PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEER

By Peter S. Panos

Dr. John A. Logan, chairman of the civil engineering department, a relative newcomer to the Northwestern University faculty, joined the faculty in September 1954 as chairman of the department. Born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada, Dr. Logan spent his boyhood there. After graduation from high school he attended the University of Saskatchewan and in 1929 received his bachelor of arts degree. Upon graduation he chose to return to school. In 1934 he received his second bachelor's degree, this time in civil engineering. Although he received two degrees, all his time was not spent in the classroom. He found time to play hockey and football, becoming the captain of both teams. For his efforts in the two sports he received a major athletic award and was elected to the presidency of the university athletic directorate. Upon graduation Dr. Logan was offered a chance to play professional hockey. Instead he accepted a fellowship at Harvard and in 1936 received his masters degree.

After leaving Harvard Dr. Logan joined the staff of Iowa State College where he taught civil engineering for a year. He then went into industry and worked for Greely and Hansen of Chicago, a consulting engineering firm. After a year in industry Dr. Logan again returned to the classroom, as an instructor at the University of Missouri. He remained in this position for 4 years, spending his summers with Russel and Axon, consulting engineers, of St. Louis. Returning to Harvard in 1941 he completed his formal education and received his D.Sc. In 1942 he returned to Russel and Axon in the capacity of chief engineer, a position he held until he went into the army.

During the war Dr. Logan entered the Sanitary Engineering Corps as a first lieutenant and advanced to the rank of major in his 2 years of service. He was assigned to the Office of Inter-American Affairs and was sent to Brazil as the chief engineer of the Amazon Valley Project. The AVP was a cooperative project with the Brazilian government. The project was an attempt to sanitary the Amazon River Valley for military and war-material-supply reasons.

When he left the army in 1946 Dr. Logan joined the staff of the Rockefeller Foundation and went to Europe as a member of the International Health Division with headquarters in Paris. Of the three major assignments he received, his first was to aid in the rehabilitation of Greece. After remaining with this project for a year he was sent to Sardinia to develop a program for the complete rehabilitation of the island which included malaria eradication, repopulation, and development of the island's economic potential. He remained at this post until 1950 when he went to London to work with the British in developing their African colonies. In September 1954 he accepted his present position at Northwestern.

Since his graduation in 1934 Dr. Logan has written many articles on sanitary engineering and tropical development, which are his main interests. He is the author of the book *The Sardinian Project*, the story of the development and rehabilitation of this war-devastated island.

Dr. Logan lives in Evanston with his wife and three sons. His outside interests include golf, reading and listening to hi-fi. He states that his interest in civil engineering came from his love of the outdoors, of science, and the opportunity inherent in the civil engineering concept of man's control of his environment.

S E P T E M B E R  1 9 5 5
Excerpt from ‘A Brief History of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology’*

During the period from 1900 to 1961, the school changed little and the enrollment grew only slightly, remaining generally between 300 and 400. Exceptions occurred during the two world wars, when large groups of army recruits arrived to receive training in such subjects as vehicle maintenance. After World War II, Rose also received students attending on the G.I. Bill of Rights and with the addition of temporary barracks housing, operated on a year-round basis until 1951. Construction on campus during the period included an athletic field house, named for its architect, Wilbur Shook, Rose Polytechnic class of 1911, in 1948 using as its frame a war-surplus B-29 hanger; a student center in 1954; and a second dormitory in 1956. Degree programs in mathematics, physics, and chemistry were added in 1958.

With Dr. John A. Logan’s accession to the presidency in 1962, dramatic changes began. An internationally-recognized civil and environmental engineer who had supervised the eradication of malaria-carrying mosquitoes in Brazil and Sardinia, he was aware of a growing need for engineers and knew that a larger student population would more easily absorb the costs of the changes needed on campus. He thus persuaded the Board of Managers to increase the student body to 1,000 (a goal that was reached in 1969). The Board also increased the number of faculty and doubled starting salary levels for the various ranks.

The campus facilities expanded during the 1960’s and 1970’s to include four new dormitories, married student apartments, and three social fraternities--Triangle, Phi Gamma Delta, and Delta Sigma Phi--at the east end of the campus. The Hulman Foundation provided a gift for construction of the Hulman Union in 1966. The Board then authorized remodeling of the old student building into the Templeton Administration Building in 1969; the addition of Crapo Hall, a classroom/computer-center to the main building in 1970; the John A. Logan Library in 1974; and the E. E. Black Recreation center (since demolished, along with Shook Field House), in 1975.

In 1971, Anton Hulman, Jr. and his wife, Mary Fendrich Hulman, continuing their family’s tradition of philanthropy toward the school, turned over to the Institute the assets of their foundation, accumulated over the years from their respective family's fortunes in the Hulman food processing and distribution business, the Fendrich cigar manufacturing business, and from their ownership of the Indianapolis 500-mile speedway. The Board of Managers, in recognition of the receipt of Hulman assets then valued in excess of 11 million dollars as well as the many other contributions over the years of the Hulman family, decided to change the school’s name to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

The growth of the Institute accelerated under the presidency of Dr. Samuel F. Hulbert, another internationally-known teacher-scholar, this time in the field of bio-engineering, who succeeded Logan in 1976.

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* http://www.rose-hulman.edu/about/history/detailed-history.aspx