

lead the new program of study. Course offerings included statics and kinetics, drawing, hydraulics, thermodynamics, and materials science, but would not be all technical: Ernsberger, the *Campus* reported, “is an earnest believer in the value of a broad cultural education as a foundation for special work.”

The building was described in the 1911-12 *Undergraduate Bulletin* as having a footprint of 63 feet by 123 feet: “[a]ll steam and water piping, and all electric conduits throughout the building are exposed, thus forming a valuable adjunct to instruction.” The basement housed engineering laboratories, including steam engines, while the first floor had lecture and recitation rooms, a computing room, and a cement-testing lab. Three large drafting rooms with “multi-part-desks” for technical drawing, recitation rooms, and a blueprint room occupied the second floor. The first students to receive degrees with a major in mechanical engineering graduated in 1914.

The River Campus opened in 1930, and included a new engineering building (named in 1949 for Joseph Gavett Jr.). Carnegie was renovated to provide spaces suitable for instruction in psychology, sociology, and geology. Steam pipes were replaced with radiators, plumbing and electricity were upgraded, and fire escapes were added.

More changes occurred during World War II. For the first three decades of its existence, the College for Women was largely a commuter school. Then between 1930 and 1944, there was a 700 percent increase in resident students. A total of 288 women—more than one half of the enrollment—sought a residential college experience. To help accommodate the growing enrollment, the upper floor of Carnegie was converted to house 60 women, at a very modest 80 square feet (or less) per student, including bed and nightstand.

With the merger of the colleges in 1955, most of the University’s properties on the Prince Street Campus were sold and a variety of businesses and their staffs have occupied the spaces. Andrew Carnegie’s name continues at the University as a professorship in physics, established in 1965 and currently held by Professor Joseph Eberly.

The building was razed after the remaining shell was declared an imminent danger to the public at a City of Rochester hearing in March. If the developer doesn’t repurpose the lintel, inscribed with the word “Carnegie,” it may be “returned” to the University.

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‘UNCOMMON WISDOM’: The University’s seventh president, Robert Sproull, completed “the evolution of the University to a modern research university,” President Joel Seligman said.

IN MEMORIAM

Life of Robert Sproull Celebrated

The University’s seventh president recognized as giant in Rochester’s history.

A president whose connections to the University spanned nearly five decades and touched nearly every aspect of today’s institution was commemorated this spring as a treasure and a giant in Rochester’s history.

The life of Robert Sproull, the University’s seventh president, was celebrated during a memorial service at the Memorial Art Gallery in April.

President Joel Seligman remembered Sproull as a nationally recognized physicist and educational leader who committed much of his life to the success of Rochester after joining the administration as provost and vice president in 1968.

“For me, he was a man of uncommon wisdom, unending interest in the University, with a wonderful ability to bring to life stories from his time at the helm,” Seligman said.

Sproull, who died last October at the age of 96 (“Remembering Robert Sproull,” November-December 2014), was inaugurated as chief executive in 1975 and served until his retirement in 1984.


His presidency was distinguished by strong support for the humanities and the sciences, especially within undergraduate education, as well as a commitment to maintain the University’s affordability,

resisting steep tuition increases. He led a capital campaign that ended in 1980 and exceeded the \$102 million goal set in 1975.

Sproull championed the creation of the Laboratory for Laser Energetics in 1970. In 2005, the Center for Ultra High Intensity Laser Research there was named in his honor. During his tenure, he was credited with managing campus unrest resulting from the Vietnam War in ways that prevented tensions from escalating and with piloting the University through a period of double-digit inflation.

Seligman noted that Sproull recognized the complicating nature of the social and economic circumstances of his time as president, but he didn’t waver in moving the University forward.

“These external realities make all the more impressive Bob’s success in completing the evolution of the University to a modern research university,” Seligman said.

Sproull and his wife, Mary, were married for 70 years before she died in 2012 at age 93. She was a talented painter, and the couple supported arts and education, including the Memorial Art Gallery. In 1999 they endowed the position of dean of the faculty of Arts, Sciences & Engineering, now held by Provost Peter Lennie. 

—SCOTT HAUSER