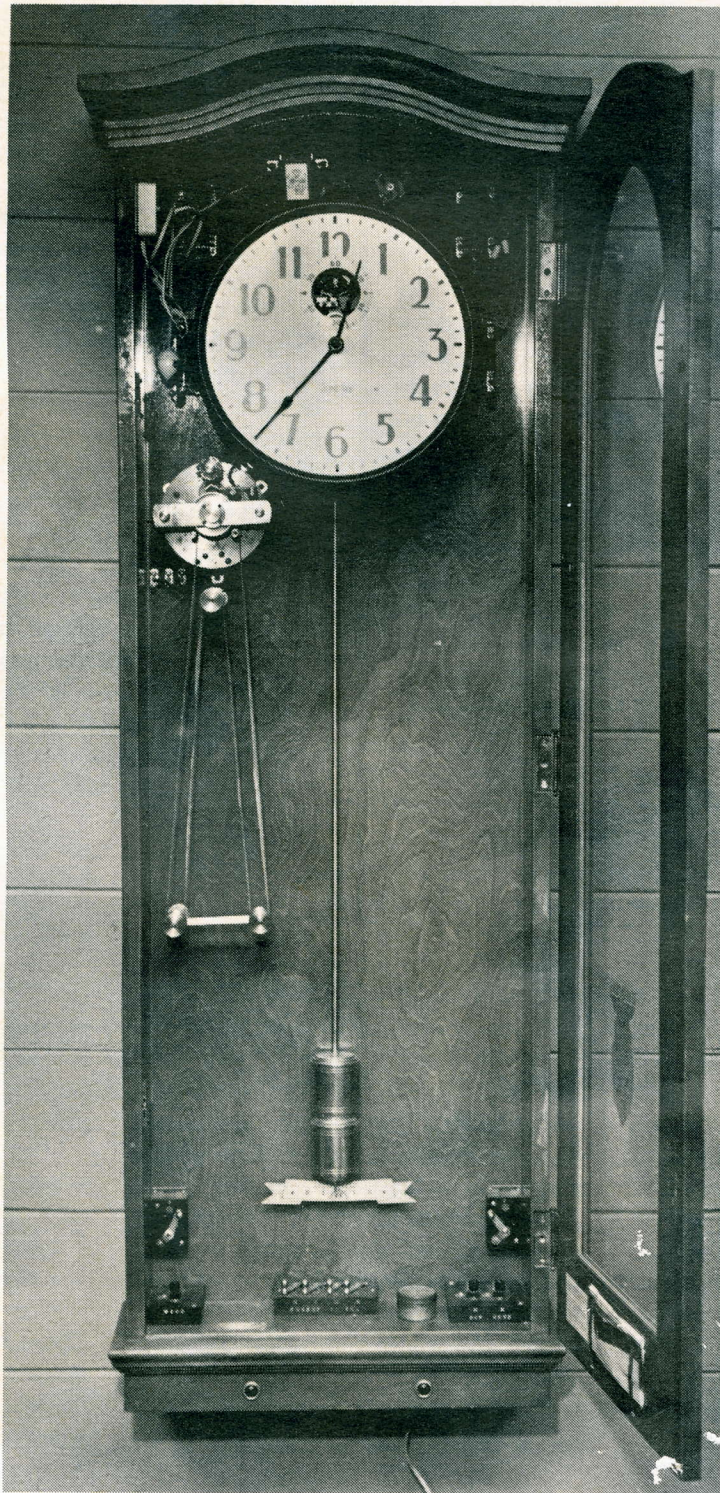


# cadence

March 1985

Cadence Vol. II, No. 2

**Old  
Clock**



**Returns  
Home**

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## Headmaster's Message

Dear Friends:

Each year at this time, a committee studies the curriculum and evaluates the graduation requirements at Benedictine. Faculty members on the committee are Mrs. Nancy Allen, Sr. Johanna Maguire, and Miss Regina Sullivan. Michael Grubbs, Reed Connerat, and Arthur O'Neill are the student members. I work with the committee, too.

By and large, the curriculum will remain as is. Some areas need consideration and raise questions. Strengthening the requirements in foreign language, requiring computer literacy, developing writing and math competencies, and preparation in art and music are some topics on the agenda. There is also a need, especially now, to integrate studies better with the resources of our library-media building. The rotating schedule, introduced this year, will be discussed. These are some of the things to be talked about and presented to the faculty later.

It has always been a challenge to bring new ways of grasping subjects into a curriculum. Students truly need to have new kinds of learning to prepare them for the nineties. We ask your prayers while we work and assure you of ours.

Sincerely,

Conan Feigh, O.S.B.  
Headmaster



Fr. Conan

## Gannam was Only Days Away From Flight School

On Dec. 7, 1941, George K. Gannam, '37, was a young staff sergeant in the U.S. Army. He had done well in the military at Benedictine and decided to give the Army a try after graduation.

While serving in the Army, young Gannam had watched the Army Air Corps planes as they climbed into the sky above Hawaii and had begun to wonder what it would be like to fly one of those aircraft.

He was assigned to Wheeler Field, another military airfield that was heavily damaged by the Japanese, but was on temporary duty at Hickam Field that Sunday morning.

Prior to the attack, George Gannam must have been looking forward to his future. He had taken the aviation exam to become a flyer and had passed with flying colors. In fact, his orders that would have sent him to flying school arrived at his unit at Wheeler Field about the time of the Japanese's sneak attack.

George was killed during the attack when he was helping to pull American aircraft from a burning hangar.

Michael Gannam, '41, George's brother, said his family has agreed to display some of George's personnel effects in the new library at Benedictine.

George's BC ring was missing for many years. However, the military doctor who worked to save his life had taken the ring in order to send it to the family with a note. Years after the war, the doctor found the ring at the bottom of one of his trunks and sent the ring to Savannah and the Gannam family.

This ring along with George's Purple Heart medal, and his Sharpshooter's medal from Benedictine will be part of the display.

## Cleary Wins Koszewski Award

Bernard T. Cleary, '51, was presented the Col. Stephen Koszewski Award during the annual Alumni Dance at the Alee Temple in January.

Cleary has been closely associated with the development program of the school since 1979.

The award is presented to alumni in recognition of their dedication, loyalty and service to Benedictine.

Cleary is assistant manager of public relations at the Union Camp Corp. in Savannah.

The Benedictine Alumni Association has sponsored the dance since 1978.



Bernie Cleary

The proceeds go to the school for the benefit of the students. Jimmy Ray, 69, was the dance chairman. The music was provided by the Ken James Band.



# Gannam Memorial

Dignitaries  
Hear  
Olmstead  
Speak.



## Gannam Memorial Held

The life of George K. Gannam, the first Savannahian to die in World War II, has become a part of the Benedictine tradition of respect for the sacrifices others have made to secure for the current Cadets the privilege of receiving the best education possible in a free nation.

Each year, Benedictine and the George K. Gannam Post of the American Legion sponsor a memorial review to honor Army Staff Sgt. George K. Gannam, '37.

This year, Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Olmstead, commanding general of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island, spoke during the ceremony held annually on Dec. 7, the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the day when George Gannam died while helping pull American aircraft from a burning hangar at Hickam Field in Hawaii.

The review has been held in Savannah on the anniversary of the Japanese attack every year since 1946. Before Benedictine moved to the new campus in 1963, the review was held in Forsyth Park.

"Today is the day our country looks back at a horrible time, a time that served as a catalyst for our country," the Marine general said. But because of those terrible times, he said, "tomorrow is a better day. I'm sure we will continue the rally of recent months and years to make sure it's a better America."

Olmstead said many people criticize the youth of today. But, he said, he feels differently. "I can look out and tell you I'm proud of the American youth today," he said.

During the ceremony, Michael Gannam, George's brother, was presented an American flag.

The George K. Gannam Memorial Medal was awarded to Cadet Sgt. Maj. David Smith. The American Legion God and Country Medal went to Cadet Sgt. Jon Adcock.

The memory of George Gannam touched Benedictine again this school year, although in another way.

Charlie Moore, '55, noticed an old clock that looked familiar when he was looking over the clock collection belonging to Frank Winders. Moore recognized that the clock was the same master clock which kept time for the class bell at the old school on Bull Street. **It could hardly be mistaken that it was the master clock which kept time for the several "slave" clocks throughout the rest of the school.** The inside was a maze of special tapes, which served as the timing device, much like the roll of paper in a player piano, and the complicated workings. It even had the familiar Benedictine crest decal on the glass door.

The clock had been given to Benedictine by George Gannam's father, Karem, during the latter stages of World War II. It was to serve as a memorial to George Gannam.



Olmstead

It seems that when the new school on Seawright Drive opened in 1963, it came equipped with its own, new clock system. So the Rev. Bede Lightner, the prior of the Benedictine community at the time, gave the clock to Karem Gannam.

Winders said that when Mr. Gannam died, he bought the clock from the estate. Winders said he looked for parts to refurbish the clock, and the search took him all over the country. But with a little luck and lots of time, he was finally able to put the timepiece back in working order.

Charlie Moore contacted the Rev. Conan Feigh, Benedictine's headmaster, when he saw the clock. An inquiry revealed that the school was not prepared to buy the clock.

However, all was not hopeless. William E. Phillips, Jr., whose sons Craig, Chris and Chuck are BC graduates, contacted Winders about buying back the clock to donate to the school.

Winders said that when he found out that Phillips wanted to buy the clock to

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## **Gannam** (Continued from Page 3)

donate to the school, he cut the price in half.

Today, the old clock is back at Benedictine, albeit a new location. It stands today as a silent reminder of the school's long tradition and as a memorial to a Cadet who died defending his country on the first day that the United States became an official belligerent in history's most destructive war.