Brunswick College was authorized and established by the Board of Regents under the Legislative Act of 1958, relative to criteria and procedures for establishing public junior colleges. Although Georgia had several older junior colleges established as dormitory institutions in the early 1900s, Brunswick College was the first of the new series of commuter junior colleges authorized by the Board of Regents in 1961.

Under the provisions for the establishment of junior colleges in local communities, the local taxing district is required to provide the land and raise the funds for the initial plant. The Brunswick City Commission and the Glynn County Commission strongly supported the establishment of the college and with appropriate resolutions indicated their willingness to provide the local support required by the Board of Regents. Local civic organizations and individual citizens joined the commissioners with enthusiasm and demonstrated their support. Subsequently, the electorate approved a $1,000,000 bond issue which was requested through the Glynn County Board of Education. In addition, the city and county commissions approved the transfer of
approximately one hundred acres of jointly owned property along Fourth Street and Altama Avenue which provided a spacious and attractive site for the initial facilities. On July 30, 1963, the Board of Regents awarded a contract to a local architectural firm in the amount of $758,000 for the construction of the first four college buildings—the administration-library building, student center, academic building, and a maintenance shop building.

The first college faculty reported for employment on September 14, 1964, for a week devoted to orientation and planning. This was followed by three days of intensive student orientation during the week of September 21. The college's first registration was held on September 24, 1964, with 269 students, 11 full-time teaching faculty members, and 25 full-time personnel in administration, staff support, auxiliary services, and maintenance personnel reporting for duty during the initial quarter of operation.

During the Fall Quarter, 1989, 1,332 students were registered for credit courses taught by 50 full-time faculty and 17 part-time faculty. Other college personnel included 20 full-time and part-time administrators and 32 clerical staff support personnel for the instructional area. The area of auxiliary services and plant operations included 30 employees during the Fall Quarter, 1989.

The Office of Continuing Education and Community Service was established, and approximately 400 adult citizens
were served during the year 1965-66. During this year, the first graduating class of 28 students received associate degrees in June, 1966.

Through the then newly established procedure approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Brunswick College was granted the status of "Candidate for Membership" in December, 1966. After satisfying the appropriate conditions, including a Southern Association visit by a "Committee on Candidacy," the institution was granted accreditation in December, 1967. This established the timetable for the initiation of the first Institutional Self-Study for Reaffirmation of Accreditation in the fall, 1969. This study was completed in the spring of 1971, and reaffirmation of accreditation was granted in December, 1971.

The second Institutional Self-Study for Reaffirmation of Accreditation was conducted during the years 1979-81. This study was completed in the spring of 1981, and a visiting committee from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools was on campus on May 3-6, 1981. Following the Report of the Visiting Committee and the institutional response, the college received reaffirmation of accreditation during the annual meeting of the Southern Association in December, 1981.

Brunswick College submitted its Fifth Year Report to the Commission on Colleges on September 1, 1986. The report
was accepted by the Commission on Colleges, and the institution was notified to prepare to begin the institutional self-study in September, 1989, with a projected visit by a committee from the Commission on Colleges during the spring, 1991.

The physical plant has continued to be developed to accommodate an ever-increasing student enrollment. The second phase of plant construction was begun in the third year of operation, with the approval and funding for the physical education complex and the expansion of the student center. The former was begun in August, 1967, and was occupied in January, 1969. The latter was begun in August, 1969, and was ready for occupancy in April, 1971. Since 1969, the plant facilities have been expanded to include a spacious library, renovation of the old library space into administrative offices, a maintenance shop building, a vocational/technical classroom-laboratory building, and a science classroom building.

The most recent addition to the physical plant was the Allied Health facility, which provided additional space for the vocational/technical administrative offices, allied health programs, and data processing. In addition to the specialized laboratories and classrooms, two general purpose classrooms are included in this facility.
Building projects currently under design include the first phase of the continuing education/fine arts facilities.

The campus size was doubled in 1975 when the Brunswick City Commission and the Glynn County Commission donated one hundred acres of land from the site of the old air park lying immediately east of the original campus. Since the acquisition of this land, a portion amounting to approximately fifty acres has been planted with pine trees. A lake has been dredged on the east central perimeter of the campus.

The initial college curriculum consisted of the first two years in the college transfer program with a few career programs in closely related fields. Secretarial and clerical science programs were initiated in the early years of the college and a two-year associate degree program in nursing was begun in 1967. Effort was made to establish a two-year associate degree program in chemical technology, but student enrollment was not sufficient to justify its continuation.

In 1970, Brunswick College was selected to be the pilot institution in establishing vocational/technical programs that would be jointly funded and operated by the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents. The general agreement between the two boards provided for the sharing of the cost in that the Board of Regents would provide one-half of
the salaries for the vocational/technical faculty and administrators and all of the facilities; and the State Board of Education would provide all of the equipment and one-half of the salaries for the vocational/technical personnel. The college also provides the materials and supplies for these programs inasmuch as students pay the full tuition and are regular students in every sense of the term.

Beginning with the course in data processing during winter quarter, 1971, the vocational/technical program has grown steadily over the years and currently offers eight two-year degree programs and six one-year certificate programs. Student enrollment has experienced a comparable increase from the thirty students initially enrolled in the data processing program to 428 students enrolled during Fall Quarter, 1989, in all of the course offerings in the Division of Vocational/Technical Education.

During the previous decade, total enrollment of credit students has fluctuated with a period of slight decline followed by a recent period of several years of modest increases. The Fall Quarter enrollment of 1,332 students during 1989 reflected a slight increase in FTE students and a slight decrease in headcount. The decrease in headcount resulted from the discontinuation of off-campus courses offered at the Fort Stewart Army Base in Hinesville.
Established in 1967, the Office of Continuing Education and Community Service has offered a wide variety of courses and programs in continuing education and public services. From its modest beginning, the Office of Continuing Education and Community Service has grown steadily in the number and variety of programs offered and currently (1988-89) serves approximately 3,000 participants annually for a total of approximately 7,000 C.E.U.s.

The future development of Brunswick College will be influenced by the findings of this self-study coupled with a continual assessment of community and regional needs in higher education.