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University honors Gifford director

John F. Downes, director of the Gifford Foundation of Syracuse, has been named alumnus of the year by St. Bonaventure University and was honored during alumni reunion activities on the campus this weekend.

A life resident of Syracuse, Downes received his undergraduate degree from St.

Bonaventure in 1935, graduating with the second highest academic average. He also served his senior year as class president and was elected by his classmates as the most popular senior. He finished second in the polling for the title "wittiest senior."

A U.S. Army veteran, he

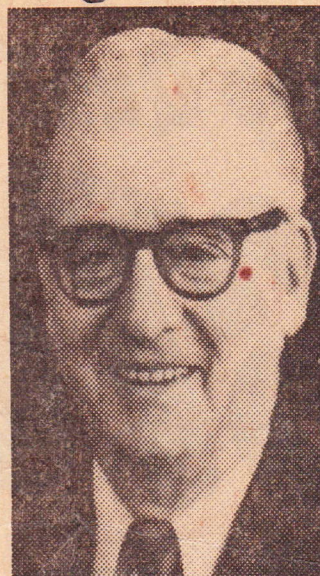


JOHN F. DOWNES

served four years as vice president of the National Alumni Association. He was also president of the CNY chapter of the Alumni Association.

In 1966, he directed the chapter's fund drive which drew donations from 96 per cent of the Central New York alumni. He has also been active in recruiting area high school students for the university.

A 1947 masters graduate of Syracuse University, he is married to the former Margaret Barrett and is the father of seven daughters and one son.



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR — John F. Downes, a 1935 graduate of St. Bonaventure University, has been named Alumnus of the Year by the university. He was honored during the alumni reunion on campus. A life resident of Syracuse, Downes, who resides at 709 Salt Springs Road, received a bachelor's degree from the university in 1935, and was salutatorian and class president. An Army veteran, Downes is director of the Gifford Foundation.

AT LE MOYNE College, a "Friends of the Library" committee has been formed to help promote the two-year-old library as an "informational, educational and recreational" facility for residents of Central New York. This means, simply, that the library is open to the public.

The new committee is one of five standing committees of the Le Moyne College President's Associates, an advisory board which serves to connect the college with the Syracuse area community.

The group is chaired by Daniel W. Casey of Solvay, a public relations and advertising consultant, who has long been active in the library field.

Other members are Martin Connor, an insurance man; Margaret Downes, community leader; Gordon Hershberger, principal of Corcoran High School; Kathy Melvin of the Melvin law firm; Robert Moses, an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King law firm and Shirley Reichert, director of the East Syracuse Free Library.

The Le Moyne Library opened in September, 1981, with funds raised in a \$6-million capital campaign. It has a circulation of 155,000 volumes and has several conference rooms and large open reading spaces and houses the Wilson Art Gallery and a Special Collections Room.