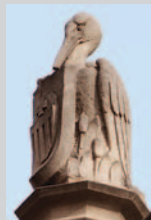




From the Archives

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST TAMAR CHUTE DIGS INTO THE FILES TO UNEARTH NUGGETS OF OHIO STATE HISTORY



What is the significance of the stone animals on top of Starling Loving Hall?

The symbolism of the horse, cow, pelican, monkey, rabbit, and dog that perch high atop Ohio State's first hospital has been a topic of speculation over the years. A recently found article from the *Lantern* of Apr. 28, 1926, seems to clear up the mystery.

Apparently, Edwin Hamilton, a professor of surgery, wanted statues of world-famous doctors or researchers to decorate the 1924 addition to the original building, which had opened seven years earlier. However, the project would have been prohibitively expensive because the figures would have to be carved by hand.

Instead, "animals which have been of great value in the study of medicine, either for their use in experiments or because they are sources

of serums, have been substituted," the reporter wrote. "Horses, cows, penguins [*sic*], monkeys, and rabbits are among the animals which have made important enough contributions to warrant representation there."

What grading marks has Ohio State used?

When the university opened in 1873, the grading system was "pass," "fail," "conditional," or "passed with merit." In 1894, "absent" was added to the list.

Around 1890, the first individual permanent academic record cards were kept for students, and the grading system was changed. Students received M for "passed with merit," Cr for "credit," P for "passed," C for "conditional," and F for "failed." This continued with few changes until 1914, when G for "good" and A for "average" were added and Cr was dropped.

A more traditional system using A through E was adopted in 1922, when the university changed its academic calendar to quarters. A story in the April 1923 *Ohio State University Monthly* discussed the decision to incorporate a point system with the grades.

According to the article, faculty wished to "stimulate a higher grade of scholarship through a more exacting requirement for a degree." It seems many students were doing the minimum amount of work needed to pass their classes, and by changing to a point system, faculty could place a more precise value on each student's efforts. Those who were not performing well would not receive diplomas.

"The superior student should be given an opportunity to reach his goal unhindered by the drag of mediocrity in his classmates," the reporter wrote.

In 1955, the university added, among others, the marks of F for "filed absent," I for "incomplete," and P for "progress." "

Check out the new timeline of Ohio State history at go.osu.edu/timeline.