Alumni Weekend Postponed In Response to Coronavirus

First it was the National Basketball Association’s games for the rest of the season, then the Kentucky Derby race run annually in May for the last 75 years, followed by the Winter Olympics in Japan. All either canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic around the world.

But the one that hits closest to L&C alums is the annual Alumni Weekend which was scheduled for June 25 through June 28 on campus.

The weekend, which draws hundreds of alums to Palatine Hill, has been postponed until June 24-27, 2021 out of concern for the health and well-being for the L&C community. Most of the events surrounding Alumni Weekend will move to the 2021 date although some may be rescheduled during Homecoming Weekend and others may be available virtually.

The class of 1970’s 50th reunion will be held next June, along with the Golden Medallion Luncheon and the Greek Gathering.

College Deals with Students’ Needs and Online Classes

The worldwide pandemic of coronavirus significantly impacted Lewis & Clark as faculty and staff dealt with the safety and health of a larger number students involved in overseas programs in 12 countries — Germany, Spain, France, Morocco, Ecuador, New Zealand, England, Mexico, Taiwan, Japan, Russia and the Dominican Republic.

As the illness rapidly spread, the college in mid-March canceled all spring semester Overseas and Off-Campus programs and announced a transition to online classes.

There were multiple challenges in coordinating the return of students studying abroad. While most were able to return with only long waits for re-booking and flights, students and faculty members in Morocco and Ecuador were trapped when the borders closed without advance warning. College officials spent countless hours working with Oregon’s Congressional delegation and the U.S. State Department in the effort to bring them back home. Running into insurmountable obstacles, the college eventually teamed up with Boston University to charter a plane from Ecuador to Miami. As of March 25, all L&C students out of the country were repatriated.

Students living on campus were urged to return home on March 16 in advance of spring break which began on March 21. But, a large number students from outside the United States were unable to fly home immediately due to travel and remained on campus.

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Senior Alumni Notes

Ben E. Vegors ’61 served as chaplain with the Veteran’s Administration in Portland for 42 years. He flew 30 combat missions in Europe during World War II, only missing three missions. All three of those airplanes crashed and burned. At age 97, he lives in Walla Walla, Washington.

James Whitman ’62 was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award in September 2019.

Marquis Who’s Who, a publisher of biographical profiles, selects a recipient from those who are considered accomplished and notable in their fields. Robert “Farley” Buell ’67 is a retired high school teacher and lives near Hobart on the island state of Tasmania. He is a fly fishing enthusiast and, in addition to Tasmania, has fly-fished in Alaska, as well as the Lower 48 states, Canada, Argentina and New Zealand. He is married and has two grown children living in Australia.

Karen Busch ’70, although semiretired, still works part time at Living Wisdom School (which she helped found in 1997) and serves as a minister for Ananda Church of Self-Realization. She recently earned a ham radio license, K7AUM. Busch reports that her latest hobby is moulage, which involves creating mock injuries for purposes of medical training.

Dan Cadmus ’70 has retired after 15 years of ownership and expansion of the landmark Linton Feed and Seed store, which serves consumers and farmers between Portland and Sauvie Island. During his tenure, he significantly increased organic-based product offerings and demonstrated permaculture farming methods on Sauvie Island. Cadmus now resides in Southeast Portland. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia and Peru from 1970 to 1975, he cultivated an ear for radio. He now enjoys revisiting his large vinyl music collection and listening to community radio station KBOO-FM. He says that radio, like organic agriculture, is “an underevaluated medium.”

Jan Carothers ’70, owner of Carothers Bornfeld & Associates, recently celebrated her 30th year in business. Her firm offers executive speech and leadership coaching, training, and consulting.

Rand Dawson ’70, after retiring from Alaska trial law practice, returned to the Oregon coast. He has helped start various Oregon noncommercial community radio stations along the coast and in Eugene. He’s also involved in land use, health care, and environmental issues. Dawson says he’s “now working on a satiric Dystopian non-epic view of current corporatized political culture.”

Carol Dixon ’70 and Stephen Dixon ’70 have lived in Central Oregon since 1973, following their 1972 marriage on the day of the Watergate break-in. They met at Lewis & Clark in 1968, and their first date was on the night Robert Kennedy was assassinated. Stephen has retired from a law practice in Bend, Oregon. Carol attempted to retire from public school teaching but ended up returning to the classroom. She currently sits on the board overseeing the world’s largest quilt show, which has been held the second Saturday in July in Sisters, Oregon, for 44 years.

Bessey Ford ’70 earned her degree in deaf education and says she felt “shot out of a cannon” after graduation. She dove happily into teaching deaf kids and then originated a PBS series for deaf children that won two regional Emmy’s (among other accolades). Along the way, she worked as a nonprofit manager, a TV newscaster, a writer, and a sign language interpreter. Ford also cobuilt her local Mendocino Film Festival. As she works through chronic illness, she is delaying retirement until her upbeat episodic TV show proposal finds a great network home.

Anita Grimm ’70 has lived in Medford, Oregon, where she owned a full-service music store, for 41 years. She has published two novels, A Certain Twist in Time (Soul Mate Publishing, 2019) and Small Fry (Balboa Press, 2019); a third is nearing completion. For 21 years, Grimm has taught a community writing class on the craft of fiction and memoir.

Sherry Grove ’70 is retired and living with her husband, Gary, near Eugene, Oregon. She enjoys gardening, feeding the birds and squirrels, reading and playing casual computer games. She and Gary have a daughter and two young grandsons, whom they enjoy visiting in Arizona.

Gary Lee ’70 writes: “I (finally) retired in April 2019 from Mercea Consulting after 35 years. Now Connie Lee ’70 and I can focus on more travel and spending time with our granddaughter.”

Victoria Meier ’70, MAT ’93 still lives in West Linn, Oregon, and still teaches. After 20 years of teaching English at Molalla High School, she now teaches English as a second language at Clackamas Community College. Pleasures include time with grandkids, gardening, singing a cappella, and working for the environment. While she misses having a cat, she says it’s easier on the wild birds that visit.

Celebrating Reaching 90

It’s true - 90 is the new 70. Marlys Prentice Burnett ’52 sent along the photo below taken on her 90th birthday to prove it. She married Robert Marshall Burnett ’51, received a master’s degree in music from California State-San Diego and taught music in the school system and privately. Currently living on Bainbridge Island in Washington, she is still teaching piano. She fondly recalls living in the Manor House, studying in the stables converted into the library and working as secretary the Dean Frieda Hartfeld was then dean of women.
In the age of computer keyboards and text messaging, handwritten communication is becoming a lost art. But, for Barbara Pfau Getty ’56, beautiful handwriting is a passion — one she has shared for most of her life in the classroom and beyond. She is a master of italic handwriting, a form of calligraphy which comes from the Greek word for “beautiful writing.”

“I’ve always been interested in letterforms and was mesmerized by the perfect looped cursive that my seventh grade teacher wrote on the chalkboard,” she remembers. In high school, she saw a friend using a calligraphy pen for writing and soon the Speedball C-2 pen became part of Barbara’s life. Although calligraphy was offered at her high school, she took typing and shorthand classes instead as her parents advised that she needed “to know how to make a living.”

Barbara majored in music at Lewis & Clark but took business classes as well and the day after graduation went to work at U.S. Bank as a secretary. In 1959, she began teaching grade school in the Beaverton area and for the next several years watched young students struggle with learning the cursive form of writing.

A teaching job in Turkey and marriage to a Pennsylvania native kept her away from Oregon for two years. Returning in 1963, she began working on a master of arts in teaching at L&C. That same year, she took a calligraphy workshop at the Oregon College of Art and Craft and there met Inga Dubay, also a teacher. Little did they know then that their shared love of calligraphy would result in a 40-year endeavor to teach italic as an alternative to looped cursive handwriting.

Convinced that it was an easier way to both teach and learn handwriting, the duo worked to create a series of manuals to help other teachers with the method. At the same time, Barbara taught other teachers through a class at Portland Community College - Rock Creek.

The self-published manuals in 1979 launched a successful pilot program in seven schools in Beaverton, Portland and Eugene. By 1980, the “Italic Handwriting Series” was approved by the state of Oregon as one option that school districts could purchase with state funds.

The success of the manuals led to an article in 1983 in Time entitled “Reforming writing with Zigs and Zags” in which the author wrote “If Oregon children are taught to write decently, interested parents in other states may demand the same for their youngsters. An improved hand would be a boon to American culture. The Getty-Dubay instruction books show that the teaching of proper handwriting evokes children’s innate sense of visual order and beauty.”

A manual for adults followed in 1984 and another one in 1991 on handwriting success that was reported on by the Wall Street Journal. Soon, the two were conducting seminars around the world for the medical professionals, especially doctors not known for good penmanship.

In addition to teaching in the Beaverton School District, Barbara also taught calligraphy and handwriting at Portland Community College for 29 years. In an interesting twist, she replaced Norman Paasche who had been teaching calligraphy at L&C for 30 years, when he retired in the 1980s.

Today, schools have moved away from teaching Italic handwriting but a market still exists among home schoolers, private schools and charter schools through the website www.handwritingsuccess.com.

An example of Italic handwriting which Barbara thinks is easier for children to master and yet beautiful and elegant as well.

30 years, when he retired in the 1980s. In 2018, the two retired after 11 manuals and more than 200 seminars throughout the U.S. and abroad. Inga’s son now runs the business which is publishing the fourth edition of the series, including seven manuals and a teaching guide.

But, Barbara has hope for the future. “It seems like we are in a dumbing down of culture and a loss in the art of conversation that parallels a loss in personal handwriting,” she said. But, Barbara will always agree with Thomas Carlyle’s (1795-1881) observation that “The Art of Writing is the most miraculous of all things man has devised.”
Living in a 400-year-old House with 3,000 Art Pieces

A study abroad experience while at Lewis & Clark College started a life-long love of Mexico for John Venator ’66.

Today, he lives in Mexico and is dedicated to preserving and sharing his and his wife’s large collection of the country’s folk art.

“I went to Mexico in my freshman year, which was the first year of study abroad program,” he said. “I’d never been there before and found the culture enticing, warm and friendly. And that hasn’t changed in the 58 years since.”

After graduation, he moved to Chicago and eventually became president and CEO of a trade association in the computer field with 16 offices worldwide. On a whim in 1970, he flew to Cancun for a brief getaway and ended up buying a vacation time share. Through the years, he and his wife, Dorianne, upgraded to a house on the beach in Cancun for vacations.

“I was captivated by the folk art and bought some pieces when I went there as a college student,” he said. “I continued collecting on visits over the years to the extent that our art started to outgrow the house.”

Searching for a traditional colonial home with a large central patio that would house both he and his wife and the art collection took them inland to Valladolid, which is about halfway between Cancun and Merida.

In October 2000, they purchased a 400-year-old house with meter thick rubble stone walls and 25-foot-tall ceilings that had been vacant for 40 years. It took 8 1/2 years to restore the house to its original grandeur with 18,000 square feet of living and storage space under one roof. Shortly after the restoration was completed, John retired 11 years ago and he and wife moved to Valladolid full time, filling their new home -- “Casa de los Venados” -- with their collection of folk and contemporary art.

Their home now houses, according to Gloria Guevara when she was Mexico’s National Secretary of Tourism, the largest museum-quality private collection of folk art in the country with some 3,000 pieces displayed throughout.

“I think you’re either a collector or not. It’s in my genes as I started collecting tin soldiers and baseball cards as a kid,” he recalled. “Collecting is an incurable disease, but fortunately not fatal.”

He loves Mexican folk art for its strength and magic. The collection includes a large amount of “Dia de los Muertos” (Day of the Dead) pieces but also pieces done in ceramics, wood, paper mache and copper. Some of it is surreal, strange and unique.

The home and its rich art collection became a magnet and people who had heard of it would call asking to tour the house. Soon many travel guides, including Fodor’s and Lonely Planet, listed the house as a must see. John became a “tour guide” of sorts.

“A longtime friend suggested requesting a small donation from each visitor to raise money to help support local charities,” John recalled. Since then, their home is open for tours every day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. conducted by John and four other guides. The nominal suggested donation of 100 pesos per person has resulted in tens of thousands of dollars going to local charities focused on better health and quality of life for poor people and funding scholarships for local Mayan students.

Six years ago, in addition to tourists, a program for local public secondary school students was established which was jump-started by PepsiCo after a visiting company executive saw the house. In that time, more than 5,000 local students have toured with teachers and study guides to see, learn about and come to appreciate their country’s rich cultural heritage.

Supporting a variety of charitable causes, the Venators loan the house, which can accommodate 120 people for a sit down dinner, for events held by local non-profit organizations.

In addition to diplomats and dignitaries, Dr. Hester Turner, who was the beloved dean of students at L&C in the 1960s, and her son have visited. The Venators traveled to New York City for Dean Turner’s 100th and 101st birthdays but missed the 102nd earlier this year.

On the 50th anniversary of the first L&C overseas study program in 2012, John hosted a “Cinco de Mayo” breakfast celebration for 22 fellow alums and spouses who made that first trip to Mexico with him.

The Venators’ home is filled with art reflecting the Mexican culture in every room. Take your own tour from home at www.casadelosvenadors.com.
New Scholarship Honors Dr. Nosratollah Rassekh

Last year, Marilyn Lane ’68 led the charge to establish a scholarship in the name of Nosratollah “Nas” Rassekh, retired L&C professor, who died in 2014 at the age of 89.

The Professor Nas Rassekh Memorial Scholarship will provide funding for students participating in overseas study programs.

“Dr. R made a huge impact on my life and I hope this gift will grow to benefit many students wanting to study overseas,” she said, explaining why the scholarship effort was important to her.

Rassekh was born on November 22, 1924 in Teheran, Iran. He came to the United States by ship in 1944 as one of nine young Persians sent abroad to study, enrolling at Stanford University. He completed a B.A. in political science in 1948, an M.A. in international relations in 1950, and a Ph.D. in history in 1960 with a focus on American intellectual history.

In 1960, Rassekh joined the Lewis & Clark faculty. Over the next 31 years, he played a valuable role in the life of the college. Two years after joining the faculty, he led a group of undergraduates to Mexico—one of the two programs that launched the college’s renowned overseas study programs. He subsequently led overseas groups to Iran (1968) and Egypt (1984-85).

Today, L&C offers 35 Overseas and Off Campus Programs that 60 percent of students participate in on six continents.

As chair of the history department for many years, his leadership, collegiality, and support for developing an innovative curriculum was deeply valued by his colleagues. Professor Robert Cruden recalled that Rassekh encouraged him to offer new courses in U.S. women’s history and African-American history at a time when neither were included in the history curriculum at American colleges and universities.

Rassekh also expanded the undergraduate curriculum by developing courses on Middle Eastern history and politics in addition to his offerings in American history. As a scholar, he was active in both fields, conducting original scholarly research and writing numerous reviews.

After his retirement in 1991, he continued to teach summer school and graduate courses for more than a decade.

If you would like to support this scholarship or if you are interested in establishing a new scholarship, please call or email Joshua Goldstein at 503-768-7938 or joshuagoldstein@lclark.edu.

Remembering Two Longtime Professors

In the past year, two professors well known to senior alums passed away.

William Lucht, professor emeritus of English, died in April 2019 in Portland at the age of 96. After completing his doctorate from the University of Iowa in 1960, he was encouraged by Dr. William Stafford, to join the L&C faculty. His curricular focus was Shakespeare and 17th-century British literature. He also led students on several overseas study programs to Britain before retiring in 1982.

Reinhard Pauly’s 37-year teaching career at L&C spanned 1948 to 1985. Pauly, professor emeritus of music, died in September 2019 at the age of 99. After fleeing Nazi Germany in 1937, he studied at the Manhattan School of Music and Columbia University where he earned his master’s degree in violin and pursued a Ph.D. in music history. His academic career at L&C, as well as his increasing international recognition as a scholar of the music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, earned him a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Both Pauly and Lucht served with the U.S Army during World War II and were recruited to the college under then President Morgan Odell’s effort to attract top faculty.

Joshua’s Corner

The past month has been a time of great change and challenge here at Lewis & Clark and around the world. I’ve been inspired seeing the Lewis & Clark community come together (leaving room for social distancing) in support of our students, alumni, faculty and staff.

Alumni have come together, supporting the Coronavirus Emergency Support Fund, which provides support for current students who need assistance with moving, travel and technological expenses caused by the pandemic. Together, we will meet these challenges head on and continue the pioneering spirit that has made and maintained the College.

For those worried about potential financial challenges ahead, the gift planning office can help you think about secure and replicable life income gifts that provide a consistent stream of income. For example, a 74-year-old can secure a 5.6% fixed rate by establishing a gift annuity with Lewis & Clark. For those who have complex assets, we can help you think through how best to leverage and utilize those assets to meet your philanthropic and financial goals.

Feel free to reach out to me directly if you would like to learn more about the Coronavirus Emergency Support Fund or ways to create secure lifetime income streams while supporting the College.

In community,
Joshua Goldstein
Assistant Director of Gift Planning
503-768-7938
joshuagoldstein@lclark.edu

Pioneer Travel Update

Travel has been curtailed for many senior alums in the face of the coronavirus but the world will still be there when it’s again safe to venture out.

Pioneer Travel trips planned for the rest of 2020 have been tentatively rescheduled for new dates in 2021 as follows:

- Cuba - April 26- May 4, 2021
- Israel and West Bank - May 11-May 22, 2021
- Iceland - July 24-August 3, 2021

Other trips being explored for 2021 include: Chile, Morocco, Atlanta, Amazon/Galapagos and Russia. Under study for possible travel locations in 2022 are: Antarctica, India, Tanzania and Japan.

If any of these trips are of interest to you, contact Andrew McPheeters, associate vice president of alumni, parent and student engagement, at 503-768-7936 or mcpheete@lclark.edu.
For his lifetime work of researching cholera and other infectious diseases, David Sack ’65 was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by Lewis & Clark at a ceremony in February.

After graduating from L&C as a pre-med student, he attended University of Oregon Medical School (now Oregon Health Sciences University). He went on to train in internal medicine at the University of Iowa and before starting his residency served the Northern Cheyenne tribe in the Indian Health Service for two years while his wife, Jean Alexander ’67, taught high school English. 

While in his residency at the University of Iowa, David and his wife traveled to work with medical missionaries in the Congo to learn about health care in developing countries and international health became his calling.

“I was led to this work in international health after seeing the urgent need first hand,” David said. “I have had amazing opportunities for making a contribution in this field.” He credits important mentors like his brother, Bradley Sack, and others who encouraged “me to take this unusual path.”

He moved to Baltimore in 1972 for a fellowship in infectious diseases at John Hopkins University (JHU) and then joined the faculty where he is currently a professor in the Department of International Health.

Focusing his research on cholera and other severe diarrhea diseases, David first collaborated with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh from 1977 to 1980. This work began a series of projects to improve the treatment of these diseases with vaccines, antibiotics, and rehydration fluids, especially oral rehydration solution.

David returned to continue clinical work and research at Johns Hopkins but rejoined the Centre in Bangladesh from 1984 to 1987 to carry out a field trial of a new oral vaccine for cholera.

Following that, he continued his research at John Hopkins on enteric vaccines, including rotavirus, and assisted with projects in Latin America during the cholera outbreaks in the early 1990s.

And then it was back again to Bangladesh in 1999 to serve as director of Centre for eight years for a total of 15 years spent in the country. While there, he accepted the first Gates Award for Global Health on behalf of the Centre in 2001.

At age 76, David remains a professor in international health, teaching courses in tropical diseases. He serves on advisory committees for the national Institute of Health and the World Health Organization to eliminate cholera. He continues to travel to research sites in Africa where he has the opportunity to mentor scientists, field researchers, and government officials although the coronavirus outbreak is currently curtailing his travel.

A Distinguished Alumnus without a doubt.

“...in 1980, an estimated 8.5 million children died each year from diarrheal disease. Currently, the number is around 300,000—a still too many.” Dr. David Sack

David’s brothers - Bill Sack ’56, R. Bradley Sack ’56 and Bob Sack ’64 - also attended Lewis & Clark and obtained medical degrees from the Oregon Health Sciences University. Bill and Bob, both retired and living in Portland, were psychiatrists. Brad, who passed away at age 81, was on the faculty of Johns Hopkins in the Department of International Health and focused on the same research areas as David. He was also honored as a Distinguished Alum in 1987.

A Family Affair

College Responds to Pandemic

Continued from page 1

When the spring term resumed, approximately 160 students were still living on campus, the majority of which were international students faced with ongoing travel restrictions and remained on campus. The college has been working with these students to ensure that their visas still apply to online learning. Some rearrangement of living space was required to allow for social distancing demands and other issues. The college food service, Bon Appetit, continues to provide meals but on a take-out basis only.

The effort to provide online instruction required L&C’s Information Technology department to add capacity to allow faculty members to interact with students remotely with the goal of not disrupting academic progress of students.

In addition to disruption of college life as they know it, seniors will not participate in the traditional commencement ceremony, but an online commencement will be held.

The long term affect of this pandemic is yet to be determined. In the meantime, students need assistance with a variety of moving, travel and technology expenses and unexpected costs are impacting the college. A Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Response Fund has been set up to help in this challenging time at www.go.lclark/covid.
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 community life at Lewis & Clark, all while making tax-smart decisions for yourself. Consider this:

Are you 72?

Do you know someone who is 72?

Reaching that milestone means that you can receive a tax benefit by making a gift to Lewis & Clark directly from your IRA. It’s a smart way to support your favorite program or scholarship, reduce your taxable income, and satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year.

Planning charitable gifts helps 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 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
Senior Alums Back on the Hill for Events

(Top Left) During Homecoming Weekend last October, the L&C Pioneer Sports Hall of Fame inducted the 1961–1962 basketball team and several members were on campus for the event. Left to right are Bill Henselman ’64, Bill Hasslen ’65, Mickey Hergert ’66, Bill Maurer ’63, Bert Lundmark ’62 and Jim Boutin ’63. In front is Coach Jim Goddard ’52 who coached the team to the Northwest Conference championship title. Goddard coached at the college from 1957 to 1963.

(Bottom Left) Enjoying the Albany Society holiday reception in December were, left to right, Donna Macklin Lawrence ’52, Frank Lawrence ’52 and Donna Reed Manning ’61.

(Bottom Right) As senior alums gathered in the Manor House to toast the holidays, Diana Fields Nelson ’60, far left, Albany Society board member, greets attendees against the backdrop of the grand staircase.