

O'Shaughnessy



O'Shaughnessy Hall is named for **Louis O'Shaughnessy**. He served as a faculty member at the University for 36 years (1918–1954).

O'Shaughnessy taught mathematics classes and surveying, but was initially in the civil engineering department. In 1921, he officially became a member of the mathematics faculty as professor of applied mathematics, but at the same time he was professor of applied mechanics and experimental engineering. He served as head of the applied mechanics department, now engineering science and mechanics, from 1930 to 1948. He served as chair

of the Graduate Committee from 1923 to 1936 and then as director of Graduate Studies from 1936 to 1949.

He was renowned for his memory. "The boys claimed that O'Shaughnessy remembered all the logarithms and didn't have to look them up," according to Lyle Kinnear, author of *The First 100 Years: A History of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*. "He just closed his eyes and could give the answer without looking."

Residence hall built: Construction started on O'Shaughnessy Hall in 1965 and was completed in the fall of 1966.

Construction firm: Carneal & Johnston

Dedication Date: May 30, 1968

O'Shaughnessy Hall Today

Community: Presidents

Type: Co-ed, traditional-style

Number of residents: 341

Staff: Graduate hall director: 1
Resident advisors: 11



References:

"Heroes and Heroines Set in Stone," by Su Clauson-Wickerand Netta Smith, in the fall 1995 issue of *Virginia Tech Magazine*.

University Archives of Virginia Tech, *Historical Data Book*, Section 6.5.

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"O'Shaughnessy, Louis." University Archives of Virginia Tech.

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