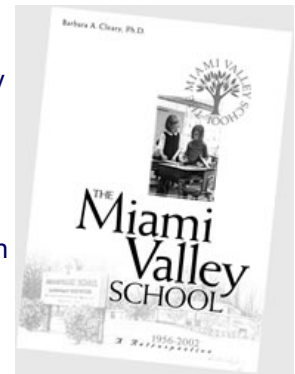


MVS History Project

The Miami Valley School was established in 1964. Dr. Barb Cleary has written a book on the history of The Miami Valley School. The project was underwritten by former trustees Ruth Mead, Bruce Bedford and Mike Cleary. Many former students, parents, faculty members, and trustees have contributed to the compilation.

The Miami Valley School: A Retrospective was made available in time for the celebration of the school's 40th anniversary celebration in 2004. This handsome, hardback book has more than 200 pages of anecdotes and information about the school since its pre-history days as The Marti School, plus more than 100 photos of people and events. You may find yourself in its pages!

All monies from the sale of this book will go to support the faculty endowment fund.



About the book. . .

Ask any alumnus/a, or faculty member, or parent what they remember about their time at The Miami Valley School, and you will probably receive as many answers as people you asked. But most of them would no doubt include some memories of Immersion, an athletic victory (or defeat), and a teacher whose influence is still felt in their life.

The history of The Miami Valley School has existed only in those rich memories and in the myriad scrapbooks, playbills, and yearbooks stacked away in different corners of campus, until now.

The Miami Valley School, 1956-2003: A Retrospective, by veteran Upper School English teacher, Dr. Barbara Cleary, has been written, edited, printed, and makes its official debut this month.

"Even if someone is not in the book, he or she is a part of the school - even if they were here for one day, b/c history is a dynamic thing - and the school is a part of them," Cleary said.

The 240-page hardcover book tells the story of The Miami Valley School from its beginnings as The Marti School to the present day, through four decades, four different headmasters, and building additions that saw the campus inhale and exhale along with the life it contained.

"Barb Cleary's Retrospective, while a well-written and authoritative history of The Miami Valley School, is also a significant reflection of the maturity and emergence of MVS in the greater Dayton community," said Headmaster Tom Brereton. "When we began in 1964 with forty students, there were worries that MVS would not survive. Today, with almost five hundred students, it thrives, and Barbara's history captures many challenges and successes that brought its current levels of stability and prominence. It is also a story of endeavor, sacrifice, and commitment by many unique people who are drawn together by a passion to create a superb independent college preparatory school-and succeeded."



The project actually began almost 15 years ago when alumnus Doug Jenks '87 decided to produce a history of MVS for a class as an undergraduate at the University of Dayton. Jenks gathered research, collected memorabilia, corresponded and recorded interviews with early school trustees and leaders including Pfeife Smith and Ted Truslow, who have since passed.

Though Jenks never finished the history, his research laid the groundwork that would prove invaluable when Cleary adopted the project in 1998.

Ruth Mead, former trustee, parent, and Parents' Association President, agreed to underwrite the project, along with Bruce Bedford and Mike Cleary, former parents and board members.

During the subsequent five years, Cleary said she "set out to survey the whole school community." Board members and administrators, both past and present, were interviewed, and surveys were sent out via mail and e-mail to the rest of the community.

"Since I'm not an historian, it was difficult deciding what was real," Cleary said. "People have different perceptions of the way things happened."

Cleary estimated that a few hundred sources were used to tell the school's history. Nearly 600 names appear in its index.

"I talked to Tom Brereton a lot; he's been here 30 years. I tried to get people from the Marti School and early days of MVS - people from all different eras," she added.

Cleary said that her favorite aspect of compiling the history was talking to people and hearing the funny stories they related. One of her favorites was when Ron Sternal, a sixth grade teacher in the early 70's, assigned his students the task of taking apart his old car, affectionately known as "the duck," and putting it back together so that they could learn how a car runs. "The duck" sat in pieces in the school's parking lot for nearly the entire year while the sixth grade students tinkered with it.

Cleary said she also learned things she never knew about the school.

"I found out that in 1986 they almost closed the Upper School," she said.

Cleary also enjoyed her collaboration with the book's designers, Sue Christian and Bill Rieger, from Nova Creative Group Design Firm.

"Their minds are like popcorn poppers, they had great ideas and took such an interest in the school."

The Miami Valley School, 1956-2003: A Retrospective was formally released on May 22 at an event for former and current trustees, benefactors, and faculty members.

Patterson Homestead, the site of a meeting in 1956 to begin planning for an independent school in Dayton, hosted the evening's dinner, which featured signed copies of the book, readings from alumni and administrators, and thanks to those who underwrote the project.

Copies of the retrospective are on sale through the Development Office.