

## U of B - History

When the University of Baltimore was formed in 1925, its founders knew the form of education it should offer its students. In its fifty five year history, the University has never lacked for purpose -- to provide programs and courses that respond to the needs of students and to the career opportunities of the local community.

While much has changed since those first years, the University has adhered closely to its founding principles. Today the University has little physical resemblance to its modest beginning at the corner of St. Paul and Mt. Vernon Place and later in the Howard Street building. Since 1962 when the building at Charles and Oliver Streets was constructed, the University has grown to include almost sixty acres of property spanning two campuses.

In September 1978 the University enrolled approximately 5,400 undergraduate, graduate, and law students in its day and evening divisions. It employs over 100 full-time and approximately 150 part-time professors, and about 150 support personnel. The curriculum has been expanded to include eight majors in the College of Liberal Arts, eleven in the School of Business, eleven masters programs, and day and evening divisions of the School of Law. The University is now accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the American Bar Association.

By 1967 the Trustees of the University of Baltimore had recognized that rapid growth in the public sector of higher education in the metropolitan area would soon place the University in a position that would make it difficult to attract the motivated, career-oriented students for which the institution was originally funded. This insight convinced the Trustees to seek regional accreditation and to increase the University's physical facilities to the greatest possible extent within its resources.

At the urging of then President Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, Jr., a new library was constructed in 1966 and a substantial acquisition program for the collection was initiated. By 1968 the building at Charles and Mount Royal was acquired and subsequently remodeled to become the attractive Academic Center that is the cornerstone of the University. It was the first time in University history that substantial assistance from federal and state grants, and from the community has been sought. These important developments provided the impetus for the progress that has followed.

On another front, Eastern College and its Mount Vernon School of law agreed to merge with the University of Baltimore in 1970. This was followed in 1973 by the absorption of the Baltimore College of Commerce which then put all three of the local private evening schools under a single administration, established 50 to 80 years ago.

After reaching the goals of accreditation set in 1967, the Trustees of the University sensed that their task was still incomplete. The University of Baltimore's mission had always been to serve the public. It had sought to keep reasonable tuition charges in order to provide an opportunity for as many students as possible, especially the adult evening student who worked while pursuing his or her studies. Now almost 84% of UofB enrolled students pursue either full or part-time employment. In spite of the modest tuition charge, it became increasingly evident in 1970-1972 that the University could not compete long with public institutions in the Baltimore area.

In 1972, the University gained the necessary sponsorship for legislation that would bring the University of Baltimore into the public system of higher education in Maryland. That legislation, which designated the University as a specialized upper-division-graduate-professional institution, successfully passed both houses of the General Assembly and was signed into law by the Governor on May 24, 1973. The State assumed control of the University effective January 1, 1975.