

Hayes Hall

Hayes Hall, the combination of a seminary and classroom building, has been in existence on the SAU campus for 22 Years, thanks to Bishop Ralph Hayes.

"Don't let the old man down" were words often said to bring in many donations after one of the Bishops' fundraising appearances for the new seminary. The plans for this new building were laid out in January of 1966 and the final product appeared in December of 1967. Bishop Hayes became the only bishop to be honored with a building named after him.

Bishop Hayes was the fifth bishop of Davenport and was also the president of the board of directors here at SAU. He began his priesthood in Pittsburgh where he served as superintendent of schools until he was ordained Bishop of Helena, Mont. He was then transferred to the North American College in Rome until the beginning of World War II where he served as rector. In December of 1965, he attended the historic Vatican II Council in Vatican City.

When Hayes Hall officially opened it had an overflow of 60 seminarians. The faculty apartments had to be used by seminarians as triple rooms in order to accommodate everyone.

The enrollment of seminarians has dropped since the late 1960s. Presently, the building is used by all SAU students for mathematics, theology and philosophy classes.