

Remembering Griggs Hall

"I was just up in Room 202 and reminisced a bit how many years I taught Greek in that room. I remembered sitting there and the visage of Edwin R. Thiele looking down at me from the wall. Thiele was chair of the religion department when I was a student in the 50s and became a very famous scholar because of his work with chronology...his picture reminded me of all those years, of the heritage we have here in Griggs..."

Doug Waterhouse was here for many years, what a stalwart he was. He did have a tendency to drone on a bit and the story was told by students that one time he actually fell asleep while he was lecturing. I don't really know if it's true, students tend to exaggerate a bit, but all kinds of interesting stories about teachers.

...Bacchiocchi had the smallest office of all. We intentionally gave him the smallest office because he spent the minimum amount of time here when he was teaching. He was a dynamic classroom teacher, but he had a tendency to be gone on weekends because he traveled the world with his books. ...even when most classes met Monday, Wednesday, Friday we didn't give him any Friday classes because he was gone so much on the weekends...we made a special provision that Bacchiocchi's classes met Monday through Thursday, but we gave him the smallest office because he was there such a small amount of time.

The team of teachers has changed entirely over the years since I came. I came in '77 and had an office upstairs, a small office, and then moved down to this office and was a professor for ten years and then became chair and moved to a corner office that was a little bigger and had an outside entrance and I could leave whenever I wanted to.

Morna Firth was the person who was kind of the decorator for the campus....We did this one area in here in what was called 'eggplant'—it was just purple. But in the process, we also repainted the classrooms. And if you go upstairs, you'll see that there's a red stripe. She and I talked about that and how much time it would take the painters to do that stripe, but it would jazz it up. They did the red stripe, and I just was so proud of that. So that was the redecoration back in '87. I was chair for 11 years, so a total of 21 years here in this building...it's a lot of history."

Bill Richardson (BA '59, MA '60, MDiv '70, PhD '83), interim provost

"This is the building where I first started loving the library. And I used to come here to check out my Sam Campbell books. It was a very precious memory to me. And I can remember thinking it was so beautiful to look through those French doors and see the light coming in just like it is now and shining on the polished surface of the long reading tables that I think are still in our new library now... I just thought that was the essence of everything wonderful about reading and library."

Merrie Jones-Gray (BA '76, MA '77), professor of English and author of *As We Set Forth*



"My memories are still there from '76-'80 when I was an undergrad. One of my first classes was from Dr. Augsburg, 7:30 in the morning, Life and Teachings of Jesus. It was just a real honor to have a class from him because at that time I think he was teaching in the Seminary, but he didn't want to give up that class and that contact with undergraduates...Just recently, somebody was talking to me and I remember, so it's a recent memory that I relived, coming to school one day and all the guys in my class were dressed up. I said, 'Well, what's going on?' And they said, 'Well, the conference presidents are here because they're doing interviews with the theology and religion majors...The secretary had called all of them but she hadn't called me. It just didn't occur to her that was the field I was going to go into. So I quickly went and got changed and came back and had the interviews with people... That's just a memory in this building, and it's not to put anybody down...It was '79! Who'da thought? And I'm here today, on this campus.'"

Esther Knott (BA '80, MA '87), associate pastor, Pioneer Memorial Church

"I took French 2 my junior year, that would have been 1964, and had a struggle with Dr. Daniel Augsburg. I guess I wasn't quite ready for his type of teaching. So I gave it a second shot with Mrs. Lidner and I connected and did well enough to pass. That's all I'll say about taking French. I also took Christian Beliefs from Jacobsen in 1964 and enjoyed that class tremendously. He was an excellent teacher."

Richard Scott (BA '67), director of facilities management

"I was here from 1984-1989. I had Spanish class here and religion classes upstairs...The thing that



A “Farewell to Griggs” gathering was held on Thursday, April 22, in a first floor classroom of Griggs Hall, immediately following the conclusion of the last class to ever meet in Griggs. More than 70 people crowded in and spilled out into the hallway. After a short presentation on the history of the building by Rebecca May, director of campus relations & events, those in attendance were invited to share their memories of time spent in the building. Here is a snapshot of the evening in words and photos.

Opposite bottom: Pedro Navia teaches the last Modern Languages class held in Griggs Hall

Opposite top: Merrie Jones Gray signs the guest book while others peruse the photos from old Cardinals yearbooks

Below: Rebecca May encouraged everyone in attendance to share their memories

sticks in my mind the most was the summer of 1988. It has to have been one of the hottest summers on record. It was continually over 100 degrees, and anyone who takes classes in the summer in Nethery Hall or Griggs Hall knows what we dealt with...It was a classroom upstairs, and the big huge window air conditioners were so noisy. When we couldn't stand it anymore, we'd turn them off, and then it would get so hot, so we'd have to turn the air conditioning back on...I just remember sweltering my way through that summer in Nethery and Griggs Halls, but there are good memories of classes in here, too.”

Vicki Wiley (AS '87, BA '89), executive assistant to the dean, School of Education

During a second semester between 1951–55 the bulletin board near the south door of Griggs Hall had a poster with the poem:

I wish I had a ticket for Siam,
I'm getting pretty bored with where I am,
But when I'm in Siam well all I'll do
Is wish I had a ticket for Peru.

Many changes have happened in 55 years including Siam's name, now Thailand.

Jessie Duns Oliver (BA '55) [submitted via e-mail]

“This building has really special memories for my wife and me...It was the first week of October 1977...I was an 18-year-old freshman working for custodial...sweeping down the steps of the Art Building that used to be right over there. And, walking down that sidewalk, the horizontal one that comes to this building, I saw the most beautiful woman...Well, lo and behold, she ended up being a double major in French and Spanish. I was a double major and one of my majors was religion, so we ended up having many classes in this building together. And eventually, Clem (Falcon) (BA '81, MA '96) [Brad's wife] ended up working for Dr. Ocampo as his student assistant and I ended up working for Ivan Warden as his student assistant...We had not only many classes in here but we worked in here...probably the only buildings we were in longer than this building were the dormitories. We were in here forever it seemed like!

After we graduated and we moved to Illinois with our teaching careers, we really had our first taste of teaching in this building... because in 1980 there were a lot of Adventist Cubans who came to Andrews. And they thought it would be a good idea to teach English to them. We were both education majors as well and so we ended up teaching English....After going away for five years, we loved Andrews so much and this building, being a very special part of it, we actually came back and worked for Andrews for many, many years. Some of the best memories we have are right here.”

Brad Sheppard (BA '82, MA '87)

“...The big memory for me is from 1969 when I took a class in Room 100 and Margarita (BA '??) [current chair of the Department of Physics



and Keith's wife] was there. Our memories from this building go back many, many years; very special to us. I didn't think it was getting to me, 'cause I really want a new building—that's fairly well-known around here—but the concept of knocking this one down and the excitement has been waking me up early. I suddenly realized, 'Wow, this really is happening.' We did have a groundbreaking back 15 years ago or so and it never happened, and now it seems to be happening....We're looking forward to some excitement!”

Keith Mattingly (BA '69, MDiv '72, PhD '98), dean, College of Arts & Sciences

“...I came here in 1937 when this building was a village. I helped to move the books from the old library.”

Paul Hamel (DIP2YR '40, BA '48), professor of music, emeritus

“I have not been here long, but this building is very important to me. I was so privileged to go back into teaching and to teach religion...The summer that I started back into teaching and I taught here, first time in college teaching religion, was the summer that my father died. And I dedicate every semester...I always write [his name] up on the chalkboard, and I realize, 'Why am I so emotional? I hardly know this building.' But there is something to be said for endings and beginnings and life itself that takes place, and it happens in buildings. It happens where we live and function. In just these short six, seven years, it will always be an important place in my heart. It always will be.”

Susan Zork (MA '01), assistant professor of religion

“...I'm one of the latest additions to the religion department. I was wondering how many Bible teachers taught in this building and Emmanuel Missionary College. I did a long list and spent several days in the library just looking in the bulletins. There have been 77 individuals who have taught here since 1901 as Bible teachers in the religion department... Some of them have given their lives of 30 years, 40 years, teaching in this place....”