17 Years Later: a Tribute to the Distinguished Leadership of Dr. George W. Starcher President of the University of North Dakota, 1954-1971

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A tribute
to the distinguished leadership
of Dr. George W. Starcher
President
of The University of North Dakota
1954-1971
17 years of leadership

DR. GEORGE W. STARCHER began his duties as president of the University of North Dakota July 1, 1954. He retires June 30, 1971.

The story of the University's physical, financial, academic and cultural growth in the 17 years of President Starcher's administration cannot be told in a few pages. This brief report, largely pictorial, has been prepared for the May 1971 Commencement as a reminder of some of the University achievements in which Dr. Starcher played an important role.

In days to come historians will evaluate in detail the Starcher years. The short review here but touches the surface of the President's significant contributions in improving the academic stature of the University of North Dakota.

The faculty, staff, student body, alumni and friends salute President and Mrs. Starcher with warm regard and deep affection.

The enrollment has tripled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>2440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>2634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>3077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>4130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>6089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>8129</td>
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</table>

The physical plant has quadrupled in value

- Construction before 1954
- Construction, 1954-70

UND has grown dramatically in many dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1954-55</th>
<th>1970-71</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates per year</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>1,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students pursuing graduate study</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>1,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of educational plant</td>
<td>$13,489,817</td>
<td>$57,987,276</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical plant (square feet)</td>
<td>1,087,000</td>
<td>2,769,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employees, full-time</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>1,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Teachers</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Non-teachers</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative appropriation</td>
<td>$1,460,000</td>
<td>$7,496,319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>119,900</td>
<td>1,287,979</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AN ALBUM OF ACHIEVEMENT:

Some Highlights from the Starcher Years

Chester Fritz chats with President Starcher after dedication of Chester Fritz Library in 1961. The international investment banker, who attended UNO, 1908-1910, gave the University a million dollars for the library building in 1958 and an additional million in 1965 for use toward construction of an auditorium.

DIGNITARIES who spoke at UND included President John F. Kennedy (September 1963) and Richard M. Nixon (October 1965).

The idea that "teaching is the heart of the University" was emphasized by President Starcher. The title "University Professor" was conferred upon five faculty members "to recognize distinguished and long service to the University by faculty members who have not only demonstrated that they are good teachers but who have also in many other ways brought honor and distinction to the University and themselves." Recipients included (left to right) Drs. John L. Rowe, business education; George C. Wheeler, biology; E. B. Robinson, history; Richard Beck, Scandinavian languages, and R. B. Witmer, physics.

25,000TH DEGREE to be awarded in the history of UND was conferred upon James M. Hurkes, Hazleton, at mid-year commencement Jan. 28, 1967. More than half of the students who have been graduated from UND since its founding in 1883 have received their degrees at commencement exercises at which President Starcher officiated.

ETERNAL FLAME symbolizing the light of truth and knowledge now burns at the site where Old Main, UND's first building, once stood. The flame was lighted the last day of 1963. Old Main, which had served UND since 1884, was demolished in May 1963 and replaced by Twamley Hall.

PRESIDENT'S RAPPORT with students was evident from his earliest days on the campus. Above, Dr. Starcher visits with students in the Talented Juniors Program during a reception at his home. Below, the president receives a birthday cake in a surprise ceremony at Founders Day 1964 as students sing "Happy Birthday" to honor him on his tenth anniversary at UND.
ALL-AMERICA CENTER Reg Morrelli (struck upraised, behind goal) scored winning goal in overtime against Michigan State to give Sioux a 4-3 victory and UND’s first NCAA hockey title at Troy, N.Y., in March 1959.

RESEARCH expanded dramatically. Biochemist Robert Nordlie (left) of Ireland Research Laboratory gained worldwide recognition for 1963 discovery of dual function of an enzyme. Libby Manuscript Collection grew, contributing source material to several books and theses (right).

MEIKLEJOHN AWARD of American Association of University Professors was presented at 1969 national convention to Dr. Starcher for outstanding contributions to academic freedom.

FACULTY, STUDENTS and administrators engaged in extensive year-long study of UND goals and prospects and issued recommendations, "Priorities for Progress," in 1967.

MILESTONES AND MEMORIES

1954 July 1—George W. Starcher begins duties as president of UND.

1955 University College, coordinating agency for counseling and orientation of new students, established.

1956 Winter—North Dakota Quarterly is revived.

1958 Ernest von Dohnanyi presents recital at UND’s first Fine Arts Festival.

1959 February 21—Founders’ Day ceremonies formally open 75th Anniversary Year. President Starcher announces gift of one million dollars from alumnus Chester Fritz for a library building.

1959 College of Nursing established.

1959 May 14—Faculty Council adopts Cultural Charter for the University, which was prepared by 19-member student-faculty committee.

1959 UND establishes Office of Vice President for Finance.

1961 UND establishes four-year Honors Program for superior students.

1962 UND establishes Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs.


1963 April 30—Dakota Playmakers present "J.B." as first production in the new Burnness Theatre.

1963 May 31—Twamley Hall, new administration building, is dedicated.

1964 August 7—UND receives a renewal of full accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

1964 Maxwell M. Upson Lecture Series established.

1967 September—Computer Center converts to IBM System 360/Model 30 computer.

1967 UND establishes Office of Vice President for Student Affairs.

1968 New School of Behavioral Studies in Education established.

1968 Sioux Council established to foster improved communication among students, faculty and administrators.

1968 Wayne Drugan, Jr., political science major, is first UND student in 15 years to receive Rhodes Scholarship.

1970 September—10 students are seated as members of University Senate, major legislative body at UND.

1971 May 7—600 friends of Dr. and Mrs. Starcher honor the president and his wife at recognition dinner honoring them for their 17 years of service to UND and North Dakota.
SPEAKING OF
PRESIDENT STARCHER

NORTH DAKOTANS CAN BE GRATEFUL

Dr. Starcher has, ever since he came to UND, tried to give to the students an involvement and a voice in the affairs of the school. He has also refused to over-react to trivial incidents and to outside pressure. North Dakotans can be grateful for his good work. —Lois Trapp, editorial column in Enderlin Independent, May 8, 1969.

ANY STUDENT, ANYTIME

You'll notice that on the campuses which are experiencing trouble there seems to be a lack of communication between the president and the students. That isn't so at UND. Mr. Starcher is really a tremendous president. He'll talk with the students—any student—anytime—informally or formally. The students know this and they know he'll listen to them and work for them. —Jenny Nelson, University student, Hatton Free Press, May 17, 1970.

A MAN OF LIGHT

Orientation has been defined as the ascertainment of one's true position with reference to new ideas. Under the leadership of President George W. Starcher, The University of North Dakota has climbed to its true position as the major university of the northern plains. With the foresight of Dr. Starcher, this University is continually a citadel of new ideas and a primary reference for those who seek the way to truth.

President George Starcher has made possible the University orientation. Today you have opportunity to profit from the position, the progress, and the continuing light which emanates from his leadership. We invite you to share with us an appreciation for his dedication, his humaneness, his greatness. —Student-Faculty Committee on Freshman Orientation, dedication page of orientation booklet, August 1970.

ONE IN TWO THOUSAND

It has been said that the chief function of an academic administrator is to further the goals of his university. A primary goal is that of a free and unfettered pursuit of knowledge. The selection of President Starcher from the two thousand university and college presidents in the United States for the Meiklejohn Award strikingly demonstrates to the University community and to the state at large that the goals of the University of North Dakota are in most capable hands. This award is a great tribute to Dr. Starcher. It is a most heartening recognition of the academic atmosphere which pervades the University over which he presides. —Dr. John S. Penn, chairman, University Senate, University of North Dakota, May 2, 1969.

A QUIET DIGNITY

Dignity, without stuffiness, describes the President and the University's First Lady. —Dacotah Annual, 1956

MARVELOUS MAN, MARVELOUS JOB

He is an honor to us as a Board, to the State of North Dakota, and to higher education everywhere. He is an outstanding educator and what more can be said. He has courage and clairvoyance, wisdom and world-awareness. In short, he is a marvelous man who has done a marvelous job. —State Board of Higher Education, motion accepting Dr. Starcher's announcement of retirement, Valley City meeting, January 22, 1970.