

Wilson College Traditions List – a work in progress

Traditions past

Traditions present

1. All College Picnic
 - Annual Faculty-Student Softball Game, Field Hockey Game
 - Took place in spring?
2. Alumnae Council Weekend
 - Now Leadership Weekend, formerly Fall Weekend. During the 1980s this event was held along with Parents' Weekend.
3. Angel/Gremlin Christmas Tradition
 - "Gremlins" played tricks on their "Angels" and left trick gifts in their stockings.
4. Athletic Association Sports Award Banquet
5. Athletic Association Sports Day
6. Aunt Sally/Aunt Sarah Program
 - Begun in the mid-1970s and continued into the 1980s, alumnae adopted "nieces" and write to them, send them little gifts, and get to know current students. Back!
7. Big Sister/Little Sister Traditions
 - Origins in early 1900s. Big Sisters wrote to their Little Sisters over the summer and helped to prepare them for new college life.
8. *Billboard* Ball
9. Black Weekend
 - Sponsored by Wilson's Afro-American Society, included Black Arts festival, "Black Dinner," fashion show, etc.
10. Book Contest
 - Students submitted a collection of books based on one of their interests and were judged based on the depth of their reading. President Havens judged.
11. Caledonia Day/Mont Alto Day

- Fall? – All campus picnic

12. Cap and Gown Day

- Started in 1923, took place on the first Tuesday of the year and students (seniors?) wore their caps and gowns all day.

13. Cap and Gown Tradition

- Class of 1886 was the first class to wear caps and gowns for commencement

14. Charter Day

15. Christmas Pageants

16. Christmas Vespers

17. Class Day/Ivy Day (Commencement)

- Ivy was added to the commencement ceremony to honor Bacchus [1895]

18. Classical Club Annual Banquet (Roman banquet)

19. College Day

- For prospective students – a chance to visit Wilson & interact with students

20. Color Ceremony

- Began on October 10, 1905. The senior class gives the freshmen their class colors according to the “color cycle.” Seniors march from South Hall in cap and gown with candles to present the colors to the freshmen who wait by Laird Hall.

21. Convocation

- Probably started as an academic tradition sometime during the Havens’ presidency (1936-1970), prior to a formal convocation, an opening chapel service was held.

22. Daisy Chain

23. Dean’s Day

- Originally President’s Holiday

24. Dinking Ceremony

- Odds and Evens each have a different tradition of where and when they “dink” their Little Sisters. Big Sisters “dink” their Little Sisters according to the way they had been “dinked” by their Big Sisters. Photos of students wearing dinks from the 1950s and

1960s do not show anything but the dinks being worn straight & right-side. Alternative “dinking” styles must be a recent tradition.

25. Dummy Rush

- Originated 1893, rival classes played tricks on each other.

26. Fall Dance Weekend

27. Fall Play

28. Father-Daughter Softball game

- Took place in the fall

29. Flag Raising

- Started in 1920, died off and came back in 1923. Each senior took a turn raising the flag at 7:30am and lowering it at sundown.

30. Food for Finals

- Run by WCGA originated by the Franklin County Club in the 1980s.

31. Founders Day

- First celebrated on October 9, 1922 with a speech about Sarah Wilson given by Judge Gillian (distant relative of Sarah – Archives has a copy of speech) and a trip to Rocky Springs Church.

32. Freshman Stunt

- Took place in February.

33. George Washington’s Birthday/Minuet

34. Honor Principle

- Adopted at the urging of the student body in 1905.

35. *La Maison* annual dinner

- French Club

36. May Day

- First May Queen was named in 1902. The May Queen was traditionally chosen from amongst the senior class because of her beauty and grace. She is attended by representatives from each class.

- Elaborate pageants and dances were traditionally part of the May Day weekend

37. Odd/Even Rivalry

- Around since the early 1900s, esp. in sports

38. Palladium

39. Parents Weekend

- First held with that name in 1941

40. Poor Green Frosh

41. Pop Calls

42. Promenade

- First Prom was held in 1905 and started off as a one day affair. Later the event turned into a Prom Weekend.

43. Queen Bess

- Every 4 years Queen Bess joins the May Day celebration. She first appeared in 1908 and must be a red head.

44. Ring Ceremony

45. Sarah Wilson Week

- Held during the fall semester, Sarah Wilson Week encompasses a variety of traditions including: hazing, visiting Sarah Wilson's Grave, Dummy Rush, Color Wars, etc.

46. Senior Class Gift

- Presented to the president of the college at commencement.

47. Senior Night

- Happens in May

48. Senior Stunt

49. Sister Classes

- Pre-dates 1902

50. Sophomore Buddies

- Like Big Sisters, but secretive and more gag gifts.

51. Song Wars

52. Step Sings

- Held on the stairs of Thomson Hall as a way for students to practice Wilson songs. Weekly Step Sings were held in the 19??s.

53. Thanksgiving

- Religious services were held in the morning followed by a basketball (or later hockey) game, a dinner hosted by the president and his wife, and finally a play in the evening. Students did not have a Thanksgiving break until ????

54. Week of Prayer/Devotional Week

- Begun on March 2, 1921

55. White Dinner

- The first White Dinner was held on the last Saturday before Christmas vacation in [1921] and was created to raise money for home and foreign military missions. All students originally wore white dresses.