

Acknowledgments

I am first of all indebted to Norma Sue Ehrlich, my poor, long suffering wife, who has had to endure several years of listening to me ramble on about the early pioneer builders of the University of Florida as the manuscript has grown longer and longer. It has been very gratifying to have been able to study first hand from archival sources at the University of Florida Archives in Smathers Library the early struggle to get our current institution established, prior to World War I. The Archives Staff, especially Carl Van Ness, are to be complimented for their helpful assistance in this task. I have fond memories of my first timorous steps into Library East, at which time Carl first steered me toward the old university catalogues and records, and pointed out to me Dr. Herbert Keppel, as an early Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy. Several months later, Carl recalled materials left by Herbert Keppel that were stored in the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium at Florida Field, and Vann Ness's retrieval of these materials was directly responsible for the existence of the chapter on "Graduate education in 1894."

It has been a real pleasure to learn first hand from Mrs. Lillian Pirenian about President Murphree, Dr. Thomas Simpson, and Professor Zareh Pirenian; to correspond with Reverend Leonard Blanton about Dr. Thomas Simpson; and to correspond with Dr. John Benton about his father Dean John Benton, the founding Dean of the Engineering College. We had an informative telephone conversation with Dean John Maxfield of Louisiana Tech, who was Chairman of Mathematics in Gainesville from 1960--1967, which gave us his own personal perspective on airconditioning Walker Hall and recruiting A. D. Wallace. This was followed later by an hour long interview of Dean Maxfield, which he kindly granted me while we were both attending a winter meeting of the American Mathematical Society in Orlando during January, 1996. We were further fortunate to receive correspondence from Professor Wayman Strother during May, 1996, giving us his perspective of the A. D. Wallace appointment from the viewpoint of a second senior faculty member who was intimately involved in the recruitment process during the early 1960's. In addition, we have benefitted from a visit to the home of Professor S. Gould and Doris Sadler, correspondence with Mrs. Robert Blake and with Professor Robert Meacham (of Eckerd College), lots of recollections from Mrs. Edwin Hadlock relayed to me by her daughter Nancy, and lots of recollections from Professor Theral Moore, who joined the department in 1955, and his wife Nancy Moore. Professors Louis Block (who personally experienced University College), Al Bednarek, Kermit Sigmon, Jed Keesling, Beverly Brechner, Zoran Pop-Stojanovic, Jorge Martinez, Charles Nelson, Steve Saxon, and Rhoni Khuri have kindly responded with their recollection of events occurring in the 1960's and 1970's. Professors Gerard Emch, Antoinette Emch-Derriaz, Joseph Glover, Ralph Selfridge, Rick Smith, Alexandre Turull, and Chris Stark have helped me with a number of insightful comments, and Stark especially provided me with archival material from the University of Maryland pertaining to President Taliaferro of the Florida Agricultural College in his later more successful tenure at the University of Maryland. Professor Bob Burton Brown, who was the last Dean of University College, has kindly provided me with information about that institution. Reverend and Mrs. Benson Cain have also been helpful in recalling Mrs. Cain's girlhood days in Gainesville; Mrs. Cain's father graduated in the class of 1916 and she knew Dr. Thomas Simpson from attending the First Presbyterian Church. I also have benefitted from conversations with Professor Thomas Fay, Professor Hugh Cunningham, Lucius B. Gravely III (another U. F. alumnus who had Professor Franklin Kokomoor as a Sunday school teacher while attending our University during the early 1940's),

Henry L. Gray Jr., Daniel Harmeling, Mrs. Winston Little, and Professor Phillip Bradshaw. It is also a pleasure to thank Mrs. Richard Ehrlich for calling my attention to George Marsden's book, *The Soul of the American University*, and for providing me with information about the University of Illinois prior to and during World War II. Dr. Richard Ehrlich has kindly provided me with helpful comments concerning the role of mathematics in industry prior to and after World War II. We also thank Sarah Hong and the Carleton College Archives, Northfield, Minnesota for providing us with materials about our very first Head Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, the German native Dr. Karl Schmidt.

I systematically wrote to the Ph.D. alumni from the 1950's, and am grateful for information provided to me about their careers and student days by Drs. John Neff, Mary Neff, John Kenelly, Jane Day, Jan Andrus, Richard Yates, Thomas Horton, William Hare, Alvin Owens, and Emmet Low. University of Florida historians Dean Michael Gannon, Professor Fredrick Gregory, President John Lombardi, and Professor Samuel Proctor (and his staff at the Florida Oral History Project) are also to be thanked for their kind encouragement of this project. Especially, as a result of Professor Proctor's extensive research in the Florida Oral History Project, we were able to posthumously learn from our former chairman Professor Franklin Kokomoor about his views of the development of the University from 1928--1960, posthumously learn from Mrs. Elizabeth Simpson about our third chairman Dr. Thomas Marshall Simpson, who served as chair from 1918--1951 and Dean of the Graduate School from 1939--1951, and posthumously learn from Mrs. John Benton about life in Gainesville in the 1910's and about Dean Benton and his efforts to build the Engineering School from 1905 up until his untimely death in 1930. (Mrs. Emily Ring is also deserving of our thanks for having taken the time to interview a number of these early figures in this Oral History Project). Professor Edward Keuchel and Dr. Robin Sellers of the Department of History of Florida State have helpfully supplied me with certain facts relating to President Albert Murphree and information they obtained from the Florida State Archives.

The current chair of the Mathematics Department, Professor Joseph Glover, was in on the inception of this lengthy project; when he told me that he had lists of all of the masters and Ph.D. graduates, I embarked on a project of writing to the alumni of the 1950's, hoping to gain some material for the *Walker Hall Review*. I never at all envisioned that I would wind up in the Archives reading presidential correspondence from 1904 and 1906!! Dean Gannon kindly informed me that I could find a complete set of catalogues in the Archives, and then later Professor Proctor suggested that I look in the *Sledd Letterbooks*, whatever they were, to try to find correspondence from Sledd to his early appointees. So that is how the library work all got started. Professor Glover has also provided me with some insightful comments in many discussions we have held on how the mathematics community moved into what we arrogantly would call ``modern times," as well as encouraging me in my pursuit of this lengthy and unconventional endeavor.

Professor Paul Ewing Ehrlich
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