When graduates reflect on their time at Whitman, they will recall spirited classroom discussions, trial and error in the laboratory, and long nights spent in the library. They also remember influential teachers and administrators, campus culture, extra-curricular activities, and most of all, the life-long relationships nurtured through this campus community.

In 2013, Penrose Library began a project to highlight the history of Whitman College with a focus on that rich community. Using photographic content from its Whitman College and Northwest Archives, Penrose Library developed “Portraits of the Past,” an interactive timeline that highlights people, places and events from college history. The result is not a comprehensive or complete history of the college, but a series of visually compelling glimpses into our collective memory.

Portraits of the Past - A Digital Exhibit

By Jennifer Northam ’91, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

~ Continued on page 3
The Summer 2013 issue of *Fifty Plus News* included an article by Bill Huntington, archives assistant, that discussed the William Fifield Papers. Included among these materials is June Fifield’s account of the day Branch Rickey decided to sign Jackie Robinson. The Whitman College and Northwest Archives is grateful to the efforts of Donnali Fifield, William Fifield’s literary executor, who recognized the importance of these papers and generously donated them to the archives so that everyone would have access to this story. June Fifield’s account of this important event has in fact been mentioned in two new books, Roger Kahn’s *Rickey & Robinson: The True, Untold Story of the Integration of Baseball* (2014) and Lawrence Hogan’s *The Forgotten History of African American Baseball* (2014). Donnali Fifield is working on reissuing her father’s work through the Times Two Publishing Company. For more information, see www.timestwopublishing.com.

**Sonia Angell Schmitt ’55** added her input to the Red Mop Campaign story featured in the Winter 2013 issue. She remembers that Red Mop wigs were also used in the campaign of **Shirley Wilson ’52** for ASWC Secretary, a position that was won by **Nancy Morrison Frasco ’53**.

**Don Sprenkel ’52** wrote to identify the girl standing in the *Waiilatpu* office (March 2014, page 10) as **Elise Valentine Sprenkel ’52**.

The Whitman archives are a treasure trove of wonderful images from days past. Unfortunately, we can’t always identify everyone in these images. If you see someone you recognize in the archival photos we publish in *Fifty Plus News*, please let us know! Contact Fifty Plus News Editor Jennifer Northam by mail at Alumni Relations, Whitman College, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362; by email at northajl@whitman.edu; or by calling the Alumni Relations office at 1-800-835-9448 ext. 1.

**Submit to Fifty Plus News**

Please contribute, and encourage your classmates to contribute, stories, letters, photos and memories. We welcome stories about life at Whitman when you were here or things “Whitman-related” that have influenced your life in the intervening years. Stories should be 1,000 words or less.

Send materials to:
**Jennifer Northam ’91**
c/o Whitman College Alumni Office
345 Boyer Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

or email northajl@whitman.edu.
The digital exhibit launched in the spring of 2014. There are four categories currently on display: Presidents, Music, Theatre and Athletics. Each category features photos from the extensive Whitman archives. The photos are arranged in chronological order following a timeline, spanning the decades of Whitman's history. Each photo may be expanded to read a description of the photo and a small snippet of the history behind it. In the bottom left corner of the photo panel, a “More Info” link gives a full academic citation of caption source, image title and source, date of image and copyright information.

Dan Martensen, former systems and applications librarian at Penrose, had the initial vision for a photographic timeline. Using his background in computer science and web design, Dan developed the program code to host the timeline. Benjamin Roberson ’14, the student assistant for the timeline project, was responsible for gathering and redacting material from the Whitman College archives. Benjamin’s work as a curator and editor, his training as a religious studies major focusing on history, and specific course work informed his understanding of how to create citations seen on this website. Benjamin is now pursuing a career in international law.

Melissa Salrin, archivist and special collections librarian, has provided guidance in selecting archival content to appear in the timeline, and advised the project’s creation and use of metadata. Reference assistance and editorial oversight was provided by Ben Murphy, instructional and research
librarian. Since its inception, the project has been generously supported by Dalia Corkrum, director of Penrose Library.

The timeline is a living entity and plans are in place for it to continue to grow. Among these plans are adding new areas such as academics, campus buildings and student life. You may access the timeline from the Penrose Library homepage: www.whitman.edu/penrose/. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Digital Exhibit – Portraits of the Past.
Prentiss Life with “Hours”  
by Sue Moitoret Flexer ’53

The traditional “curfew” for women students was still in operation during my years at Whitman. We had to be “in” by 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday with “12:30s” on Friday and Saturday. This was not all bad! Sometimes “having to be in” was a blessing on a boring date and what’s to do in 1950 Walla Walla anyway? Also, it was “in” but not “lights out” and an active feminine inter-social group bonding took place — think “slumber party.” Whitman was much smaller then, with an even smaller number of the student body being women. All sophomores and above lived in Prentiss unless they had family in town. Friendships formed in the five freshman dorms, Davis, Jacobs, Bratton, Penrose and College House, (which had been “psychologically allotted” by the first letters of last names) were “cemented” and would last a lifetime.

Projects for such things as honorary groups, election campaigns, other campus activities or classes went on in a designated chapter room or kitchen as did late night cramming in one of the Prentiss first floor rooms for the Big Test scheduled on the next day. Sometimes these sessions disintegrated into helpless giggles. A small group (of which I was not a part!) was facing a Psych test and in the wee small hours decided to make a symbol representing their Professor Fogarty which they then stuck with pins while dancing around the paper chanting, “Fogarty-fogarty-fogarty-fogarty,” until all collapsed with laughter. The following day the good professor failed to show up for class and in time-honored tradition all left after 10 minutes. When he managed to get to class a week later he apologized saying he had been quite ill and didn’t “know what hit him.” They didn’t try this again.

In the same vein I do recall coming in after a date to find my sisters had been really busy while I was out. All small furniture and other possessions had been
compactly stacked on the fire escape just outside my window! As I collapsed in awe on my bunk bed I realized that the chest of drawers was now placed underneath. THUNK. Although it took some time to restore order sufficiently for bedtime I did feel well-liked if my friends would spend so much time, energy and ingenuity on my behalf.

All this activity could take place knowing that there would be no male intruders. Therefore cross dorm visiting et al. could take place in PJs or similar garb and curlers. Even during the day this was true with a “Man in Section” warning when a male repairman, for instance, was about to be admitted for some task. Of course there was SOME after-hours communication with the male sex when Serenades occurred and these had to be scheduled. The “inmates” would crowd around the open windows in the dark to listen and watch. A “pinning” was the usual event that precipitated a Serenade although it could have been the traditional Sigma Chi offering to their newly selected Sweetheart or some similar occasion. Long telephone “dates” also went on with the whole section alerted that the caller was a male by the term “On the hook!” announcing this fact. In this pre-cellphone time, however, there was great grumbling if the call went on too long as there was only one phone, that being in a second floor phone booth in each section. The early morning hours were more considerate.

Of course today’s students wouldn’t put up with this control and segregation but something has been lost. We were a group of newly named “women” who had been “girls” right up through high school graduation. It was our first time away from home and family and we soon identified with these new sisters. We learned how to live with them and form relationships. We learned who was our size and how to share important dresses. I had a red taffeta number that must have set some sort of a record for attendance at formal dances! Part of this visiting around after hours was to try on clothes or to ask opinions about outfits and hair styles. You can never have too many sisters and sisters’ closets. And after hours you knew they would be there ... unless they were off visiting in another section.

This was an asset of a residence college and an important part of growing up: learning consideration for your peers, sharing in their joys and empathizing in their concerns ... in “doing unto others as you would have them do unto you,” if you will, before stepping out into the bigger world of jobs and marriage. Soon enough we would learn how to live with that other gender. In the meantime we had a giggly good time in Prentiss “after hours.”
The Gordon Scribner Award was created to honor Gordon Scribner '42, former dean of students and director of alumni, upon his retirement. The award is given by the Alumni Association to persons who have made a major contribution of volunteer time and effort to Whitman College over an extended period of time and possess the ability to inspire. Any alumnus/alumna or friend of the college is eligible for this award. There are no restrictions regarding board involvement.

For the first time, these awards – along with Alumni of Merit, the Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement, the Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni and the Faculty Award for Service – were presented in a special ceremony at Baker Center during the 2014 Reunion Weekend Celebration.

The recipients for 2014 are Peggy Copeland Corley '52 and Carolyn Vester McMurchie '54.

Peggy Copeland Corley '52 is considered a pioneer among Seattle preservationists. She served as the first chair of the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, the organization charged with historic preservation for the City of Seattle, for the first three years of its work, remaining on the board through 1980. She was appointed by Governor Dan Evans to the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and served for three years. During that period, her work ensured that our own Memorial Building, among other structures in Walla Walla, was noted as an historic site of importance worth preserving.

She was later appointed by Governor Booth Gardner to the State Heritage Council, charged with redefining the roles and scope of the state’s history museums. This led to the creation of what is now
the Museum of History and Culture in Spokane. She has been involved
with the Seattle Museum of History and Industry as staff, volunteer,
board member and board president for more than 50 years.

Peggy’s dedication and devotion
to a cause was also of great benefit to
Whitman. From the early ’60s to the
present day, she has volunteered her
time for the annual fund, her 50th
reunion fund, alumni relations, the
college archives as part of the Oral
History Project and served on the
Board of Overseers for 15 years. In
1999 she was awarded the Victor
Steinbrueck Lifetime Achievement
Award in Preservation by Historic
Seattle. The Alumni Association
Board of Directors is pleased to add
the Gordon Scribner Award for
Distinguished Service to Peggy’s
long list of honors.

Carolyn Vester McMurchie ’54
has been praised as “a woman of
remarkable intelligence, incredible
competence and unlimited energy …
with a] passion for serving the less
fortunate that knows no limits.”
These words ring true when exam-
ing Carolyn’s long history as a
volunteer, advocate and leader, not
only for Whitman but also for
numerous boards and committees.

With a focus on women, children
and families, she has worked tire-
lessly to serve those in need in her
Portland, Ore., community. From
the Metropolitan Family Service
Foundation to the Portland
Women’s Foundation, her leadership
has successfully steered multiple
organizations in their efforts.
Carolyn has served on boards for
libraries, symphonies and medical
centers; from the PTA to the United
Way. Her work has had a positive
impact on countless lives.

In the midst of all, Whitman was
also blessed with her thoughtful,
considered stewardship. First as a
class representative and later as a
member of the Board of Overseers,
Carolyn effected positive change on
campus as chair of the Student Life
Committee, vice chair of the
Western Oregon Region and as
Chair of the Board. She served for
18 years, becoming an Overseer

Carolyn’s lifetime of service has
been recognized with honors from
other organizations, including the
Aubrey R. Watzek Award from
Lewis & Clark College, Sustainer of
the Year from the Junior League of
Portland and the Thomas Stoel
Award for Volunteer Commitment
to Community from the Metro-
politan Family Service Foundation.
Whitman College is proud to honor
one of its own with the Gordon
Scribner Award for Distinguished
Service.

NOMINATE A CLASSMATE:
The Alumni Relations Office is now accepting nominations for
the Gordon Scribner Award, as well as the other award
categories. Preference will be given to nominations from the
Classes of 1950, 1955 and 1960. Nomination forms may be
found on the Whitman Alumni website (www.whitman.edu/
alumni). Or write a note to Fifty Plus News Editor Jennifer
Northam at northajl@whitman.edu, or call the Alumni Relations
office at (509) 527-5167 or 1 (800) 835-9448 ext. 1.
Staying Connected After Fifty Plus Years

We received a letter from Helen Haigh Mills ’44 before the September 2014 Reunion Weekend, when special events were held for the 55th, 60th and 65th reunion classes:

“The list excluded the Class of 1944 [70th reunion class]. I personally was shocked, disappointed, and hurt – to be faced with the exclusion, and wonder how I should feel involved and engaged if I am no longer invited to meet at a Whitman reunion with classmates. I’ve learned that there are still 32 of us living and wonder if I am the only one questioning how we are expected to remain involved.”

– Helen Haigh Mills ’44

Whitman would like to know your views. How can the college best maintain a connection with graduates of 50 years or more? One change already in place for the 2015 Reunion Weekend is an open invitation to any graduate from the Class of 1964 or older to attend the Fifty Plus reunion; special events will be held for the 55th, 60th and 65th reunion classes.

There are several internet sources for Whitman news and updates. The Whitman website (www.whitman.edu) is an excellent source of information on what’s happening on campus. The Alumni homepage (www.whitman.edu/alumni) features links to the current alumni events calendar and updates frequently with news stories focused on the accomplishments of our alumni. The college Facebook page (www.facebook.com/whitmancollege) is updated several times per day, with news of student and faculty research, alumni area events, athletics and student life; every Thursday (Throwback Thursday in social media-speak) a photo from the Whitman archives is posted, shining a light on Whitman’s past. The college posts photos of campus and student life on Instagram (www.instagram.com/whitmancollege). And of course, this publication and Whitman Magazine are also ways by which the college maintains a connection with its graduates.

We would like to specifically reach out to alumni who don’t or can’t travel and are not inclined to use computers or social media such as Facebook or Instagram. How can we make you feel included and connected? Send your suggestions to Fifty Plus News editor Jennifer Northam by mail at Alumni Relations, Whitman College, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362; by email at northajl@whitman.edu; or by calling the Alumni Relations office at 1 (800) 835-9448 ext. 1.
Welcome to the Class of 1964

The Class of 1964 celebrated their 50th reunion in May, and we welcome them to the ranks of “Fifty Plus!” As with all 50th Reunion classes, members were asked to respond to a survey. The following items of interest are excerpts from the survey, administered and compiled by Richard ’64 and Lucie Murray Mates ’64.

Orientation for the Class of ’64 was held Sept. 11-16, 1960. We were 163 men and 133 women. Classes began on Sept. 19 and four years later, 86 men and 51 women graduated representing 18 majors, significant knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to take our part in the larger world.

Thirty-three of 43 males and 29/40 female respondents earned another degree after Whitman.

Thirty-seven of 77 respondents are or were married to other Whitman students.

Of our 43 male respondents, 28 report military service in the Army, Navy, Marines or National Guard. Several specifically reported tours of duty in Vietnam during the war. Four respondents reported service in the Peace Corps. One classmate reported 31 years of service, attaining the rank of Admiral.

Serial careers – more than one career in a lifetime – have been predicted as a future trend. Some of us have been harbingers of that change. Twenty-two of 81 respondents reported more than two occupations over their working lives.

At this time in our lives, 65/83 are retired. Those who continue to work (17/83) cite either being passionate about what they do, stressed they “work as many hours as they can” or that they have stepped back from the amount of time previously devoted to work.

Sixty-one respondents report that they spend time contributing to their communities. Their activities include working at community museums and theaters; for hospice and hospitals; at food banks and churches; at schools and libraries; in mentoring programs; and on Rotary, YMCA and civic projects such as affordable housing and ecological endeavors.

For the most part, we have maintained Whitman friendships over the years. Eleven of us see friends once a month or more. Thirty-six see friends several times a year; 15 seldom see friends; and 12 of us
never see Whitman friends. Others may not see each other but communicate by other means with Whitman friends.

A very large cohort (66) met their friends through their Greek affiliations. Five met via other campus living groups; five met friends participating in various campus activities; two met doing campus jobs; six met in the classroom. Five met their longtime friends while participating in alumni activities.

Are we the generation called the “Lucky Few” – born after the Greatest Generation but before the Baby Boom? Sixty-four of us concurred that we have been the Lucky Few. Almost everyone who said yes commented.

Overwhelmingly they felt timing was most important. Many expressed amazement at how we have adapted successfully to social, economic, political and technological/informational shifts throughout our lives. There were a number of responses from women class members noting the progression and inclusion of women’s rights in general and as it has pertained to them specifically.

Class of 1964
Sunday, May 25, 2014

Marilyn Maxey Alexander ’41 was awarded The Boston Post Cane by her community of Orford, N.H. The cane is given to the oldest resident of the town. According to The Encyclopedia of New England, this program was an advertising campaign started in 1909 by The Boston Post. An estimated 475 canes were distributed throughout Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. The cane was to be given to the oldest male voter. Upon that person’s decease, the cane was to go to the next oldest male voter. A notice in The Boston Post noted that the canes “are intended as a tribute to honored and useful lives, to thrift, temperance and right living, and above all, to the superb vigor of New England manhood.” After passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, and followed by complaints by women, the honor was opened to women in the 1930s. In Orford, the cane is on display in the town hall, with the recipient’s name engraved on a plaque that hangs above. This New England tradition, dating from 1909, has outlived the paper that started it; The Boston Post closed in 1956.

Family and friends threw a surprise 100th birthday party for Ralph “Phil” Abbenhouse ’42 in July. “I feel fine. Still working on my first million (dollars),” he quipped. “101 … that’s next.” Phil worked in the radiation laboratory at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology during World War II and had a long career as an engineer, 20 years of which were spent at The Boeing Co. He and Lois Armstrong ’41 were married for 63 years until her death in 2005. Phil has two daughters, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Phil enjoys spending time with family, woodworking and boating. When asked if there were any secrets to his longevity, Phil replied, “Carrots, green beans and potatoes.”

Bill ’47 and Jane Lust Williams ’47 shared a life-long dedication to education in Wallowa County. Even beyond teaching, Bill and Jane believed in the importance of preparing for the future and worked with young people every day to give them a better hope for their own future. In support of this legacy, a scholarship named for them has been established by their family to assist education students from Joseph High School, Enterprise High School or Wallowa High School, in conjunction with the Oregon Community Foundation.

Junius Rochester ’57 was recently the featured speaker at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop as part of the In Their Footsteps speaker series event. Junius gave an illustrated talk titled “Jefferson’s Bible,” focused on President Thomas Jefferson’s project in 1803 of cutting and assembling passages from several Bibles that he believed best presented the teaching of Jesus. Jefferson subtitled this book “The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth.”

Junius is a graduate of Harvard Business School. He is the author of nine books about northwest history. For seven years he was the regional history commentator at KUOW-FM, a Pacific Northwest affiliate of National Public Radio. He is former president of the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild and current president of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington. A Seattle resident, he gives talks to civic and educational organizations throughout the country.
Serendipity in Stehekin by Emery Bayley ’62

For the past four years, the Over The Hill Gang (OTHG) which includes Geoff Clark, Mark Marshall and me, all Whitman Class of 1962, have gone to some forest campground in the Northwest to camp, fish, hike and just hang out. In July 2011, it was Chataway, a remote lake in southern British Columbia; in 2012 it was the St. Joe River in the Idaho Panhandle; last year it was the Imnaha River in northeastern Oregon. The July 2014 trip was to the Purple Point campground just outside the village of Stehekin at the head of Lake Chelan, Wash. Purple Point is a rocky campground – we needed two campsites for three tents. Over the course of the next day or so, we became acquainted with a couple who were also “camping” aboard their boat, the My Son Too, moored at the public dock across the road from the campground. They were Dave and Marlys Johnson from Gig Harbor, Wash., experienced boat campers at Lake Chelan. They inquired about the story behind OTHG and were told it was something of a outgrowth from the Class of ’62’s 40th reunion in 2002. When she learned that we were all classmates at Whitman, Marlys said that she was a Whittie as well, Class of 1968! Indeed, she even had a copy of the latest Whitman alumni magazine on board the My Son Too.

Whitties are like weeds; they spring up everywhere
– ancient Chinese proverb
**April 30, 1964**

**“Masque” Available to Public**

The annual issue of *The Masque*, the only literary magazine published by Whitman, was being sold last week and will again be available starting May 4. The price is one dollar, or 75 cents if bought by subscription.

*The Masque*, years ago known as *The Clocktower*, is a collection of poems, stories, essays and artwork done by Whitman students and faculty. Many of the poems, stories and essays are products of the writers’ Workshop – a group whose members criticize their own works. Through this literary magazine, students and faculty of Whitman College are given the opportunity to publish their own works.

*The Masque* is a student-edited publication. Those on this year’s staff include: co-editors Bill Ashworth and Joyce Tyson; assistant editors Bob Arnold and Barbara Barmeyer; art editors Bruce Stuart and Kitty Lindsay; business manager Tom Smith; and faculty advisor Mr. Roger Seamon.

**May 14, 1964**

**Science Hall Dedication to Recognize Alumni**

Whitman’s new Hall of Science, recently completed after almost 10 years of planning and construction, will be dedicated Saturday, June 6.

The ceremony will be in two parts. The morning session will honor Whitman’s recent graduates who have made significant contributions to the field of science. The afternoon ceremony will honor Whitman scientists of the past.

The actual dedication will take place at 3:30 p.m. on the lawn in front of the Science Hall. The featured speaker will be Dr. Roger Revelle, dean of research at the University of California and director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla, Calif. Dr. Revelle’s address is entitled “Science is an Art.” After the program, the new building will be open for alumni and visitors.

The morning program, beginning at 10 a.m., will consist of symposia led by Whitman graduates who are now working in science. Opening remarks by the moderator, Frederick Stevens, Jr., Class of 1944, corporate vice-president for the Northrup Corporation, will be carried by closed-circuit television from Gaiser Hall to other rooms in the Hall of Science.

**Dec. 21, 1944**

**ACP Picks Up Pioneer Story**

Pat Knight, special feature writer on *The Pioneer*, has just had one of her features selected by the ACP Feature Service which gathers unusual or interesting stories from college presses and sends them out to college newspapers for inserts.

Pat is one of the very few *Pioneer* reporters to have had a story selected. Her feature, about three coeds investigating a U.S. Army field ration unit, appeared in *The Pioneer* three weeks ago.

The story told of the exasperating experiences of the coeds and disappointments as they sampled the items in the K ration. The “energy” biscuits were like dog biscuits, and the can of meat was like dog food which made Pat comment that the K ration had been invented by some soul with a misdirected sense of humor who, hearing that soldiers are called “dog-faces,” had prepared this canine concoction for them.

Sampling further, they found the concentrated chocolate bar made their hair stand on end but was smoothed down by the cod liver oil. The cigarette tasted worse than the kind they make now and the chewing gum had “a decided khaki taste.”

Pat ended the feature by saluting the stalwart Americans who could eat U.S. Army Field Ration K and survive.
match-maker in answer to numerous requests that some of the nicer Walla Walla men be allowed to take their chances at Prentiss Hall.

With all the details arranged by the Prentiss resident head, the bureau operates simply and effectively. When the men arrive, corresponding interests and characteristics of both parties are considered before the girls are selected. Two or three couples usually go together on first dates.

“Although persons from the same cities are put together whenever possible so they can have mutual acquaintances, such an arrangement is impossible many times,” Mrs. Hall says, “because most of the men are from the eastern states Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Georgia and North Carolina.”

**MAY 3, 1945**

**SS Whitman is Launched by Students**

The S.S. Whitman Victory went “down the ways” in a traditional manner at the Oregon Shipbuilding corporation near Portland April 24 with a launching party composed entirely of Whitman College people.

**Mrs. Anderson Performs**

Mrs. Winslow S. Anderson, wife of the president, acted as sponsor and broke the usual bottle of champagne over the hull of the ship. Her daughter, Shirley, acted as flower girl, and Helene Harding and Majorie White were the maids-of-honor. Dr. Anderson was the principal speaker for the ceremony and Bishop W.P. Remington of Pendleton, a member of the board of trustees, gave the invocation. Others in the launching party were Mrs. Remington, Judge James Alger Fee, chairman of the board of overseers, and Mrs. Fee; Bishop Benjamin D. Dagwell, a member of the overseers, and Mrs. Dagwell; and seven Whitman coeds, Betty Tobey, Tirza Smith, Marianna McKinney, Meredith Emerson, Sally Chapin, Betty Estep and Sara Lloyd.

In addition to large arm bouquets of American Beauty roses each of the official attendants was presented with war stamp corsages. Each of the other seven Whitman girls received gardenia corsages.

**Ship is Fourth**

This was the fourth ship launched by the Oregon Shipbuilding corporation which was named for someone connected with Whitman College. The others, Liberty ships, were named: the S.S. Marcus Whitman, the S.S. Narcissa Whitman and the S.S. Cushing Eells. To each of the ships the college presented a portrait of the person for whom it was named.

The actual launching ceremonies took but 16 minutes and as soon as the S.S. Whitman Victory went “down the ways,” the keel for the next was laid. These Victory ships are the newer, faster freight carriers of the war, designed by the maritime commission as an improvement over the famous Liberty ship. They possess finer hull lines and are equipped with turbine gear propulsion machinery of more than twice the horsepower of the reciprocating steam engine used in Liberty ships.

**SEPT. 30, 1954**

**New Dorm Opening Brings Crowd**

Accompanied by plenty of ham, baked beans, ice cream, informality, organized noise and a good turnout of the Whitman family, Agnes Healy Anderson Memorial Hall was officially opened last Friday evening by President Chester C. Maxey, assisted by Helen Galvin, freshman from Seattle, and the new dorm was thrown open for inspection by all.

Following a brief speech in honor of the occasion, Dr. Maxey cut the ribbon across the front door and handed the fragments to Helen, who was the first freshman woman to enter Anderson Hall on opening day earlier this fall. Helen then led the way into the building to officially begin the period of open house.
which allowed members of the faculty and administration, their families, the male half of the student body and the upperclass women to roam at will throughout the dorm.

**Picnic Served**

Previous to the open house, a picnic style dinner was served to the entire crowd in Vollmer Court. The menu included sliced ham, baked beans – donated by the fraternity houses – rolls, salmon, lettuce, pickles, milk, coffee and ice cream. The improvised cafeteria line was attended by the Spurs and a few innocent bystanders, and all food arrangements were supervised by Paul Harvey, the college dietitian.

A pep rally with songs and competitive yells led by the song leaders and the yell squad came next.

At 7:30 p.m., the ribbon-cutting ceremony, accompanied by the lights of flashbulbs, officially set the new freshman women’s dormitory open for use by Whitman College.

The evening’s events were well attended.

**SEPT. 30, 1954**

**Clearing Throng Sees Ike Depart**

A small, excited, early morning crowd had a close view of the President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, as he passed through the lobby of the Marcus Whitman hotel at 7:20 a.m. en route to a special breakfast in the Georgian room.

As secret service men lined the route, reporters and the President’s staff hastily ducked under the ropes to get out of the way when Eisenhower, accompanied by four secret service men, made his smiling entrance. As he appeared a lady shouted, “There he is!” causing the President to smile broadly and wave.

White House and nationwide reporters, secret service men and uniformed police gathered in the main ballroom for breakfast at 6:30 where the trip and dedication of the dam were discussed. After only a few hours of sleep the group was full of jokes and looking forward to the dedication.

Seated by the President at the special breakfast was Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

Major General S.D. Sturgis, General W.G. Stuan of the Army Corps of Engineers and other military officials in six black Buicks left for McNary Dam at 7:28 during which time it was learned that Senator Guy Cordon would leave for the dam with a personal friend.

As the President breakfasted, reporters and the White House staff filled the lobby taking quick notes, buying newspapers and souvenir lapel buttons. Larry Burd of the Chicago Tribune carried his type-writer and bag and stood talking to a fellow scribe.

At 8 a.m. President Eisenhower emerged from breakfast followed by Secretary McKay to greet the people crowding the lobby ropes. As he returned to his fifth floor suite the President smiled “Good morning” and waved as the orderly crowd gave its round of applause.

A black limousine with its bullet-proof plastic canopy slid in front of the hotel as an approximately 20-car caravan and two Greyhound buses loaded passengers at 8:15. Expectant crowds surrounded the hotel behind police cordons, and a young elephant carried the banner “republic Carnival her Congressman at Large.”

As the lobby cleared of pressmen and staff members, President Eisenhower stepped from the elevator with his secret service men and walked over to hotel manager R.V. Borleske.

Then as Governor Arthur B. Langlie sat waiting in the limousine, the President entered the car, smiled at the crowds and sat down. As the car began to pull away from the curb, Eisenhower rolled back from his side window and called “Good luck to you” to Borleske. As the caravan wound its way around the
hotel, Eisenhower rose and sat up on the limousine canopy holding his arms up in the victory salute in response to the crowd’s cheers.

Oct. 7, 1954
Registration Totals Reach 700 Figure

Seven hundred and five students are now attending Whitman College, reported the registrar’s office after enrollment closed last Saturday at noon. This is a decrease of 13 from last year at this time.

The masculine contingent amounts to 376; 240 are former Whitman men, with 136 new to the school this year. Returning women who number 211 and 118 new coeds add up to a total of 329 women students. Seniors are in the minority with 114 in their ranks. They are followed by 124 juniors, 193 sophomores, 267 freshmen and 7 (special students carrying a course of less than 10 hours credit).

The number of men in each class is consistently greater than the number of women with one exception: the junior class is composed of 62 men and 62 women. Other classes are divided as follows: seniors, 65 men and 49 women; sophomores, 98 and 95; freshmen, 149 and 118; and special students, 2 and 5.

Leading in the representation in the Whitman student body is Washington with over half of the enrollment. Oregon, California, Idaho, Alaska and Montana follow. Seattle leads all cities trailed by Walla Walla, Spokane, Portland and the Yakima Valley.

Despite the slight decrease in total enrollment, the senior class showed an increase of 3 and the sophomore class of 27 over last year’s figures.

Results of Fifty Plus News Survey

In the last issue of Fifty Plus News we included a survey to determine the reading habits of our graduates of 50 years or more. We also sent an electronic version. More than 280 responses were received – a 16% response rate, which is very good for these types of surveys. Here are some of the results:

- 83% of respondents read every issue.
- 77.3% read most of every issue or read it cover to cover.
- 53% keep each issue one month or more.
- 51.6% spend 30-60 minutes with each issue.
- A whopping 74% said this publication strengthens their connection to Whitman.

Thank you for responding – and thank you for reading!

Receive guaranteed income for life and invest in Whitman’s future!

Charitable Gift Annuity Sample Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Annuity Rate</th>
<th>Annual Payments</th>
<th>Tax-Free Portion of Payments</th>
<th>Effective Charitable Deduction</th>
<th>After-Tax Rate*</th>
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<td>$761</td>
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<td>13.7%</td>
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*Assumes 25% income tax rate and $10,000 cash funding.

If you have any questions about gift annuities or other options to support Whitman College, please contact the Office of Gift Planning or visit the gift planning website: www.whitman.edu/gp

Jamie Kennedy ’96 • (509) 527-5989 • kennedjj@whitman.edu
On Nov. 13, President George Bridges introduced Dr. Kathleen Murray to a gathering of faculty, staff and students in Maxey Auditorium as the next president of Whitman College. Chair of the Board of Trustees Brad McMurchie ’84 read a letter from the Presidential Search Committee. The following are excerpts from that letter:

Dr. Kathleen Murray, Provost, Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Music, and former Acting President of Macalester College, will become Whitman’s 14th President on July 1, 2015. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Kathy after having received the same endorsement from the Presidential Search Committee.

The Search Committee began its work by developing a set of principles in consultation with all college constituencies. These principles guided our selection process. Over the intervening eight months, the Committee reviewed the applications of more than 100 candidates. The college’s strong position allowed us to attract an extraordinarily impressive pool. A series of in-depth interviews and personal interactions culminated with the selection of Kathy.

Kathy is described by a peer as a “calm, good listener [who is] able to clearly and respectfully articulate her views.” In Kathy, the Committee found the person with the experience and vision to lead Whitman forward as we build on the success of the last 10 years. We also found a person with great warmth, intelligence and a sense of humor.

At Macalester, Kathy was responsible for the academic program of one of America’s finest liberal arts colleges. She also directed the planning for Macalester’s new $70 million Fine Arts Center and played a key role in the development of the college’s new strategic plan. As a testament to her leadership skills, Macalester’s Board of Trustees selected Kathy to serve as Acting President of the College during the fall of 2013. Away from Macalester, Kathy serves as the Vice Chair of the American Conference of Academic Deans and on the Board of Directors for Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth.
Kathy, as a first generation college student, graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance) from Illinois Wesleyan University. She received a Master of Music from Bowling Green State University and a Doctor of Music (Piano Performance and Pedagogy) from Northwestern University. Kathy began her academic career at Lawrence University (a selective liberal arts college and conservatory of music, enrolling approximately 1,350 students), where she moved from Department Chair to Dean of the Conservatory of Music to Dean of the Faculty. Before being appointed as Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Macalester in 2008, Kathy served for three years as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Birmingham-Southern College. She is also a 2004 graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Institute for Educational Management.

Feedback from President Bridges and members of the search committee has been overwhelmingly positive:

✦ Kathy Murray has extensive experience in leading liberal arts colleges, a rich record of scholarship and performance, and a genuinely warm and winsome spirit. As Whitman’s 14th president, she will make exceptional contributions to advancing the college while remaining faithful to its academic virtues. I have little doubt that she will be an outstanding leader.

– George S. Bridges
President, Whitman College

✦ I am thrilled that Kathy will be the next president of Whitman College. She is a proven leader, excellent communicator and articulate advocate for liberal arts education who will build on the strengths of the college while effectively meeting the challenges that face liberal arts institutions today. Under her leadership, Whitman will continue to provide an excellent education for its students as she guides the college to new levels of achievement. Kathy truly understands how to support the faculty as teachers/scholars while challenging us all to reach our full potential. It is an exciting moment for the college as it transitions to the most promising phase of its distinguished history.

– David Schmitz
Robert Allen Skotheim Chair of History and Chair of the Faculty

✦ Kathy made an immediate impression as approachable, thoughtful and warm. The initial positive reaction was only reinforced after spending more time with her. It is clear that she has a deep and abiding commitment to, and passion for, maintaining and strengthening the sort of rigorous, collaborative, holistic, hands-on college experience that Whitman provides. I am excited and optimistic about the next chapter in Whitman’s history!

– Sarah Wang ’89
Board of Trustees

✦ Speaking with Kathy feels so natural. She’s qualified, but she also shares our passion for Whitman and the liberal arts. It’s as if she has been on campus with us all along.

– Gladys Gitau ’16
Student
All alumni from the Classes of 1964 and earlier are invited to join the celebration for the Fifty Plus Reunion. Special celebrations will be held for the Classes of 1950, 1955 and 1960.