Welcome to the Wild World of Williams

APB: Another missing library?

We often gripe about Amherst swiping our library books. But another college has another one of our libraries, and refuses to give it back.

1.) Where is the room on campus that should house the Williams Herbarium?

2.) Who currently has it?

3.) How did they end up with it?

But at least our mascot is still cooler than theirs. I know, hard to believe. But then again, almost any mascot is cooler than a Muskellunge (even if it’s a “fighting muskie”)

Herbarium collections have long been a staple at Williams (Just proof Williamsttown has always been this boring....what else could make watching leaves dry an attractive option?) In 1857 Professor Chadbourne (Later President Chadbourne) and Professor Albert Hopkins led a trip on behalf of the Lyceum of Natural History to Collect specimens.

4.) Where did they go?

5.) Where was their collection housed upon return?

A weed by any other name would smell as sweet

Williamstown isn’t host to many endangered plants, but it is host to one at least one. Ironically, it’s a widespread weed in most of the Upper Midwest but is only found in Massachusetts in 3 isolated populations, all in Berkshire County.

1.) What is the name of the plant?

2.) The endangered status caused the College quite a problem during the construction of the Pine Cobble Development. Why?

3.) What did the College do as a result?
Stumped? Here’s a hint: the plant was named in honor of Adam Lonitzer (1528-1586), German herbalist. And since I’m in a giving mood, here’s another hint. It’s referred to as eglantine in Milton’s L’Allegro

**Birds of a feather flock together.**

If you’re lucky enough, you might spot one of these birds around campus. They’re probably one of the rarest of our avian friends you have a chance of spotting around the college, and certainly the rarest of the Picidae in these parts. Although, if you are lucky enough to spot one, I wouldn’t get too close. Their feeding habits have been known to break trees in half.

Here’s a hint to get your ornithological skills-on:

1.) What is the name of the bird and how large can it get?

2.) What Ben “Bugs” Hardaway “screwball” cartoon character was inspired by the bird?

The only other North American species that can be confused with this noble bird was until recently thought extinct. (I know, unhappiness :-(- However, it was recently reported alive along the banks of a southern river.

3.) What is the name of the not-so-extinct bird?
4.) What is the name of the river where the sighting was reported?

And, just for the hell of it:

4.) You might spot one in Hopkins Forest. What family (Husband & wife) is the center in Hopkins Forest named after? (& what year was it dedicated?)

5.) Why is it named after them?

6.) What did the Husband wear to rededication of the Moon Barn in 1975?

7.) Why was the Moon Barn re-dedicated? What year-long celebration was the ceremony part of?

8.) Where was it originally?

And since we’re spending so much time with the dear old moon barn, you might was well know that it was named after the Moon family. Borrowing J.K. Rowling’s description, they were the closest thing Berkshire county had to the Gaunts…especially the part about marrying their cousins. Surprisingly, the last Moon to work the Moon Farm didn’t marry his cousin.

9.) What was his name and what family member did he marry? Around what year? What was her name?

Lions & Tigers & Bears, Oh my!

It’s not just birds that hang around the campus…there isn’t a fall semester that goes by without some clueless Manhattanite calling security to tell them there are bears in the quad when it’s just a raccoon. But every now and then big game does make it into our fair quads…

1.) Every now and then, one of these gentle giants will wander onto campus. Don’t confuse the real thing will the bronze statue of one that hangs out on the far end of Stone Hill.

2.) When was the last time one showed up on campus?

3.) Where?

4.) What type of Bears live on Pine Cobble?
5.) What type of berries that grow on the top of the mountain do they like to eat?

We didn’t start the fire…no seriously. B&G did.

The college is pretty militant about fire safety—for a good reason. Virtually every building on campus has burned to the ground at least once.

1.) Which building above did B&G burn down, and which burned as the result of student arson?

2.) How, specifically, did B&G burn the house down?

3.) How, specifically, did the student burn the house down?

4.) Where were they located?
As a fun side note, B&G also accidentally demolished a work of art on campus.

5.) What was the work?

6.) Where was it?

7.) Who was it by?

8.) What did they think it was?

Speaking of fires, did you know that West College—beloved 1793 West—burned to the ground in 1951? Here’s all that was left:

9.) So, what is the oldest building on campus that hasn’t burned?

10.) When was it built?
11.) Maybe some of those charred posts from West look familiar. What other building on campus were the remains of West used to build?

On the non-ashen side of the spectrum, there’s a host of ex-college buildings hanging around town. Where are the following ex-frat’s located?

Speaking of things Williams used to own, did you know that the college used to own not one, but FOUR towns in Maine?

1.) What four towns did we own?

2.) Why god why did we own them?

3.) What did we do with them?
And speaking of buildings that got re-used, you should definitely recognize this last one:

4.) What is this building used for now?  
(Hint, the window on the upper left should give it away. Another hint: if you’re not drunk every time you pass it, you should remember it.)

Oh, because I just found this out referencing a fact for this annoying trivia bonus I promised Max I would write:

1.) Why is spring street called spring street?

2.) What is the “river” (according to the Mass. State government) at the base of Spring Street called? (NOT THE GREEN, amateurs.)

3.) And since were reminiscing about Spring Street, what building on the street proudly displayed the model of a large ship for several decades?

4.) Where is it now?

5.) What is the name of the ship?

6.) Where was it made?