

COLORADO HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY CAMPUS HISTORICAL TOUR



Note: TLHU and CHU refer to the same campus. The campus changed its name from Teikyo Loretto Heights University to Colorado Heights University in August 2009.

***** INSTRUCTIONS *****

Approximately 1 to 1.5 hours are generally allotted to tour the entire campus, so take your time and enjoy the walk.

GOALS for the Campus Tour

- 1) Get your bearings so you feel comfortable on campus.
- 2) Learn historical facts about the campus that deepen your understanding of CHU's historic campus, including its culture and vision.

Stop #1 Walsh Hall

Start here if you are living on campus.

Stop #2: Cemetery

The cemetery contains the graves of the founding Sisters of Loretto. The largest gravestone is the head sister, Mother Pancratia **Bonfils**. This cemetery is visited by many people who like to do historic sketches of historical headstones.

Interesting facts: Mother Bonfils was the daughter of a prominent St. Louis physician, Francis S. Bonfils and a first cousin of Frederick G. **Bonfils**, the cofounder of *The Denver Post*. (Denver has a performing arts center called the Bonfils Theater – same family.) At age fifteen, she changed her name from Mary Louise to Sister Pancratia when she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Loretto, the first order of nuns founded in the United States. At age 16, she was recruited to Denver by Bishop **Machebeuf** who brought her to in Denver in 1868 to teach at St Mary's School. After a thrilling stagecoach ride, the young nun first encountered Indians. Courageously, she offered them food, as she recalled later: *"Oh! How I trembled when I first walked out to those fierce looking fellows. But I swallowed my fears and showed them I was their friend. ... I really believe some began to love me... They often gave me presents made by their own hands."*

Mother Pancratia died on October 12, 1915, and has gone down in history as a remarkable nun who had done more than anyone to bring Catholic education to the ladies of Colorado. We will learn more about her on the tour.

Stop #3 *Walk down the road behind Walsh toward tennis courts and basketball, and then around toward the front of the Admin building.*

On the way to the Admin Building, share this:

In 1890, then Sister Pancratia (now Mother Pancratia) a young nun from the Sisters of Loretto, raised money to pay B.M. Morse \$18,250 for a forty-five-acre hilltop seven miles west of Denver, a move that many thought was visionary, and others thought was buying land out in the middle of "nowhere". Her vision was to enable the Sisters of Loretto to educate the women of the west and to help the women have more "say" in society. The **Sisters of Loretto** started a private **elementary** and **secondary** Catholic school for 51 girls called Loretto Heights Academy. Then over the next 7-8 years, they phased out the elementary school and expanded the high school and started college courses. The hill had been used by Fort Logan – buildings still remain when you look south. General Custer had used the hilltop for military practice area.

Turn around and look at the view. Point out:

This hill is THE highest point in Denver, and when it was built, the Tower was the tallest structure. The central tower rises ten stories above the foundation, commands the skyline of Southwest Denver. The tower has a real bell, similar to the Independence Bell, which was

brought from the East Coast. It was rung every Sunday for many years. The campus is featured in many photos in the Denver Museum of History file, including huge photos of how the view from the tower has changed over the years.



Interesting fact: During winter snowstorms the nuns put candles in every window, so people delivering supplies and travelers could find the school during snowstorms or in the dark.

See the back of Pan Hall

Pan Hall was named after Mother Pancratia, whose headstone we saw in the cemetery. It was built to keep the high school students in a different location than the adult students.

Interesting fact: When Pan Hall was built it had a special kitchen on each floor for making fudge, and it had the FIRST indoor bowling alley with an automatic pin setting mechanism in Colorado, possibly north of the Mississippi, when it was built. The space now holds laundry facilities.

Stop #4 *In front of the Admin Building, stop and share these facts.*

Walk up to the building and see the cornerstone of the front, right side of the Administration building.



This was the first building built on campus, dating back to 1890's. On September 21, 1890, Mother Pancratia and the sisters laid the cornerstone for Loretto Heights. The magnificent red sandstone school building, a \$350,000 six-story structure, was designed by Denver's premier architect, Frank E. Edbrooke. The Administration Building, the centerpiece of the campus is on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

Interesting fact: Frank Edbrook, the architect was a perfectionist. As you tour the campus, you will see some of the red stones scattered around. If a stone did not fit perfectly, he had the workmen cut a new one. This was no small request for each large block of stone quarried, each block was cut out of a large heavy chunk of stone, that had been detonated with black powder to break the block loose from the underlying sandstone. Sandstone can be seen in other buildings around Denver, including Red Rock Amphitheater. Some have elaborate carvings because of the ease of carving in the soft stone, although weathering has been a problem in some areas. To ensure it weathered well, the walls were made of blocks of five-foot-thick stone!

Education and Owners

Two years after it opened, the Colorado silver panic and subsequent depression almost closed the school. Loretto Heights' isolation was seen as a problem, so in 1898 some investors built a streetcar line from South Broadway west on Hampden Avenue that had two streetcars pulled by four horses.

In 1926, as teacher education program and eventually a nursing program was added. The school became co-ed in 1970 and adds business and dance classes, and then hit a rough spot in the 1980's. It was sold to Regis University, and then

In 1989, it was purchased by Teikyo University Group who is based on the main island of Japan. The name was changed to Teikyo Loretta Heights. The Teikyo University Group

operates many undergraduate and graduate universities including a number of specialized schools, such as a law school and a graduate school of engineering.

Interesting fact: The Group owns the largest private medical school in Japan, with three teaching hospitals and a school of pharmacology. The Group's 50,000 students are spread out among 46 campuses located in Japan, the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. Teikyo University has partnerships with Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard universities, as well as many others schools.

In August of 2009, the campus underwent an official name change. It now is called Colorado Heights University. This name change reflects its current status as a fully accredited university with offers BA, MBA and Intensive English Programs.

TODAY, there are a several groups on campus

[AmeriCorps NCCC](#)

The COLORADO HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY campus serves as one of the five locations in the US where AmeriCorps members are based: Denver, Sacramento CA, Vicksburg Mississippi, Vinton Iowa and Perry Point MD. A fourth campus will open in Iowa this summer, and a 5th campus in Mississippi. In the past, campuses have been located in Washington DC and Charleston NC.

[Augustine Institute](#)

The Augustine Institute is a graduate level institution offering masters degrees in Theology. Located on 5th floor of the Admin Bldg.

[Southwest Early College](#)

Southwest Early College, is an independent high school, overseen by Denver Public Schools system. As a small early-college high school, SEC students take a traditional 9th and 10th grade curriculum, then take college-level coursework in the 11th and 12th grades.

Back to the tour:

FIND the cornerstone outside of the Little Auditorium

The Little Auditorium was added in 1915, which is why the seats are not the most comfortable!

It was built just after the Chapel (Point to *the outside of the chapel only – do not go in!*) . It also serves as a wedding chapel. You will see many wedding parties, particularly on weekends. The Little Casa used to be the home of the Priest.

Interesting facts: This chapel holds small Catholic services every Sunday at 8am- held entirely in Latin. It has a very old pipe organ, installed in 1923. There are 24 stained glass windows in the chapel, which were imported from Germany, and shipped by boat when the chapel was built.

Stop #5 Continue around the outside of Admin to the south (far left) entrance. See the statue of St Joseph. This campus has a number of religious icons. They remained after the Sisters of Loretta sold the property, because it was in the sales documents that they wanted subsequent tenants to agree not to remove several key pieces.

Interesting fact: This campus includes three places where there are religious statues. Can you name them? (Answer: Jesus behind Admin bldg, Mary in the Machbeuf lobby. There are also 2 smaller statues outside of the chapel doors.)

Stop #6 The Post Office

On the way, look at the student center in the basement that is open to NCCC, along with students from all the other campuses. It has pool table. The hope is that it will be a place where everyone feels comfortable.

Go downstairs to the post office. Make sure that everyone sees the phone on the wall where they can call dispatch if the office is closed.

Opened in 1986, it was Loretta, Colorado (not Denver) at that time. Today Al Samuels, the postmaster and a fellow compatriot in government service, runs the show. Interesting fact: Al, the postmaster has been at this site nearly 30 years!

He will send your packages without hesitation, IF you are patient and polite, AND if you **ALREADY HAVE POSTAGE ON THEM**. You can NOT buy stamps anymore. It offers a mail sorting only.

They handle mail from all over the world, due to the international students at CHU. On your incoming mail, you must tell people to put 3001 S. Federal, then your dormitory specific information, Denver 80236 to ensure it gets to you! The street address alone is not enough.

Halfway down the hallway, point out the security guard office. This is where you come if you need help, or want to turn in something to lost and found.

Stop # 7 Go upstairs to the Front hallway of the Admin Building

(SHH QUIET in the HALLWAY!)

At the south end of the hall, is the COLORADO HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY registration office. COLORADO HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY now has numerous international students. Many live in the community, not in the dorms.

Interesting Fact: The total international student population is from more than 44 nations. English classes serve students from Tajikistan, Africa, Russia, Korea, Bulgaria, Mongolia, and several Latin American countries, as well as many others.

Now look down at the floor.

Interesting fact: See the tiles on the floor. These were hand-laid by artists based upon a design drawn by the nuns. The flowers up and down the hall have a consistent pattern except for FIVE of them. The nuns intentionally had the artists use different patterns for those because “no one can make something perfect except God, therefore we can only try to be close to perfect in life.”

Find at least one of the different flowers before leaving. (But remember to be quiet while on this floor!)

Stop # 8 Computer Lab

Walk up to the 4th Floor Computer Lab
SEE the attached briefing on the Lab

(SHH QUIET in the HALLWAY!)

Stop# 9 The Quad

Walk back down the stairs to second floor. Leave by back door to the quad. From the quad, you can see the cafeteria – named after Bishop Machebeuf and Pancretia Hall. If there is snow on the ground, observe that portions of the grass may be cleared. How did this happen? Did the grounds crew shovel them instead of the sidewalks?

Interesting fact. There is a system of underground tunnels that run under the Quad area related to the steam heat system. That is why the snow melts in selected patches of the grass. It is also why it takes so long for rooms to cool down. Steam heat travels from central boilers that are not responsive to quick temperature adjustments.



Stop# 10 The Library



From the Quad, walk south down sidewalk toward the May Bonfils Stanton Library (remember that name “Bonfils from Mother Pancretia and the founder of the Denver Post?”) Built in the 1950’s and 60s the library holds many historic archives.

There has been a little known secret the last few years on campus, there is a place to escape where you can learn or just sit and stare in quiet, check out books or conduct research for projects. You can check out books with your ID card, but be sure to ask about the due dates.

The library has more than 125,000 volumes, over 1,000 current periodicals hardcopy or on-line, and over 10,000 microfilm and audio-visual items. The library’s Learning Resources Center and Computer Lab has several computers with Internet access, for students.

Enter the door and look around, but, of course, be quiet! Classes may be in session. FIND the Computer lab on the first floor. This lab is open to students whenever the library is open. It uses the same passwords as the 4th floor lab!

Stop# 11 Event Center

Now go back outside and point out at Bonfils- Stanton Event Center, also referred to as the Big Theatre, from the outside. The theater was built through a grant from the Bonfils- Stanton Foundation, a large Denver Foundation – recognize the name Bonfils yet?

We often refer to it as the Big Theater. The Theater has hosted many dance companies and musical performers.

Interesting fact: Of note are the quarterly US Citizenship ceremonies held every quarter. In January 2008, the theater hosted the largest ceremony yet: about 640 people took their citizenship oath. The ceremony was covered by three TV stations.

(FYI just in case you are asked: the white building in front of the Event Center is an old office building that is no longer used due to needed renovations.)

Stop # 12 Walk to Americorp NCCC Office,

NCCC moved here in December 2003. Instead, walk down the hill in front and look at the two trees dedicated to Corps Members.

Stop # 13 The Pool/Gym

Walk back up the hill, then turn northwest toward the gym. Take a minute to look in the windows or go in if open.

Designed by Sister Walsh, because she firmly believed that physical strength was an important part of spiritual strength.

Originally an outside pool, the Coors Foundation donated the dome in 1957. If you like to swim and lift weights this place will make your day. It has a pool, hot tub, sauna, cardio and weightlifting equipment. . It is open to corps members from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm daily.



Stop # 14 Back of Machebeuf

Walk the road up. Look at the back of Machebeuf hall (cafeteria).

As you know, students from all tenants use Machebeuf. The high school has lunch in the basement daily, and international students and other students join us upstairs.

Stop 15 Hilltop

Continue up the road. At the top at the top and look at the Red Rocks lining the top of the road. See the carvings mentioned earlier.

Look at the open field. In total, the total campus owns 76 acres, including this open space. Interesting fact: The Sisters donated the park outside the fence to benefit the Denver community

At top of Hill, look down at Walsh Hall, Walsh Hall was the last building to be built on campus, in the mid 1950's. Take a team picture with the view in the background. Walsh Hall was named after the Sister who was president of the college in the 1940's. She was a called a 'woman of progress' who built many new buildings on campus including the swimming pool, library and a small performing arts center. She believed that students who attended the college should help change the world for the better. This is still an important part of the mission of the university.
