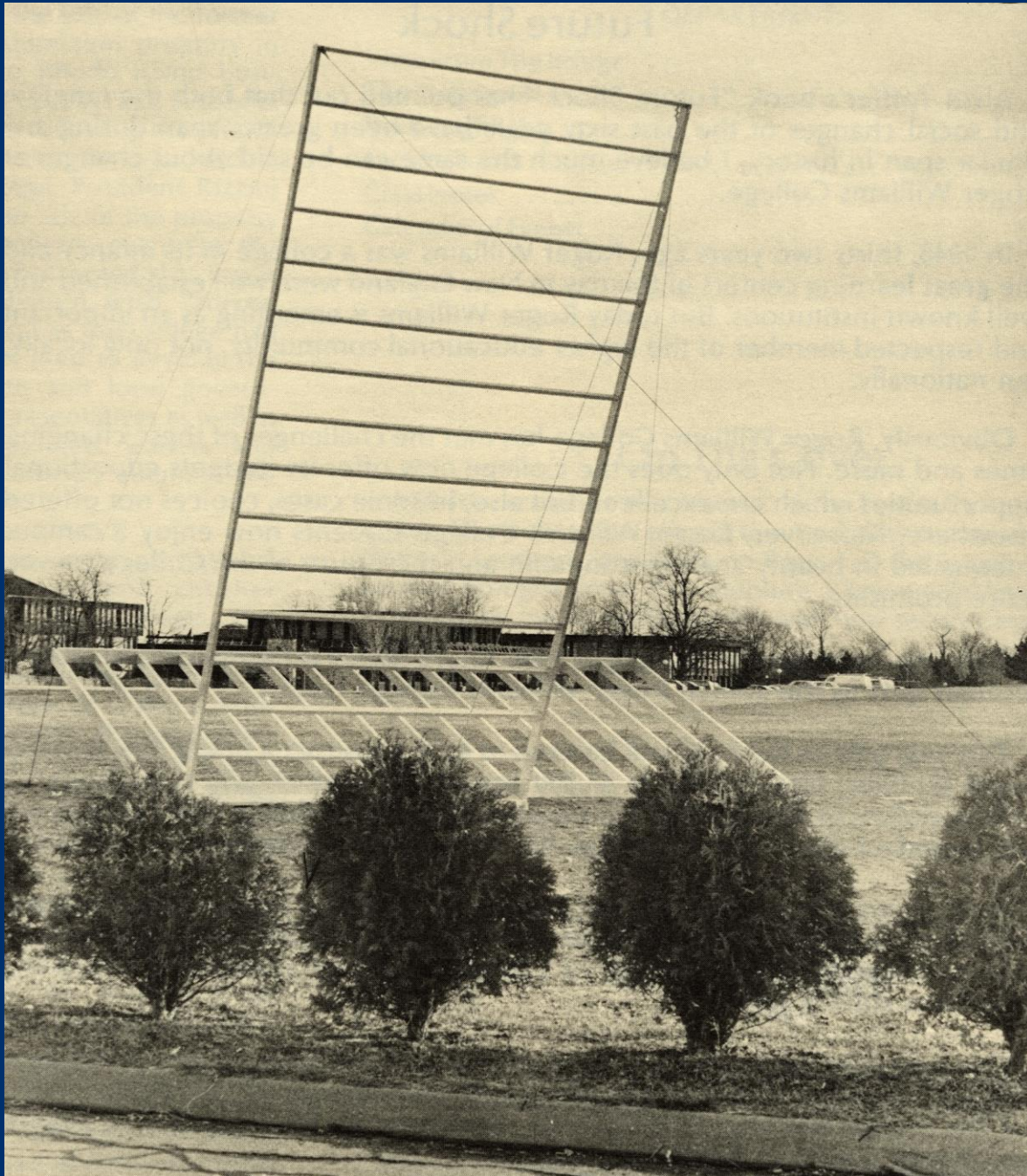




We've had a number of unique art installations over the years.  
Do you recall this one?







Or this 30-foot yellow sculpture entitled  
“Going my Way”?

It was created by artist Paul Von Ringelheim and installed  
in 1981 near the old guard shack I showed you earlier.  
It was removed in 1992.



The newest residence hall opened in 2009, along with a new Admissions and Alumni House, and Global Heritage Hall.





## Championship Seasons

### Men's Basketball

CCC Champions:  
1987, 1999  
ECAC Tournament:  
2002, 2004

### Baseball

CCC Champions:  
2002  
NCAA Tournament:  
2002

### Men's Lacrosse

Pilgrim League Champions:  
1991, 1992, 1993, 1994  
ECAC Tournament:  
1993, 2002, 2003, 2004

### Men's Soccer

CCC Champions:  
1986, 1991, 1999, 2000,  
2001  
NCAA Tournament:  
1999, 2000, 2001  
ECAC New England  
Champions:  
2002, 2003

### Women's Softball

CCC Champions:  
2001, 2002  
NCAA Tournament:  
2001, 2002

### Women's Tennis

CCC Champions:  
2002

### Men's Volleyball

Odeneal Division Champions:  
1989, 1995, 1996  
ECAC Tournament:  
2002, 2003  
ECAC North Champions:  
2003

### Women's Volleyball

CCC Champions:  
1998  
ECAC Tournament:  
1985

### Wrestling

Pilgrim League Champions:  
1995, 1997, 1998, 1999,  
2001  
NCAA Tournament:  
1995, 1997, 1998, 1999,  
2000, 2001, 2003

### Women's Cross Country

CCC Champions:  
2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

### Men's Cross Country

CCC Champions:  
2001, 2002, 2003

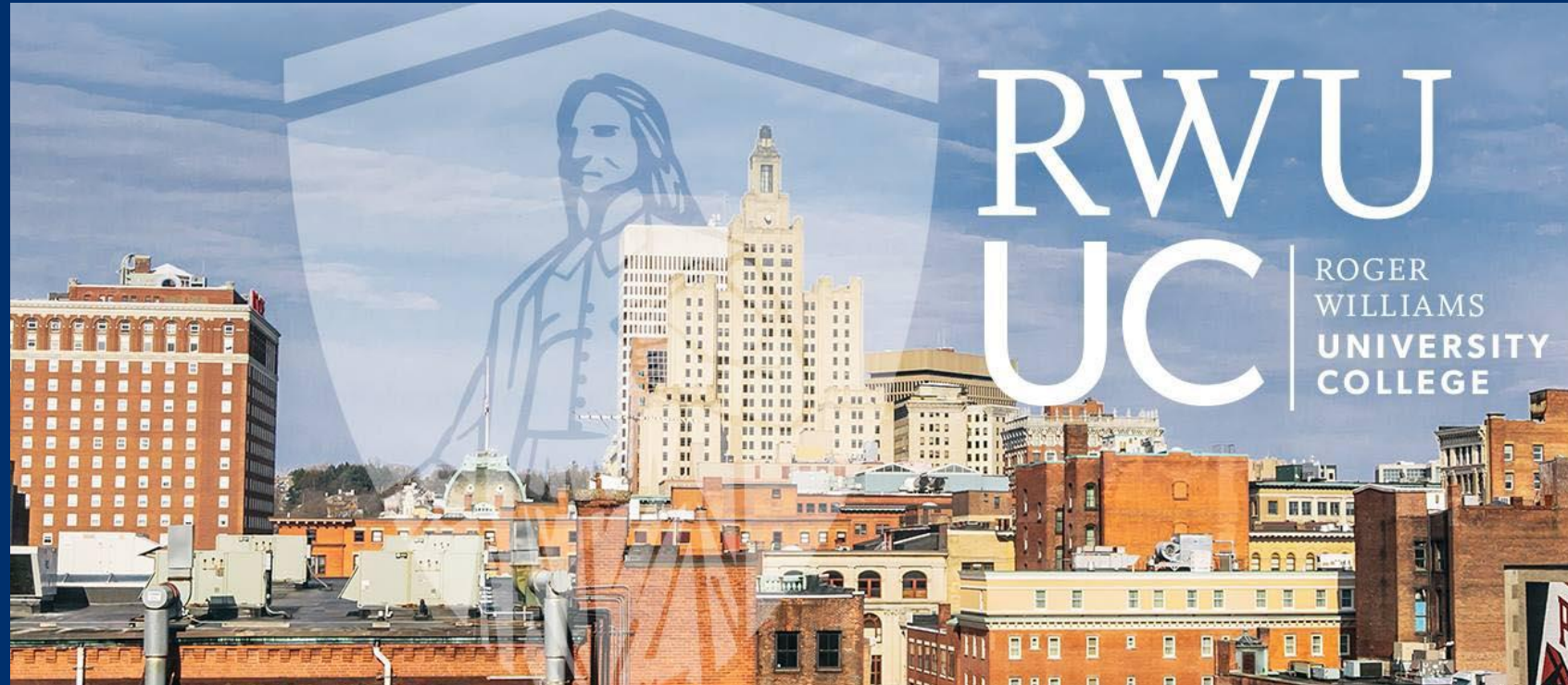
When the campus first opened here in Bristol, there were only 4 sports teams -- men's baseball, men's basketball, men's golf, and men's hockey. The first women's sports team on campus was a basketball team, started in 1977, as a club team. Today there over 20 sports teams, including the men's polo team born in 2016.



They won the intercollegiate championship the following year.



In 2016, Roger Williams University leased space at One Empire Plaza, replacing the existing Metro Center on Washington Street, in use since 1993. With twice as much space, the new building serves students in the School of Law, School of Continuing Studies, and outreach and engagement programs.







The most recent addition to the campus was about 1 year ago. The School of Engineering, Computing, and Construction Management's new labs were completed in January of 2020.



52  
52  
52  
50  
Class of 1950

The  
YMCA INSTITUTE



Commencement Exercises

Thursday Evening, June 8th, 1950

at eight o'clock

Central Congregational Church

296 Angell Street

Providence

Rhode Island

Class of 1960

ROGER WILLIAMS JUNIOR COLLEGE



Commencement Exercises

Thursday Evening, June 9th, 1960

at eight o'clock

Beneficent Meeting House

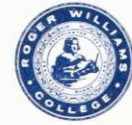
300 Weybosset Street

Providence

Rhode Island

Classes of 1970

Roger Williams College



Commencement Exercises

Thursday morning, the fourth of June

at ten o'clock

The Bristol Campus Green

Bristol, Rhode Island

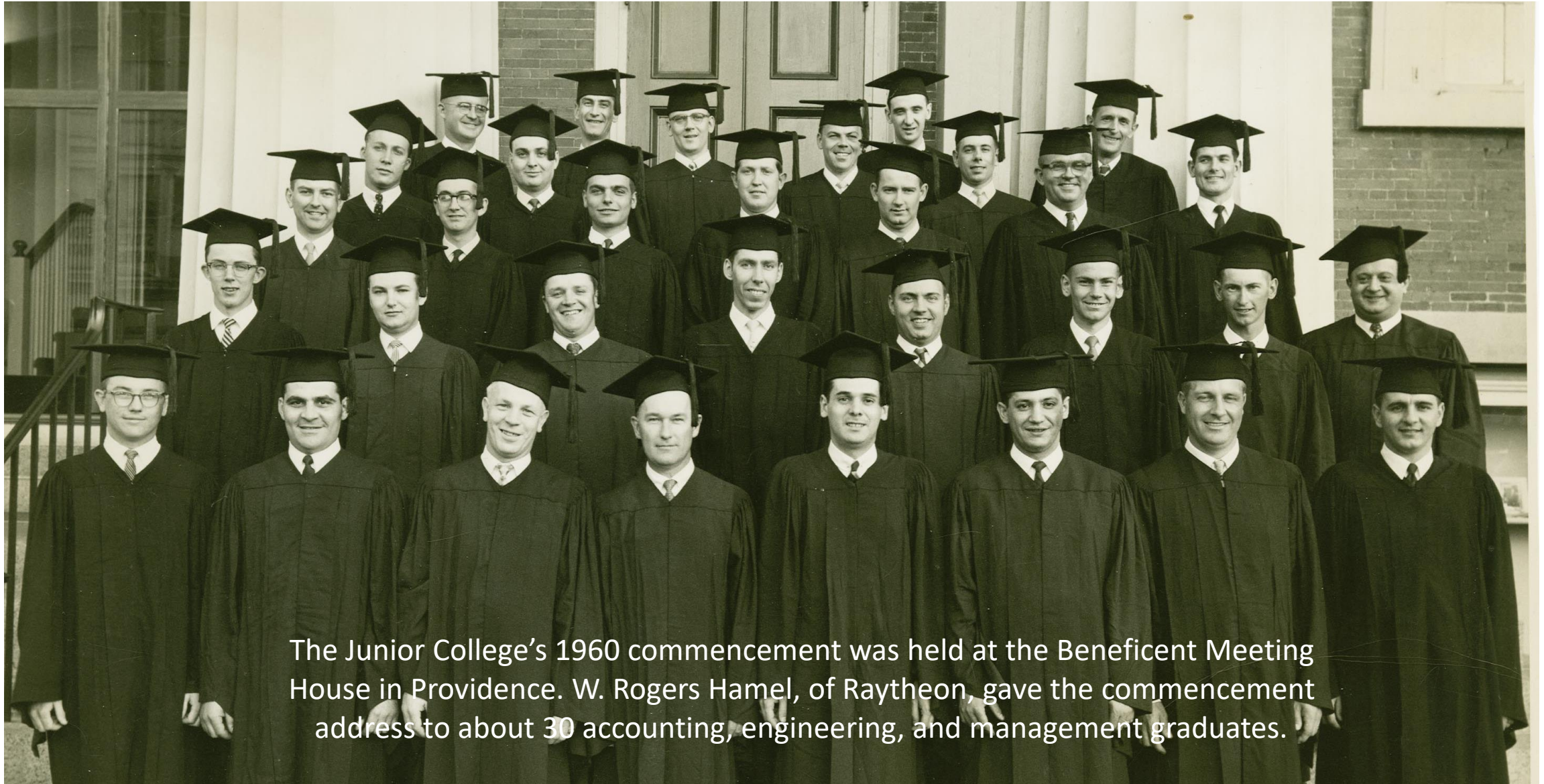
And now a few early commencement  
facts and images.



The YMCA's 1950 commencement was held in Providence at the Central Congregational Church. Thomas B. Appelget, vice president at Brown University, delivered the commencement address to the graduating class of about 130 students.

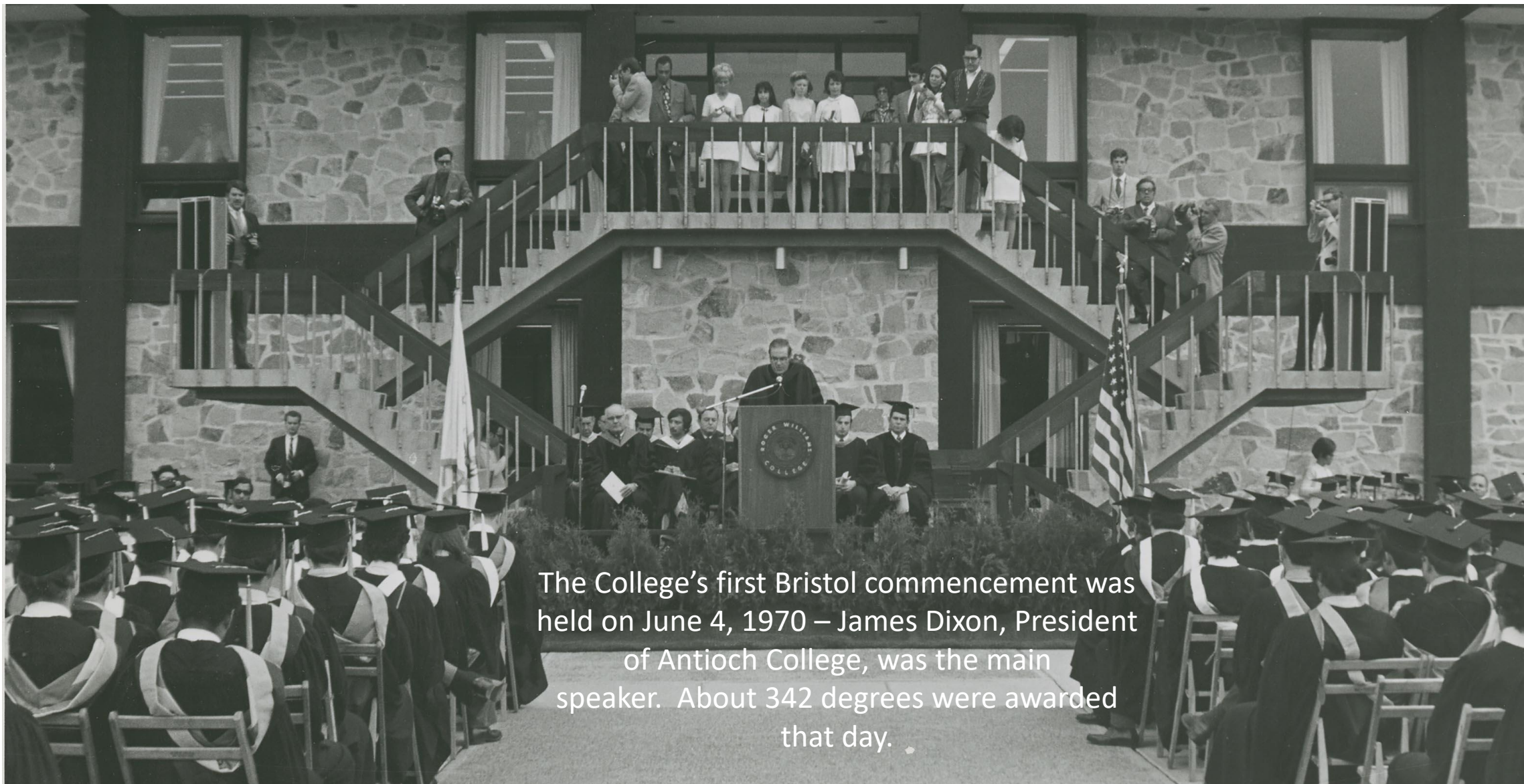






The Junior College's 1960 commencement was held at the Beneficent Meeting House in Providence. W. Rogers Hamel, of Raytheon, gave the commencement address to about 30 accounting, engineering, and management graduates.





The College's first Bristol commencement was held on June 4, 1970 – James Dixon, President of Antioch College, was the main speaker. About 342 degrees were awarded that day.



I'd like to end with a few fun items, including a peak at this alma mater written around 1981 by the director of development. I've never heard it sung, have you?

**Roger Williams, Alma Mater**

On the shores of Mount Hope Bay  
Sons and daughters hold thy treasures high  
And thy guidance lights the way.

**Roger Williams, Alma Mater**

For the lessons you unfold  
Sons and daughters promise faith, as one  
In your banner, blue and gold.

Gentle breezes fan the summer air  
Rippling waves caress thy shore  
Many hearts have felt thy wonderment  
And thy heroes live forever more.

**Roger Williams, Alma Mater**

Praises flow from hearts e'er true  
Sons and daughters pledge eternal love  
And their loyalty to you.





## “THE QUILL PRESENTS THE BEST OF...”

### Best Pizza

Caserta's Federal Hill, in Providence.

Pizza made the old fashion way in square pans. Fast take out service

### Best Italian Restaurant

The Forum, Federal Hill, Providence

Real Rome style Capuchino

### Best Read Magazine

Forum

'Invigorating' reading

### Best Breakfasts

I-Hop in Newport

A vast selection of good breakfast foods. Also serves burgers

### Best Place to Get Drunk

Gillary's, Thames Street

Bristol

Can't beat their Friday Happy Hours from 12:00 noon 'til 8:00 p.m. at 75c drinks

### Best Fast Food

D'Angelo's in Swansea

Great pocket sandwiches. We recommend the Greek Pocket with Feta cheese, tomatoes, pickles, lettuce and dressing

### Best Drink

Universals

Made with Midori Melon Liqueur, they'll do the trick

### Best Administrator

Billy O'Connell

He's sure to help work out your RWC problems

### Best Looking Girl

Lynda Carter

She is a wonder woman

### Best Deli

Geoff's in Providence

Good deli foods without the heartburn

### Best Beer

Molsen Golden

A little more expensive than Miller or Mich, but well worth the sacrifice

### Best Looking Guy

Miles O'Keefe

Yumm!

### Best Hot Dogs

The Black Pearl Hot Dog Annex in Newport

Fast way to eat good fast food without the wait--and without leaving the bar

### Best Liquor Store

1776 Metacom Ave, Bristol

Always specials on cases of beer and overall low prices

### Best Place to Watch the Sunrise

First Beach

Your toes will love the sand

### Best Ice Cream

Jake's the east side of Prov

Unbeatable Rocky Road!

### Best Supermarket

Valueland, Seekonk

Bag your own, but save a bundle

### Best Place to Jog

Colt State Park, Bristol

The path by calm waters makes for a pleasant run

### Best Coffee

Balzano's on Hope St. in Bristol

The best R.I. regular in town

### Best Place to Buy Jeans & Sweaters

Marshall's in Cranston

As the saying goes "...brand names for less..."

### Best Place to Play Frisbee

Quad at URI

Lotsa space and people

### Best Romantic Restaurant

Vincent's, Providence

A cozy, elegant, candlelit atmosphere, second to none

### Best Place to Buy Izods

Chi Chi's in Providence

Men's Gators for an unbeatable \$12.00

### Best Chinese Restaurant

China Inn, Westerly

The chicken wings & moonsie beef are our favorites

### Best Radio Station

WHJY in Providence

Gives WBCN and WCOZ a run for their money with commercial free rock

### Best Pick up Line

"I want to take you to breakfast. Should I call you or nudge you?"

This says it all

### Best Seafood Restaurant

George's in Narragansett

Noted for their famous clamcakes

### Best Newspaper

Washington Post

Thank-you Janet Cooke

Here's another fun item from The Quill —  
do you recall any of these places?



# Thank you!

Please contact me if you have any questions or  
memories to share.

