Student government had been organized since the Sandefer years, but its executive officers and its role had changed over the years. In President Reiff's time, the Student Association had executive, legislative, and judicial departments. The Senate and House of Representatives, consisting of representatives of various phases of campus life, made up the legislative department. ¹ The form of government was altered little by little over the years until the three divisions joined to make one Student Congress. After discussion with those governing the student body, President Skiles had agreed to obtain a full-time counselor for students, and to involve more students in decision-making affecting the Artist's Series, student recruitment, and dress codes affecting female students.²

Some rules for conduct remained very much the same for decades, but some sexist rules were eliminated in the seventies. All women students were previously required to sign out in their own handwriting if leaving campus during the day or if leaving their residence hall after 6 p.m. Female students were asked in the student handbook not to smoke in public: "It is considered to be against the traditionally high standards of the university."³ As recently as 1970, pants and shorts for women were not to be worn in campus buildings including the cafeteria and the rest of the student center, or in downtown Abilene. In 1974, Title IX, a new state law was enacted concerning equality of the sexes which affected women's athletics and dormitory hours. There had been no restrictions on the young men's hours for some years. The young
women voted whether or not to continue restricted hours and chose to continue these rules into the early eighties even though Title IX had given them equal freedoms. Rules had been imposed until the seventies, so the idea of voting on rule changes was significant. (Freshmen girls had to be in residence by 11 p.m. on weeknights and at midnight on weekends. Other dormitories had a 2 a.m. weekend curfew). Dormitories were sparsely furnished. Army surplus green metal desks, night stands, and dressers were the norm. Students were limited as to the appliances they could bring to college. Few owned a typewriter—almost none owned an electric typewriter, let alone a computer.

Most students had very little extra money, and many had part-time or full-time jobs while attending school. In the sixties, most students did not own cars and even in the seventies, very few owned new automobiles. Registration and purchase of books was an all-day process before computerized registration was in place. The cost of a book ranged from $7 to $30, a large sum when a three-hour course cost approximately $225. Lucky students received about $100 a month from home—a few received as much as $250 to pay for laundry, expenses, telephone bills, and all leisure activities.

Chapel was held four mornings each week for many years. All students were required to attend at least one designated chapel program together each week. On that day, all offices and the library were closed, and everyone on campus was expected to attend. The Skiles administration bowed to the wishes of the majority on campus and reduced chapel requirements to twice weekly programs. Attendance was required for two years only. Many who were involved with the University at this time felt that a spirit of unity and congregational contact largely disappeared when the student body stopped congregating as a whole.

Each year, however, several students considered full-time Christian service and followed through with this commitment as others had done in all the years before them. In 1973, for instance, five graduates were appointed as foreign missionaries. HSU has always had some ties overseas. Pastor Ralph Grant of Lubbock had traveled several times in the Orient, each time visiting Hong Kong Baptist College. Grant approached President Skiles to suggest that he would raise funds to enable graduates from Hong Kong to do graduate work at HSU. Dr. Lam, the president of Hong Kong Baptist College, and President Skiles corresponded, and a prospective program was arranged whereby many students were to come to Abilene and representatives of the HSU faculty were to go to Hong Kong to teach. Peter Chan and Florence Hui were the first students to come from Hong Kong Baptist College in the
late sixties. Phillip Koong also came as a student. Sadly, Mr. Grant became ill and without his help and vision the program lost momentum.

During the Founder's Day ceremony in Behrens Chapel in the Spring of 1967, President Skiles presented medallions to those who had graduated at least fifty years before. Mrs. Margaret A. Lewis of Austin, Texas, was the oldest graduate at the ceremony. Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. S. L. McCracken of Marfa, Texas, (both of the class of 1899) received standing ovations, each having been students over sixty years previously. When Mrs. Lewis received her medallion, she reached into a bag and pulled out her diploma, which she presented to the school; it read Maid of Literature.

“Abilene Day” was observed on campus on October 11, 1968, to pay tribute to the city and its leaders for the assistance given to the school over the first seventy-seven years. A number of Abilene civic and business leaders, including Mayor Ralph Hooks, were invited to an all-school assembly in Behrens Chapel, a reception, and a tour of the campus.

Beginning in the fall of 1974, an annual “HSU Day at Six Flags” gave over a thousand students, faculty, and staff a day of fun in Ft. Worth for several consecutive years.

Ex-students often talk about belonging to the “University Family.” During the Viet Nam war years, a letter written on May 10, 1968, was received by Byron Bryant, Associate Vice-President of Development, from Gordon Lam, an alumnus. Lam was recuperating from injuries received in Viet Nam and wrote the letter requesting that it be printed in the next issue of the Range Rider to explain how the war affected HSU:

It's a real war. It's a conflict involving the HSU family because many HSU students are here. No matter what their jobs are, they're fighting a war. The people on campus must realize that they can contribute by praying for us.

Through all the horrible sounds and experience of war, my soul searches for the peace of God. I hear the agony of dying men; I hold the hands of my men as life slips away; I try to forget the faces of the wounded as they cry out for God's help. But when it's all over for a while, I go somewhere alone and try to remember how peaceful it would be to sit in a church and listen to the words of the hymn, "Jesus is Tenderly calling Thee Home!"

Sentimental? No, I just want to say that my being at HSU brought peace to my heart and to my mind. I long to someday return and say thank you “Fair Daughter of the West” for teaching me that God
is our strength and our shepherd. After the horror of a battle and the smoke clears from the battle area, I can look into the heavens and thank God for his watchful hand. Hardin-Simmons gave me an academic foundation, a military future, but most important of all it gave me an experience of knowing that God will be with me no matter where I am. I'll always remember the scripture which says, "Be still and know that I am God." Today my radio operator died while saving me yesterday. My heart aches because of his loss, but out there somewhere a soul will go to be with God.8

STAFF

Virtually all employees who stay a long time feel a strong sense of Christian ministry as their reason for service. Many staff members have served the school long and well. The Dean of Women through the sixties was Miss Alice Berkshire. Mrs. Claude (Tid) McAden, class of 1941, came to the school first as Assistant Director of Student Life and Counselor to Women in 1968. (Her mother was Grace Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late President J. D. Sandefer). McAden soon became Dean of Women and remained until 1985. She was a beloved friend and informal counselor to hundreds of students and was sorely missed after she chose to retire. The title of Dean of Women was replaced in favor of Associate Dean of Student Development in the early eighties.

William (Bill) Johnson began to work in the Business Office in 1961 as the purchasing agent and off-campus housing director. One of his jobs was to have school stationery printed off campus: the school printing shop was not set up until 1966 when Joseph Powell came to work as a Vice-President for Business Affairs. The "bookstore" was in an old wood barracks after being in the basement of the old Abilene Hall, and was moved to Moody Student Center in 1962. Johnson worked elsewhere for four years but returned to HSU in 1969 to become the bookstore manager. He became Business Manager in 1974, setting up the University's budget under the direction of Joe Powell. Powell resigned in 1977, and accepted a one-year appointment by the Foreign Mission Board to go with his wife, Frances, as a volunteer missionary to the Taiwan Mission. Johnson continues to be in charge of student housing, the campus carpool for staff and faculty business, the cafeteria, the bookstore, and the post office, which space is rented to the U.S. Post Office, also, so that the public as well as students may be served.9
Some staff members who are listed in Appendix II gave most of their vocational lives to HSU. Mrs. Sandy Graham, for instance, held several positions before becoming the executive secretary to the Vice President for Finance and Management. When there is a question which needs an answer and no one is quite sure who to ask, Graham usually gets the call and responds with the correct answer. Staff members engineer the daily running of academic institutions, and their attitudes usually determine the atmosphere which pervades the campus.

BUILDINGS

Several facilities were torn down during the Skiles years: Rose Field House, the old Science building, the old ROTC building, the small wooden ROTC officers' office building at Hickory and Vogel, the small brick building where the Woodward-Dellis Recital Hall now stands, the old tennis courts west of Sandefur Memorial Building, and the wooden houses where Ellis Center now stands. In their place, several buildings were constructed, including the Sid Richardson Science Center, the Mabee Military Science Building, the President's Home, the Cowboy Band Hall, the Woodward-Dellis Recital Hall, the Rupert and Pauline Richardson Library, and the Central Heating and Air Conditioning Plant. The Streich Tennis Center, the Brand Swimming and Recreation Area and a new baseball diamond were completed, and six of the main buildings had major renovations.10

One of the most impressive additions to the campus was the Sid Richardson Science Building. The Sandefur family had worked for many years to initiate interest from the Sid Richardson Foundation for some sort of financial aid to the University. No gift had materialized. President James H. Landes called friends in the oil business, Frank and Bea Wood, who knew Perry Bass, a nephew and business partner of the late Sid W. Richardson. Through their introduction, President Landes had several meetings with Bass, who knew that Richardson had wanted to "do something for Hardin-Simmons."11

Sid W. Richardson had attended Simmons College just for the academic sessions of 1911-12, and was forced to leave school for lack of funds. He always claimed he had enjoyed that year better than any others. Between 1912 and 1933, he lost his savings three times and began in business for the fourth time when he borrowed four $10 bills from his sister in 1933. He became a highly successful oilman and businessman. The first time the public knew of his quiet philanthropic activity was in an announcement that he had given
$100,000 for construction of a new auditorium for the Baptist Church in Athens, Texas, as a memorial to his mother, Nannie Richardson, a member of the church for forty years. At the time of his death by heart attack in 1959 at the age of sixty-eight, Richardson was CEO of several companies and operated cattle ranches in several counties in Texas. Richardson had committed the bulk of his estate to the Sid W. Richardson Foundation and wanted it to benefit the people of Texas because he felt they had made it possible for him to succeed.

Construction of the $1.4 million Sid Richardson Science Building began in the fall of 1966 under the guidance of Boone and Pope architects. Although classes began that fall, the building was officially dedicated in the spring of 1968 by President Elwin Skiles. Skiles had arranged only the week before for Texas Governor John Connally to be the main speaker at the occasion in the place of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had agreed to come before suffering a heart attack. One hour before Connally was to arrive, Dr. Skiles was informed that his flight had been cancelled because of bad weather. Former President of the University, Rupert N. Richardson, a friend of the late Sid Richardson, was asked to speak. In early days, the two Richardsons had referred to each other as cousins, although they were unrelated. The large audience which gathered for the dedication gave the popular Dr. Richardson a standing ovation when Skiles announced that Richardson was speaking in place of the other two men. He did an able job of recounting the history of the Science Department beginning with the first dean, Dr. Julius Olsen, and then describing to the audience the man who had been his friend and was the benefactor of the new building.

The center is built on three levels and houses a lecture room dedicated to Julius Olsen which seats almost two hundred, offices, and laboratories as necessary for the departments of physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and geology. The newest materials of the era were used: table and counter tops of chemically-resistant synthetic stone, pyrex glass sewage system to slow corrosion of the pipes, emergency safety equipment in the laboratories, and distilled water available from the taps. On the first floor of the building is a portrait of Sid W. Richardson by Victor Lallier. Lallier, who resides in Dallas, is included in “Art in the United States Capitol.” His portraits of Dr. J. B. Sandefer, Dr. Julius Olsen, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Lange, Dr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson, Dr. Elwin Skiles, and Dr. Jesse Fletcher are displayed in several buildings on campus.

Throughout the science building are plaques denoting the winners of
various scholarships and grants in Biology, Geology and Mathematics. One display case shows large and valuable samples of malachite and quartz-amethyst geodes from South America donated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wood, Jr., in 1976. Information about geology field trips to Palo Duro Canyon, Texas; Central Mineral Region, Texas; Cisco Area, Texas; Tularosa Basin, New Mexico; Wichita Mountains, Oklahoma; Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas; and Callahan Divide, Texas, is enclosed in a case with several mineral samples. Many other mineral samples are displayed throughout the building. Geological data valued at more than $67,000 was given to the University in December of 1974 by John H. Chalmers, long-respected independent oil man of Abilene.

An Environmental Laboratory consisting of plant and animal labs, a greenhouse, and Geology work rooms was built in 1971. The Laboratory was designed and built by Don Bridges and is located behind the Sid Richardson Building.

The Van Ellis Theatre fronting on Cedar Street was designated in honor of Van and Lou Ellis, who donated $100,000 to the school in 1967. Mrs. Ellis' maiden name is Morton: she and her husband have both served as executives of Morton Food, Incorporated. All dramatic performances take place in this theatre to the present.

Three years later, the couple donated a second $100,000 to fund the building of a new residence for the school's chief executive. A new two-story home, designed by architects Boone and Pope, was finished and occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Elwin Skiles and family in 1970. For six years it served as home for the Skiles and for three years was home for the family of Dr. and Mrs. Jesse C. Fletcher. In 1979, the structure was designated the Lou Morton Ellis Center in honor of Mrs. Van C. Ellis and her parents, the G. C. Mortons of Dallas. The wall around the yard was built of brick from the old Science Building. Many hundreds of people have enjoyed the hospitality of both families in the home. After the Fletchers chose to reside off campus, Ellis Center was converted to a center to be used by development and alumni staff, and for small group conferences. The Fletchers have continued to use the facility for entertaining and hospitality connected with the University. The Vice President for University Relations and Development, Richard M. Styles, and his staff moved into the newly renovated offices. By moving this group, space was freed in Sandefer Memorial Building to house the faculty and administrative offices of two divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences, and to expand the space of the School of Business.

Woodward-Dellis Recital Hall, located to the immediate north of the
Caldwell Music Building, was made possible by Ora Lena (Woodward) Dellis. She was the widow of J. L. Dellis, chief engineer of the project which gave Los Angeles, California, its main water supply. Mrs. Dellis was preceded in death by her husband and two children. Her daughter, Mrs. Orleanor Kinsey, earned from HSU a degree which enabled her to teach music. (Mrs. Kinsey died in 1965 in Odessa.) Mrs. Dellis, who lived in Abilene, bequeathed most of her estate to HSU due to this connection. The Recital Hall was constructed by the Tittle, Luther, and Loving Architectural Firm in 1974.

When the University began, the entire library occupied one room in the main—and only—building. After being in various locations, as discussed earlier, in 1949 the library was moved to the top two floors of Sandefer Memorial Building.

Miss Mabel Willoughby served as librarian from 1956 until 1967, and Hugh A. Brown was librarian from 1967-1969. Dr. Calvin C. Turpin, a professor in the Bible Department, served as librarian from 1971 until 1977. His interests reached to co-authoring a short book titled Rupert N. Richardson: The Man and His Work, a bibliography of Dr. Rupert Richardson, and he helped form the Cowboy Aero Club to provide inexpensive flying instruction and flying opportunities. After retirement, Turpin moved to Hollister, California, with his wife, Eudell. In 1990, he was made the new deputy chief of chaplains for the National Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and will normally be promoted to chief of chaplains. Dr. Kenneth W. Jones was librarian from 1977-1981 followed by Dr. Joe F. Dahlstrom who served from 1981 until 1988. Active in the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra and on the Abilene Public Library Board, Dahlstrom added to the school’s reputation for contributing to community affairs. Alice W. Specht, M.L.S. from Emory University and M.B.A. from HSU, was appointed Director of University Libraries in 1988. Her husband, Joe Specht, is the library director for McMurry University.

Finally, a three-story, 48,632 square foot building designed by Tittle, Luther and Loving, was constructed at a cost of $2,000,000. The building was named in honor of Rupert and Pauline Richardson and was dedicated on November 6, 1976. Plans for the library had been completed after Phase One of HSU’s Profile for Progress Campaign. Building Fund gifts came from HSU supporters including faculty and staff. The Mabee Foundation provided a challenge grant to hasten the fund raising for the building.

The library now contains approximately 406,370 volumes in its main collection. The library subscribes to more than 1,000 periodicals, and total
holdings come to well over 350,000 items.

The entire first floor is named the J. E. and L. E. Mabee floor in appreciation for the Mabee Foundation funding. Also on the first floor is the Duffy Auditorium, a small auditorium designed for large-class, multi-media instruction, or meetings or social occasions. It was named in memory of Mrs. B. A. Duffy of Abilene, whose family, including Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wilkins, has faithfully supported the school for many years.

The Smith Music Library in Caldwell Hall contains study scores, collected works of various composers, recordings, basic music books, and reference materials. The library was given by Dr. Clyde E. Smith in memory of his wife, Ovida Shepherd Smith, who was devoted to music. The library was dedicated on April 18, 1974.

In 1964, the personal library of the late Edna Marie Jones, a nationally known music educator, was given to the Hardin-Simmons University library by Miss Jones' mother, Mrs. Ann Marie Jones of Austin. The collection in this library included approximately 275 books on music and art, more than 1,000 items of sheet music and music scores, and some 50 miscellaneous items, including recordings and Miss Jones' personal files.

The newly formed Hardin-Simmons University School of Music Foundation purchased an outstanding library of approximately nine hundred volumes of early American hymnody from Dr. Thurman Morrison, retired professor of HSU's School of Music, in 1990. The collection is called the Thurman Lee and Lucialis Jones Morrison Collection. The collection, to be housed in the Smith Music Library, contains a number of rare books including a copy of the 1647 Sternhold and Hopkins Whole Book of Psalmes and a 1736 publication of Poems on Several Occasions (a first edition) by Samuel Wesley.

James B. Simmons, Dr. Robert S. Simmons, and Sarah Anna Simmons donated their private libraries to the college as a foundation for the school's library. For seventy-five years these volumes circulated and were studied by hundreds of students. The Simmons Collection, numbering over 3,000 titles, is strong in theology, history and literature; the nineteenth century classics are available upon request but were withdrawn from circulation in order to preserve this special gift.

Honoring the memory of HSU President and Professor Oscar H. Cooper, the Cooper Education Library, housed on the third floor of the Richardson Library, contains books on education, state-adopted textbooks, standardized tests, and teaching aids. Dr. Cooper's education collection came to the library
in 1934. Added to this collection are over 20,000 catalogued items. More recent textbooks, teaching units and aids, children's literature, and books relating the theory and practice of education are housed there as well as children's encyclopedias, teaching machines, and other audio-visual aids.\(^\text{21}\)

In 1981, Mrs. Hoyt Ford sponsored a special library collection in memory of her husband, Dr. Hoyt Ford, Professor of Psychology. The Ford Memorial Collection for Life Adjustment—Counseling—Psychotherapy is housed on the library's second floor.

Michael R. Bennett donated to the Richardson Library in 1985 an extensive collection of Thomas Wolfe materials. Included are 94 books by Wolfe including first editions, 105 books about Wolfe, and various other items related to this American author.

In 1986, Lee and Lunelle Hemphill furnished the Business Reading Room which is set aside on the third floor of the library. Current business and finance journals and newly acquired books are housed in this special study area.

Clee Woods, in memory of his wife Betty, made donations throughout the 1980s to support the acquisition of rare books for the University. Mr. Woods also donated to the collection many rare titles from his private collection. Housed in the Betty Woods Fine and Rare Book Room are approximately 350 titles printed or designed by Carl Hertzog of El Paso. Hertzog was one of Texas's major fine printers for over 60 years. Mr. Clifton Caldwell of Albany, grandson of C. M. Caldwell, donated this major collection to the Richardson Library in 1976 and 1977.

In 1975, Mrs. Ray F. Downing of Fort Worth donated the painting of El Capitan by Audley Dean Nicols. Mrs. Downing was the daughter of J. L. Lancaster, President of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Mr. Lancaster commissioned the painting in the 1920s, and it hung in his office for almost fifty years. El Capitan, the picturesque mountain landmark adjacent to Guadalupe Peak in far West Texas, became the symbol of the Texas and Pacific Railroad.

The library houses three oil portraits completed in 1976: the portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Rupert Richardson memorialize the building being named in their honor, Mrs. B.A. Duffy's portrait hangs in Duffy Auditorium, and “The Longhorn Steer” lithograph by Ronald Thomason was presented in 1978 honoring Mr. and Mrs. Guy Caldwell's fiftieth anniversary. Twenty-two pieces of Steuben glass were presented to the library by Dossie and Winnie Wiggins in 1977. In 1988, Dr. H.W. McIntyre presented HSU with two pairs of Royal Worcester Dorothy Doughty Birds in memory of his wife, Alma. Dr. Richardson's bronze bust, sculpted by Robert Berks in 1980, is housed in the Research Center.\(^\text{22}\)
In 1983, an endowment in the amount of $92,796 was given to the library from the estate of Mrs. Melvia Poteet Campbell. In 1986, a gift of $242,217 was made from the estate of Mrs. Campbell's sister, Mrs. Elta Campbell Roberts. This endowment for library materials was made in memory of Willie Beatrice Campbell of Abilene. The following year the Texas Library Association recognized Campbell posthumously as a Benefactor of Texas Libraries.

The Rupert N. Richardson Research Center of the Southwest initially was planned to be a regional archive repository developed and maintained jointly by the three Abilene Colleges. The Research Center was to be staffed by an archivist and three staff members to collect, preserve, and disseminate historically relevant materials of the region including monographs, theses, dissertations, manuscripts, periodicals, academic and religious archives, newspapers, photographs, maps, films, recordings, tapes, ephemeral and works of art. The 3,000 square foot area in the Richardson Library was to be leased by the college consortium. Programs were to include repository functions, cataloging and registering materials, indexing, microfilming, reproduction and exchange of materials, research publication, support of academic programs, support for historical societies, service to the archival profession, and archival training.

Early supporters of the Research Center included Dr. John Estes who launched the idea, Clifton Caldwell, John Ben Shepperd, and Maurice Brooks. Congressmen Omar Burleson and George Mahon served on the advisory committee with John Matthews and several other key supporters. The executive committee was made up of the three college presidents: Dr. Thomas Kim of McMurry, Dr. John Stevens of ACU, and Dr. E. L. Skiles. The center opened in 1976 with minimal funding as a tri-college program. In May 1979, the College Consortium formally conveyed the Center and all assets to HSU. There has not been adequate funding to run the center; initial funding provided one part-time archivist the first year the center was open.

Richardson and later B.W. Aston, as Director of the Research Center, carried out many of the center's plans, but on a smaller scale than originally envisioned. With the assistance of HSU graduate assistants, Aston implemented microfilming and indexing of the archival material. The Richardson Library staff provided much of the acquisition and cataloging work of the center for monographs and maps. The West Texas Historical Association headquarters is maintained in the Research Center. Books, newspapers, local records, theses, maps, photographs, audio and video tapes, and archives have been added to the collection. The video history program was started in 1985 by Dr. Joe Dahlstrom and B.W. Aston with the support of McMurry College.
and Abilene Christian University to record interviews with prominent Big Country residents.

The National, Texas, and Abilene Committees for the Humanities made a grant to start the Abilene photograph Collection in 1981. Dr. Fane Downs of McMurry and Aston instituted a computer-indexed, copy photograph collection. Over 7,000 negative and contact prints are indexed by computer in the Research Center. In addition to the *West Texas Historical Association Yearbook*, the Research Center publications have included *This I Remember* by Dr. Richardson, *The Future Great City of West Texas Abilene: 1881-1981*, edited by Fane Downs, and *Abilene, an American Centennial*.

Several special collections have been added to the Research Center. The Crane Collection, composed of 5,000 items from Judge R.C. Crane of Sweetwater, includes business papers, correspondence, and maps. Part of the collection was given in the late twenties, and Crane added to it several times. Louise Kelly willed her extensive collection of Texana, valued at $20,000, to the Research Center in 1976 in honor of Dr. Richardson. The endowment for the Center was greatly enhanced in 1988 at the closing of her estate. Selected University records and correspondence, the personal history collection of the late historian Walter Prescott Webb purchased in 1965, and regional papers of interest including those of Truett Latimer, Walter Grubbs, Rupert N. Richardson, San Simon Cattle Company, J.D. Sandefer, and the Simmons family are housed in the Research Center.

Dr. and Mrs. Othal Brand of McAllen, Texas, were responsible for the building of an outdoor junior olympic-sized pool which meets NCAA specifications. Their son was interested in swimming and desired to attend HSU. Othal E. Brand, Jr. transferred to Texas Christian University after three years since HSU was not involved in competitive swimming. The pool facility, dedicated April 15, 1977, includes an equipment room, the pool inside Marston Gymnasium, and a practice area for tennis.

In 1968, the tennis complex was resurfaced, both on the courts and the adjacent areas, and lights were installed for night play. Bleachers were built on the west side and windbreakers were erected around the perimeter of the courts.

A new, eight-court, lighted tennis center was completed in 1975 and named the W. A. Streich Tennis Center in honor of Streich and his wife, Belle. Streich was president of the Streich group of ten franchised Gibson's Discount stores in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma. Since his death in June 1979, his family has continued their longstanding support to HSU.
ATHLETICS

The 1966 Basketball team holds the school record for most points scored in a single game: 124, against Idaho State University. The Cowboys were the basketball champions at the Dyess Air Force Base Invitational Tournament in 1968. In a 1969 basketball tournament run by HSU, the Cowboys won. Glen Whitis and Russell Berry were hired as basketball coaches from Howard Payne College in 1970.26 Coach Whitis had served at HPU for fifteen years and had established a successful reputation coaching. His wife, Wanda, came to work for him in September 1970 when his secretary chose to begin teaching for the public school system. By November, 1971, the United Athletic Alliance of which HSU was a part, was moving toward the formation of a conference with major NCAA affiliations. In 1972, the school team came in first in the HSU Cowboy Classic Tournament. The following year they were co-champions in the United Athletic Conference. Berry became the head coach when Coach Whitis died in a car accident in 1974. Whitis’ premature death was a shock; the school had high hopes for future winning seasons. Mrs. Whitis remained at the University for twenty years. She was voted Staff Person of the Year in 1989 for her careful attention to the work of the Athletic Office.

Star players Harvey Catchings and Gary Crowthers were both drafted to play professional basketball by the Philadelphia 76’ers in 1974.

Women’s basketball came to the fore as the women began to win tournaments in the mid-sixties. In 1966, they won first place at a North Texas State University Tournament and second at another North Texas State University Invitational Tournament. In 1968, they were first at the Dyess Air Force Base Invitational. Ten years passed before they placed third in the Texas Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (TAIAW) Zone championship.

Women’s Volleyball began to move in the sixties. In 1964 the team placed second at North Texas, and the next year they won first place at the North Texas tournament.

In tennis, Randy McDonald of San Antonio and Terry Treadwell advanced to the quarter finals in singles play in the NCAA meet in Chicago in 1967, coached by Phil Tinsworth. Terry Treadwell, ’69, was an outstanding tennis player. His four year record was 63-17, allowing him to win the Outstanding Tennis Player Award four times. He played in the NCAA Championships in 1967, 1968, and 1969, even advancing to quarter finals in 1967. Treadwell was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1987. Another notable tennis star of this era was Fred Kniffen, who became a tennis pro for the city of Abilene.
and directed the Texas Open two years in a row.

George Newman, who was a former tennis star at New Mexico State University, joined the HSU Biology faculty in 1967. He had been the top-ranked high school player in New Mexico during his junior and senior years and represented the state in the national tournaments in the summers of 1958-59. He played on the NMSU varsity team two years, then transferred to Baylor, where he played his final year of eligibility. Newman guided the teams to a 57-35 record between May of 1975 and Spring of 1979. The team won the North Texas State University Team Tennis Tournament in 1977, the Midwestern State University Team Tennis Tournament in 1978, the Wildcat Invitational Team Tennis Tournament in 1979, and first place in the Pender-HSU Spring Invitational Team Tennis Tournament that same year. Newman resigned from coaching in 1980 but continued teaching, researching, and ranching interests.

The HSU women's tennis team brought home a second place prize in the West Texas Tournament and were Runners Up in the HSU Dr. Pepper-Pepsi Tournament in the late sixties. In 1968, the team placed second at the Wayland Baptist College Invitational Tournament.

Golf teams did well in the fifties, and then had sporadic successes in later years. Teams placed first, second and third in Abilene Intercollegiate tournaments in the seventies. In 1973, they came first in the New Mexico Intercollegiate Tourney. There were at least two tournaments each year in which they placed in the top three. In 1973, the golf team, coached by Dr. George Housewright, had a great record in dual matches, 14-1, as well as recording a first place and three third places in tournament play.27

Men's soccer was approved as an intercollegiate non-scholarship sport in 1977.

New freedoms for women included not only sports involvement, but a relaxation of rules of conduct, both on the athletic field and in society. New opportunities for careers previously offered almost entirely to men, and new responsibilities accompanying the freedoms followed. It would take two generations for society to feel comfortable with the new mores of behavior. The universities, including HSU, helped lead the way.

After an eleven-year term, Dr. Skiles announced his resignation to be effective in the summer of 1977 after his sixty-fifth birthday. President and Mrs. Skiles had evidenced a prevailing spirit of optimism and confidence regarding the present and future of the school which was recognized by a plaque given to them by the faculty at the faculty and staff appreciation dinner.
held in the spring of 1977. It read "Of love shared and dedication to the
growth of Hardin-Simmons University." Skiles believed with all his heart
in the worth of HSU. Both in the years he served on the Board of Trustees
and in the years he served as president, he sang the praises of the school
wherever he went: "Waitresses, bell boys, children of friends, trick or treaters,
paper boys—they all knew about HSU." The University constituency and the
city of Abilene were happy that Ruth and Elwin Skiles were remaining in
Abilene despite his chosen retirement. He was a gracious support to the
incoming president who would face a financial challenge which included the
best of times and the worst of times, all in a space of less than fifteen years.
The prayers and encouragement of the Skiles family would undergird the
new administrator, Jesse C. Fletcher.