



The Small College of Big Dreams™

2011

H I S T O R Y

While today it is known as “the Small College of Big Dreams,” SFC was founded in 1859 by Franciscan Brothers as St. Francis Academy. Over two decades later, the trustees of the school received permission from the state legislature to establish a “literary college” under its current name, giving it the power to confer diplomas, honors, and degrees.

In the years following, the school would continue to grow exponentially, and by 1926 the growth had necessitated the construction of a new facility on Butler Street. Following the purchase of two office buildings from Brooklyn Union Gas Company, the college would make the move to Remsen Street.

Shortly thereafter, it became a co-educational institution and additional property was purchased on Remsen and Joralemon Streets. Recently, the college has expanded its facilities with the construction of a science building, physical education complex, and the recently rechristened Frank J. and Mary Macchiarola Academic Center.

Today, the college continues to thrive, with more than 2,500 students, and 16,000 alumni. Many distinguished public servants, scientists, lawyers, business professionals, and teachers call SFC their alma mater. As a result, alumni help to continue on the mission of teaching and living the ideals of Franciscan Spirit.

The Spirit of St. Francis



Franciscan Spirit is dedicated to service and fellowship. Followers of the Franciscan way are determined to educate themselves and others through example. It is your duty to lend your knowledge and talents wholeheartedly.

One should strive to be fair and just regardless of creed, race, sexual orientation, or social status. You should be strong in your convictions, dedicate yourself, and be loyal to all of your commitments; you should live your life in moderation, following the belief that through wisdom and patience your life shall be one of fullness and success.

You should seek out inner peace and, in return, share this peace with others. You should maintain this peace no matter what dilemma comes your way. You should make every effort to achieve spiritual enlightenment and strive to be open minded.

You should always be respectful and considerate in your actions. You should do unto others as you would like others to do unto you. And finally, above all, you should enjoy life and cherish every memory that you make.

As you begin to embark on a new journey outside of the hallways and classrooms of St. Francis College, be sure to continue leaving something behind for all of your successors. Remember the words of St. Francis, "It is in the act of giving in which we receive."