

2003 Alumni Association Awards



Mary Willis Randlett, '47

Alumnus of Merit Award: Mary Willis Randlett, '47

Northwest photographer Mary Willis Randlett, '47, received the 2003 Whitman College Alumnus of Merit Award. Randlett is celebrated for her photographs of the Northwest's natural landscape and for her unique body of work portraying poets, writers, painters, and architects in their studios and working environments. She also has documented public art installations throughout the Northwest.

Her photographs are held in more than 40 permanent collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution. Her work is featured in *Art in Seattle's Public Places* (1992), *Seeing Seattle* (1994), *Iridescent Light: The Emergence of Northwest Art* (2002), and numerous other publications.

Recipient of a 1983 Governor's Award of Special Commendation, Randlett also has been honored with the 2001 Artist Trust Lifetime Achievement Award for Women Visual Artists and the 2001 Nancy Blankenship Pryor Award for recognition of her contributions to the literary culture of Washington State.

Sally Rodgers Award: Margaret Thraikill, '37, and William Harris, '33

Margaret Charters Thraikill, '37, Spokane, and William Harris, '33, Walla Walla, are recipients of the 2003 Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement.

An economics major at Whitman, Thraikill earned a master's degree at New York University in 1938. Since then, not only has she studied business at colleges in Idaho, Washington, Africa, and Scandinavia but also with the University of Colorado Semester at Sea program.

Thraikill enjoyed a long and varied career during which she ran a family business, worked as a corporate buyer, and taught business at Spokane Falls Community College. She was the first woman named to the board of directors of Washington Water Power (WWP).

Now retired, she is known for her extensive volunteer and philanthropic interests. They include the Tyler Boys' Ranch, United Way, Spokane Community Colleges Foundation, North Idaho College Foundation, Ogden Hall for Women and Children, Coeur d'Alene Community

Theatre, Thraikill Academic Work Scholarships, and more. In 1995, she was named YWCA Woman of the Year.

William Harris, who also majored in economics, continued his studies with classes at Stanford's graduate school of finance and the University of Washington's Pacific School of Banking.

Harris was treasurer of Pacific Supply Cooperative in Walla Walla for 20 years before serving another 20 as a loan officer and then senior vice president of Baker Boyer Bank. He was vice president of Pioneer Investment Company from 1975-1990 and a trustee of the Sherwood Trust from 1990-1998.

While involved in many community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and United Way, Harris also volunteered for Whitman, serving on the building and grounds committee, assisting with development projects, and counseling fraternities.

At the age of 92, Harris continues to bicycle to his volunteer job with the Walla Walla Public School District, where he works 20 hours a week as science materials center inventory coordinator. In 2002 the school district named him the Art Regier Volunteer of the Year.



Pete Reid Award: Morgan Murphy, '89

Morgan Murphy, '89, received the 2003 Alumni Association Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni.

A theater major at Whitman, Murphy earned a master of fine arts degree at the University of Connecticut and also holds conservatory certificates from the Neighborhood Playhouse and the National Shakespeare Conservatory.

He is director of fine and performing arts at New Hampton School, an independent high school in New Hampshire, where he has taught since 1992. Recipient of several faculty awards, he is the founding artistic director of Performance PLUS, an intensive summer training program in theater at the school.

Murphy, who also is the founding artistic director of the *On Golden Pond* Festival in Lakes Region, New Hampshire, has been an actor, director, and casting director for a number of theatrical companies in New York and New England, and he has done work in radio, television, and movies.

In 2001-2002, he taught at Whitman as sabbatical replacement for Harper Joy Theatre director Nancy Simon, '63.

Faculty Award for Service: Keith Farrington

Professor of Sociology Keith Farrington is the 2003 recipient of the Faculty Award for Service. Farrington, a member of the faculty since 1977, received the award for "staying in tune with our needs long after we have departed Whitman's hallowed halls."

A jazz musician, Farrington has shared his knowledge with alumni at the Sun Valley Jazz Festival, area meetings, and class reunion events on campus. He has lectured on the history of rock 'n' roll at the Senior Alumni College and in general has given "continuing and harmonious support" to alumni.

Farrington was honored in 1992 as the Washington State Professor of the Year.



The alumni association has honored James Robart, '69, with the 2003 Gordon Scribner Award for Distinguished Service to the College.

Robart has long served Whitman as a dedicated volunteer, beginning as a class representative. Named to the board of overseers in 1988, he chaired the budget review committee and served two years as chair of the board.

Gordon Scribner Award: James Robart, '69

In 1999 he was elected a trustee of the College. He has chaired the President's Circle gift society, served as Seattle area activities coordinator for the College, and hosted many alumni events at his home. This



year, he presented the Phi Beta Kappa lecture at a Commencement weekend brunch honoring new Phi Beta Kappa members.

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Robart is managing partner of Lane, Powell, Spears, Lubersky LLP in Seattle. He is a former president and trustee of Seattle Children's Home and a member of the state advisory board of the Children's Home Society of Washington.



50th Reunion of the Class of 1953

ROW 1: Tom Brown, Glen Garrett, Noel Howard Garrett, Wes Hodge, Sandee Larkin, Nancy McKay Burton, Paul Burton, '51, William Strance, Julianne Dickson Schreiner, '54, Nancy Ellingham, John Richards, '55 (Peggy's brother), Peggy Richards Gerth.
ROW 2: Carol Jeane Babbitt Brown, Lucile Angell White,

Harold White, Sally McMillan Bunnell, Rod Bunnell, '52, Jerry Ralston, Tieta Ralston, Marji Wilbur Parker, Julia Rice Mark, Rosemary Gibbons Maulden, Fran Stange Carlson, Ann Livingston Stewart, '55, Dave Stewart. **ROW 3:** Joan Haselton Pfuhl, Fred Nokes, Mary Ann Ramsay Nokes, Ross Fortner, Carolyn

Vester McMurchie, '54, Jack McMurchie, Susan Moitoret Flexer, Bill Graham, Rod Schreiner, Jody Kamm Prongay, David Prongay. **ROW 4:** Bud Pfuhl, '52, Darrell Allen, Sada Cissa Allen, '55, Jay Childers, '51, Imogene Bartlett Childers, Jean Poehler Schlatter, Jim Flexer, Myron Skubbina, Kaye Trantow Skubbina, '54, Nancy

Owen Bussard, '52, Jane Allen Rogers. **ROW 5:** George Pennell, '52, Dottie Howay Congleton, Paul Congleton, Bobbi Peterson, Ken Peterson, Rex Gwinn, '55, Frances Champlin Gwinn (in front of Rex). **ROW 6:** Bob Bratton, Aileen Connolly Bratton, '54.



These Whitties got together last summer in Yakima to celebrate turning 50. Attending were, first row, Tom Lane, '74, Connie Weiseth, Susan Lane, Bill Starr, '74, and Kathy Smith Starr, '74; second row, Marilyn Brownell Beyer, '74, Cathy Anderson, Dianne Burry Matthaei, '74, Sharon Isaacson, Mark Labberton, '75, and Cindy Tulloch; third row, Gary Beyer, David Anderson, '75, Fred Matthaei, '72, Erick Isaacson, '74, Mark Weiseth, '74, and Rob Tulloch, '74.



Reunion of the Classes of 1957, 1958, and 1959

ROW 1: Char Reynolds Coates, '59, Terry Whitacre Schmidtgal, '59, Barbara York Johnson, '57, Cheryl Dudek Higgins, '59, Carole Clark McCall, '59, Ed Boyce, '59, Patrick Lemon, '58, Kathryn Briegleb Barton, '58, Sam O'Keefe Brown, George Brown, '58, Marlene Clark Knapp, '59, Virginia Hesler Bohannon, '59, Janet Haltom-Ames, '58. ROW 2: Christine Roehmann Koch, '57, Bodil Petersen Bratvold, '57, Gretta Greninger Moore, '59, Ann Shoemaker Holznagel, '58, Gail Cunningham Rawcliffe, '59, Gordon Graham, '58, Carol Rice Cassinelli, '58, Judy Garwood

Clark, '59, Laurell Boniface Meredith, '59, Nils Knapp, Graham Gaiser, '58, Carol Gaiser. ROW 3: Dalia Hansen, Barbara Fenton Green, '58, Barbara Zumwalt LaRose, '59, Jim Dutton, '59, Jerry Wood, '58, Ann Wood, Judy Packard Bronkey, '58, Peggy Barhyte Scholz, '59, Barbara Sommer Feigin, '59, Teddy Cokinakis Goekezas, '59, Margot Hill, Tim Hill, '58. ROW 4: Ted Hansen, '57, Owen Bratvold, Frank Wood, '58, Cheryl Wood, Linda Bellinger Gifford, '59. ROW 5: Keith Green, '58, Don Bruneski, '59, Gene Greenlee, '59, Bruce Campbell, '59, Ann

Shelton Foster, '59 (in front of Bruce), Linda Swenson Wilson, '59, Barbara Gribble McDonald, '59, Wilber Pribilsky, '55, Karen Elder Pribilsky, '58, Pat Eckart, '59. ROW 6: John Alsip, '59, Jeanne Lilley Savage, '59, Duane Peterson, '59 (in front of Jeanne), Gale Rogers, John Brunzell, '59, Pat Brunzell, John Miller, '59 (in front of Pat), Mary Salling Miller, '59, Scott Gruber, '58, Norma Gruber, Diane O'Neal, Mary Winston Wymer, '59, Hugh Beattie, '59. ROW 7: Howard Wallenberg, '59, George Rogers, '59, Tom Rosenberg, '59, Sandra Walker Baker, '58, Bunky Larive, '58,

Rubey Bunch Larive, '58, Pat Carlberg, Dan O'Neal, '58, Bill McGilchrist, '59. ROW 9: George McDonald, '59, Mary Ruddick Silzel, '59, Alan Moritz, '59, June Drazan Hennig, '59, Jean Gibson Coe, '58, Arnold Coe, '58, Maggie Iversen Johnson, '58, Gary Carlberg, '58, Albert Jentzsch, '59. ROW 10: Doug Lyons, '59, Wayne Silzel, '58, Paul Hennig, '59, Jim Christenson, '59, Cathy Ladley, Jim Ladley, '58, Max Johnson, '59. ROW 11: Bob Russ, '58, Bill Rollins, '59, John Rigdon, '58.



Class of 1985 members met last February in Sonoma, California. Pictured are, from left, Susan Buxton, Kim Nichols, Mary Clure, Esther Joneson, Deborah Wolf Streeter, Mary Adam Thomas, Rachel Dresbeck, Maria Courogen, Catherine Brunton Blundell, and Libby Jacobs Shiner.



40th Reunion of the Class of 1963

ROW 1: Steven Schilling, '65, Pat Parsons, Terry Parsons, Bruce Hilger, Isabel McPhee Berney, Morton Nadler, Nancy Gray Hawley, Gretchen Miller Kafoury, Lynn DeFrees Riegel, Patti Beamer. **ROW 2:** Dick Sandvik, '65, Jim Dudley, '61, Marcy Wilson Dudley, Steve Windell, '62, Mary Helen MacLean Windell, Lance

Christiansen, Mal Hawley, Marian Hedgcock Wolfe, Leo Wolfe, Herb Rogers, Margaret Rogers, Dick Beamer, Judith Rypins Parker (behind Dick), Sue Vadman. **ROW 2A** (beginning in the middle): Jim McCarthy, Judy Haruda Lynch, Evan Thomas, Tina Pomeroy Grodem, Glen Grodem, '60, Katie Monner Goodwin.

ROW 3: Kathy Davis Clarke, Gary Forrest, Carol Hurley Curtis, '66, Raleigh Curtis, Charlie Clarke, '64, Jim Stovall, Mary Anne Highberg MacDonald, Judy Lorence. **ROW 4:** Lewjean Hower Holmes, Candy Shorett Bocarde, Victoria Cordova, Sandy Baird Johnson, Linda Chapman, Judy Bloch Gartman, Don Gartman, Mary

Pat Eckstrom Beard, Corlee Campbell Corning, Judy Cox Martin, Sam Martin, Bob Lorence. **ROW 5:** Betty Malcolm, Ashley Malcolm, '03, Tom Malcolm, Tom McKean, Denny Sargent, John Zumdieck, Sharon Zumdieck, Tom McCracken, Ken Belieu.



These 1972 classmates are Fred Matthaei, an adjunct professor at Pacific Lutheran University, Neal Perrine, a school psychologist who is completing a Ph.D. program, and Craig Sexson, president of LaVerne University, Athens, Greece.



30th Reunion of the Class of 1973

ROW 1: Ardis Ramey (daughter of Tim Ramey), Nina Finch Beegle, Steve Nilson, Mary Metastasio, Rosemary Gunter Knapp, Polly Harrison Rae, David Fernandez, Daniel and

Jessica Witherspoon, '03 (in front of their dad). **ROW 2:** Dan Ducich, Cindy Ducich, John Bowman, Dave Beck, Margie Boulé, Roger Knapp, Ceil Lucas, Gay Price Purnell, Susan

Temple Bolt, Jud Witherspoon. **ROW 3:** Gretchen Beilstein Ramey, '75, John Coleman, Robert Brogan, Sandee Lange Brogan, Ray Johnston, Mary Johnston. **ROW 4:** Timothy

Ramey, Bill Priedhorsky. **ROW 5:** Charlie Phillips, '67, Patty Sherry Phillips, Don Tanner, Sue Allen Tanner, Georgeanne Reid Griffith, Esther Hook Milnes.

Former Whitman College faculty member John D. Reeves, who taught classics and English in the late 1950s and early 1960s, is the author of *Windows on Melville* (Rutledge Books, September 2001). Reeves also taught at Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, and Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York. Former students may write him at 9 Newey Lane, Brookhaven, NY 11719.

The Whitman Collection



Shirley Frese Woods, '40, a specialist in ancient life and languages, is the author of *Onesimus* (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2002), a novel of family life among the early Christians. It is the story of a runaway slave who is saved by Saint Paul and later becomes a bishop. (*Editor's note: Shirley Frese Woods, an educator and an archdeacon of the Episcopal Church, died June 1, 2003.*)

James H. Joy, '57, adjunct professor of history at Northern Virginia Community College, Woodbridge, Virginia, is the editor of *Victory and Woe: The West Limerick Brigade in the War of Independence* (University College Dublin Press, 2002). The book is an account of life at the grassroots during the Irish War of Independence and the Civil War by Mossie Harnett, who was a commanding officer in the Irish Volunteers. Joy also is the author of a poetry collection, *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*.

John Zilly, '85, has added to his collection of guidebooks with *Beyond Mount Si: The Best Hikes within 85 Miles of Seattle* (Adventure Press, 2003). The book includes hikes in the Cascade foothills, near Snoqualmie Pass, Mount Rainier, Stevens Pass, and around the Mountain Loop Highway. Zilly also has released a third edition of *Kissing the Trail: Greater Seattle Mountain Bike Adventures*, completely revising and updating it, with 18 new trails and many new photos.

Single year at Whitman inspires lifetime connection with the College

“Classes — were they interesting? Fun? Well run? Did professors really care? Yes to all of the above,” wrote Laura Rodgers Hook, ’45, in a 50th reunion letter a few years ago. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend the College beyond her first year. Still, “I would remember Whitman,” she wrote, “and it took a long time for me to admit that I would never get back there.”

Shortly after Hook arrived at Whitman in 1941, her father died, and her family worked to keep her at Whitman for at least one year. She also worked — vacuuming in Prentiss, “hashing,” and typing up class notes for Professor Art Rempel, but by the end of the school year, she realized that finances didn’t permit her to continue at Whitman. She left to go to work in Portland, Oregon. “The College was a stabilizing, comforting, and supportive place for me in a turbulent year,” Hook says. “With the death of my father, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the country entering World War II, the 1941-1942 school year was a trying time for me and my family. The College helped me through that.”

In 1948, Laura married John Hook, an actuary for Standard Life Insurance. They had two children, Joe (a University of Oregon graduate) and Esther (Hook Milnes, ’73), and Laura Hook came to appreciate the College even more as a Whitman parent. Later, her grandson Doug Milnes also attended Whitman, graduating in 2002.

While her children were teenagers, Laura Hook earned a B.A. in German at Portland State College and an M.A. in teaching. She taught part-time at Cleveland High School in Portland for 14 years, retiring in 1982. She is now a resident of Sequim, Washington.



Laura Rodgers Hook, ’45, second from left, founded a Whitman family when she attended the College. Posing with her are her grandson Doug Milnes, ’02, daughter Esther Hook Milnes, ’73, and son-in-law Ralph Milnes.

Laura Rodgers Hook recently contributed to Whitman through a gift annuity. The annuity will provide her an income for the rest of her life, and after her death, the remaining funds will establish the Hook family mathematics award endowment.

Kurt Polzin, '86, received the European Geophysical Society's Fridtjof Nansen Medal, one of the society's highest honors. Polzin, an associate scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), earned his Whitman degree in physics and a Ph.D. in physical oceanography from the MIT/WHOI joint program in oceanography and applied ocean science and engineering. The medal honors him for his work during the World Ocean Circulation Experiment in the 1990s and his studies of the mixing of Antarctic bottom water as it crosses the mid-Atlantic ridge through the Romanche Fracture Zone in the South Atlantic. His work, according to the award citation, "has stimulated a new worldwide interest in deep ocean turbulence, involving new observations of the turbulence itself, new studies of the turbulence energy sources, and new work on their implications."

Charles Hawley, '94, who earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 2001, has received a Fulbright Beginning Journalist Award. A freelance writer in Germany for the past two years, Hawley has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal Europe*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*. With the Fulbright, he plans to study the "growing gap between the former East Germany and the former

Whitties claim a Fulbright, an international medal, and other academic prizes

West Germany." East Germany has received hundreds of millions of marks (now euros) in the form of a "solidarity tax," Hawley explains, but the region continues to stagnate. His study will examine why that is happening. Hawley taught English in Romania after leaving Whitman with a politics degree.

Jana Kunicova, '98, received a Ph.D. from Yale University in May, earning distinction in her political science studies. She has been named assistant professor of political science in the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at California Institute of Technology (Caltech). A double major in economics and politics at Whitman, Kunicova wrote her Ph.D. dissertation examining the effect of comparative political institutions on corruption of elected officials. "My research combines rigorous methods of economics and political science (such as game theory and econometrics), so Caltech is the best place in the country to continue this kind of research," she notes.

Penn State has awarded a five-year fellowship to **Melodie Wilson-Velasco,**

'99, to study toward a doctorate in the university's continental philosophy program, considered the most prestigious in the country, according to Whitman philosophy professor Tom Davis. Wilson-Velasco, who majored in philosophy and literature at Whitman, has been working at Loyola College in Maryland as an academic adviser. She hopes to return to the West Coast eventually to teach in a small, liberal arts school setting, she says.

Bill Conley, '01, who earned his Whitman degree in mathematics-physics, received a Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Student Fellowship. The four-year grant funds his graduate education toward a Ph.D. at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Conley has been taking classes at Purdue since 2001 and has been working on research analyzing friction at the atomic scale. Conley presented his research at the International Conference on Computational Nanotechnology in San Francisco last February and will attend the American Society of Mechanical Engineers conference in Washington, D.C., in November.