The campus in 1923, with Manoa Valley in the background, and the original Cooke Field in the foreground; Gartley Hall is to the left, and Hawaii Hall is in the center. University Archives Photo (1923)
Chapter I

Beginning a Rainbow
The College of Hawaii
1907–1917

by Victor Kobayashi

On March 25, 1907, Governor George Carter signed Act 24, and thus established the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of the Territory of Hawaii. Within a few months, the newly appointed Board of Regents proceeded to search for campus sites and for the College’s first president. The first Regents were Marston Campbell, a civil engineer; Charles Franklin Eckart, director of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters’ Association Experiment Station; Alonzo Gartley, Hawaiian Electric Company manager; and Walter Gifford Smith, editor of the Pacific Commercial Advertiser. The chairman was Henry Ernest Cooper, a lawyer who had government positions in both the former Republic of Hawaii and the Territory. After studying various sites, the Regents on June 19, 1907, decided on a lower Manoa Valley location, and negotiations were made to secure the former crown lands of Puahia and several sections of the Highland Park tract in the valley. In the meantime, a temporary campus was to be located on Young Street, near Victoria Street (neighboring what is now the Admiral Richard Thomas Square). The land was leased from Cecil Brown for $50 per year.

The Department of Public Instruction (today, the Department of Education) had secured an adjoining lot mauka of the temporary college campus, on Victoria Street, in order to build a new Honolulu High School campus and had no use for the old William Maertens’ house on its premises. The College acquired the Victorian style frame building moving it a few feet back to its own lot, and turning it to face Young Street.

That same year, in 1907, Honolulu High School was renamed McKinley High School. Thus from a very early period, the history of a school which would
become an important source of Manoa students (and later a president, Fujio Matsuda) was associated with the University. It was also the only public secondary school in Honolulu, except for the teacher training Normal School, until 1930, when Theodore Roosevelt High School was established. The Regents had even considered in 1907, for the position of the College’s first leader, Marion M. Scott, principal of McKinley High School and an educator from California who in the 1870’s had worked in Japan to help establish the Tokyo Normal School.

However, on December 6, 1907, the Regents appointed Willis T. Pope as acting head of the College at an annual salary of $2,000. Although his term began on January 1 of the following year, Pope went to work immediately, such that, at the next Regent’s meeting, on December 12, 1907, he submitted a request for furniture, chemical materials, and apparatus, for which the Regents gave $1,400, after going over his list, item by item.

John Gilmore was appointed the first President of the College. He arrived in Honolulu in late August 1908, and in the following month, regular classes began with 5 freshmen, 5 preparatory students and 13 faculty, including Gilmore. (Earlier in 1908, the College held its first classes, but they were for the five preparatory students who were not yet qualified for College work.)

A new wooden building was erected on the temporary Young Street campus in 1908 at a cost of $4,320. Located mauka of the Maertens’ building, forming an “L” next to it, the new building provided needed space, since half of the Maertens’ building (the living room) was used to house the College’s first library. The new building had 15 rooms, with classrooms, laboratories, offices, and storerooms. It was moved in 1912 to the Manoa Campus where it served as a chemistry laboratory until the opening of Gartley Hall in 1922. It became the site of the famous research on the liquifying of chaulmooora oil (so it could be better administered to leprosy patients) which brought international acclaim to President Arthur Dean. Dean completed the research by chemistry instructor Alice Ball who had died in the course of the project in this modest building which was eventually razed.

John W. Gilmore’s appointment as the first president was indicative of the influence of prestigious Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, in the early years of the University of Hawaii’s history. Gilmore held two degrees from Cornell. The Regents sought the advice of President Jacob Gould Schurman of Cornell, who in turn had recommended Gilmore. Cornell at that time was one of the most highly regarded land grant institutions that had both a college of agriculture and a college of mechanic arts. Although a private institution, its agricultural department had qualified for federal grants under the Morrill Acts. Cornell had been a pioneer in the history of American higher education in the attempt to meld in university studies both the need for practical, modern subjects and the need for high standards in the study of culture and the humanities.

A large portion of the early faculty had Cornell connections: Minnie Chipman (arts), John Mason Young (engineering), Vaughan MacCaughey (botany), and J. F. Illingworth (entomology). The first dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1920, Arthur L. Andrews, was a humanities scholar who had taught at Cornell before coming to Hawaii in 1910. Gilmore had told the Regents at their meeting on June 16, 1910, upon recommending Andrews’ appointment, that Andrews “. . . has for the past eight years been teaching in Cornell University, where the principles of scholarship and student activities are very much in line with our ideas here.”

In later years, President Crawford had studied at Cornell, and many of the Hawaii students were encouraged to do graduate or other studies at Ithaca. For a time, many Manoa professors with Cornell connections participated as officials in the annual “Cornell Games” inaugurated in 1913 in Hawaii. Honolulu high schools, including McKinley, Punahou, St. Louis, and Kamehameha, engaged in relays, and other track and field events which emphasized cooperation among participants, rather than individual athletic stars. The Cornell Club of Honolulu sponsored these games which had originated in Ithaca. The
The College's first building, in 1907, was the William Maertens' house, which once housed the Chinese Consulate. After the College moved to Manoa in 1912, McKinley High School, which was at that time located on the adjoining lot, used the building for extra classroom space as its own enrollments swelled. The building was demolished several years later. McKinley moved to its present site, nearby on King Street, in 1923. University Photo (n.d.)

A plain wood frame building was constructed on the Young Street campus in 1908. The next year, the faculty, which outnumbered the students, but were known by them all, had their photograph taken on the steps of the building. Front Row, from left to right: Vaughan MacCaughey, Arthur R. Keller, Agnes Hunt, J. S. Donagho, Carrie P. Green, Briggs E. Porter; Middle Row: William A. Bryan, Raymond C. Severance, John Mason Young, President John W. Gilmore; Back Row: Mildred Yoder, Frank T. Dillingham, Minnie E. Chipman. Keller, Donagho, Young, and Gilmore would later have Manoa buildings or roads named after them. University Archives Photo (c1909)
By 1919, the College of Hawaii finally produced a football team which won the Territorial championship with a record of four wins and one tie in contests against club and military teams. Coach was David L. Crawford, who became the University’s third president, succeeding Arthur L. Dean in 1927. (Crawford stands in the upper right corner of the central group photo; he also appears in the bottom right corner. Former Maui News Editor, Ezra J. Crane, stands in the top row, second from the right, next to Francis Kanahele.) Advertiser Photo (1919). University Archives

The University’s interest in astronomy predated the move to Manoa. In 1909, an observatory was built on the Kaimuki Lava Cone (just behind the present Kaimuki Fire Station, near Crater Road). The approach of Halley’s Comet in January, 1910, provided the impetus for this project. $1434.50 was raised from the community to build this structure on property donated by the Kaimuki Land Co. Over 2,000 persons came to view the comet through the College’s six-inch telescope. Later, the land was sold. University Photo (Oct. 1, 1956)
phrase, “Above All Nations is Humanity,” is permanently inscribed on the entry to the campus, Founders’ Gate, was another tribute to Cornell for it was a quotation from the writings of Goldwin Smith, Cornell’s eminent historian.

In 1911, the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of the Territory of Hawaii officially changed its cumbersome name to the briefer “College of Hawaii,” a name that had been in common use from the outset, and had even been mentioned in the 1907 Act. In 1912, the College moved to its permanent home in Manoa Valley, and held its first commencement exercises on June 3, 1912, with four bachelor’s degrees conferred to Leslie Cooper Clark, Louise Gulick, William S. Hartung, and Young Fook Tong. The ceremony was held on a temporary platform, with the weeds surrounding it trimmed for the occasion.

The Manoa Campus in the Early Years

The early Manoa Campus was covered with a tangle of kiawe trees (algaroba), wild lantana, and panini cactus. Early in 1909, the College began clearing the Highland Park Tract area of the campus. In September 1910, with the Territory providing the funds, at the Regents’ request, a poultry shed and a dairy barn were built and put into operation. President Gilmore went personally to California in Fall 1910, to purchase cattle “of good breed” and poultry from the Stanford farm and other places. Dr. Frederick Krauss was probably the first to have an office in Manoa in the Dairy Building. He gave lectures in the Young Street classroom, but conducted laboratory work in Manoa.

The area that was to become the University Farm (located on what is now the area east of Hawaii Hall) was made up of small fields, from one-tenth to one-fourth of an acre, each surrounded by loose rock walls. Each area had been farmed by individual Chinese and Hawaiian tenants. All of the rock had to be removed. There was also much rock both on the ground and buried in the soil. It took ten years to clear 22 acres. The late Dr. Frederick Krauss estimated that 5,000 cubic yards of stone were removed from the stone walls alone.

The rock was piled in an area just east of Hawaii Hall and covered almost an acre, with rock piled five feet high. The rock was sold to builders and contractors for ten cents a wagonload. The “moss rock”—rock that had lichen growing on it—was, according to William Meinecke (second graduating class, in 1913), considered high class material and sold for twenty-five cents a load,” and used for buildings. The ordinary rock was transported to Honolulu Harbor for use as ballast for the ships.

On May 15, 1911, the Regents discussed what to do about seven groups of Hawaiian squatters, including one group that tilled the land, on the College’s Puahia lot. Strongly objecting to their presence because “some of them are addicted to carousing and drinking,” they voted to evict them.

Professor John S. Donagho became acting dean upon President Gilmore’s resignation in 1913. At the third annual commencement, on June 1, 1914, the College awarded three bachelor’s degrees and its first advanced degree, a Master of Science, to Alfred Warren. Even then, thesis titles were formidable. Hawaii’s first thesis was “A Study of the Food Habits of the Hawaiian Dragon-Flies with Reference to Their Economic Relation to the Rest of Insect Fauna.”

Arthur L. Dean, a Yale assistant professor of chemistry, became the second president in 1914. Although it seemed that there was much progress made, the Manoa Campus, to someone coming from an established university such as Yale must have been a shock. In 1927, Dean admitted his disappointment in the campus after he had arrived in June 1914.

Immediately in front [the ewa side] of Hawaii Hall was a strip of lawn, perhaps 75 feet wide. The wooden building moved up from Young Street, stained a dull brown, was the only other building on what is now the Campus. Dirt roads, which were impassable in wet weather, struggled through the grounds and disappeared among the trees and bushes in the direction of the farm. A neighboring dairymen paid a small monthly rate for the privilege of running his
cows through the lands and they wandered about at all hours and places.

There were also meager financial resources. Dean found that there was only $6,269.88 to pay for the many current expenses that couldn’t be paid using federal funds for the fiscal year 1914-1915.

One sensed, or thought he did, a general feeling of watchful waiting on the part of the community, a questioning attitude as to whether the college amounted to anything, or ever would. I was told, confidentially, that during the 1913 Session of the Legislature one prominent citizen had even gone so far as to draft a bill to abolish the College of Hawaii, but the bill had not been introduced. Free sugar was upon us.

Yet, Dean saw conditions steadily improve as he immersed himself in the new environment.

On May 21, 1914, Governor Lucius Pinkham appointed the first woman to the Board of Regents. She was Mrs. Clarence Ashford, wife of the First Circuit Court Judge. She had been a special student of the College in 1910, and two of her own children had been enrolled as students. Regent Ashford set herself the task of improving the campus. In 1915, she succeeded in persuading the President of Alexander & Baldwin, Joseph P. Cooke, to contribute $1,500 to clear and grade a large area of wild campus land approximately bounded by what is now University Avenue, Campus Road, the Campus Center Building, and the parking lots behind Sinclair Library, converting it into the first Cooke Field, completed that year. In Spring 1915, the Legislature appropriated twice as much as they had appropriated in 1913. When the College opened in September 1915, registration increased over 50% over the previous year, from 21 to 33 regular students.

Campus roads were unpaved; they were dirt roads covered with gravel, and were often riddled with mud puddles in a valley noted for its high rainfall. During the wet season, President Dean himself delivered faculty members to Hawaii Hall on his horse and buggy. William Meinecke, who graduated in 1913, recalled that he and many students took Honolulu Rapid Transit’s Manoa Valley streetcar to what is now Kamehameha and Oahu Avenues (near College Hill); from there they walked on unpaved roads, and along Maile Way to Hawaii Hall. He told the reporter for the Alumni News (of December 5, 1950) that Honolulu Rapid Transit had provided a shelter at the College Hill stop, where students could wait out the frequent Manoa showers. After that, there was the mud to contend with, in an era when students and faculty were required to wear shoes:

The problem of removing mud that collected on one’s shoes in excess quantities along Maile Way was solved practically by having sticks available at intervals that coincided with the ultimate mud that could be collected by one pair of shoes. These sticks were used to scrape off the mud, then stuck upright in the ground for the use of the next pilgrim.

In late 1914, however, steps were taken to help remedy part of the situation by Professor Arthur Keller who seemed to be, throughout the years, always available to help the College, and later the University, to economize by doing campus improvement projects himself, or with his students. Keller proposed a research project in which an experimental road would be constructed on campus in order to test different kinds of road material. He got the City and County of Honolulu to loan its road machinery, and the Territory to contribute $5,000 for materials. The resulting paved road, complete with curbing, was 20 feet wide and ran 1,600 feet from Metcalf Street to Maile Way. The road ran on part of today’s Campus Road, then turned about 75 feet in front of Hawaii Hall (the ʻewa side, near where Dean Hall and Crawford Hall stand today) into Maile Way, which bordered the Mills School campus (today Mid-Pacific Institute). Keller and his students completed the road in 1916. Since there was no University Avenue at this time between Metcalf and Maile, contractors used this new road to haul their supplies into their Manoa Valley development projects. Nevertheless, “For the first time since moving to Manoa Valley,” President Dean wrote in his 1917 report to the Regents, “the College is readily accessible by automobile in all sorts of weather and a battery of foot-scrappers is not
Engineering professor John Mason Young designed the earliest known plan for the Manoa Campus on February 10, 1909, several years before the College had settled in Manoa. At top, left, “Vancouver Highway” is today part of University Avenue. Young included buildings for a law school, medicine, veterinary science, and architecture in the quadrangle. He placed an observatory on top of Waahila Ridge to the right, off the diagram, aligned on the axis that runs east-west (right to left) through the quadrangle. A dam and hydraulic laboratory were located on Manoa Stream, at bottom right. University Archives (1909)

Joseph Francis Charles Rock (1884-1962), botanist. University Archives Photo (n.d.)
required at the front door.” Keller and his students went on to build a drainage system for the campus that was completed in Spring 1918, further alleviating the problem of mud on a campus visited frequently by rain showers.

As the campus was further cleared away of weeds, wild bushes, and rocks, attention turned to making part of the campus into a botanical garden. In 1914, Joseph Francis Rock was appointed to the Buildings and Grounds Faculty Committee, and charged with the responsibility of developing twenty acres of the campus into a botanical garden. By 1918, Rock had planted 500 different species, many from Asia and the Americas. Regent Ashford also got the Outdoor Circle to contribute several rare plants to the campus collection. In 1917, President Dean reported to the Regents that the plantings were planned so that as buildings were built, none of the more valuable plants would be displaced. Even just before his death, on December 5, 1962, Rock contributed plants to the University which became a campus-wide botanical garden.

Born in Vienna, Joseph Franz Karl Rock came to the U.S. in 1905, and to Hawaii in 1907 as one of three full-time teachers at Mills School (today incorporated into Mid-Pacific Institute). In 1908 he became a botanist for the Territory’s forestry division, and in 1911 joined the College of Hawaii. Rock was largely a self-taught man, not only about plants, but also in languages. He was fluent in his native German, in English, Hungarian, Chinese, Italian, French, Spanish, and Tibetan, as well as in the Latin and Greek expected of all educated persons at that time. At age 16 he had taught Arabic at Vienna University, which in 1930 awarded him a Doctor of Laws degree. Hawaii awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1962. Many of his books on Hawaiian plants are still of value to botanists today. No building is named after him; but Rock Road, which once ran roughly on where the portion of Maile Way today is located, behind Webster and Spalding Halls, was named after him. (For many years, World War II veterans’ dormitory students who lived in wooden barracks which were situated near there thought “Rock Road” was named for the condition of the road.) Rock’s name has been immortalized in a more enduring way on a campus known for buildings disappearing: hundreds of plants and birds have been named in his honor. If one ever comes across biological specimens with the species name of Rockii or the genus name of Rockia, that plant or bird is named after the University’s founder of the botanical garden which is the Manoa Campus.

Hawaii Hall (1912)
by Leanne Sugai

The University’s first permanent building was Hawaii Hall, completed in 1912. If one were to dig up its original cornerstone, the native lava rock would be inscribed, “1911;” but the cornerstone laying ceremonies were held on January 22, 1912, after delays at the end of 1911.

In preparation for the ceremonies, kiawe trees had been cleared and planks set up to seat those attending this important event. The site was still part of a dairy farm, and during the rites cows wandered about, oblivious of the auspicious event.

The building was called the “Main Building” for ten years, until March 17, 1922, when the Regents officially renamed it “Hawaii Hall.” Completed in 1912, it initially housed most of the entire College’s early operations: administration, library, animal husbandry laboratory, classrooms, art studio, and athletic locker room. When books and library in the old Maertens’ house on the Young Street campus were moved into their new quarters in Hawaii Hall in 1912, they were put through windows since the front of the building was newly filled in and too soft to allow trucks to run over it. The library was located on the mauka side of the first floor.

In 1910 President Gilmore had told the Regents that the building would cost about $200,000, but he had, upon examining the financial condition of the Territory, decided on asking for only $50,000 with an extra $10,000 for furnishing and fixtures.

Although Professor John Mason Young claimed to
Preliminary drawings for Hawaii Hall by John Mason Young, the University’s first professor of engineering. The completed plans for the building were by Architect Clinton Ripley. University Archives (Jan. 15, 1909)

Kiawe or algaroba trees covered much of the campus grounds in 1910 and were considered an eyesore at that time. All of the kiawe in Hawaii are considered to be descendents of the original seed from the Royal Botanic Gardens of Paris, planted in downtown Honolulu in 1828 by Father Bachelot of the Catholic Mission. But the tree is a native of Peru. In the early seventies, many years after the founding of the College of Hawaii, a professor and his wife chained themselves to save the kiawe trees when the College of Business Administration was built. Kiawe trees are still found on many parts of the campus, but today they are probably outnumbered by monkeypod trees. Kiawe is actually a useful tree, since its flowers, via bees, yield excellent honey; its wood makes a charcoal that gives huli huli chicken a wonderful flavor; and its yellow beans make good fodder for cattle. University Photo (n.d.)
On January 22, 1912, the cornerstone ceremonies were held for the College of Hawaii’s first permanent building, today named “Hawaii Hall.” University Archives Photo (Jan. 22, 1912)

The cornerstone ceremony for Hawaii Hall took place under scrub kiawe trees on a roughly put together platform that served as a stage, but the audience was dressed respectably. In the background is Makiki Roundtop. University Archives Photo (Jan. 22, 1912)
First floor plan, Hawaii Hall. Originally, the front of the building was the side facing west or ʻewa. The back side did not have steps to the lawn but had a colonnaded balcony area or “loggia” as designated, above. Later, this area would be called a “lanai” by students who once served sandwiches there to raise funds for the first campus swimming tank that was eventually built in 1921. Steps were later added, such that today, the side facing Varney Circle and the Mall is often called the “front”. Drawing, *College of Hawaii, Annual Catalogue*, May, 1912.

Second floor plan, Hawaii Hall. Art students in the 50’s had many of their studio courses here, while accountants who graduated from Manoa in the 60’s remember Hawaii Hall as the headquarters for the College of Business Administration. In 1916, after experiencing two Hawaii Hall fires, the Regents finally decided to insure campus buildings, for $100,000. Since the University did not have insurance funds appropriated until the 1917 legislature met, Castle and Cooke insurance agents agreed to give the University a year’s credit on the insurance premium. Drawing, *College of Hawaii, Annual Catalogue*, May, 1912.

Floor drawing of Hawaii Hall Basement, 1911, by Architects Ripley and Reynolds. Students in the 1920’s called the basement “the Dungeon”. It housed the athletic locker rooms then, as well as a human skeleton, used in anatomy classes, kept, of course, in a closet. Drawing, *College of Hawaii, Annual Catalogue*, May, 1912.

The Main Building, the first permanent structure on the Manoa Campus, completed in 1912. Renamed Hawaii Hall in 1922, it continues to be one of the symbols of the University of Hawaii. Drawing, *College of Hawaii, Annual Catalogue*, May, 1912.
The original front of Hawaii Hall faced the quadrangle and University Avenue, and sported a flag pole. The back side (now facing Varney Circle, and today’s front) had a view of the University farms. University Archives Photo (n.d.)

Women’s physical culture class in front of Hawaii Hall. (Hawaii Hall also housed athletic locker rooms until 1927.) Black bloomers were required! University Archives Photo (n.d.)

Hawaii Hall’s front steps (ewa side) were sometimes converted into a stage for a fashion show, as shown above in a scene from the twenties. University Archives Photo (n.d.)
The Eighth Commencement was held on the front steps of Hawaii Hall (facing the Old Quadrangle) in 1919, with the first (and former) governor of the Territory of Hawaii, Sanford B. Dole, in attendance (with white beard). Five bachelor's degrees were awarded to the graduates who are seated with audience, in front row, right. University Archives Photo (1919)
Lines of registrants extended from Hawaii Hall to Dean Hall (shown above), and to Gartley Hall, to the right. Today, registration lines continue at Klum Gymnasium, but shoes often have been left at home. University Archives Photo (n.d.)

An early 1930's commencement, on the side of Hawaii Hall facing today's Varney Circle. Farrington Hall stands in the background (completed in 1930), and Andrews Outdoor Theatre was not yet available, since it was completed in 1935. University Archives Photo (c1930's)
Photos or drawings of Hawaii Hall have graced many University catalogues and other official publications, including the one above, used on the cover of a 1929 report on the ten years since 1920, when the campus had acquired university status. A Ka Leo student reporter wrote in 1957 that the building, from an architectural point of view, was a "pillared and pilloried example of the declining days of the great classical revival movement of the early nineteenth century." University Archives Photo (1929)

The front steps of Hawaii Hall served many registration lines until enrollments rendered the site inadequate. University Archives Photo (n.d.)
A lecture room in Hawaii Hall sometimes served as the site for drama presentations in the early years at Manoa. In 1925, students and faculty converted the front steps of Hawaii Hall into a spectacular setting for Henry Van Dyke’s play, *House of Rimmon*, with scenes set in Damascus. Edgeworth Photo (1925) University Archives
have designed the details of Hawaii Hall except for the front, the official architect of the building was Clinton Ripley, who told the Regents in 1911 that Young had prepared only the floor plans. The Regents paid Ripley $3,942 for the title to the plans. Bids for construction were taken and after some lively discussion, the Regents awarded the contract to the Lord-Young Engineering Co., which submitted a bid for $65,700. Professor Young was the chief engineer and president of the rival Pacific Engineering Company, which had submitted a bid only $25 more than Lord-Young. Perhaps because of his lack of involvement in the building, Professor Young almost lost his job, when President Gilmore recommended in 1912 to the Regents that Young be dropped from the faculty because he was spending too much time away from College duties. Regent Charles Hemenway persuaded the Regents at the same meeting to delay such a decision, since he believed that Young might be talked into resigning. John Young turned out to outlast Gilmore (who resigned early the next year), and eventually even had a complex of buildings named after him. The legislature appropriated $75,000 for Hawaii Hall.

Today, Hawaii Hall houses the Chancellor’s office, the School of Social Work, and the University Relations offices. When the University reorganized to become a systems-wide network of campuses that included the Community Colleges, the Manoa Campus Chancellor’s office made Hawaii Hall its headquarters in 1971. In 1980–81, Hawaii Hall was remodeled at the cost of about $130,000, but it is still in need of further repairs, since much of the woodwork is infested with termites. Walter Muraoka, University planner, considers a complete renovation, which calls for tearing out the insides of the building, to be soon required.

**Tragedy on the Steps of Hawaii Hall**

*by Robert E. Potter*

In the 1920’s when the University was small, a major part of the college life was the rivalry between the “wise and experienced” sophomores and the “naive, green” freshmen. This rivalry was common on all campuses throughout the nation and included the practice known as “hazing.”

The organized sophomore class each year decreed regulations for the freshmen, specifying what they could or could not wear, how they should respond to their “elders” in the student body, where they might and might not go, etc. These regulations were often enforced by sanctions, exclusions, and even corporal punishment, including the paddle.

The University of Hawaii had its hazing each year, plus other inter-class contests. Traditionally the girls competed in a song contest between freshmen and sophomores. The boys had an annual tug-of-war, a sand bag relay, and a flag rush. The flag rush was the big event of the opening weeks of school. The sophomores would plant a smooth, graphite-coated pole, at least eighteen feet tall with a flag nailed to its top. The freshmen boys would attempt to tear the flag down while the sophomores defended the pole. Generally the fight lasted for about two hours before upper classmen, acting as officials, called off the contest if the freshmen had not succeeded.

In the 1922 flag rush, the sophomores used handcuffs on the freshmen, but at a critical point in the contest, the freshmen released a swarm of bees, which drove off the sophomore defenders, giving the freshmen a chance to scale the pole and tear down the flag.

The rules for the 1923 flag rush prohibited such tactics, limiting the tactics to the “rules and customs of the wrestling ring.” And in the newspaper stories in the local papers, great things were predicted for the 1923 flag rush, which was to be held on September 21. A *Star Bulletin* story of September 19 was headlined: “Flag Rush at University Friday Promises New Thrills.” But that flag rush never came off.

The 1923 fall enrollment included 153 freshmen and 91 sophomores. Among the sophomore decrees for that year was a ban on freshmen entering Main (now Hawaii) Hall by the front entrance. “Don’t enter through the front door—never,” read the order. Traditionally, the freshmen attempted to force an
Students gather near Hawaii Hall (in the background) for flag rush in the early 1920’s, on a site near Dean Hall (built in 1929). Strict dress codes were in effect, but parking space was liberally available. Students were not yet “into” backpacks, which began to appear in the late 1970’s. University Archives Photo (n.d.)

Rules for flag rush began to be codified so that by September 1921, the pole height was specified to be 18 feet above the ground, with no grease, oil, fresh paint, or nails put on the pole. Nevertheless, students found ways around these rules; in the 1922 rite, a hive of bees was released at a crucial moment. In the forties hazing took the form of freshman captured and tossed into the swimming pool. University Archives Photo (1921)
entry while the sophomores defended the front stairs. On the morning of September 18 before classes started, about 25 freshmen boys gathered to attempt a sally upon the front entrance. At the head of the stairs, the sophomore men waited. The contest had been underway for some minutes when a latecomer, freshman George Paul, arrived on campus from his home on Vancouver Highway. He joined the fray with tragic results. The Advertiser had a lengthy account of the action the next morning.

A free-for-all tussle took place—all went in for the “college spirit” there is in it. But the tussle got rougher and rougher every minute. Shirts were torn and both freshmen and sophomores were seen tumbling down the cement steps.

George Paul, one of the first to get close to the front doors, was dragged down and jumped upon by a number of his upperclassmen. Others kept on with the tussle. A few first-year men succeeded in gaining entrance through the “forbidden” passages.

One sophomore received a scalp wound on his forehead. Another freshman, besides George Paul, was badly damaged. A third received a wrenched wrist. Several had their shirts torn into ribbons.

When the “tussle” ended, most of the boys were able to get up and leave, but Paul was not. He was taken to the hospital for x-rays, which disclosed a fracture and dislocation of the “fifth cervical vertebrae.” He died the following afternoon.

On Friday, classes were cancelled, as were the flag rush and all hazing activities, to permit the student body to attend Paul’s funeral and burial at Nuuanu Cemetery with full military honors rendered by the University ROTC cadets.

Because of the unfavorable publicity arising from Paul’s death, the president of ASUH attempted to explain to the public, through a news article, the “innocence” of the tradition.

‘Hazing’ is not the brutal third degree process that the general public ... believes it is, but ... the activities that take place between the different classes in college, which arise from the good-natured rivalry ... which is prompted by college tradition, a thing which every true collegeman and collegewoman cherishes ...

Mr. Paul, fair-minded, sorrowing father ... would have been ashamed to have his son attend an institution where a bunch of ‘spineless mollycoddles’ were cultivated ...

The death of one of our most promising college associates was brought about by an unforeseen, unfortunate accident, in which there was involved no mal-intent, but good, friendly rivalry.

The tragic event, however, resulted in the University banning all future hazing of this sort, in spite of the ASUH president’s suggestions that those activities would prevent the development of “a bunch of ‘spineless mollycoddles.’”

The Young Quadrangle (1915, 1925, 1928)

by Carin Lim

The Young Engineering Quadrangle, an H-shaped complex consisting of 5 rectangular single-story structures, was constructed between 1915 and 1928. The complex is located in the Campus Center courtyard, and contains some of the oldest buildings on campus.

The Quadrangle structures were originally used as classrooms and storage for the engineering department. The oldest, the Engineering Materials Laboratory, was constructed in 1915, thus making it the University’s second oldest original building. It was funded through a special appropriation of $8,000 from the Territory. In 1925 two additional structures were completed at a cost of approximately $20,000; and by 1928, the last two buildings of the Quadrangle were built.

The complex was designed by Dr. Arthur Keller who became the first Dean of the College of Applied Sciences in 1920. With extremely limited funds, Keller planned durable buildings which could be constructed and maintained economically.

In 1965 the complex was officially named after John Mason Young (1847-1945), who was the first Professor of Engineering. On a plaque that is mounted on a moss rock which was originally located within the Quadrangle, but is now situated in the courtyard of Holmes Hall (near East-West Road), is
an inscription, “Dedicated to the memory of John Mason Young (1908-1940).” (Holmes Hall is now the headquarters of the College of Engineering.)

Young was born in Lewisburg, Tennessee, the son of a Presbyterian minister. After receiving a degree in 1898 from an institution that later became the University of Florida, Young headed off to the Spanish-American War. Upon completion of his stint with the military in the Spanish War, he became Professor of Mechanical Engineering and took over stewardship of the physics department at the University of Florida.

From 1901 to 1908 Dr. Young pursued his career as an engineer on the East Coast. In 1902 he received an M.E. degree and in 1904 an M.M.E. degree both from Cornell University. During this time, and after graduation, he worked for various companies designing and constructing buildings, bridges, and cableways. He also assisted in the design of a power plant for the Pennsylvania Railroad terminal.

In 1908, Young came to Hawaii as its first engineering professor. As one of Hawaii’s outstanding engineers and a member of the University, he was instrumental in the creation of many of the structures that can be still seen today, not only on the campus but throughout the State of Hawaii. He was a primary participant in the team that drew up the plans for the University campus and he blueprinted the plans and supervised construction of four campus buildings, Hawaii Hall, Miller Hall, Dean Hall, and Crawford Hall.

Dr. Young was known as a quiet person who inspired both students and faculty through his leadership abilities. He was a team player who was considered a tutor as well as a personal friend to many on campus.

Young’s activities were not limited to the University, as he was also a successful businessman. In 1908, he organized the Pacific Engineering Company, of which he became its president and chief engineer. The company constructed such buildings as the Theo. H. Davies & Co. building, the Central YMCA, the Young Hotel Annex, McInerny, as well as many other prominent business and industrial complexes. The Pacific Engineering Company was unsuccessful in its bid to construct Hawaii Hall in 1911.

Today, the Young Engineering Quadrangle serves as a testimony to Young’s tremendous contribution to the University of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii. Although a portion of the “H” that constitutes the complex was torn down to make room for the Campus Center, four of the five old structures remain. Presently housed within the complex are offices that include the student newspaper, Ka Leo, Special Student Services, Board of Publications, Beau Press, and Duplicating Services. The Puka Printa printing shop runs its presses in the original 1915 building.
The campus in 1917, as seen from Waahila Ridge, looking ewa. Hawaii Hall stands in the center; note that steps on this side of the building have not yet been built to the first floor. To its left is the building used for chemistry laboratories moved from the Young Street campus; further left is the first increment of the Young Engineering Quadrangle. The original Cooke Field stands in front of it; in the foreground is the University Farm. University Archives Photo (1917)

John Mason Young (left) and his students pose with the 150,000 pound Reihle Universal Testing Machine, which measured the stress strength of construction materials. Purchased second hand for $800, the machine was so fascinating when first demonstrated to the Regents that its performance on a large piece of timber delayed their meeting of February 8, 1910, for an hour. The College’s first important piece of machinery, it was used not only in instruction, but also in testing much of the construction material used in Hawaii, including the concrete for the Pearl Harbor dry docks. The machine was moved in 1915 into the Engineering Material Testing Laboratory, the second permanent building on the campus and the first structure that would comprise the 5-building Young Engineering Quadrangle. In 1969 the building was vacated, and a printing shop moved in. The Reihle Machine went to the Honolulu Community College. None of the Young Quad buildings are used for Engineering today. University Photo (n.d.)
Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in review on the original Cooke Field, located on the *makai* side of Campus Road. Gartley Hall, is in the background; the ROTC used its basement for storing rifles until 1926, when an armory was built (the wooden building still stands in 1982, between Sinclair Library and Bachman Hall, houses the University’s Management Systems keypunch section and has the name, “Bachman Hall Annex 6.” Hemenway Hall (completed in 1939) and Sinclair Library (completed in 1956) would later occupy Cooke Field, which moved in 1937 to the site where Holmes Hall (completed in 1972) stands, and then to its present location in the Quarry. The original field, shown above, was built in 1915, with funds from its namesake, Joseph P. Cooke, president of Alexander and Baldwin at that time. ROTC was established in 1921 at the University. University Archives Photo (1923)

The original engineering laboratory was built in 1915 and forms the center bar of the letter “H” along with four other similar buildings (of which two appear to the right, above) that form the rest of the “H”. Two more were completed in 1925, and the other two in 1928, completing the Young Quadrangle. One of the buildings in the “H” was razed to make way for the Campus Center building (such that the remaining buildings now form the numeral “4” (as formed in a digital watch). None of the four remaining former engineering buildings today are covered with fig vines, but the present Holmes Hall, the headquarters of the College of Engineering, had in 1982 the same vine growing on the walls of its parking building-like structure. Note the sapling breadfruit tree, above, in the foreground. Today it is a handsome *ulu* tree. (Nearby is a sausage tree, leading someone to remark, several decades ago, on the need for a mustard plant between the sausage and the breadfruit trees.) University Archives Photo (n.d.)