



*This is the first in a three-part series that will celebrate a century of St. John's in honor of its 130th birthday this year.*

At the dawn of the 20th century New York City teemed with 3.5 million residents. A quarter of the 1 million Ellis Island's annual immigrants were staying among the five boroughs hoping for a brighter future. Edison was putting the finishing touches on the incandescent bulb, the telephone was shrinking the world and the Ford Model-T was introducing the possibilities of mass production.

This fast-paced progress posed philosophical challenges to previous beliefs in individuality, perfection, security, power and religion. Increasing scientific research and the introduction of the doctrine of relativity fueled spiritual indifference and scrutiny.

In deference to the changes of the era, officials at the Lewis Avenue campus in Brooklyn announced an expansion to accommodate new scientific laboratories, a pool and a gymnasium. Even more akin to the times was a recognized need by officials to emphasize Absolute Truth in the intellectual and moral development of Catholic youth.

This task at hand, educational seeds sown by two St. John's visionaries did more to propel the school into the future than any other initiative in its early history.



*Conservatory of Music*



**1906**

By 1906, SJU welcomed its seventh President, the Rev. John W. Moore, C.M. (left) - a dynamic and highly-cultured priest who championed educational expansion and raising the scholastic standards of St. John's beyond those of similar institutions. With Father Moore in executive control and his assistant, Rev. Edward L. Carey, C.M., handling lead administrative duties, the University promptly charted an ambitious course to usher in the new educational era.

1906

1908

1913

1917

1925

**1908**

On Sept. 28, 1908, the School of Pedagogy was formally opened for adult men and women fulfilling teaching requirements set by the State Commissioner of Education. Simultaneously, the Conservatory of Music was established and occupied a three-story Victorian mansion at 82 Lewis Avenue and flourished under a diverse curriculum until giving way in 1923 to plans for a new high school on its grounds.



*Varsity Five*

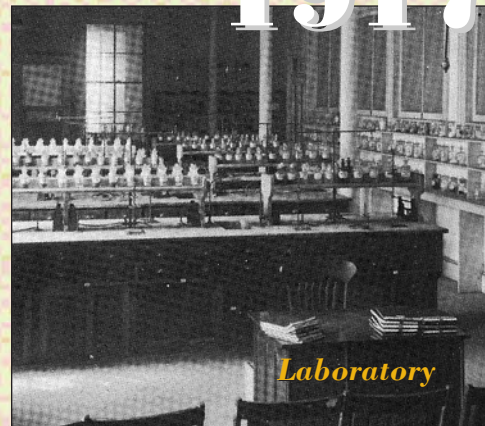
The first St. John's Varsity Five appeared during the 1907-08 season. Composed of both high school and college athletes, they met some nine local teams over a 12-game schedule notching four wins including two over Adelphi College and one each over Heffley Institute and St. Francis.

**1913**

The curriculum quickly expanded by 1913 to include the College Extension (later the School of Education) and the Graduate School (later the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences). That same year Fr. Moore introduced a Student's Loan Fund, providing needy students with funds necessary for their education that would be paid back once that student achieved financial independence.

With an increasing interest in the medical profession among students, a pre-medical course was introduced in 1917 with its core of 13 original students paving the way for a prominent pre-medical department to develop in subsequent years.

**1917**



*Laboratory*

As World War I approached, St. John's contracted with the War Department to establish a Student Army Training Corp (S.A.T.C.) unit at the school. Advancing to the point where it became the only college in Brooklyn maintaining a full curriculum at that time - despite the fact that hundreds of its own students were taking the oath of military service-local institutions like Brooklyn and St. Francis colleges were left no choice but to send over many transfer students.

Fr. Moore's longtime ambition to institute a School of Law was finally realized by 1925, as 700 students took classes at the Terminal Building on Court Street in Brooklyn. While that year marked the end of Fr. Moore's presidency, it began the next era of St. John's modern growth as its 320 undergraduate population would multiply fivefold over the ensuing 16 years. Source: The Radiant Light, A History of St. John's College presented in the Vincentian 1955; The New York Times, "100 Years of New York City", (1998)

**1925**

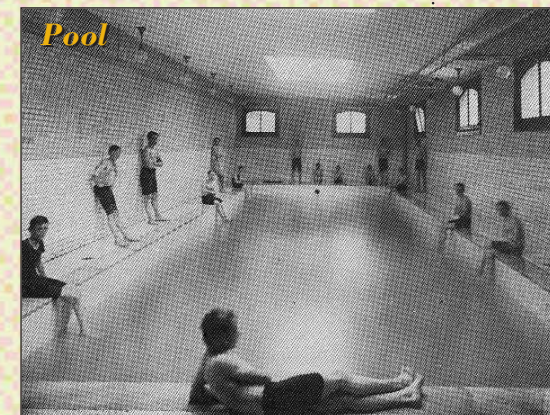


*Gymnasium*

**1920**

By 1920, wartime stagnation gave way to continued expansion, marked notably by an Endowment Drive that called upon the school, and entire Brooklyn communities, to raise significant funds in securing its future. With the \$300,000 raised through the Drive augmented by wise investments, St. John's was able to meet the New York State Board of Regents' new requirement of universities attaining a \$500,000 endowment to function.

1920



*Pool*