



While working on this issue of *Whitworth Today*, I couldn't help reflecting on the many places I've worked during my 18 years at the college. During that time I've had a taste of all kinds of workspaces, some of which remain as they were, and some of which have been remodeled, renovated, retooled or – in one case – razed.

In 1983 I began my Whitworth career in a little office in the basement of Westminster Hall. It had its own rather bohemian ambience, not to mention a capricious ditto machine that occasionally caused the faculty to fly into rages. And that space is still there, pretty much unchanged since my long-ago departure.

In 1986 I moved to an office in Grieve Hall where, despite the best efforts of the heating and cooling guys, winters were subtropical and summers were like something out of *Escape from Devil's Island*. Man, it was hot in there. Grieve bit the dust in 1999, and my heart was not broken.

In 1990 I moved to the Lindaman Center, where computer technology caught up with me. Folks from that era will remember our clunky DEC Rainbows with their green/amber screens and anti-intuitive operating systems. Now I have a lightning-fast Mac G4 and a computerized phone that's smarter than I am. And Lindaman remains, largely unchanged.

1994 saw me hitting the trail to Schumacher Health Center, now Schumacher Residence Hall. In 2000, the college's continuing enrollment surge dictated that the health center would become student housing. So the Publications Office packed up and headed off to Hawthorne Hall, which was acquired, in part, to provide classroom and office space during the Dixon renovation. And that's where I sit composing this message.

One of my former workspaces is kaput. Two are pretty much the way I left them. One has morphed from administrative space into a residence hall. One is on the bubble in terms of its future.

So, what are the constants that characterize my Whitworth experience – and what do they have to do with this issue's theme? Concern for students is number one. The workspaces I've mentioned were tailored to, and, in one case, transformed for students. Administrative space is important, but student access and convenience are more important. The former will always exist in service to the latter. The master plan recognizes this, and so does Whitworth President Bill Robinson. See what Bill says about it in his President's Message and in our feature articles.

Another constant has been the amazing work of our information technology folks, who've made Whitworth an exciting and rather sophisticated place to work. Without the attention paid to technology in the master plan, we'd have been left in the dust by other institutions. Instead, we're keeping pace with the big dogs and leading the way for many colleges and universities our size.

Finally, the Physical Plant staff has been rock-steady in its excellent work over the years. From landscaping to construction to maintaining some very high-maintenance facilities, these folks have done more with less than many of us would have imagined possible. They're not just workers, they're wizards. And Whitworth's students, faculty and staff benefit every day from the magic they create.

I hope you'll enjoy this issue of *Whitworth Today*.

Terry Rayburn Mitchell

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