University of Dallas (1905-1952), records of
Quantity: 2 feet, 10 inches (10 full size boxes; 2 flat storage boxes)

History

In 1905 the Bishop of Dallas, Rt. Rev. Edward J. Dunne, D.D., asked the Western Province of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) to open a Catholic college for boys in his diocese. Holy Trinity College of Dallas opened its doors to students in September 1907. "It was housed in a magnificent building four stories high, with a southern façade of 370 feet. It was at first only a high school, with an opening enrollment of eighty-eight which rose to 160 by 1910. During its first years the college was beset by numerous problems, including a recession, a drought, and an outbreak of illness."[1] The history of the University of Dallas reveals a lack of a consistent and proper administration, a series of poor financial decisions, the "unhappy coincidence that two brothers were president and provincial which made any admission of failure highly unlikely,"[2] and the tension between the Province and the Bishop of Dallas.

On December 24, 1905 a Board of Trustees meeting was held at the law offices of William P. Ellison. Rev. Patrick A. Finney was elected president, Rev. Frances V. Nugent elected vice president and Rev. Edward F. Park elected secretary and treasurer. H. A. Overbeck was chosen as architect of Holy Trinity College. In April 7, 1906 Stevenson Kenyon Contract Company entered into contract with Holy Trinity College for construction of the college building.
In order to finance the construction of the college, Holy Trinity College entered into an agreement with Fidelity Insurance Agency (renamed Fidelity Funding Company in the beginning of 1907.) The main contact at Fidelity was P.J. Keiran. Fidelity Insurance Agency arranged loans on Catholic churches and institutions and also made business arrangements with Fr. Peter Byrne, president of DePaul University (at that time named St Vincent's College) as documented in priest correspondence. Disagreements ensued between Fidelity and the college as revealed by the voluminous correspondence and a report written to provincial superior Thomas Finney (brother of Patrick Finney) accounting for the transactions between Holy Trinity College of Dallas and the Fidelity Funding Co. On November 21, 1908 the trustees of Holy Trinity College authorized Fr. Patrick Finney to employ an attorney in proceedings "filed against the Fidelity Funding Company, and to take such action in or out of any court of Law or Equity as may in the discretion of said attorney or attorneys to properly adjust the matters in controversy between Holy Trinity College of Dallas and said Fidelity Funding Company."[3]

Holy Trinity College was renamed University of Dallas in 1910 and began to offer collegiate courses. In 1923, President Fr. Thomas Powers secured a "Class A" rating for the University from the Association of Texas Colleges. This rating required a minimum enrollment and the separation of the college and high school facilities. However, in 1926, escalating costs and poor financial decisions made by Fr. Patrick Finney (see the Loma Linda Business Scheme) forced President Fr. Carney to eliminate the senior college program, boarding school, and the athletic program. In 1928, Fr. William Barr, Provincial of the Western Province, decided with his

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[1] Stafford Poole, CM, "The Educational Apostolate: Colleges, Universities, and Secondary Schools," chap. in *The American Vincentians: A Popular History of the Congregation of the Mission in the United States, 1818-1987* (Brooklyn, New York: New City Press, 1988), 330.
[2] Ibid, 337.
[3] Administration - Board of Trustees, Minutes/Resolutions, Box 1, Folder 1

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council to close the institution which at the time was only supporting the high school program. The Bishop of Dallas, Joseph Lynch assumed the debts of $157,000 and took the land. The contract which transferred the land was signed on May 27, 1929 by Fr. McCarthy, the last President of the University, and Lynch. The contract included the clause "which will restrict the use of said property to residence use by white people only." In 1930 a girls' orphanage moved into the building. The Jesuits opened a high school in 1941, purchased the property from Bishop Lynch in 1943, and sold it in 1964. Two years later the original building was torn down. The Western Province vacated the title University of Dallas in 1954.

Presidents of University of Dallas

1. Fr. Patrick Finney, 1908-1917. (Fr. Thomas Levan served as president proterm after Fr. Finney suffered a breakdown in 1917 and wrote a report to the provincial council recommending that they close university and sell assets to satisfy creditors. This suggestion was rejected by the council and by Bishop Joseph Patrick Lynch who insisted the Vincentians "fulfill the contract under which they had come to Dallas." Levan later served as President of DePaul University from 1920-1930).
2. Fr. Marshall Winne, 1918-1922. (Previously Vice President of College. Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers of the Western Province of the U.S., 1938-1950. During Fr. Winne's tenor as president, the university's treasurer, Fr. Hugh O'Connor became involved a number of shady fundraising schemes. Fr. O'Connor was transferred to DePaul University to become a fundraiser in 1922).
3. Fr. William Barr, 1922-1923. (Served only one year. Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers in the Western Province of the U.S., 1926-1932).
4. Fr. Thomas Powers, 1923-1925.
5. Fr. Walter M. Quinn, 1925. (Moved two months later to St Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Missouri).
6. Fr. Thomas A. Carney, 1925-1927. (In August 1927 asked for his release from community and then became pastor and monsignor in Diocese of Galveston).
7. Fr. Charles J.M. McCarthy, 1927-1928.

Description of the Records

The Records of the University of Dallas span the years 1905-1952 and are arranged in the following categories: Administration, Correspondence & Contracts, Business Schemes, Histories, Publications, Students, Memorabilia, Photos and Diary.

Administration is divided into three categories: Board of Trustee, President Patrick Finney and Real Estate Contracts. The Board of Trustee Files include minutes, resolutions and by-laws. There is a minute book containing the by-laws pasted in the front and minutes/resolutions from 1905-1944. The minutes/resolution folder contains items not included in the afore mentioned book and duplicates were kept when typed. President Patrick Finney Files include a narrative of the financial troubles of the college written in 1908 (Box 1, Folder 4). Real Estate Contracts include vendor's liens, mortgages and deeds.

The **Correspondence & Contracts** is divided into three categories: Priest Correspondence, Contractor/Architect Correspondence; and business correspondence. Priest Correspondence dated 1905 (Box 2, Folder 1) includes letters between President Fr. Patrick Finney and Provincial

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William Barnwell, as well as telegrams from Rt. Rev. Edward J. Dunne, Bishop of Dallas. The 1907 correspondence (Box 2, Folder 3) has telegram from Fr. Peter Vincent Byrne of DePaul University regarding Fidelity Funding Company. Business Correspondence includes court summons and dispositions relating to non-payment of debts, financial correspondence, contracts, as well as correspondence on running the school including parent and student letters. Some business papers about Loma Linda are filed in this category (Box 2, Folder 13).

The **Business Schemes** category contains information about Troy Laundry and Loma Linda, which were to be money making business ventures for the Vincentians, though both proved to be liabilities. The Troy Laundry files contain correspondence, financial statements, minutes and legal papers spanning the dates 1913-1919. Loma Linda was 64 acres of land incorporated into University Park and developed into a residential district with winding walks. It was divided into lots to be sold but real estate values declined. There are three folders spanning the dates 1925-1936 containing correspondence, deeds, mortgages and financial records. Included with the deeds and mortgages is a map showing the lots and an advertising brochure.

Students Files are divided into four categories: accounts, alumni lists, army training corps, curriculum and regulations. The Accounts ledger records tuition payments (1919-1930) and includes the name and address of the parent/ward as well as the students' name. Regulations for study hall, discipline, classroom, dormitories etc. are undated. There is one oversize poster (14"x11") of student regulations for general discipline in Box 11.

The **Histories** category fills only one file folder and contains published and unpublished articles, book excerpts and a bibliography. There is an article by Fr. William Stack on the "Early Days of Dallas U." (1964) and an article by John E. Rybolt, C.M. entitled " "Whatever happened to the University of Dallas?" (April 1983).

Publications include Booklets and Brochures, Bulletins, Student Newspapers, Programs and Newspaper Clippings. Booklets and Brochures include the following: *Dallas, its history, its development, its beauty; points of interest and a map of the city*, by Ted Jones, 1925; a sixteen page pictorial booklet of the University of Dallas, Oak Lawn, circa 1917; and a sixty-two page pictorial booklet of University of Dallas, Oak Lawn.

The *University of Dallas Quarterly Bulletin* described itself as a "classy school paper" and "representative journal." Contents include editorials, athletics, photographs, personals, chronicle, miscellanea, and contributions of verse, stories and papers. The Easter 1914 edition has biographies of faculty called "Who's Who in the Faculty." By 1919, the *University of Dallas Quarterly Bulletin* was renamed *Bulletin of the University of Dallas* and was a short pamphlet.

The Course Catalogs describe the college for prospective students, outline courses and degrees offered. Most include a register of students from the previous year. The first one in this collection is from 1910, when the University of Dallas was still known as Holy Trinity College. One of these catalogs is entitled *University of Dallas Quarterly Bulletin* and is numbered but because it is a course catalog it has been separated from the bulletins.

Student Newspapers include the *Dallas Academy Log* and the *Inkhorn*. The *Dallas Academy Log* was a student newspaper published bi-weekly by the Academy Reporters Club. It includes news on alumni, student activities and priests. There are six issues spanning the dates November 1926 to March 10, 1927. There are twelve issues of the monthly school magazine

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called the *Inkhorn* spanning January 1925 to June 1926. In the January 1925 issue the editor introduced the *Inkhorn* by saying, "It has been our desire to begin again the publication of a school paper that would express the spirit of the student body and record the activities of hall and campus for those who are interested in the life at Dallas University." The *Inkhorn* contains student contributions such as essays and poems as well as regular news such as social activities, biographies of University staff and other priests working in the Diocese of Dallas, alumni information, personals, sports, splashes (miscellaneous humorous items), and advertisements.

Some highlights from the *Inkhorn*: a short biography of the Very Rev. Thomas C. Power, C.M., President of the University (January 1925); "Our sister college DePaul University" (March 1925); Biographies of the Bishop of Dallas, Rt. Rev. J.P. Lynch, Rt. Rev. Mons. B.H. Diamond, Vicar General of the Diocese of Dallas, Rev. Walter M. Quinn, C.M., Fr. Martin J. O'Brien (November 1925); photos and short blurbs on graduates (Commencement 1925); biography on new president, Very Rev. Thomas A. Carney (January 1926); short article on Wesley Smith, Auditor and Dean of Commercial Department. "All who are interested in Loma Linda realize what efforts he has put forth to make that undertaking a grand success." (February 1926); and photos and short blurbs on graduates, faculty and other Vincentians of the Western Province such as Very Rev. Thomas O'N. Finney (Commencement June 1926).

Memorabilia includes the following: Printing block stamp which reads, "University of Dallas, Oak Lawn, Dallas, Texas, School of Engineering, Colleges of Arts & Sciences Academy, Opens Sept 10-1913, Accommodations Limited to 400, for reservations address the registrar;" a cloth pendent from a university event, October 17, 1916 "Day at the Fair;" two metal plaques: one inscribed the initials CM (Congregation of the Mission) and SV (St. Vincent) and the other inscribed with "U-Dal Club." Ephemera fills one folder and contains items such as programs, tickets, dance cards, certificates etc. and spans the dates1909-1925.

Photographs include group shots of students and priests, building interiors, building exteriors, aerial view of University of Dallas and Holy Trinity College and two photos of Troy Laundry. Most photos are not dated.

The **Diary** of Holy Trinity College is handwritten and fills 52 pages of an oversize ledger book and spans the dates 1905-1908. Some newspaper clippings and ephemera are pasted in the pages.

Restrictions
None

Cross References
For additional information on the University of Dallas, please see an archivist regarding the Provincial files of Thomas Finney and William Barr and Holy Trinity Church. Additional memorabilia and ephemera is located in the Vincentiana Collection

Processed
May 2005 –November 2005, Denise E. Ard

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
		Administration	
1	1	Board of Trustees – Minutes/Resolutions	1905-1940
	2	Board of Trustees – Minute Book/Bylaws	1905-1944
	3	House Council Minute Book	1914-1922
	4	President Patrick Finney – Financial Explanation	1908
	5	President Patrick Finney – Mixed Papers	nd
	6	Real Estate Contracts	1905-1940
	7	St Vincent's College/DePaul	1908-1909
		Correspondence	
2	1	Priest	1905
	2	Priest	1906
	3	Priest	1907
	4	Priest	1908
	5	Priest	1909-1918
	6	Priest	1919
	7	Priest	1920
	8	Priest	1921
	9	Priest	1922-1925
	10	Priest	1926
	11	Priest	1927-1930
		Correspondence & Contracts	
	12	Contractors/Architect	1905-1906
	13	Contractors/Architect	1907
	14	Contractors/Architect	1908
	15	Contractors/Architect	1909-1910
		Correspondence & Contracts	
3	1	Business	1905
	2	Business	1906
	3	Business	1907
	4	Business	1908
	5	Business	1909
	6	Business	1910
	7	Business	1911
		Correspondence & Contracts	
4	1	Business	1912
	2	Business	1913
	3	Business	1914
	4	Business	1915
	5	Business	1916
	6	Business	1917
	7	Business	1918
	8	Business	1919
	9	Business	1920

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
4	10	Business	1921
	11	Business	1922
	12	Business	1923-1925
	13	Business	1926
	14	Business	1927
	15	Business	1928-1933
		Business Schemes	
5	1	Troy Laundry – Correspondence	1917-1919
	2	Troy Laundry – Financial Statements	1913-1918
	3	Troy Laundry – Legal	1917-1918
	4	Troy Laundry – Minutes	1919
	5	Loma Linda – Correspondence	1926-1930, nd
	6	Loma Linda – Deeds, Mortgages	1925-1936
	7	Loma Linda – Financial	1926-1929, nd
		Student Files	
	8	Accounts	1919-1930
	9	Alumni Lists	1951-1952, nd
	10	Army Training Corps	1919-1920, nd
	11	Curriculum	1926, nd
	12	Regulations	nd
6	1	**Histories**	1952-1988
		Publications	
	2	Booklets/Brochures	ca 1917-1925, nd
	3	Quarterly Bulletin	1913-1914
	4	Quarterly Bulletin	1915
	5	Quarterly Bulletin	1916
	6	Quarterly Bulletin	1917
	7	Quarterly Bulletin	1919-1921
	8	Course Catalogs	1910-1911
	9	Course Catalogs	1914-1918
	10	Course Catalogs	1919
	11	Course Catalogs	1920-1924
	12	Inkhorn	1925-1926
	13	Dallas Academy Log	1926-1927
		Publications	
7	1	Newspaper Clippings	1906-1915
	2	Newspaper Clippings	1919
	3	Newspaper Clippings	1920
	4	Newspaper Clippings	1921
	5	Newspaper Clippings	1922
	6	Newspaper Clippings	nd

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Box	Folder	Title	Date
		Memorabilia	
8	1	Ephemera	1909-1925, nd
	2	Pendant	1916
	3	Plaque	nd
	4	Plaque	nd
		Printing block (loose in back of box)	1913
9		**Photographs**	
10		**Diary**	1905-1908
		Student Regulations (oversize poster)	nd

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