

History of the Department's Name

By Mark Pilkinton

1855-56 The Rev. R. A. Shortis is Professor of Elocution and Belles Lettres.

1858 Theatre societies such as the Thespians and St. Cecilia Philomatheans are created.

1867-68 For the spring semester, Prof. A. A. Griffith arrived to teach elocution.

1871-99 Elocution and Oratory academic area is described.

1920-21 Public Speaking area is described.

1924-25 Speech & Drama Department is created with general university
departmentalization.

1925-26 Professor Frank Kelly teaches Play Production class.

1957-58 Communication Arts Department (Journalism, Speech, Radio/Television, &
Theater) is created.

1967-68 Communication Arts Department creates a separate and cooperative Notre
Dame/Saint Mary's College theatre program.

1968-69 Speech & Drama Department is created from split with Communication Arts
(which later becomes American Studies).

1980-81 Communication & Theatre Department is created with the continuing
cooperative arrangement with Saint Mary's College.

1989-90 The cooperative theatre program with Saint Mary's College ends.

1998-99 Film, Television, & Theatre Department is created to reflect more accurately the
academic and creative interests of the Department.