On Nov. 8, 2013, the newly renovated Baker Center, formerly Baker Faculty Center, was dedicated as the new home for the Alumni Relations and Annual Giving offices.

In recent years, the Alumni Relations staff has expanded to keep pace with a growing alumni population. The Alumni House on Marcus Street was simply too small. The under-utilized Baker Faculty Center was quickly identified as the best location for expansion.

President George Bridges commented, “All of us at the college are delighted to replace the cozy but square-footage-challenged Alumni House on Marcus Street that has served us since 1983 with this wonderful new use of the Baker Center.”

Project managers were tasked with expanding on the function of the house for meeting and office space while preserving the integrity of the building’s architecture and the historic aesthetic of the house. The ambitious plan included the installation of an elevator, creation of accessible work and meeting spaces, upgrades to the electrical and HVAC systems, and the addition of a new workroom for producing large-volume mailings and publications and storing event materials and supplies. Early in the project, it was determined that there would be enough space in the facility to move the Annual Giving staff in as well, allowing the two offices to work more closely together.

Anderson Mansion – 1904

Originally at this location was the “Old Boyer House,” which was built before 1880 for John Franklin Boyer, husband of Sarah Baker, sister of Dorsey Baker. The Boyer House was moved to the corner of Otis and Cypress in May of 1903 and is now Whitman College’s “German House.”

The new home was built for Mabel Ida Baker Anderson and Louis F. Anderson who were married on Oct. 30, 1890, by Cush ing Eells. Mabel Anderson was the daughter of Dr. Dorsey and Elizabeth Baker, Walla Walla’s pioneer banking family. Louis Anderson was the son of Whitman College’s first president, Dr. Alexander Jay Anderson. Louis Anderson taught Greek, Latin and math, and served for a period as librarian, secretary of the faculty and baseball coach.

The architect, Kirtland Cutter of Spokane, was considered Washington state’s leading architect. He designed the Rainier Club in Seattle and the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, as well as many beautiful homes throughout the west. Louis Anderson, Kirtland Cutter and the construction overseer communicated closely throughout construction, yet errors occurred. Professor Anderson expressed frustration that there was insufficient clearance in the front stairway. Cutter responded that there had been an error in the
Letters to the Editor

I was totally stunned when I read the write-up about Shirley Wilson '52 running for Secretary of the Senior Class. I, Joan Heggie Young '52, was the one who ran for Secretary of the Senior Class. Because I had the reddest of hair, we launched the “Red Mop Campaign” where students wore wigs made of mops dyed red around campus, inspired by a popular song at the time titled “Red Mop.” The Delta Gammas campaigned so hard, my election as secretary was successful. Part of the responsibility of the Senior Class Secretary was being in charge of future reunions, and I kept my promise. I not only co-chaired the 25th with Ralph Eddings '52 (Senior Class President), but also was chairman of the 40th, and most importantly, the 50th reunion in 2002. And I do remember wearing that red mop around campus, even though that photo is probably of Sue Moitoret Flexer '53.

Fondly,
Joan Heggie Young '52
installation of the corner pilasters that stand forward about four inches from the house. Anderson further complained about the smoking chimney in the living room.

In 1956, Whitman College purchased the home and surrounding land, and in 1977, the Board of Trustees designated the house for use as the Baker Faculty Center. It has since served as a reception venue for faculty, students, alumni and other guests, as well as a lunch location for faculty and staff.

**Remembering the Mansion**

During an Open House for local alumni, many shared their memories of this campus landmark. More than one individual commented about how the yard had been overgrown, which made the house nearly invisible from the street; others spoke of the one light that stayed on while the rest of the house remained dark. The second Mrs. Anderson, Florence, was blind; reportedly, the light was left on for her assistant who lived with her in the house.

**Looking to the Future**

Preston Frederickson '02, President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, spoke at the November dedication: “Ideally, an alumni center should serve as a hub for Whitman alumni who return to campus to revisit their undergraduate memories or to show friends and family the college. When the Alumni Board set out to address facilities needs, finding a location

![Main floor of the Anderson Mansion.](image)

*The Anderson Mansion seems to belong naturally to the College campus and to be indispensable for its symmetrical and artistic development.*

– Stephen B.L. Penrose
President's Annual Report, Whitman College, 1927

~ Continued from page 1

~ Continued on page 4
Dear Jennifer,

I worked for Mrs. Anderson from 1959-1963 about 10 to 12 hours per week as her secretary/aide. At this time she was bedridden and blind. She had a large bedroom, dressing room, bathroom on the upstairs east wing of the house. I loved the huge fireplace in the living room and the den off the living room. There was a rosewood spinet that had been in her family a long time and a chair at the bottom of the stairs that she called the tea party chair! It had belonged to one of her forebears and was on the ship bringing tea into Boston Harbor.

Whitman owned the house by this time and Mrs. Anderson paid $100 a month rent. She employed a housekeeper, Mrs. Roberts, and a handyman/yardman, Mr. Dorner (I may be wrong about this name). The main rooms upstairs were a couple of bedrooms and a study. All of the rooms were full of books. Mrs. Anderson had her Doctorate in Classical Philology from Columbia University. She earned her B.A. from Vassar. She had grown up on Nantucket Island and had lovely memories of that area.

I was married and had my first child while going to Whitman and would often take my baby boy to visit with her. She loved having him lie by her on her bed. My whole family visited from time to time and they all enjoyed visits in the house.

Roberta Graham Paulson ’62

What do you remember about the Anderson Mansion? Share your memories in the next issue!

Email to Jennifer Northam ’91, northajl@whitman.edu.
Area Veterans Honored With Flight to Nation’s Capital

Two Whitman alumni, Sam Schneidmiller ’49, and Mel Haas ’51, were recently honored for their military service in World War II.


Nine area veterans of World War II were among the latest military folks to take advantage of a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the war monuments and hang out together. Inland Northwest Honor Flight out of Spokane fully funds these trips for veterans. The veterans took off from Spokane early on Sept. 24, landed in the nation’s capital and stayed overnight. The next day, they toured various sites and returned to Spokane, said one of the honorees, Mel Haas of Walla Walla. The 86-year-old served from 1945-46 in the U.S. Navy aboard the mine sweeper U.S.S. Obstructor in the South China Sea.

Mel was most impressed by how INHF committee members were stationed in the Spokane airport to guide veterans to the Sun Country Airline charter plane gate. “Many of them would say ‘thanks for your service,’ and shake your hand. When we deplaned at (Washington Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C.) they did the same greeting and cheering.

“When we arrived back in Spokane on Wednesday evening (Sept. 25), there were at least 200 people plus a small band to greet us and wish us well,” Mel said.

Another Whitman alumnus who made the trip was Walla Wallan Sam Schneidmiller, 91, a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942-46.

Mel said 84 men and women veterans, some with assistants, came along. Mel’s son, Fresno (Calif.) County Chief Deputy District Attorney Doug Haas, now of Clovis, Calif., was his wheelchair escort. Aides such as Doug – those who accompany a veteran who can use an extra hand navigating a wheelchair – are called guardians.

“We stayed in a hotel in D.C., with all meals furnished,” Mel said. “Going there, we ate breakfast and lunch on the plane, went to a banquet that night, had breakfast at the hotel, lunch on the bus while touring and dinner on the plane coming home.” In contrast, his son, as a guardian, paid $900 to go on the trip.

“We saw the World War II, Navy, Vietnam, Women in Military Service for America and Korean memorials and the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery.

~ Continued on page 6
And I think part of going on this trip is getting to meet a lot of the guys from different towns,” Mel said. “It was just really an experience. It was quick, but how long does it take to look at a monument? I've seen the Marines on Iwo Jima (U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial) before, but it is one to see – it’s so vivid.”

“It was marvelous, so well handled. It was planned down to the minute,” Art Shinbo, another area veteran who went on the trip, said.

He appreciated the Korean War Memorial, which features 19 statues that range from 7-feet-3-inches to 7-feet-6-inches tall. The figures, kitted in full battle gear and draped in ponchos, represent a squad on patrol, 14 from the U.S. Army, three from the Marine Corps, one a Navy corpsman and one an Air Force forward air observer. They're dispersed among strips of granite and juniper bushes that represent the rugged terrain of Korea.

“I was impressed,” Art said. “Veterans of the Korean War were not welcomed home to the same hoopla. I was impressed that they were finally acknowledged.”

Art also said he and fellow honored veterans were transported in three buses on busy Washington streets, led by police with flashing lights and sirens – and everybody got out of the way.

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What things cost 70 years ago …

- **Car**: $1,220
- **Gasoline**: 21 cents per gallon
- **House**: $8,600
- **Bread**: 9 cents per loaf
- **Milk**: 62 cents per gallon
- **Postage stamp**: 3 cents
- **Average annual salary**: $2,600
- **Minimum wage**: 30 cents per hour
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen B.L. Penrose: A Memorial

By Bernard Peach ’40

Department of Philosophy
Duke University

Dr. and Mrs. Penrose had a powerful influence on my life. Because of them, I was able to continue in college beyond my freshman year. Indeed, it was because of them I was able to finish four years at Whitman, lay a solid intellectual foundation in general and particularly in the study of philosophy. This enabled me to pursue graduate studies at California and Harvard and to have an academic career in philosophy. It is not too much to say that without them the whole course of my life would have been very different.

In my years at Whitman, I received several educations: one from courses in the regular academic program, along with the personal, social, and intellectual maturation that naturally accompanies those four years; another from Dr. Penrose; another from Mrs. Penrose; and another from Ella K. Johnson, their cook and housekeeper for many, many years. It would take longer than the time I have available, and more than the literary abilities required to do them justice, to go into all the details of these various and varied educations. Generally, and briefly, Dr. Penrose provided an education in the form of an appreciation of the life of mind, a devotion to learning, in the broadest sense, a respect for, and admiration of, scholarship and the techniques of teaching that range all the way from Socratic dialectic to systematic, orderly, clear presentation of overwhelming amounts of information. Mrs. Penrose provided another – sensitivity to the circumstances of the situation; an awareness of individual differences and an acceptance of them insofar as they were acceptable; a sense of social and personal responsibility that operated within the limits of what could be done by a single person or a group of which one was a member; graciousness in all circumstances, based upon a deep natural commitment to the highest standards of personal, intellectual, and moral integrity. Ella Johnson provided a third – solidity of character, integrity, self-respect and dignity in one’s station exemplified in the highest excellence in the performance of one’s duties, along with the capacity to enfold young, insecure people in a warm acceptance; in

~ Continued on page 8
short, motherly love for the many college children who had the good fortune to belong to the Penrose family.

These are inadequate attempts to express the general nature of the benefits I received and my appreciation of them. Some details may help to indicate their significance.

I had delivered papers from the time I was eight until I reached 18, saving every penny I could in order to go to college. Upon graduation from high school in Kirkland, I was awarded a tuition scholarship by Whitman and chose to go there rather than to the University of Washington, for reasons that were basically sound and quite deeply embedded. Even with the scholarship and lots of work as a bus-boy in Prentiss, waiter in Lyman House, and odd jobs in town, my savings were exhausted at the end of my freshman year. During the summer of 1937, I worked at the First National Bank in Kirkland. But $50 a month before expenses was not going to finance another year of college. Student loans were not available then; and even if they had been, my Scottish Presbyterian upbringing on my mother’s side, and my mother herself, would probably not have permitted, the borrowing of money being basically sinful according to those criteria and in those eyes. So I was desperately entering essay contests and other get-rich quick schemes that were so prevalent during those years of the depression. Nothing succeeded, and by mid-summer I was resigned to spending at least the next year in the bank posting accounts and perhaps eventually working my way up to the position of a teller. They were not happy days. Then about mid- or late-July, a letter arrived from Dr. Penrose. It was an invitation to accept board and room in return for reading, driving, and doing other things as they might be required. I responded in feverish haste; and, next to my marriage to Alice Mary Barber ’40 and all its beautiful consequences, this was the most important single event in my life.

“I Was There”
Clay Michaelis ’51

Upon receiving the summer 2013 Fifty Plus News, which contained an article about Branch Rickey’s decision to sign Jackie Robinson, I wanted to share the following story.

I was at Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, New York, on April 15, 1947, when Jackie Robinson was first at bat. I had a little Brownie camera with me, with which I took this picture of a momentous milestone in the annals of major league baseball. Five days earlier, on April 10, Branch Rickey, the Dodger president, announced that he had purchased Jackie’s contract and this finalized the “breakthrough” for an African-American to play in the big leagues.

What happened that day? I thought you’d never ask. Jackie grounded out to Johnny Sain of the Boston Braves, officially recording the very first time at bat for a black man 66 years ago. In addition to being the first black athlete to make the grade in a white man’s sport, he was also the first one elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, in 1962. At the time, I was stationed with the 1st Army on Governors Island, New York, and was attending my first major league game. I was 20 years old then and am now 86, one of the “Greatest Generation.”

What else is there to say besides “I was there”? 

Artwork featured in this story was created by Ernest Norling, class of 1915, a nationally recognized artist and author.

Portraits of Dr. Stephen B.L. Penrose and Mary Shipman Penrose, oil on canvas, 1932.
MAY 21, 1943

DG Contest Rules Now Are Listed
Deadline For Entering Reading Contest Set For December 10.

Alumnae of the Walla Walla chapter of Delta Gamma sorority once again are sponsoring a reading contest which aims to stimulate the reading by students beyond course requirements in Whitman.

The contest is open to all students of Whitman, men and women. Those desiring to enter the contest must register with Dean W.R. Davis on or before Friday, December 10, 1943.

Prizes amounting to $50 will be awarded. First prize will be $25; second, $15; third, $10. These prizes will be awarded by a committee of three judges. At the close of the contest each participant will present to the judges a list of the books he has read in the specified time, and he will be given an opportunity to talk with these judges about these books.

Rules Listed

Following is a list of regulations found useful to contestants:

1. Reading done between July 1, 1943, and June 1, 1944, may be included in the contest.
2. Any student of Whitman College who carries at least twelve hours of work each semester may enter the contest.
3. No reading required in any course in college in which the student is registered may be offered in this contest.
4. The bibliography entitled “Good Reading” is suggested to contestants as containing a selected list of books in which they may be interested.
5. Students who expect to enter the contest are required to register with Dean W.R. Davis by December 10.
6. It is desirable that each contestant confer with Dean Davis as to the reading he expects to submit in the contest.

The winners in this contest will be announced at commencement.

FEBRUARY 27, 1964

Groups Meet to Discuss Race Crisis

A meeting was held Tuesday afternoon of those interested in finding out how students at Whitman can best make their opinions on racial equality be heard. No organization was formed, but Wes Schroeder was elected to form a committee to look into the situation here in Walla Walla and try to ascertain what action, if any, should be taken. The committee will also try to find what organization can best serve the needs of any situation arising.

A conference is being held in Pomona Feb. 28-March 1 to examine the student possibilities in the area of racial equality. The Whitman YMCA and YWCA are sending Ann Beasley, Jan Hoard, Kathy Hull, and Wes Schroeder in hopes that ideas and techniques may be learned which will be of help in Walla Walla.
Wailatpu office, 1950-1951. **Bob Worrall '52**, editor, standing; **Lea Williams Topping '52** at typewriter.

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<th>Effective Charitable Deduction</th>
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* Assumes 25% income tax rate and $25,000 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](http://www.whitman.edu/gp)

Jamie Kennedy ’96 • (509) 527-5989 • kennedjj@whitman.edu
READER SURVEY

The Whitman College Alumni Office would like your help in our ongoing efforts to enhance the content offered in Fifty Plus News. Fifty Plus News is a 12- to 16-page magazine published two times each year for those who graduated from Whitman College 50 or more years ago. It is our hope that this publication acknowledges the legacy of our older graduates, documents student and faculty history, and maintains a connection to the college after 50 years or more.

To take the survey online:  
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JF5PF7W  
If you take the survey online, please do not mail this page.

OR:
Please answer the questions below and mail this page to:

Fifty Plus Reader Survey  
Alumni Relations  
Whitman College  
345 Boyer Ave  
Walla Walla WA 99362

If you have any questions regarding the survey, feel free to contact Fifty Plus News editor Jennifer Northam at northajl@whitman.edu or by phone (800) 835-9448, ext. 1.

What is your Whitman class year? ____________________________

How often do you read Fifty Plus News?
☐ Every issue
☐ Most issues
☐ Occasional issues
☐ Never

How much of each issue do you read?
☐ Cover to cover
☐ Most of it
☐ Some of it
☐ None

How long do you typically keep an issue of Fifty Plus News?
☐ More than one month
☐ Up to one month
☐ Up to one week
☐ Discard immediately

Have you ever submitted a story or photo to Fifty Plus News that was printed?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Have you ever appeared in a photo or story in Fifty Plus News submitted by someone else?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don’t know

Of the Fifty Plus issues in which you’ve submitted content or appeared in, how long did you keep the issue?
☐ Still have it
☐ More than one month
☐ Up to one month
☐ Up to one week
☐ Discarded immediately
☐ Not applicable

How much total time do you spend with an issue?
☐ 60 minutes or more
☐ 30 to 60 minutes
☐ 15 to 30 minutes
☐ Less than 15 minutes

Does Fifty Plus News strengthen your connection to Whitman College?
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Has no impact

What are your favorite features of Fifty Plus News?
Select all that apply:
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Would you like to see any of the following in future issues?
Select all that apply:
☐ Photos of campus today
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Please use this space to tell us what you would like to read in Fifty Plus News:
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