Alumni Weekend Celebrates 150th Birthday

The college experience is different for each generation of alumni. That’s why this year’s upcoming Alumni Weekend is packed with special activities and group interactions that reach into the past to celebrate Lewis & Clark’s 150th anniversary.

The event is “supersized” to add another day and allow for more focus on what was important outside of classes, books and grades that shaped each individual’s future.

An all-alumni social kicks off the Sesquicentennial Celebration on Wednesday evening, June 20 followed by a dinner on Thursday night for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1968.

On Friday, June 22, there are several events aimed at senior alums, starting with the Golden Medallion Luncheon followed by an informal chance to linger longer with former classmates in the Manor House. Later in the afternoon, a gathering for members of 11 sororities and fraternities, once an important part of the campus fabric, will rekindle memories of college social life.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Pioneer College presentations range from:

“Celebrating What We Have Achieved Together at Lewis & Clark”
“Exploring Special Collections” at the campus library including L&C’s history.

“America From Nixon to Trump - Times of Distrust and Disillusionment, or Not?”
“Reflections on Four Decades Serving America Abroad.”

Throughout Thursday, Friday and Saturday are opportunities for people who share a special bond from college years to reconnect with gatherings of international alumni, resident life advisors, Greek life (fraternities, sororities), alumni of color, athletes, overseas and off-campus program participants, Vietnam and Nixon-era alumni and Pioneer Log staff, just to name a few.

On Saturday, the 150th birthday party takes center stage with a Sesquicentennial ceremony at 1 p.m., after which the festivities move to the Estate Gardens for cake and games or just kicking back. Later in the day is the Northwest Salmon Bake and BBQ, a highlight of alumni weekend.

For a complete list of activities, dates, times and locations, go to go.lclark.edu/college/allpios or call 503-768-7950 for more information.

Medallion Luncheon Marks Milestone

It will be a rite of passage for the class of 1968 when its members are celebrated at the Golden Medallion Luncheon on Friday, June 22 as part of Alumni Weekend.

Organized by the Albany Society, the event is a welcome to all senior alums who graduated 50 or more years ago.

Those attending their 50th reunion will be recognized and presented a special medallion to commemorate college commencement five decades earlier. Graduates from 1953 (65 years), 1958 (60 years) and 1963 (55 years) will also be honored.

Jane Atkinson, L&C vice president and provost, will be the featured speaker. Atkinson, who joined the faculty in 1978 as assistant professor of anthropology, is also marking a passage with her retirement on May 31 after 39 years. She has held several posts at the college including interim president for 15 months in 2009-10. A scholarship in her name was established in 2010 to honor her dedicated service to the college.

Registration information is available at go.lclark.edu/college/allpios. For registration questions or help, contact Emily Decker at emily@lclark.edu or call 503-768-7838.
From its beginnings 150 years ago as a small college in a rural Oregon town, Lewis & Clark withstood two world wars and the Great Depression to emerge as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the nation in a 2018 ranking by *U.S. News and World Report*.

The first 75 years were ones of accomplishment and struggle. In 1851, Rev. Edward Geary arrived in Oregon with a mandate from several Presbyterian churches in the East to establish churches and found colleges in the Pacific Northwest. Just two years after the end of the Civil War, Geary’s efforts resulted in the opening of the Albany Collegiate Institute on October 14, 1867 in the small Willamette Valley town of Albany.

At that time, Albany, located 70 miles south of Portland, only had a population of 600. Like other pioneer colleges in those days, the school offered education to students in all grades in addition to college curriculum. The first graduating class in 1873 boasted five women. By 1893, the graduating class photo pictured 15.

A name change in 1905 to Albany College reflected the school’s focus on higher education curriculum. Eight years later, in 1913, the college acquired 48 acres on the city’s edge to relocate and expand the campus which was originally housed in two buildings in Albany’s downtown.

It took 14 more years to raise the money needed to construct three buildings before the college was relocated to the new site in 1927.

But plans for further expansion stopped two years later as the Great Depression began in 1929, throwing the college into economic crisis. Although enrollment grew from 156 students in 1929 to 350 in 1938, it came at a cost as tuition was sharply discounted to attract new students.

Looking to a larger potential student pool, the college opened an extension campus in Portland offering lower-division courses that would prepare students to transfer to the Albany campus to complete their degree. Enrollment at the Portland location soon exceeded that of Albany and the decision was made to close the Albany campus in 1938 after 71 years and move the school to Portland where the future seemed brighter.

Classes at the new site opened in September 1942 and an article in The Oregonian dubbed Lewis & Clark the “Cinderella College” that overcame adversity and rose from a period of “withering away in rented buildings” to a beautiful, forested campus. It was the beginning of the second half of the college’s 150-year history and as Odell observed “here we start almost from scratch.”

The first years on Palatine Hill were marked by transforming the existing buildings on Palatine Hill to college use. The library, classrooms, science labs and art classes all found homes in former greenhouses. The upstairs of the Manor House became a women’s dormitory and salvaged buildings from World War II shipyards and army bases added needed space.

With the end of World War II, returning veterans with GI Bill education benefits swelled enrollment numbers bringing with them increased revenue for the college. It was also a period of rebuilding faculty and re-shaping curriculum. By 1946, full accreditation was regained and the last challenge of the transition from Albany overcome.

Academic growth continued throughout the 1950s and by 1960 the college was poised for expansion of campus facilities and a deeper involvement in the global world.

John Howard became president of L&C in 1960 and during his 21-year tenure, the campus more than doubled in size to 130 acres and added new classrooms as 20 buildings were renovated or constructed. In 1966, formal ties with the Presbyterian Synod of Oregon were severed, opening up new avenues for federal and other funding.

The college’s reputation also expanded nationally and internationally, driven in part, by the overseas and off-campus programs launched in 1962.

The addition of two professional schools (Northwestern School of Law in 1965 and the Graduate School of Education and Counseling in 1984) increased L&C’s academic stature.

One can only imagine what the next 150 years will look like!
150 Years of Reflections

Albany College's original building in Albany, opened in 1867, remodeled in 1892.

The Frank Manor House, anchoring Lewis & Clark's campus on Palatine Hill for 75 years.

Left: A pause for pictures at 1960 Homecoming dance.
Right: Albany College, Class of 1897.

Above: 1903 Albany football team that defeated Oregon Agricultural College (now OSU), 6-0.


Among the best memories of college years are the classmates who shared our journey at L&C. Let us know what you are doing today.

George Thompson ’50 celebrated his 90th birthday in summer 2017. Thompson had a long career as a music teacher and guidance counselor in Dallas, Oregon. After his retirement, the Dallas Education Association created the George Thompson Dallas Education Association Award which he presents each spring.

Anne Green Stark ’58 lives in Warrenton, Oregon. Anne, who received a BS in elementary education, retired after 21 years from full-time teaching and substitute teaching at Tongue Point Jobs Corps. Previously, she taught in Green River, Wyoming; Beaverton, Oregon; Roslyn, New Mexico, and San Luis Obispo, California. Anne has two children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Patricia Francy ’67 traveled from New York to Portland in June 2017 to attend her 50th class reunion at Lewis & Clark. She is currently president of the Muriel F. Siebert Foundation and works with Junior Achievement International and Outward Bound USA. In October 2017, she was honored at the Outward Bound national benefit dinner for her visionary philanthropy. She currently supports neurobiological research and a New York City Community College. Francy enjoys traveling and has visited every continent.

Bob Ness ’67 is currently chair and founder of the Global Leadership Forum. Ness’ experiences in Japan during his first year at Lewis & Clark set him on a course of international travel and consultation. Some of his projects include developing the national arts organization of Mongolia, setting up nonprofit infrastructure to remove landmines and unexploded ordnance in Vietnam, training and organizing community leadership programs in the Russian Far East, coaching the Supreme Court Justice of Kosovo and representing artists from Russia, Uzbekistan and Canada. He has traveled to 46 countries with recent trips to Cuba, Kenya, Iceland and Scotland. He lives with his wife, Maryann, in Seattle and has three daughters and seven grandchildren.

John Reitz ’49 served in WWII and is one of 15 surviving members of the 66th Infantry Division. He is attending the group’s annual reunion this summer. Reitz says he’s been attending since the event started in 1969, and has only missed one. Reitz was a radio equipment repair specialist and was on deck of the SS Leopoldville carrying units of his division across the English Channel when it was torpedoed by a submarine on Christmas Eve. Reitz was lucky enough to be able to swim to safety, but 800 others aboard were lost that day. The troops were being sent to reinforce beleaguered defenders in the Battle of the Bulge. He says “the traditions and the friendships” are what keep him coming back for reunions.

Remembering

Classmates who have recently passed away (based on information gathered by the college)

Perry, Gerald H. ’40
Jan. 15, 2018, 103 years

Coleman, Ann Brooks ’47
July 5, 2017, 90 years

Gillam, Ivan Vern ’47
April 8, 2018, 93 years

Warner, Robert P. ’47
Feb. 1, 2018, 95 years

Hutchinson, Jack H. ’49
Sept. 3, 2017, 89 years

Morford, Florence Seberg ’49
July 12, 2017, 89 years

Smith, Ralph E. ’49
Oct. 2017, 92 years

Craig, Warren C. ’50
Aug. 6, 2017, 94 years

Doty, Margorie Jean Laws ’50
Aug. 17, 2017, 89 years

McMillan, Marie S. Small ’50
July 2, 2017, 89 years

Blachly, Persis Ann Moss ’51
Sept. 19, 2017, 88 years

Munro, Mary Anderson ’51
Sept. 12, 2017, 95 years

Schwinge, Norman ’51
Aug. 2, 2017, 89 years

Williams, Herbert F. ’51
Mar. 29, 2018, 91 years

Irvine, Marilyn (Terry) ’52
Sept. 19, 2017, 86 years

Fuez, John G. ’53
July 25, 2017, 86 years

Shinn, James L. ’53
June 8, 2017, 81 years

Hollingsworth, Elizabeth L. ’54
June 24, 2017, 84 years

Lansdon, Dyrk ’54
Apr. 13, 2018, 88 years

Reed, Francis L.C. ’54
June 11, 2017, 84 years

Stauffer, Norman ’54
Dec. 23, 2017, 85 years

Stevenson, Donald E. ’54
June 4, 2017, 85 years

Nickels, Albert A ’55
Dec. 14, 2017, 87 years

Owens, Dr. Kenneth ’55
Sept. 10, 2017, 84 years

Heisler, Virginia S. ’56
Sept. 5, 2017, 82 years

Martin, John ’56
Mar. 31, 2018, 82 years

Makinsiter, Gordon ’56, MAT ’61
Jan. 31, 2018, 87 years

Raines, James D. ’57
Mar. 10, 2018, 84 years

Smith, Carl E. Jr. ’57
Apr. 1, 2018, 82 years

Tomlin, Edgar W. ’57
Sept. 8, 2017, 82 years

Wilcox, Fred T. III ’57
Dec. 20, 2017, 82 years

Willey, Jack R. ’58
Nov. 23, 2017, 81 years

Ellerby, Robert M. ’59
July 8, 2017, 80 years

Stell, James Jr., ’60
Nov. 14, 2017, 79 years

Vincent, Monty ’60
June 12, 2017, 80 years

Keef er, Thomas R. ’62
June 17, 2017, 78 years

Brown, James P. ’64, MAT ’77
Aug. 3, 2017, 71 years

Kamholz, Marvin G. ’64
Feb. 21, 2018, 75 years

Tove s, John E. III, ’67
Dec. 17, 2017, 72 years

Masterson, Thomas, ’68
Sept. 18, 2017, 71 years
It was 35 years ago that Bob Cantin ’62, became interested in genealogy and almost immediately hit paydirt.

Cantin and his wife, Marsha, were living in Phoenix, Arizona, near Mesa, where the second largest genealogical library of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints is located. About 50 percent of those tracing their roots at the library are non-Mormons.

At the library, Cantin looked up his surname and there it was: Robert Cantin, except it wasn’t him. This Robert Cantin was a professional genealogist from Quebec, Canada, where there are more than 5,000 listings in the phone book for Cantin.

Cantin rushed home to phone the other Robert Cantin (no cell phones or computers then) who answered the call with “Oui.”

“Once he realized I was American, he quickly changed from speaking French to English. He told me we were tenth generation cousins, descendants of Nicolas Quentin (the name in French) who came to Canada from France in the mid-1660’s,” the L&C alum said.

The Canadian Cantin and his wife were invited to be guests of the Arizona Cantins and that meeting sparked an interest in genealogy.

“In the next year, I employed three genealogists, wrote dozens of letters requesting birth and death certificates, census information and church records. Ancestry.com hadn’t been created yet,” Bob said.

“I even visited Wakefield, Michigan, where my paternal grandfather was an accomplished carpenter and on the town council in the 1890s. I discovered he was committed to a hospital for the mentally ill, dying of a brain tumor at age 40.

“My father never knew the truth about how his dad died, being told he was kicked in the head by a horse.

25 percent French Canadian. Recently one of his life stories was published in the Scandinavian-American Genealogical Society magazine, Budstikken. It is the amazing story of his wife’s great grandmother — Ragnild Johansen — who was born in Norway in 1843, emigrated to Nebraska, outlived three husbands and seven of her 10 children and died a month short of her 95th birthday.

“Ragnild outlasted a tornado, flooding of her farm, a scourge of grasshoppers, violent hail storms, divorce and the Depression of 1893. She was a survivor,” said Cantin.

At L&C, he wrote for the Pioneer Log for four years, becoming editor in his senior year. Then, he served in a U.S. Navy public information office and in 2006, completed a 43-year career in communications and advertising.

When not researching his family’s roots, Cantin, an accordion player since childhood, performs around the Fairview, Texas area where he now lives.

Genealogical Research
Do’s and Don’ts

● DO keep a log of what you have found so you won’t duplicate your research, especially going to a library or courthouse.
● DO back up your information with facts and proof.
● DO ask older relatives to tell you about the family and either record it or write it down.
● DO join a genealogy club or go to seminars to learn the “ins and outs” of research.
● DON’T jump from one ancestor to another; focus on one person at a time.
● DON’T accept all information as fact; seek documentation.

ALBANY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Donna Reed Manning ’61, chair; Margi Crain Brown ’64, vice-chair; Dolores Willey Chenoweth ’62, secretary; Jim Cole ’54, treasurer; Bob Bates ’66, Eloise Cole ’54, John Ferguson ’51, Barbara Pfau Getty ’56, Elisabeth Hampton Gray ’64, Louise Dennis Kasper ’63, Mel Knight ’59, Donna Macklin Lawrence ’52, Frank Lawrence ’52, Sam Macon ’64, Bill Mangels ’55, Diana Fields Nelson ’60, Jack Venables ’56, Emily Decker ’85, Alumni and Parent Programs; Dell Smith, faculty emeriti; Michael Davis, Development Office. Directors Emeriti – Chuck Charnquist ’58, Curt Copenhagen ’55, Don Floren ’53, Ken Servas ’54.
Alumni Invited to ‘Tell Their Stories’ For the College’s Oral History Project

The Oral History Project -- suggested and supported -- by the Albany Society was inaugurated in 2014 to record first-hand experiences and memories of alumni and others affiliated with Lewis & Clark.

In less than four years, more than 100 individuals have shared on videotape recollections of L&C in various eras along with a perspective of history as it was being made.

The effort began with outreach to senior alums who had been graduated 50 years or more in an effort not to lose what college was like in past eras. It has expanded to focus on topics including athletics, studying overseas and war experiences. A different emphasis is chosen each semester.

Finding, recruiting and interviewing oral history participants is part of a course required for L&C history majors called Historical Materials. Students learn to record and transcribe the oral histories which are then archived in the Aubrey R. Watzek Library as part of the college’s history. The interviews can be accessed at specialcollections@lclark.edu/lewis-clark-oral-history-project/. If you would be interested in participating in this ongoing effort, contact alumni@lclark.edu.

Michael’s Corner

For the past few years, I have had the pleasure of thanking anyone who has informed Lewis & Clark about a future bequest they have included in a will or trust (or who have listed the college as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy). And all this time, I have said more or less the same thing: that they are in good company, because about 300 other alumni and friends have informed the college of similar bequests.

Well, this afternoon I realized that number is actually 391 future bequests — nearly 400! For most people, a bequest is the largest single gift they will ever make to charity. It is a heartfelt, thoughtful gift, and I love learning about the stories and motivations behind the decision to give to Lewis & Clark.

Sometimes, donors cite a memorable faculty member, sometimes a particular friendship or group of teammates. Others recall hours working on the Pio Log or simply walking the grounds.

I have met couples who married on campus and held their wedding receptions in the Manor House and I have met others who have never been back to Palatine Hill, but still remember it fondly.

If you have provided for a similar gift in your estate and haven’t told us, please consider doing so. We’d love to say thank you and to hear your story. Even if you’ve told us before, we’d still love another chance to show gratitude on behalf of Lewis & Clark.

Michael Davis
Associate Vice President
For Major Gifts & Planning
Iceland, Morocco, San Juans on Alums’ Travel Docket

Like to travel but wish you could learn more about the places you go? If so, check out the opportunities for alumni to explore new destinations guided by L&C professors knowledgeable about the area.

The new travel program for alumni and parents was launched in May 2017 with a sold out trip to Cuba. Three trips are offered this spring and summer:

- A tour to Morocco (May 6-May 19) led by Oren Kosansky, associate professor of anthropology and program director of Middle East and North Africa studies. The trip is fully booked.
- Sailing in the San Juan Islands, accompanied by Stephen Dow Beckham, Northwest historian and professor emeritus of history, aboard a two-masted schooner that combines the elegance of the 1920s era with modern comforts (Aug. 11-Aug.15). The trip is fully booked.
- Iceland, called the “land of fire and ice” for its many glaciers and volcanoes, will be the destination with Liz Safran, associate professor of geological science (Aug 13-21).

A second trip to Cuba is tentatively planned for the last week of May 2019 that will focus on the architecture, art, music and culture of the country and led by Freddy Vilches, associate professor of Latin American studies. Additional trips being developed for 2019 include Korea, music train from Chicago to New Orleans and Japan either next year or 2020, as well as Tanzania in spring 2020.

Information on the trips is available at go.lclark.edu/piotravel.

Other travel possibilities in the future include New York City, Ashland Shakespearean Festival and other U.S. sites. If you have an idea for a trip or want more information about upcoming tours, contact Andrew McPheeters, associate dean for alumni, parent and student engagement, at mcpheet@lclark.edu or call 503-768-7936.

A Greek Revival

There’s a Greek Revival going on among alumni of Lewis & Clark.

Doug Bell ’68, Phil Lacey ’67, and Patrick Nielson ’71, all members of Lewis & Clark’s Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter, are rallying their fraternity brothers to fund an endowed scholarship in the name of the Sig Eps.

Inspired by this year’s Sesquicentennial Celebration, the effort honors the bonds formed by fraternity membership and as students of L&C.

The amount needed to establish a perpetual scholarship is $50,000.

If successful, it would be the second scholarship established by a Greek organization. In 2013, Alpha Gamma sorority mounted an effort and reached their goal in three years.