

# Profiles Behi Buildings a

**Editor's note:** This is the first in a series of features on the buildings of Canisius and how they got their names.

by Barbara Hooven

Have you ever wondered while walking across the Quad to your next class or looking at your schedule for next semester how the many buildings on campus got their names?

There is a long and interesting history behind each of the buildings, one of which is the Bagen Administration Building.

Daniel Thomas Bagen served the Canisius community as a Registrar during his 39 years of service to the college. He was always remembered for his personable character toward the students, aside from his administrative duties.

Bagen became the first reci-

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recognizable because of its unique structure is the Churchill Academic Tower.

This complex was named after long time religious and broadcast leader Dr. Clinton H. Churchill.

"Dedicated to Clinton H. Churchill, broadcaster, educator, evangelist, in recognition of his lifetime service to humanity and singular generosity to Canisius" were the words inscribed on the plaque unveiled by the Very Rev. James M. Demske, S.J., College President, at the dedication ceremony held on Oct. 13, 1971.

Born in Buffalo on Aug. 18, 1888, Churchill spent most of his life in the local area.

Churchill began his career as a religious leader in 1917, inspired to the evangelistic movement by the Rev. Billy Sunday, world-famous preacher.

Churchill worked closely in the broadcast field with WKBW (whose call letters stood for "Well Known Bible Witness"), and WKBW-TV.

A grantor, and trustee of the Clinton R. Churchill Foundation, Churchill supported religious, educational, and humanitarian projects, aside from being a member of the Canisius Religious Studies Council.

WKBW Inc., formerly the Broadcasting Foundation, Inc., was organized by Dr. Churchill, aside from his important contribution to the formation of the

Buffalo Broadcasting Corp. in 1928. He was also a leading figure in the merging of three Buffalo radio stations.

Later in his career, Churchill served as pastor of the Churchill Tabernacle until pressures arising from his responsibilities at WKBW Inc. forced him to resign.

Throughout his life, Churchill was associated with many national organizations involved in radio, and television broadcasting activities.

In 1970, Churchill bestowed a \$500,000 gift on Canisius for the construction of the Churchill Academic Tower, which cost an estimated \$1,512,100 to build.

The Koessler Athletic Center, located on Main and East Delavan, was designed to facilitate the introduction of a Physical Education major, while simultaneously providing a place for Canisius students to get involved in a multitude of intramural programs, and inter-collegiate athletics.

The building is named after J. Walter Koessler, class of '22, and founder of the Greater Buffalo Press, Inc.

While a student at Canisius, Koessler played varsity basketball for three years, and varsity football for two. Koessler served as captain of the varsity basketball team in his junior and senior years.

The entire Koessler family was greatly involved in athletic activities here at Canisius. Koessler's brother Ken cheered on the Blue and Gold teams in



The Bagen Administration Building, was referred to as one of the most modern buildings of its type in the country, after its construction in 1960.

Photo by BOB FEENEY

the late 1920's, while his son Jack participated in numerous intramural sports, when he wasn't cheering on the basketball teams at the Aud during the late 40's, and early 50's.

The rest of the Koessler family followed in the footsteps of these men, contributing their cheers at Canisius basketball games. Walter, Kenneth, and Jack Koessler were noted for their scholastic achievements off the courts as well.

The completion of the Koessler Athletic Center was made possible by a \$1 million gift of the Greater Buffalo Press, Inc., founded by Koessler himself.

Special features of the athletic center which opened in September of 1969 were an Olympic size pool, a physical education lab, a dance studio, and rooms for karate, wrestling, judo, and boxing.

In September of 1972, students started working for the first time toward a B.S. in Physical Education.

Interestingly, the 1973 National AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Gymnastics Championships were held April 26-28, in the \$3,300,000 facility.

The Horan-O'Donnell Science Building, designed to house the chemistry and physics departments was made possible through the donations of Marian A. Horan, and Dr. William J. O'Donnell, who bequeathed funds from both property and life insurance which they held.

The building underwent construction in 1939, in order to accommodate the ever-increasing enrollment of graduate, and undergraduate students in various chemistry courses.

Facing Hughes Avenue, the Horan-O'Donnell Science

Building houses classrooms, laboratories, and offices of both the chemistry and physics departments.

Bosch Hall was constructed in 1968, at an estimated cost of \$2,895,000.

Bosch Hall was set to house 319 students and five faculty proctors within its walls, and also was to be connected through various passageways to the existing Frisch Hall dormitory.

The hall was named after Father Raymond G. Bosch, who died. Father Bosch topped off his 34 years of service at Canisius in April of 1967, by presenting the college with \$46,822 in savings, and a portfolio of stocks, reaching an estimated value of \$68,778. This donation was only one of many made by Father Bosch during his career here at the College.