

Alfred State College Centennial

Name: Harold Hackett

Department: Mathematics

Dates Employed: 1964-1995

Memories: see attached

I became employed at Alfred State College at the very end of President Walter Hinkle's term and the beginning of Dr. David H. Huntington's long and illustrious career. I came to Alfred in 1964 as an assistant professor in the Math Department whose offices were in the old Place House (a former mortuary) on Main Street. Upon my retirement in 1995 I had served as Department chair for Mathematics, Acting Dean of Liberal Studies and finally as Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs. Over the course of 31 years I had the good fortune to work with many talented academic faculty, administrators, and students.

During the two years I was Acting Dean for Liberal Studies I had vacation time. This enabled me to go on a golfing trip with President Huntington, Bob Granger and Ron Cushman. The following year when asked, by David, if I was going I informed him that faculty did not have vacation or personal days and thus I would not be able to go. At that point, I made a pitch for faculty having personal days but it never happened. I tried!

Several SUNY President's got together in the summer for what was called the Turf Management Conference. When it was held at Wellsville I was asked to play with the group. This was always a memorable golfing outing.

I had many interesting moments with students but the one that stands out in my mind occurred when the department was still in the Place House. I had a student who wanted some extra help. I gave her a time to come to my office. She hesitated and finally said she couldn't do that. When I pressed her for the reason, she said, "That the building had been a mortuary and she could not go in there." We met in a classroom and she got her help.

Outside the classroom the interaction with students was varied and helped students and faculty know one another as individuals not just educators. We attended sporting events, Fall Festival and Winter Carnival activities. Faculty were expected to chaperon two students events annually. There is no more challenging evening than spending it at the Lake Lodge chaperoning a student dance with music pulsating off the rafters of the building. Finally a sound proof room was constructed (I believe under orders from Vice President Roger Rawe after he attended a dance) as a faculty retreat with glass windows to facilitate viewing of the festivities. My wife and I attended many a fraternity or sorority dance at the Beacon Inn resulting in long-term relationships with many students.

My family feels truly blessed that we could be a part of three decades that demonstrated such growth, both with the physical plant and enrollment and new programs. Both my children, Michael (Chem Tech), Shelly (Nursing) and my wife, Sandra (Liberal Studies) are graduates of Alfred State.

Submitted By Harold Hackett