

RIDGWAY HALL  
ART CENTER  
DALLAVIS CENTER

HUD Loan, Construction 1970  
Art Schlumpberger and Crew  
Dunn Construction Company 1992

The construction of the second residence hall became a reality when permission was given to apply for a second federal loan from the HUD Office. This time, the basement area could be included and the lower level space was designated for the Art Department. The same drawings were used that had served for Carondelet Hall. As Carondelet Hall has the name of the St. Louis settlement where our first Sisters lived and served, Ridgway Hall bears the name of a very practical and dear friend of the College, Mrs. Marie Ridgway. This unassuming astute elderly lady was filled with common sense and a love for young people. Always, most abstemious in her own regard and needs, she was most generous to others.

For three years, resident students were housed in the Windsong Apartments at 103rd and Wornall Road. The young ladies were transferred to and from the College by a big yellow bus which had definite a.m. and p.m. hours. No, the bus was not comfortable; and, not popular. When the Coach Lamp Apartments were finished being built by the J.C. Nichols Company, the College rented fifteen to seventeen apartments at Minor Drive and Oak Streets. Avila was the Company's largest apartment lessee. It was the intention to furnish these apartments and move these pieces of furniture <sup>to</sup> of Ridgway Hall when completed. The furniture factory was in the East Bottoms of Kansas City, Missouri, and the following furniture ordered: two hundred chairs, green floral naugahyde, five dollars each; twenty round and twenty square tables, low in height to serve as coffee tables and lamp tables, ten dollars each; forty small size tables to be put between the twin beds, seven dollars each; eighty desktop size tables to be made especially to serve as study desks, ten dollars each; eighty small chests of drawers at twenty dollars each. All this furniture was used for ten to fifteen years in the new residence hall. There are still a few of the pieces seen around campus. It is a reminder of the pioneer days. It is interesting to note that the built-in furniture of the student rooms remained the same in cost as in the 1964-1965 expense list of Carondelet Hall furnishings. Again, CHANGE was reflected in the fact that compressed wood was used instead of real lumber in the manufacturing of the new built-in furniture, the cost of which was borne by the HUD Loan. Art Schlumpberger had much work in reinforcing each of the drawers and the sliding doors. The chests of drawers were not

needed, so eighty were put on sale for twenty dollars each. They sold quickly and, might I add, these were made of real wood.

Serious attention was given to resident life activities. Remember these were the late sixties and seventies coming into play. The most frequent complaint heard from the students was that there was no activity, nothing to do at Avila. The first Dean of Students, appointed by Sister Mary Daniel Tammany, was Sister Olive Louise Dallavis, 1960-1961. Her duties, besides being a full-time instructor, were: attendance at the weekly Student Council Meeting, the scheduling of the annual three-day silent retreat with proper supervision; checking on the attendance of the total student body at the weekly Monday convocation in the Music and Arts Building at 5600 Main Street, the preparation for the activities of College Day, October 15th; Key Ceremony in conjunction with the annual Christmas Choral Concert and/or Guest Speakers. When Sister Olive Louise was asked to be Acting President, Sister Grace Louise was appointed by Sister to be Dean of Students in 1961 to 1963. In 1963-1964, Sister Margaret Reinhart was appointed Dean of Students. Sister had worked with the Mission Club and was familiar with the Catholic Colleges Students Association. When the Religious Faculty Members and Staff Members moved to campus, Sister Margaret Reinhart became the Coordinator of the Sisters. Sister Marie Georgette Eschbacher assumed the duties and responsibilities of the Dean of Students. These were difficult years and the Sisters who assumed these responsibilities were full-time professors as well as administrators. Sister Marie Loyola Sanders succeeded Sister Marie Georgette and Sister, in turn, was succeeded by Sister Marlene Stinn. It was not until the mid-seventies that a ~~full~~<sup>part</sup>-time psychology instructor from the University of Kansas City working on his doctorate in student services was had. Lynn Cupkie had come to Avila as a part-time psychology instructor and became more involved in teaching and counselling. With the resignation of Sister Marlene Stinn, he assumed her duties. Lynn remained at Avila and continued to work on his doctoral degree as Dean of Students. Meanwhile, the student services area began to expand and Tom Lease was hired as assistant to Dean Cupkie. Student activities began to include sports, entertainment by various artists and groups, picnics, inter-mural activities, social entertainments, lecturers, retreats, vacation trips. Today the range of the Dean's responsibilities is wide. Activities for the resident students remain a priority. It is not uncommon to have two and three activities available to students on the same evening.

Resident student life is well organized and students have ample opportunities to become involved in campus activities. Dean Tom Lease is now Vice President of Student Affairs and has a fine staff of co-workers.

The Art Department had outgrown its meager facilities on the lower level of O'Rielly Hall. As soon as Ridgway was completed, the faculty members moved their art equipment and materials to the lower level of Ridgway Hall. Sister Margaret Reinhart chose the area by the windows for the painting classes. Easels were set up and were able to be left standing. Areas were enclosed by Art Schlumpberger and his able assistant, Dave Gebaur, for life-drawing classes, design, methods in art for teachers and art history classes. Spaces were enclosed for photography classes and film development. Ample sculpturing and ceramic spaces were reserved and a large gas kiln constructed outside the Art Center. Cubicles were constructed for offices for the faculty members. Sister Colette Marie Doering obtained carpet to lay in the hallway and offices. Sister Margaret Reinhart became Artist-in-Residence at the time of her retirement. Sister Colette and Sister Margaret have had solo art exhibits in the Thornhill Art Gallery. They have seen the many changes which have occurred over the decades. The twelve thousand five hundred square feet of the lower level of Ridgway have now been gutted and totally remodeled with an additional building constructed for Communication<sup>s</sup>. This new building adheres to Ridgway Hall and Art Center. The trek from the two art rooms on the third floor of the Music and Arts Building on the 5600 campus, ~~two~~ <sup>to</sup> the two spaces on the lower level of O'Rielly Hall (1963), to the make-shift art area in Ridgway Hall (1970) to a new completely remodelled and refurbished facility<sup>(1993)</sup> had taken thirty years to accomplish. But, Dr. Larry Kramer accomplished this Communication<sup>s</sup> and Art Center construction as part of Avila/2000 Campaign.

Dr. Kramer with his team of co-workers made the Communication and Art Center a priority in construction. The increase in art majors and the emphasis on communication and computer technology necessitated the completion of this modern up-to-date facility. Art and Communication at Avila College are not confined to an area, they are visible and articulate throughout the campus.

Sr. Ellen ✓ 9/2/92  
K Sr Rita 9/20  
— Pat Martin  
— Sr. A. Dominic 9/5/92

bc 7/31/92

' JMCY 7/31/92

' SUM 8/21/92

' JMCY 8/23/92

' JMCY 8/30

' S Margaret 9/1/92

3.