

The History of Hinman College

The First 40 Years

1967-2007



By Brent Gotsch

This work in its entirety is dedicated to

Faculty Master Al Vos

I know that I am not alone when I say that Al is by far the most dedicated professor on this campus and his chief concern has always been for his students. Without his guidance I would never have been able to come as far as I have in college and have such an amazing experience as I did, let alone complete this project. Of all the people, not just in my college experience, but in my life, I can honestly say that Al has by far been the most influential person in helping me make some of life's most important and difficult decisions. One of my few regrets from my days in college is that I did not seek out his advice more often or listen to it more when it was offered. There have been many influential mentor-mentee relationships (Socrates and Plato, Merlin and Arthur, Yoda and Luke, to name but a few) but the one which has had the most profound affect on me is the one that I have had with Al. Mitch Albom may have had *Tuesdays With Morrie*, but I had Wednesdays with Al.

“The best thing for being sad,” replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, “is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn.”

-T.H. White
The Once and Future King

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Last but most certainly not least, as any member of residential life can attest, some of your best friends are the people with whom you work. To Lauren Losapio, Michelle Grossman, Eric Kurs-Lasky, Yachao Zhang, Liz Mansdorf, Leanne Mercadante, Tammy Bui, and Christine Centola, I can not thank each of you enough. We started off as acquaintances, grew to be friends, and before we knew it, somehow we transcended all of that and became family. No matter where fate may take us or what the future has in store, I know that I will keep each and every one of you in my heart wherever I go and for as long as I live. Thank you for making my two and half years in the Discovery Program/Residential Life and my four years in Hinman College so amazing. God bless each and every one of you and may we never be far apart.

I would like to extend my apologies to anyone whom I may have failed to mention. The fault is completely my own.

Author's Note

Writing any historical document is a difficult and all consuming process. Hours upon hours of research must be done and facts must be constantly checked in order to make sure that the narrative is told correctly and accurately. This is especially true when one is writing a history that is not well documented in many areas. Throughout the process of writing this history I feel as though I have taken extraordinary efforts to make sure that everyone who deserves to be mentioned is mentioned, that no one is portrayed in a negative light, and that no one is glorified or marginalized. Any college activity, especially Hinman College activities, are all team efforts and dozens upon dozens of individuals contribute. If at times it seems as though I am concentrating on one individual over another it is not to make them a "hero" and to marginalize the others who contributed, it is because of the language used and the structure of the narrative, not any conscious effort on my part to make any one individual seem larger than life. In the end it is an impossibility to contact everyone involved in an activity/institution to get their stories. I apologize if any one feels marginalized or left out. That was never my intention. My hope is that every Hinmanite can read this history and feel proud of what they accomplished, even if they are not mentioned by name. Everyone has a great and worthwhile story to tell and unfortunately not all the stories can be told in this volume. Let me assure everyone that I have gone to tremendous lengths to make this history as accurate as possible, but for the sake of the narrative, certain stories had to be cut before publication. It pained me to do so, but it was a necessary evil. My hope is that every generation of Hinmanite can read this history and take pride in the fact that they were a part of something great even if they are not the focus of the narrative.

*Sing us a song, you're the piano man
Sing us a song tonight
Well, we're all in the mood for a melody
And you've got us feelin' alright*

*-Billy Joel
"Piano Man"*