

# Building Relationships

Metapuzzle by Greg Pliska '84, with help from the whole Puzzles in Purple team

*What a year it has been! So many different ways you've celebrated the Bicentennial, building new relationships and revisiting old ones—and now it's Homecoming and you're back on campus after so long. And those puzzles! You solved all ten of them, but the metapuzzle—whatever it is—eludes you. Ten answers that seem to have nothing in common, and yet somehow you are supposed to put them in order and spell out some final answer. You've contemplated this for weeks, are you're still stuck.*

*You decide to go for a nice long walk on campus to unscramble your thoughts. Maybe seeing all your favorite old buildings will shake something loose.*



You're staying in your old dorm, with its view of the Town Hall and the mountains beyond. Named for Williams' first scholar-president, it was built as part of a project to dismantle the old fraternity system.

You head over to Schow Library, where students have spent so many hours studying. (But maybe you graduated before 2000, when this complex was finished, so you only remember this area as an open space behind the Thompson buildings.)

From here, it's a short walk to visit your friends in the BSU (in a house once lived in by athletic director Bob Peck).

You decide to visit another one of your old residential houses, a place where you spent many hours playing pool in the basement. You and your roommates were surprised to learn—between games of nine-ball—that the building was named for a former Williams President, not a former U.S. President!

Back to the center of campus, to reminisce on the old "beach" and recall that Mountain Day when you actually scaled the building behind you. Much more frivolous than the Convocation ceremony inside.

The beach reminds you of that Wednesquee Lunch you dropped in on once, and makes you wonder if they've demolished that building yet. Great to have a new Davis Center facility, but sad to see a building from 1946 go.

You really should have planned this walk more efficiently, you think as you walk back to your first room at Williams, in the Frosh Quad. Rooms were a little small, but no one could beat your short walk to Paresky (or Baxter, before that).

On the other hand, you could have been housed in the Berkshire Quad, which would have made for a much longer walk. You head that way now, to the building that once had top-floor suites known as "Crow's Nests". (And there were rumors of two-person showers!) Remember when WCFM was moved to its basement while Baxter was torn down?

You've really covered some territory today, reminiscing about all your undergraduate years. But there are a few grad students at Williams, so you decide to visit their residence near the Clark. You might even have attended some raucous frat-style parties here, back when it was still undergraduate housing. (You still know this place by its former name, even though that has recently changed.)

The puzzles are starting to make sense now, and you're one stop away from completing your journey. You head towards a building named for a compass direction, in that compass direction (and you don't plan to circumnavigate the globe to get there). Unless you're a ghost doing these puzzles, you're too young to remember when this building housed the early college's science equipment.

*As you've been walking each piece has fallen into place. You see it now! After months of solving and hours of strolling around the campus you finally understand the answer to the question we posed at the very beginning:*

**How should we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Society of Alumni?**

