Alumni Weekend Holds Special Events for Seniors

Several events during this year’s Alumni Weekend—Thursday, June 20 to Sunday, June 23—will celebrate milestones and memories for senior alumni returning to campus. On Friday, June 21, it will be an especially full day of traveling down memory lane.

The Golden Medallion Luncheon, sponsored by the Albany Society, is a centerpiece occasion. This year’s event is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will honor members of the class of 1969, which is celebrating its 50-year reunion. At the luncheon, 1969 graduates will be presented with a college medallion and be officially welcomed into the Albany Society. Attendees from the classes of 1954, 1959, 1964 will also be recognized for marking 65, 60, and 55 years since graduation. President Wim Wiewel will be the keynote speaker.

Following the luncheon, a special presentation on the college’s history will explore how courage, patience, and vision—three virtues prized by Morgan S. Odell, L&C president from 1942 to 1960—helped shape the college from its small beginning in Albany, Oregon, to its arrival on the current campus. Professor Emerita Jean Ward will take attendees on a journey, titled “Albany to Fir Acres: The ‘Cinderella College’ Arrives” from 1–2:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber in Templeton Campus Center. Jean taught at L&C for 42 years (1964–2006) as director of forensics and professor of communications. She has authored several articles for a wide variety of publications including the Oregon Historical Quarterly, which published her article on L&C’s 150-year history in its spring 2018 issue.

Rounding out a jam-packed Friday is the Greek Life Social, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Aubrey Watzek Library. It’s an opportunity for alumni who were members of one of the 11 fraternities and sororities on campus to gather and revisit memories of Greek life and what it meant to their college experience. More than 100 alumni attended the inaugural event last year.

On Saturday, June 22, there will be a special Golden Pioneers Reunion Brunch at 11:30 a.m. for the classes of 1954, 1959, and 1964, giving these senior alumni more time to catch up on the past 65 years. This is the first year this event has been added to the Alumni Weekend schedule.

A full schedule of reunion events and registration information is online at go.lclark.edu/college/allpios. For help or more information, email reunions@lclark.edu or call 503-768-7950.

Alums on the Move

Senior alumni have an opportunity to explore new places with an L&C professor through the Pioneer Travel Program, which is expanding into new areas this year.

The program, which was initiated in 2017, has four offerings in 2019 – Peru in April, Cuba in May (both sold out), sailing on a two-masted schooner to the Gulf Islands and Victoria, B.C. in August which has a few spots available as of April and a trip to Greece is planned for November.

Trips last year included Morocco and Iceland, as well as the same sailing adventure. Plans are already underway for trips to Iceland, Cuba and Tanzania in 2020.

If you are interested in finding out about possible upcoming trips or have suggestions for future destinations, contact Andrew McPheeters, associate vice president of alumni, parent, and student engagement, at mcphee@lclark.edu or call 503-768-7936. For trip details check go.clark.edu/piotravel

Bundled up on the way to explore a glacier in Iceland are Iris Phillips Karow ’62 (left) and Nancy Simpson Knudsen ’62.

Plying the Puget Sound waters last summer were, left to right, Ralph Munson ’72, Professor Emeritus and trip leader Stephen Dow Beckham, Rand Kaplan ’79 and Jake Greenberg ’79.
Bob Blair ‘61 first sang tenor in an a cappella choir 62 years ago at Washington High School in Portland.

Today, he’s still singing tenor in a world renowned a cappella men’s chorus that has won four international gold medals. Along the way, Bob wedged in four years with L. Stanley Glarum’s Lewis & Clark College a cappella choir. And at 79, he’s not planning to stop singing tenor anytime soon.

Robert Louis Blair was introduced to music by his pianist mother and his father, who was Portland’s version of crooner Bing Crosby. Bob’s dad sang on stage at movie breaks in downtown theaters while the projectionist changed reels. “I remember my first singing performance in an Army outfit when I was five years old in the 1940s at the end of WWII. I sang ‘My Buddy’ and when I finished, the audience was in tears,” he said.

“My first instrument was a drum set, which I discovered as a youngster under our Christmas tree,” Bob recalled. “My dad said: ‘When you make what the set cost, then it’s yours. Until then, it’s still mine. And tomorrow night is your first job at the Elk’s Club.’” Bob said that was plenty of incentive to practice and earn that set.

Bob excelled at academics in high school, graduating seventh in a class of 140 with a 3.78 GPA. He earned a varsity letter in golf, made National Honor Society every year, and played drums all four years in the band, as well as tympani in the All-City Orchestra.

Then, L&C offered him a one-year scholarship. “That set the hook, and I paid for the final three years at L&C by playing music gigs, teaching drum lessons, and working at an electronics firm while attending classes,” he said.

It was during this time that Bob joined up with a tap dancer and they won the Ted Mack Amateur Hour for Pacific Northwest Entertainers, earning them a trip to New York City and the Ted Mack summer camp in Massachusetts. Bob majored in chemistry. “I was always shooting for whatever was the toughest course and I always liked science. It was the newest thing on the block and I wanted to test myself,” he said.

Somehow, he made time for rally squad and the college choir. He even played drums for Heck Harper’s Circle 8 Hoedown, a weekly local western talent show on KGW-TV.

His first job out of college was analyzing water quality for the State Department Board of Health, but the military draft was in full force and Bob had to choose between the Navy or Air Force. “With my background, the Navy wanted to assign me to a nuclear submarine,” Bob said. “But I wasn’t too keen on spending six months underwater, so I chose the Air Force.”

Initially, he signed up in 1962 for three years and ended up retiring 30 years later as a colonel, flying 247 combat missions in an F-4 fighter jet over Vietnam. He logged in 3,700 flying hours in six of the fastest planes the Air Force had in its fleet. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, 19 Air Medals, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Throughout his career, Bob worked at the highest levels of the Air Force including two assignments at the Pentagon.

Following his tour of duty, Bob settled down in Alexandria, Virginia. He met his wife, Mary, while she was working at the Pentagon. Their blended family includes five children, ten grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. “You could call us the Brady Bunch,” he laughed.

Not to let any dust gather under his feet, busy Bob has been singing tenor (lead) for 19 years with the Alexandria Harmonizers, a world class a cappella chorus of 110 men ranging in age from 12 to 80. They are a performing chorus in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

They’ve sung at the White House, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and even won the East Coast finals of America’s Got Talent. When they sang for Angela Lansbury’s induction at the Kennedy Center Honors Program, Bob realized he had joined an elite group of singers. “Everywhere I turned, I was bumping into the crème de la crème of Hollywood,” he said.

Internationally, the Harmonizers have performed at Saint Michael’s Abbey, Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, the Cologne Cathedral in Germany, and the Great Wall of China. The Harmonizers represented the United States as a choral group at the D-Day Parade 70th Year Tribute in Normandy.

Bob has sung the National Anthem at the Washington Nationals major league stadium and is proud to have met John Glenn.

“He came to our performances several times, and even took our CDs into space with him,” Bob said. The astronaut wrote on a CD that he gave to Bob: “Thanks for all the musical moments here on earth and in space.” It is proudly displayed for patrons in the lobby at shows.

When asked what his all-time favorite song is, Bob said without hesitation, “I’ll Be Seeing You.”

– Bob Cantin ’62
There are several occasions that bring alumni back to Palatine Hill during the year. In addition to Alumni Weekend, which is upcoming on June 20-23, there is the Albany Society holiday reception in December and Homecoming in October. Among those attending the holiday event were retired professor Arleigh Dodson (on the right in top right photo) and Fred Lord ’68 and his wife (left in top left photo) being greeted by President Wim Wiewel. At the bottom of the page, alums enjoy the homecoming game last October, while Eloise Wood Cole ’54 (photo far right) sold Albany Society polo shirts.
Senior Alumni Notes

Merritt Kelsay ‘49 and his bride, Cathleen Hall, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on June 12. The Kelsays, who live in Gresham, were married in the Manor House in 1949 with President Morgan Odell officiating. Merritt, who celebrated his 93rd birthday on February 21, was a member of Lewis & Clark’s 1949 Northwest Conference basketball team.

Gary Grill ‘62 was inducted into the West Albany High School’s Sports Hall of Fame.

Bill Coggins ‘66 and his wife Margaret live in Leesburg where they are enjoying Virginia’s wine country. Bill retired in 2005 after 37 years of federal service. Following graduation, he served in Vietnam as an Army intelligence officer and earned his MBA from San Francisco State after his return. His career included working for the U.S. Secret Service before joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1998 where he was appointed to the FBI’s Senior Executive service as a section chief. He has two daughters, and two grandchildren.

Mary Devlin ‘68 is a volunteer with the Tudor Guild which helps support the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, OR. The guild operates a gift shop and kiosk in each of the OSF theatres.

Jeff Hunter ‘69 retired after 28 years in real estate. As an “Oregonian through and through,” he still backpacks in wild areas.

Bryan Laycoe ‘69 is raising show horses in Ridgefield, Washington, and running an American Legion post after partially retiring from an orthopedic surgery practice. He and Diane Bedrossian ‘71 have been married for 50 years.

Michael Palmer ‘68, MAT ‘69 is enjoying his career too much to retire. He reported having a great time at the 50th class reunion in June 2018.

Anne Spencer Caputo ‘69 retired after a long career in marketing for news and media organizations. She has moved to a new career as hospital chaplain for the Inova hospital systems in northern Virginia.

David Grube ‘69 is national medical director for Compassion and Choices, the nation’s oldest and largest nonprofit that advocates for and educates about choices for end-of-life care.

Marcia Weidig Hilton ‘69 retired six years ago from hospice bereavement work after more than 25 years. She volunteers in a low-income second grade classroom. She plays ukulele in a Hawaiian orchestra that entertains in schools and nursing homes in Eugene. She also dances hula and has a three-year-old grandson in Salem.

Michael Homan ‘69 retired in 2015 and now lives in northeastern Oregon in the summer and the desert of southern California in the winter.

Paula Janz ‘69 is enjoying retirement that includes travel, especially RV, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Vicki R. Kreimeyer ‘69 is currently enjoying the “flexibility” of retirement. She is involved in two nonprofit boards and serves as executive vice president of the Opera Idaho Board of Directors. She takes voice lessons, sang in an Aida performance as part of the choir, and is a member of Critical Mass Vocal Artists choir, which performs three concerts a year. She is looking forward to joining the L&C Pioneer Travel trip to Cuba in May 2019.

Mike Shiffer ‘69 remembers his time at L&C in the 1960s. Fifty years later, he wonders if his classmates were on campus now during “this time of turmoil” if they would be as eager to protest as they were in the ‘60s.

Remembering

Classmates who have passed away within the past year based on information from the college.

Tomassene, Barbara Schultz ‘47 Sept. 28, 2018, 91 years
Stewart, Bernice Dorren ‘49 Sept. 13, 2018, 89 years
Bates, Elizabeth Sturgis ‘50 Nov. 11, 2018, 91 years
Driscoll, Donald ‘50 Oct. 28, 2018, 89 years
Hall, Lawton ‘50 July 13, 2018, 92 years
Musgrove, Lewis ‘51 Aug. 14, 2018, 89 years
Reid, Ed ‘52 Oct. 17, 2018, 89 years
Botti, Shirley Stewart ‘53 Feb. 13, 2019, 88 years
McKnight, Bonnie Bean ‘54 Jan. 7, 2019, 82 years
Briggs, Lawrence ‘55 June 12, 2018, 85 years
Kruger, Herbert ‘55 June 28, 1980, 90 years

Adrian, Harold “Hal” ‘56
Dec. 31, 2018, 84 years
Babler, Lloyd, Jr. ‘57
Dec. 27, 2018, 87 years
McClelland, Jerry ‘57 Jan. 17, 2019, 83 years
Hogrefe, Marilynn Hutchings ‘58 Oct. 8, 2018, 82 years
Roumagoux, Lynn ‘59 June 12, 2018, 81 years
Petersen, Mary Zoe Petrik ‘60 Feb. 23, 2019, 81 years
Boynton, Sandra Clapp ‘61 Oct. 15, 2018, 78 years
McCormack, Bernard ‘61 Sept. 13, 2018, 79 years
Moore, Wallace ‘61 Jan. 26, 2019, 83 years
Parker, Marcia McLean ‘61 July 20, 2018, 78 years
Whitman, Anne Sjoboen ‘61 Jan. 16, 2019, 79 years
Lange, Dale ‘62 Nov. 16, 2018, 79 years
Ferguson, Janet Gallipo ‘64 July 21, 2018, 75 years
Brownell, Merrilee Marchetti ‘67 July 18, 2018, 72 years

Joshua’s Corner

Working at Lewis & Clark, life naturally follows the rhythms of the academic year. As the year comes to a close, I am reminded of the amazing conversations I have had with Heritage Society members—individuals who have included the college in their estate plans or established life-income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts in support of Lewis & Clark—during the year.

While each conversation is unique, everyone agrees that Lewis & Clark changed their life. Some credit their experiences studying abroad, others share stories of faculty members going above and beyond, and many talk about the friendships forged on Palatine Hill. No matter the reason, everyone wants to give back to the school that gave them so much.

As one alumnus said, “My parents wouldn’t have been able to afford to send me to Lewis & Clark without the scholarships I received, and I want to pay it forward.”

It’s gratifying to know that so many of you who credit Lewis & Clark for assisting in your successes have included the college in your estate plans. Thank you!

I’d love to hear your Lewis & Clark story and learn how the college has impacted your life. Please contact me to share or to learn how you can join the Heritage Society.

Roll Pios!

Joshua Goldstein
Assistant Director of Gift Planning
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Returning to campus after 50 years is like coming home. The Gatehouse still stands sentinel at the entrance, the Manor House remains as the centerpiece in its grandeur, and fir trees abound.

But Lewis & Clark today is vastly different in many ways from the college that senior alumni attended in terms of size, diversity, curriculum, cost, and a host of other factors.

In 1962, as an example, enrollment was 1,338, growing to 1,800 by 1973, and reaching 2,087 at the start of the 2018-19 academic year—or 56 percent over the 56-year span.

The makeup of the student body has also changed. The ratio of male to female students has shifted since 1962 when it was about 50-50. In the current year, it is 60 percent women (1,263) and 40 percent men (824). A significant difference in 1962 was the number of men returning from military service.

Not only is enrollment larger, but more students currently live on campus than in the past. In 1962, there were six residence (all same-sex) and many students lived off campus. Today, 70 percent live in nine dorms and apartments that are co-ed. All incoming new students are required to live on campus for four semesters.

There is more geographic and cultural diversity among the student body than five decades ago. In 1962, L&C enrollment had more of a local and regional geographic nature. By contrast, students came from 47 states and 55 nations in 2018.

As enrollment grew and dorm space was tight, the study abroad program was instituted in 1962, with five programs offered abroad. Now, there are 30 overseas and off-campus programs held throughout the world and over 60 percent of students study abroad during their college years.

More students have meant the need for more faculty and classrooms. Faculty ranks grew from 71 in 1962 (a ratio of 1 per 19 students) to 177 today (one for every 12 students). Fourteen new buildings, most of which were built in the 1970s, added room for classes once held in former greenhouses, the Evans Music Hall, the Manor House, and a brick-less Bodine.

Formal and informal dances—Snowball Formal, Sweetheart’s Ball, May Fete—and sororities and fraternities made up the fabric of student life and no longer exist. Instead, today’s students are involved in extracurriculars ranging from student-run symposia to club sports and social justice organizations.

Over the years, curriculum and major areas of study evolved. In 1962, Western Civilization was the core course for entering freshman but was eliminated. Today, incoming freshmen participate in a full-year core course to establish a common foundation.

Through the years, the School of Music was replaced by a music department and degrees in business, journalism, and other fields were eliminated by the mid 1970s. L&C now offers 29 different majors.

And the cost of attending L&C has risen along with growth in students, faculty, new facilities, and added programs. Tuition and room and board in 1962 was $1,650 a year, which nearly doubled by 1973, and reached $52,780+ in the current year.

But, for alumni returning to campus after a long absence, all the memories remain the same.

From the Mailbox
(Excerpts from communications received by The Gatehouse)

John Venator ’66
“I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the fall issue of The Gatehouse. The issue was tailored to my year of graduation with most of the class notes from my class. I very much enjoyed catching up on what several of them did for their career and what they are doing now in retirement. Please continue this specialized publication.”

Margaret McVicker Marshall ’51
“I enjoyed reading the last issue of The Gatehouse and was reminded that I had not reported the death of my husband, Ned Marshall ’51, who passed away on November 10, 2017. Ned worked at Hood River Distillers for 30 years and became president. He was active in student affairs at L&C and also very active in the Hood River community. Thanks for all the work you do in reporting about alumni.”

The Gatehouse is produced by Albany Society senior alumni volunteers. Please let us know where you are and what you have been up to since graduation as well as ideas for future articles. Send information to:

U.S. Mail:
Office of Alumni and Parent Programs—MSC 77
Lewis & Clark College
0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road
Portland, Oregon 97219-7899

Keep in Touch

What I have been doing since graduation and/or currently.

Suggestion for story in a future issue:

Other comments:

Name: ________________________________ Year graduated: ________

Contact info:

Email/Phone: dolores117@frontier.com 503-643-4268
Four Join Albany Board

Four new members — David Avison ’68, Rosalee Mitchell Johnson ’57, David Todd ’68 and Dee Wolfe ’68 — recently joined the board of directors of the Albany Society.

After graduation, Avison spent three years active duty with the U.S. Navy serving in Vietnam and 21 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve retiring as commander. He received a law degree from Willamette University in 1974 and a Masters of Public Administration from L&C in 1980. After 15 years with an international heavy steel construction and engineering consulting firm, he was in general practice and now limits his practice to estate planning and administration, as well as volunteer support of nonprofits. He has been active in alumni activities and was president of the board of alumni in 1981-1982.

Todd attended Navy Officer Candidate School shortly after graduation and served on active duty for four years with assignments in London and Pearl Harbor and deployment off the coast of Vietnam. He continued inactive service with the Navy Reserve, retiring as a captain in 2001. In his civilian career, he was a programmer, systems analyst and project manager in the banking field for 16 years before becoming a full time teacher in the computer science area and earning a PhD from Portland State University in 1997. He retired from Mt. Hood Community College in June 2017 after 20 years. Since 1974, he has been volunteering for the Portland Rose Festival and is now serving as president-elect of the organization’s board. Todd has also volunteered with the Navy League at the state, regional and national levels. He and his wife, Kathleen Harris ’68, celebrated 50 years of marriage in March.

Wolfe was drafted after graduating from L&C and served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army. Upon completion of his military service, he enrolled in Northwestern School of Law the first year after it merged into L&C and graduated in 1974. Although he never practiced law, the legal training produced on by senior alumni volunteers, and are invited to three annual events. The one and only requirement to be part of the Albany Society: having graduated before 1969. The board meets several times a year.

Betty Balmer Remembered

Elisabeth “Betty” Balmer, widow of Professor Don Balmer, died on March 6, 2019 at the age of 90. She was well known and active in the L&C community and in 2014 friends and colleagues purchased a Steinway grand piano for the college in her honor. During her 58-year association with the college, Betty was an advisor to Alpha Gama sorority for several years. She and Don were married 69 years before his death in 2017.

Albany Society Welcomes All Senior Alums

The Albany Society is devoted to activities that promote renewed and strengthened connections between senior alumni who have been graduated from L&C for 50 years or more. All Albany Society members receive The Gatehouse, which is produced by senior alumni volunteers, and are invited to three annual events. The one and only requirement to be part of the Albany Society: having graduated before 1969. The board meets several times a year.

L&C’s POET CORNER

The Oyster and the Starfish
by Doug Jacox

She was a lovely little oyster—
Lived down by Yaquina Bay,
There she feasted on the waters
As the tides changed twice a day.

Then there came a handsome starfish
From far down the coastal plain,
And he whispered tales of seas that roll
From off the bounding main.

He sang of tides at Tillamook
And Bandon by the sea,
And the taste of clams at Cannon Beach
And fresh rivers running free.

He told of the rocks at Depoe Bay
Where other oysters live,
And the winds that change off Yachats shore
And waters fresh to sieve.

In the morning she awakened.
The plangent voice had gone away;
And she missed the touch of the several arms
That so livened up her day.

So there she thinks her bi-valve thoughts
Of the waters that are past.
She knows he’ll bring her pearl back home
When he returns at last.
You build your legacy over time. Your gift makes it last.

There’s no better time than now to plan your future philanthropy. Especially as there’s more than one way to strengthen scholarships, teaching, research, and the environment at Lewis & Clark. Just consider these examples of recent gifts:

- Appreciated stock to establish a fund for the forensics program
- The gift of a home to create a scholarship benefiting the music department
- A charitable distribution from an IRA to help restore a historic garden near the Manor House
- A beneficiary designation on a retirement account to fund a future scholarship

Planning charitable gifts can help you meet your current philanthropic goals, protect your assets, provide for your family, and guarantee you income for life. Through a charitable bequest in your will or trust, you can even make a significant impact at Lewis & Clark with a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime.

We can help you find a way to give that’s right for you and your family—now and in years to come. Discuss your philanthropic opportunities by contacting Joshua Goldstein at joshuagoldstein@lclark.edu or 503-768-7938.

go.lclark.edu/giftplanning
Mark Your Calendars

Plan ahead to attend on-campus events in the coming months.

The Albany Society’s Summer Celebration will be held on Friday, August 16 after a two-year hiatus. Watch for more information on this summer-inspired luncheon.

Fall means football and L&C Homecoming, which is October 25–27 this year. It’s an opportunity to cheer on the Pioneers and learn something new in professor-led discussions.

It’s never too early to think about the holiday season, so mark Saturday, December 6 to attend the annual Albany Society holiday gathering. It will precede the Lewis & Clark Holiday Celebration and Service of Sacred Song and Verse.

More information on these events will be sent to you but you can also check the website at www.lclark.edu.

Down Memory Lane

The month of May is a beautiful one on the L&C campus as sunshine, flowers and lush greenery emerge from the winter cold and spring showers. It is, indeed, a month to celebrate. Remember, the traditional May Fete observance on campus which included “tapping” of new members into honoraries, the presentation of Greek scholarship awards, and the Queen’s Ball? In 1909, the first annual May Fete was held at Albany College and the second one in 1910 (top photo) included the Maypole Dance, once a staple of heralding May’s arrival. During May Fete activities in 1950, Ruth Odell, wife of President Morgan S. Odell, was knighted and proclaimed “Lady Ruth” as then Student Body President Howard Fowler assisted the queen in the ceremony. The event continued into the 1960s.