



STONE

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CORNER

One of my favorite descriptions of St. Angela Merici was written by Mary Jo Weaver, as part of a presentation for the First Ursuline Convocation in 1992. The presentation was entitled: “The Most Adventurous of Nuns:” The Company of St. Ursula Focuses on the Future. The description is: “[Angela] managed for much of her life to be what many of us hope eventually to become: self-accepting, aware of life’s bleak realities without being defeated by them, and so quietly self-confident that it did not seem to occur to her that she would not be able to do what needed to be done.”

The weeks and months spent by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of Chatfield College reminds me of this description of St. Angela. The bleak reality of the low enrollment and financial strain was hard to deny. Instead of being defeated by the situation, the Board has designed a way to keep the Mission of Chatfield alive through the establishment of The Chatfield Edge. As Ursulines of Brown County we are grateful to the Board Members for their

commitment to the Ursuline tradition that reflects Gospel Values, supports each individual person and their potential, fosters moral and spiritual development, and inspires committed service to society.

The final sentence of the Legacy Statement for our Educational Institutions, written in 2010 prior to transitioning the Boards of Trustees of Chatfield College and Ursuline Academy to ownership Boards in 2011 reads: “We hope and expect that the heritage being passed on will be a source of direction and vitality for generations to come.” We believe the transition from Chatfield College to The Chatfield Edge is the direction and vitality for students seeking postsecondary opportunities.

**Blessings,
Sister Patricia Homan
Congregational Minister**



Brown County Campus St. Martin



Cincinnati Campus Over the Rhine

CORNERSTONE is the way we share our ministry, community life, prayer and vision with you. We rely on your donations to meet our expenses. Thank you for your support. Sister Agatha Fitzgerald, OSU, Editor

How we came to be. . .



Sister Miriam Thompson

We never planned to establish a college. Like so many of God's valuable projects, it seemed to happen almost by accident. In the early 50's the Ursulines of Brown County had a larger than usual Novitiate as did many Religious Communities at that time. A national organization known as Sister Formation had been formed to assist the religious with ways to improve the early training of young sisters with contemporary professional methods. Sister Miriam Thompson had been appointed Directress of Education and this became one of her first tasks.

It seemed logical to establish beginning college courses on the Brown County campus so as to give these potential community members a firm start in their professional training. The plan was to offer basic courses such as Theology, Philosophy and English taught by qualified Ursulines on the Brown County campus. These plans were to be approved by an existing college. Sister Miriam consulted with the College of Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati where many of the sisters would eventually complete their education. Classes began in 1959. A visit from Catholic University of America gave further verification. In 1967 the decision was made to become a southern campus of Ursuline College in Cleveland. A satisfactory visit and review from the North Central Association, and the college was official.

Time passed and the curriculum was expanded. Sister Miriam was able to find additional Faculty members from local colleges and the neighboring community. The Glenmary Sisters who lived in Fayetteville requested entrance into the program. Several years later when the Glenmary Sisters left Fayetteville, the Franciscan Brothers moved to the area and became students. A small building was built in 1960 and the Ursuline Teacher Training Institute had a home. In 1972 the UTTI was separately incorporated under the title of Chatfield College, becoming independent and accredited with the core values of Ursuline Education.

As the college gained recognition, residents in the area were interested and requested the opportunity to take courses. Women teaching religion in CCD programs in local Churches were among the first, then Veterans returning from Vietnam enrolled. Soon we had a sizeable number of students. Enrollment increased.

Through the years the college population has changed from older students to those more traditional. There was always concern for special assistance for those who were not fully prepared and tutoring for those who were unable to keep up with classes. An effort was made to respond to the needs of the local citizens with curriculum additions or other scholastic adjustments.

Because of the success of the St. Martin campus where most of the students were of Appalachian heritage, the Appalachian Association in Cincinnati asked for classes to be offered in Lower Price Hill. The Cincinnati Campus was established.

From the beginning the focus of Chatfield College has been a response to the specific needs of the people who live in the area where we exist. Currently we find ourselves facing a reduction in student population accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which lead to further financial concerns. Consequently, the Board of Trustees, followed the advice of St. Angela Merici in her last legacy: “If according to times and circumstances, the need arises to make new rules or do something differently, do it prudently and with good advice.” Acting prudently, the Executive Committee of the Board spent a year researching, discussing, and seeking the good advice that would allow us to maintain the core mission of the College. It was determined that continuing to operate as an institution of higher learning was no longer economically sustainable. Transitioning how we operate will allow us to maximize our resources in order to provide students in our community with the support they need to succeed in attaining a better future.

On September 12, 2022, Chatfield College announced that it will transition from a two-year, private liberal arts college to a nonprofit agency focused on supporting postsecondary education attainment, beginning in January 2023. The Chatfield Edge will be the name of the new organization which will provide education attainment services, academic scholarships, mentoring, tutoring, and job readiness support to qualified first-generation and non-traditional students in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Robert Elmore, President of Chatfield College explained the transition in these words: “We have always operated on the principle that we are successful if our students end up in a better place than where we met them. Even with this transition, that is still the heart of our mission. It’s part of a 177-year legacy started by the Ursulines of Brown County. There are ways for us to deliver on this mission for many years to come, but to do that, we must make a change and adapt to today’s declining enrollment and demographic trends. Supporting our students and staff as we make this transition is our number one priority. While we will no longer teach classes or confer associate degrees, we will do everything in our power to ensure those who want a post secondary education have the resources and support they need to reach their educational goals.”



Early students preparing for class

Ursulines of Brown County

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The Chatfield Edge

FOUR WAYS STUDENTS CAN GET SUPPORT



EDUCATION ENDEAVORS

The world of higher education can be difficult to navigate.

The Chatfield Edge will help you:

- Identify your strengths and interests
- Determine what type of education best suits you
- Select a school or program
- Identify what documents are needed for applications
- Secure financial aid



CHATFIELD SCHOLARS

Finances are often a challenge for those who want to pursue education.

We can help you by providing financial support if there is still a gap after other financial aid options have been explored.



FUTURE NOW

Long-term support leads to success.

We are here to help while you are in school by offering individual coaching and mentoring to keep you on track with your goals.



SERVANT LEADERS

Taking time to reflect and serve others empowers students to live their values.

The Chatfield Edge welcomes people of all faiths and offers opportunities for community service and retreats.