Rollins Architecture: A Profile of Current and Historical Buildings

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ROLLINS ARCHITECTURE
A Pictorial Profile of Current and Historical Buildings

Compiled by
WENXIAN ZHANG
With ENEID BANO and CHARLES STEVENS

Olin Library • Rollins College
Winter Park, Florida
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INTRODUCTION

The Rollins College campus has long been recognized as one of the most beautiful in America. Bordered by a picturesque lake and punctuated by majestic oaks and pines, it would be difficult to think of a more idyllic spot to engage in the pursuit of higher learning.

Just as Rollins’ founders sought to bring to the Florida frontier the high-quality education of the New England colleges and universities of the late 18th century, they constructed the school’s first buildings in the same New England style. It was not until Rollins’ visionary eighth president, Hamilton Holt, that the College established its identity—in the manner of its education and the design of its architecture. Today, Holt’s groundbreaking, student-centered approach to teaching, with classes modeled on the editorial conferences Holt conducted for his magazine, is replicated in institutions across the country. The Spanish Mediterranean style Holt favored for the College’s buildings, however, has remained distinctively Rollins’, becoming the College’s visual signature.

We celebrate Rollins’ architectural history and salute our predecessors for their taste and judgment. Our work educating Rollins students to fulfill their responsibilities as global citizens and responsible leaders is enhanced by the ideals of beauty and balance represented in the structures in which we live and learn.

Lewis M. Duncan
President
On April 28, 1885, the day of the founding of Rollins College, Edward Hooker, president of the faculty (1885-1892), and Frederick Lyman, president of the Rollins College Corporation, undertook a monumental task. They had been given six months to complete the work of hiring a faculty, building a curriculum, recruiting a student body, and constructing a classroom building and residence halls. Miraculously, six months later they had achieved all but the last, and despite the fact that the classroom building and residence halls were still under construction, Rollins College, with the support of the Winter Park community, officially began classes on schedule on November 4, 1885. Larrabee House, at the present corner of Morse Boulevard and New York Avenue, temporarily served as the men’s dormitory, while Ward House (presently a home on the corner of Osceola Circle and Osceola Avenue) housed the women. Classes were held in the Congregational Church for the first few weeks, after which they were moved into the unfinished loft above Ergood’s general store (later called White’s Store) on Park Avenue.

Upon completion of the first two campus buildings during the second term of the first school year, the College took up residence at its present location on Lake Virginia. Rollins’ first classroom building, Knowles Hall (named for Francis B. Knowles, its principal donor), and the women’s living quarters, called the Ladies’ Cottage, had been completed and were dedicated on March 9, 1886. The Knowles Hall dedication ceremonies featured the traditional collection of music, prayers, and orations, followed by a presentation by the primary speaker, A. J. Russell, Florida Superintendent of Schools. During the ceremony, after presenting the keys to the building to President Hooker, Frederick Lyman seized the opportunity to seek sorely needed funds. Just before the ceremonies, he explained, he had been handed a note from Francis Knowles stating that if sufficient funds were subscribed at this meeting to furnish the Ladies’ Cottage with appropriate furniture at $60 per room, Mr. Knowles promised to fund the building of the men’s dormitory. It took just 15 minutes to raise the necessary funds.

Knowles Hall quickly became the College landmark and center of campus activity. A large hall capable of seating 300 people, it was used for classes, recitations, assemblies, a daily chapel service, entertainment, and College functions. Its large veranda became a central gathering place for students between and after classes and also served as the preferred backdrop for annual class pictures. But it was the building’s two-story bell tower that gave Knowles Hall its greatest distinction. Purchased from Cincinnati in June 1886, the bell served
as the College timepiece, awakening students in the morning, sending them to bed at night, and in between marking their classes and mealtimes. On a bright, sunny day with a good east wind, Orlando residents could hear the bell’s peal five miles away.

The ladies’ living quarters, located beside Knowles Hall, was designed with a “cottage” concept, as the administration wanted to distinguish the College’s residential plan from the large dormitory system popular at universities. Rollins offered cottages of moderate size in which a matron or member of the faculty lived, allowing for close supervision of the students. “Social relations between ladies and gentlemen,” the College literature emphasized, would be supervised by matrons who would make certain that students studied properly and engaged in “wholesome recreation.” The College promised “to surround the students with the influences of a cheerful, well-ordered Christian home.”

Francis Knowles made good on his promise and rapidly became the College’s chief benefactor. By the end of the first school year, thanks to two large donations from Knowles, two more buildings had been constructed: Lakeside Cottage, the men’s residence hall; and the Commons, the campus dining hall. Completed at a cost of $10,000, Lakeside Cottage was ready for students to occupy at the beginning of the 1886-87 school year. Similar in style to and just a short distance from the Ladies’ Cottage, it was the first Rollins building located on Lake Virginia. Conveniently situated between the two residence halls was the new dining hall, the Commons, described as “a bright, cheerful building with a kitchen in the rear.” Prior to its construction, meals had been prepared in a small lean-to kitchen attached to the south end of the Ladies’ Cottage and served in two former bedrooms on the west end of the building’s first floor. The completion of the new dining hall allowed the former kitchen to be used as a library.

Thus, by the end of 1887, four imposing buildings stood on the east side of the horseshoe-shaped commons along Lake Virginia in Winter Park, and Rollins College had indeed begun to resemble a permanent institution of higher education. Hooker, who by this point had made significant strides in building a college campus, did not stop there. In 1891, using funds gathered through his diligent efforts, the College constructed a second, larger women’s hall, later called Cloverleaf, on the horseshoe opposite Knowles Hall. Although referred to as a “cottage,” Cloverleaf was an impressive three-story, 90-room, three-winged large dormitory. While the cottage idea had been appealing, the trustees quickly discovered it was much less expensive to construct a single, large living facility than to build several smaller ones. Young men were now housed both in Lakeside and in the former Ladies’ Cottage, renamed Pinehurst. Hooker’s last addition to the campus during his tenure as Rollins’ first president was a gymnasium, made possible by a gift from Frederick Lyman. Lyman Gym, placed between Lakeside and the Dining Hall, contained a 50-by-70-foot exercise room and an inside gallery guarded by an ornately decorated balustrade. Lyman Hall represented the completion of the College’s initial building phase. An 1892 illustration showing all the campus buildings gave a feeling of permanence to the fledgling college.

No new buildings would be added to the College for another decade. Hooker’s successor, George Morgan Ward [19] 03H (1896-1902), whose family resided in several rooms in Pinehurst, directed his energies toward improving the existing physical plant because, following several years of deferred maintenance, many of the buildings were in a state of disrepair. During the early years of Ward’s presidency, the College refurbished the interiors of buildings, repainted the exteriors, and for the first time landscaped the entire campus. New physics and chemistry laboratories were installed in Knowles Hall, and the library was moved from Knowles to four connecting rooms in Pinehurst and filled with newly purchased tables and chairs. All this renovation put an additional strain on the budget, but Ward argued it was necessary for recruitment and retention purposes.
Rollins’ second building phase came during the presidency of Ward’s successor, William Fremont Blackman (1903-1913). During his 10 years as president, Blackman added three large buildings to the campus. The first, Chase Hall, was made possible by a gift from Loring Chase and Frederick Lyman, co-founders of Winter Park and major players in the founding of the College. The two-story brick dormitory, finished in 1908, was the College’s first non-wooden structure. Located on the south side of Pinehurst, it included 14 rooms and had a large terrace overlooking Lake Virginia. For over a half century, the building was used in College promotional literature to showcase Rollins’ unique setting.

One year later, prominent American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie offered a matching grant for construction of the College’s first formal library building. Carnegie Hall, a two-story, sand-lined brick building with a red tile roof, had an interior richly decorated with stained, carved wood. The first floor housed a library reading room and space for bookshelves, while the second floor was used for administrative offices, including the president’s office. Blackman and the trustees felt the library should be placed in the center of the campus, and after surveying the grounds, they determined that Cloverleaf occupied that spot. Cloverleaf was moved southeast of its original location, and Carnegie Hall was built in its place.

The third building constructed during Blackman’s tenure came as a result of a catastrophe, reminding the College of the hazards of building with wood. Early on the morning of December 2, 1909, a fire destroyed Knowles Hall, leaving the College with no classrooms. With a small gift from Andrew Carnegie and significant funds donated by the Francis Knowles family, Knowles Hall was rebuilt in the year following the fire in a new location on the east side of Cloverleaf. Called Knowles II, the two-story building contained, in addition to classrooms, a large chapel and science laboratories. In many ways, Knowles II replaced Chase Hall as the identifying building on campus. Upon Blackman’s retirement in 1913, the College’s second building phase came to an end. Except for the purchase of some residential homes near the College, no new major structures were added for more than a decade.

Following a period of severe financial crisis and a loss of male students owing to World War I, Hamilton Holt was hired in 1925 as the College’s eighth president, and Rollins soon began to recover economic stability. Holt set the College on a new course by introducing an innovative new curriculum and encouraging new ways of teaching. Upon receiving funds for a new dormitory, the new president was determined to find an architectural style that would reflect the College’s progressive educational program and complement its semi-tropical location. He chose the Spanish Mediterranean style because he believed it blended best with “palms, bamboos, and brilliant sunshine.” He once told a group that he wanted to look for “the most beautiful buildings of Mediterranean type in Florida, then find who designed them, then get that man to design every building on our campus...all in harmony and all parts a unified whole.” The College’s unified curriculum purpose, Holt argued, ought to be reflected in its architectural style. Holt also maintained that since the College was located in the land of sunshine, its buildings should be designed with spacious and open breezeways. He hoped that one day Rollins would have a logo proclaiming it the “Open Air College of America.”

Holt found the architect he wanted in Richard Kiehnel of Miami. Kiehnel, a native of Germany, by the 1920s had established a national reputation for adapting the Spanish Mediterranean style to the South Florida landscape. In Kiehnel, Holt had found a perfect match for his new architectural vision. When the cousin of one of Rollins’ chief benefactors, Alonzo Rollins, gave the College a generous donation, Holt immediately hired Kiehnel to design Rollins’ first Spanish Mediterranean building. Rollins Hall was completed in 1929. The following year, the College added two more dormitories, Mayflower Hall and Pugsley Hall—both designed by Kiehnel.
But the pièce de résistance of Hamilton Holt’s contribution to the College’s physical plant came two years later, with the construction of a chapel-theater complex in 1932. When Francis Knowles’ daughter, Frances Knowles Warren ’35H, agreed to donate sufficient funds for the construction of a chapel, Holt immediately set out to acquire the services of world-renowned college and church architect Ralph Adams Cram ’38H. Amazingly, Cram agreed to undertake the project—provided he could design a chapel similar to one he had seen in Toledo, Spain. Holt was agreeable, and the outcome was the College’s signature building and spiritual center, Knowles Memorial Chapel. During the Holt era, the Chapel was not only filled for Sunday services, but it was also used as a forum for expressing College concerns at weekly meetings.

While the Chapel was under construction, the College received a gift from Mary Curtis Bok for a theater to honor her friend Annie Russell ’32H, a highly successful, nationally known actress. The Annie Russell Theatre was placed alongside Knowles Chapel, and the two buildings were joined by a formal garden and loggia. Physically, spiritually, and academically, the Chapel-Theatre complex became the heart of the Rollins community, representing the institution’s commitment to intellectual, artistic, and spiritual values.

Holt’s other major addition to College physical plant came in 1941, with the construction of the Student Center. With its stylized Spanish-designed interior and whirling ceiling fans, snack bar, and post office boxes, this beautiful Florida-style facility became the social center of the campus. For the next 50 years, the Student Center served as a central gathering place for faculty and students, who met daily for coffee and conversation.

By the time Holt retired in 1949 after 24 years of service, he had added 32 buildings to the campus. Among them were the Chapel and Theatre; four dormitories on the east side of the campus and five on the west side, each group connected by covered walkways; a classroom building, Orlando Hall, designed to accommodate Holt’s Conference Plan curriculum; the Warren Administration Building; the Student Center with the adjacent Alumni House; two buildings for language study, Casa Iberia and the French House; and two one-room buildings for social and academic meetings, Woolson House and Sullivan House. Thus, in addition to a high-quality progressive academic institution, Hamilton Holt left the College an architecturally unified campus. The two accomplishments were deeply intertwined: the educational program was based on the progressive principle of individual student interest and perennial innovative change, and the unified campus buildings with their prevailing Spanish Mediterranean style reminded the College of its sense of harmony and purpose.

The College’s fourth building phase came under the presidency of Hugh McKean ’30 ’72H, a former Rollins student who had been hired by Hamilton Holt to teach art at the College and, in 1952, was named Rollins’ 10th president. McKean was determined to carry on the educational tradition of the Holt era. Moreover, as an artist he understood the importance of maintaining the College’s Spanish Mediterranean style of architecture. During his 18-year presidency, McKean added five dormitories to the campus: Rex Beach Hall, Elizabeth Hall, McKean Hall, Holt Hall, and Ward Hall. Ward Hall, named for the College’s third president, assumed a unique place at Rollins as it replaced historic Cloverleaf Cottage, which was demolished in 1969. Upon Cloverleaf’s demolition, large numbers of students and faculty gathered to pay homage to the venerable “cottage” that had served the College well for more than 70 years.

In addition to the dormitories, McKean made two significant additions to the College’s physical plant. In 1965, thanks to a gift from well-known Florida businessman Roy E.
Crummer, Rollins built a home for its burgeoning business school, which would later offer one of the leading MBA programs in the nation. Within the following year, the College also began construction of a new science center. Made possible by a gift from Archibald Granville Bush ’65H, chairman of the executive committee of 3M Corporation, the Bush Science Center was considered a state-of-the-art structure at the time of its construction. To this day, it holds the distinction of being the largest building on campus.

Hugh McKean’s successor, Jack B. Critchfield ’78H, made several significant contributions to the Rollins landscape. In 1973, Rollins constructed its first swimming facility, Alfond Pool. The next year saw the addition of Hauck Hall, a building for the foreign languages department, and Keene Hall, for the music department. Then, in 1977, Rollins built a home for the art department, the Cornell Fine Arts Center. These last two buildings were important additions to the campus as music and the fine arts had been central to Rollins’ educational program since the College’s founding.

Rollins’ latest building phase occurred during the presidencies of Thaddeus Seymour ’82HAL ’90H (1978-1990) and Rita Bornstein ’04HAL ’04H (1990-2004). By the early 1980s, the College had outgrown Mills Memorial Library and desperately needed space for its burgeoning collection. Thanks to a grant from the F. W. Olin Foundation, the College began making plans for the construction of a magnificent new four-story library that would double the space of Mills. But in order to make way for the new facility, Knowles II had to be demolished. Although another venerable old edifice that had once been the defining building at Rollins was gone, in its place, in 1985, was built what is considered by many to be the most beautiful building on campus. The razing of Knowles II temporarily left the social sciences division without a home, but the problem was rectified in 1988 with the construction of Cornell Hall for the Social Sciences, situated alongside Crummer Hall.

A very active building program took place under the presidency of Rita Bornstein. The College expanded its property in downtown Winter Park with the purchase of the Rosen Family Center at Lyman and Fairbanks Avenues and the Samuel B. Lawrence Center at Interlachen and New England Avenues, as well as the building of SunTrust Plaza and Parking Garage at South Park and Lyman Avenues—land once occupied by the Park Avenue School, a structure that had been purchased by the College and named the Park Avenue Building. Additionally, the College expanded to the east with the purchase of the Sutton Place apartment building at 500 Osceola Avenue, which was converted into a dormitory. Several buildings were renovated during this period. The old Student Center building was renovated and converted into the Charles Rice Family Bookstore & Café. Several athletic facilities were given facelifts, including the swimming pool bleachers, the baseball field, the soccer field, and the tennis courts. The most dramatic transformation came with the renovation and expansion of the Enyart-Alumni Field House into the Harold & Ted Alfond Sports Center. The expanded facility included more classrooms, a new basketball court, a second-level basketball court, new bleachers, a new workout area, new concessions stands, and a Hall of Fame room. Other building expansions included the addition of the Bush Executive Center to Crummer Hall and the Mary-Jean Mitchell Green Plaza to the rear of the Bookstore, as well as new spaces in Keene Hall and the Cornell Fine Arts Museum, both begun during Bornstein’s presidency.

Two major buildings were added to the campus during Bornstein’s tenure. The completion of the Cornell Campus Center in 1996 offered, for the first time since the 1980s, a central place for the type of community gathering that had been so characteristic of the
old Student Center. An expansion of the existing Rose Skillman Dining Hall, the new Campus Center included a large lounge, a meeting room, several areas for socializing, and beautiful outdoor terraces, as well as dining facilities. The unique building, with its Spanish Mediterranean exterior, modern interior, and prime location overlooking Lake Virginia, was destined to become the hub of spontaneous interaction among Rollins students, faculty, and staff. By the fall of 2005, the College also had its first campus president’s home. Barker House, built on Osceola Avenue just east of the Sutton Place Apartments, provided a first-floor entertainment area and second-floor living quarters for the president’s family. Finally, two special additions enhanced the campus landscape: the Virginia S. Nelson Rose Garden, next to the Warren Administration Building, provide the campus community with a peaceful retreat and year-round splashes of color, while the McKean Gateway at Park and Fairbanks Avenues gave the College its first formal and highly visible entranceway, suggesting the architectural beauty that visitors would encounter throughout the campus.

As this short narrative indicates, the growth of the campus from two small wooden buildings in 1886 to its present array of more than 70 structures provides visible evidence of the College’s distinction in the world of higher education. Through these decades, particularly beginning with the Holt era, the College has been extremely fortunate to have leaders who recognized the significance of architectural style to the educational process. By making certain that new buildings retained a harmony of design and architectural beauty, these leaders have left present and future generations a deeply profound legacy: a spiritual sense of place that inspires the entire educational and social life of Rollins College.
A Profile of Historical Rollins Buildings
(Buildings demolished, destroyed, or de-acquisitioned)
The Parsonage

The oldest building on the Rollins campus until its demolition in 1976, the Parsonage was built in 1885 by the First Congregational Church of Winter Park at a cost of $1,795, most of which Rollins benefactors Francis B. Knowles, Frederick W. Lyman, and Charles H. Morse contributed. With nine rooms and an inset front porch, the two-story frame building was constructed in a classic New England style. It served as the home of the first president of the College, the Reverend Edward P. Hooker (1834-1904), also the pastor of the Congregational Church. The Parsonage was also the site of the first Rollins faculty meeting. Hooker lived in the house from 1885 to 1898. Over the next 44 years, the building housed eight pastors of the Congregational Church. In 1942, it came into the ownership of the College when Rollins and the church exchanged some properties.

Over the years, the Parsonage functioned as a dormitory for men, a conservatory of music, the Diamond Jubilee headquarters, and the office of Dr. Alfred J. Hanna, '45 the College’s first vice president. A significant renovation in 1957, which included restoring the garden and white picket fence that had once surrounded the structure, transformed the building into a Rollins presidential museum of sorts, where President Hooker’s desk and other memorabilia were on display. In the late 1960s, to make way for the Bush Science Center, the Parsonage was moved from its original location on the former Interlachen Avenue to the site presently occupied by Cornell Hall for the Social Sciences. By 1976, severe termite damage was detected within the wooden structure, and the College had no option but to demolish the building.
With its signature front cylindrical bell tower, Knowles Hall, named for Francis B. Knowles, opened in 1886, just 10 days before Pinehurst Cottage. As the first major structure on campus, the building contained the school prayer hall, recitation rooms, the business school, and collections belonging to the Natural Sciences Department.

Knowles Hall would have carried the distinction of being the oldest building erected on the campus had it not burned to the ground on December 2, 1909. Flames were first noticed coming from the building at 2:00 a.m.; by daylight, the fire had consumed Knowles Hall. Though possibly the result of faulty wiring, the cause of the fire remained unknown.

Thankfully, a new water supply system installed the previous year in neighboring Pinehurst, situated just 60 feet away from Knowles, saved that building from meeting the same end. The destruction of Knowles Hall, which had been the center of so many activities, was a grave blow to the young campus. Rollins had lost its chapel for student prayer; its physics, chemistry, and biology classrooms (and equipment); and the school bell, which had been used to summon teachers and students to classes.
Lakeside Cottage was the first campus residence hall for men. Due to a misunderstanding between the contractor and the College, only a few rooms were furnished by the opening of the fall semester in 1886, allowing just four students to live in the building intended to house up to 25. The remaining students took up residence that semester in Larrabee House, located at the corner of West Morse Boulevard and New York Avenue.

Like Pinehurst Cottage, Lakeside was designed by architect George H. Rand. Its name came from its location: on a high elevation overlooking Lake Virginia. Among Lakeside’s early residents was Rex Beach ’18’27, who went on to become a famous novelist. During the middle 1940s it became a women’s residence, housing Alpha Phi sorority for several years. Over the next two decades, it continued to switch between a women’s and a men’s residence hall. The Phi Delta Theta fraternity was the last group to be housed in the building before its demolition on September 3, 1970.
The Dining Hall, also known as the College Commons and situated where Chase Hall now stands, was built in 1886 for about $4,500, $4,000 of which was contributed by Rollins charter trustee Francis B. Knowles (1823-1890). Designed by George D. Rand, the one-story frame structure was opened for meals on October 28, 1886, and additions were made to accommodate storage space and a chemical laboratory in 1903. In 1908-09, the Dining Hall was moved behind Pinehurst Cottage to make room for Chase Hall. On December 31, 1918, the building burned to the ground, and temporary dining quarters were established in the Lyman Gymnasium.
Thanks to a generous donation from Frederick Wolcott Lyman (1849-1931), one of the founders of Rollins College and a business, civic, and religious leader in Winter Park and Minneapolis, Lyman Gymnasium was built in 1890 at a cost of $5,923. Lyman, first president of the Rollins College Corporation, was instrumental in raising the initial funds for locating the College in Winter Park.

Designed by George H. Rand to fill the athletic needs of a small college, the building served primarily as a gymnasium until 1926. The facilities included a basketball court, a running track on the second-floor balcony, and offices. This attractive building was also much in demand for music recitals, plays, and similar events that required seating a large audience. In 1926, in response to more urgent needs, Lyman Gymnasium was converted into a recitation building with additional classrooms. In 1958, to make room for Rose Skillman Dining Hall, Lyman was moved 150 feet to the southeast, toward Lake Virginia. At the same time, the building underwent a general renovation that included the addition of five faculty offices as well as various repairs and improvements. Lyman was scheduled for razing in the early 1970s, but its demolition was delayed so the building could be used temporarily for maintenance staff and storage space for the theater program. Lyman Gymnasium was destroyed by fire on February 12, 1974, caused by faulty wiring in one of its fluorescent light fixtures. The fire also resulted in the loss of much equipment.
In response to the need for a large women’s residence hall, Cloverleaf Cottage was constructed in 1891 on the present site of Carnegie Hall. Dedicated on April 23, 1892, it was described by the Winter Park Advocate as the one of the largest and prettiest buildings in town. The 56-room building included a cylindrical tower and three wings, each three stories high, in the shape of a cloverleaf. Students met in the center area, and the first floor had a lounge. Though the original architectural plan was credited to Dr. Nathan Barrows (1830-1900), first professor of mathematics at Rollins, he denied his involvement in later years. The cost of construction was $19,577.75, almost twice the amount previously spent on any single College structure. At the time of its completion, Cloverleaf was the largest building on campus. Because of a funding shortage, 13 rooms were left unfurnished until 1904, when Mrs. Frederick Lyman contributed $900 to ready them for occupancy.

Cloverleaf received its name thanks to a March 18, 1895 article in The Sandspur, which inquired: “Why is it that both the boys’ cottages have such pretty names while the girls’ cottage has none? Surely, this ought not to be. If the boys and girls are to be admitted to this college upon equal terms, let them be equal, and do not relegate the girls to a nameless home. Therefore, we would propose the name ‘Clover Leaf,’ which suggests both its architecture and its desirability as a residence…”

Unlike many other buildings on campus, Cloverleaf was never used for any purpose other than providing housing for women, including the Alpha Phi sorority. In 1908, when plans were under way for the construction of Carnegie Hall, Cloverleaf Cottage was moved closer to Lake Virginia, on the site where Ward Hall now stands. The relocation cost Rollins only $800. In the summer of 1917, bathrooms were finally installed on each floor.

When Elizabeth Hall was completed in 1958, the original plan was to demolish Cloverleaf; however, President Hugh McKeen ’30 ’72 was adamant about keeping the structure, despite the fact that there were no funds for renovation. The building had become an eyesore on campus, with peeling paint and plaster. Its plumbing operated with only a drizzle and the lighting system was inadequate. Determined to save the beautiful piece of architecture, McKeen ordered a new coat of exterior paint in the summer of 1958, and he and his wife, Jeannette ’62, were personally involved in the interior decoration. When students returned to the campus in the fall of 1958, they found a newly renovated Cloverleaf Hall. A decade later, Cloverleaf had fallen into a state of disrepair that made renovation costs prohibitive. Plans were drawn for Ward Hall and the building was torn down in the summer of 1969, after 78 years of service to the Rollins community.
Built by Professor John H. Ford (1845-1921) in 1885 as his residence, the building was purchased by Mrs. Frederick Billings and given to Rollins in 1902. Located on the site now occupied by Hooker Hall, the structure was repaired and re-shingled in 1903-04. It was used as a music studio and for the School of Industrial and Domestic Arts. On July 25, 1907, the building was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, along with all the equipment and the library collection of the School of Music.
Donated to the College by Miss E. A. Sparrell in 1904, Sparrell House served many purposes. Initially, a residence for female students, it next provided practice space for music students until it was fitted as a living area for the presidents of the College in 1916. President George Morgan Ward (1903) occupied the house during the last year of his presidency, followed by President Calvin H. French in 1917. After French moved, Sparrell House was used as living quarters for 14 women. In 1929, Sparrell was remodeled to add classroom space for the English Department, which occupied the house for the next eight years. In 1937, the Music Department once again moved into the building, using the space for the Conservatory of Music, offices, and studios. In 1957, the English Department returned, becoming the last occupant of Sparrell House before its demolition in 1967 to make room for the Bush Science Center.

Sparrell House was a two-story, cottage-style home with a center gable and veranda porch, two gable-end chimneys, and a corbelled chimney cap. In the front of the house was a wall dormer, which created headspace and a central axis to the house. In addition to flat windows in a double-hung, sash style, there were fixed windows on the wall dormer. The windows were paired throughout most of the house. The porch, which surrounded most of the façade, had squared corners and open rails.
The dedication ceremony for the original Lake Virginia Boathouse took place on April 26, 1904. Built at a cost of $750, as estimated by President Blackman, the Boathouse was funded by Mrs. Esther R. Holmes of Monson, Massachusetts. Rollins students used the long wooden structure, with its inclining roof and latticework on the lake side, for canoeing and boating for decades. The building was destroyed by Hurricane Donna in September 1960 and entirely rebuilt in the summer of 1961. The relatively modern new grey building was equipped with a floating dock and storage space for small sailing craft. In addition to providing docking space for ski boats, it contained the office of the director of aquatic sports and student dressing rooms. The structure was demolished in summer 1990 after the new Alfond Boathouse was completed.
Built to replace the building of the same name that burned to the ground in 1909, the second Knowles Hall was a brick structure designed with better fire protection. The construction cost of $35,000 was donated largely by the Knowles family and Andrew Carnegie. Home of the Departments of Biology, Botany, Chemistry, and Physics, the building had many recitation rooms, three large laboratories, and an auditorium with a large organ that served as a chapel. After the Knowles Memorial Chapel was built in 1932, the old chapel space was converted into a small museum named after Thomas R. Baker ’26H, Professor of Natural Sciences.

In 1969, when all science programs moved into the new Bush Science Center, Knowles Hall II became the home of the Departments of Behavioral Science, History, and Political Affairs, and the Center for Practical Politics. Despite objections from several history faculty members, Knowles Hall II was demolished in August 1983 to permit construction of the Olin Library.
Constructed in 1906, largely through a donation from Mrs. W. W. Cummer of Jacksonville, the Art Studio contained three spacious rooms and was the first building for creative art on the Rollins campus. A small rustic structure, it was moved in 1909 to the current site of Elizabeth Hall and was painted white to conform with the rest of the College’s buildings. From 1923 to 1927, the Art Studio was used for classes in physics and for WDBO, one of the first radio stations in Central Florida. In 1958, the building was moved once again, this time to the west of Cloverleaf Cottage and south of the tennis courts. The structure was used as a construction office during the building of Elizabeth Hall and was occupied by the athletic and physical education program from 1958 to 1968. The building experienced its final move in 1969, when it became an annex to the French House, as well as a paint shop, before its demolition in the 1970s.
B uilt in 1910 at a cost of roughly $4,500, Harmon Hall has had a long history with the College. It first served as a house for President George Morgan Ward ’19 and his successor, President William Weir. In 1933, the 2,000-square-foot home was renovated and converted into an infirmary, with the aid of the Mothers Club of Rollins, which donated $3,000 toward the cost of conversion and supplies. In 1958, the infirmary was discontinued and the structure became a student residence. Demolished in 2006, it was last occupied by the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.
During the summer of 1919, less than one year after a fire destroyed the original, Rollins built a new Dining Hall on the same location as the previous building. In 1935, President Hamilton Holt offered students a $25 prize to develop the best plan for decorating the Dining Hall II, which became known as the Beanery (ostensibly because beans were always on the menu). The winning students, Helen Jackson ’36 and Isabel Moberly ’38, suggested a Monkey Room theme including satirical pictures of bugs and animals engaging in fun Florida activities, such as golf. Alumni report that during the late 1940s, an observatory was added to the back of Dining Hall II, built by Max Grulke ’51. The 11,675-square-foot building served the Rollins community as a dining hall until 1958, when Rose Skillman Hall (later incorporated into the Cornell Campus Center) was constructed. It then served the Art Department as a studio until its demolition on May 5, 1977.
Purchased by the local chapter of Phi Alpha on August 10, 1921, O’Neal House was the only campus building ever owned by a fraternity. In 1927, the group affiliated with a national fraternity and became a chapter of Kappa Alpha Order. In 1957, the house was deeded to Rollins College, and the fraternity moved into the newly constructed Rex Beach Hall the following year. At that time, the name of the building was changed to honor William R. O’Neal ’27H, who had served Rollins from 1888 to 1946 as auditor, treasurer, and member of the Board of Trustees. Rectangular in shape, with columns on the front and a small staircase leading to the main entrance, O’Neal House was a simple brick structure that had a very early collegiate appearance. The building was used as a women’s residence for one year until the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity gained enough members to have its own house on campus. It remained the TKE house until its demolition in 1974 to make way for Keene Hall.
The Creative Arts Building was Rollins’ second art studio, built by George Cartwright, College superintendent of buildings and grounds, from a sculpture studio in 1923, when the first Art Studio was taken over by WDBO. Originally located on the site of the Annie Russell Theatre, the building was relocated to Ollie Avenue around 1931 and almost completely rebuilt. It was delisted from the building inventory after decades of service to the College.
Located by Lake Virginia, Recreation Hall was built in 1926 for $8,280 as a surprise gift for President Hamilton Holt. It served as the gymnasium for Rollins College after the Lyman Gymnasium was converted into classrooms. Recreation Hall included a field house and theater, with a total seating capacity of 2,000. Originally constructed as an open pavilion, the wooden structure was later enclosed to serve as a facility for large campus gatherings. The hall hosted numerous special events, including the inauguration of President Holt, the launching of the Animated Magazine, performances by Zora Neale Hurston, student theatrical productions (prior to the opening of the Annie Russell Theatre), and many balls and luncheons. On March 30, 1960, Recreation Hall was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.
Barze House was a two-story structure with a bungalow design, a popular style for smaller houses from the late 1800s through the first decade of the 20th century. By 1928, Lakeside Cottage had run out of space for junior and senior women students, so the College turned to Harriet C. Barze, who owned a house at 554 Interlachen Avenue. For a fee of $100 a year per student, she provided housing on her second floor. Eight years later, Rollins purchased the house and converted it to a practice room for the Conservatory of Music. The garage was moved to Chase Avenue in the summer of 1965 and renamed Chase Music Building by President Hugh McKean ’30 ’72H. Barze House itself was moved next to the Parsonage in 1965 to make room for Crummer Hall, and again in 1967 next to the Enyard-Alumni Field House while it was still under construction. Barze House was razed in the summer of 1971 along with Reed House to make way for the prospective Expressive Arts Center.

Lingerlong

Located at 570 Osceola Avenue, Lingerlong was a small building that had minimal impact on the campus architecture. Purchased from C. H. Blumenauer with Gary Loan Funds in 1933, the building was used first as a women’s dormitory, and next as the Spanish House (the first “Casa Iberia”) until the acquisition of the Skinner House on Holt Avenue in 1944. After a 1954 renovation gave Lingerlong the capacity to house 15 people, the building was used as a residence for visiting athletic teams, a faculty house, and an off-campus residence. On November 16, 1966, Lingerlong was demolished to make way for the DuBois Health Center.
Located on New Smyrna Beach, the Pelican Beach House was a two-story, white frame building with high wooden beam ceilings, long tables, and huge windows for gazing out at the Atlantic Ocean. With a gift of $6,000 from Mrs. Caleb I. Johnson of Jacksonville, the Pelican was constructed as a conference and recreation center by the Presbyterian Church USA in the 1920s, and later sold to Dr. Fred Lewis Pattee and his wife, who turned the building into a casino on the beach near New Smyrna. After the gaming business went bankrupt in 1927, the Pattees decided to give the property to Rollins College in 1931, making the Pelican the only Rollins building on the beach.

The Pelican was used for Rollins Conference Plan classes until World War II. In October 1942, President Hamilton Holt turned the house into an Atlantic shelter station for the United States Coast Guard, which leased the property on a dollar-a-week basis. After it was returned to Rollins in April 1944, the Pelican was used solely for recreational purposes: students, faculty, and alumni could go there to spend the weekend for the small fee of a dollar, although guests had to bring their own supplies, including bed linens and pillows. For years, the Pelican remained a popular place for relaxation for members of the Rollins community. Chaperoned by a housemother, women students stayed on the second floor, while men occupied the first floor. In 1968, the housemother left and the College was unable to find anyone willing to move in and take over responsibility for the building. For the next two years, the structure stood vacant, decaying into a state of disrepair. In 1970, Rollins’ Board of Trustees voted to sell the building for $75,000. Though President Jack B. Critchfield ’78H voiced his objections, the deal quickly went through when the sale price was raised to $150,000. The Pelican was eventually torn down and 148 beach condominiums were built in its place.
When purchased in 1933, Holt House became the official residence of President Hamilton Holt. Located at 208 Interlachen Avenue, the two-story house accommodated President F. D. Roosevelt '36 and his wife when the First Couple visited Winter Park in 1936. After Holt’s retirement from the presidency in 1949, the building served as the residence of his successor, Paul Wagner. The house later became a residence hall for female students, including Alpha Phi sorority; in 1961-62, it was converted to an all-male dormitory, housing 15 students. Holt House was sold in 1966.
Originally known as McQueen House, the frame building located on the corner of Fairbanks and Chase Avenues was acquired in 1935 by Rollins from the McQueen estate at a cost of $5,169. For the first five years it was used as the Chi Omega sorority house; in 1937, the building was renamed Comstock Cottage to honor William Charles Comstock (1847-1924), early Rollins benefactor, charter trustee, and vice president of the Corporation. In 1939, the structure was enlarged and remodeled into a laboratory theater by George C. Cartwright at a cost of $2,248. Built primarily with funds raised through the performance of a campus play called *Lightning*, the Fred Stone Laboratory was named for Fred Stone '29H, who starred in and directed the play. Eventually, “Laboratory” was dropped from the name and the facility became known as The Fred Stone Theatre.

The Fred Stone Laboratory was a wooden house with exterior shingles and a porch. The building’s appearance gave no hint that it functioned as a theater. Unlike the current Fred Stone Theatre, the Fred Stone Laboratory consisted of two sections: the first and original section was the main theater building; the second section, completed in 1939, contained the studio used for constructing sets for plays performed on campus. While the studio was under construction, the main building was fitted with a stage and converted into a laboratory theater. The dimensions of the stage appropriately matched those of the Annie Russell Theatre, ensuring that when individuals rehearsed in the Laboratory, it would feel similar to the main stage in the Annie Russell Theatre. The one-story theater space had, in addition to the large stage, vaulted ceilings that allowed voices to be better projected. The rest of the building was completed as a two-story structure containing offices and classrooms.

After 34 years of use, the original “Fred Stone” was razed in spring 1973. Students with fond memories of the theater had voiced their objections to the scheduled demolition, despite the fact that the old wooden structure was deemed a fire hazard due to its faulty interior wiring system. Bingham Hall, the former Winter Park Baptist Church building purchased by the College in 1961, was renamed as the Fred Stone Theatre, continuing the tradition of laboratory theater at Rollins.
Referred to as “Brown House” because of its color, Senior Course House was built in 1934 by Phi Mu sorority for use as a lodge. It was designed by George C. Cartwright and constructed by Frank Hiegal, and later purchased by Rollins for $300. Located by Lake Virginia behind the current location of McKean Hall, the wood building was used for classrooms for selected members of the senior course. Among faculty leading the senior honors colloquium in the one-room structure was Theodore Darrah ’73H, Dean of the Knowles Memorial Chapel from 1947 to 1973. The small building had a fireplace and seating for 12 to 14 students. It was demolished in the 1970s to make room for the Facilities Management Building.
On April 14, 1939, the City of Winter Park sold the Aloma Club to Rollins College for a sum of $3,000. Located on the east side of Lakemont Avenue, Aloma Club served as a golf clubhouse for the Winter Park community. Rollins purchased the building to provide sufficient room for the expansion of the Thomas R. Baker Museum of Natural Science. The ground floor of the Museum was designed as a library and members’ reading area, and the largest room housed public exhibits. The building was eventually demolished for construction of Winter Park Hospital.
On October 6, 1946, Warne House was purchased by Rollins from the estate of W. Warne at a price of $9,151. Located on Interlachen Avenue next to Barze House, it provided a temporary residence for Horace A. Tollefson, the College librarian from 1946 to 1951. Later, Warne House became the College’s psychological testing center, reading laboratory, and, finally, the location of music practice rooms. When construction of the Crummer School of Business was underway, Warne House was moved next to the Parsonage. Though the exact date is unknown, the structure was quite likely demolished around the same time as the Parsonage, in 1976.

Bequeathed to Rollins by Mrs. Helen C. Dick in 1947, with a market value of $13,985, the residence located at 389 East Lyman Avenue was used to house male students and as a faculty residence (including the first Winter Park home of Theodore Darrah ’73H, Dean of the Knowles Memorial Chapel and Professor of Religion). The Dick House was sold in the late 1950s to permit construction of the Langford Hotel.
**Guest House**

In 1948, Mrs. Frances Knowles Warren '35H purchased for Rollins College a one-story, private house on Fairbanks Avenue. The Guest House was first occupied by C. O. Honaas, choir director from 1932 to 1949, and eventually became a men’s residence hall. In 1958, the building was used as a news bureau for *The Sandspur*. It was later occupied by faculty services before being demolished in 1967 to accommodate the Bush Science Center.

**Abbot House**

Located at 527 Chase Avenue, Abbot House was named after Mrs. Louise Abbot (1836-1917), a charter member of the Rollins faculty. Although the exact date is uncertain, the structure was very likely built in the early 1900s. Rollins purchased the building in 1955 for $16,000. Formerly the home of Roger C. Brindle, Abbot House was first used as a men’s “overflow” dormitory, with a capacity for housing 10 students. After becoming a faculty residence from 1958 to 1959, it again served as a men’s dormitory until its demolition in 1969.
Rollins purchased the residence, built around 1940, from John Hubbard in 1951 for $11,000. Located at 626 Chase Avenue, next to O’Neal Hall, the bungalow was originally used to house the superintendent of buildings and grounds. In 1967, the College’s News Bureau moved into Hubbard House. The structure was removed from campus and delisted from the building inventory three years later.

With an estimated cost of $7,950, the concrete block structure was given to Rollins in 1952 by Mrs. Frances Knowles Warren ’35 for use as the office of the Buildings and Maintenance Department. Located behind Knowles Hall II, the building was also known as “the Shop” and “the Superintendent’s Office.” It was used as both an office and a storage facility, and later housed the College’s print shop. It was demolished in August 1983 to make way for the Olin Library.
Located at 1000 Genius Drive, across Lake Virginia from the campus, Martin Hall was bequeathed to Rollins College by Dr. John Martin '37H, a conference leader and consultant on international relations. After relocating to Winter Park in the 1930s, Martin was a visiting professor at Rollins. The College received the house upon his death in 1956. Constructed in 1925, the building was originally designed as a clubhouse for a league of local businessmen, but it was sold to John and Prestonia Mann Martin before its completion. At the time of the bequest, its market value was estimated at $50,000.

With this generous gift, the Music Department, which had been moved to many different campus locations through the years, finally had a place to call its own, and Martin Hall became home of the Conservatory of Music. The building was designed in a Spanish mansion style, with many balconies and a tiled roof, and would have been a perfect fit for Rollins had it been located closer to the campus. Holding classes in the Conservatory proved to be too problematic, with some students resorting to buying boats so they could row back and forth between the campus and the Conservatory. In 1974, the newly constructed Keene Hall became permanent home of the Music Department. Two years later, after deciding it was not practical to keep a building so far from the campus, Rollins sold the prime real estate situated on Lake Virginia and Lake Mizell.
Matthews House, a square, wooden, two-story structure built in southern Georgian style, was named after its owner, Mrs. Dudley Matthews, whose husband attended Rollins’ School of Music in 1909-10. Leased by Rollins in the 1930s, Matthews House was used to house the Alpha Phi sorority. The College purchased the property in 1956 and converted it to men’s housing. Five years later, it became the senior honors house, where senior women with outstanding grades could live on their own. After the program was discontinued in 1963, Matthews House was used as a general women’s residence, and in the early 1970s it was also used by the Music Department. Following decades of service to the College, Matthews House was razed in 1987, when the Fred Stone Theatre was relocated for construction of Cornell Hall for the Social Sciences.
A gift of Mrs. Robert H. Skillman ’60H, a member of Rollins’ Board of Trustees, Rose Skillman Hall was constructed in 1958. Built by S. J. Curry & Co. at a cost of $348,706, Skillman Hall was designed by James Gamble Rogers II ’85HAL, and dedicated on February 23, 1959. It featured a main dining room with 520 seats, two smaller dining areas, a private dining room for special guests, and a dining balcony overlooking Lake Virgina. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were served and the facilities contained a deli, grill, hot food line, salad bar, and specialty bar. The basement was first used as a coffee shop, and later housed the College print shop, bookstore, and post office. Still fondly known as “Beans,” Skillman served as Rollins’ main dining venue for nearly four decades, when it was substantially demolished to accommodate construction of the Cornell Campus Center. The kitchen of Skillman Hall was incorporated into the new structure.
Vincent House was purchased by Rollins in 1959 along with Ruth House. Located at 492 Chase Avenue, just beyond Virginia Court, the lakeside cottage was initially used for rentals and later converted to a men’s residence. In 1965-66, it served as home to members of Tau Kappa Epsilon when the fraternity outgrew O’Neal House. When Fairbanks Avenue was rerouted in 1970, Vincent House was moved to 414 East Fairbanks Avenue and converted into two apartments. It was demolished in 1980 to make room for the expanding campus.

Moore House

In 1961, Rollins College acquired the home of Helen Moore at 545 Chase Avenue. Located next to the Fred Stone Theatre, the frame building was used for costumes. In the summer of 1965, Moore House was moved across the street to the Rex Beach Hall parking lot. The building was demolished on April 11, 1970.
Located at 332 Comstock Avenue, Reed House was purchased by the College in 1961. Occupied by the Speech Department as a learning laboratory, its bungalow-style architecture was very similar to that of Barze House. In summer 1967 Reed House was moved next to the Enyard-Alumni Field House to make room for the Bush Science Center, and demolished four years later to make way for the prospective Expressive Arts Center.

Simmons House

A former residence located at 600 Chase Avenue, Simmons House was donated to the College by the City of Winter Park’s Recreation Department in 1961, on the condition that it be moved from its City-owned site next to Dinky Dock to the parking lot area of the Annie Russell Theatre. The house was renamed in honor of City Manager Dick Simmons, who had recommended the move. The College’s news bureau and development offices initially occupied the small white cottage. The building had a short life span on the Rollins campus, however; it was demolished in August 1971.
Located at 242 Comstock Avenue, the one-and-one-half-story brown frame building was actually Rollins’ second Comstock Cottage (the first Comstock Cottage later became the Fred Stone Laboratory Theatre). Originally built for Hazel Coffin Lenfest, graduate of Rollins’ School of Music in 1917, the structure was used at the parsonage of the Winter Park Baptist Church. It was one of the five buildings Rollins acquired from the Church in 1961. It was used briefly as the Research Institute of Social Relations, classrooms, and faculty offices of the Mathematics and Sociology Departments. It was moved in 1965 and delisted from the building inventory shortly after.

Named after Nathan Barrows (1830-1900), charter faculty member and charter trustee, Barrows Hall was one of the five buildings purchased in 1961 by Rollins College from the Winter Park Baptist Church for a total amount of $150,031. Located at 330 Comstock Avenue, the Church’s former education building was briefly converted into classrooms where geography, cryptography, and geology classes were taught. In summer 1965, the structure was demolished to make way for Crummer Hall.
Originally used for educational purpose, Ingersoll Hall was named after Raymond P. Ingersoll, former pastor of the Winter Park Baptist Church. Located at 526 Interlachen Avenue, it was one of the five buildings Rollins purchased from the Baptist Church in 1961. Ingersoll Hall had been used for the Rollins Master of Arts in Teaching Program, study of Russian, the Psychology Laboratory, and Faculty Services. It was moved to the Rex Beach Hall parking lot in summer 1965 and demolished in December 1969.
Located at 536 Interlachen Avenue, Trovillion House was one of five buildings purchased by Rollins for a total of $150,031 in 1961. Named after Deacon Trovillion, who was the grandfather of then Winter Park mayor Allen Trovillion, the building was first used as the reading laboratory and faculty offices of the Business Administration and Economics Department. In 1967, the structure was moved to make room for the Enyart-Alumni Field House, and on September 2, 1982, Trovillion House was demolished.
Originally the residence of gold miner Robert Coffey, Andersen House was donated to Rollins by Martin Andersen, publisher of Orlando Daily Newspapers, Inc., and his wife in 1961. Located by Lake Ivanhoe in downtown Orlando, the house was “built like a vault” in an architectural style similar to the buildings on the Rollins campus. At the time of its donation, the large piece of property, with 3,500 square feet of building space and a pool in the backyard, was valued at $150,000 to $175,000.

In early 1962, President Hugh McKean ’30 ’72 announced his plans for Andersen House. In light of the space program proposed by President John F. Kennedy, McKean wanted the property to be used as a space school in connection with the Rollins Physics Department. His vision was for Rollins College to become the very center for learning about space. “Man stares at the heavens with less frustration and awe... Endless research must be done and young people must learn. It would be exciting beyond the imagination,” he said. Though faculty and staff wholeheartedly supported the plan, residents in the Andersen House neighborhood did not view it favorably. Believing that a zoning change would lower their property values, they led a strong campaign against incorporating the property for use as a classroom facility for such a large and important program. As a result of this opposition, President McKean’s idea never came to fruition. Rollins instead used Andersen House for storage until 1968, when it was sold to Mrs. Frank W. Murphy, a daughter of Martin Andersen. In 1999, the property was again sold and the structure was torn down to make room for three new houses.
Acquired in 1962 at a cost of $14,000, the small cottage was used as a classroom building of the Creative Arts Department. The building was located at 451 Ollie Avenue, immediately south of Art Studio II, and was demolished in August 1980.

**Ollie Avenue Building**

Built in 1914 at a cost of approximately $30,000, the Park Avenue School building served as a Winter Park public elementary school for nearly half a century. Its designer and contractor are unknown. In 1962, Rollins purchased the large, brick building from the Orange County School District for $350,000 and renamed it the Park Avenue Building. Initially used for College classrooms and offices, it became the home of the Rollins’ School of Continuing Education (later renamed the Hamilton Holt School) on October 1, 1972. Its basement provided music practice rooms, and the building also served as a temporary home for the social sciences departments following the demolition of Knowles Hall II in 1983. By the 1980s, the Park Avenue Building had begun to show its age. Locks would not work and the building had become infested with spiders and rats. Upon the completion of Cornell Hall for the Social Sciences, the Park Avenue Building was finally vacated, and in 1989 the structure was razed, despite objections from some Winter Park community members who wanted to preserve the historic building. In 1991, a brick from the building was set in the Rollins Walk of Fame. The site now accommodates SunTrust Plaza and the Rollins Parking Garage, as well as a marker incorporating bricks from the original school.

**Park Avenue Building**

Acquired in 1962 at a cost of $14,000, the small cottage was used as a classroom building of the Creative Arts Department. The building was located at 451 Ollie Avenue, immediately south of Art Studio II, and was demolished in August 1980.
Pflug Hall was purchased on October 28, 1965 for $52,500 from J. Lynn Pflug, who had served as Winter Park mayor for a three-year term beginning in December 1957. Rollins used the two-story brick structure as a rental property until 1966, when it became a residence hall for the Phi Delta Beta fraternity (a predecessor of Phi Delta Theta). Two years later, a fire started by a student smoking in his room nearly destroyed the facility. After undergoing more than $6,000 worth of repairs, Pflug Hall continued to serve as a residence hall for a number of years before being demolished in 2006.
In late 1965, Charles A. DuBois, a member of the Rollins College Board of Trustees, gave Rollins 1,500 shares of Grace & Co. stock (valued at $81,739) towards the building of a new health center. With funding secured, the College selected B. L. Rumpf as general contractor, agreeing to a project fee of $98,993, and shortly afterwards, construction of the new facility was under way. By the time the building was completed in 1967, however, the price tag had risen to $103,000. Fortunately, DuBois graciously agreed to contribute $18,000 in additional funding for the project.

Designed by John T. Watson of Reynolds, Smith & Hills of Orlando, the DuBois Health Center was constructed in the same Spanish Mediterranean style as the rest of the campus. The 4,400-square-foot building, located at 570 Osceola Avenue, contained two examination rooms, two treatment rooms, two consultation rooms, a laboratory, a psychotherapy room, a reception area, and nurses’ quarters. A portion of the driveway at the building’s entrance was covered so medical aid could be easily provided even in severe weather. President Hugh McKeown ’30 ’72H and his wife, Jeannette ’62H, helped decorate the interior of the building, just as they had with Cloverleaf Cottage, Elizabeth Hall, and Ward Hall.

In 1987, the health center’s services were relocated to the lower, lakeside level of Elizabeth Hall. The following year, the DuBois Center was converted to offices for the Development division. The building served the campus until 2004, when it was demolished for construction of an on-campus home for Rollins presidents, Barker House. Thanks to the 2004 renaming of the Lakeside Health Center as the DuBois Health Center, the DuBois name lives on at Rollins.
During the late 1950s, Rollins saw increasing demand for a new field house to meet the needs of its growing student population. In 1961, the school received the first donation towards such a facility in memory of Arthur Delano Enyart ’49, a well-respected and beloved dean of men at Rollins from 1931 to 1950, who had recently passed away. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 18, 1967, after all funding had been secured, and a year later, the College celebrated the opening of the 37,000-square-foot building, which contained a basketball court with seating for 2,500 people, as well as classrooms and offices for the Physical Education Department. Rollins won the first basketball game played in the new facility, beating Stetson University 77-72. For the next three decades, the Enyart-Alumni Field House served as the preferred location for large campus events. In 2001, with a $3.25-million donation from Harold Alfond ’97 and Ted Alfond ’68, the building was extensively renovated and expanded, and was renamed the Harold & Ted Alfond Sports Center.
A Profile of Current Rollins Buildings
The oldest building on the Rollins campus today, Pinehurst Cottage was dedicated in March 1886. Designed by architect George D. Rand of Boston, the building was financed by contributions from the Winter Park community and Francis Bangs Knowles (1823-1890). Total construction cost was $9,762, of which $2,040 funded the furnishing of the building. To meet the needs of a small college, Rand designed the building according to a “cottage plan,” where students, in close proximity to the matron of the house, would have the opportunity to strengthen their interpersonal relationships with peers. The building’s exterior is in the typical New England cottage style, with a large porch on the front. Originally a women’s residence hall, the three-story, 5,600-square-foot cottage included 27 student rooms and two open porches.

Initially called the Ladies’ Cottage, the building later took the name Pinehurst because of its location within a stand of pines. Pinehurst and Knowles Hall were the first two buildings constructed at Rollins. Despite efforts to have the facilities ready for occupancy upon the opening of the College in the fall of 1885, the structures were not completed in time. As a result, students in the College’s first class were provided living accommodations in downtown Winter Park. The second building ready for use on the Rollins campus, Pinehurst, opened 10 days after Knowles Hall.

The following year, Pinehurst served as a library and provided housing for male students. In 1895, the building served another important function when a lean-to kitchen and dining rooms were added in the south section of the building. The same year also saw the addition of “The Bakery” chemistry lab, named after the head of the Chemistry Department, Dr. Thomas R. Baker ’26H. In 1896, President Ward and his wife occupied rooms on the north side of the building’s first floor, and in 1898, Pinehurst became home of the College’s business school. In 1904, two rooms on the third floor filled the need for an infirmary. The destructive
fire that destroyed Knowles Hall on December 2, 1909 caused damage to the north side of Pinehurst; when rebuilt, it boasted six new window openings.

From 1917 to 1936, Pinehurst served as a conservatory for music, accommodating music studios, practice rooms, and offices. After the Music Department moved out of the building in 1936, the English Department, the Post Office, and the College Relations Office took its place until 1941. During World War II, Pinehurst housed the headquarters of the STAR (Specialized Training and Reassignment) unit. Over the next four decades, Pinehurst underwent three rounds of renovations. The first, in 1950, provided the building with a new roof and fresh painting of its façade. With its second renovation, in 1965, Pinehurst became the residence hall for Alpha Phi sorority. In the fall of 1970, the Latin American Area Studies Program took up residence in the building, and in 1974, Pinehurst became home of the Pinehurst Organization. The next renovation, in 1986, aimed at preserving the historical significance of the building. Under the direction of architect William Turner, Pinehurst was stripped of the layers of paint that covered its surface, revealing its original appearance, and it was relocated to a new foundation 20 feet east of its original location, making room for renovation of the Walk of Fame. In November 1985, during the College’s centennial celebration, the structure was designated a historic landmark by the Historic Preservation Commission of Winter Park. The building was converted to a co-educational residence hall in 1987.

Renovations during the summer of 2007 were coordinated by architects with Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas & Company, who studied archival photos of Pinehurst to help recapture its original design. Improvements included the replacement of all of the building’s exterior wood and the addition of shutters. New furnishings and pine floors now complement Pinehurst’s 19th-century style. In 2008, the College’s sensitive restoration of this historic structure was recognized with the Preservation Award for Restoration/Rehabilitation from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Friends of Casa Feliz Award for Outstanding Preservation. A symbol of continuity, Pinehurst Cottage today remains a co-ed residence hall that embodies the history of the College.
Constructed at a total cost of $14,797, Chase Hall was largely financed through a generous bequest of $10,000 from Loring Augustus Chase (1839-1906), one of the first settlers and founders of Winter Park. This donation was given on the sole condition that the building bear Chase’s name. Dedicated on February 18, 1909, the 6,896-square-foot men’s dormitory was designed by Whitfield & King of New York and constructed by W. P. Richardson & Co. Built in an architectural style similar to Carnegie Hall and Knowles Hall II, Chase Hall featured fire-resistant sand-lime bricks, a red clay tile roof, and stone trim. It also incorporated a terrace overlooking Lake Virginia and large porches on each floor, providing an ideal living arrangement. In later years, the building, with its eight double and six single rooms, served as a freshman dormitory and home of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Chase Hall currently houses the offices of the Dean of Student Affairs, Student Involvement and Leadership, Multicultural Affairs, Community Engagement, Community Standards and Responsibility, and Health Promotions.
The College’s first library, Carnegie Hall was constructed at an estimated cost of $19,000 in 1908-1909 and dedicated on the same day as Chase Hall and Lyman Gymnasium, February 18, 1909. Whitfield & King of New York designed the plans, and W. P. Richardson & Co. of Jacksonville constructed the 8,354-square-foot building, which was not ready for use until after the completion of Chase Hall. The financial contributors included Andrew Carnegie, who donated $20,000 (making Rollins one of the recipients of major grants from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation targeting the development of art and culture in colleges and universities throughout the nation in the early 1900s). Loring A. Chase gave $10,000 toward the project.

Carnegie Hall has served as the College Library (1909-1951), Post Office (1932-1946), News Bureau (1960-1961), Bookstore and Center for Practical Politics (1960-1964), and Admissions Office (1964-2003). Throughout the 20th century, various administrative offices and campus organizations also made use of the building’s facilities, including the Young Women’s Christian Association, Kappa Epsilon sorority, the Student Government Association, Counseling, and Campus Safety.

The exterior of the two-story building features Florida sand-lime bricks, cement stone trimmings, and a red clay tile roof. A bronze portrait of Andrew Carnegie hangs in the stairwell of the main entrance. The most recent renovation, in 2004, uncovered the building’s original interior woodwork. Carnegie Hall currently houses the offices of Human Resources, International Programs, and the English Department.
Built in 1929 thanks to a generous donation from Edward Warren Rollins ’29H of Boston, a cousin of College founder Alonzo Rollins, Rollins Hall established the Spanish Mediterranean architectural style at Rollins College. The primary purpose of the residence hall was to provide housing for fraternities. After receiving an endorsement from President Hamilton Holt, the 7,409-square-foot building was constructed at a cost of approximately $50,000. Designed by architect Richard Kiehnel of Miami, Rollins Hall features brownish-tan stucco, a tile roof, and distinctive curves and columns. Designed to have the appearance of a three-story building, two-thirds of the structure actually has only two stories. The first floor originally contained social areas, including music, dining, proctor’s, guest, and living rooms; a Cheney-tile loggia; and a terrazzo sun porch. The second and third floors provided individual study areas and living quarters for 25 people. Over the years, Rollins Hall has housed numerous Greek organizations, including Rho Lambda Nu, Sigma Nu, Delta Chi, and Tau Kappa Epsilon. It currently is home to Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, housing 22 students.
Rollins’ long history in tennis dates from the late 19th century. In 1930, two clay tennis courts were built on the west side of campus, next to the women’s wing of President Holt’s new campus plan, and another court was added a few years later. For decades, both men’s and women’s varsity teams have been ranked among the finest in the nation. Among the best-known Rollins players are Pauline Betz Addie ’43, winner of four U.S. Open singles titles, and Dorothy Bundy Cheney ’45, holder of 346 USTA national titles and the first American woman to capture the Australian National Championship. Reflecting their success and increased student demand, two more courts were added in the mid-1940s. By the 1960s, after heavy use in Florida weather, the courts had deteriorated badly and were urgently in need of repair. Led by John M. Tiedtke ’75, a Rollins vice president and avid tennis player for whom the facilities were later named, six courts were reconstructed and converted to all-weather, maintenance-free surfaces in 1971-72. Additional renovations in the 1980s and 1990s assured that the Tiedtke Tennis Complex, nestled between Elizabeth and Ward Halls on the south and Mayflower and Pugsley Halls on the north, would continue to serve the Rollins community.
President Hamilton Holt found the inspiration for the name of this residence hall in a trip to England in the 1920s. During a casual encounter with the owner of a barn located 20 miles from London, Holt was told the barn had been created from the skeleton of the Mayflower ship that had carried British settlers to America in 1620. Through careful examination of the ship’s remains, Holt verified the account of local residents. He requested a piece of the Mayflower as a memento of his exciting discovery. In response to his request, the Society of Friends at Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire, England, sent a 15-inch-long block of wood from the Mayflower, which Holt placed in Rollins’ residence hall, subsequently named Mayflower Hall. Following suit, several other people contributed additional Mayflower-related artifacts to the building, including a woven quilt that originally belonged to the Mayflower’s Bradford family, given by Helen Mary Cavenaugh, and a piece of Plymouth Rock, given by Rollins professor Virginia Robie. Mayflower Hall is believed to be unique in its incorporation of a piece of the Mayflower. The plaque containing the section of historic timber reads: “It was taken from one of the beams in the old weather-beaten barn in Chalfant, St. Giles, Buckinghamshire, England, which was constructed about 1624 from the dismantled frame of the most famous ship in history.”

At a cost of nearly $49,850, Mayflower Hall was built in 1930 through a formerly anonymous gift from Mr. and Mrs. J. Malcolm Forbes. It shares architectural similarities (including colorful motifs painted on the ceilings) with Pugsley Hall, to which it is connected by a long loggia. The building’s first floor initially served the social needs of Pi Beta Phi, the first sorority to reside in the building. In 1936, the second and third floors provided living space for 16 women. Through the years, the building has housed several Greek organizations, including its current resident, Non Compis Mentis sorority. In 2002, the building’s bedrooms and bathrooms were renovated; in 2007, its chapter room was refreshed with new paint, furniture, and Oriental style rugs.
Banker, congressman, philanthropist, and Rollins College trustee Cornelius Amory Pugsley ’29 of Peekskill, New York provided the primary funding for Pugsley Hall. In addition to his contribution of $35,000 toward the total construction cost of $43,737, Pugsley gave funds for the first and second annual Institutes of Statesmanship at Rollins College. Virginia Robie donated the furnishings of the Virginia Room of Pugsley Hall in memory of her mother, Virginia Pendleton. The building’s dedication ceremony took place on February 19, 1931, simultaneously with that of Mayflower Hall.

G. W. Hessler, Inc. of Jacksonville constructed the 5,801-square-foot residence hall, under the architectural supervision of Richard Kiehnel of Miami. Pugsley Hall’s tiled roof and stone trimmings reinforced the Spanish Mediterranean style of campus architecture, while its iron-grilled windows and wood balconies brought the image of old Spain to Rollins. Cypress beam ceilings with colored ornamentation set off the building’s internal decor, and arches dividing the living room from the corridor give the inside the look of an arcade. Pugsley Hall is joined to Mayflower Hall by a second-story loggia with large arches resting on massive columns. The two buildings are also connected by a common first-floor loggia, which was later extended to connect multiple buildings on the west end of the campus.

Through the years, Pugsley Hall has provided housing primarily for Greek organizations, with its longest tenant, Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, occupying the building for many years after 1936. The first floor of the building is used for social events while the upper floors house the living quarters, with most rooms serving as both bedrooms and study areas. Pugsley Hall currently houses Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, whose chapter room was renovated in 2007.
The Knowles Memorial Chapel was a generous gift of Frances Knowles Warren ’35H of Boston in memory of her father, Francis Bangs Knowles (1823-1890), one of the founders, benefactors, and charter trustees of the College. It was designed by world-renowned architect Ralph Adams Cram ’38H, of the firm Cram & Ferguson of Boston, who had designed more than 75 churches and cathedrals in both the United States and Europe, including the celebrated Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and the chapels at West Point and Princeton University. To accommodate President Hamilton Holt’s vision for a distinctive Spanish Mediterranean look for Rollins College, Cram designed the Chapel in accordance with 17th-century Spain’s classical forms of architecture. Cram noted, “The Knowles Chapel is designed in a modified version of the style common in Spain in the 17th century, when the earlier versions of Renaissance fashion had given way to somewhat more classical forms, but before the Spanish builders had gone to the lengths of elaboration found in the churches of Mexico.” The groundbreaking ceremony for the Chapel took place on March 9, 1931, and on May 12, the cornerstone was laid. Constructed by G. W. Hessler, Inc. of Jacksonville, the Chapel was dedicated on March 29, 1932.

The Chapel’s exterior is best known for the striking design of its campanile (the upper portion of the tower), which was modeled after that of the Cathedral of Toledo in Spain, and for the tympanum of carved stone above the front entrance symbolizing the first planting of the Christian cross on American soil. Under Cram’s direction, this bas-relief was designed by William F. Ross of Cambridge, Massachusetts and carved by Ardolino of New York. It depicts a Franciscan friar, flanked by a group of conquistadors on his left and Florida natives on his right, placing a large wooden cross in the earth. Two Spanish caravels float in the background. Also inspired by the design of Toledo’s cathedral was the Chapel garden, featuring a Spanish-tiled fountain at its center. The garden gates imitated those of the cloister.
of the Cathedral of Toledo, and the circle of cypresses around the fountain were typical of the Spanish cloistered garden and similar to the patio gardens at the Alhambra. Known as “Gloriedas,” this type of circular planting symbolized the glory of God. Rose Standish Nichols landscaped the garden in 1934, and Ronald Wilson relandscaped it in 1979. It was completely replanted in 2008, when new tile was installed in the walkways, duplicating the pattern of the tile in the loggias connecting the Chapel to the Annie Russell Theatre, to its north. In keeping with the wishes of Mrs. Warren, all of the flowering plants in the garden—camellias, crape myrtles, and roses—are white.

In addition to its extraordinary external beauty, the Chapel houses many priceless treasures. Above the altar is a hand carving of The Last Supper by the Italian sculptor Ernest Pelegrini, and at the head of the main entrance is a bas-relief carved by Andy Dinselly which features Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and the disciple John, along with the words of the benediction “Peace I Leave With You.” In addition, Knowles Chapel boasts many stained glass windows, four of which honor individuals who helped shape Rollins: Charles Atwood Campbell (first dean of the Chapel), Hamilton Holt (Rollins president from 1925 to 1949), Alexina Smith Holt (President Holt’s wife), and Frances Knowles Warren ’35.

The Chapel is also home to an Ernest M. Skinner organ, considered the preeminent instrument of its time. In 1955-56, it was expanded by the Aeolian-Skinner Company, and underwent a complete renovation by Randall Dyer & Associates over a three-year period beginning in 1999. At that time, Cram’s vision for an antiphonal organ in the Chapel balcony was also realized, thanks largely to the generosity of trustee and music lover John M. Tiedtke ’75, for whom it is named.

In 1971, more classroom and office space was added to the building, and in 1984 and 2005, extensive roof repairs were made. 2007 witnessed an extensive masonry restoration, honored with the Friends of Casa Feliz Award for Outstanding Preservation. The 12,450-square-foot Chapel has a seating capacity of 600. The National Park Service listed the Knowles Memorial Chapel in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.
Mary Curtis Bok Zimbalist (1876-1970), then Mrs. Bok, gave Rollins College the Annie Russell Theatre, considered one of the most beautiful and best-equipped small theaters in the country, in honor of her longtime friend Annie Russell ’32† (1864-1936), an internationally acclaimed actress of the time. At the Theatre’s dedication on March 29, 1932, Annie Russell took the stage after 14 years of retirement for a special performance as the Queen in Robert Browning’s drama *In a Balcony*, in a production directed by Russell and supported by a professional cast.

Designed by Richard Kiehnel of Miami, the Annie Russell Theatre was constructed in a Romanesque style and joined to the Knowles Memorial Chapel by two sets of loggias and a cloister garden. The 37,252-square-foot theater had a seating capacity of 375 and was equipped with a complete motion picture sound-recording system given to Rollins by Harry M. Warner, then president of Warner Brothers. The Annie Russell Theatre was constructed by G. W. Hessler, Inc. of Jacksonville at a cost of approximately $122,500, of which Zimbalist funded $100,000.

In the fall of 1976, the Theatre underwent a renovation that saw new lighting, seating, carpeting, and paint. A year later, a section of the building was reroofed and a new box office area and restroom facilities were added, followed in 1980 by an office expansion and new scene shop (renovated in 1986). In 2007, the air conditioning system was replaced and relocated, reclaiming space in the theater and outdoor balcony. Installation of a new infrastructure for theatrical lighting and sound is planned for summer 2009. The Annie Russell Theatre has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1998.
As part of their donation to the City of Winter Park in the early 1920s, James E. Harper and F. W. Shepherd built Harper-Shepherd Field, with the stipulation that the facility be used strictly as an athletic field. In 1934, Winter Park gave the field to Rollins College on the condition that the City could use it if it did not conflict with school activities. Rollins agreed to pay for the field’s maintenance while the City was able to use the facility for recreational purposes for the next 10 years. In 1944, Rollins took full possession of the property, located a quarter mile from the campus. In 1984, the Alfond Baseball Stadium at Harper-Shepherd Field was constructed thanks to a major gift from Harold Alfond ’97H. In addition to providing grandstand seating for 600 spectators as well as box seats, the 5,959-square-foot concrete stadium houses locker rooms for home and visiting teams, public restrooms, a concession area, and a large multi-purpose room, and is completely lighted for night games.
Built in 1936, Fox Hall was named after Caroline A. Fox (1862-1933) of Arlington, Massachusetts in recognition of her dedicated engagement with the community at large and Rollins College specifically. The building was designed by Miami architects Kiehnel and Elliott, who also designed other campus buildings such as Cross, Mayflower, Pugsley, and Strong Halls, as well as the Alumni House. The Public Works Administration (PWA) provided the funding for the women’s residence hall, which was constructed by Harry C. Cone at a cost of nearly $60,000.

The 7,790-square-foot building includes dormitory space for 24 students, a spacious 33-by-23-foot living room, a kitchen, a dining area, several study rooms with pecky cypress walls, a loggia, and a walled patio. The building was originally furnished in Queen Anne and early Chippendale styles. In 2006, Fox Hall underwent a major renovation, restoring the building’s original look, from its massive stone fireplace to terrazzo floors. In addition, new air conditioning and fire safety systems were installed. Originally home of Phi Mu sorority, Fox Hall now houses Kappa Delta sorority.
Built in 1936 at a cost of $57,717, Lyman Hall was named after Frederick Wolcott Lyman (1849-1931), one of the founders of Rollins College and a business, civic, and religious leader in Winter Park and Minneapolis. Lyman, a charter trustee, was instrumental in raising the initial funds for locating Rollins College in Winter Park. Financed largely through a federal Public Works Administration (PWA) loan of almost $57,000, Lyman Hall was designed by Richard Kiehnel of Miami to accommodate 27 students. The 6,330-square-foot building was constructed of concrete and tile with stucco finish, consistent with the campus’s prevailing architectural style. Over the years, Lyman Hall has housed various Greek organizations, including X-Club, Phi Delta Theta, Alpha Phi Lambda, Delta Chi, and its successor, The Guild, as well as the Fine Arts House. Renovated in 1972, it is currently occupied by the Rollins Outdoor Club (ROC). The living room was renovated in 2007, followed by the kitchen and laundry rooms in 2008.
At an approximate cost of $52,000, Gale Hall was constructed in 1936 on the former site of the College’s tennis courts. This Mediterranean style residence hall was built in memory of the Reverend Sullivan French Gale (1842-1909), founder and charter trustee of Rollins College, organizer and superintendent of the Congregational Home Missionary Society in Florida, and editor of the *Florida Historical Society Quarterly*. Richard Kiehnel designed the 2,918-square-foot men’s residence hall. With a capacity of 17 occupants, Gale Hall has housed X-Club (1939-1943), Phi Delta Theta (1936-1939), Delta Chi, and Alpha Phi Lambda fraternities. The building, which underwent a minor renovation in 1970 and renovation of the chapter room in 2007, is once again the home of X-Club.
Designed by Kiehnel & Elliott, and built in 1936, the Lodge served the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority residing in nearby Pugsley Hall. It contained a living room, kitchen, and powder room. The sorority’s housing association paid the $3,500 cost of its construction. In 2005, after dissolution of the housing association and the sorority’s relocation to a residence hall on the east side of campus, the College and the sorority agreed that the College would assume ownership of the building. Remodeling of the Lodge to house the Reeves Honors Seminar Room, a high-technology classroom, was completed in 2007.
Cross Hall was built in honor of Lucy A. Cross (1839-1927), a graduate of Oberlin College and faculty member at Wellesley College who relocated to Florida in the late 1800s to establish a private school in Daytona. It was Cross’s inspiration that led to the founding of Rollins College. Originally planned to house the sciences, the building instead was used as a women’s dormitory and sorority house. With Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami as architects and Harry C. Cone as contractor, the building was constructed at a total cost of about $57,000. It was dedicated on February 20, 1937, along with four other dormitories, five months after its construction was completed. In 1972, the building underwent a renovation that included the installation of smoke and fire detectors, an air conditioning system, and stairwells that complied with adopted codes; in 1986, new windows were installed; and in 2003, interior systems and finishes received a major renewal. Standing three stories tall, the 6,583-square-foot residence hall houses 22 students. Its first residents were members of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. In 2001-02, the building was used for transfer students. Today, it is home to Alpha Omicron Pi sorority.
In the fall of 1936, the College agreed to build a second lodge, similar to the facility owned by the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, for use by the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority but owned by the College. It, too, was designed by Kiehnel & Elliott, and was built by H. C. Cone. In 2002, the lodge, which had not been used for a number of years, was converted to office space for International Programs and renamed International House. With the relocation of International Programs to Carnegie Hall, the building is currently vacant.
Hooker Hall is a three-story building named in honor of Dr. Edward Payson Hooker (1834-1904), a graduate, professor, and trustee of Middlebury College; a Congregational missionary pioneer in Florida; and the first president of Rollins College (1885-1892). At a construction cost of approximately $60,000, architects Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami designed the building to fit the typical Mediterranean style architecture of the Rollins campus. After the construction was completed in 1937, the 7,310-square-foot residence hall housed Theta Kappa Nu fraternity (1937-1939), followed by Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and its current resident, Chi Psi fraternity. In keeping with fraternity tradition, Chi Psi brothers refer to Hooker Hall as “The Lodge.” President Hooker himself was a member of Chi Psi while at Middlebury. Over the years, Hooker Hall has undergone various renovations, the most significant in 1979, when a wing was added that included student rooms, a lounge, and a library. Funded by Harry D. Fruehauf, a Chi Psi benefactor, the wing was named for him. In 2007, another significant renovation transformed the fraternity’s chapter room and the Alpha Room. Painted in the fraternity colors of purple and gold, the chapter has a new kitchen, furniture, and rugs. The Alpha Room sports new paint, a refinished wood ceiling, terrazzo floors that were rediscovered and restored, and new rugs and furniture.
A jungle retreat in the Wekiva River three miles down from Wekiva Springs, Shell Island received its name from the number of Native American shell mounds found on its surface. In 1923, a cabin was built by the Wilson Cypress Lumber Company as a base for logging. After completing its operations in that vicinity, the cabin was abandoned by the company and a short time later Rollins was given permission to use it and the island for weekend camping trips. In 1938, it was presented to Rollins through the generosity of C. Russ Macpherson, father of Louise Macpherson Deming, ’37 and Suzanne R. Macpherson, ’41. An acre or more in extent, the island contains numerous oyster, clam, and other shells, believed to be brought there by Native Americans as a rendezvous for their many feasts. The acquisition of Shell Island added greatly to President Hamilton Holt’s notion of an ideal “open air college of America,” and it has since been used as a venue for teaching, learning, and recreation by several generations of Rollins faculty and students. Fleetwood Peeples (1898-1993), Director of Aquatic Sports at Rollins, frequently led student camping trips during the weekends. Although the cabin was demolished several decades ago, Shell Island is still being used by students from the Department of Environmental Studies and the Rollins Outdoor Club.
Woolson House was financed by a generous contribution from Clare A. Benedict in honor of her aunt, Constance Fenimore Woolson (1840-1894), an accomplished American novelist and short story writer who wintered in Florida in the late 1800s. The building was designed by Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami and constructed in 1938. The 1,152-square-foot structure originally included a library of Woolson’s books, manuscripts, magazines, and memorabilia; the collection now resides in the Department of Archives and Special Collections. Through the years, the English Department has been the primary occupant of the building.
Strong Hall was built in 1939, the 15th year of Hamilton Holt’s presidency at the College. The $60,000 hall was made possible by a gift from Mrs. Henry Alvah Strong (1864-1950) of Washington, D.C., who sponsored numerous students pursuing their college education at Rollins. Designed by Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami, the 6,466-square-foot building is Mediterranean in appearance, with architecture similar to its four surrounding residence halls. Strong Hall was constructed around a large patio, at the center of which is a terrazzo floor and a small fountain that was later converted to a planter. The tile roof extends across the various elevations of the building. The two-story residence hall houses 33 students and includes a large living room. The original occupants were members of Chi Omega and Gamma Phi Beta sororities, and the building was also occupied by Alpha Phi sorority. In 1989, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity took up residence in Strong Hall.

From 1950 to 1968, Strong Hall served as the site for Shakespeareana, a program of scenes from Shakespeare’s plays performed by faculty and students for the audience gathered in the building’s courtyard. The annual event was coordinated by English professor Nina Oliver Dean.
Dyer Memorial, later to become the Faculty Club, was named in honor of Susan Hart Dyer, composer and director of the College’s Conservatory of Music. Mrs. Dyer also served as a professor of violin, director of the orchestra and chorus, and president of the Florida Federation of Music Clubs. Financing for the $5,266 building came from donations by Mrs. Dyer’s friends and former students through the Dyer Memorial Association, which was created and administered by Mrs. Philip T. Stillman of Winter Park. The building’s dedication ceremony took place on April 14, 1940, conducted by the Xi Chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda, the national honorary music fraternity.

Constructed by Harry C. Cone, Dyer Memorial was built under the architectural leadership of Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami. It sits adjacent to Pugsley Hall amid a cluster of Rollins buildings. The physical structure of Dyer Memorial is similar to that of Woolson House. The building is concrete with stucco finish in the traditional Spanish Mediterranean style visible throughout the campus; it is distinguished by a cathedral ceiling, tiled roof, and large wrought-iron gate.

Plans for the Dyer Memorial sought to fulfill the wishes of Rollins and Winter Park music lovers by providing a miniature concert hall. With a capacity of 80 occupants, it was constructed to serve the Music Department. The facility originally contained a large collection of symphonic records donated by the Carnegie Foundation. Another important function of the building in its early years was its role as a music-broadcasting studio for Rollins faculty and students. Renamed the Faculty Club during the administration of President Jack B. Critchfield ’78H, this one-room building has been used as a site for meetings, recitals, classes, and lectures in recent years.
Beal-Maltbie Center, originally the Shell Museum, was designed by architect Harold Hair and constructed by Harry C. Cone for the sum of $9,864. Dedicated on August 9, 1940, this one-story Mediterranean style building is situated between the old Student Center (now the Charles Rice Family Bookstore & Café) and Pugsley Hall. With a 35-by-65-foot exhibition room and a large lobby, the 3,336-square-foot hall was designed to house one of the South’s finest shell collections, donated to the College by Dr. James H. Beal (1861-1945), a former professor at both the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Illinois. Beal’s friend Birdsey L. Maltbie, founder and chairman of the Maltbie Chemical Company of Newark, New Jersey and former president of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, provided funding for construction of the Shell Museum. The collection of shells, which represented 50 years of work by Dr. Beal, was later given to the University of Florida. Currently, Beal-Maltbie Center houses the Department of Environmental Studies. Renovation of the building to create the Rollins College Center for Environmental Studies, dedicated May 21, 1991, was made possible by a gift from The George Baker Trust.
Mabel Knowles Gage (1871-1948) of Worcester, Massachusetts donated a replica of the “American House” at the Cité Universitaire in Paris in memory of her father, Francis Bangs Knowles (1823-1890), a charter trustee of the College in whose honor Knowles Memorial Chapel was also erected. Designed by Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami and constructed by Harry C. Cone, the French House was fashioned in Southern France’s popular “Mas Provençal” style, known for its simple yet elegant look. The French House was one of the first campus buildings designed to accommodate President Hamilton Holt’s Conference Plan of education, its three classrooms originally equipped with long oval tables capable of seating 20 students. Ground was broken for construction on May 31, 1941, and the French House was ready for use by October of that same year. Built for approximately $32,000, the building stands two stories tall. Its spacious, 20-by-30-foot salon has a high ceiling and a fireplace, above which is a mosaic depicting the Madonna. The building’s balcony and terrace offer a beautiful view of Lake Virginia. The French House initially was the residence of the head of the French Department and was used for foreign language classes. The second floor originally contained an apartment for visiting professors and lecturers. The French House underwent minor renovations in 1974. Today, the facility houses the Department of Philosophy & Religion.
Designed by Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami and constructed by Harry C. Cone, the Alumni House was built jointly with the Student Center (now the Charles Rice Family Bookstore & Café) in 1941, at a total cost of approximately $90,000. Rollins students and alumni raised funds for the project through the Orange County Student Aid Fund. Frances Knowles Warren ’35H also contributed toward the construction of the 1,879-square-foot building. Formerly identified by a pink-and-white concrete marker facing Holt Avenue, the one-story building has a central lounge and office space at each end. The lounge contains a fireplace and is decorated in a cozy living-room style. Since its dedication, the Alumni House has housed the Alumni Relations office and served as a location for alumni events. Inside the building hangs an oil painting of Lucy Cross (1839-1927), who inspired the founding of Rollins College, as well as a portrait of Theodore S. Darrah ’73H, fourth dean of the Knowles Memorial Chapel.
Originally a private residence, Rollins College purchased this lovely Spanish Portuguese style house in October 1944. The building was transformed into a magnificent work of art, featuring notable paintings and authentic antique furniture from Spain and other Hispanic countries. Furnishings included a cabinet dating back to the 16th century, a desk reputedly used by Spanish monks, and a mural painted by Joy Postle. One of the great remaining features of the building is the Wall of the Americas, which contains tiles representing each Hispanic country in the Western Hemisphere.

Professor A. J. Hanna ’17 ’45H was the driving force behind the purchase of Casa Iberia. Rollins’ Spanish program had been in existence since the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898. After the war, people became interested in Spanish culture, and many international students from Spanish regions came to Rollins, sparking further interest. In the years leading up to the purchase of Casa Iberia, French had been the primary foreign language taught at Rollins. With the fall of France at the height of World War II, however, interest shifted once again toward the Spanish language, and the College’s Spanish program started searching for a building to call its own. Just as the French House immersed students in a French atmosphere, the Spanish Department argued that it should be able to provide such an atmosphere to students studying Spanish. Thanks to numerous donations, the College was able to purchase Casa Iberia for $10,000.

By the late 1970s, key members of the Rollins Hispanic Institute had passed away or retired, and the building was integrated into the College, serving as a welcome center and home of the offices of Public Affairs and Community Relations. On the turn of the new millennium, the building was once again sought after as the home for Hispanic studies, and on March 21, 2002, Casa Iberia was rededicated as the Center for Hispanic and Inter-American Studies.
Located on the north side of Holt Avenue, facing the Knowles Memorial Chapel, the
Warren Administration Building was constructed as part of the Victory Expansion
Program (VEP), which sought to increase the number of buildings on the Rollins campus to
accommodate GIs returning from World War II. Frances Knowles Warren ’35H of Boston,
primary donor of the Knowles Memorial Chapel, donated $123,000 toward the construction
of the building. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on February 8, 1946, and upon the
building’s completion in June 1947, the College’s administrative offices were relocated there
from Carnegie Hall. Initially called the Administration Building, it was renamed the Warren
administration Building in honor of its benefactor in 1954.

At the request of Mrs. Warren, George E. Spohn designed and Harry C. Cone constructed
the building. The Mediterranean style structure houses the offices of the president, vice presidents,
and treasurer, among others. Referred to for many years as the “Pink Palace” due to its original
color, the 9,444-square-foot concrete building has a tile roof and is trimmed in cast stone.

A niche in the building’s lobby was created to exhibit a bronze statue given to the
College in 1946 by Clinton C. Nichols ’34, who acquired it during his tour of duty with the
U.S. Navy in Okinawa. Nearly 50 years later, identifying the statue of Ninomiya Kinjiro as
“war booty,” the Ryukyu-America Historical Research Society requested that the College
return it. Following months of negotiations, the statue was returned to Okinawa in 1995,
on the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, “in a spirit of reconciliation
and friendship.” The original is now on display at Okinawa Shogaku Gakuen (school); a
replica presented by the Society occupies the Warren Administration Building site. Rollins
presidents Thaddeus Seymour ’84HAL ’90H and Rita Bornstein ’04HAL each traveled
to Okinawa—Seymour for the celebration of the statue’s repatriation, Bornstein for the
dedication of a peace monument inspired by the College’s eighth president, Hamilton Holt.
Like the Warren Administration Building, Corrin Hall was part of Rollins’ Victory Expansion Program (VEP) that sought “to provide for expanding from 400 to 600 students if Rollins is to do its fair share of the patriotic services expected of all colleges in providing educational opportunities for returning veterans.” Construction of Corrin Hall began on February 22, 1947, with contractor Harry C. Cone under the supervision of architect George E. Spohn. Cost of construction, sponsored by Mrs. Hattie M. Strong, was $114,218, and the facility’s furnishings totaled $11,118. The building was named for Mrs. Strong’s son, one-time U.S. ambassador to Norway and a Rollins trustee. As Mrs. Strong stated on the day of groundbreaking, “I’ve had quite a mental problem trying to decide whether to donate funds to European relief or give this building. I decided to give Corrin Hall to Rollins because civilization rests on the shoulders of you young people, who should be educated for the great responsibilities of today.”

With a capacity of 28 students, the two-story Mediterranean style building traditionally has served as a women’s dormitory. Independent women used the facility from 1948 to 1958, when it became home to Chi Omega sorority. The building originally had a Colonial style interior with white painted ceiling beams, and once contained a Krakauer grand piano belonging to former Rollins President Hamilton Holt. The interior of Corrin Hall underwent a major renovation in the summer of 2007.
Sullivan House was built partially through a generous $10,000 gift from the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation of New York. Named after the Foundation’s founder, who died in 1887, Sullivan House was designed by architect George E. Spohn and constructed by Harry C. Cone at an estimated cost of $17,500. The official groundbreaking ceremony occurred on May 25, 1947.

The one-story, Mediterranean style building, adjacent to Orlando Hall (built the same year) and Woolson House, was constructed during the presidency of Hamilton Holt, who said of the trio of adjoining buildings, “Orlando Hall will house the English Department of the College, Woolson House will be used, as it is now, for overflow classes, and the Sullivan Building for anything that is for the good of Rollins, Winter Park, the state, and perhaps, the world.” Sullivan House, which had a reception room and office, would come to serve as a miniature museum, housing the watch key collection of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Randolph Smith ’49H, as well as paintings, vases, and jars donated to the facility by George H. Sullivan. Sullivan House has served as a spiritual center and popular meeting place for student groups. In 1999, it was reconfigured to accommodate classes.
Orlando Hall is located in the heart of the Rollins campus, between the Olin Library, Carnegie Hall, and Mills Memorial Hall. Construction of the 3,809-square-foot, two-story building was funded largely by donations from the Central Florida community in support of Rollins’ Victory Expansion Program, which sought to address the increasing demand for higher education after World War II. The building’s architect was George E. Spohn and its contractor was Harry C. Cone. Ground was broken for the new facility on May 24, 1947, and Orlando Hall was dedicated on April 6, 1949, with construction costs totaling nearly $75,000 and furnishings totaling $10,000.

The two-story building is Spanish Mediterranean in style, with a concrete stucco façade and a tile roof, and is connected by a loggia to Sullivan House and Woolson House. The English department has used Orlando Hall’s six large classrooms and 12 small offices throughout the building’s history. The classrooms, designed to accommodate former president Hamilton Holt’s Conference Plan of education, feature large, oval tables that seat up to 22 students. During its early days, Orlando Hall also served as a late-night study area.
Upon its opening in 1951, Mills Memorial Library became Rollins’ second library building. Built at a total cost of $525,000, the two-story, 27,875-square-foot structure was designed by George E. Spohn with James Gamble Rogers II ’85, HAL and constructed by the firm of Waterman & Richards. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility, which was made possible through the philanthropy of the David B. Mills Foundation of New York, took place on June 1, 1949, and the building was dedicated on December 1, 1951.

Located at the heart of the Rollins campus, the Mills Library was constructed in typical Spanish Mediterranean style, with a steel frame covered with concrete stucco. The first and second floors feature extensive woodwork and stained cypress wood trim. Outside, two covered balconies provide a beautiful view of Lake Virginia. A Spanish style garden patio and loggia complement the campus’s predominant Spanish Mediterranean style architecture. An exterior stairway leads to the second-floor balconies and patio.

Mills Library had a capacity of approximately 150,000 volumes (its initial collection of 81,000 volumes grew considerably through acquisitions and donations), along with ample space for studying and browsing, a large reference room, a photo lab, music rooms with a projection studio, and the WPRK radio station, which continues to broadcast from the building’s basement. (It is rumored that the height of the station’s tower was not permitted to exceed that of the tower of the Knowles Memorial Chapel.) In 1966, an interior renovation added air conditioning, increased stack space on the sixth tier, and finished an area for housing the College archives. After the Olin Library was constructed in 1985, the building was converted to administrative and student offices, and was renamed Mills Memorial Center. With the introduction of the Thomas Phillips Johnson Student Resource Center (TJ’s) in 1997, it was retitled Mills Memorial Hall. The facility also currently houses the offices of the Dean of the Faculty and Student Records; the Galloway Room (formerly the Reference Room, now used for meetings and social events); a lounge for non-residential students; the offices of the Student Government Association; student publications; and the campus post office.
Rex Beach Hall was named for Rex Ellingwood Beach (1877-1949), best-selling novelist, president of the Rollins Alumni Association from 1927 to 1944, and one of Rollins’ most notable alumni. A close friend of former Rollins president Hamilton Holt who worked diligently with him to enhance progress at Rollins, Beach, who did not graduate with his class, was awarded both an Honorary Bachelor of Science degree and an Honorary Doctor of Literature degree by the College in 1927. Made possible through a government loan that funded the construction of a dining hall, a women’s residence hall, and this fraternity house for Kappa Alpha Order, the 8,039-square-foot Rex Beach Hall was designed by John Watson with consultant Jefferson Hamilton, and constructed by S. J. Curry and Co. of Georgia at a total cost of $200,000. Dedicated on April 26, 1957, the three-story, red-roofed concrete building contains 23 double rooms, six single rooms, and a suite for the hall director. It also includes a newly renovated lounge and kitchen, and a small classroom. The building currently houses students who are part of Rollins’ Living Learning Communities. A cornerstone of Rex Beach Hall contains a copy of *The Spoilers*, Rex Beach’s first published novel.
Rollins College received Mowbray House in 1958 upon the death of Rollins graduate Rev. Henry B. Mowbray ’18 (1872-1958), who bequeathed his home to the College. Over the years, the 2,800-square-foot structure has been used to house the Assistant Dean of the College, the Dean of Student Affairs, the Director of Residential Life, and visiting faculty. Located at 476 East Fairbanks Avenue, Mowbray House currently accommodates a small group of Rollins students. In 2008-09, members of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority occupy Mowbray House.
Named in honor of Elizabeth Morse Genius, mother of Jeannette Morse Genius McKean ’62H, Elizabeth Hall recognizes three generations of the Morse family, who devoted significant parts of their lives to Rollins College and the Winter Park community. The 44,268-square-foot building, dedicated on February 20, 1959, was designed by James Gamble Rogers II ’85HAL of Winter Park and built by S. J. Curry and Co. of Albany, Georgia, at a cost of $544,000. A significant portion of the building’s interior decoration was provided by Jeannette McKean and her husband, Rollins President Hugh McKean ’30 ’72H.

Located on the northwest side of Lake Virginia, this three-story building was initially designed to provide housing for 130 female students in 62 double rooms and 6 single rooms. Today, it accommodates 158 beds in 10 singles, 59 doubles, and 10 triple rooms, with the single rooms used primarily for resident advisers. Bathrooms and laundry rooms are located in the center of the building. Elizabeth Hall is Mediterranean in style, with stucco walls and a Spanish tile roof. The student rooms’ original furnishings, inspired by a Venetian palace, included wood desks, chests, two closets, a double dresser with a large mirror, and a ceiling-to-floor fiberglass curtain that separated the desk area from the sleeping area.

In 1987, the lower-level recreation room, which included a piano and area for dancing, was remodeled to create the Lakeside Health Center, later renamed the DuBois Health Center. Elizabeth Hall received building and safety upgrades, as well as new bathroom finishes, in 2004; the third-floor lounge was modified to create classroom space in 2008. Renovation of the exterior, entry, lobby, and second-floor lounge is scheduled for summer 2009.
In 1959, Rollins College purchased the Ruth E. Vincent property, which included the building known as Ruth House. Located on Chase Avenue, Ruth House was used primarily as a women’s dormitory from 1965 to 1970. In 1967, during the planning stages of the Enyart-Alumni Field House, Ruth House was moved to 410 Fairbanks Avenue and converted into a rental unit. Renamed since the early 1980s, the building has been home to the Rollins’ Child Development and Student Research Center, a resource of the Department of Psychology.
Built in 1926, the Fred Stone Theatre was formerly Winter Park Baptist Church and was one of five buildings purchased from the church by the College in 1961. At that time, the building was located on the corner of Comstock Avenue and Interlachen Avenue. The interior was redecorated and converted into an assembly hall with a seating capacity of 174. Initially used for faculty meetings, the facility was named Bingham Hall in honor of Charles Mortimer Bingham (1828-1906), a charter member of the College’s Board of Trustees. In the summer of 1965, the building was moved to Chase Avenue, on campus, where it continued to function as a meeting and lecture hall. In May 1973, Bingham Hall was renamed the Fred Stone Theatre, in honor of the well-known Broadway actor and replacing the original Fred Stone Theatre demolished in March of that year. Since then, the 2,250-square-foot building has been used as a teaching theater and venue for second-stage student productions. Constructed of brick and wood, the interior of the building has an open stage, hardwood floors, and seating for 80 people. In 1987, the building was relocated to its current site on the corner of Chase Avenue and Fairbanks Avenue to permit construction of Cornell Hall for the Social Sciences.
Originally called New Hall and subsequently named after former Rollins president Hugh Ferguson McKean ’30 ’72, McKean Hall also honors the scholarly legacies of 23 early Rollins professors. The coeducational residence hall, designed by Rogers, Lovelock and Fritz of Winter Park, and built by the H. J. High Construction Company of Orlando in 1962, cost $1.5 million, including furnishings, paving, and landscaping. Loans from the federal government and the Housing and Home Finance Agency provided $1.07 million of the amount.

Located adjacent to Lake Virginia, McKean Hall ranks as the second-largest residence hall at the College. The 65,902-square-foot, cross-shaped building is Spanish Mediterranean in style, featuring a stucco exterior with a red tile roof, and has a housing capacity of 226. The interior consists of 22 units, or “pods,” each designed to provide housing for eight students and one upperclass counselor. Residential Life offices and Counseling and Psychological Services are also located in the building. In 2005, in addition to safety and interior upgrades, the entry was remodeled. The most recent renovation of McKean Hall, which occurred in 2007, adapted the pod setup for Living Learning Communities at Rollins, where students live together and take the same classes together. Fresh paint in bright colors, plush sofas and chairs, decorative rugs, art, and ambient lighting have transformed these areas into cozy, comfortable spaces for studying and socializing.
Home of the Crummer Graduate School of Business, Crummer Hall was made possible through a $1-million gift from Roy E. Crummer (1889-1968), a prominent businessman and former resident of Winter Park who announced to Rollins’ Board of Trustees in October 1964 that he wished to see College developments that aspired toward business studies. Designed by James Gamble Rogers II ’85HAL, of Rogers, Lovelock and Fritz of Winter Park, the $700,000 Crummer Hall featured conference and seminar classrooms, an auditorium that seated 206, and a library. Ground was broken for construction by Frank J. Rooney, Inc. in September 1965 and the building was dedicated in November 1966. In 1979, new lighting was installed, and in 1987, the basement and classrooms were renovated to accommodate computers. The 28,950-square-foot building is home to the prestigious Crummer Graduate School of Business, which is consistently ranked by Forbes Magazine as one of the top MBA programs in the nation and number one in Florida.
Named for former Rollins president Hamilton Holt, Holt Hall was built in 1966. The residence hall originally was called Independent Men’s Dormitory; however, President Hugh McKean '30 '72H renamed the facility in 1967 when it became coeducational. The architectural firm of Rogers, Lovelock and Fritz of Winter Park designed the Spanish Mediterranean style building, which has a signature red tile roof and archways at its entrance. The facility’s design allowed for the future addition of extra wings, but these were never built. Holt Hall consists primarily of single rooms but also offers 16 double rooms and one triple. A basement lounge area has been used through the years as a gathering place for smaller events hosted by campus student organizations. Interim renovations to Holt Hall occurred in 2005 and 2006.
Made possible through the efforts of President Hugh McKean ’30 ’72H and trustee Archibald Granville Bush ’65H in the late 1960s, the Bush Science Center was built in an era that saw America turning to an emphasis on science education in an attempt to keep up in the escalating Cold War. Florida was of special importance because of the Kennedy Space Center, and the state wanted to supply as many scientists as it could. At that time, Rollins’ science facilities, located in Knowles Hall II, were gravely out of date. The original proposal for the new science building was scrapped when sufficient funds for the expensive facility could not be secured; when federal funds became available a few years later, Bush gladly committed the 25 percent matching funds required. Unfortunately, Bush passed away before construction began, but his wife, Edyth Bush ’65H, continued his support, making a donation of $615,000 in honor of her husband and establishing endowed chairs in science and mathematics.

The 91,519-square-foot Bush Science Center is the largest non-residential building on campus. Designed by James Gamble Rogers II ’85HAL in the campus’s predominant Spanish Mediterranean style, the building has two main entrances, one leading to classrooms and the other to the College’s main auditorium, the Bush Auditorium. The building also features rows of fountains along the east and south faces that are Roman in style with inset arches creating backdrops to the spouts. The exterior is made of travertine marble from Pietrasanta, Italy, the same stone used in the Colosseum in Rome. Inside the facility, the north hallway and the auditorium lobby originally showcased illuminated Tiffany windows. In 2006, the Bush Science Center’s original, multilevel, “high-tech” classroom was reconfigured into a “smart” classroom, with a 10-by-20-foot projection screen, flat-screen plasma TVs, multimedia workstations, surround sound, an electronic whiteboard, and handheld Personal Response System units.

The Bush Science Center supports the Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, and Computer Science Departments and includes laboratories, conference rooms, classrooms, and lecture halls. The campus-wide computer center is located in the building’s basement. Bush Auditorium, which seats 350 people, regularly hosts presentations by notable speakers for members of the campus and Central Florida communities. Guest speakers have included Olympia Dukakis, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, David Halberstam, George McGovern, and Gloria Swanson.
Originally named New Women’s Dormitory, Ward Hall initially housed 198 upperclass women and later became a coeducational residence hall. The building was renamed in 1978 for Rollins’ third president, George Morgan Ward ’19. The 47,000-square-foot, four-story facility, which was often referred to as the “new Cloverleaf” in its early days, was built in 1969 along Lake Virginia on the former site of Cloverleaf Cottage. The total cost of the building was $1.58 million: $1.42 million for architectural design and construction, $120,000 for furnishings and moveable equipment, and $40,000 for demolition of Cloverleaf. A federal loan provided $700,000 toward the project, with the remaining funds secured through private donations.

Designed by the Winter Park firm of Rogers, Lovelock and Fritz and constructed by Graham Contracting, the Spanish Mediterranean style building features a central, octagonal tower that anchors the building’s two wings, a design that developed from an initial plan to build a “Dome Hall” type of building. On the fourth floor, a large lounge connects the two wings and features a sundeck that overlooks Lake Virginia. Ward Hall was the first building on the Rollins campus to include air conditioning in its construction.

In 2007, Ward Hall underwent a complete renovation, aimed at taking advantage of the building’s beautiful lakefront setting. The most dramatic feature of the redesigned residence hall is the main lobby with its two-story entrance atrium, winding stairway to the second floor, comfortable lounge and study areas, and new windows that capitalize on the building’s lake view. Besides hardwood floors, new baths, new kitchen and furniture, fresh paint, and new mechanical and electrical systems, also added are the College’s first faculty apartment and a state-of-the-art classroom. In the fourth-floor lounge, the wood ceiling was refinished, new windows were added, and a padlocked, metal door was replaced with a doorway opening to a rooftop patio balcony overlooking Lake Virginia and the Orlando skyline.
Purchased by the College in 1969, College Arms was a former private residence that included a fireplace, large living room, and kitchen, along with a backyard pool and nursery. In 1973, the first floor of the building became home to the Department of Campus Safety and office of Rollins Vice President John M. Tiedtke ’75H, while the upstairs was used as rental apartments. Campus Safety later moved to Carnegie Hall, and the vacant space was used for male transfer students. For a brief time, the upstairs was occupied by a group of male and female students who created their own curriculum, under supervision. The program, known as Holt House, was short lived due to lack of student interest. The upstairs once again became rental apartments, and Tiedtke’s office remained in the building until his death in 2004. College Arms currently provides office and residential space for College staff.
The Alfond Swimming Pool is located along Lake Virginia behind the Cornell Campus Center. Dedicated on April 29, 1973, the facility was funded primarily by a generous gift from Harold Alfond ’97H and his family. Alfond was a philanthropist, Rollins trustee, and father of two Rollins alumni. With eight lanes for swimming competitions, the heated pool ranges from four feet to 13 feet deep. In addition, there were two 3-meter and two 1-meter diving boards, all of which were removed before the start of varsity swimming in 1995. In 1996, a Colorado timing system was added; a Daktronics scoreboard was installed in 2007. The pool originally was overlooked by a 450-seat permanent concrete bleacher structure that was removed in 1999 during construction of the Cornell Campus Center to allow an uninterrupted view of the lake.
Hauck Hall has its roots in the old Collins House located at 157 Holt Avenue. Valued at $25,000, Collins House was donated to Rollins by Frederick Hauck '83 in 1968. Five years later, Collins was demolished to make room for an annex to Casa Iberia, which was later named Hauck Hall to honor its lead donor. The groundbreaking ceremony for the $250,000 structure took place on November 21, 1973, and it was dedicated on May 17, 1974. The Spanish Mediterranean style building was designed by architect George A. Tuttle, Jr. and constructed by Allen Trovillion, general contractor. Currently home to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, the building has classrooms on the first floor and offices for the French, German, Russian, and Chinese programs on the second floor. The original auditorium was converted to classrooms in 2000.
Keene Hall, named for Florida Citrus Hall of Fame inductee Rudolphus Dutch Keene, was built for a total cost of $750,000, made possible by gifts from the Keene Family Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the McFeely-Rogers Foundation. Following the groundbreaking ceremony on January 30, 1974, construction began on the wooded site on the northeast corner of Holt Avenue and Chase Avenue where O’Neal House once stood. The building was completed in eight months and dedicated on October 18, 1974. With Klepper, Marshall, King & Associates as acoustical consultants, Keene Hall was designed by Schweitzer Associates and constructed by Allen Trovillion. Originally, the two-story building measured 15,226 square feet and featured a 50-by-50-foot rehearsal hall with 25-foot ceiling, the Rogers Room, named for former music major Fred “Mister” Rogers ’51 ’74H. The growth of the Virginia S. and W. W. Nelson Department of Music eventually necessitated renovation and expansion of the building. Thanks to contributions from 35 major donors, $7 million was raised for the Keene Hall expansion, and the groundbreaking took place on April 8, 2004. The official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovated facility was held two years later. Expanded to 30,160 square feet, Keene Hall now includes soundproof practice studios, a music library, two “smart” classrooms, a high-tech recording studio, and the 400-seat John M. Tiedtke Concert Hall.
The Facilities Management Building, which was designed by Schweizer Associates and completed on March 18, 1974, was built in just five months. Total cost of the building was $316,616. The Facilities Management Building consists of two floors, each 6,500 square feet. Currently, the ground floor serves as a warehouse, storage space, and home to the Campus Security Department and Print Services. The second floor contains the offices and working areas for the Facilities Management staff, including electricians, air conditioning technicians, locksmith, painters, plumbers, custodians, and carpenters. Next to the building is the 1,707-square-foot Mechanic Shop, a small building containing a paint shop with spray booth and a covered area for the storage of chemicals.
Home to the Rollins crew program, the U. T. Bradley Boat House is located on Lake Maitland, which is the site of home races for the men’s and women’s rowing teams. Built in 1975 and named for legendary Rollins crew coach and history professor U. T. Bradley (1900-1968), the boat house is constructed of cement block with stucco finish and an asphalt shingle roof. The 10,200-square-foot structure contains storage for the crew shells, has a floating dock and a boat slip, and is equipped with smoke and burglar alarms. In 2007, a one-story, 1,040-square-foot addition to the east side of the boathouse was constructed to provide storage for boats and equipment. In exchange for the City easement required to accommodate the enlarged facility, the College converted a former pump station into a public restroom for the adjacent City park.
The Cornell Fine Arts Museum had its beginnings as the Morse Gallery of Art, established by Jeannette Morse Genius McKean '62 and opened in February 1942. In 1976-77, the structure underwent a major expansion as part of a larger project to establish a fine arts center at the College, funded largely by a gift from the Center’s namesakes and Rollins benefactors George D. Cornell ’35 ’85 and his wife, Harriet W. Cornell ’35HAL ’90. First called the Cornell Fine Arts Center Museum, its title was later abbreviated to the current name.

The Museum saw a massive redesign in 2004-05: an 18-month, $4.5-million renovation and expansion that modernized both the interior and exterior of the facility. Once again, the Cornells were the lead supporters for the Museum project. ACi Architects of Winter Park oversaw the design and Walker & Company was in charge of construction. The Spanish Mediterranean style building is accented with marble and stone and features a large tower. On completion of the remodeling, which preserved roughly 20 percent of the old building, the Museum reopened its doors on January 20, 2006. The interior of the 11,460-square-foot facility contains six galleries (double the former number), a print study room (the only facility of its kind in Florida), a gift shop, indoor and outdoor reception areas, and a large storage area.
The 11,383-square-foot Cornell Fine Arts Center, located next to the Cornell Fine Arts Museum, is home of the Rollins College Department of Art and Art History. The building contains faculty office space and studio classrooms for ceramics, sculpture, photography, drawing, and painting classes, as well as a storage area for paintings and other artistic works. The Cornell Fine Arts Center, which incorporated the Cornell Fine Arts Center Museum, was largely financed by a gift from George D. Cornell ’35 ’85H and his wife, Harriet Cornell ’35HAL ’90H. The arts complex was dedicated in January 1978.
In 1980, the College purchased a one-story residence at 465 Virginia Court from Mrs. A. B. Stewart for $60,000. The concrete block, shingle-roofed structure was a rental property before its conversion to offices for use by the College. It currently houses the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park.
Situated by Lake Virginia, the Susan O. and Frederick A. Hauck Botanical Research Center, also known as the Greenhouse and named in honor of its benefactors, opened on October 20, 1983. The 3,200-square-foot Research Center serves students and faculty as a resource for the study of plant reproduction and adaptation. The Greenhouse houses a rich variety of plants, such as orchids, carnivorous plants, and bromeliads, as well as a collection of butterflies. A storage area was added to the facility in 1985.
While the College’s library dates back to its beginnings, when it was housed in Knowles Hall, there have been three buildings in Rollins’ history constructed to serve as library buildings: Carnegie Hall (1909-1951), the Mills Memorial Library (1951-1985), and the Olin Library, dedicated on April 17, 1985 with a capacity two times greater than its predecessor. The Olin Library was funded by a $4.7-million gift from the F. W. Olin Foundation, which awarded more than $300 million for the construction of buildings on college campuses nationwide. At that time, the $4.7-million donation to Rollins—$4 million devoted to construction costs and $700,000 to furnishings—was the second-largest grant the foundation had ever made.

The initial idea for the construction of a new library was raised in a 526-page College Planning Committee report during the presidency of Jack B. Critchfield ’78. On November 4, 1982, the 97th anniversary of the College’s opening day, President Thaddeus Seymour ’82 HAL ’90 announced the gift and revealed plans for the immediate construction of the library.

The Olin Library was built on the site of Knowles Hall II, which was demolished to make way for the new facility, resulting in the temporary displacement of the Child Development Center and relocation of the Departments of History, Political Science, and Anthropology. Designed by J. Gamble Rogers II ’85HAL of Rogers, Lovelock and Fritz, the state-of-the-art library complements the Spanish Mediterranean style of the campus while employing Roman and Gothic features, including pointed arches and carved ornaments on stone. The windows next to the entrance contain diamond-shaped leaded glass and bottle-stained glass; upstairs windows were kept small to reduce the direct exposure of books to damaging sunrays. Following the current trend in library design, the floor plan utilizes open space where reading stations are mingled with bookshelves. Thick carpets and acoustical ceilings are used to absorb sound in all the reading areas, and group study rooms and faculty carrels occupy various locations on the first three floors. A popular spot among students, the fourth-floor pillow room provides comfortable space for both study and relaxation, while the fifth floor tower room presents beautiful views of the campus, Lake Virginia, and downtown Winter Park.

The 74,328-square-foot building, which holds bookshelves, study stations, and offices, houses a large collection of books, periodicals, special collections, and microfilm materials as well as the Olin Electronic Research and Information Center. Dedicated in 1998, this 11,000-square-foot, three-story area incorporates a 24-hour computer lab and the Department of Archives and Special Collections.
The Johnson Center was a gift of Thomas Phillips Johnson ’34 ’82H ’99H in memory of his mother, Grace Phillips Johnson, and his brother, George W. Johnson II ’61H. A seasonal resident of Winter Park for more than 40 years, Mrs. Johnson became a community leader and one of Central Florida’s greatest benefactors. Her contributions extended to Rollins College, where she was a major benefactor of Orlando Hall and a charter member of the College’s Book-a-Year program. George W. Johnson II was a respected attorney and business leader in the Central Florida area for more than 50 years. He also served as secretary of the College from 1953 to 1978.

Home to the Department of Psychology, the 12,000-square-foot Johnson Center, located on the north end of the Bush Science Center, was dedicated on October 14, 1988. It includes offices, classrooms, research laboratories, and equipment rooms. Administrative affairs for the Center are managed in a centralized workspace and technology area on the first floor of the building, while research is conducted on the second floor in a number of rooms, including an electronic room with scientific equipment and observational laboratory classrooms.
Named in honor of longtime College benefactors George D. Cornell ’35 ’85H and his wife, Harriet W. Cornell ’35HAL ’90H, Cornell Hall for the Social Sciences was dedicated on November 4, 1988. George Cornell, who served on the College’s Board of Trustees from 1981 to his death in 2003, was an ardent supporter of Rollins’ social sciences programs and wanted to see a building to house them. He and his wife donated $3 million for the project. The architectural firm of Rogers, Lovelock and Fritz of Winter Park, which designed the Olin Library during the mid 1980s, designed Cornell Hall in the Spanish Mediterranean style that defines the rest of the campus. The project was notable for the degree of open communication between the architects and the faculty during the design stage of the building.

Cornell Hall is the home of the Departments of Anthropology, Economics, Education, History, International Business, Political Science, Sociology, and Graduate Studies in Counseling. In addition to classrooms equipped with televisions and LCD projectors, the building has a computer lab. Cornell Hall features a central open courtyard with a large clock centerpiece. A tile loggia containing permanent benches, as well as wooden tables and chairs, serves as a central gathering place for students, and a small deli-style café offers snacks for purchase between classes. The courtyard features “The Schoolhouse Stone,” a slab of hematite silurian from the Central Valley School, founded by George Cornell’s grandparents in 1865.
Ground was broken for the Bert W. Martin Tennis Complex on April 20, 1988. The $290,000 complex was named for the Bert W. Martin Foundation of California, which provided the lead gift for the athletic facility. Dedicated on February 22, 1989, the Martin Tennis Complex provides students with six courts and state-of-the-art lighting. The facilities are used by the men’s and women’s varsity tennis teams for practice, intercollegiate matches, and tournament play, and are also used for recreational play.
Recognizing the need for a separate facility for the instruction and practice of dance, the College constructed the Dance Studio in 1989. The 1,500-square-foot, one-story building is located adjacent to Hauck Hall. The Dance Studio also provides rehearsal space for the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance.
The Alfond Boathouse was built in 1990 with funding from Harold Alfond ’97H, a philanthropist from New England and partial owner of the Boston Red Sox. In addition to providing funds for the building, Alfond also supported the refurbishing of the adjacent shoreline of Lake Virginia to improve conditions for the College’s water activities, including sailing, waterskiing, and canoeing. As Alfond remarked when he announced his gift in 1988, “This gift represents a major contribution to the quality of campus life at Rollins.”

The 3,500-square-foot boathouse, which replaced the Lake Virginia Boathouse, includes classrooms, offices, dressing rooms, and storage space for Rollins water sports equipment. The building features stucco exterior walls, a Spanish tile roof that includes overhangs to protect window openings, and an internal structure composed completely of natural woods such as rough-hewn timber. The facility includes roll-up, garage-style doors; hydraulic lifts allowing storage of boats off the water; and a second-story observation point to improve the safety of athletes on the lake.
The Samuel B. Lawrence Center was purchased from the Resolution Trust Corporation for $1.63 million in 1993 thanks to a gift from longtime Rollins benefactors, Samuel B. ’95H and Marion Lawrence. The Lawrence Center and adjoining property, located at New England Avenue and Interlachen Avenue, was formerly the site of Pioneer Savings Bank. Today, the property provides rental income and houses the College’s Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership Center.
Located at the corner of East Lyman Avenue and Knowles Avenue, the Hamilton School Building was formerly the Pioneer Savings Bank of Winter Park. The two-story concrete structure was built in the early 1960s and subsequently renovated in 1981. In 1993, Rollins purchased the building; after interior remodeling, asbestos removal, and HVAC replacement, it became the home of the College’s Hamilton Holt School for evening undergraduate and graduate programs.
The Mary-Jean Mitchell Green Plaza was built on the site of the old Student Center patio, which had long been a popular campus gathering place thanks to its central location and close proximity to tennis courts, a volleyball court, and many residence halls. Dedicated on October 21, 1994, the Mary-Jean Plaza was a gift of Peter Green in memory of his late wife, a Rollins trustee, for whom the facility was named. It was designed by landscape architects Scott Waldroff and Garth Schweizer of the Schweizer-Waldroff Design Group and constructed by general contractor Aagaard-Juergensen, Inc. under the supervision of Walter Jurgensen and Chuck Kent. The plaza provides students, faculty, and staff with an open-air venue for studying, eating, and relaxing. It features tables with umbrellas; an overhead, vine-covered trellis; and a stage for student gatherings and special events.
Named in honor of Winifred Martin Warden ’45, the Wynee Martin Warden Costume Studio was a gift of the Bert W. Martin Foundation and the Clementine Peterson Trust. Dedicated on October 11, 1995, the 2,000-square-foot facility provides storage and work space for the Annie Russell Theatre. It contains the costumers’ offices, a classroom, a dyeing room, a cutting room, and a full laundry. It has also housed the Theatre Arts Department’s nearly 20,000 units of costume and apparel. In 2001, classroom space was added, expanding the structure to 3,000 square feet.
Known as the Catholic Newman Center before its acquisition by the College from the local Catholic Diocese in January 1997, the Rosen Family Center was dedicated in May 1998. A donation by Orlando businessman and philanthropist Harris Rosen and his wife, Trisha, enabled the purchase of the private dwelling for use as offices and a temporary residence for College visitors. The building is located on the corner of Lyman Avenue and Fairbanks Avenue. The Rosen Family Center currently serves as headquarters for the College’s precollegiate programs, Talent Search and Upward Bound.
Dedicated in 1999, SunTrust Plaza and Parking Garage on Park Avenue are situated on property that has been owned by the College since 1961. The site was formerly home of the Park Avenue Building, which was demolished in 1989. The property remained an empty lot for the next eight years until the College began construction on the $15-million commercial development. The 81,000-square-foot SunTrust Plaza, designed by the Baltimore firm RTKL, contains 24,500 square feet of specialty retail areas and 56,000 square feet of professional office space. The adjacent parking garage, designed by CHP & Associates, Consulting Engineers, Inc. and built by contractor Jack Jennings & Sons, Inc., has over 800 parking spots on four levels. The façade of the structures adds a European look to Park Avenue.
Dedicated on February 18, 1999, the Cornell Campus Center is considered the heart of the Rollins campus, offering dining facilities as well as areas for meetings and social gatherings. The facility was named in honor of its lead donors George D. ’35 ’85H and Harriet W. Cornell ’35HAL ’90H, who donated $3 million for its construction. Thomas P. Johnson ’34 ’82H ’99H was also a significant contributor to the project, donating $2 million for the cause. The $8.25-million, state-of-the-art facility incorporated the kitchen of Rose Skillman Hall, which served as Rollins’ main dining venue for many years.

The Cornell Campus Center was designed by Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbot, constructed by Walker & Company, and landscaped by Carol R. Johnson Associates. In addition to the main cafeteria and faculty/staff and president’s dining rooms, the Campus Center houses conference rooms, a convenience store, a grille, a lounge with an information desk and e-mail counter, and a first-floor dining area and stage that can be transformed into a lecture-style room or coffeehouse. The Spanish Mediterranean style building is surrounded by loggias and terraces, including a patio that overlooks the Alford Swimming Pool and Lake Virginia and provides a casual setting for dining and socializing.
An extension of Crummer Hall, the Bush Executive Center was designed to provide additional space for the Crummer Graduate School of Business. Construction began on the extension in 1998 following receipt of a matching grant from the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, and the facility was dedicated on December 15, 1999 with 400 donors and friends of the College in attendance. The design of the Bush Executive Center fits the Spanish Mediterranean architecture of the campus. Notable features include an exterior tower and a Tiffany stained glass window located in the Center’s lobby. The facility provides classrooms for students enrolled in the Executive Education and MBA programs, and a small auditorium.
The Charles Rice Family Bookstore and Café emerged from a significant renovation of the Student Center building, which had served as a social gathering place for Rollins faculty and students for more than six decades. The original building was dedicated on February 21, 1942, together with the Alumni House. Made possible by a gift from Frances Knowles Warren ’35H, the Mediterranean style facility was designed by Kiehnel & Elliott of Miami and constructed by Harry C. Cone of concrete and tile with a stucco finish and tile roof. The 9,447-square-foot building featured a student recreation room, a snack bar, the campus post office, and offices for student publications and student government. A terrazzo dance patio offered space for outdoor entertainment. In 1960, the Rollins Union was created to provide programming in the building and it became known as the Rollins Union or the Student Union. During construction of the Cornell Campus Center when it served as the campus dining facility, it was often called “Faux Beans.”

The Student Center’s transformation to a first-class bookstore was made possible by a $1-million gift from Rollins trustee and parent Charles E. Rice ’64MBA ’98H and his wife, Dianne Tauscher Rice ’61. The Rice Family Bookstore & Café was dedicated on May 12, 2000. The facility’s architectural plan, developed by the firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbot of Boston, called for preservation of many of the building’s original design elements, including natural wood accents and a re-creation of the building’s original hand-painted ceiling beams. In addition to providing a beautiful setting for the sale of books and school supplies, the two-story building features Dianne’s Café, a popular dining spot for students.
A gift of Rollins’ 13th president, Rita Bornstein ’04 HAL, in honor of her husband, Harland G. Bloland ’04 HAL, a retired professor from the University of Miami, Harland’s Haven was dedicated in 2001. The gazebo on the banks of Lake Virginia between the Alfond Swimming Pool and the Olin Library offers the Rollins community a tranquil site for contemplation, relaxation, or studying. The area was designed by landscape architect Carol Johnson of Carol R. Johnson & Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Built in 1964, the building housing Sutton Place South apartments, located on the east end of campus at 500 Osceola Avenue, was purchased by the College in 2001 to accommodate the need for additional campus residential space. The 81-unit complex, purchased for $7.35 million, increased the College’s residential space by 25 percent. After acquiring the apartment building, Rollins invested an additional $2 million in updating the facility. The renovated property, which overlooks Lake Virginia, features an outdoor pool, a lakefront lawn, and a boat dock. Designated for upper-level students with a minimum required grade point average, the building’s one- and two-bedroom units are completely furnished, each featuring a kitchenette and balcony.
The Harold & Ted Alfond Sports Center was the product of a massive renovation and expansion of the 33-year-old Enyart-Alumni Field House. Dedicated in 2001, the Sports Center was named after its lead donors, Harold Alfond ’97H and his son, Theodore B. Alfond ’68. The expansion more than doubled the size of the facility, bringing it to 87,563 square feet. In addition to classrooms and office space, the $11.3-million Alfond Sports Center contains state-of-the-art athletic facilities, including a competition arena and recreational gymnasium (both equipped for basketball and volleyball), fitness center, and concession stand. The building also features the Tar Hall of Fame Room, which offers views of both the downstairs court and Lake Virginia. In addition to athletic events, the facility is used to host formal ceremonies, such as commencement, and social gatherings.
Copeland Tennis Stadium, named in honor of legendary tennis coach Norm Copeland ’50, was dedicated on May 10, 2002 and completed several months later. Located adjacent to the Martin Tennis Courts, the stadium features seating, storage space, and a concession area. It was the generous gift of Rollins trustee F. Duane Ackerman ’64 ’00MBA ’00H, who was a four-year member of the Rollins tennis team.
A gift of $1.5 million from the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation enabled the construction of the College’s first formal entrance, the McKean Gateway, located at the intersection of Park Avenue and Fairbanks Avenue. The impressive entry, named in honor of former Rollins president Hugh F. McKean ’30 ’72H and his wife, Jeannette Genius McKean ’62H, and made of Italian marble, serves as a symbol of the partnership between the City of Winter Park and Rollins College. The McKean Gateway complements the Mediterranean structure of the Rinker Building, located to its west. During the dedication ceremony on October 25, 2002, Rollins President Rita Bornstein ’04 ’04HAL remarked, “For the first time in its history, Rollins College can welcome its students, alumni, and visitors with an entrance reflective of the College’s academic stature and architectural beauty.”
The Marshall and Vera Lea Rinker Building, home of Admission and Financial Aid, was made possible by a $1.2-million gift from the Rinker Foundation, given in honor of Marshall E. Rinker, Sr. and his wife, Vera Lea, the parents of Marshall E. Rinker, Jr. ’49. Situated on the corner of Fairbanks and Park Avenues, the Rinker Building is one of a trio of structures (the other two being the McKean Gateway and Barker Family Stadium) that were designed to create a formal College entranceway and enhance the beauty of the city of Winter Park. The Spanish Mediterranean style Rinker Building features decorative masonry under a Spanish tile roof. The 10,850-square-foot facility, which was designed by the architectural firm of Chael, Cooper & Associates of Miami and built by Lamm & Company of Orlando, was dedicated on May 9, 2003. The building’s site, which formerly contained an automobile sales and service facility, was purchased by the College in 1996; prior to completion of the Charles Rice Family Bookstore, it served temporarily as the College bookstore.
Conceived in 1985 and purchased by the College in 2003 for $2.8 million, the 12,500-square foot, two-story property previously housed commercial tenants, including a radio station. Like many of the campus buildings, it features a barrel tile roof. During the renovation and expansion of Keene Hall, the facility provided practice rooms and offices for the Virginia S. and W. W. Nelson Department of Music and the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. Following a $2-million renovation, the building is now the home of the Departments of Communication and Critical Media & Cultural Studies, Career Services, and the offices of Public Relations and Strategic Marketing.
Rollins’ softball field and stadium are located at Lake Island Park, on the corner of Comstock and Ward Avenues in Winter Park. A joint project of the College and the City of Winter Park, the women’s softball stadium was dedicated in 2004 as one of the best collegiate softball facilities in the South. The field is located at 450 Harper Street. The stadium boasts a covered seating area for 500 spectators as well as batting cages and warm-up areas for the Tars and opponents.

The College paid for construction of the facility, at an estimated cost of $320,000; the City supplied the land, lights, irrigation, and field preparation, at an estimated cost of $237,500, which the College loaned the City interest free. In exchange for deeding the physical improvements to the City, which provides maintenance and pays operating costs, the College enjoys use of the complex on a permanent basis. The enhancements to the City park created a top-flight venue for Rollins’ softball team and new recreational opportunities for City residents, including sports clinics with Rollins’ coaches and student-athletes.
Cahall-Sandspur Field and Barker Family Stadium were dedicated on October 30, 2004. The product of a complete renovation of the old Sandspur Field, Cahall-Sandspur Field was made possible by a gift from Peter Scott Cahall ’71. Now considered one of the finest playing fields in NCAA Division II soccer, Cahall-Sandspur Field was enlarged to meet the requirements of the NCAA soccer league, and new drainage and watering systems were added to provide for a level playing field even in severe weather conditions.

The field’s stadium, Barker Family Stadium, was a gift from Francis H. “Frank” Barker ’52 ’06H and his wife Daryl Stamm Barker ’53, who have been generous benefactors of Rollins sports facilities through the years. The structure contains chair-back seating for a crowd of 500 spectators, men’s and women’s locker rooms, public restrooms, and a concession stand. In addition, the stadium has a state-of-the-art sound and scoreboard system.
Barker House, Rollins’ first on-campus residence for College presidents, was dedicated on October 21, 2005. The beautiful Spanish Mediterranean style home was made possible by a gift of $1 million from trustee Francis H. “Frank” Barker ’52 ’06H and his wife, Daryl Stamm Barker ’53. Designed by ACi Architects of Winter Park, the two-story home overlooking Lake Virginia contains private living quarters for the president and the president’s family on the second floor. The first floor, designed for entertaining, features an inviting living room with a large stone fireplace, a dining room, a kitchen, and a guest suite. The back of the house has a pool, a large patio area, and gardens with a view of Lake Virginia. The DuBois Center and two rental properties given to the College by Raymond W. Greene ’23 in 1968 (including a house built in 1884 by Judge Peleg Parker, an early settler of Winter Park) were razed to make room for the home, located at 600 Osceola Avenue.
In 2005, the College purchased two townhomes to provide housing for visiting scholars. The two-story units (1,666 and 2,006 square feet, respectively) each have three bedrooms and two baths on the second floor and a half bath on the first floor. The residences were built in 1986.
A commercial property and former site of a Masonic lodge, this two-story building dates from the 1930s. It was acquired by the College in 2006 for $1.3 million, and converted to offices for the Advancement Division at a cost of $750,000.
In response to the need for graduate student housing for the Crummer School of Business, the College purchased two apartment buildings in 2007. Together, the masonry and concrete block structures, built in 1959, contain 20 one-bedroom/one-bath apartments (550 square feet each) and eight two-bedroom/one-bath apartments (650 square feet each). Cost of the property was $2.75 million, with renovations adding another $1.4 million.

Purchased in 2007 for use as off-site storage, the 13,919-square-foot warehouse was formerly the site of a landscaping service.
In an effort to make affordable housing near campus available to junior faculty, the College purchased 11 town houses in a development located on Mead and Orchid Avenues, approximately one mile from the College, in 2007-08. The two-story units, which were built in 2005 and range between 1,676 and 1,826 square feet each, may be rented by faculty.

In 2008, the College purchased the 1,170-square-foot residence located adjacent to the Mead Garden Town Homes. The structure, built in 1951, was not deemed worthy of renovation and was razed to create green space for the adjoining property.
A single-family residence adjacent to the Mead Garden Town Homes was also acquired in 2007. The 2,856-square-foot house is designated for use by long-term visiting scholars.
View of Rollins College Campus which appeared in first issue of The Sandspur in 1894.
INTRODUCTION

Anyone who has laid their eyes on Rollins College cannot help but praise its elegance. Since its founding in 1885, Rollins has been at the heart of learning, culture and architectural beauty in Central Florida. The establishment of the College on Lake Virginia provided the perfect location for a truly beautiful campus to unfold. Over the years, the College’s leaders and planners have succeeded in combining the man-made beauty of campus buildings with the natural beauty of the lakeside setting. The consistent use of Spanish Mediterranean architecture has created a sense of harmony and unity that is the essence of the campus, and those well-designed facilities and surroundings have provided an ideal environment for generations of students in pursuit of a liberal arts education.¹ Such an architectural history is an important component of Rollins’ heritage; however, detailed records of College buildings are not sufficiently well organized to make them readily available to researchers and the general public. Therefore, a collaborative research team, consisting of Eneid Bano ’07, Charles Stevens ’07, and Prof. Wenxian Zhang, has organized to conduct a comprehensive examination of the architectural history of the Rollins campus.

The first proposed goal for the research team was to assemble a complete account of buildings on the Rollins campus that would include the names of architects; years of construction, dedication and renovations; square footage; cost of construction; donor information; and usage histories. The second objective was to develop a comprehensive Web site documenting the history of Rollins architecture over the past 120 years that would include facts and historical images. Based on the results, we hoped to compile a new Rollins walking guide, as the campus landscape has experienced substantial transformation over recent years, and the previous publications developed in the 1980s and 1990s had become out of date.

THE SUMMER RESEARCH PROCESS AND CHALLENGES

To compile the pertinent historical information on Rollins architecture, we began our research project in the College Archives, going through primary documents related to buildings, the grounds, and the landscape. In some cases, this was an easy process, as the Archives have maintained specific files over the years, and A. J. Hanna ’45H, Professor of History and Vice President at Rollins, had conducted research and created fact sheets for some of the old buildings on campus. However, for every structure that we ran across with all the necessary information in place,
there would probably be two buildings that were lacking sufficient information. From very early on, the collaborative team faced major challenges in this area. Consequently, we gained valuable firsthand experience, putting research skills learned from the classroom into meaningful practice.

When we ran across a box without sufficient information, we would have to turn to other supplementary sources. Digging through piles of historical papers was no doubt a burdensome process. Nevertheless, along the way the team gradually acquired a better understanding of the College’s history, and became perspicacious as to where the information might be located, ranging from files for Finance and Maintenance to Student Affairs, Residential Life, and Development records. For example, after the initial search for information on the Dance Studio located next to Hauck Hall and Casa Iberia proved fruitless, we checked the Maintenance files, which eventually led us to the Finance files detailing the cost and time of construction that we needed for the project. Sometimes when the research team had exhausted all resources in the College Archives and still had insufficient data, we contacted the departments occupying the buildings in question and asked for the relevant information. On a few occasions, we actually visited the buildings in person, taking notes and pictures of the structures for archival records, as in the cases of the Hamilton Holt School building and the Lawrence Center. Although we were fortunate to receive generous support from the campus community with our requests, the scarcity of information on certain buildings impeded our efforts to create a highly detailed history for them. In the end, we realized that original research was real hard work that needed both tenacity and team effort from every participant.

After compiling the pertinent information on all buildings currently on campus, the research team started to compile records of the buildings that were once part of the campus but were either demolished, destroyed, or sold. We found out that several major wooden buildings on campus were destroyed by fire, a chilling fact that eventually convinced the College’s leaders to begin building brick structures on campus in the early 20th century. We also found that many historical buildings that were once part of Rollins have been demolished by the College to make room for new construction, with the exception of a few buildings that have been sold and are still standing to this day. Finding sufficient information on all those buildings presented further challenges for the research team. The main problem was that Rollins had purchased numerous buildings in its 120-year history. Most were small houses in nearby residential areas that were used temporarily as dorms, offices, or storage space and later moved or torn down completely to construct new and major buildings on campus.

Once the comprehensive records of Rollins architecture were compiled into an Access file and the narratives drafted, we began to work on creating a Web site dedicated to the architectural heritage of the Rollins campus. After exploring several different formats, we designed our web pages with three columns, listing individual buildings on campus that we believe would suit the purpose of our project. Under each column, building images would lead interested users to detailed
information about the history of the structures. Besides the list of current buildings, a page on historic campus buildings was also developed. In addition, the Web site would include campus maps and aerial views over the years, various College master plans, and information on the architects who were responsible for designing major buildings. Due to the amount of work involved, we were not yet ready to bring the Web site live at the end of the research project. On the whole, we learned from this endeavor important skills in computer digitization and web page development, and we are confident that when published, the Web site we created will become a valuable resource for Rollins students and faculty, and the general public interested in studying the architectural history of the College.

Main Research Finding: Hamilton Holt’s Vision of Rollins Architecture
While researching the history of Rollins architecture, the collaborative team found that more than anyone else, it was Hamilton Holt (1872-1951) who put Rollins on the landscape of higher education in the United States. Despite his unfamiliarity with educational theory and pedagogy, the eighth president of the College fostered a great legacy of expansion and growth during his administration (1925-1949). Shortly after his arrival, Holt launched the Conference Plan that centered the Rollins curriculum on individual students, founded the Animated Magazine, and brought many great personalities to Rollins, including Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, and the American philosopher John Dewey. It was also under his leadership that Rollins established the Spanish Mediterranean architectural style of the campus.

Holt firmly believed that the proper physical environment was essential for any meaningful educational experience to take place, and Rollins needed a campus with spacious and open breezeways that would take advantage of its tropical setting. Envisioning Rollins as “the Open Air College of America,” he deemed that the Spanish Mediterranean architecture blended best with “palms, bamboos, and brilliant sunshine.” Holt remarked in 1925, “We shall find the most beautiful buildings of the Mediterranean type in Florida, then find who designed them, then get that man to design every building on our campus necessary for the comfort of our students—and all in harmony and all parts of a unified whole.” That person was Richard Kiehnel of Miami, who in the late 1920s developed a campus master plan for Hamilton Holt.

The research team found out that the first building constructed under President Holt was Rollins Hall (1929), which was designed by Kiehnel and Elliott. The same firm also designed Pugsley and Mayflower Halls (1930); the Annie Russell Theatre (1932); Gale, Lyman, and Fox Halls (1936); Cross and Hooker Halls (1937); Woolson House (1938); Strong Hall and the Faculty Club (1939); the Alumni House, the Student Center, and French House (1941). In addition, Kiehnel’s former associate George Spohn was responsible for the design of Warren Hall (1946); Sullivan House and Corrin Hall (1947); and Orlando Hall (1948). Other major buildings constructed during the Holt administration include the Knowles Memorial Chapel (1932), and the Beal-Maltbie Shell Museum (1940). All those buildings were planned with the unifying design of Spanish Mediterranean architecture, featuring creative
combinations of rectangles. Moreover, a round of loggias and cloisters connecting the various buildings on campus gave a resemblance of a walled medieval European city. As a master planner and builder, Holt planted the seeds of the architectural beauty of the Rollins campus. The research team concluded that the Holt era was a very important chapter in the architectural history of Rollins. It was Holt who turned his vision into an enduring legacy that made Rollins one of the most beautiful campuses nationwide.

**Summary**

As with many other complex projects, much more work still needed to be done at the end of the eight-week research period. Feeling deeply attached to the project, Charles Stevens, one of the student participants, decided to take a student assistant position in the College Archives to continue his research. The next step will be finishing the work on the Web site and making it available to the campus community and general public, after all facts have been thoroughly reviewed by the College Historian, the Director of Facilities Management, and the Vice President for Business and Finance. In addition, the research team will work with the Office of Public Relations to have a new campus walking guide or a booklet on Rollins architecture published in the coming academic year. We believe such a publication will not only allow new and prospective students to get acquainted with the campus, but also help current students, alumni, and people from local communities to learn more about the history of the College and its architectural heritage.
Now looking back, the archival research team is very proud of the work achieved over the summer. Despite the time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of our work, we enjoyed every aspect of the research process, from reading the history of Rollins College and reviewing primary documents in the Archives, to digging for facts, compiling the master list, visiting departments across campus, scanning photos, and editing web pages. In sum, this year’s student-faculty collaborative program became a great learning experience for every participant of the archival research team. Not only did we have a chance to apply the research skills learned in the classroom to a real-life situation, we also gained a genuine opportunity to practice our writing and web page competence over the summer. As part of a collaborative project, we also became more accustomed to group work and team-based approaches to solving research problems. We learned how to effectively divide the work and share information with others on the team, and how to write historical descriptions free from personal bias. Dividing the work allowed us to focus in greater depth on certain aspects of the project as we proceeded, and the weekly meetings helped us develop a more coherent plan concerning our overall goals.

Based on our experience, we believe it is vital to make the current generation of Rollins College aware of the history constantly surrounding them. Without history, a building is no more than brick and stone, a voiceless monument like that of Stonehenge. Through the summer research project, we learned that a micro institutional history of Rollins can be as delightful and complex as the macro history of a nation or states. Furthermore, we acquired a basic knowledge of architecture, and became some sort of experts on campus buildings. But more importantly, we developed a deep appreciation for the architectural beauty at Rollins. Now we can barely walk around campus without thinking of all we learned over the summer. With a renewed connection to the College, we have realized that architecture is an important component of the liberal arts experience at Rollins. We are so grateful for the opportunity to work on this important project, and hope our efforts will somehow contribute to Hamilton Holt’s enduring legacy at Rollins.

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