



The Founding of Notre Dame College

The Sisters of Notre Dame, founders of Notre Dame College, fled Coesfeld, Germany during Bismarck's Kulturkampf ("culture war"). By 1877, over 200 SND had arrived in the United States. Many came to Cleveland at the request of the Bishop who sought thoroughly trained teachers for the German-speaking students in his diocese. In 1878, they established Notre Dame Academy. By 1915, the growth of the Academy necessitated a new building, so they built on Ansel Road, overlooking Rockefeller Park and the Cultural Gardens. After 1920, the Academy would enroll only girls. Soon the students and their families were clamoring for a college so the girls could continue their education under the Sisters of Notre Dame. Permission was obtained from the Bishop and the Sisters' Motherhouse, and on September 18, 1922, the doors at Notre Dame Academy on Ansel Road opened to welcome twenty-four Notre Dame College freshmen.

Anticipating the need for a college campus, the Sisters leased and purchased farmland in South Euclid in 1923-24. In 1925, five women graduated with certificates enabling them to teach in Ohio elementary schools. In 1926, the first Bachelor degrees were awarded to fourteen women. Groundbreaking occurred at the South Euclid site in October 1926. On September 17, 1928 the first building on the new campus opened to welcome eighty-two college women. Founded originally as a college for women, the Board of Directors voted to admit men starting in January 2001.

College Founders: The Sisters of Notre Dame
Spiritual Mother: Saint Julie Billiart, the "smiling saint"
First College President: Sr. Mary Evarista Harks
First College Dean: Sr. Mary Agnes Bosche
First College Treasurer: Sr. Mary Odila Miller
Catholic Honor Society: Kappa Gamma Pi
Kappa Gamma Pi Award: St. Catherine of Alexandria Medal
Basis for undergraduate & technical studies: Liberal Arts
Highest Degree Offered: Master of Education
College Colors: Blue and gold
College Mascot: The Falcon
Student Newspaper: *Notre Dame News*
Student Journal: *The Pivot*
Alumni Magazine: *Notre Dame Today*