

History of William Woods College (1901-1992)

1901

- The institution is named William Woods College, in honor of the physician and banker whose interest in the education of young women impelled him to endow the institution with substantial and repeated gifts throughout the century.

1904

- Uniform caps and gowns are instituted.

1907

- Dulany Auditorium is built. **Mrs. D.M. Dulany** contributed \$7,500 toward construction of the \$24,000 building in memory of her husband. The stained glass portrait windows are of **D.M. Dulany, W.H. Dulany** and **Benjamin L. Locke**, all early supporters of the college.
- The high school division becomes accredited by the University of Missouri.

1908

- First college yearbook, Cap and Gown, is published.

1914

- The junior college division is accredited by the University of Missouri, meaning that those who graduated from William Woods could enter the junior year at MU without examination.

1917

- William Woods College purchases the home originally built in 1910 by **Willard Watson** for his bride. The home is dedicated as the **Myldred Fox Fairchild** Alumni House in 1986, honoring a 1934 graduate who served as alumni secretary for many years.

1919

- The junior college division is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

1921

- W.S. Woods Academic Building is completed.
- William Woods College consists of 60 acres and nine buildings plus the heating plant and the president's home. Enrollment is more than 250. Tuition, room and board average \$600 per year.

1927

- The high school division is closed to new students.
- After numerous land purchases starting in 1917, the college is now 85 acres.

1928

- First Homecoming for alumnae; later changed to Alumnae Day.

1936

- At the Olympics in Berlin, William Woods College student, **Helen Stephens**, wins two gold medals.

1937

- First issue of The Green Owl student newspaper is published.

1939

- Harmon Hall is constructed, named for **Dr. Henry Gadd Harmon**, college president from 1934 to 1941.

1940

- Missouri's first Girls State session is held on campus, with 213 girls enrolled.

1941

- Bartley Hall (originally the Samuel Watson house, and later named Senior Hall and eventually Reid Hall) is remodeled and doubled in size. It is renamed for **Don P. Bartley**, a member of the board of trustees for 44 years.

1946

- Atkinson Hall is built, named for a long-standing secretary of the board of trustees, **J. Harry Atkinson**.

1948

- **William H. Dulany**, a member of the Board of Trustees for 30 years, dies, leaving a \$100,000 bequest to the college.
- A concrete bridge is constructed over Senior Lake. Previously, Westminster students burned the wooden bridge as a prank on numerous occasions.

1951

- Dulany Library opens, built with funds received from William H. Dulany.

1952

- **Ronald Reagan**, president of the Screen Actors Guild, speaks at Commencement exercises. In 1980, he was elected President of the United States.

1956

- Enrollment climbed to 374.
- Fire destroys Jones Hall, which was the original single structure built with \$40,000 of the \$56,000 pledge from the Fulton community in 1890. Simply termed the Main Building, it contained student housing, dining room, kitchen and infirmary, as well as classrooms. It was later renamed to reflect the excellent leadership and dedication of the second president, James Benjamin Jones, who served from 1896 to 1911. Jones Hall was completely consumed by fire on Nov. 12, 1956, and rebuilt by 1958. Today it serves as a residence hall.

1958

- Rebuilding of Jones Hall and Tucker Dining Hall is completed.
- North, Center and South residence halls open. They are later renamed **Smith, Allen** and **Swearingen** in 1963 in honor of three former presidents.

1960

- Willies Association of Dads is organized.
- **Dr. Randall B. Cutlip** is appointed president of William Woods College.

1962

- William Woods College is approved as a senior college by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and becomes a four-year institution offering A.B. and B.S. degrees.
- 18 acres, including Junior Lake, are purchased from Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Brown.

1964

- First baccalaureate class graduates.
- Aldridge Recreation Center is built and named for **Ralph Aldridge**, a member of the board of directors who contributed funding and labor from his Kansas City-based construction company to restore Junior Lake and construct the road through the North campus.
- Staff Apartments constructed.

1965

- Chapters of three national sororities are established at William Woods: Alpha Phi, Alpha Chi Omega and Chi Omega.
- Booth, Serena and Cockrell residence halls are constructed to house the three sororities. Booth is named for **Fanny Booth**, a protégée of Dr. and Mrs. Woods who came to the college in 1890 and served 50 years as teacher, principal, vice president, librarian and alumnae hostess. Serena and Cockrell are named for **Dr. Joseph A. Serena** (president 1915-1921) and **Dr. Egbert R. Cockrell** (president 1924-1934).
- The **Ralph L. Smith** Health Center is constructed. Mr. Smith gave a \$50,000 matching gift toward its construction.

1966

- Cox Science and Language Center is constructed. **Clark Cox** was a member of the William Woods Board of Trustees for more than 50 years and a generous contributor to the school.

1967

- New residence hall is constructed; later named Centennial Hall to honor of the college's first 100 years.

1968

- First honorary doctorate from William Woods College is given to **Mrs. Amy Shelton McNutt**, a 1907 graduate, member of the Board of Trustees and owner of the famed 10,000-acre Gallagher Ranch near San Antonio, Texas.
- The school first begins to offer a minor in equestrian science, even though riding had long been popular on campus.

1969

- Thurmond Chapel is constructed. Funding came from Mr. and Mrs. Grover Hermann/The Grover Hermann Foundation, and the chapel was named for Mrs. Hermann's mother, **Mrs. Amelia Thurmond**.
- Camden Point residence hall is constructed. It is named in honor of the college's first location in Camden Point, Mo.

1970

- McNutt Campus Center opens, named for **Amy Shelton "Momma Mac" McNutt**, who gave a generous initial contribution. It is said that Mrs. McNutt wanted a modernistic building and that is what she got. The Geodesic Dome construction was first created by R. Buckminster Fuller, world-renowned architect. The campus center is six stories tall (52 feet from the auditorium floor to the center of the dome) and has a 160-foot diameter covering approximately 27,000 square feet.
- Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is approved for art, music and theatre arts.
- Enrollment is 850 students, the largest in the school's history.

1972

- Baccalaureate degree in equestrian science is instituted, the first such program in the world.

1973

- Fine Arts Center is completed.
- The Amy Shelton McNutt Award is inaugurated. It is given each year to the student most faithfully portraying the spirit of the gracious lady for whom the award is named.

1974

- Basketball, softball, track, tennis, volleyball and swimming all become intercollegiate sports.

1975

- Sports complex is completed and named for alumna and 1936 winner of two Olympic gold medals, Helen Stephens.

1977

- The **Virginia Cutlip** Home Economics and Residence Center is constructed. It is named for the wife of the college president.
- A chapter of Delta Gamma Sorority is established at William Woods. The women live in Harmon Hall.

1979

- President's Twenty is organized from the 10-year-old Colonel's Twenty, which served as hostesses for Westminster College's R.O.T.C.

1980

- **John G. Burton** Business and Economics Building is completed. Mr. Burton had been a trustee for 28 years, and his family donated more than \$1 million to the college.

1981

- **Dr. John M. Bartholomy** becomes president of William Woods College.

1982

- **John Williams**, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, speaks at Convocation Sept. 8 and receives Honorary Musicae Doctor. His film credits include Star Wars, Jaws, Superman, Raiders of the Lost Ark and ET.

1983

- William Woods embarks on its first capital campaign, a 3-year drive securing more than \$1 million for the college.
- Marking a change in a tradition dating from 1923, the cutting of the ivy chain took place after the seniors had crossed over Senior Lake. The Ivy Chain Ceremony symbolizes class unity.

1985

- Actor **Mike Farrell** visits William Woods. He played Captain B.J. Hunnicutt in the TV show *M*A*S*H*, which ran from 1972-1983 on CBS.
- **Lucille Brockman Lambert '33** delivers the Fall Convocation address.

1986

- For the first time in the history of the college, a woman is selected to be the Marshal for the commencement ceremonies. **Dr. Florence Krause** is elected by the faculty to the position, which is for life or the remaining tenure at the college.

1990

- **Dr. Jahnae H. Barnett**, vice president of admissions, retention and development, becomes the first woman president of William Woods.

1992

- The institution begins offering a wide variety of graduate-level degree programs geared toward the working adult.
- College of Graduate & Adult Studies is established, with 70 students enrolled in bachelor of science in management (BSM) programs.
- **Hillary Clinton** makes a campaign speech at William Woods in October on behalf of her husband, Bill, who was elected President of the United States in November. Mrs. Clinton later served as a senator from New York and ran for President in 2008, losing the nomination to Barack Obama, who appointed her secretary of state.