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# *Ursuline College*

## Leader in the Education of Women

ANNA MARGARET GILBRIDE

Standing at the dawn of a new century, and a new millennium, one tends to look to the future and not to the past. On the campus of Ursuline College today, new challenges, new programs, and new buildings heighten excitement. On a campus with the oldest buildings constructed only a little over thirty years ago, it would be easy to forget that Ursuline College will soon be 132 years old and that its roots are much older still. To look back on the beginnings of Ursuline College is to trace a journey involving two continents.

The story of Ursuline College traces its beginnings to 1535 when Saint Angela Merici founded the first teaching order of religious women in Brescia, Italy. She named her community the Company of Saint Ursula after an early Christian martyr who was recognized as a leader of young women. The members of Angela Merici's religious order then came to be known as Ursulines. From the beginning the mission of the Ursulines was to lead and teach girls and young women the basics of a good Christian, educated life. This was at a point in history when education for girls was not even considered.

In time the movement spread from Italy to France where many schools for girls were established and staffed by the Ursuline nuns. A foundation in Paris became the center from which a number of other schools were founded. One of these was in the northern city of Boulogne-sur-Mer on the shores of the English Channel. Because of the school's reputation and its closeness to England, some English families sent their daughters to the Ursuline academy in Boulogne-sur-Mer in order to benefit from the Ursuline method of education. Three of these young women from England were Mary Beaumont, Theresa Young, and Arabella Seymour. A few years after completing their studies at the academy, Mary Beaumont and Theresa Young entered the convent and became Ursuline Sisters themselves. Meanwhile, Arabella



Original site of Ursuline College in downtown Cleveland, 1871

Seymour, who had converted to Catholicism while at the academy, started a school of her own in Lille, France. By 1850 these three women would help found the first Ursuline school in Cleveland, Ohio.

Three years earlier Bishop Amadeus Rappe had been named the first bishop of the new Diocese of Cleveland. Prior to this time, Cleveland had been part of the Diocese of Cincinnati, which encompassed the entire state of Ohio. As a young priest in France, Father Rappe had been the chaplain at the Ursuline Academy in Boulogne-sur-Mer before volunteering as a missionary in the Toledo area. He knew well the educational work of the Ursulines. With the large influx of Catholic immigrants in the 1840s, especially the Irish who were fleeing the famine in Ireland, Bishop Rappe turned to his friends in France and begged them to open a school in Cleveland. Permission was granted and a small group led by Mother Mary of the Annunciation (Mary Beaumont), set out from France for America, accompanied by Bishop Rappe. Three other members of the group were Ursulines—Sisters Theresa Young, Victoire Boudalier, and Sylvia Picquet—and the fourth was Arabella Seymour, who had been urged by Bishop Rappe to accompany the Ursulines. She agreed to come and brought numerous items from her school in Lille. They arrived in Cleveland on August 8, 1850. Soon after their arrival Arabella entered the Ursuline Community and received the name Sister Mary St. Austin.

To prepare for the arrival of the Sisters, Bishop Rappe had purchased a two-story home on Euclid Avenue in downtown Cleveland. In time a third floor was added, along with two curved wings for classrooms, which extended to the front edge of the property, almost to the street. The academy flourished. Young women also came to the Sisters in the evening to learn English and other skills.

Twenty-one years after their arrival in Cleveland, Mother Mary of the Annunciation Beaumont recognized the need for higher education of women and founded Ursuline College. In those days, opportunities for women to receive a college education were severely limited, due to the prevailing attitude that higher education was for men only. In 1837 Oberlin College had begun to accept women as well as men; and one of the Ursuline Sisters, Mother Ascension Smyth, had attended Oberlin before entering the Ursulines in 1865. Knowing the strong Ursuline mission to educate women and realizing the need, Mother Mary of the Annunciation obtained a charter from the state of Ohio on November 17, 1871, making Ursuline College the first chartered college for women in Ohio. The academy continued to exist as a separate entity, while Ursuline College provided higher education for women under empowerment from the state to grant degrees. Emphasis in the curriculum was placed on the liberal arts, and the degree conferred on graduates was the Bachelor of Arts.

In the beginning enrollment in college classes was extremely small, so classroom space was not a problem. After twenty-two years, however, it became evident that a move from downtown Cleveland was going to be necessary. The increase in commercial buildings on Euclid Avenue was crowding Ursuline College; and since the land was in great demand, a decision was made to move to another area.

A good location was found away from the center of the city at the corner of what is now East 55th Street and Scovill Avenue. The Sisters engaged the services of a noted architect in Cleveland, Charles F. Schweinfurth, to design a new and larger building that would meet the needs of Ursuline College, Ursuline Academy, and the Ursuline Convent. After spending forty-three years in downtown Cleveland, they moved the entire educational enterprise in 1893.

The next two decades witnessed the opening of an increasing number of parochial schools across the city, which placed demands on the Ursulines to staff them. Their numbers had grown as students who had been taught by the Sisters began to enter the community in Cleveland. In order to meet the needs, more and more time and efforts of the Sisters teaching college courses had to be spent in preparing the younger Sisters as teachers for the parish schools. This situation continued for a number of years and became the focus and priority of their teaching. After graduation in 1902, the college temporarily discontinued the granting of the Bachelor of Arts, a situation that lasted for over twenty years.

In 1922, however, Ursuline College had a major resurgence. In response to numerous requests to reopen the college to laywomen, Mother Mercedes Keegan, superior at the time, resumed the privileges of the college charter given in 1871. A new opportunity arose for Ursuline College to have its own campus, separate from the convent and academy. A building at University Circle, next to what is now Severance Hall, became available for renting to the Sisters. It belonged to the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and had been used as a residence for the faculty of Cathedral Latin High School and later as a house for young men preparing to enter the seminary.

When the college reopened at this new site, twenty-six freshmen and four sophomores enrolled. Close to the building on Euclid Avenue was Western Reserve University. Officials there graciously allowed the Ursuline students to use their library to supplement the small one at Ursuline. As a result, numerous friendships were formed between the young women at Ursuline and the young men at Western Reserve.

Mother Mercedes assumed the role of dean and began the task of reorganizing the college and its curriculum. During the first academic year she obtained an affiliation with the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and the college also became a member of the Ohio Classical Conference. The revised four-year course of study could lead to Bachelors of Arts, Science, or Letters degrees. The curriculum included languages, both modern and the classical, history, literature, religion, mathematics, the sciences, and the arts, especially music and painting. In 1924 Ursuline College was approved by the State of Ohio Department of Education for the training of high school teachers. Priests from the diocesan seminary had joined the faculty and taught theology, philosophy, and ethics.

The young women who enrolled as students were quite feisty and had a great deal of initiative. Their interests were not limited only to academics. In a short time, a basketball team was formed. Because there was no gym at Ursuline, games had to be played at other sites. This did not hinder the team, though, because it had many victories. In 1926 Ursuline College's basketball team won the citywide championship in Class A basketball, going through the year without a single loss. They played women's teams at hospital schools of nursing, other colleges, and Protestant churches. The championship game was won against the Central YWCA team. Other sports included track, field hockey, tennis, and ice skating at Wade Park. The main social event of the year was the all-college prom held at the Mid-Day Club downtown.

Case School of Applied Science extended hospitality to the Ursuline students when the Newman Club gave a bridge party for the juniors and seniors in 1925. Three young women and four Sisters were graduated that year, and seventeen young women the next. Fifteen received the degree Bachelor of Arts and two the Bachelor of Letters. The graduations were held at Wade Park Manor. Eleven of the 1926 graduates had

fulfilled the requirements of the State Department of Education and received their four-year provisional certificates for teaching in high school. Added to that enrollment, another 200 more Sisters of various religious communities in Cleveland were enrolled in extension courses. A large number of Sisters also took courses on campus during the summer of 1924, the first time that Sisters of other communities were able to attend a Catholic college in Cleveland.

In April 1926, only four years after its reopening, word was received that the building which housed Ursuline College would be sold to Western Reserve University. With the demands of enrollment growth and expansion, it was also becoming apparent that more space would be needed, so it was time to move again. The building that housed Ursuline College from 1922 to 1926 is still standing today. It became Hitchcock Hall at Western Reserve and is now part of the expanded student center at Case Western Reserve University.

A new site was located at the top of Cedar Hill at the corner of Overlook Road. This area was considered the gateway to Cleveland Heights and was not far from the previous site on Euclid Avenue at University Circle. One class was held at the new location during the first semester, but the actual move took place between semesters in December 1926 and January 1927 during a severe blizzard. Two mansions separated by a driveway became the main buildings of the campus. One was designated as the administrative and academic building with lecture rooms, offices, assembly room, chapel, and dining room. The other building housed the library, music studios, and rooms for a limited number of boarders, plus quarters for the Sisters on the top floor. A third building behind the two houses became the science hall, with a gymnasium in the middle of the structure, while the left and right wings were given over to biology and chemistry laboratories. In time the second floor became the home economics department. Classes were soon in full swing, and things began to settle down. It seemed as if Ursuline College had found a lasting place. As events unfolded, however, the college would stay there for forty years before moving again.

In 1929 the first two African American students, Grace and Melvina Lomax, received their degrees from Ursuline College. Commencement was held in the Music Hall of the Public Auditorium. During that same year Ursuline became a member of the Ohio College Association and began the process of applying for accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Mother Mercedes sought advice from other colleges and was always grateful for the counsel and assistance given to her by Bland L. Stradley of the Ohio State University, who remained a sincere adviser and friend for years to come. Among the recommendations that emerged during the accreditation process were calls for many more books for the library, more space, better science equipment, and more faculty with doctorates. This spurred the alumnae and friends of the college in their efforts to increase the

library holdings with donations of books and money for science equipment. Meanwhile, two more Sisters were working on doctorates, one at Catholic University and the other at St. Louis University. Priests from the seminary had higher degrees, and additional lay faculty members with doctorates were hired to meet the standards required. Word of Ursuline College's accreditation by the North Central Association arrived in March 1931. Everyone rejoiced at the news and continued efforts to improve in every area.

In the meantime life on campus was busy not only with classes but also with guest lecturers and dramatic entertainment at weekly assemblies. Students were active in various clubs—such as the French Club, Latin Club, Spanish Club, Choral Club, Drama Club, Bio-Chem Club, Aquinas Study Club on world problems, Book-nook Club, Bridge Club, and the Florentine Art Club—and basketball continued to be the favorite intercollegiate sport.

In 1931 Ursuline College, Notre Dame College, and John Carroll University held a joint commencement at Music Hall of the Cleveland Public Auditorium, along with the Catholic nursing schools in Cleveland. The three Catholic colleges had entered into an informal agreement to combine their Departments of Education, with Dr. Hugh Graham, chair of the education department at John Carroll, teaching on the faculty of the other two colleges. This arrangement seemed to satisfy the Ohio Department of Education in regard to teacher training in secondary schools. Ursuline College then became a participant in what was called the "Corporate Colleges of John Carroll University." This plan lasted for less than three years, however, partly because the legal and financial implications led lawyers for each institution to advise discontinuation of the arrangement. At the request of the bishop of Cleveland, though, the three Catholic colleges continued to have joint commencements for ten more years. Each college granted its own degrees with Bishop Schrembs presiding, but the ceremony took place on the campus of John Carroll, with the exception of 1939, when all Catholic educational institutions had a common graduation at Cleveland Stadium. In 1943 Ursuline College held its own separate commencement at Severance Hall for the first time. Severance Hall still hosts the annual Ursuline graduation, allowing each year's class to see the building next door, which housed the college from 1922 to 1926.

During the thirties Ursuline students continued with their academic programs but took time to socialize with other colleges. They still had bridge parties with Case Newman Club, and the seniors at Ursuline and Notre Dame entertained each other at an annual tea. John Carroll students presented entertainments at assemblies and attended various dances sponsored by Ursuline. They also shared intellectual pursuits through intercollegiate organizations on different topics; for example, the French Club of Ursuline entertained the French Club of John Carroll at the Statler Hotel in 1931. Spiritual development was nurtured through liturgies,

speakers, and annual retreats. Students prepared Thanksgiving baskets for the poor each year and gave Christmas parties for underprivileged children.

In 1932 Mother Mercedes stepped down as dean of Ursuline College due to failing health. From the beginning of the college, the general superior of the Ursulines had served as president. Mother Mercedes had reopened the college while she was the general superior and had taken over as dean when her term as superior was over. Then, with more time given to the running of the college, on a daily basis, she had immediately formed an advisory board to assist her. An English scholar, an able administrator, and a teacher of music and the dramatic arts, she had served as the leader of Ursuline College for ten years. The Mercedes Forum, a study group for students who gave presentations on current events, was established in her memory.

Sister Gonzaga Haessly took over as dean at the beginning of the academic year in 1932. Dean Haessly had been a faculty member teaching Greek and Latin. For many years she was active in the Ohio Classical Conference and attended meetings with colleagues and students at various Ohio colleges such as Oberlin, Marietta, the University of Akron, and the College of Wooster. Others attended numerous meetings of different associations that met in Ohio during those years. As numbers of participants grew, these meetings tended to move to larger space at hotels, but there are happy memories of meetings at other Ohio colleges, with the beauty of each campus and the gracious hospitality of those who hosted the meetings.

Students also enjoyed visiting other colleges. Ursuline students participated in a debate tournament with twelve other colleges held at Case School of Applied Science. Members of the Bio-Chem Club at Ursuline later visited the Case Observatory, where they viewed the telescope and heard a lecture on the sun. Later on they also visited the seismological laboratory at John Carroll.

With news of war and disruption in Europe, students and faculty planned programs for peace, such as an intercollegiate symposium on peace and war. One of the students presented a paper on the ethics of war. Students represented Ursuline College at the Ohio Valley Conference of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace held at the Ohio State University. A large number of students also attended a lecture entitled "A Constructive Program for World Peace" by Dr. Charles Fenwick at Severance Hall. The situation in Europe remained a constant topic for conversation and class discussion, gaining greater momentum when the United States entered the war in 1941. Three months later Ursuline College announced the beginning of an accelerated program to meet the urgent need for women with degrees to fill positions of men who had entered military service. Courses would be offered in the summer during two separate sessions in order to accelerate the academic program so that students would be prepared to qualify for those positions.

Ursuline students also participated in various other efforts. Committees were formed to promote the sale of war bonds and defense stamps. After two years it

was announced that Ursuline College had exceeded its goal and that year's quota with 100 percent participation of the student body. In a report compiled by the U.S. Treasury Department on the efforts of women's colleges during the Second World War Loan Drive, Ursuline College, in proportion to its enrollment, ranked first in Ohio and fourth in the United States. First aid classes were taught, and students made posters urging everyone to participate in some patriotic effort. The junior class contributed proceeds from the prom to purchase a pilot radio for the reception of air raid signals. With the opening of the 1942 fall term, the U.S. Office of Civilian Defense called on colleges and universities to mobilize civilian defense on their campuses. As a result organizations of faculty and student defense units were formed at Ursuline. The college also participated in a drive sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Women to purchase ambulances. Enough funds were raised to purchase nine ambulances, which were formally presented to the United States Army. Four representatives of the college attended the presentation.

Some of Ursuline's graduates participated in the war effort in a different way. One received a position as interpreter of French with the American Red Cross and was sent to France. Other individuals joined the WACS, the WAVES, and the Marines. There was great jubilation when the war ended in both Europe and the Pacific. Every family was touched by it because everyone had someone in the armed forces.

The postwar years brought continued emphasis on fieldwork in certain majors. Much like the education major whose student teaching experience prepared her for the classroom, a student majoring in sociology and aspiring to a career in social services could do some type of fieldwork at various local children's agencies. In some cases students attended informal hearings in Juvenile Court. Visits to Hudson Boys' Farm and Blossom Hill School showed rehabilitation programs in operation. Parmadale's Children's Village and the DePaul Home illustrated the care given to dependent babies and children. Those majoring in dietetics were able to do internships in hospitals in various parts of the country.

At the time of the move to Overlook Road, a carriage house behind the main buildings had been turned into a charming art studio. Although art courses had always been taught, there was no major in art until 1947, when Sister Gonzaga asked Sister Kilian Hufgard to establish a Department of Art after she returned from teaching art at Catholic University. Professor Hufgard established an art department on the first floor of a small building behind the residence hall. That same year the first Founder's Day was inaugurated at Ursuline College to honor Mother Mary of the Annunciation Beaumont.

Life at Ursuline College was pleasant during the fifties, as it was in most colleges throughout the country. The war was over, students were serious about their studies, faculty worked hard to teach their classes, and activities were supported enthusiastically. Clubs remained active at Ursuline, and some increased their outreach to

the poor. The Red Cross Unit at Ursuline had many projects to help others in need. For a number of years the Choral Club presented an annual spring concert in the auditorium of the Cleveland Museum of Art. In 1957 Ursuline College became a member of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, an organization that would become a significant source of financial support for many years to come.

The decade of the sixties began with excitement. John F. Kennedy was elected president, and young people began showing an interest in politics. (An Ursuline student, Mary Rose Oakar, attended his inauguration in Washington. Some years later she became a member of Cleveland City Council and was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served her Ohio congressional district for many years.) Vatican Council II had opened in 1962 and brought a breath of fresh air into Catholic life. Students became involved in ecumenical activities and the civil rights movement. The war in Vietnam, however, had a chilling effect on campuses throughout the nation. When the war was coming to an end, an Ursuline graduate, Ursula Gallagher, assisted in the airlift of orphans out of Vietnam. She was working for the Children's Bureau of the former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and had helped to develop standards for services and laws related to adoptions. An estimated 14,000 children were transported to the United States where families waited to adopt them.

Meanwhile, based on studies of children who would reach college age in the sixties, colleges and universities in Ohio had been looking ahead to plan for an expanding enrollment of baby boomers in the next decade. Ursuline was no exception. The Ursuline Sisters were building a new convent at this time in Pepper Pike, and a college building fund was started to plan for the eventual move of Ursuline College to the same property. In a few years it would be time to move again.

When the college had reopened to the public in 1922 at University Circle, Mother Mercedes and the advisory board knew from the start that they had not yet found a permanent home for Ursuline. With the purchase of the property at the top of Cedar Hill, the problem was solved temporarily, but there was still concern about finding a campus for the future. In the meantime the Sisters at the motherhouse and Ursuline Academy, the high school at East 55th and Scovill, were also looking for a place to relocate. In 1927 Mother Eusebia Kelly, general superior, had purchased fifty acres of property on Fairmount Boulevard near Lander Road. It was hoped that the space could one day accommodate both a motherhouse and the college. Two years later saw the onset of the Great Depression. The Ursuline Sisters held on to the property, though, and never gave up their dream.

Almost twenty years later a fire destroyed a building on the grounds of Villa Angela Academy where many of the Sisters had been living since the move from East 55th Street. Now they were even more aware of the need for new space and new buildings. An opportunity to buy more land adjacent to the property in Pepper Pike pre-

sented itself in 1949. A little over sixty-two more acres were purchased at a sheriff's auction. This additional property faced Lander Road. The land, at least, was in place.

Fund-raising efforts then began in earnest. Under the leadership of Mother Marie Sands, general superior and president of Ursuline College at the time, a new motherhouse was planned to house administrative offices, infirmary, classrooms, novitiate, and living space for the Sisters. This had to be the first priority, since many Sisters had been displaced after the fire. The building opened in 1952. Even while it was under construction, though, plans were under way to move Ursuline College to the property. Alumnae of the college had started fund-raising events for a new residence hall. A new advisory board was deeply involved in the planning and fund-raising efforts. It was the first time in its history that Ursuline College had a public campaign for funds.

When Mother Marie presided each year at honors convocations and granted awards, she would give regular reports to the faculty and students on progress toward the new campus. As it happened, this was also at a time when Case Western Reserve University was looking for more space to build residence halls, and the Ursuline property became of interest to them.

Initial plans for the new campus included an administrative and academic building with classrooms, offices, chapel, and theater; a science building with laboratories for biology, chemistry, and home economics; a residence hall; a dining hall; and a temporary library. Mullen Academic Building was named for Monsignor Joseph J. Mullen, who had taught at Ursuline from 1923 to 1966. Although it was exciting to anticipate the move to Pepper Pike, emotions were mixed for students, faculty, and alumnae as they prepared to leave the place that Ursuline had enjoyed for forty years. The move took place in the summer of 1966. When classes started in October that year, it was the first time that Ursuline had a campus with brand new buildings, and a whole new era opened for the college.

Other changes began to occur. A new general superior was elected, Mother Annunciata Witz. Whereas the general superior had always been the president of the college, with a dean in charge of daily operations, Mother Annunciata made a significant change. She appointed Sister Rose Angela Johnson, who had been serving as academic dean, as the first president of Ursuline College who was not also the general superior. The system of dual roles had served well when the college was small, but as enrollment increased so did the complexities of administration. Now, with the move to a new campus, it seemed wise to make the change. Two years later the college was separately incorporated from the motherhouse with its own board of trustees, composed of both laypersons and Ursuline Sisters. Herbert E. Strawbridge, president of the Higbee Company in Cleveland, was elected the first chairman. One of the board's early decisions was to drop the phrase "for Women" in Ursuline's title so as not to discriminate against men, a few of whom were seeking admission to

classes on the new campus. Although Ursuline has remained a college primarily for women and its mission to educate women has not changed, some men have opted to enroll in certain programs, initially in music and business. The first male student was graduated in 1975.

In the summer of 1969 Sister Kenan Dulzer became the first president elected by the new board of trustees, a position she held for the next seventeen years. During those years remarkable growth took place in enrollment, new programs, and new buildings. Sister Rose Angela returned to Ursuline in 1970 and began a program in continuing education for adult women returning to college, one of the first in Ohio for nontraditional-aged students. The following year Ursuline celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its founding in 1871. Numerous events were planned for the entire year in recognition of Ursuline's centennial, which included a series of women's conferences, opening with Ohio governor John Gilligan as keynote speaker.

That same year an innovative tripartite College Council of fifteen members was instituted, composed of five administrators, five faculty, and five students. Administrators were elected by others in administration, faculty members by their colleagues, and students by their peers. The president of the college attended each meeting, gave reports on what was happening, and answered questions. Proposals were submitted for discussion and input, after first being submitted to the respective group's representative body, and some were approved for implementation. The College Council was one of the first such groups in the country that included students in decision making, providing them a forum and the opportunity to discuss issues and make decisions with administrators and faculty.

During the late sixties and early seventies the Choral Club had annual concerts with other choral groups from Catholic men's universities, such as Georgetown University, the University of Notre Dame, Mount St. Mary's, John Carroll, and Holy Cross. A new physical education facility opened in 1974 with a gymnasium, a swimming pool, and classrooms for teaching dance. It soon became a favorite gathering place for students.

A major change for Ursuline, however, would happen the following year. In the fall of 1974 it was announced that St. John College in downtown Cleveland was closing. St. John's had been founded in 1928 by the Diocese of Cleveland in order to centralize and strengthen teacher training for the Catholic elementary schools. A nursing program was added in 1947, and St. John's was then authorized to confer two degrees, Bachelors of Science in Education and in Nursing. By the early seventies, however, enrollment in the education program had decreased significantly; and although the nursing program was doing well, the school required a substantial diocesan subsidy. Unable to continue this financial commitment, the diocese determined that St. John's would have to close at the end of the 1974-75 academic year. The bishop of Cleveland, James A. Hickey, asked Ursuline College to take on

the nursing program in order to save it. After studying for weeks the impact on Ursuline that such a merger would entail, especially the financial implications, the Ursuline board of trustees voted to accept the nursing program with all of its students and faculty members, a sizable addition of almost 400 people. Many challenges ensued with the merger of two student bodies, two faculties, and two curricula. The program retained the name of St. John College for a few years until Ursuline gained its own accreditation for the program.

In December 1980 all at Ursuline College were shocked and saddened to hear that Ursuline Sister and graduate Dorothy Kazel had been murdered with three other missionary women in El Salvador. Each year on the anniversary, luminaria and candles are lit on campus in memory of her martyrdom. Twenty years after her death, Sister Dorothy was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame for her profound dedication to justice and compassion for the poor.

Under the leadership of Sister Kenan, Ursuline College grew in a number of ways. It was time for new options. The Florence O'Donnell Wasmer Art Gallery was built in 1980; and ushering in an age of graduate programs on campus, a Master's in Educational Administration for Nonpublic Schools was approved in 1982. Also, in 1985 a new library was built and named after Ralph M. Besse, who had worked tirelessly to raise funds for Ursuline College when the Pepper Pike campus was built. Clearly it had been a busy and energetic time since the move from Cedar Hill. In 1986 a second graduate program was established, a Master's in Art Therapy, currently the only approved graduate art therapy program in Ohio. That same year Sister Kenan stepped down and Sister Anne Marie Diederich became president.

President Diederich soon began a process of strategic planning. Everyone in the college community was included in discussions on the mission statement, and committees were formed around issues, which included a revision of the curriculum. A task force presented a model for a core curriculum based on the values associated with Ursuline's identity as a Catholic liberal arts college for women. The new program gained national attention as the only one in the country to be based on the research into women's learning reported in *Women's Ways of Knowing*, by Belenky, Clinchy, Goldberger, and Tarule. Called the Ursuline Studies Program, it created an interdisciplinary liberal arts core that encourages students to relate learning to life, to make connections between their experiences and those of others, and to work collaboratively with faculty and peers throughout their college careers. Also, as part of the strategic plan a comprehensive campaign was launched in order to raise funds for an endowment, renovation of buildings, and initial computerization of the campus.

The beginning of the nineties saw the establishment of a master's degree in ministry, a program that promotes and fosters professional ministerial development by providing a blend of academic, formational, and practical experiences for persons involved in or preparing for church-related ministry. A master's in education was

later inaugurated as a teaching apprenticeship program in conjunction with University School.

In 1992 the college celebrated Mother Mary of the Annunciation Beaumont's induction into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame for the influence she had on women and education in Ohio. By association the honor was also a tribute to those pioneer women who came with her from France to Cleveland to start a system of education in the Ursuline tradition. These religious women and those who became their followers as Ursulines were intelligent, talented, dedicated, and prayerful leaders of women.

Sister Diana Stano was inaugurated as the sixteenth president of Ursuline College in 1997. Identifying strategic issues and a vision for Ursuline based on the mission statement, she immediately pursued an innovative accelerated program in business management designed especially for professional women and men. The program meets the needs of a diverse clientele by providing flexible scheduling and a variety of approaches to learning. Under President Stano's leadership the college also offered enhanced technological instruction with Web courses and initiated an effort to gather information on factors affecting women and their career selections, student population demographics, trends in higher education, and employment trends. The results indicated the expansion of women's roles into leadership and executive positions, increasing competition for students, increasing diversity, and advances in technology. Among the recruitment initiatives proposed in response was recognition of the need for an intercollegiate sports program that would expand the college's pool of prospective students. After study the board of trustees approved the establishment of a sports program with basketball, volleyball, soccer, and golf.

In 1998 Ursuline began a Master's of Science in Nursing, the first in the nation to offer students the option of specializing in palliative care. A second option in the program is case management, which combines nursing and business theory. Two years later a Master's in Liberal Studies began to be offered. A new Student Learning Center was built and opened in 2001, after a long process of planning involving the entire college community and a successful fund-raising campaign. With its lighted tower, new technology, and a stained-glass window highlighting the spiritual nature of the college, the building has become the focal point of the campus and is viewed as the first step in a new master plan.

Reflecting the parable of the mustard seed, Ursuline College has grown from its small beginning in 1871. As it moves ahead into the new millennium, the college will continue to maintain its focus on women while welcoming all students into an academically challenging and values-based environment that fosters the lifelong learning of the total person while preparing leaders for society. Judging from its legacy, Ursuline College will fulfill its mission, remaining ever old and ever new.

## SUGGESTED READING

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