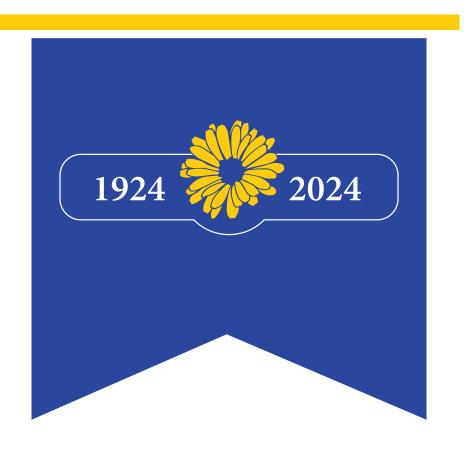






Celebrating 100 Years

OF WHEEL AND CHAIN



Dickinson Wheel & Chain



The Wheel and Chain Senior Women's Honorary Society celebrates its 100th anniversary April 19-21, 2024, on the Dickinson College campus.

Members of the centenary planning committee helped to compile this material based on previous publications, including 15 Minutes of Wheel and Chain Herstory: 1923-1999 and then-College Archivist Martha Slotten's 1984 Homecoming speech, History of Women at Dickinson, as well as additional information and photographs from the Dickinson College Archives and from Blue Hats themselves.

This book is dedicated to the women of Wheel and Chain. May the wheel ever turn!

Centenary Planning Committee

Ann Conser Curley '63

Pam Ayre '67

Paulette Goerig Katzenbach '68

Molly Flower Eppig '71

Karen Pflug-Felder '71

Barb Pim Bailey '73

Cathie Evans '73

Kathy Bachman '75

Carol Graebner '75

Cathy Andriadis '80

Rose Belza Cooper '83

Margaret Selhat Curran '85

Karen Neely Faryniak '86 (Honorary)

Jenny Dotts Miller '89

Laura Burrell Baxter '94

Jennifer Miller Picarsic '03

Kate Consroe Ceste '09

Anna Marks Crouch '09

Rehana Rohman '16

Shantel Hernandez '20

Annaliese Tucci '20

Elizabeth Baah '24

Sammy Jo Barnes '24

Alba Martinez '24

Prerana Patil '24

Melissa Patino-Martinez '24



Women at Dickinson: The Beginning

In a February 1909 report to the Board of Trustees, Dickinson College President George Reed concluded that while male students had moved beyond their initial dissatisfaction with coeducation at Dickinson and "the presence of women at the college had thus far not been detrimental" to its growth or prosperity, male administrators and students still weren't ready to give up their dominance on campus.

Women comprised nearly 28% of the student body at the time, but administrators and trustees voted to cap women's enrollment at 20% for the 1909-10 academic year and at 25% for the years beyond. (This was, in part, in response to male students' complaints that women were earning a disproportionate number of college honors and prizes.) The enrollment caps were longlasting, though their parameters shifted over time. In fact, it wasn't until the 60-40% ratio was finally rescinded in 1973 that Dickinson was rid of gender-based enrollment caps.

Though still challenged by their male counterparts and administrators, Dickinson women in the 1920s made themselves a home at Dickinson. Women faculty and staff were hired to meet student needs, a women's dormitory, Metzger Hall, was purchased (where women students lived until 1963), sororities were formed, and women's sports started to pick up. The leaders of these women's groups endured hardships to establish each of these organizational supports for their fellow students.

Based on the 1984 Homecoming speech by then-College Archivist Martha Slotten, [Slotten, M. (1984, Nov. 2-3). History of Women at Dickinson. Dickinson College.]









One November night in 1923, nine seniors sat around a Metzger dorm room, chatting. It occurred to one of them that every single leader among women at Dickinson was assembled in that room. Not only were they best friends, but collectively, they presided over every women's organization and sat in every seat of power open to women. Struck by this singularity, they decided to form an honorary society dedicated to recognizing women leaders on campus. The next day, they visited a florist to purchase a floral emblem to mark the members of the group. One of the few flowers in bloom in November was the calendula, which can bloom in a greenhouse any month of the year. Each wearing a flower pinned in her lapel, the nine women met the world that day as members of the Wheel and Chain.

One might be tempted to wonder what sort of people, aside from megalomaniacal coup leaders, openly declare themselves to be the "outstanding members" of a culture! The class of 1971 had the unique experience of meeting some of the founding members one Alumni Weekend, and they can attest that the women who began this organization were dynamic and vibrant; no one in their presence could be unimpressed by their strength of character and personalities. "What a legacy they have left us!"



Though Wheel and Chain's official floral is the yellow calendula, modern era Blue Hats celebrate tappings with yellow roses as they are easier to find!

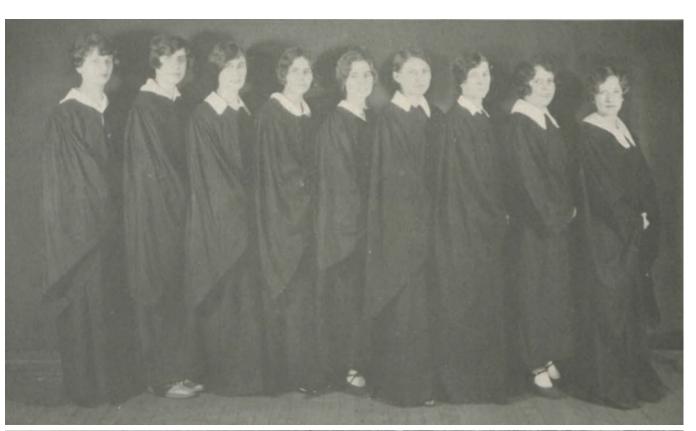


1920°s













1920's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

• 1914-28: James Henry Morgan

• 1928-31: Mervin Grant Filler

A Few Milestones

- By 1920 Dickinson had 380 students, of which 123 were women (32%). By 1926, this percentage would drop to 27% of the student body.
- Female students lived at Metzger Hall on current-day North Hanover Street, half a mile from campus.
- Hazel Bullock, the first woman faculty member with an advanced degree, was hired.
- Additional sororities arrived at Dickinson (Phi Mu, Zeta Eta Phi, Zeta Tau Alpha).
- Jeannette Packard was hired as the first women's athletics director.
- Women's Senate at Dickinson College was formed—and women pushed their way into men's Senate meetings.
- Social dances came into their own and Campus Belles, Beauties and Queens appeared.



Presidents

• 1913-21: Woodrow Wilson

• 1921-23: Warren G. Harding

• 1923-29: Calvin Coolidge

• 1929-33: Herbert Hoover

A Few Milestones

- The Jazz Age was in full swing and prohibition in full effect.
- There was large-scale adoption of automobiles, telephones, motion pictures, radio, and household electricity.
- Women gained the right to vote, and birth control became easier for women to access.
- Women's fashion of the day included the bob haircut and hemlines above the knee.
- The Wall Street crash of 1929 began the Great Depression.





SUFFRAG







1930°s

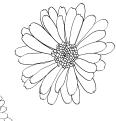
Students from 1936 remember departing from morning chapel on the top floor of Bosler Hall to find Wheel and Chain assembled at the bottom of the stairs. As the student body swarmed into the lobby, the new pledges were singled out and each was presented with a flower. The nine newly tapped members were taken by surprise, having no inkling who would be chosen. As members, the group now wore the now-traditional pin, but had no identifying clothing aside from their blue hats. And great care they paid to those hats! They wore them every day and were charged with keeping them looking new.

Meeting weekly, the group performed good deeds for each other, forming friendships that lasted, and actively supported the library. In fact, Wheel and Chain members, known as "Blue Hats" were each tasked with donating five novels to the library on graduation, as library funds would not provide for the purchase of such books.

From Dickinsonian articles:

- May 1935: Wheel and Chain works in cooperation with the administration in handling Dickinson College affairs.
- June 5, 1936: Marjorie Black was awarded the first Wheel and Chain gold ring, an annual award established to recognize an outstanding woman in the junior class. This award was patterned after the 1902 award—a gold watch—which was given annually by the class of 1902 to the outstanding man of the junior class.
- October 13, 1938: Since the Freshman Orientation committee no longer exists, Wheel and Chain has taken over its duties. At the close of chapel services on Tuesday, a list of "freshman rules" was read to the freshman girls with the announcement that any infraction of said rules would be dealt with accordingly. Rules regarding armbands and insubordination were particularly stressed. A song and professor quiz will be held within three weeks.
- Although the following was reported in the Dickinsonian on Dec. 1, 1938, one wonders if they got the color wrong: "All Wheel and Chain members will soon be wearing green caps similar to those worn by the other two honorary organizations on campus, Raven's Claw and Skull and Key. These caps will be dark green and will bear the gold wheel and chain embroidered on the crown."





1930°s









2000 S







5000









2005 S

1930's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

• 1928-31: Mervin Grant Filler

• 1932-33: Karl Tinsley Waugh

• 1933-34: James Henry Morgan (acting)

• 1933-44: Fred Pierce Corson

A Few Milestones

- Women's enrollment at Dickinson hovered around 24%.
- Female students lived at Metzger Hall on current-day North Hanover Street, half a mile from campus, and expanded into Parker House in 1938.
- There were more electives and an emphasis on social services and teaching had replaced an emphasis on math and classics in the curriculum for women.
- There was a busy social scene on campus, with dances featuring live bands held Saturday nights.

U.S. History

Presidents

- 1929-33: Herbert Hoover
- 1933-45: Franklin D. Roosevelt

A Few Milestones

- The age was defined by global economic and political crises.
- Women's fashion of the day included butterfly or banjo sleeves, synthetic fibers, and zippers.
- Prohibition was repealed.
- The Empire State Building was erected.
- The Hindenberg exploded.
- World War II began.







■ 16 Celebrating 100 Years 17

In 1945, new members were tapped on the way out of the chapel, and a calendula was pinned on each.

Newly tapped Blue Hats had to wear their flowers for one week and keep them fresh. Furthermore, they could not do their hair all week-neither washing nor curling it. Both pledges and floral emblems were looking quite bedraggled by the end of seven days! (This form of hazing was dropped two years later, when the incoming class refused to wear the flower.)

There were eight members, two from each women's fraternity. Bonds were established during a weekend of hazing, and the group embarked on a year of service in the community. During those war years, the group worked at nursing and bandage-rolling. They also took part in Orientation, commanding the Freshman to sing college songs and to recite college lore. Blue hats were also gray rather than blue as navy-blue dye was considered essential to the war effort and was not available for civilian use.

The 1940s was a time where the college was reeling from the pressures and changes or wartime, giving emphasis to male officer candidate training. Female students became fed up with a weak administration that seemed less interested in academics. Leaving Metzger Hall one night at 7:30 p.m.-after curfew- they marched the 7 blocks down to the campus to stage a rally in the chapel. Their demands that the Dickinson trustees put a stronger hand

on the tiller of the school were run on the front page of the *Harrisburg*Patriot and were picked up by the Associated Press. The ringleaders of this revolution? The Wheel and Chain!

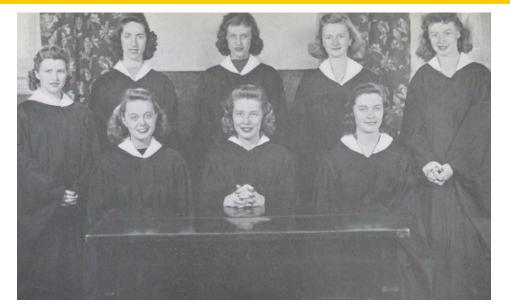
From Dickinsonian articles:

- May 1941: Wheel and Chain recap of year included bi-monthly meetings, sponsored buffet suppers for the student body before Mid-Winter Ball and Pan-Hel Week. Wheel and Chain promoted Guest Day at the college, and outgoing members held a dinner for their mothers at the end of the college term and presented several books and a two-year subscription to The New Yorker to the college library.
- Jan. 15, 1942: Wheel and Chain voted to have all members work in conjunction with the Committee on Contacts in writing letters to the men in the armed forces. Each girl will write to several men whose names have been sent to her from the committee. In the letter will be news of Dickinson College and of the community. A copy of *The Dickinsonian* will be sent with each letter.
- May 1945: The Freshman women were released from Senate rules. They may now have daytime dates and walk on Main Street during the day.
- May 1945: The Annual Doll Show and Dance is sponsored by Wheel and Chain. This 37-year tradition dated back to a speech and request for dolls by Maude Booth of the Salvation Army. Admission to the dance is a doll, which are displayed and then sent to NYC for distribution to the families of prisoners.
- December 1945: Wheel and Chain publishes the first college directory, which included names and addresses of officers of the administration and Dickinson College and Dickinson Law School faculty, undergrads and law students.





1940°s

















19403

1940's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

- 1933-44: Fred Pierce Corson
- 1944-46: Cornelius William Prettyman
- 1945-46 Spahr, Malcom & Vuilleumier (acting)
- 1946-59: William Wilcox Edel

A Few Milestones

- The percentage of women enrolled at Dickinson jumped as male students left for the war (from 22% in 1940 to 41% by 1945). More women were admitted to address financial concerns and enrollment numbers, but gender-based quotas would return by 1950.
- By 1940 only 15 out of the 375 faculty were women. They were either librarians, language teachers, deans of women, or teachers of physical education.
- Women students lived in Metzger Hall and Parker House.
- Dickinson was focused on preparing young officers for mobilization. The mood on campus was more like that of a military school than a liberal arts college.

U.S. History

Presidents

- 1933-45: Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 1945-53: Harry S. Truman

A Few Milestones

- World War II dominated life in the 1940s: Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, U.S. interned Japanese-Americans, D-Day allies invaded Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge happened.
- The Nuremberg Trials took place.
- Women's fashion of the day was more utilitarian, due to fabric rationing during the war, and included straight skirts, pleats, squared sholders, slim sleeves, floral prints, and sailor, mandarin, and scalloped necklines.
- The Rosie the Riveter campaign was launched nationwide and helped to recruit millions of women into the workforce.

1940s Fashion Calendar



12 months of 40s style projects for the girl on rations





1950°s



The class of 1955 was tapped in the chapel, their names called out before the assembled students and faculty. After earning their hats and pins, they adopted a white blazer as their "uniform of office," which they wore when they ushered for cultural affairs events or as guides for the admissions office.

When hazing freshmen during Orientation, Blue Hats would stand in a line, arms folded and feet firmly planted, with stern looks upon their faces. They demanded respect and cowering "frosh" addressed them as "Miss Meyers," "Miss Howard," and so on. One would hardly suspect that this fearsome band would be found early one morning sampling "milk punch" at the "Jimmy" (James Wilson Hotel) before Saturday classes!*

When it came to choosing the next cohort of members, they felt limited by the tradition of tapping two members from each women's fraternity, so they established a point system to rate the junior women and reward other types of leadership.

*According to Olivia White in "Everything You Need to Know about Milk Punch" in *The Vine Pair*, milk punch, an old-fashioned drink that originated in the 1600s, was



currently very popular again. There are two kinds; the following recipe is for the simpler version and comes from 88 BAMBOO.

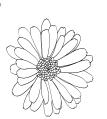


- Milk Punch
- 2 oz. bourbon3 oz. whole milk
- 1 oz. simple syrup
- 2 dashes vanilla extract
- Garnish: nutmeg, freshly grated

Pour bourbon, whole milk, simple syrup and vanilla extract into a shaker with ice and shake until well-chilled. Strain into a rocks glass, and garnish with freshly grated nutmeg.

From Dickinsonian articles:

- April 28, 1951: At the induction of the class of 1951-52, the president of Wheel and Chain listed the group's activities of the past year, including taking charge of the freshmen women's Orientation, gifts to both the library and the Prayer Chapel in West College, ushering at the Annual Christmas Choir Concert and one of its spring concerts, and conducting groups of Y-Teens around the campus.
- Dec 14, 1956: Wheel and Chain members offer to serve as a contact point for the exchange and purchase of used textbooks. Pricing is done by the seller, and Wheel and Chain acts as a listing service. Lists of available texts and sale of the books is conducted just outside the bookstore.





1950°s



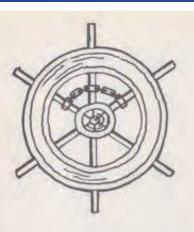












WHEEL and CHAIN

The Wheel and Chain was founded at Dickinson College in 1924 as an honorary society for senior women. It is limited to nine members who are chosen on the basis of activities, scholarship, leadership, and character. The memhers are chosen by the Wheel and Chain of the previous year and are tapped in a spring assembly. Selection of the girls is not related to membership in a sorority. The

group promotes good relations between the administration

and the women students. In student-administration affairs, the group acts as spokesman for the women, especially the

The members act as ushers and hostesses at many college

functions, including the Cultural Affairs. They also act as guides in showing visitors and prospective students around

the campus. In aiding the enforcement of freshman rules, the Wheel and Chain follows an orientation program which is aimed at developing high academic standards and creating an incentive to participate in campus activities. It helps the freshmen women to learn about and take pride in

Dickinson College. Besides this, the "Blue Hats" have an annual project for the good of the college. In the Spring of each year, they present a cup to that freshman woman who is adjudged to be most outstanding in character, scholarship, extra-curricular activities, and social leadership. The members for 1958-59 are: Mary Bunyan, president; Carolyn Albert, Carol Dorsey, Ann Lemkau, Carol McCarty,

Judy Milligan, and Susan Murray.

seniors.

MARY BUNYAN President



ANN LEMEAU Secretary





CARGLYS ALBERT

JUDY MILLICAN







SUSAN MURRAY

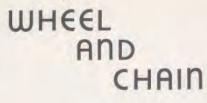














DOTTIE L. GAYNER Treasurer



MARJORIE CROWLEY



MERLE TEGTMEIER

ELIZABETH A. GRIFFITH





Each spring, several senior girls are chosen, on the basis of scholarship, outstanding leadership and activities, and service to the College, to become tapped into the Wheel and Chain. These girls don their representative "blue hats" and serve as exemplary Dichineralians both to feel. serve as exemplary Dickinsonians, both to fresh-men and to upperclassmen; their contributions to the College are evident in the many phases of

Chair is configually strong to promote in Honor Code on the Bic Group density.

Wheel and Chair is a local honorary society which has been active of Dickinson College since 1924. Membership in this organization is properly recognized as an outstanding honor. Students tapped for membership for 1959-60 were: Sandra Deichler, president; Nancy Cross, Marjorie Crowley, Dottie Lee Gaynor, Beth Griffith, Merle Tegmeier, and Carolyn Wherly.





200°s

1950's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

- 1946-59: William Wilcox Edel
- 1959-61: Gilbert Malcolm

A Few Milestones

- The mid-20% gender-based enrollment cap was loosened and by 1956, women made up 34% of the student body.
- Many men on campus during this period were studying under the G.I. Bill.
- Women still had curfews and had to receive permission to leave campus overnight.
- Dickinson broke ground for Drayer Hall in 1950. It is the first on-campus building to house women.
- The first woman Trustee, Mary Sharp Foncht, was appointed in 1954.
- Morgan Hall was built in 1955 and Althouse, in 1958.

U.S. History

Presidents

- 1945-53: Harry S. Truman
- 1953-61: Dwight D. Eisenhower

A Few Milestones

- The decade was marked by the post-World War II boom, the dawn of the Cold War, and the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.
- The Baby Boom began in 1946, with a record number of children—3.4 million—born in the United States.
- Women's fashion of the day featured tight waistlines and full skirts, in line with Dior's "New Look."
- Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white person on a city bus in December 1955.











2009 S

By the mid-1960s, Wheel and Chain tappings were advertised. Posters gave notice that the ceremonies would take place at 6 p.m. on the steps of Old West. The curious would gather, and seven girls were surprised to hear their names called. Each had a hat put on her head and received a blue-and-gold pledge ribbon.

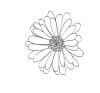
In the ensuing year, the group poured tea at receptions while wearing their chosen uniform: a navy-blue skirt, white blouse with Peter Pan collar, navy-blue cardigan, loafers or flats, and, of course, their signature blue hat. By the end of the decade, they were wearing blue tennis shoes. And they never wore their hats when in high-heeled shoes.

To choose new members, a point system was employed to avoid getting into the rut of picking the same type of girl year over year. An effort was made to include independent women as well as those affiliated with Greek organizations. Honorary members were sometimes tapped, though the practice was rare.

During this era, an annual prize was awarded to a qualified freshman girl and the Blue Hats also tapped their first woman of color. During Orientation, the group demanded songs as they hazed freshmen and stood unsmilingly in the "Blue Hat stance." In a back-handed tribute to their power, Miss Miller was hanged in effigy from Adams Hall.

From Dickinsonian articles:

- January 1960: Wheel and Chain sponsors a dessert and guidance talk
 for all upper-class women. The talk was given by a representative of the
 Berkley Secretarial School. It focused on the college woman and career
 trends. Present employment patterns, re-establishment in a job after
 several years of marriage, and various fields newly open to young women
 were discussed.
- Elyse Swingle was named "the best-dressed girl on campus" in a contest sponsored by Wheel and Chain, as part of *Glamour* magazine's national contest. Contestants were nominated by sororities and judged by Wheel and Chain and Dean Stevens. Contestants were judged on four outfits: sport, campus, off-campus daytime and party. Judging was based on imagination, managing a clothes budget, good figure and posture, good grooming, appropriate campus look, clear understanding of fashion type and a workable wardrobe.
- September 30, 1967: The orientation of the class of 1971 has begun! Freshmen donned their dinks and submitted themselves to the traditional hazing from members of Wheel and Chain and ODK. The hazing is designed to unite the class, helping the individual members make new friends and making them more knowledgeable of the traditions, activities and personnel of the college. The dink period, known as "the rules" generally lasts one to two weeks. During past years, it is traditional for freshmen to rebel against the rules by refusing to wear the red dinks and name tags, swiping the blue hats from the heads of the Wheel and Chain members and holding protest meetings.









WHEEL AND CHAIN









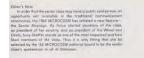












Senior

Message

The Class of 1962 is unique, not only for what it has witnessed, but also for what it has con tributed to this transition.

Four years ago the Student Senate operated as adequately as it could under partial paralysis. Senate contributions to the college community were anaemic, Senate power and influence were pathetically feeble; and Senate activities were a compus enigmo. It would have taken a rather relat order miracle to correct all these disorders, so consequently many remain. However, by publicizing Senate proceedings and activities, sending delegates to college conferences, and spansaring good limp programs for student enjoyment, the Student Senate has made a positive contribution in ellinin ating the very popular and patented "individual" lethoragy. This year the Communications Committee and S.R.E.C., infant and addicisecent committees of Student Senate, have become strang and influe ential lissons between students and administrations; they have further became mutual insurance publics aronized misunderstanding and insistrations; they have further became mutual insurance publics aronized misunderstanding and insistrations; they have further became mutual insurance publics aronized misunderstanding and insistrations;

ential lissons between students and administrations; they have further become mutual insurance policies against misunderstanding and injustice.

When the new Editorial Board inherited The Dickinsonian last year, it received a rather was and supine leaguery. One year later The Dickinsonian emerged an empothetic media, sensitive to ever phase of the college, on and off campus.

As the Class of 1982 leaves, it practibes one course of action for the undergraduates, it the next few years, students must work with Dickinson College just as one would with a patient comin out of a general anesthetic. Exercise every filber of every muscle of every film to insure complet recovery in the very near future.

SENIOR MESSAGE



Mancy Arnott NANCY ARNOT FOR CLASS OF 1963.

3.096T











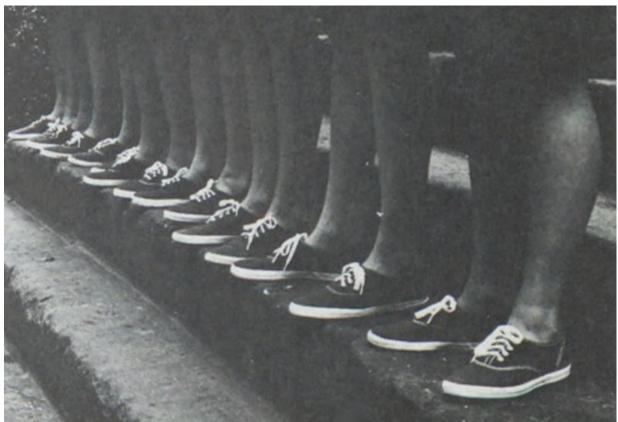
2005 S





















1960's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

• 1959-61: Gilbert Malcolm

• 1961-75: Howard Lane Rubendall

A Few Milestones

- Women's enrollment hovered around 30% of the student population.
- The quota on the number of women was raised to 40% by the college.
- Drayer and Adams Halls are the main dormitories for women on campus.

U.S. History

Presidents

• 1953-61: Dwight D. Eisenhower

• 1961-63: John F. Kennedy

• 1963-69: Lyndon B. Johnson

• 1969-74: Richard M. Nixon

A Few Milestones

- The decade was marked by Civil Rights protests and legislation and, unfortunately, a number of assassinations (President Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy).
- The Vietnam War and the counter-culture movement also played a significant role in shaping the era.
- Women's fashion of the era changed drastically from the elegant styles popularized by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy to youthful, Eastern-influenced hippie styles.
- The birth control pill was approved for contraceptive use.
- Apollo 11 landed on the moon.











20/S

The nine members of the class of 1975 were tapped

on the "old stone steps" during an advertised ceremony. Each had been notified the night before to ensure her presence, and each was given a hat and a yellow rose. Uncomfortable with what might be perceived as an elitist symbol, there was some debate in the group about whether to wear the hats at all. Aside from the hats and pins, there were no other identifying clothes. The group agreed to wear their hats for special occasions, but never with casual clothes.

They were also proud to carry on the tradition of service. They were keenly aware of their leadership role on campus. They also represented a diverse range of campus activities, including the newspaper, sports, Senate, and Greek life.

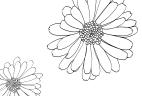
Possessed of a zany streak, Blue Hats from the '70s enjoyed sneaking into the bell tower of Denny Hall. One pledge class even "liberated" the replica of the mermaid and put her up on the naked cupola of Old West. But they were all business when it came to choosing pledges; the members stressed the need for leadership from all walks of campus life.

During the academic year 1972-73, the bicentennial of the college was celebrated with many special occasions. The members of Wheel and Chain were asked to serve in many capacities in relation to these. One such event was the concert in honor of the bicentennial by the Philadelphia Philharmonic, conducted by Seiji Ozawa, in the Forum of the Education Building in Harrisburg, at which the Philharmonic received the college's Arts Award.

From Dickinsonian articles:

- October 16. 1970: Wheel and Chain and ODK sponsor the annual Parents' Day Songfest in the Social Hall. All groups, organizations and departments of the college may participate, and prizes will be awarded for best performances.
- November 22, 1976: Title IX self-study kicks up a controversy with honorary groups: The Title IX Affirmative Action Committee's self-study claims that since both Raven's Claw and Wheel and Chain limit participation or membership to one sex, they are, by definition, discriminatory. The self-study group recommends that the groups be brought into compliance within the next 12 months or be officially excluded from campus. It was noted, however, that the committee has no final say over the status of these groups. It only makes recommendations to the College President who makes the final decision on compliance with federal regulations. (Thank you, President Samuel A Banks for your decision to maintain the honorary groups!).





1970°s









970%

























2 2 2 3

1970's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

- 1961-75: Howard Lane Rubendall
- 1975-86: Samuel Alston Banks

A Few Milestones

- With the passage of Title IX, all gender-based quotas or caps were removed.
- Women's enrollment hit between 40 and 45% of the student population.
- The first Black faculty members were hired at Dickinson.
- Dickinson Student Senate elected its first woman president, Wheel and Chain's own Kathy Bachman '75.
- Dickinson Women's Newsletter (1973-1976) and Women's Resource Center Newsletter were published.
- While female students still lived in Drayer and Adams Halls, co-ed housing by floor also began.

U.S. History

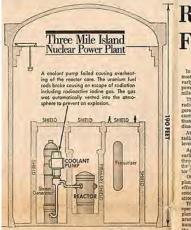
Presidents

- 1969-74: Richard M. Nixon
- 1974-77: Gerald Ford
- 1977-81: Jimmy Carter

A Few Milestones

- The era was defined by growing political unrest and dissatisfaction with the U.S. government's leadership and involvement in the Vietnam War.
- The U.S. experienced its most significant commercial nuclear-power plant accident, the incident at Three Mile Island.
- Major legal actions from the era included the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision and the ratification of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- Women's fashion of the era changed from miniskirts and dresses to bell-bottom pants, turtleneck shirts, hot pants, crop tops, and platform shoes, with hairstyles varying from long and straight to the feathery cut popularized by Farrah Fawcett.





Radiation Spreads 10 Miles From A-Plant Mishap Site

By Thomas O'Toole

**Reshmater Post Detti Writer

In what federal regulators called one of the nation's oot serious nuclear accidents, a cooling system faulure rity yesterday at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island over plant spread radiation as far as Harrisburg, 10

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission described the finition over Harrisburg as "quite low" and not damrous to human, but it was detected by instruments where the startisburg by helicopter last night, more no 12 hours after the accident that triggered the raoutine release.

ation was "continuing" to escape in "detectable his from the Three Mile Island plant, pursently, uranium fuel rods that had broken up jet in the day from overheating were continuing puth the night to release radiation that seeped ight the four-foot-thick walls surrounding the reactonilising.

case or exceptional coloses (a.e., pair owner on the said some radiacetive steam also excepted during said some radiacetive steam also excepted during determined the said of the said of the said of the determined the said of the said of the said the said of the said of the said of the said the said of the

By 7 o'clock last night, the uranium fuel was still a of that the plant's managers had to vent radioactivateam into the stimosphere to prevent an explosion inside the black concrete done projecting the nuclear reactor. The person of the project of the project of the project of explicit projects of the Nuclear Regulation. Some of early director of the Nuclear Regulation of the project of the project of the Nuclear Regulation of the project of the nuclear project of the Nuclear Regulation of the project of the Nuclear Regulation of the State with the Nuclear Regulation of the Nuclear

e said radiation levels inside the plant's reactording registers (1,600 times normal). The said register is also said to make and all control that for normal to treaten, which is the result of the repeat to the repeat to the register in the said as bot as 500 degrees 12 hours after being hint still as hot as 500 degrees 12 hours after being hint still as hot as 500 degrees 12 hours after being hint still as hot as 500 degrees 12 hours after being hint still as hot as 500 degrees 12 hours after being hint still as hot as 500 degrees 12 hours after being hint some still as the said of th

halloactive belong it had except as a more around around halloactive belong it had except as a mi streat the obsert first below first below first below from the modern first below from the control to the first below first below from the broken first below first below for the first below first below from the fi





1980°s

During the 1980s, the Wheel and Chain pledge

period was a couple of weeks of hazing around and by the entire campus. Pledges were expected to learn the history of the college and of Wheel and Chain as well as the tap position family trees.

The 1980s tappings came as no surprise to pledges. Each had been interviewed previously, then snatched from her room the night before to be told of her chosen status. The nine (10, by 1986) pledges were called up to the steps of Old West and given their hats, ribbons, and a yellow rose. One or two honorary members were nominated at the same time. The formal position was with arms crossed in front (no gaps, no light).

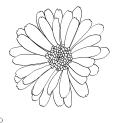
The night of the tappings, the friends of each tapped woman would take every single item from their dorm room outside and set it up exactly the way it was set up in the room. At the end of the night, the last thing the newly tapped members did was to help each other put everything back.

This decade saw no debate about their hats: They wore them with pride, all on the same day each week – with skirts, slacks, blue jeans, or whatever they felt like wearing. They saw their role as being a link between the student body and the faculty.

From Dickinsonian articles:

- April 21, 1983: Wheel and Chain taps the class of 1983-84 on the steps of Old West. The class president notes that while the organization began in 1924 and was involved in freshman orientation, it had become a service organization. Members volunteered to help with Songfest and the Metzger series, caroled at the freshman dorms, and helped to establish a freshman woman's council, as well as ran the annual Senior Women's Banquet. The organization's threefold purpose is to help improve communication between faculty, students and the administration; promote better relations between organizations on campus; and work to promote fellowship among senior women.
- April 9, 1987: In a recognition article on Wheel and Chain in advance of the 1987 tappings, a Blue Hat noted that selection by peers made the experience special.





1980°s













1980°s







1980°s















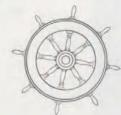




We wish you the best of luck! We'll miss you!

Alex Angie Sara Ginny Beth Mary Lisa Janis Kathy Nicky

We like the way you wear your hats, The way you hold your arms up, too. We're all a part of Wheel and Chain, We like the hats on you!



Tapped on the steps of Old West, Hearts beating in our chests. We're all a part of Wheel and Chain, Class of '90 you're the best!

THE THE LOVE, THE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY OF

Soyna Suzanne Ellen Gretchen Lisa Bobbie Lori Beth Karen Tari













1980's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

• 1975-86: Samuel Alston Banks

• 1986-87: George Allan (acting)

• 1987-99: A. Lee Fritschler

A Few Milestones

• Between 1980 and 1986, women's enrollment grew and women officially became more than half of the student body population.

• Female students still lived in Drayer and Adams Halls and on designated floors in co-ed housing around campus.

U.S. History

Presidents

• 1977-81: Jimmy Carter

• 1989-93: George H.W. Bush

A Few Milestones

new conservatism in social, economic, and political life.

nuclear accident, the Exxon Valdez accident and the fall of the Berlin Wall, as well as significant growth in personalized electronics and the invention of the World Wide Web server and browser.

• Women's fashion of the era was influenced by punk and New Wave cultures, aside a preppy look (polo shirts and khakis), and big hair.

• Sandra Day O'Connor was sworn in as the first woman U.S. Supreme Court justice.

• Sally Ride became the first U.S. woman astronaut.







s, 065T

Ten pledges were tapped from most classes in the 1990s, along with two non-student members. Each became aware that her hat represented the next link in a chain of membership that stretched back to the origin of the group. Each family tree had a number which reflected their tapping order.

In a ceremony on the "old stone steps," each pledge was given a hat, her pledge ribbon, and her yellow rose. The newly-tapped girl had been told the night before, when she was "kidnapped" by the active members and told that she would become a Blue Hat. It was no longer the surprise it had been in the '60s.

Hats and pins were worn with the dress uniform of a navy-blue suit (skirt or pants), white blouse, and high heels. Some classes wore blue nylons, as well. In this garb, they ushered for Convocation, gave tours for Admissions, and hosted a seminar on women's issues. Their hats were also worn on other random days of the month, as agreed upon by the group.

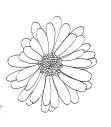
As members, they were taught the Wheel and Chain Chant and learned how to dye their hats, as the traditional blue hats had ceased to be manufactured, so the group purchased white sailor hats and dyed them blue.

In choosing the next class, they looked for "unsung heroes" who would work together well as a group, even if they'd only just met.

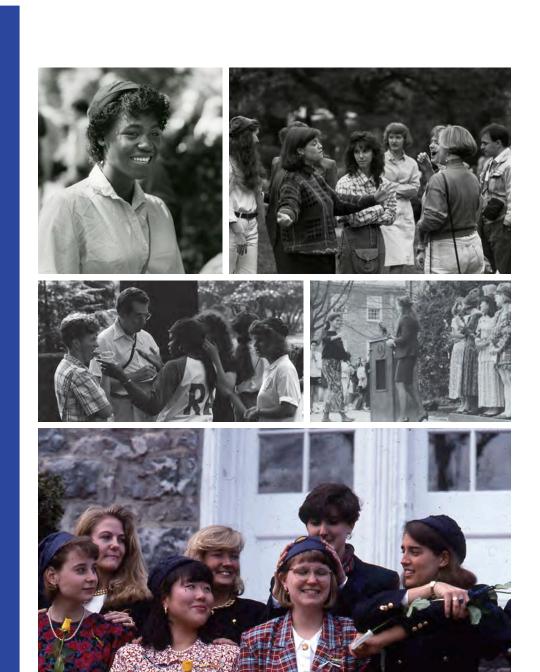
From Dickinsonian articles:

 February 16, 1995: Wheel and Chain and the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition presented a photo exhibit, "67 Women-67 Counties: Facing Breast Cancer in Pennsylvania." This event marked the beginning of the exhibit's 1995 tour of the state.





306d 300

























Wheel and Chain

Wheel and Chain is a Senior Women's honor society. The group was established in 1924 and has strongly continued its foundation of tradition and change. This group, fondly known as the Blue Hats, organizes and promotes educational programs throughout the campus. The group also sponsors dinners for senior women which celebrate the collective achievements of Dickinson women as well as encouraging their continual growth. New members are tapped each spring to continue the tradition of change, growth, leadership, and exceptional character.





(L to R): Yuki Ishikawa, Cathy Hawkes, Kristen Farley, Bobbi Stanislaw, Anna Zeffreyys, Lisa Goldman, Marcia Philips, Lynne Jones, Keyyr Hummer, Gwyn Borden (not pictured).

Please join us for Wheel and Chain Tappings



Monday, April 17, 1995 Please
at 5 p.m.
on the steps of Old West Come

Hope you can be with us as we continue a unique Dickinson • tradition

1990°s

















■ 78 An Ongoing Revolution 79

1990°s

















1990°s

1990's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

- 1987-99: A. Lee Fritschler
- 1999-2013: William G. Durden

A Few Milestones

- In 1990, Dickinson has 1,103 women students. Women's enrollment in the decade grew from 54 to 57% of the student body.
- Female students still lived in Drayer and Adams Halls and also in co-ed housing, on women-designated floors.

U.S. History

Presidents

- 1989-93: George H.W. Bush
- 1993-2001: Bill Clinton

A Few Milestones

- The decade saw the end of a decades-long Cold War, the rise of the internet, the L.A. riots, the repeal of apartheid in South Africa, a sheep cloning, a presidential impeachment, the Columbine High School shooting, and the Oklahoma City bombing.
- Record numbers of women were elected to high office in the United States during 1992's "Year of the Woman."
- Women's fashion of the era included earth tones and jewel tones, grunge flannel shirts and baggy or distressed jeans, baseball caps (often worn backward), chunky sweaters and oversized sweatshirts, and loose-fitting graphic tees.
- Women's participation in the workforce grew to
 60% and the passage of the Family and Medical
 Leave Act made it illegal for many women to be ejected from
 the workforce for going on medicalleave for pregnancy.





■ 82 An Ongoing Revolution 83



20003

By the 2000s, so many students were taking advantage of Dickinson's global-education that a girl could be notified of her tapping while studying elsewhere (and then she might ask, "What's Wheel and Chain?"). In cases such as this, tapping of the on-campus members would occur as scheduled at Old West, and the missing pledge(s) would be initiated and "caught up" by active members on return to campus.

In 2005, each member was given her hat, a set of mermaid earrings, and a pendant with a ship's wheel. Aside from the jewelry, there were no items of identifying clothing for the group. The hats were still dyed by hand and the legend was that each hat was the original hat of her family line, going all the way back to the beginning of the organization in 1924. They wore their hats once each month, on an agreed-upon date.

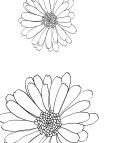
The 2009 class wore their navy suits with their hats on special occasions during the year. Hats were worn regularly throughout the school year, but they varied the day. Attire on those dates was a step or two up from regular wear, with dressy jeans permitted.

Blue Hats' functions on campus were to be role models and to hold fundraisers for worthy causes. It was an honor to be a Blue Hat and to choose the next class, and each member proposed three candidates. New members were chosen for their exemplary character and for how well they embodied the ideals of the organization.











2000°s













2000°s



















2000°s





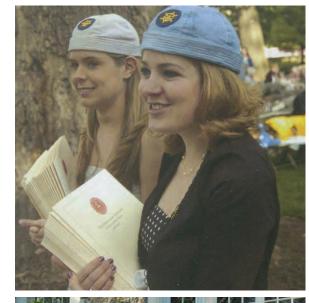




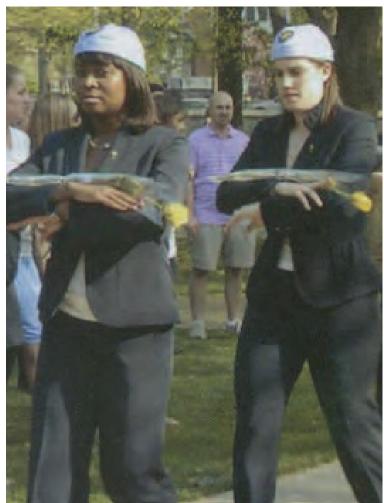












2000°s





















2000°s

2000's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

• 1999-2013: William G. Durden

A Few Milestones

- Women's studies was upgraded from a certificate program to a major.
- Women's History Month featured six days of activities sponsored by the Center for Women, Pan Hel, Wheel and Chain, the Syrens, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

U.S. History

Presidents

• 1993-2001: Bill Clinton

• 2001-09: George W. Bush

• 2009-17: Barack Obama

A Few Milestones

 The decade saw shifting social structures, the bombing of the World Trade Center, wars in both Afghanistan and Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, the "Great Recession" and the rise of the smartphone and social media.

• Fashion of the era saw jeans for every ocassion (e.g., low-rise, flared, skinny, bootcut, distressed), bare middrifts, boho chic, and vintage, second-hand fashion—all highly influenced by top celebrities of the time.

• Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet.

 Nancy Pelosi was elected as the first woman Speaker of the House.

• Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the first Latina Supreme Court justice.







2010's

The class of 2015 was tapped on the "old stone steps" – except for a member who was overseas and was contacted by email. She was requested to "apply in writing" to become a Blue Hat. A few days before tapping, her pledge sisters had also "applied for the job." They were whisked away, blindfolded, the following Thursday night at 10 p.m., and taken to a local diner for an "interview" with 2-3 active members.

Once they were reunited for senior year, the class decided that blue suits and white shirts would be their uniform as they ushered for Convocation and did other official duties. Otherwise, they would wear their hats, with business-casual clothing, once each week.

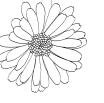
The group of 10 were not friends prior to their tapping, so they made it their purpose to be the bridge among the different interest groups around campus, both in academic and social spheres. Together, they did all the "usual traditions": burning a candle on the steps of Old West, skipping in the Academic Quad while chanting, and making doughnuts early in the morning.

They made sure that the girls whom they tapped were relatively unknown to them, thus ensuring that there was no recognizable "path to Wheel & Chain membership."

From Dickinsonian articles:

• February 4, 2015: "More than Meets the Eye" photo exhibit project, initiated by Wheel and Chain, strives to inspire meaningful conversations between women on campus by highlighting individual beauty and the collective power of women through the use of a photo and an accompanying word. The article included this statement: "We want to see women on campus succeed, prosper and live up to their amazing potential. Everyone deserves their moment to shine and feel a part of something bigger than themselves, and we want to give the women of Dickinson a chance to sparkle and connect. Inspiration and connection promote conversation and conversation opens doors."





■ 96 Celebrating 100 Years 97

2010%















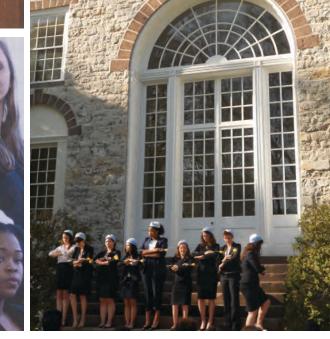
2010%























2010%

2010's Happenings

Dickinson History

Presidents

- 2013-16: Nancy A. Roseman
- 2016-17: Neil B. Weisman (interim)
- 2017-21: Margee M. Ensign

A Few Milestones

- Dickinson's first female graduate, Zatae Longsdorff (class of 1887) is commemorated with an alcove and plaque in the Rector Science Center.
- Women's Experiences at Dickinson exhibit website unveiled.
- Nancy Roseman becomes first woman Dickinson President.
- Title IX marks 50 years at Dickinson.

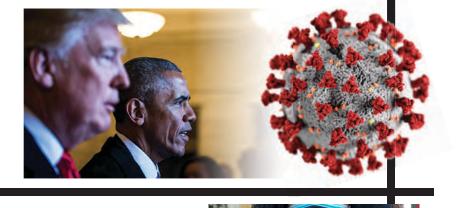
U.S. History

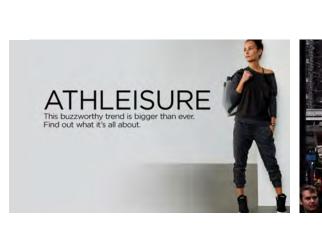
Presidents

- 2009-17: Barack Obama
- 2017-21: Donald Trump

A Few Milestones

- The decade saw same-sex marriage become a protected right under the Fourteenth Amendment, a worldwide Women's March protest after the inauguration of Donald Trump, the Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter movements, a bombing at the Boston marathon, and the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- Fashion of the era saw slimmer fits and "hipster" fashion, and athleisure rose in prominance.
- Janet Yellen becomes the first woman chairman of the Federal Reserve.







A few weeks before the official tapping, new members were blindfolded, tossed into a car, and taken to a Waffle House for an interview. There, three active members questioned them about their leadership on campus.

Being in Wheel and Chain was still—and continues to be an honor, and the tight-knit group on campus was and is widely admired on campus. Once initiated, members from 2020 to 2024 wore their hats once every two weeks, and sported navy-blue suits with a white blouse for official duties, like ringing the bell at Denny on graduation day.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, tappings were completed virtually in 2020.

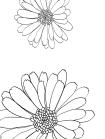
The class of 2024 also held a Shared Visions dinner for guests from the campus and Carlisle community, with the purpose of forging a deeper connections between "town" and "gown."



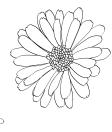
























The Wheel & Chain Leadership Award

Established in 1997, the recipients of this award are selected in the second semester of their sophomore year through an application process that is evaluated by a committee of Wheel and Chain alumnae and honorary members. Recipients are recognized for their merit, vigorous participation in campus activities, service to the college and community, strong leadership skills, high personal character, and strong academic performance.



To show your support for student leaders at Dickinson, consider making a gift to the Wheel and Chain Leadership Award. To make your gift, scan the QR code, select "Other" in the designation field and write "Wheel & Chain Leadership Award" in the text box that appears.