



WAGNER *Link*

Winter 2002

President Norman Smith to end 14-year tenure

He becomes the longest serving President in Wagner's 119-year history as he moves on to a university presidency in London

WAGNER'S LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT is making the 2002 Commencement his 14th and final one closing a chapter of Wagner College's history that many consider to be the most progressive in the history of the College. Dr. Norman Smith moves on to Richmond, The American International University in London where he will assume the presidency beginning in the fall of 2002. "Moving to London is a dream come true for Susan, Caroline and me," said Smith. "We have often day-dreamed about living in England, never believing it could really happen."

When I was approached about the opportunity, Susan and I immediately recognized our one and only opportunity to live in England and we jumped at it. Moving to London also represents an exciting new chapter for our daughter, Caroline, who will be 10-years-old when we move next June. She will spend the second half of her time with us in a setting that provides a wonderfully rich diversity to her childhood."

Richmond University dates back to the 1840's when it was first founded as Richmond College. The institution is largely undergraduate with graduate programs including an MBA. One campus is located in central London near Kensington Palace. The other site is about 20-minutes out of the city in Richmond-upon-Thames, one of England's most desirable suburban locales.

In commenting on his decision to leave Wagner, President Smith noted that he will never really "leave Wagner." "After 14 years, I am indelibly bonded to Wagner and will always be concerned about its welfare. To that end, I will be supportive and involved in any way that helps the College continue to flourish."

Smith reflected that he is gratified with the progress that has occurred at Wagner since his arrival in 1988. "My biggest satisfaction comes from alumni who tell me how proud they have become of their alma mater as a result of the improvements throughout the institution over the past 14 years. He noted, however, that Wagner's evolution has been a team effort involving many who "put their shoulder to the task." "Alumni like Donald and Evelyn Spiro, Peggy Reynolds, Kevin Sheehy, Al Corbin and John Lehmann, along with other important long time supporters including the Megerle family, played a 'giant' role in the success the College has realized throughout the turnaround era of the 1990's. Wagner's extraordinary achievements could not have been realized without passionately committed alumni and friends like them."

It was a "wonderful and memorable family affair" ...



President Smith, Caroline & Dr. Susan Robinson

In his final few months at Wagner, President Smith will be focused on "saying goodbye" to all of his Wagner friends and colleagues while concentrating on the unfinished business of realizing a stronger endowment. "The missing piece of an otherwise wonderfully assembled puzzle is Wagner's continued tuition dependence. Wagner is the least endowed of the colleges and universities to which it is now routinely compared. If we are to secure Wagner's top tier status, a much larger endowment must be in place."

Smith noted that over \$17 million in endowment has been realized in the past year and a half and that he hopes to bring the total to at least \$24 million in time for the 2002 Commencement. "Wagner has proven that it can be among the best and I hope alumni and friends will endorse that aspiration with their commitment to endowing this truly wonderful place," said Smith.





Library Reading Room renovated with new furnishings



Dr. Peggy Reynolds donations greatly enhance campus aesthetics including walkways

1988-2002 ~ Fourteen Years of Breakthroughs & Achievements

1988 — Dr. Smith arrives in May. By October, Les Trautmann '40, Editor of the Staten Island Advance reports "Norman Smith came on campus like a strong, fresh breeze on a smothering hot summer's day. He revived the life, rallied the troops, gave new hope and beautified the campus and the immediate neighborhood. Wagner indeed has a leader again. Tough problems remain and dog him, but he has wiped away fears that they won't be overcome."

1989 — Dr. Donald Spiro '49, assumes Chairmanship of Board of Trustees and donates \$250,000 for installation of College's first student computing center. His gift represents largest from an alumnus in history and the beginning of over \$10 million in Spiro family giving since 1988.

1990 — Student Union, residence halls and classrooms are renovated. Campus walkways and facades are lit with street lamps and flood lights. Local media herald "Wagner's turnaround elicits accolades" citing faculty comments that include "I've been here for almost 20 years and I have never seen so many changes take place in so short a period of time. President Smith has accomplished a turnaround that appears to be nothing short of miraculous."

1991 — Wagner is fully accredited by Middle States for first time in decades commending "first and foremost, a dynamic and talented new president who made strong, necessary and extremely gutsy decisions which have resulted in the College being the vibrant institution we find it to be and one positioned for a very promising future."

1992 — Dr. Donald & Evelyn Spiro contribute Wagner's first \$1 million gift for renovation of Spiro Hall enabling an expansion of the student computing center and upgrades to all classrooms and amphitheaters.

1993 — Trautmann Square is dedicated. Augustinian tract is acquired adding 18 adjacent acres and preventing high density development thus preserving a rural atmosphere for the campus while adding playing fields for soccer, lacrosse and softball.

1994 — Application rates begin to soar which will lead to a doubling of undergraduate enrollment. Academic quality also skyrockets as Wagner's reputation becomes more widespread.

1995 — Operating revenues up \$10 million from three years earlier.

1996 — Enrollment growth exceeds 450 students over past four years.

1997 — Wagner achieves "top tier" ranking from U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges for first time. Wagner Plan curriculum is introduced. New football stadium opens.

1998 — Spiro Sports Center, Wagner's first major construction in decades is underway.

1999 — Association of American Colleges & Universities cites Wagner Plan curriculum as one of the most noteworthy new developments in undergraduate education in America. Wagner's business program receives its first accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Business.

2000 — North Hall is renovated and renamed Reynolds House in honor of Trustee William Reynolds who died in 1998. Campus walkways upgraded to brick surfacing through gifts from Trustee Dr. Margaret Bambach Buck Reynolds '40. Classrooms are renovated through a major gift from Richmond County Savings Bank Foundation.

2001 — In their "2002 Colleges of the Year" edition, TIME magazine cites Wagner College as one of four notable liberal arts colleges in America. Middle States reaccredits Wagner with commendations for "visionary leadership" and "significant progress over the past decade."

2002 — The Smith-Spiro era comes to a close.

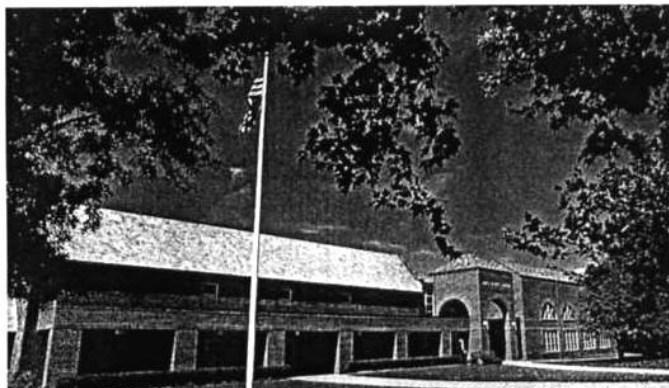
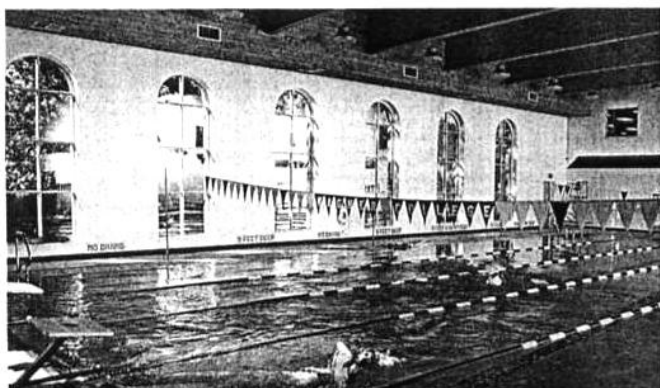
Fourteen years of...

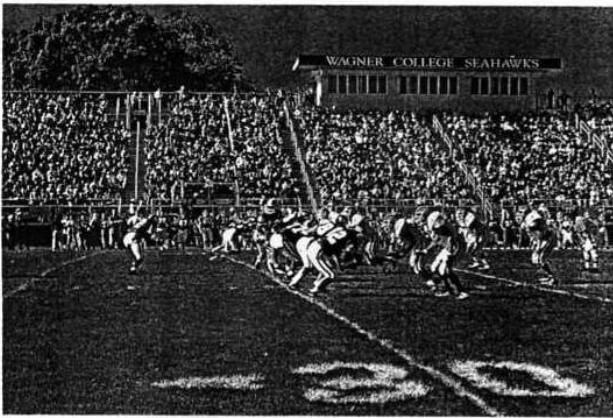
-Consistent balanced operating budgets since 1988.

-Best fundraising outcomes in the history of the College far exceeding total giving for the entire previous history of the College.

-Undergraduate enrollment evolves to capacity including exceeding the capacity of the residence halls.

-Enrollment profile reverts from principally local and commuting to over 75% residential and over 50% out-of-state.





Finally, Wagner has a permanent football stadium in 1997

"Fourteen years ago Norman accepted what seemed to be a hopeless task. Exposing us to his highly infectious and creative optimism, he led Wagner College to the top of the mountain and together we all helped make his impossible dream come true. The entire Wagner family owes him a lasting debt of gratitude. As Norman embarks on his new challenge abroad and exposes the world to his talents our very best wishes and thanks go with him."

Dr. Evelyn and Donald Spiro '49
Chairman Emeritus of the Board

"Anyone who walked the campus (as alumni or students) in the 80's would never have foreseen or believed the miracles that Dr. Smith has wrought. We must commit ourselves to sustaining his momentum and vision."

Maureen Robinson '67
Vice Chair of Board of Trustees

"There is no doubt that Wagner College has experienced a renaissance over the last 14 years. The vision for success, as provided by Dr. Norman Smith, coupled with the determination to succeed by faculty and staff, students, parents, alumni and friends, has been the driving force."

Louise Kaufman '75, Trustee
President, Alumni Association

"Never in the history of Wagner College have so many owed so much to one man. Norman Smith's legacy can never be overstated."

Dr. John Lehmann '62, Vice Chairman
Trustee Emeritus

"When Norman first addressed the faculty as a candidate fourteen years ago, I was struck by his conviction of the College's boundless possibility. As President he inspired us to realize that possibility."

Professor Anne Schotter

"This past decade has been one of Wagner's finest. So much has been achieved—but what really excites me, is the opportunity for success that lies ahead. President Smith's leadership has been the key to the greatness yet to come."

Richard Herburger '66, Trustee

"Norman Smith came to Wagner just when it stood at the crossroads between life and death. Under his guidance, we not only survived, but found prosperity and a true rebirth of spirit."

Professor Bill Murphy



The William Reynolds House is dedicated in 2000

"Norman's leadership has played a magnificent role bringing Wagner to its present level. He has made major achievements in his 14 years as President."

Harry Abrahamsen '65, Trustee

"Ever since Dr. Smith took over as President, Wagner's reputation and our credentials have been on the rise. We are grateful for his leadership."

Professor Ammini Moorthy

"Norman Smith's intelligence and imagination recreated Wagner College. It will be a challenge to replace him."

Dr. Margaret Bambach Reynolds
Trustee, Class of 1940

"Norman Smith brought Wagner College from the brink of destruction to the pinnacle of success. His leadership has beautified the campus, filled the school to capacity with bright, energetic students, increased the number and caliber of faculty, and brought us national recognition. He will be missed."

Professor & Dean Julia Barchitta '64

"When Norman arrived Wagner was virtually dead. He saved the College!"

Professor George Rappaport

"I cannot imagine that there has been a more influential or successful president at Wagner College. What miracles Norman Smith has wrought."

Professor Lewis Hardee

"Norman Smith brought Wagner College from a bleak and highly uncertain existence to the pinnacle of excellence and distinction."

Fred Lange '53, Treasurer
Board of Trustees

"Norman has been a leading, if not the leading, force in the resurgence of Wagner. Today, Wagner stands as one of the leading small colleges on the eastern seaboard. It is almost impossible to overestimate Norman's contribution to the renaissance of Wagner College."

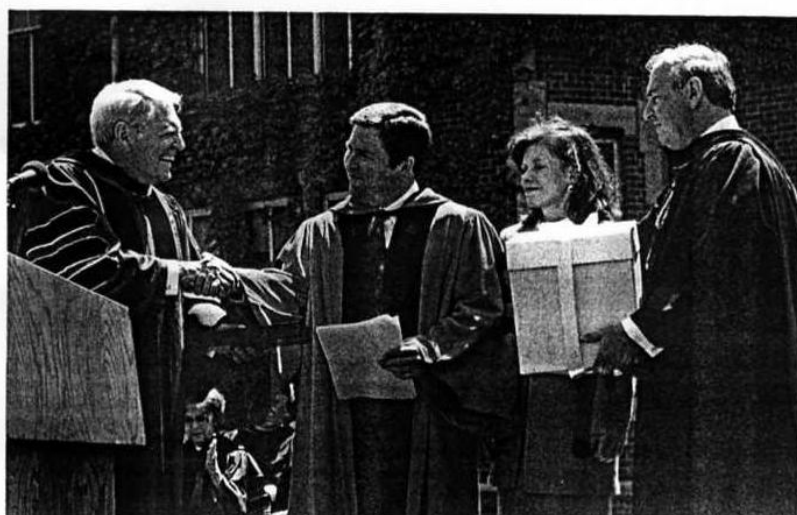
Andrew Cortese '72, Trustee

"Norman has led Wagner to an extraordinary level of success. His example is our road map into the future."

Dr. Robert C. O'Brien, '66
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



The Spiro-Smith partnership is launched in 1989



Spiro and Smith happily acknowledge the first ten years at Commencement