

Conclusion

One of the most remarkable (and overlooked) aspects of Hinman history lies within its pioneering spirit and its desire to experiment with new and different things. Since its very beginning, Hinman has embraced change and reform. It also established important precedents that other collegiate units and other colleges and universities came to embrace. Policies like self-regulation, 24-hour open houses, and coed living arrangements (in the form of apartment-style living) which were once radical concepts, are now the norm at Binghamton University and on college and university campuses across the country and around the world. While Hinman College may not be able to take all the credit for this change, it can certainly take the credit for pioneering this at Binghamton. It can also be credited with experimenting with novel ideas such as a liberal pet policy and a cooking dorm which brought many people from different cultures and backgrounds together. Its innovations in academic programming led to lasting changes within the curriculum of Harpur College. That in and of itself is very significant, for it changed the way classes are advertised and taught on campus. Even something mundane like the geodesic dome or the Dynamo monument can be seen as special and unique. While it may be true that many of the experiments that Hinman College dabbled in did not last, what is undeniable was that these initiatives did not come from the upper university administration. They were born from the minds of the men and women of Hinman College, both its professional staff and its students. Like the pioneers in Walt Whitman's famous poem, the people of Hinman College were unafraid, took the necessary risks, and debouched upon a newer and mightier world of their own creation. It was the people, not the policies, which are an undying testament to the Hinman pioneering spirit.

The author would like to thank Peter Lorenzi, Bob Giomi, Gabe Yankowitz, John and Heidi Kowalchuk, Allan Eller and Maria Carra for their contributions to this chapter and for being examples of the unique pioneering spirit of Hinman.