Many students have sat on the steps of the Kirk Memorial Building gazing out over the Quadrangle. Built in 1940 with the help of alumni contributions, the building, named in honor of University President John R. Kirk, cost around $51,000. (Today, it is in need of repairs estimated at around $1 million!)

Kirk Memorial has become one of the University’s most recognized symbols, and it’s easy to see why. Its unique architecture has several distinctive features, including a Greek portico with large Grecian columns and a cupola topped off with the customary weathervane.

Some passersby may have noticed that this particular weathervane appears to be derelict in its duty of signaling changes in the wind. No matter how hard the wind blows, the stubborn device refuses to budge, even a little bit. This is because it’s holding steadfast to an even more important mission - paying tribute to the history of the University. The weathervane was purposely welded in place in the 1990s so that it always points to the northeast in honor of three of the six former names of the University - Northeast Missouri State University, Northeast Missouri State College and Northeast Missouri State Teachers College.