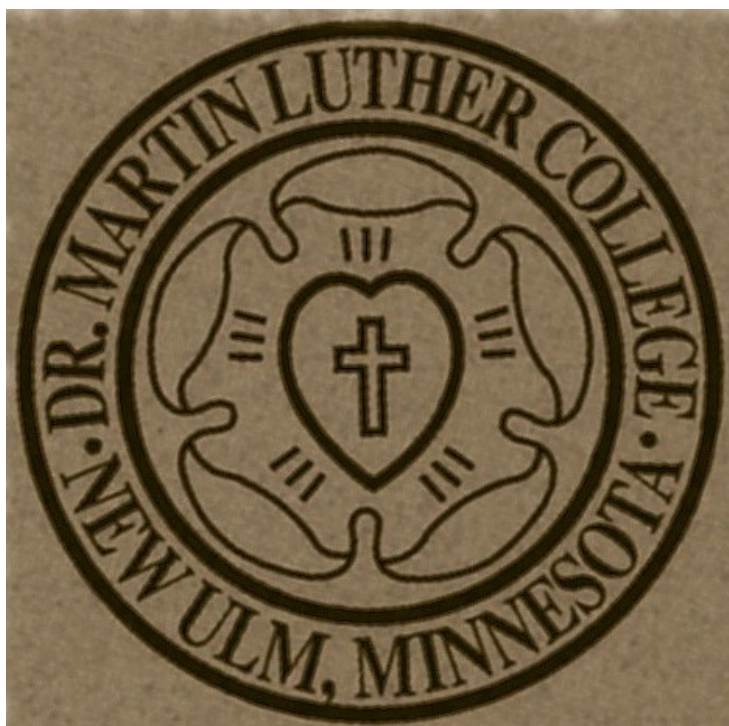


**The Dr. Martin Luther College Collection  
An Inventory**



Archive of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Mequon, Wisconsin

Inventory Prepared by Jeremiah J. Gumm

Description Prepared by Jeremiah J. Gumm  
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# The Dr. Martin Luther College Collection

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## Collection Level Description

**Title:** The Dr. Martin Luther College Collection

**Dates:** 1884-2002

**Extent:** 3.19 meters of textual records

### **Historical sketch:**

An excellent history of Dr. Martin Luther College can be found in *A Time to Remember: An Informal History of Dr. Martin Luther College 1884-1984* by Morton A. Schroeder. This book covers the history of DMLC from before its founding on 10 November 1884 until the school's centennial celebrated in 1984. Copies of this history can be found in Box 5, Series 6, Folder 88. Unfortunately, this history ends with the 1984 centennial celebration. A brief, but much older history of DMLC was published for the school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1934. Copies of this history can be found in Box 5, Series 6, Folder 87.

In the April 1996 edition of the *WELS Historical Institute*, former DMLC president, Dr. John C. Lawrenz, wrote a retrospective article on the history of DMLC up until its official closing on 1 July 1995. His article briefly covered the final decade that followed Schroeder's history. He wrote,

“A secondary education program got off the ground in 1988. The first staff ministry professor joined the faculty in 1992... At his retirement in 1993 President Huebner saw DMLC's enrollment return to a healthy 570.... A tight financial picture, first evident in synodical budgeting around 1980, did not ease. Nor did the Wisconsin Synod continue to experience the explosive growth which characterized the 1960's and 1970's. At the synod's 1985 convention the question raised, 'Does the synod still need three preparatory schools?' A Prep School Study Commission was appointed. Their answer in 1989 was breathtaking. It called for one Wisconsin based preparatory school in Watertown and a single Minnesota based college for teachers and future pastors in New Ulm. Two years later the 1991 convention adopted the PSSC's recommendation and appointed a special commission to weigh the feasibility of a double amalgamation. In 1993 the synod meeting in Saginaw, by a close vote, confirmed its earlier action.

“Three weeks later John Lawrenz, who had left the presidency of Michigan Lutheran Seminary in spring, became DMLC's tenth and last president. His two-year stewardship of the college was dominated by the impending emergence of Martin Luther College. To prepare for the new educational institution a transformation of the campus took place. Students and visitors today experience a remodeled Summit Hall, a linking of Old Main and the Academic Center, new roadways, a new entrance, new parking areas, and new and expanded curricula. Campus life from two proud traditions came together.

“The work of training shepherds for the lambs and sheep of Christ's flock continued on the New Ulm campus 'in quietness and trust' for 111 years. That tradition has not been broken. It simply began a new chapter on July 1, 1995.”

### **Custodial history:**

The custodial history of this collection is sketchy at best. Some of the materials in this collection came from the Office of the President (2929 Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee), Wisconsin Lutheran College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Others have been donated from a variety of sources to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library and the WELS Archives, Mequon, WI. These sources include filmstrips

from Macquarie University in North Ryde, Australia, College Choir LP recordings from Lois Balge, James Sonnemann & Ruth Sitz, student teaching lesson plans and other documents from James Sonnemann, portraits & photographs of student A. Gerlach from Rev. Em. Joel Gerlach, 1911 postcards of the “neue” buildings on the DMLC Campus from the files of former Minnesota District President Justus Naumann, 1940s DMLC photographs from Prof. Em. John C. Jeske, a variety of items from Rev. Em. Henry Meyer, the 1985-1995 minutes and other documents of the DMLC Board of Control from Rev. Karl Gurgel, 1971 dedication programs from Norb Manthe, documents from the 1962 Special Synod Convention from former NWC President Carleton Toppe, and Board of Control documents from Arnold J. Nommenson. Other papers come from the files of those who served as presidents or directors of DMLC over its 111 year history. Little else is known about the sources of many of the materials in the DMLC collection.

### ***Scope and Content:***

The collection is made up of materials produced for, by or about Dr. Martin Luther College since the school opened on 10 November 1884.

The collection reflects the life of a proud college established for the purpose of training teachers for the schools of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The collection reflects the wide array of people, activities, and functions of the College throughout its 111-year history. The files include various correspondence, reports and records for the administration and departmental operations of the college. There are also many publications created by the student body or the administration which related to various aspects of the school. In addition, many photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia have been preserved which exhibit the day-to-day life of Dr. Martin Luther College. This collection leaves no doubt how the Lord poured out his grace on the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod throughout the 111-year history of the College.

The collection consists of the following series:

Series 1: DMLC Board of Control

Subseries 1: Accreditation & Self-Study reports, correspondence, etc. – 1962-1992

Subseries 2: Board of Control correspondence – 1976-1991

Subseries 3: DMLC Ladies’ Auxiliary documents – 1964-1993

Subseries 4: Board of Control minutes, reports, etc. – 1961-1994

Subseries 5: Board of Control miscellaneous documents – 1945-1995

Series 2: DMLC Buildings

Series 3: DMLC Catalogs

Series 4: *The Excelsior*

Series 5: DMLC Faculty

Series 6: DMLC History

Series 7: *The DMLC Messenger*

Series 8: DMLC Music

Subseries 1: Dr. Martin Luther College Choir correspondence, programs, etc. – 1930-1995

Subseries 2: DMLC Concert programs and other documents – 1911-1995

Subseries 3: DMLC Instrumental and Organ program documents – 1914-1984

Subseries 4: DMLC Music recordings – 1950-1984

Series 9: DMLC Photographs

Series 10: DMLC Recruitment

Series 11: DMLC Students

Subseries 1: DMLC Student Activities items and documents – 1922-1989

Subseries 2: DMLC Alumni & Graduating Classes reports, programs, etc. – 1941-2002

Subseries 3: DMLC Campus Directories, Student Handbooks & Miscellaneous Student Life documents & other items – 1940-1995

Subseries 4: *Tower Topics* – 1967-2002

Series 12: DMLC Worship

Series 13: 1948 Underwood Typewriter

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on the provenance of the records.

**Arrangement:** See appendix A for arrangement of the folders in the boxes.

**Restrictions:** None.

**Accruals:** The collection remains open for future accruals.

## Series level description

### The Dr. Martin Luther College Collection

#### ***Series 1: DMLC Board of Control***

Dates: 1945-1995

Extent: 24 folders, 30.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence, reports, minutes and other documents regarding the work of the DMLC Board of Control. This series includes documents regarding the 1995 amalgamation of DMLC and Northwestern College of Watertown, Wisconsin, as well as documents regarding the DMLC Ladies' Auxiliary. The series also includes correspondence regarding faculty calls and thirty years of self-studies conducted by the DMLC faculty and Board of Control, which became a necessity after DMLC was accredited in 1980.

Subseries 1: Accreditation & Self-Study reports, correspondence, etc. – 1962-1992

Subseries 2: Board of Control correspondence – 1976-1991

Subseries 3: DMLC Ladies' Auxiliary documents – 1964-1993

Subseries 4: Board of Control minutes, reports, etc. – 1961-1994

Subseries 5: Board of Control miscellaneous documents – 1945-1995

#### ***Series 2: DMLC Buildings***

Dates: 1927-1987

Extent: 3 folders, 9.8 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of documents regarding and/or celebrating the expansion of the DMLC physical plant. This series includes service folders from the dedications of all major buildings and the memorial organ on the DMLC campus, as well as campus expansion plans from 1964. This series also includes a copy of blueprints for the Academic Center, built in 1927, and a brick from Old Main, built in 1884. The brick can be found in Box 8 and is listed as folder #27

### ***Series 3: DMLC Catalogs***

Dates: 1884-1995

Extent: 32 folders, 78.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of catalogs produced by Dr. Martin Luther College to offer detailed information on a variety of topics about the school for recruitment and informative purposes. This series offers a glimpse into the changes and developments of DMLC throughout its history.

### ***Series 4: The Excelsior***

Dates: 1950-1986

Extent: 14 folders, 35.3 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of copies of the DMLC yearbook named *The Excelsior*. These copies depict campus life during the last half-century of DMLC's history.

### ***Series 5: DMLC Faculty***

Dates: 1948-1996

Extent: 9 folders, 14.9 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of reports, pamphlets, booklets and other documents pertaining to the responsibilities and members of the DMLC faculty. This series includes documents pertaining to curriculum; conferences, symposiums and workshops; anniversaries in the ministry & other faculty events; the staff ministry program; the student teaching program and its supervision, particularly that of James Sonnemann; and the annual summer school program established for continued education. This series reflects the wide variety of responsibilities given to the members of the faculty, who formed committees or departments to oversee these assigned tasks.

### ***Series 6: DMLC History***

Dates: 1896-1996

Extent: 8 folders, 18.1 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence, compiled histories, pamphlets, newspaper clippings and other documents pertaining to specific events or general areas of DMLC history. This series includes correspondence from 1896-1911, of note is a letter written to Dr. Notz of Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin by Director John Schaller in 1896; materials from DMLC's 50<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, the 1962 Special Synod Convention regarding DMLC and Milwaukee Lutheran Teachers' College and newspaper clippings from 1934-1995; and histories of DMLC written from 1934-1996, including Prof. Morton Schroeder's *A Time to Remember*, written for the DMLC centennial in 1984. The series also includes historical information on New Ulm, including city publicity and the "Centennial Edition" of the *New Ulm Daily Journal* from 1954. Due to its size, the "Centennial Edition" can be found in Box 8.

### ***Series 7: The DMLC Messenger***

Dates: 1910-1991

Extent: 27 folders, 49 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of issues of the DMLC student-run newspaper, *The Messenger*. A complete set of issues from the first issue in 1910 until 1991 is included in this series. They are arranged according to chronological order. At the present, it is not known if *The Messenger* continued to be printed through the school's closing in 1995. These issues offer very detailed insight into student & faculty life on campus at Dr. Martin Luther College over the years.

### ***Series 8: DMLC Music***

Dates: 1911-1995

Extent: 12 folders, 22.4 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of programs, correspondence, recordings and other materials regarding the music program of DMLC. This series includes documents pertaining to the Dr. Martin Luther College Choir, including correspondence sent to and from Edwin Sauer and Emil Backer between 1930 and 1939, tour materials from 1931-1994, and concert programs from 1931-1995. This series also includes programs and other documents from general Christmas concerts ranging from 1927-1985, general Commencement concerts ranging from 1922-1995 and other choir concerts performed between 1911 and 1991. This series also includes other documents and programs regarding the instrumental & organ areas of the DMLC music program, as well as recordings of DMLC concerts from 1950-1984. Due to the fact that some of the recordings were made on LPs, the LP recordings can be found in Box 9 & are listed under folder #156.

Subseries 1: Dr. Martin Luther College Choir correspondence, programs, etc. – 1930-1995

Subseries 2: DMLC Concert programs and other documents – 1911-1995

Subseries 3: DMLC Instrumental and Organ program documents – 1914-1984

Subseries 4: DMLC Music recordings – 1950-1984

### ***Series 9: DMLC Photographs***

Dates: 1900-1991

Extent: 1 folder, 3 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of photographs taken throughout the 111-year history of Dr. Martin Luther College. This series includes photographs of the DMLC faculty, graduating classes, College Choir, buildings, students, special events, classes, the 1958 School Visitors' Workshop, graduations, concerts, athletic teams & events, and even Herman the German. One photograph—a photograph of the collected student bodies of DMLC & Dr. Martin Luther High School—in this series is extra long. For this reason this photo can be found in Box 8.

### ***Series 10: DMLC Recruitment***

Dates: 1948-1994

Extent: 11 folders, 18 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of brochures, correspondence, filmstrips and other materials used to recruit young men and women to enroll at DMLC to study for the teaching ministry. Intentional recruitment efforts began at DMLC in the late 1940s and continued until the school closed in 1995. This series includes recruitment brochures; campus guides; prospect request letters; filmstrips produced by the college or synod between 1959 & 1993; issues of *From the Hill* & *The DMLC Bulletin*, DMLC recruitment newsletters; and materials for Recruitment Sundays.

### ***Series 11: DMLC Students***

Dates: 1940-2002

Extent: 10 folders, 14 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of newsletters, reports, handbooks, programs and other items pertaining to student life on the DMLC campus and to the alumni of Dr. Martin Luther College. This series includes documents and items pertaining to student activities from 1922-1989, such as athletics, the drama club and the 1972 Snow Carnival. This series also includes documents pertaining to fifty years of graduating classes, the DMLC Alumni Society, and issues of the DMLC Alumni newsletter, *Tower Topics*, ranging from 1967-2002. Finally, this series includes various student handbooks, campus

directories and other miscellaneous items pertaining to student life on the DMLC campus. Due to the size of a composite picture of the DMLC Class of 1941, this picture can be found in Box 8.

Subseries 1: DMLC Student Activities items and documents – 1922-1989

Subseries 2: DMLC Alumni & Graduating Classes reports, programs, etc. – 1941-2002

Subseries 3: DMLC Campus Directories, Student Handbooks & Miscellaneous Student Life documents & other items – 1940-1995

Subseries 4: *Tower Topics* – 1967-2002

### ***Series 12: DMLC Worship***

Dates: 1924-1995

Extent: 4 folders, 3.8 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of service folders from the many worship services held on the campus of Dr. Martin Luther College. This series includes worship folders from opening & closing services, Reformation celebrations, Morning Praise/Matins services, school & synod anniversaries, Commencement exercises, and Call Night Vespers services. This series reflects the rich worship life that was an integral part of DMLC throughout its history.

### ***Series 13: 1948 Underwood Typewriter***

Dates: 1948

Extent: 21.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of the 1948 Underwood typewriter that originally belonged to DMLC President Carl Schweppe. For further information, please see explanation enclosed in Box 10.

## Appendix A

# The Dr. Martin Luther College Collection

## Arrangement

Box 1: Folders 1-26

Box 2: Folders 28-41

Box 3: Folders 42-56

Box 4: Folders 57-72

Box 5: Folders 73-95

Box 6: Folders 96-119

Box 7: Folders 120-148

Box 8: Brick (27); Folders 149-155; Class of 1941 Picture; Extra-Long 1940 School Picture; 1954 Centennial Edition of *The New Ulm Daily Journal*

Box 9: DMLC Choir LP Recordings (156)

Box 10: Typewriter (157)

### Series 1: DMLC Board of Control

Subseries 1: Accreditation & Self-Study reports, correspondence, etc. – 1962-1992

Folders 1-11

Subseries 2: Board of Control correspondence – 1976-1991

Folders 12-14

Subseries 3: DMLC Ladies' Auxiliary documents – 1964-1993

Folder 15

Subseries 4: Board of Control minutes, reports, etc. – 1961-1994

Folders 16-20

Subseries 5: Board of Control miscellaneous documents – 1945-1995

Folders 21-24

### Series 2: DMLC Buildings

Folders 25-27

### Series 3: DMLC Catalogs

Folders 28-59

### Series 4: *The Excelsior*

Folders 60-73

### Series 5: DMLC Faculty

Folders 74-82

### Series 6 DMLC History

Folders 83-90

### Series 7: *The DMLC Messenger*

Folders 91-117

Series 8: DMLC Music

Subseries 1: Dr. Martin Luther College Choir correspondence, programs, etc. – 1930-1995

Folders 118-121

Subseries 2: DMLC Concert programs and other documents – 1911-1995

Folders 122-124

Subseries 3: DMLC Instrumental and Organ program documents – 1914-1984

Folders 125-126

Subseries 4: DMLC Music recordings – 1950-1984

Folders 127-129, 156

Series 9: DMLC Photographs

Folder 130

Series 10: DMLC Recruitment

Folders 131-141

Series 11: DMLC Students

Subseries 1: DMLC Student Activities items and documents – 1922-1989

Folders 142-144

Subseries 2: DMLC Alumni & Graduating Classes reports, programs, etc. – 1941-2002

Folders 145-146

Subseries 3: DMLC Campus Directories, Student Handbooks & Miscellaneous Student Life documents & other items – 1940-1995

Folders 147-149

Subseries 4: *Tower Topics* – 1967-2002

Folders 150-151

Series 12: DMLC Worship

Folders 152-155

Series 13: 1948 Underwood Typewriter (157)