



# THE ALBANY ACADEMIES

Archives and Collections  
135 and 140 Academy Road  
Albany, New York 12208



## 200 years at The Albany Academy

### Introduction

This is a chronicle of the major events and persons connected to The Albany Academy. A longer, more detailed work, with more extensive biographical treatment is in preparation for the upcoming bicentennial. Here, the first century chronicle is curtailed since its details are in several works. You will find two papers on different aspects of that early period at [www.archivesandcollections.org](http://www.archivesandcollections.org). Your comments are welcome. John T. McClintock II (cy 1957), M.Ed., Archivist. To denote an attendee's class year, graduates and other attendees alike, the convention "cy" is used throughout.

### Founding and the Beck Era

**1812-13** Albany citizens collaborated with the City Council to found a school on the academy model (Classics *and* Math and Science). On March 4, 1813, The Regents of the University of the State of New York granted a charter incorporating the school and naming its board of trustees.



Stephen Van Rensselaer

principal	Benjamin Allen, LL.D.	1815-1817
president	Stephen Van Rensselaer LL.D	1813-1819
treasurer	John W. Yates, Esq.	1813-1828

**1815** Mayor Philip S. Van Rensselaer laid the cornerstone for a magnificent school building in Academy Park. Principal Benjamin Allen, LL.D., taught mathematics and natural philosophy, but this department did not rise to the expectations of the founders. Rev. Joseph Shaw, LL.D. became the classical master, a post he held until his death in 1824. He built the classical department into a formidable one, rivaling that of the smaller colleges. His successor was the prolific writer of grammars and texts, Rev. Peter Bullions, D.D., who served until 1848. From 1815 to 1817 classes were held in a building rented from the Mayor's cousin, Killiaen K. Van Rensselaer.



**1817** The school occupied the completed Philip Hooker building in September. T. Romeyn Beck, M.D., succeeded Allen as Principal. Beck was the first great headmaster and ran a tight ship until 1848. He published while Principal his widely recognized *Elements of Medical Jurisprudence*. His wide ranging interests involved major roles in the geological survey of the state and the founding of the New York State Library.



T. Romeyn Beck

principal	Theodoric Romeyn Beck, M.D., LL.D.	1817-1848
president	Rev. John M. Bradford, D.D.	1819-1826
	William James, Esq.	1826-1832
	Hon. Gideon Hawley, LL.D.	1834-1842
	Hon. James Stevenson	1842-1848
treasurer	Richard Yates, Esq.	1828-1836
	James Brown, Esq.	1836-1838
	Aaron D. Patchin, Esq.	1838-1843
	Josiah B. Plumb, Esq.	1843-1850
(The first treasurers were cashiers of the New York State Bank)		

**1820** Public examinations, commenced in July, 1816, expanded to include a procession through Market and State streets to the Capitol, music, declamations, awards, certificates, and speeches. Guests included the official Academy family, parents, students—even the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Regents of the University of the State of New York. The examination ceremonies showed the close relationship between city and school.



**1826-32** Academy former student and then professor Joseph Henry conducted with students and friend and assistant Dr. Philip Ten Eyck, ground-breaking experiments in electromagnetism. When Henry left for Princeton, Dr. Ten Eyck continued at the School until 1848.

### Mid-Century Challenges

**1848** There was an abrupt change in the organization of the School. Dr. Beck retired and the rest of the faculty resigned. The turnover of principals and faculty was high for the next two decades, However, Rev. William H. Campbell, D.D., LL.D., Principal, 1848-1851, added a commercial department to the strong classical and scientific department and established the primary department. Campbell became the President of Rutgers College in 1862. In 1855, the school enrollment touched its 19<sup>th</sup> century high point, 410 students; then declined.

**1849** The Academy held its first graduation ceremony in the modern sense, signifying completion of an institutionally defined diploma program. In 1857, the Beck Literary Society was founded, followed in 1883 by the Gates Literary Society. These societies

played an important auxiliary role in fostering debate, writing, and student leadership.

principal	Rev. William H. Campbell, D.D.	1848-1851
	George H. Cook, A.M.	1851-1853
	Rev. William A. Miller, A.M.	1853-1856
	David Murray, A.M., Ph.D.	1856-1863
president	T. Romeyn Beck, M.D., LL.D.	1848-1855
	Hon. Peter Gansevoort	1855-1876
treasurer	Rev. W. H. Campbell, D.D.	1850-1851
	William C. Miller, Esq.	1851-1860
	John W. Ford, Esq.	1860-1869

During the Civil War, drill had its first roots at the Academy when, in 1861, boys marched to the Albany Female Academy on North Pearl Street to attend a flag raising. In 1862, Charles P. Smith (later Postmaster General)

was supervising the drill of 120 students, whose only uniform consisted of caps. Principal Murray left to become professor of mathematics and astronomy at Rutgers. Starting in 1872, he played a crucial role in redefining Japan's public school system.

### The Fiftieth, Albany High, Gates, and the Battalion

**1863** 4,275 students having been “received and educated within its walls,” President Gansevoort called for an anniversary celebration, to include a memorial for Dr. Beck. Col. Frederic Townsend organized an “imposing army” of trustees, faculty, alumni, students, and guests, led by Schreiber’s band, which processed to Tweddle Hall, a new concert hall on the corner of State and North Pearl streets. Among the dignitaries assembled on the stage was Herman Melville (cy 1937). There was much singing, many speeches, a reading of a letter from Joseph Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and, after Alpha Sigma Society’s irreverent version of Auld Lang Syne, the first organization of the Alumni Association.

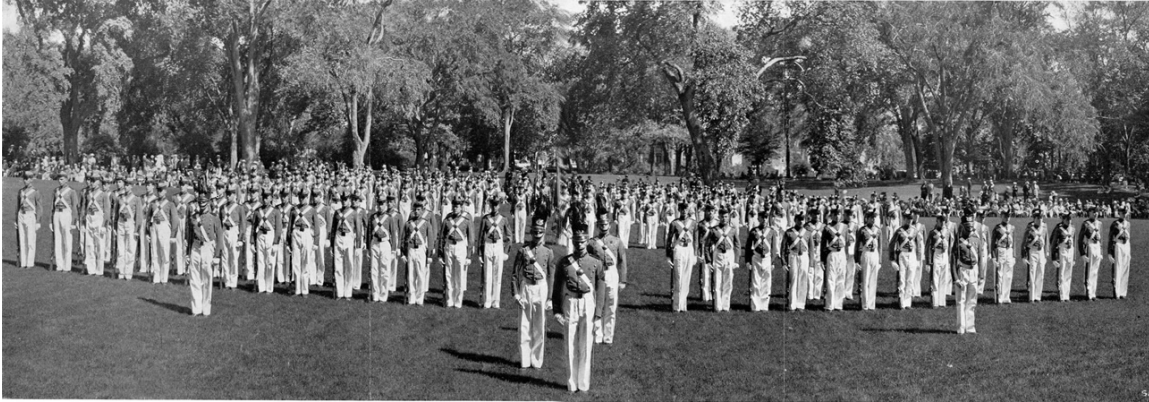
principal	James Weir Mason, A.M.	1863-1868
	Daniel Waterbury, A.M.	1868-1869
	Rev. Abel Wood, A.M.	1869-1870
	Merrill Edwards Gates, A.M., LL.D., L.H.D., Ph.D.	1870-1882
	James M. Cassety, A.M., Ph.D.	1882-1886
president	Thomas W. Olcott, Esq.	1876-1880
	James P. Boyd, M.D.	1880-1881
	Orlando Meads, Esq., LL.D.	1881-1884
	Henry H. Martin, Esq.	1884-1886
treasurer	James W. Mason, A.M.	1869
	Thomas Hun, M.D., LL.D.	1870-1877
	Maurice E. Viele, Esq.	1877-1884

**1868 -70** Competition for students arose with the new and coeducational Albany Free Academy (Albany High School). This forced broad changes in the curriculum. General John F. Rathbone recruited Merrill E. Gates to become Principal. He brought three other young

men, Eugene H. Satterlee, Martin L. Deyo, and George D. Olds to revitalize and redirect the School. Albany Academy shifted its emphasis to college preparation. Like Campbell, Gates was later called to the Presidency of Rutgers. Amherst called him for its sixth

presidency in 1890. Professor Olds later became the ninth president of Amherst. The Albany Academy held a high place in the academic universe.

**1870** Formal founding of the Cadet Battalion, under a plan developed by Gates, Rathbone, and Waterbury (Dr. E. P., Professor of English Literature). Rufus K. Townsend was the first Cadet Major.



THE ALBANY ACADEMY CADET BATTALION IN WASHINGTON PARK

**1885** *Cue*, vol I, nr 1. issued. The first editor was Cuyler Reynolds (four issues), the second was Frank Frost (eight issues). It has been in continuous publication since, albeit shifting from a literary magazine to annual yearbook in the 1930s.

## Henry Pitt Warren

**1886 – 1919** “One of the great schoolmasters of the world, booming of voice, noble of head, knowing the best in every boy.” (William Rose Benet cy 1904). “His aim was



DR. HENRY PITT WARREN  
At the time he became headmaster

character first, after that, scholarship; and his own example proved infectious.” The patient application of his trust and guidance, his “sympathetic kindliness” and his “lovable nature” had magnifying effects upon thirty-three years of academy boys. “He watched and studied the individuals committed to his charge, learned their needs, ascertained their limitations, encouraged their efforts, stimulated their zeal, and set them on the right path” (Robert E. Whalen cy 1892). Among other attitudes there arose in the students a pride in the school and a loyalty to its past.

Warren extended the reach of the Humanities in the school, broadening the curriculum in history, literature, and modern languages. Besides math professor Martin L. Deyo, A.M., LL.B., other great teachers of the Warren era were Charles B. Goold, A.M., Greek and

French, Jared W. Scudder, A.M., Latin, Miss Georgia W. Shute, instructor of the First Form, and Miss Julia A. Evans of the Preparatory Department.

Dr. Warren died while serving as headmaster. The Academy cadets marched to his home and escorted his body to the school for services in the chapel. The Alumni marched from the University Club. John H. Finley, President of the University of the State of New York, represented the Board of Regents. The State Department of Education closed in the afternoon in respect for the beloved school leader. When a third literary group/debating society was formed in 1934, it was named for Dr. Warren.

principal	Henry P. Warren, A.B., L.H.D.	1886-1919
	Islay F. McCormick, Pd.D., Sc.D	1919-1940
president	Thomas Hun, M.D., LL.D.	1886-1896
	Gen. John F. Rathbone	1896-1901
	Hon. William L. Learned, LL.D.	1901-1904
	Leonard Kip, Esq., L.H.D., LL.D.	1904-1906
	Henry Hun, M.D.	1906-1924
	Frederick Townsend, Esq.	1924-1937
treasurer	Ernest J. Miller, Esq.	1884-1895
	Henry P. Warren, A.B., L.H.D.	1896-1897
	Ledyard Cogswell	1897-1928
	Gerrit Y. Lansing	1928-1937
	Ledyard B. Cogswell, Jr.	1937-1943

## The Centennial

**1913** Dr. Henry Hun presided over the Centennial Committee. Class secretaries were appointed for intervals of 5 to 10 years to write all living alumni. The plans for the May 24<sup>th</sup> event included fundraising, reunion gatherings, historical orations, and public marches. A school banner with the words “Albany Academy” and “1813” appeared for the first time.

**A thousand feet are marching back the old familiar ways;  
A thousand minds are thinking of the unforgotten days;  
Beyond the silver Hudson you can hear a distant song,  
From myriad hearts triumphant it is echoing along.**

&c.

E. Laurence McKinney (cy 1908)

The battalion and 800 alumni paraded to the croquet grounds in Washington Park “where so many Academy boys, their parents, and their best girls have gathered for years.” There the traditional competitive drill and battalion review were followed by a group photograph of all the attendees.

In the evening, twenty class dinners took place in local venues such as Keeler’s, Fort Orange Club, and University Club. Guests gathered together again in the auditorium of the new State Education building, completed less than a year previous. By official proclamation the Common Council of the City of Albany attended. There, Henry Pitt Warren delivered a meticulous and interesting address on the history of the school and William Rose Benet read a magnificent poem, composed for the occasion.

The winner of the centennial song contest, Laurence McKinney, received his prize, and the announcement came that the school's endowment had nearly doubled with the raising of \$40,000. The Albany Mandolin Club provided music and the Chancellor of the State University offered his congratulations. But the day was not yet over. The hardy guests then adjourned to the Academy for "supper, smoker, songs, toasts, etc." with toastmaster Joe Lawson as master of ceremonies and Gartland's band providing the music. Four hundred and eighty-five supped, an alumnus provided twelve half barrels of beer, six hundred cigars were consumed, and, "in spite of the enthusiasm of the evening, the breakage was surprisingly small—two plates and three chairs..."

**1913** The First Form room was the first classroom to be wired for electricity. In 1917, the Board authorized the installation of lights throughout the building. Two years later, the first telephone was acquired. Also in 1919, the apartments in the north wing were converted from rental income property to residential apartments for the Head Master.

### Islay McCormick, the Country Day School

**1919** Islay F. McCormick succeeded Warren. The next generation of great teachers emerged under his leadership, including in the Upper School Messrs. Nason, Sharp, Pike, Lindsey, Owen, Morris, Midgley, Webber, Sabisch, and Colton. In the Lower School, there were Edith Jordan, Irene Russell, Mabel Swantee, Helen Henshaw, and Alice Perkins.

THE 1937 CUE • • •



**1920-1924** The Academy purchased fields for athletics on Highland Avenue (they were first used in September, 1922) marking a decisive shift to the country day school plan. Leaders in this project were Mr. Westcott Burlingame and the President of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Henry Hun. The School acquired from the Second Presbyterian Church the 300 pound E-Flat Meneely bell



(1921) and the codfish and pumpkin weathervane (1922). They were removed to the new building in 1931. In 1924, the battalion added a fourth company. The trustees voted to limit enrollment to 350.

**1927-1931** President of the Board of Trustees, Frederick Townsend, led the project to extend the area of the Highland Avenue property to 30 acres by purchasing sufficient additional parcels for a new building. In 1929, before the stock market crash, the trustees accepted the City of

Albany's offer to purchase for \$450,000 the old building to be used for its Department of Education. A fund drive--the second largest in *Albany* history--led by Winthrop P. Stevens (cy 1916) raised another \$430,000 and Marcus T. Reynolds was appointed architect. The cornerstone was laid on November 21, 1929, by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt. The \$1,108,352 project was completed for the opening of school in September, 1931. Highland Avenue became Academy Road.

## The One Hundred Twenty-Fifth

**1938** Gilbert M. Tucker, Jr. (cy 1898), *Titanic* survivor and trustee, announced an ambitious 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the School, to be held in June. A dozen committees began to plan ceremonies, dinners and other gatherings. The Fathers and Mothers Associations, founded since the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration (1928, 1933), played a large role. English teacher and photographer Lyman B. Owen chaired the pageant committee. The New York Alumni held an anniversary banquet at which Hon. Learned Hand (cy 1899) recalled in "a very colorful manner" days in the old school. Honorable Mayor John Boyd Thacher (cy 1900) presided over the Alumni reunion in Albany and was a leading member of the pageant's cast of 245. The Board of Regents issued official congratulations. Forrest Willis, WOKO radio personality, interviewed Harold Wooster, Alumni Association president, to help promote the event, and both the Times Union and Knickerbocker News ran many articles.

On Thursday, June 2nd, 4,000 alumni and Albanians gathered at the Washington Avenue Armory for the pageant which dramatized how deeply interwoven were the histories of Albany and the school. It was called "A School and a City." The scenarios were written by Owen, Thomas C. Stowell, and Thomas F. Woods; Stowell directed the production. Dr. Harry W. Hastings narrated and the Albany High School band played. Al Sabisch, Charlie Townsend, and Jack Titus gave technical and scene support.

On Friday, to the accompaniment of the school alma mater and other Academy airs played on the carillon in the tower of City Hall, there was a parade from Academy Park to 112 State Street, where a tablet was unveiled commemorating the location of the first classes (September 11, 1815). At the new campus, there were a baseball game and evening exercises. Phinney Baxter, President of Williams College, was the guest speaker. Saturday, following a luncheon held in the Chapel of the Joseph Henry Memorial at which spoke the Mayor and Dr. Austin R. Coulson, Superintendent of Schools, City of Albany, buses took all to the new campus for the Battalion review and the Competitive Drill.

**1939** Lingering debt from the cost of the new campus and the Great Depression, affecting families and school alike, led to bold proposals, including a corporate merger with Albany Academy for Girls. In early 1940, the proposal faltered under opposition led by the Alumni Association and the Mothers' Association.



Dedication of the plaque at State and Lodge, the location of the first building where classes started in 1815

## H. E. P. M.

principal	Harold T. Stetson, A.B.	1940-1943
	Harry E. P. Meislahn, A.M.	1943-1971
president	W. L. L. Peltz, LL.B	1937-1943
	Lt. Col. John K. Meneely, B.S.	1943-1948
	Louis L. Woodward, B.A.	1948-1953
	Matthew Bender III, A.B.	1953-1958
	William W. Wemple, Jr. B.A.	1958-1963
	David Sterling Williams, B.A.J.P.	1963-1970
treasurer	Prentiss Carnell, Jr.	1943-1948
	Donald H. Terry	1948-1955
	W. Gordon Furlong	1955-1960
	Douglas W. Olcott	1960-1973

**1940 -1943** End of the McCormick era. Harold T. Stetson, for twenty years the Latin teacher, was Head preceding the appointment of Harry E. P. Meislahn. A graduate and successful teacher and coach at Brooklyn Poly Prep, Meislahn governed the school by the lines of Alexander Pope that he often quoted: “Be not the first by whom the new is tried, /Nor the last to set the old aside.” In wartime and

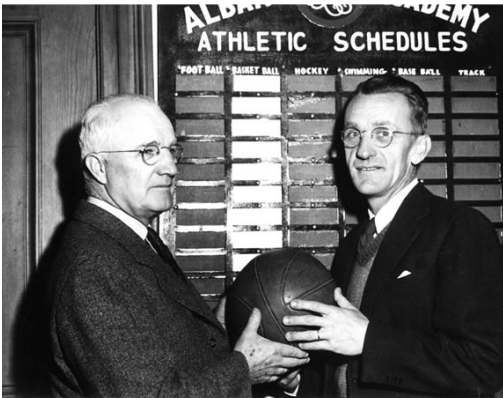
postwar America, this conservative style fit the school very well. A lacrosse player and



undefeated high school heavyweight wrestler, and a football player and wrestling captain at Princeton, Meislahn knew competition, fair play and perseverance and instilled these values in his school.

**1940s** Atmosphere of World War II promoted expansion of Battalion program and public marches. On June 7, 1946, the Competitive Drill ceremonies were expanded to recognize the twenty three who died of the 500 Academy men who served in the War. Their names were read, taps sounded and colors half staffed. A booklet featured pictures of the deceased, the names of all who served, and the day's program.

**1950s** Enrollment steadily rose, the Lower School Library was established, and the curriculum was somewhat broadened to include a few liberal arts electives. The Meislahn family was the first to occupy the Leonard House. It was completed in 1954 and was built by the generosity of Jesse H. Leonard (cy 1880).

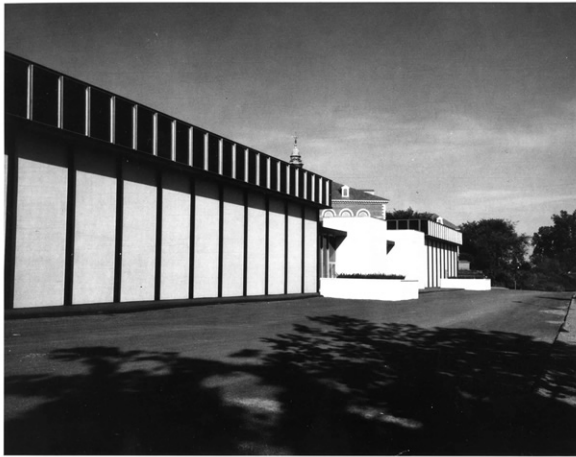


Country Morris passes Director of Athletics post to Al Sabisch

**1957-58** Albany Academy football team tied Albany High at Hawkins Stadium in the high school game of the era. It symbolized not victory, but the play and teamwork, the result of the success of the scholar-athlete philosophy of the country day plan, paying off in some great seasons in all sports. This was “Country” Morris’s last game. He retired in 1957 after coaching and directing athletics at the school since 1924. Al Sabisch succeeded him as Director of Athletics.

## Apogee

**1963** was the year of the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the school. Compared to the gala 125<sup>th</sup>, the celebration ceremonies were muted, but no less significant. Six prominent educators spoke on the role of the private school in the United States: Wilson Parkhill, Headmaster (retired) Collegiate School, noted the school “could not possibly have survived...for 150 years if it had been withdrawn from the affairs of the Albany Community.” James E. Allen, New York’s Commissioner of Education, recalled the leadership in all areas of society given by Academy faculty and alumni and pressed the school to pursue leadership with “vigor and decision.” After dinner at the Fort Orange Club, the anniversary attendees were treated to a concert by Albany’s Mendelssohn Club.



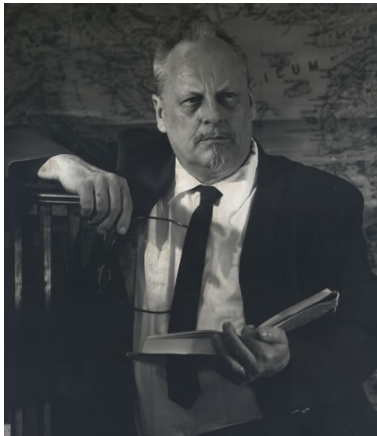
**1960s** The post-Sputnik era gave rise to a language laboratory, updated science facilities, and new athletic facilities. Construction of the Field House on Hackett Boulevard began in the spring of 1964. The first hockey game was played in January, 1965. The formal dedication of the rink, gymnasium, wrestling room, offices, and locker areas took place in February, 1966. The first Winter Sports Festival featured invitational contests in swimming, hockey, wrestling, and basketball.

New science facilities were created in 1968 from the main building third floor central hallway through the old labs and out above the chapel stage flies and the old gym. Its amphitheater provided a venue for occasional visits of classes from Albany Academy for Girls.



The return of many former AA students to the school stimulated the emergence of new activities. The most successful was led by Tom Cogan (cy 1953). Tom founded the Milit-Aires, a glee club that grew to dozens of members and performed fifteen to twenty times a year at the school and in the community. In its first three years, the Milit-Aires won the Capital District Chorus championship. Chuck Colton (cy 1956) and student James Mann

(cy 1964) founded the *Brimstone and Treacle*. John McClintock (cy 1957) started an educational journal, *Cum Laude Review*. Two new community service programs appeared. One began as “Big Brothers,” but soon became a coordinate Big Brothers - Big Sisters joint schools activity. The in-school service organization, Key Club, was promoted by students Pete Wheeler and Joe Gulli (both class of 1966). Peter Dorwaldt (cy 1958) also started in 1963 and led the baseball team to 416 wins over a 35 year period. Peter was honored in 1991 by the New York State Coaches Association. Among his honors are the Headmasters Bat, Coach of the Year Awards, Hall of Fame, and Distinguished Alumnus. E. Wayne Harbinger (cy 1955) donated time to become an essential support to the athletic program as team physician. Other grads making their contributions were Gerry Eckert (cy 1963), George Danes (cy 1958), and Dave Martin (cy 1961). Dave’s 1967 swim team amassed a perfect 16-0 record. His tennis teams won twenty-five straight championships in the Colonial Council.



The older faculty established a standard of high scholarship and examples of teaching success. David Midgley wrote for Barron’s an American history text and review book, incorporating his famous Presidential List. Herbert Schellenberger, instigator of the Academy’s first language laboratory, authored *Wir Lernen Deutsch*. Jim Colton, collaborating with famous Albany surgeon Eldridge Campbell, translated ground-breaking medical works from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. For this and other accomplishments, Mr. Colton was named in 1974 to the Directory of American Scholars. Tom and Carroll Martin published *Legacy*, their collection of original plays.

**1965** Stepping up their established cooperation in dramatics, The Albany Academy and Albany Academy for Girls presented in May their first Spring Festival for the Performing Arts. It featured drama, dance, the Milit-Aires, and the Greensleeves. Music was important in the life of the school in this era. In addition to hymns sung in chapel, Jim Colton led the boys in the singing of popular college and football songs. In 1967, a new band became a separate platoon in the battalion.



Amy Kermeth

Faculty members long associated with the school began to retire: Frances Kelly after 33 years as first grade teacher; Madge MacDonald after 14,000 meals over 18 years; Brit Holmes after 26 years as head of the science department, assistant headmaster, and college counselor. Polly Perkins retired after 32 years in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Edna Edlund after 19 years in sixth. After 25 years at the school, Head of Lower School, Amy Kermeth, who shared leadership with the Headmaster, retired. Amy was a grand lady, an astute educator, and an able administrator. Her Lower School was

professional, successful, and a steady source of students for the Upper School.

**1969** The *Fish and Pumpkin* published a four-column study of cooperation between AA and AAG. Also that year, the Academy entered the computer age for the first time. Steve Rogowski, youngest member of the math department, leased an RCA teletype unit that read paper tape punched with holes representing BASIC code and transmitted these instructions for immediate processing by a mainframe computer. Advanced math students from both campuses and the college counselor were among the first users.

## The Turbulent Seventies

In many ways, **1969-70** was another turning point in the history of the school in the twentieth century. The Vietnam War provoked discussion in classes, the Student Council, and the *Fish and Pumpkin*. An alumni study that included a poll of former majors had three years before evaluated the contemporary ineffectiveness of the battalion. The war, the invasion of Cambodia, and the Kent State shootings brought all these issues to a head. Students in Forms I through VI voted 221 to 90 to abolish the battalion. During the Memorial Day parade, two Academy companies chanted P-E-A-C-E and “peace now” in cadence. What ensued was one of the most memorable crises of the school community. Nine officers were demoted, representatives were shepherded to the Mayor’s office to apologize, Marc Freed (cy 1970) and others led discussions in the full upper school and published in the *Fish and Pumpkin* remarkable examples of student journalism and the exposition of controversial thought.

Beloved custodian James “Mac” MacDonald died in 1970 after 26 years of service to the school. Math wizard Steven Webber retired after 40 years. All of his advanced students mastered logarithms, the slide rule, and challenging problems.



Mac



Harry E. P. Meislahn

**1971** Harry Meislahn announced his retirement for June, 1971. In his 28 years of service, the school moved from debt to a surplus of financial assets, from 300 to 540 students, from 27 to 49 teachers, from 6 to 11 interscholastic sports, from 7 to 15 extra-curricular activities, and added a field house, science wing and other improvements of the buildings and fields. An *F and P* editorial said, “He truly cared about the school.” Meislahn’s door was always open to students and faculty. He unfailingly gave good personal advice, and wanted the best for each person in his care.



The turnover of the old guard became almost complete with Meislahn’s departure. David Midgley said his 46<sup>th</sup> year would be his last. In a category of just a few men throughout Academy’s history, Midgley inculcated at least two virtues in every student that crossed his path: work and recall. It was never possible to find a shortcut to the mastery of American history that he expected. “To accept casual mediocrity from able students is to practice fraud against them.”

Alfred K. Sabisch retired. He had come to the school in 1931, the year of transition from old building to new. He started that year the swim team in the first pool, and in 1946 a soccer team. Both were firsts in the city of Albany. In 1934, he designed and initiated the first summer day camp of its type in the city. He ran it for 37 years, building it from fourteen campers to over 200. During his tenure as Director of Athletics, he implemented what he believed was essential to the country day school philosophy: “a boy for every sport, and a sport for every boy.” Al’s Gym Exhibitions for grades 4 to 6 were classic draws for parents and prospective students in the 1930s and 40s. In retirement Al, Ruth Colton, and E. Wayne Harbinger put the Archives on the map. Al Sabisch’s passion for photography elevated the operation to one with a public interface. Ernie Steck, a dynamic addition to the school in 1953, was named in 1971 Director of Athletics to replace Sabisch.

principal	Robert C. Mellow, M.A.	1971-1973
	Harold E. Santee, M.A.	1973-1979
	James F. Manning, M.A.	1979-1990
president	John P. Hawn, B.S.	1970-1973
	David Sterling Williams, B.A.J.P.	1973-1976
	Austin A. Woodward, B.A.	1976-1980
	Matthew Bender IV, A.B.	1980-1986
	Charles M. Liddle III	1986-1991
treasurer	Joseph H. Mann, Jr.	1973-1991

**1970s** After Meislahn came Robert C. Mellow. He was a Philips Exeter and Harvard graduate and had teaching and administrative experience at St. Louis Country Day School and more recently at Scarborough School. Mellow believed that the seventies required the curriculum “to include the student more; to change the pace to meet

student needs; to change the content to include the changing reality of the world the student sees around him; and to change the vehicle to include experience and materials beyond the classroom and books.”

Departments began to announce electives for the first time. Not counting the optional advanced offerings in departmental sequences, such as in math and language, even a few full-year electives existed almost as attributes of certain teachers. Examples were David Midgley’s Contemporary Problems and Jim Colton’s Humanities. The electives that emerged in the 1970s are more numerous, semester in length, and every department was represented. Proving difficult to overcome were scheduling to align AAG and AA classes

and finding appropriate time for extra-curricular activities that did not conflict with athletic programs.

In **1973-74**, the 1970s' global oil crisis caused the extension of winter vacation by an extra week to conserve oil. In February, 1974, the school's oil service supplier simply ran out, challenging Jimmy Davis, head of maintenance, to keep the pipes from freezing and business manager Tom Martin to find an alternate supply through the New York State Emergency Commission. A similar crisis arose in February, 1977. AAG, heated by natural gas, was closed by order of the governor during a national gas shortage. 110 girls crossed the road to take classes for a week in the boys' building.

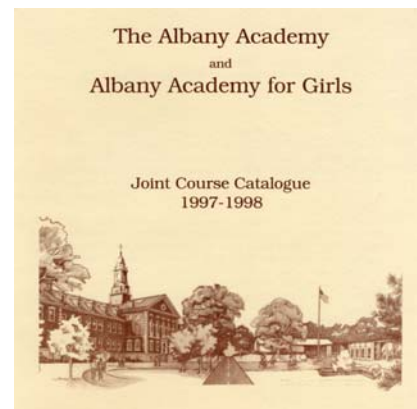


Harold Santee began to put his mark on the school by a re-organization that named Gerry Eckert, David Erdmann, and Peter Wells to the deanships respectively of school and college admissions, guidance and testing, and scheduling and student affairs. Santee asked the board to redefine the Middle School to involve a curricular cluster for grades 6 through 8 in addition to the existing administrative delineation headed by F. Norton Curtis. In 1976, Pre-K to 4 became Lower School and 5 through 8 became Middle. Robert Littell, who was Head of the Lower School, became the head of both Lower and Middle Schools.

**1975** On March 17, Santee and AAG Headmaster Erwin Kitzrow signed a statement of coordination:

1. both schools are committed to single-sex education
2. the schools shall independently design their curricula
3. electives for grades 10-12 shall be offered for optional cross-enrollment
4. schools schedules shall be designed cooperatively
5. there shall be a common registration period
6. each school will hold some places in electives for cross-enrollment

By October, 1976, there were 70 students cross-enrolled in twelve courses. The class passing time was extended from 2 to 4 minutes to accommodate inter-campus treks. AAG's Exploration Week in 1977 was a fully coordinate affair and a big success. Coordination grew slowly over the next twenty years. By 2000, 95 girls and 85 boys were cross-enrolled in up to 50 different courses. Here the program rested until 2003 when Caroline Mason became Head of both The Albany Academy and Albany Academy for Girls.





Elvira Ronk, Head of Lower School, invited the first NYS AIS evaluation of the lower school program and expanded the ideas that had opened some aspects of the K through 2 programs, by adding some self-determined activities to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade programs. Her “Adventure Time” program allowed students from different grades to choose a course that met in the afternoon on three days every fortnight or so. In 1974, pre-kindergarten (four-year olds) was added. “Unlike children in a nursery school, children in the Academy pre-Kindergarten would be integrated into the larger school community, and have the benefit of the school’s excellent music, art, and library....” These reforms capped the end of Mrs. Ronk’s 22 years at the Academy, partly as teacher of fifth grade, and since 1968, Head of the Lower School.

With so many teachers gone who had devoted decades to the school, teacher longevity decreased. A few grads still came on board: in 1975 David Titus (cy 1958) as Librarian and the following year, Louis Cioffi (cy 1971) to teach grade 6 and Form II history, and Jim Poole (cy 1968) began a long tenure in the English department. In 1977, former cadet major and hockey star Dave Rider (cy 1973) also began a long tenure in the school. Richard Mertz (cy 1969) joined the school to teach in the history department and to coach. He had a Class B championship basketball team in the late 1980s.

**1977** Long a conservative engine of the school, generous in support, the Board of Trustees had perpetuated itself since 1813 by permanent appointments and hand selection of successors. In 1976, they changed their By-Laws to set terms of three years, the maximum service not to exceed three such terms. At their February, 1977, meeting, the trustees created a Long Range Planning Committee. Its report in May sounded a dissonant note on the discrepancy between the school’s and the public’s impression of the Academy. The report boldly asserted: “The battalion has become a deterrent to achievement of the Academy’s primary goal—quality education—and therefore recommends that the battalion program be discontinued.”

Remarkably resistant, with passionate parent and determined alumni support, the battalion survived the trustee committee report, which the full board did not accept. Harold Santee announced his resignation in the fall of 1978 and a search committee was formed under Matthew Bender IV (cy 1949). While Santee extended much of what Mellow had set out to do, he was hampered in part by a huge surge in the national inflation rate.

**1979** The faculty, long suffering with an outmoded personally negotiated salary and work load and no salary scale or schedule, and further unsettled by the uncertain promises of change and headmaster turnover, worked through a faculty affairs committee to petition the NLRB to form an association with the right of collective bargaining. On the

consequent vote set for May 8, 1979, the teachers passed the resolution to form the association. This process deeply divided the faculty and drove out F. Norton Curtis who voiced criticism of such an ‘unprofessional’ step. “Curt,” as he was known by colleagues, thus left the school after 34 years. He remained loyal to the School and frequented all the important events. Elizabeth Carmichael also retired. She had taught in 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades for 37 years. In all, for all reasons, seventeen teachers left the school that spring. A second vote a year later reversed the association.

In February, 1979, James F. Manning was named Headmaster. A St. Bonaventure graduate, Manning had a masters in English from Boston College. He had been at Newark Academy for twenty years and was then its assistant headmaster.



### Temperate Times

**1980s** Manning began his tenure noting the “tumultuous past” and his objective to settle some tensions and “inject a strong dose of *esprit de corps*.” Some problems were immediately addressed. Though some claim that the role of faculty in governance diminished, others maintain that the Manning era was a good one, calmer than the decade previous or following. Under Manning, four key administrators ably ran their own divisions: Inga Tomson in Lower School, James Price in Middle School, Baxter Ball in Upper School, and Ernie Steck in athletics.

Inga had studied elementary education in Stockholm, Sweden, and, at the time of her appointment, was the Kindergarten teacher at the Academy. She believed that the strength and success of the Lower School had to rest in the faculty. She was untiring in her efforts to find great teachers and to support them. The success and longevity of her hires attests to the wisdom of her choices. Inga helped integrate the arts, music, and computer study into the strong lower school curriculum. She believed in the value of play and all the arts and crafts. Inga was entirely devoted to the children in her care, and was held in great affection. Inga holds as a highlight of her tenure the Albany Tercentennial pageant written by parent Elizabeth Ruthman and performed by the Lower School in 1986. Every pupil participated and the preparations took months: “Throughout the weeks of rehearsals, growing doubts, and endless fears, Inga was the driving force that held all together,” wrote Vickie Blaisdell.



James Price became the first full time divisional head of the Middle School. Jim had come to the school in 1972 as a middle school English teacher and theater director. The Middle School thrived under his leadership. Baxter Ball came in 1975 to teach history. He managed the college counseling and was made head of the Upper School in 1981. He promoted Advanced Placement courses, helped develop the curriculum, and managed the complications of coordinate scheduling.



Dave Martin (cy 1961) took over the direction of the battalion. From 1979 to 1989, Dave approached the task from the sympathetic angle of teacher and coach and emphasized leadership training. To provide more slots for senior leadership,

F Company was added again. The band, the best in AA history to that date, numbered 50 members. Chuck Tedeschi did a great deal to increase musical talent in the lower and middle schools and worked hard on the band. The Drill Team, a separate unit from 1979, drilled with pride and precision, performed in parades and at Guidon, and helped raise student morale.

With the advent of personal computers, math-oriented computer instruction worked its way downward from Forms VI to II through the efforts of Robert Leach and Bob Olcott. Starting in 1982, Peggy Goold brought computer instruction into the lower school classrooms. After that, student interest and competence were irreversible. The beginnings were modest, usually one computer per class.

The major capital improvements under Manning and leading to 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary were first proposed by a Committee for the Eighties, whose recommendations produced the Campaign for the Eighties, led by Harry P. Meislahn (cy 1956), trustee, son of the Headmaster. The goal of three million dollars was reached, one million coming from the trustees, one million from a bequest of William S. McEwan (cy 1930), and \$200,000 from J. Spencer Standish (cy 1942).

The most visible results were the upgrading of the track by school parent Doc Marcelle of Callanan Industries and a refurbished Joseph Henry Science Wing, dedicated in 1985. Giving was also generous for the endowment of faculty chairs in rhetoric established by the gift of John T. Bender, Jr. (cy 1927), in classics (honoring Jim Colton), the Learned Hand Chair for History and Government, the Standish Chair of Science, the McEwan Chair of Mathematics, and Dr. David Stevenson (cy 1946) Chair of Science.

In 1985, an endowed fund established by Winifred Sutherland Kermani (cy 1922) supported the Arts in both schools through visiting artists and special arts days. Other special gifts that enhanced teaching were the Picotte family gift of computers and the John T. Bender grants for faculty travel.

In May of 1989, Manning announced that the following year would be his last at the Academy. President Chuck Liddle (cy 1948) commended Manning's decade, noting increased enrollment, the doubling of the median of faculty salaries, faculty enrichment plans, better funded scholarships, impressive increases in fund raising, the modernizing of the science wing and other facilities, and an excellent five-year progress report from NYSAIS.



Ernie Steck retired June 30, 1991 after 38 years. A grand gathering at Michael's Banquet House in April and proclamations from the mayor, governor, and State Senate testified to the esteem and affection in which the entire community held the coach. His 25 years of football coaching showed a record of 143-44-9, and he coached eleven football teams to undefeated records and fourteen to championships. In 1979-82, teams coached by Steck and Robert Olcott (cy 1944) had 28 consecutive wins, a record for Section II schools. Ernie coached other sports before becoming Director of Athletics. Among these he had three championships in tennis (1955-1957), track (1971), and baseball (1958, 1961, and 1964). Among Ernie's most cherished principles were: physical education and athletics are an integral part of the country day school curriculum, post-season tournament play is in many cases too stressful and time-consuming and should be discouraged, boys should not focus on single sports, but play all year for the physical training, fun, and extra-curricular experience. More than any teacher in the last four decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Ernie helped boys become men. In the absence of a long-tenured headmaster since Meislahn, the period of his tenure as Athletic Director may be called the Steck era of the school.

Retiring in 1992 were Robert Olcott (1949-1992), Adele Everett (1967-1992), Charles T. Foreman (1974-1992), and Dr. Donald Schmalberger (1977-1992). Foreman taught middle school science and "oversaw the development of the drill team." Schmalberger was the first holder of the Standish Science Chair and chaired the department. He played a major role in the planning of the renovation of the science wing.

Adele Everett was one of Elvira Ronk's leading teachers. In first and, later, second grades, Adele participated in the open classroom experiments. Educated in England and active in the English Speaking Union, Adele had a wide view of global issues. Like her mentor, Amy Kermeth, Adele was very interested in the affairs of the entire school, and gave her encouragement and infectious enthusiasm to all who were interested in the development and modernization of the school.

Bob Olcott, Distinguished Alumnus, ended the formal part of his seven-decade association with the Academy. He was a twelve-year student, graduating as valedictorian of the Class of 1944. Bob had presided over the Student Council and Beck Literary Society, was Editor-in-Chief of the Cue, captained Company A and won seven graduation prizes. He rejoined the school as teacher and coach in 1949. He got the wrestling program started and was its head coach for three decades; he was a key coach in the football program, and a builder of baseball players as freshman and junior varsity coach. When Steve Webber retired, Bob took over as head of the Mathematics department where he emphasized progressive problem solving, introduced computers and Advanced Placement courses, and reorganized upper level math study. When difficult school issues arose, Bob was the logical choice to anchor a committee and was named Dean of Faculty in recognition of his experience and wisdom. An accomplished writer on Academy history and often called upon to reflect on people and the times of the school, Bob became interested in the archives of the school, rescued many neglected items from corners of the building, and was one of the leaders in setting up the present archives space. He was editor of *The Albany Academy: Its History, Its Words and Faces*. As Honorary Archivist, Bob Olcott's participation continues.



### Preparing for the Millennium

**1990s** The new Headmaster, Carmen Marnell, met with the faculty before the opening of school to discuss the Academy's mission. Teachers were impressed with his comments and his forecasts for change in the decade ahead. But the national inflation rate limited Marnell's plans. It grew by 4 ½ % in each of the years prior to 1990 and jumped another 6% in that year. While the rate would slow to under 3% per year through Marnell's tenure, any plans for program change had to be subordinated to the budget and to enrollment trends.

principal	Carmen Marnell, M.S.	1990-1996
	Lawrence C. Piatelli, M.Ed.	1996-2003
	Caroline Mason, M.A.	2003-2007
president	Richard P. Wallace, J.D.	1991-1996
	Harry P. Meislahn LL.B.	1996-2001
	William B. Picotte	2001-2003
	Cornelius D. Murray, J.D.	2003-2007
treasurer	Peter R. Kermani	1991-1992
	Charles M. Liddle III	1993-1993
	Thomas Frederick	1993-1994
	Harry P. Meislahn	1994-1996
	Stephen S. Marks	1996-2003
	Norbert A. Considine	2003-2005
	Francis H. Trombly, Jr.	2005-2006
	John J. Sullivan	2006-2007

David J. Pascone joined the school in 1990 to become Head of the Upper School under Marnell. Pascone, a cum laude graduate of Amherst, has an M.A. in English from Hofstra. As Upper School Head, Pascone early on identified the administrative issues still facing the Academy: curriculum and scheduling, coordination with AAG, and development of the arts. He applied an intelligent evaluation process to the faculty, an

artful administrative task little used by previous administrations. David resigned the leadership of the upper school in 1999, passing the job to Peter Parisi in the Piatelli administration. He has served fully in the English department ever since, taking on only the Academic Deanship at Caroline Mason's request for the first two years of her administration.

Leadership development continued to be stressed in this decade by Dave Martin's successor, Peter Parisi, Associate Head of School. Effective for 1991-92, the trustees changed the dress code: daily wear to be blue blazer and khaki pants, the military dress uniform retained for parades, Guidon, competitive drill, and commencement. The model of building leadership through training, mentoring, and evaluation from Forms IV to VI became so well established curricularly (battalion, adventure challenges, community service) that it was not difficult to transfer this approach to the set of activities and structure that eventually would replace the battalion in 2005.

The early 1990s were hard on the School. Enrollment declined, the faculty and staff were trimmed and salary increases eliminated. Across-the-board cuts sliced into budgets. In an editorial in the *Alumni Quarterly*, Marnell wrote a good summary of the competition given by suburban schools, the decay of discretionary income among parents, and the current state of the Academy in the community. After 300 hours of trustee and administrative time, the board released in 1993 a long-range management plan specifying development goals, enrollment and retention goals, plant renewal and west wing arts and natatorium projects, and a balanced budget within five years.



A new swimming pool had been on the agenda for the Plan of the Eighties. The \$2.35 million pool project went forward and was paid for by a generous gift of J. Spencer Standish and other funds from the upcoming Legacy Campaign. The pool is a spacious six lane, 25 yard basin ideal for physical training for all grades, competitive sports, and other aquatic events, local or rental. It was the first major project since the construction of the field house and the renovations to the science wing. It opened in 1994 and was

dedicated as the J. Spencer Standish '42 Natatorium in September 1998, at the conclusion of the Legacy Campaign.

In addition to the pool project, the seven million dollar Legacy Campaign was meant to fund the "West Wing for the Arts," an "arts zone" for the visual and performing arts to occupy the area from the Chapel back to the old pool for music practice, performance, gallery space, makeup and rehearsal rooms, black box theater, painting, drawing, and

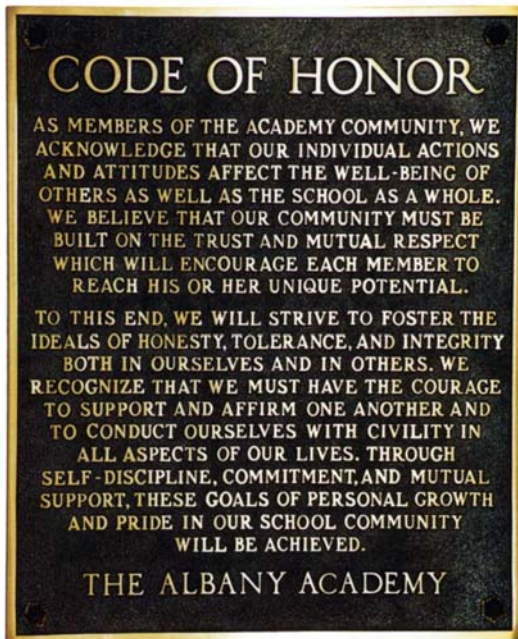
photography rooms. Endowments for faculty enrichment and student scholarships were a final Legacy goal.

Marnell was an enthusiast for arts education at the Academy. Whereas courses used to reflect the skills and interest of faculty, he felt there should be a sequential arts path. “Now we have hired people to fill the needs of the curriculum to offer consistent, dependable, logical exposure to the arts. Our ultimate goal is the balance of academics, leadership, athletics, and fine arts.”

Also, Richard G. Robison (cy 1948) stepped up in 1994 to fund the resurfacing of the track and again in 2002 with especially generous funds to repair and enhance the hockey rink facility of the Field House. In appreciation both the track and the hockey rink were named for the “Robison Family.”

**1995** The Meigher Bridge was dedicated October 13; it links the main building with the field house complex and new swimming pool. It was the gift to the school in the Legacy campaign by S. Christopher Meigher III (cy 1964), Timothy A. Meigher (cy 1970), and other family members including Ann Meigher Smith in honor of their mother, Denise Conner Meigher.

Building improvements continued with the Robison Family Wing, a new home for the Middle School in the former attic space. It was given by Richard Robison and the Robison Family Foundation to provide six classrooms for the middle school. The classrooms in the Robison Family Wing were donated by the William B. Picotte (cy 1967) and Richard P. Wallace (cy 1959) families, and the Bender Family.



One of Marnell’s last achievements at the Academy was leading the faculty and students to develop a code of honor. It is emblazoned on a plaque at the entrance of the Chapel.

**1996** Lawrence T. Piatelli took the helm and served for seven years. He was a graduate of Kent School and Harvard College. He had an M.Ed. from B.U. He came to the Academy from Governor Dummer Academy where he was Assistant Head of School. He had an impressive roster of athletic talents and coaching responsibilities.

As one of his first acts, Piatelli ordered a school wide curriculum review and assessment, a five year process, and announced two new committees, one for leadership development in the academic, athletic and extracurricular programs, the other

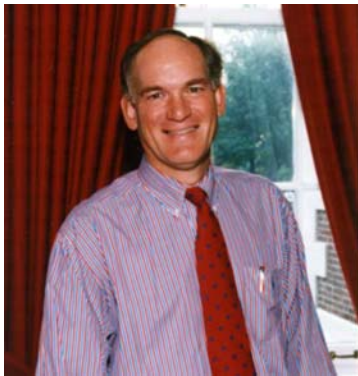
to examine all academic programs, partly to ascertain the level of coordination between departments and levels and the extent of interdisciplinary teaching.

Among the twenty new faculty and staff starting with Headmaster Piatelli were John S. Bestle and M. Scott Milliken. Jak Bestle was hired for full-time Director of College Guidance. Scott Milliken came to the mathematics department from Scarborough High School, near Portland, Maine. He became Head of the Middle School in 2003 and Head of the Upper School in 2007.

**1997** Piatelli announced that hockey, lacrosse, swimming, and tennis would join in next winter season NEPSAC, New England Prep School Athletic Council. Football followed in 1998. (Swimming and tennis did *not* join.) David Rider, Director of Athletics, cited the advantages as extended eligibility, more emphasis on multi-sport participation, and less emphasis on post-season tournament play. Disadvantages were more travel and less local publicity.

ALBANY ACADEMY ATHLETICS AFFILIATIONS	
<b>NEPSAC</b>	<b>NYSPHSAA/ Colonial Council</b>
Football	Cross-country
Hockey	Golf
Lacrosse	Soccer
<b>Independent/ Aqua League</b>	Basketball
Swimming	Wrestling
	Baseball
	Track & Field
	Tennis

Christine Amitrano, Director of the Lower School after Tomson, established foreign language instruction as a regular part of the Lower School curriculum. In Pre-K, children were introduced to Latin, French, and Spanish. In grade 5, each child selected one. In 1998 Piatelli opened a joint AA-AAG coed pre-school (three-year-olds) called Early Childhood at the Academies.



**1998** Information technology improvement was a major goal for Piatelli. In an effort assigned to a committee led by Peggy Goold, IT was upgraded in three phases. The first, already completed, included standardization, internet, intranet, e-mail server, and computer lab. The second, then underway, computerized offices, trained teachers, gave support to the library, and created an academy web site. AA and AAG used state grant money to run fiber-optic cable between the two schools and to train faculty in new software. An E.E. Ford Foundation grant permitted every faculty member to have a computer.

C. Woodrow Rea (cy1966) took a strong interest in the school, establishing awards for teachers, supplying equipment in the Field House Fitness Center for faculty, staff, and students, and supporting with Bob Olcott and Matt Bender a new home for the archives. Piatelli praised the new archives facility and the upcoming book debut of the combined history and alumni directory. Mayor Jennings attended the presentation of the book at a separate event; some students presented episodes in costumes.

Head of Middle School Doug Parker headed the team that developed interdisciplinary programs in this period. In the Middle School, now occupying both the third floor south wing and the new Robison Family Wing of the north side, the First Form program became interdisciplinary and team-taught, including English, social studies and reading.

**2000s** Piatelli reiterated the seven goals of the Educational Leadership Team and introduced the Campus Master Plan study recommending improvements in the physical plant and forecasting a capital campaign for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the order of \$50 million. The master plan study identified three areas of need: 1) infrastructure: the Marcus T. Reynolds building needed major renovation and the field house needed to be modernized; 2) declining enrollment; 3) undercapitalization: the school was below norms for annual giving and endowment and was not charging enough of the real cost in tuition; endowment was at \$5 million and needed to be at \$17 million.

Jim Caird (cy 1952) gave an unrestricted gift of \$5 million, recalling the special help he received from Steve Webber and the importance of the Academy experience in his life. The Caird Chapel presentation honored the gift of by naming the refurbished chapel for him. The makeover of the chapel removed the original permanent seats from the main floor and replaced them with 350 movable chairs over new carpeting, making it a flexible use facility for the first time.

The lists of Academy alumni service, long ago done in bronze for World War I and on a wooden plaque for World War II, were updated to include all wars and were moved to the lobby of the new pool where they were dedicated in 2002.

On December 30, 2002, Dave Rider won his 400<sup>th</sup> hockey game. (400-204-20). Dave was

Record: 27-2		
A.A.		OPP.
4	Northwood J.V.	1
10	Lasalle	4
15	So. Glens Falls	1
10	Troy Hill	0
6	Schenectady	0
3	Suffern	2
9	So. Glens Falls	1
11	Greece	1
5	Aquinas	2
9	Troy High	0
12	Schenectady	3
11	Saratoga	2
9	Shenendehowa	1
4	Suffern	1

named Coach of the Year for Division II of New England prep and private schools by sportswriters. Rider's New York State championships were 1983, 1987, 1991. In 1990 the team missed the crown in triple overtime. In 1994-95 the hockey team had a 17-7-2 season, leading the Capital District High School Hockey League, beating

4	Seton	0
6	Clarkstown So.	2
8	Shenendehowa	3
0	Glens Falls	3
5	Glens Falls	4
19	Saratoga	3
5	Seton	2
6	Massena	1
6	Rome Free	4
5	Lasalle	4
8	Shenendehowa*	3
4	Glens Falls*	3
2	Massena**	1
6	Aquinas**	4
0	West Genesee***	1

\* Sectional  
 \*\* State Tournament  
 \*\*\* Triple OT

LaSalle, Saratoga, and Bethlehem, and losing to Saratoga in four overtimes in the Division I Sectional Tournament. Coach Rider calls it "one of the most inspiring games I've ever witnessed." By 2009, Rider had eight Section II championships, three NYS championships, was undefeated in the 1990-1991 season, and won the Division II New England Prep School Championship in 1998.

Larry Piatelli resigned in February, 2003, effective in June. Among his accomplishments were increased fund raising, frequent travels around the country to visit alumni, the Caird gift, and various enrichment programs. Also in his tenure were the Educational Leadership Team (this returned curriculum development to the faculty), foreign language in the Lower School, and improvements in technology. The loss of some alumni teachers and coaches and other issues affecting faculty morale was an area holding Piatelli back.

## Merging

Caroline Mason became the interim head of *both* schools for 2003-2004 while each sought a permanent head. This was unique in the nation as well as at the Academies. President William B. Picotte wrote that the appointment “allows the schools to retain experienced and respected leadership, and to continue the progress in developing the relationship between AA and AAG, based on Caroline’s deep understanding of the traditions of each school and their commitment to single-gender education.”

**2003** Mason explained that her appointment prevented the problem of the two schools simultaneously in need of a new head; she referred to “two years of unprecedented collaboration between the two academies,” largely through the committee of the AA board headed by Jeanne Neff, which seemed pointed toward a “new, more effective way of conducting business.” The schools could not be allowed to weaken in an environment of “fierce competition from public and private schools alike.” Since the “missions and the populations we serve are nearly identical,” the futures of both schools are “inextricably intertwined.” It amounted to a realization by the trustees of both schools that the future of each was identified with the other. On February 4, 2005, the schools’s two boards signed an affiliation agreement.

Mason referred to the teachers of AA and AAG as “one faculty.” “Let’s not think about what we cannot do, but think about having the best possible two programs the two Upper Schools can offer together.” “We really want to position ourselves as a great laboratory for experts on how boys and girls learn.” She soon moved forward to name single heads of departments for both schools in history, English, fine arts, world language, computer education, science, and mathematics. Mason had started the May projects at AAG in 1993 and in 2005 both senior classes participated.



The 1931 Academy library had been a gift of Gilbert M. Tucker, Jr. in honor of his father at the time of the building of the new building. Magnificent renovations, initiated by parents who donated \$100,000, and guided by the librarian since 1979, Virginia Dorwaldt, were completed and the grand re-opening featured a reading by Paul Grondahl, who was a part of the Academies Distinguished Authors Series and the first writer-in-residence for this year.

**2005** Taking pains to explain to the community the general outlines of a new leadership program, the Cadet Battalion was laid to rest in a formal decommissioning ceremony on May 31, 2005. Ten Eyck Powell III (cy 1974) spoke on the occasion. The Cadet Corps was commissioned as a new organization. The voluntary Corps, comprised of Drill Team, Band, and Color Guard continued and today represents the Academy in public parades and events.

The new Leadership Development Program consisted of courses, co-curriculum programs, community service, and a house system, which would serve many purposes as well as be a rubric for advising. It embodied the following principles:

- leadership development is a component of daily experience
- responsible leadership is vital for community and society
- skills can be learned and people can choose to be leaders
- strong ethical character and the courage to act can be fostered
- service to the community is essential
- unifying experiences lead to strong relationships in a cohesive community

The Upper School students were distributed among four new “houses,” Beck, Gates, Henry, and Olcott. Two students were appointed as prefects for each. The highest student leadership position became the Student Government President. He presides over the Student Council, which consists of eight prefects and one representative from each house. At the end of each year, an award, the Meislahn Cup, is presented to the House with most annual points in a host of academic, athletic, and extra-curricular activities.

**2006** Readers of the Times Union of August 26 were surprised to learn that agreement had been reached to merge Doane Stuart School with Albany academy for Girls and The Albany Academy, with Dr. Richard Enemark as head, subject to approval by all three boards. Reactions reverberated through the Doane Stuart parents, the AAG alumnae, and all of the other entities affected. By September 21, the deal was off.

Presidents Raymond Schimmer (AAG) and Cornelius D. Murray (AA) announced on November 17, 2006, the merger of the Academies, to be effective July 1, 2007. The Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York voted that Albany Academy for Girls and The Trustees of Albany Academy were consolidated, with the Trustees of Albany Academy as the surviving corporation under the amended name, The Albany Academies.

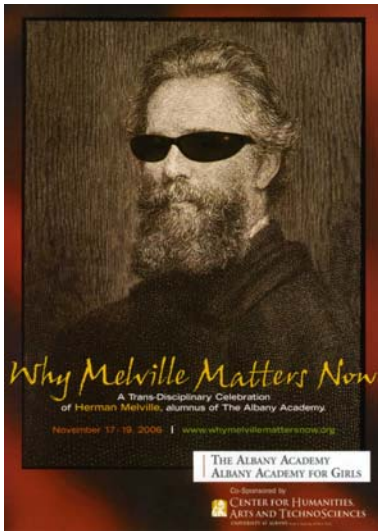
As to the continuance of the parent *schools*, the new charter stated:

1. The consolidated corporation shall continue to administer the educational operations and purposes of the constituent corporations in the same manner as they presently exist. The purposes of the consolidated corporation are:

- a. To operate and maintain an early childhood co-education program for children three and four years of age;
- b. To operate and maintain an early childhood education program for girls four and five years of age, a kindergarten for five-year old girls, a grade one through four primary school for girls and a grade five through eight middle school for girls and, when deemed fitting, coeducational courses and programs;
- c. To operate and maintain an early childhood education program for boys four and five years of age, a kindergarten for five-year old boys, a grade one through four primary school for boys and a grade five through eight middle school for boys and, when deemed fitting, coeducational courses and programs; and
- d. To operate and maintain a grade nine through twelve secondary school with both single-gender and co-educational programs.

The same single-sex/coordinate blend would continue, separate diplomas would be presented, but the boards were combined into one with equal representation from the parent schools. After a search conducted by a committee chaired by Christine Standish (cy 1983), it was announced that Richard J. Barter, Ph.D. would take office as Head of School on July 1, 2007.

The Melville Symposium was held November 17-19, 2006, in honor of the writer and his dedicated exponent, Academy teacher Frank Nash. The keynote speaker was Andrew Delbanco of Columbia University, author of *Melville, His Life and Work*. The symposium chairperson was Deirdre Henderson, AA parent; Craig Hatkoff (cy 1972) was honorary chairperson. The symposium was held in cooperation with the Center for Humanities, Arts and Techno Sciences at SUNY Albany, director Mary Blatner Valentis (cy 1963). The Albany Institute of History and Art, University Art Museum, New York State Writers Institute and Yaddo were also credited with sponsorship.



The symposium drew 40 scholars and their papers, presented in 15 panels. Librarian Virginia Dorwaldt organized a 24-hour marathon reading of *Moby Dick* opened by Pulitzer Prize winner William Kennedy. Professor Arthur Collins also read, the AP English class took the night shift, and Andy Rooney delivered the final chapter and epilogue. A three-story sculpture by William R. Bergman and Richard Garrison, contemporary dance, panel discussion, art displays, and the keynote address by Andrew Delbanco rounded out the celebration. The reception in honor of Frank Nash was held at the Manhattan home of Craig Hatkoff and Jane Rosenthal.

The fall 2006 sports season was another highlight, particularly the football team record of 12-1, Class B Section II Champs, and the NYS Class B championship game at Syracuse. Paul Gallucci, head football coach and athletic director since 2004, was named Section II Coach of the Year. The Golf team won its ninth consecutive Colonial Council title. In 2008, Paul became Director of Athletics for both campuses.

The fine arts were enriched by a new black box theatre, first proposed under the fine arts wing campaign in the 1990s. It was finally made possible in 2006 by a network of alumnae and alumni donors. The black box seats about 60 and is professionally configured to be used as a teaching as well as a performance space.

The leadership program, the athletic successes, new waves in the fine arts, and the Melville Symposium, closed a period of challenge and change. Henceforth The Albany Academy and Albany Academy for Girls would face the rest of the twenty-first century as more than cooperating partners. The account of the period of the united schools will be continued in one document.