

SUNY Potsdam Timeline

- 1816 - St. Lawrence Academy is founded and opens in a one-room building with 42 students and one principal teacher
- 1825 -The new Academy building, North Academy, was erected on North (now Elm) Street.
- 1826 - Academy moved to the new site on North Street,across from the present Civic Center. School opened in September. The 247 students move to a new building along with the bell, 75 books and a pair of globes.
- 1828 - Asa Brainerd is named principal and begins in efforts to offer special training for teachers
- 1831 - The first music teacher is hired at St. Lawrence Academy.
- 1834 - St. Lawrence Academy designated by the Board of Regents as one of eight academies to receive \$500 each for the preparation of teachers, and a teacher department is established.
- The Philomatheon, a literary and debating society, is formed.
- 1836 -- South Academy is erected on South (now Main) Street. The Presbyterian Church is between the two Academy buildings
- 1837 - South Academy opens in November.
- 1866 - Potsdam chosen as the location for one of the four State Normal Schools provided for by the Act of 1866.
- 1867 - On April 27, St. Lawrence Academy becomes the State Normal School at Potsdam. The school is one of the six original State Normal Schools in New York.
- 1869 - Potsdam State Normal School opened in April.
- 1871 - First class graduated, February 7, with two members.
- 1873 - Alumni Association is founded.
- 1875 - Normal Conservatory of Music of the Normal School was thought to have been established
- 1879 - First orchestra is formed.
- 1884 - Julia Etta Crane, who teaches one class and maintains a private voice studio, was appointed head of the Normal School music department and founded the first normal training course for public school music teachers in the United States. From this inception this course grew into the Crane Normal Institute of Music, later converted into the Crane Department of Music in the Normal School.
- 1886 - Julia Crane established the first Special Music Teachers Curriculum and incorporated the Crane Normal Institute of Music. This is considered the founding date of the present Crane School of Music.
- 1892 - Class of 1892 donates Minerva statue to college.
- 1894 - Phoenix Club (women's chorus) is formed

- 1896 - A house is purchased for Crane, the first separate location.
- 1902 - Senior class is denied permission to have a graduation dance in the normal school building.
- 1905 - High school diploma required for entrance
- 1910 - Alumni Association chartered by New York State Board of Regents
- 1911 - State Department of Education authorized special curriculums for music and drawing teachers.
- 1916 - A tablet was erected in 1916 on the first site of the St. Lawrence Academy on Union Street, opposite the Methodist Church. To many "Normalites," this site was known as "Lovers' Lane." Today, the plaque can be found next to the parking lot behind Key Bank.
- 1917 - School of Practice (Campus School) opens.
 - Potsdam's first Normal School building was demolished to make way for a new building, which served as a classroom-administration building from 1919 to 1954. The sandstone building is now Clarkson University's Snell Hall.
 - First dramatic club formed.
- 1919 - New classroom-administration building opened, now Clarkson University's Snell Hall.
 - Semi-centennial observed in June.
 - First organ for the music program, a four manual pipe organ, located in the new Normal School building.

The 1920's - Student life at Potsdam had relaxed a bit to allow men and women to socialize together, although always under strict supervision. To help students learn social skills, the School held Tea Dances in the Normal Gym.

- The Student Government Association, the Student Council and the Intersorority Council were established.
- Julia E. Crane Memorial Library founded
- 1920 - Attempt to link the Crane Institute with Juilliard.
- 1922 - General Elementary Teacher's curriculum lengthened to three years.
 - Normal course lengthened to three years.
 - Crane Alumni Association formed.
- 1923 - Death of Julia Crane.
- 1924 - Crane Alumni Association was formed.
 - First "Pioneer" yearbook published.
- 1926 -After the death of Julia Crane, and several false starts, Crane Normal Institute of Music purchased by the State of New York and organized as the Crane Department of Music of the Normal School, offering a special curriculum for the preparation of public school music supervisors and teachers.
- 1927 - "Normal Racquette" established as the student newspaper.
 - First student council formed.
- 1929 - High school department transferred to village control.
 - Department of Rural Education established.
 - Freshman Week (Orientation) held for the first time.

The 1930's - Potsdam had definitive rules for all students, especially freshmen. Among them, freshman

- women were required to wear three-inch green armbands on the left arm at all times except social functions and Sundays. Freshmen men were required to wear red caps, or "beanies." All freshmen were expected to open doors for upper Classmen, allowing them to pass through first, and freshmen had to speak first to an upperclassmen.
- 1930 -Dr. Helen M. Hosmer, a Crane graduate, became the director of the Crane Normal Institute of Music.
-Founding of All Northern New York Music Festival at Potsdam by Franklin H. Bishop.
 - 1931 -Winter Carnival was initiated in an attempt to help the community through the Great Depression of the 1930's.
- Opening of Randolph T. Congdon Campus School of Practice to house all of the grade school children of the village.
- State Department of Education authorized four year Music Supervisors Curriculum to be offered by the Crane Department of Music.
- Helen Hosmer forms Crane chorus.
 - 1934 - Centennial of State aid for teacher training celebrated with a historical pageant presented by 500 students, faculty narrators, chorus and orchestra organizations.
- The 100th Commencement takes place.
- The semi-centennial of the Crane Department of Music.
 - 1935 - First graduates of four year music supervisors course
 - 1936 - Helen Hosmer initiates the first European Study Tour.
 - 1938 - General Elementary teachers curriculum lengthened to four years.
 - 1939 - The Board of Regents authorized granting the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education to graduates of the Music Supervisors Curriculum, beginning June 1940.
- Nadia Boulanger was the first person to serve as guest conductor of the Crane Chorus and Orchestra.
 - 1940 - First Bachelors degree granted for music supervisors course.
 - 1941 - Crane Choir sings in Carnegie Hall under the baton of Nadia Boulanger, the world renowned conductor, to help raise funds to relieve the suffering of Polish people. The Von Trapp Family Singers join Crane Chorus in singing Bach's B Minor Mass.
 - 1942 - By action of the Board of Regents, the Bachelor of Education degree was conferred upon the graduates of the four-year General College Elementary Teachers Curriculum in June.
- Feinberg Bill passes, converting normal schools to state teachers colleges. On July first the Normal School was officially converted into the State Teachers College at Potsdam by action of the legislature and approval of the governor.
- Along with the school's name change, "The Normal Racquette" was re-named "The Racquette."
 - 1945 - Nine Potsdam State students and alumni were killed in action during World War II
 - 1947 - Robert Shaw serves as guest conductor of Crane Chorus, first of 16 appearances
 - 1948 - The State University of New York was established to create affordable and accessible education to the many WW2 veterans who had earned benefits under the OJ Bill.
- With the founding of the State University of New York, Potsdam State Teachers College became the State University of New York College at Potsdam.

- The College purchased one of the first existing frame houses in Potsdam, the house at 69 Pierrepont, to serve as the President's residence. Dr. Frederick W. Crumb first occupied this house.
- 1951 - Construction was completed on Merritt Hall, which first opened as an athletic facility. Morey, Carson and MacVicar halls were opened as well.
- Norman Dello Joio commissioned to write Psalm of David - first time any State University of New York campus commissioned a piece of music
- 1951 - College receives accreditation from Middle States Association.
- Crane Chorus is included in Robert Shaw's Choral Masterworks Series at Carnegie Hall in New York City
- 1954 - Ownership of old downtown building, now Clarkson University's Snell building, ceases.
- Raymond hall opens, housing the college's administrative offices, classrooms, and library.
- 1956 - Crane Hall opens housing the Crane Department of Music.
- 1958 - Sisson Hall opens as a dormitory.
- Crane Chorus performed in New York City with the Symphony of the Air, under the baton of Leopold Stokowski, at the General assembly Hall of the United Nations.
- 1960 - Construction was completed on Thatcher Hall, the new dining facility.
- 1962 - Star Lake campus was purchased in September.
- At a final session on March 14th, the student body selected the polar bear as the official college mascot.
- 1964 - Stowell Hall opened to house the biology and chemistry departments and the College's planetarium.
- College is able to offer degrees in liberal arts for the first time.
- 1965 - Construction on Van Housen Hall and its extension was completed, to be used as a dormitory.
- 1966 - Construction on the Maintenance building, both the Knowles Hall dormitory and dining facility were completed.
- 1967 - Flagg and Kellas halls, both containing academic classrooms, were opened on the campus. Flagg hall was also intended to house the psychology department and Kellas to house the Campus Communications and Technology departments.
- The Crumb Memorial Library was completed, with students pitching in doing "Operation Book Lift" to help move over 110,000 volumes from the library in Satterlee Hall.
- 1968 - Brainerd and Timerman halls were completed, Brainerd hall to house the Art Department and the Gibson Gallery, and Timerman Hall to house the geology and physics departments as well as a nature center.
- T.C. Boyle, an internationally acclaimed author, graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a bachelor's degree in history. He has written a number of short stories and novels including "World's End," "East is East" and "The Road to Wellville," which was made into a popular movie. He is now a professor of English at the University of Southern California.
- Art gallery opens.
- 1969 - The Barrington Student Union, Lehman Hall and the Lehman Dining Hall were completed. Lehman Hall serves as a dormitory for students.
- A group of students and faculty travel to Washington, D.C., for a Vietnam Peace March.

- Late 1960's to 1984 - Saratoga Potsdam Choral Institute with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra.
- 1971 - The Crane Department of Music became the Crane School of Music, a separate school of the College.
 - Construction on Raymond Hall, which now houses administrative offices, was completed. Old Raymond Hall is renamed Saterlee Hall, converted to house the Politics and Sociology departments.
- 1972 - Maxcy Hall, the College's athletic facility, and Bowman Hall, a residence hall, were completed.
 - Co-ed housing established.
 - School of Liberal Arts and School of Professional Studies established.
- 1973 - The Crane School of Music complex was completed. This includes the Sara M. Snell Music Theater, the Helen M. Hosmer Concert Hall, Bishop Hall and Schuette Hall.
- 1977 - \$238,000 grant received for multimedia foreign language project from National Endowment for the Humanities (largest NEH grant to date to a public institution)
- 1980 - The Crane School of Music served as the official musicians for the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid. Students and faculty composed and performed original music both for the opening and closing ceremonies and played national anthems at award ceremonies each day-
 - The Potsdam College Bears men's basketball team won more games than any other team in the nation.
- 1981 - The Potsdam College Bears first achieved the status of Division III national champions in men's basketball.
 - Renee Fleming, a member of the Metropolitan Opera for eight years, graduated from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam with a bachelor's degree in music education. She has been a principal in a number of the Metropolitan Opera's productions including Andre Previn's "A Streetcar Named Desire," Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and in Haydn's "Creation."
 - C.J. Rapp, founder and president of Global Beverage Company, graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Founded in 1985, Global Beverage Company is the maker of the popular Jolt Cola as well as Pirate's Keg Gourmet Sodas and Blu botol (natural spring water).
- 1982 - Dogs banned from College buildings.
- 1986 - Potsdam Bears win NCAA Division III national championship for second time.
 - The Crane School of Music celebrates centennial.
 - Crane Chorus performs at unveiling of refurbished Statue of Liberty.
 - National Science Foundation awards \$850,000 for model program to prepare middle school math/science teachers.
 - National Endowment for the Humanities challenges donors with \$210,000 to support further growth and strengthening of the humanities.
- 1990 - Money magazine names Potsdam College one of "best buys" among u.s. colleges. u.s. News and World Report ranks Potsdam College as 13th best college in the north. \$3 million Capital Campaign successfully completed
- 1991 - College celebrates 175th anniversary
- 1998 - The SUNY system celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- 1999 - In May, U.S. Ambassador to Canada Gordon D. Giffin served as the speaker for SUNY Potsdam's Commencement ceremonies and received an honorary degree from the College.

2000 - Crane provides the music at the inaugural Winter Goodwill Games in Lake Placid.