BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James P. Crawford (1935-2003) was at the time of his death the longest-serving professor at Lafayette College. He joined the mathematics department in 1957 as an instructor and after numerous promotions was appointed full professor in 1994. Crawford was the head of the mathematics department from 1985-1991, served as resident advisor of McKelvy House from 1967-1974, and faculty advisor to the McKelvy Scholars Program from approximately 1979-1991.

Crawford was a native of Brookville, Pennsylvania, and earned his bachelor’s degree from Grove City College in 1957. He was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, and was president of Grove City’s chapter of Theta Alpha Phi, a national honor fraternity for theater arts. Crawford continued in community and campus amateur theater throughout his tenure at Lafayette.

Professor Crawford was involved with the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware section of the Mathematical Association of America and received their Distinguished Teaching Award in 1998. It was renamed in his honor in 2003. While at Lafayette, he was awarded the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Faculty Lecture Award (1996) and the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for distinguished teaching (1967). In 1981, students voted him the recipient of the Student Government Award for Superior Teaching. Lafayette offers the James P. Crawford Award to a faculty member who has demonstrated a high standard of classroom instruction.

In addition to his duties in the mathematics department, Professor Crawford was actively involved with McKelvy Scholars Program, both as resident and faculty advisor. Each academic year, faculty members nominate exceptional, intellectually curious students to live in McKelvy House and participate in chosen paper topics and programs.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The James P. Crawford Papers span the period from 1961 to 1996, with the bulk of the material covering 1976 to 1991. The papers (1.5 linear feet – 2 boxes) are organized into two series. Series I, Academic Files, consists of Crawford’s graduate school theses; exams, exercises, syllabi, and correspondence related to classes he taught; copies of lectures he delivered at special events; and material relating to his participation in various Lafayette committees.

Series II, McKelvy House Records, relates to Professor Crawford’s role as faculty advisor for the McKelvy Scholars Program. These papers largely comprise faculty nominations for members, students’ application essays, interview comments, and lists of accepted members. The nomination files are arranged by year, spanning primarily 1978-1991. Additionally, there are records pertaining to McKelvy House lectures and events as well administrative matters pertaining to the program. The entire collection comprises 1.5 linear feet.
Note on records removed from the collection:

Approximately 1.5 linear feet of duplicate or non-record material has been removed.

Records pertaining to the Enrollment Planning Committee of the Faculty, 1998-2001, were transferred to the College Archives (VIII.2).

Faculty Play records were transferred to the Lafayette College Faculty Plays Collection (MSS 011), Box 6, Folder 7.

PROVENANCE NOTE

These papers were removed from Professor Crawford’s office after his death in 2003.

INVENTORY

Series I: Academic Files

Box 1 - Folder 1-31

Advising 1980 – 1990s
Class handouts – Misc.
Committee on Admissions 1979-82
Committee on Curriculum - Task Forces 1969
Committee on Math Curriculum 1976-1980
Correspondence
Easton Tutoring Program 1960s
Internships 1980
Lecture - Holy Family College 1974
Lecture – Jones 1967
Lecture – MMA meeting 1984
Lecture - Marquis Society 1981
Lectures – Miscellaneous
Lehigh University - Dissertation 1966
Lehigh University – Masters 1961
Math 11
Math 31 Fall 1980
Math 274 Spring 1985
Math 274 1996
Math G 1969
Natural Science Departments 1987-1990
Problems and theorems, 1970s
Program Reviews 1987-1991
Series II: McKelvy House Records

Advisory Committee
Alumni
Financial Records 1979-
Nominations 1979-1980
Nominations 1980-1981
Nominations 1981-1982
Nominations 1982-1983
Nominations 1983-1984

Box 2 - Folder 1-13

Nominations 1984-1985
Nominations 1986-1987
Nominations 1987-1988
Nominations 1988-1989
Nominations 1989-1990
Nominations 1990-1991
Nominations 1991-1992
Program Evaluations
Program Flyers
Questionnaire 1964
Restoration Plan 1996
Topic Proposals
Wessell, Nils H. 1979-1980