

Rollins College

Rollins Scholarship Online

Rollins College Record

College Publications and Reports

6-1931

Rollins Record, Vol 4, No 7, Jun 1931

Rollins College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.rollins.edu/r-record>

Recommended Citation

Rollins College, "Rollins Record, Vol 4, No 7, Jun 1931" (1931). *Rollins College Record*. 49.
<https://scholarship.rollins.edu/r-record/49>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications and Reports at Rollins Scholarship Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rollins College Record by an authorized administrator of Rollins Scholarship Online. For more information, please contact rwalton@rollins.edu.

ROLLINS RECORD

VOL. IV.

Rollins, the oldest College in Florida,
yet with its future all before it.

No. 7

JUNE, 1931

MEMOS

THE Rollins Debating Team won the state championship for 1930-31, having won three decision debates with the University of Florida, four with Southern College, four with the University of Miami, and two with the St. Petersburg Junior College. They have been defeated only twice, once by the University of Texas and once by Pennsylvania State College.



Rollins College is one of the charter members of the College Poetry Society of America of which Robert Hillyer of Harvard is president. Eighteen colleges are represented and some of the sponsors are Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Lew Sarett, Jessie B. Rittenhouse, and Sara Teasdale.



In line with its policy of carefully selecting its student body Rollins turned away more than one hundred applicants last year. It is already evident that several hundred students will be unable to gain admission to Rollins the coming fall.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

ROLLINS 46th year, which closed on June 6, was the most successful and most noteworthy in its history. The graduating class numbered sixty-three as compared with forty-four last year. The total enrollment for the year was 516.

The Baccalaureate sermon was given by Bishop Wing and the commencement address by President Holt, his subject being "Winning the War and Winning the Peace." The degree of Doctor of Music was conferred on Mr. Robert Ringling, the famous baritone of the Chicago Grand Opera Company.

Notable events of the year have been the third annual session of the Institute of Statesmanship; the Conference on Curriculum of which Dr. John Dewey was chairman; the Parley on Religion of which Dr. Everett R. Clinchey was leader; the gift of the "Knowles Memorial Chapel"; the "Annie Russell Theatre"; \$200,000 received by the will of Mrs. A. W. Rollins and \$50,000 by the will of Mrs. Stevenson Burke.

These last gifts go toward the \$2,500,000 general endowment fund of which one million is yet to be raised.

When a man leaves money to a college, it proves he is more interested in heads than in headstones. A bequest to a college is the nearest you can come to finding the Fountain of Youth. It can be FOUNDED,—but not FOUND!

SOCRATES ON THE EIGHT-HOUR SHIFT

By JOHN PALMER GAVIT
In *The Survey Graphic* for June, 1931

THIS country is all cluttered up with things called colleges, under all sorts of names, auspices, slogans, and pretexts. Each has its own precious formulæ and alibis; yet the thing hardest to find out about any of them is, what in particular justifies its existence? At each of some thirty-odd of them that I have seen more or less intimately I have asked about just that. The answers, the techniques that they showed me, always were absurdly alike.

For years Hamilton Holt, A.B., Yale, 1894; postgraduate student at Columbia, 1894-97; LL.D., L.H.D., etc.; many years editor of *The Independent*, had been blaspheming colleges, not sparing his own. Suddenly, six years ago, an old moribund co-educational enterprise yclept Rollins College, forty years extant at Winter Park in Florida, snuggled up to Holt asking only to be shown how to stay alive. Holt had as little reverence as Morgan of Antioch for old college ways and sanctities and he did have a personal grievance for wasted youth and thwarted interest.

In order to understand what Holt is trying to do you have to hear him saying:

NOTE: John Palmer Gavit, Associate Editor of the *Survey Graphic*, was one of the members of the now famous "Curriculum Conference" held at Rollins College last February with Dr. John Dewey of Columbia as chairman. We believe you will be glad to have this digest of his findings as presented in an extended article in the June, 1931, issue of the *Survey Graphic*.

When I left college and entered my professional career as a magazine editor, I was profoundly impressed by finding that my colleagues in the editorial room, who never thought of teaching me anything, taught me everything; whereas my professors at the university who were paid to teach me, had taught me almost nothing.

As I pondered over this paradox, the explanation seemed perfectly clear to me. With my business associates I worked elbow to elbow, desk to desk, eight hours a day, six days a week I was as active in my work as they. Our relationship was constant, continuous, cooperative, personal, friendly, human. With my instructors, on the other hand, I had no relationship save in the most formal and forbidding way.

When I was with them, under the recitation system at Yale and the lecture system at Columbia, they were active and I was inactive. The lecture system is a process by which the contents of the professor's notebook are transferred by means of a fountain pen to the student's notebook, without having passed through the brain of either. As for recitation, if anything is to be learned, it is the student who should question the teacher, not the teacher the student. Did anybody ever get an education by being a sponge?

These remarks, reiterated by Dr. Holt in many forms of speech and writing during the past ten years and more, afford the keynote for all that is going on and projected at Rollins. The essential object is to transfer the initiative and responsibility from the teacher to the student—to *substitute learning for instruction*.

The method in its perfect expression combines the two functions of tutor and professor; Socratic, pure and simple. It is pursued throughout an eight-hour day, in periods of two hours each. "It is not a new-fangled experiment," Dr. Holt insists, "it is rather the recovery of a very old-fangled one. *We have resurrected Socrates, and set him to work on an eight-hour schedule.*"

Rollins has been the subject of much absurd criticism, most of it by people who know

as much about the place as I know about the psychology of the Mexican hairless dog. Certain of its own unofficial "publicity" has been to say the least unfortunate, essentially misrepresenting the spirit and real atmosphere of the place, which is as dignified, as intensely serious in its life as any college that I know of. It is less "collegiate" than most—I did not hear any college yell (although Rollins has three), nor see any other "bush-league stuff" during my seven weeks' stay there. But it is distinctly what the sailors mean by "a happy ship."

It is unfair either to or by Rollins College, to talk as if anything about its experiments had registered definitive success. Rollins is an *idea*, in the beginning of incarnation.

Holt took over a going concern, however tottering financially, with habits and traditions and a conventional curriculum, which has remained substantially unchanged. The first attack was upon *the method of teaching*. Now attention turns to *the substance*. On February 27, the faculty unanimously adopted a plan proposed by its committee on curriculum after a full year's consideration and incessant discussion as well by several committees of students and faculty members; to say nothing of an outside Conference on Curriculum held at the college in January, under the chairmanship of Dr. John Dewey. (see *The Survey*, March 15, 1931, page 658).

The faculty expressly provided for mod-

ifications necessitated by experience. The essentials are

(1) Abolition of the traditional four-class categories of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, and creation instead of two divisions, Lower and Upper; and

(2) Abandonment of the conventional measures of time spent and "credits" based thereon; hereafter the criterion will be *accomplishment in fact*, regardless of the time spent or the method by which the work may be done. The question will be not, "How did you get it?" but, "What have you?" For entrance there will be virtually the usual requirements, with greatly intensified care in selection among applicants. That is very strict now. Every entering student, come he how or whence-soever, will go first into the Lower Division, remaining as long as he must (with a time-limit of three years); passing on to the Upper when he can show that he is fit, be that after two weeks or two years. It is supposed that the ordinary student will require about four years in all, as he does now.

In the Lower Division he will fill in his gaps and lay a broad foundation for presumably more specialized work in the Upper. To be fit for the Upper, he must convince the Board of Admissions that he has adequate proficiency in English, mathematics through trigonometry, one foreign language (classic or modern), history, science, social science. Beside that he must evidence character, gen-

eral intelligence, purposefulness, and responsibility in the use of leisure. And he must justify his intentions as to work in the Upper Division. In that division he must make good with those intentions but the widest liberty will be accorded as to how he does it. All along the line there will be frequent checking-up. The broader the liberty, the stricter the accounting. A student will have to work for his A. B. degree, which hereafter will be the only one granted by the college. Rollins is not now, and will be still less, a place for loafers.

The student body is permanently limited by vote of the trustees to seven hundred, but it is actually under five hundred. It is not an aggregation of northern "carpet-baggers"; Florida students heavily preponderate; but there are numerous delegations from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and the Middlewest, notably Ohio. There is a considerable foreign group. It is a fine cross-section of American youth, boys and girls alike. The only difference I could detect was in an unusually large proportion of high-grade, genuinely purposeful students. Repeatedly I checked over the list with faculty members and students and there was convincing agreement about fully fifty such—a surprising percentage. There is to be sure, as everywhere else, the stratum of mediocrity, shading off into the flappers and wasters. . . . Only people fit for self-control will make good at Rollins.

MY FLORIDA

FEW colleges in the United States are so indigenous as Rollins. In a very real sense it is an interpretation of the spirit of adventure and progress that makes Florida one of the last pioneer states. Rollins would be impossible outside of Florida.

Since this is the last issue of *The Record* for the academic year we are sharing with you the poem by Stephen Cochran Singleton of Miami.

MY FLORIDA

MY FLORIDA! When from your low-swung stars,
Your murmurous inlets and your tide-swept bars
I take reluctant leave, and in the fading light
My spirit journeys forth upon an unknown flight.

Think you I shall not seek here to return?
Yea, I shall strive in humbleness some way to earn
A detail on some duty that shall bear me nigh
Your well-remembered shores; your glorious, cloud-
flecked sky.

"Lord," I may reverently say, "this golden street
Is beautiful; the songs the angels sing are sweet.
But, is there not some work that I can do
Down where the gulls cry, over water blue?"

"I would not seem ungrateful, yet I pray,
Let me go on some errand where the spray
Of salt waves leaps and falls around some Key;
If there be work like that, I pray Thee, Lord, send me."

STEPHEN COCHRAN SINGLETON

I Published monthly during the school year by Rollins College. Entered as second-class matter November 23, 1927, at the post office at Winter Park, Florida, under the act of August 24, 1912. Shall we add your name to our mailing list? **I**