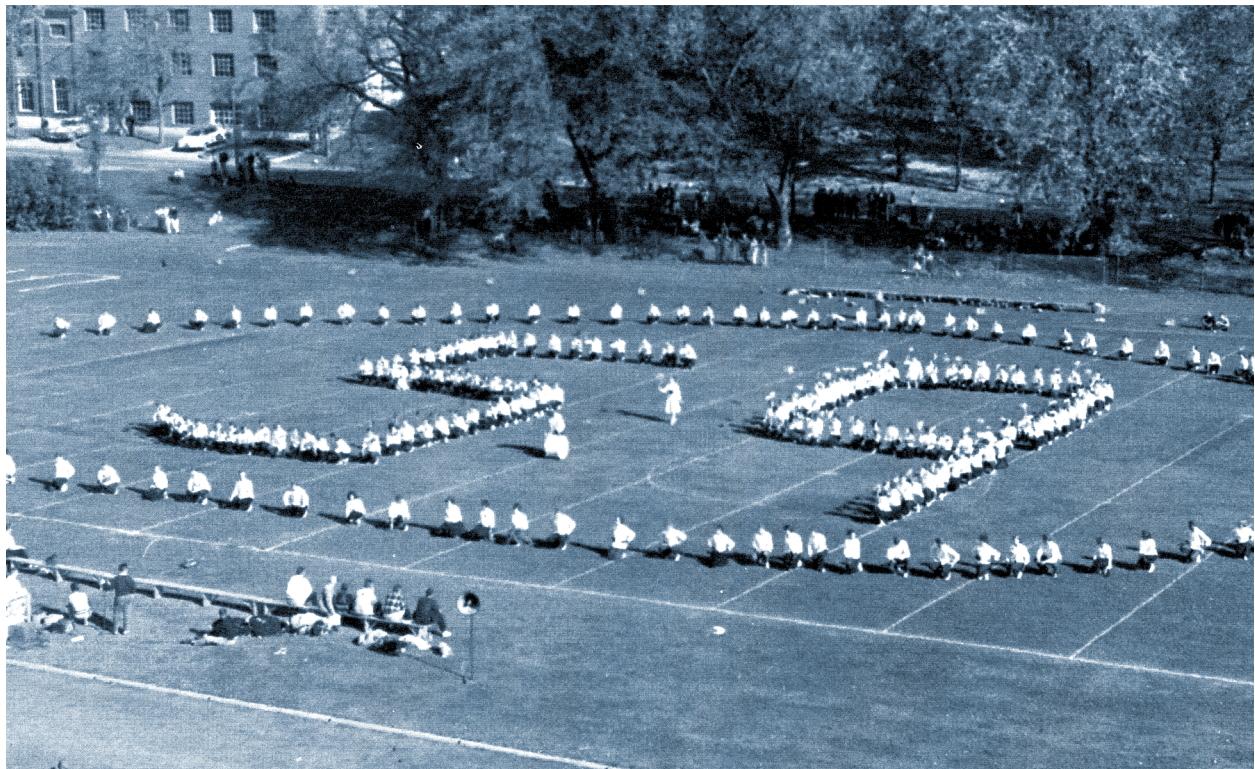




OUR VOICE '59

SPRING 2008



“When you matriculated at Carleton College . . . you were forming an association that nothing, nothing, not even death, could break, because always you are part of Carleton College . . . you will find your strength renewed and your faith revitalized when you return to this maternal ground.”

—Laurence McKinley Gould

Class of 1959 50th Reunion

JUNE 18–21, 2009



What are your Memories
of Willis?

Write to us and let us share them
with our classmates in our next issue:

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Willis Hall

In the beginning there was Willis Hall. Built between 1868 and 1872, the building stood lonely on the Minnesota prairie. Ninety cords of stone were dragged to the site by ox teams. Not even called Willis Hall yet, it served all the needs of the college: classrooms, lab, library, administration, dorms. In 1873 the hall received its present name when Susan Willis (niece of William Carleton) donated \$10,000 to pay the indebtedness on the building.

Between then and now as it has been slowly surrounded by other buildings, Willis Hall has been frequently rebuilt, redefined, and remodeled. On December 23, 1879, a fire (of undetermined origin) gutted the building, leaving only the walls standing. Electric lights came to each room in 1908. The bookstore was established in 1921 (formerly a chemistry lab). In 1923 a tea room and the post office were established in the basement. Also in the twenties the Little Theater and the *Carletonian* took up residence. In 1949 the trustees approved the recommendation of a student-faculty committee that Willis be adapted to serve as a student union. After closing for two years, Willis reopened in 1954. It still smelled new when we arrived on campus.

For the class of 1959, Willis was the heart of the campus: we filed down one flight of stairs every day (rain or shine or snow) at 10 a.m. to collect our mail. If we had a spare fifteen minutes, we lurked in the bookstore, checking out new books we wished we had time to read. We social smokers went back up to the lounge to see if we could fit in a game of bridge before our next class or have a quick puff with a friend. The snack bar was busiest in the afternoon and evening, a good place to meet friends and have a chat. Traffic on the second floor was intermittent as student leaders met with representatives and busy social chairmen churned out ideas and decorations for dances and shows. Up in the rarefied air of the third floor, the noise of typewriters and teletype machines masked the businesslike concentration of the *Carletonian*, *Algol*, and KARL staffs as they wrote copy, developed photos in the state-of-the-art darkroom, and broadcast mostly local news to anyone who was listening.

Today (continued on next page)

In our February planning meeting in Portland, we made major strides toward achieving a good balance of formal programming and informal socializing for Reunion weekend. Your survey results indicate a strong preference for a presentation focused on expert analysis of global challenges facing us in the immediate future (e.g. Middle East and Far East), with plenty of time for classmates to discuss our own “Roads Less Traveled”, volunteer experiences and opportunities, travel tips, and looking ahead toward “journeying well” in the next stage of our lives. There is great enthusiasm on the committee, and there are lots of social possibilities already in play, including early engage and reflect activities, a class picnic and bonfire, a reception with President Oden, and a lovely memorial service for our deceased classmates. Considerable interest was also expressed favoring a post-reunion class project. Our class will be staying in air-conditioned Watson Hall, which should provide many opportunities for informal gatherings in the lounge and on the grounds. We hope you have already made plans to attend!

Willis (cont.)

Today, Willis has changed again. No longer the student union, Willis houses three academic departments, plus classrooms and related offices. The building’s exterior looks just as it did in the late 1950’s but the basement houses educational studies. On the first floor our student lounge is now a handsome seminar room with a big table in front of the fireplace. Classrooms of other sizes fill the floor, plus a single office. That office, the Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching (Larry Perlman ’60) provides a focus on education for the entire campus—faculty and staff members, students, and administrators alike. The economics department occupies the second floor, 11 faculty members plus an administrative assistant. An attractive lounge honors Thorstein Veblen, Carleton’s most famous alumnus, and brings faculty members and students together in a casual atmosphere. Third floor is home to the political science department with 13 faculty members.

The Willis Hall bell epitomizes the Carleton experience for us. Silent for many years, the bell was brought back to life by the beneficence of an alumni couple. It rings today as it did in our day. We chose Willis bell tower for the logo of our reunion because it is rooted in tradition, adaptable to new needs, and both durable and more beautiful as time passes.

Guess Who?

Mystery Classmate

Our mystery classmate lived two years in Egypt, where she was awarded an MA in teaching English as a foreign language from American University in Cairo. Her senior thesis was titled, “Is Swahili a viable national language for Tanganika?” She completed her first Fulbright in China in 1980–81, taking three teenagers along. She sang the part of Amal’s mother in a production of *Amal and the Night Visitors*. She has studied five languages other than English: French, Spanish, Swahili, Arabic, and Chinese. She observed the African National Congress meeting held at the University of Limpopo in the fall of 2007, when Jacob Zuma was elected the new leader.

Mystery Faculty Member

Our mystery faculty member earned a BA, MA, and PhD from the University of California. He was cofounder of the Sierra Club’s Rock Climbing section. He served during World War II in the tenth Mountain Division in the Aleutian Islands and in Italy. He played chess with his majors at Carleton. He was former long time governor of the Institute of Current World Affairs in New York. While at Carleton he bought a farm and built upon it a glass and wood house using timbers he felled on his land. He was summoned before the House on Un-American Activities. After leaving Carleton he went to the University of Toronto. He became a Canadian citizen in 1972.

(Look for the answers in our next issue!)

'59

Class of '59 Memories

Sports and Activities



Don Klinefelter remembers: "At Carleton swimming was a great source of exercise and camaraderie, including a lifelong friendship with my senior roommate, Gerry. My most vivid memory of competition is losing three consecutive years to Phil Simmons of Grinnell."



According to Clyde Smith: "Playing football that was distinctly cerebral, our class compiled the best 3-year record (18-4-2) since 1928. Obviously our focus was on winning, but along the way the demands of this sport drove us along a path of discovery about ourselves and our teammates. In essence, football at Carleton was the Carleton experience in spades; it forced us to address the questions of who we are and what matters."



Nancy Jo Kiggins Goell was both a cheerleader and a Dolphin. She says, "There were no competitive sports for women at Carleton when we were there. Cheerleading and water ballet (Dolphins) were just activities we could join. Title 9 made a huge difference for women, and today the Dolphins survive as a competitive sports team at Carleton."



According to Jan Trussell Stewart, "There was one competitive sport for women at Carleton in our day, but only because the Tennis Club held an annual Tennis Invitational Tournament and quite regularly defeated tennis players from the University of Minnesota."

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