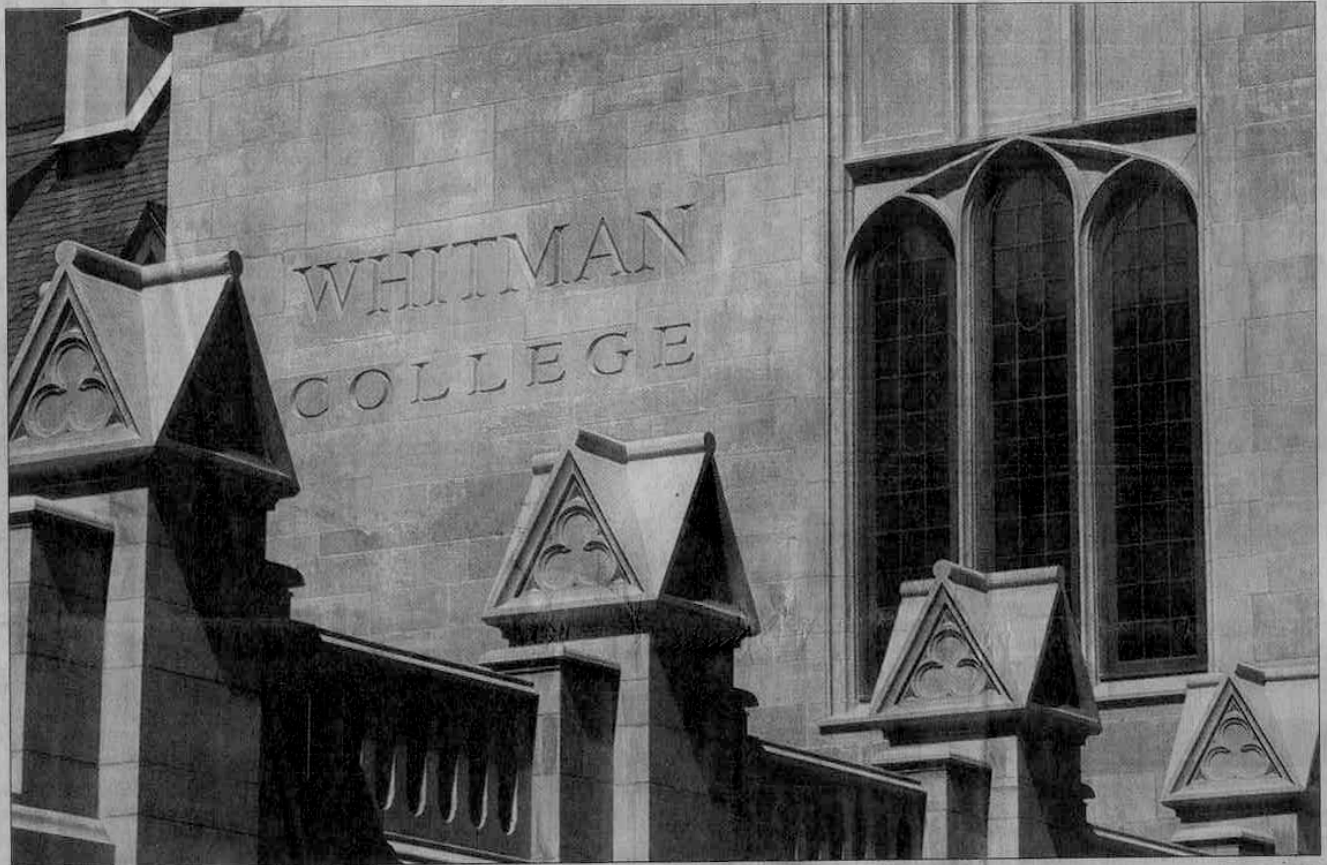


MODERN LIVING WITH OLD WORLD DESIGN

While Gothic styling is seen in the exterior of the buildings of the new Whitman College at Princeton University, the interiors have all the modern conveniences required by today's college student.



PHOTOS BY
MICHAEL MANCUSO
THE TIMES

Whitman College opens at Princeton

Dormitory complex brings larger enrollment

BY ROBERT STERN
STAFF WRITER

PRINCETON BOROUGH — Princeton University's new Whitman College looks more like a castle than a dorm, more like a den of Hogwarts-style fairy-tale magic than utilitarian residence hall.

The expansive collegiate Gothic complex includes a 100-foot-tall tower, three spacious open courtyards, connecting archways and stately walls of cut stone encasing each of the 10 buildings that make up Whitman — Princeton's sixth residential college.

The ambitious \$136 million project will house students — 510 of them — for the first time this fall, after three years of construction was wrapped up last month.

Its 250,000 square feet feature a 65-seat

cinema/performance theater, a computer-cluster library, classroom and seminar space, as well as some three- and four-room suite clusters that share a large, living-room-like common area. All told, there are 405 student dorm rooms, including 104 double-occupancy rooms.

Special accommodations include a small number of two-level dorm rooms with their own internal staircase, basically reserved for the lucky upperclassmen who win Princeton's lottery to live in them, said Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu, Whitman's dean — the administrator who oversees the college, along with its faculty master, economics professor Harvey Rosen.

Whitman features an airy gallery room [See **DORM**, Page A13]



The grand dining room has seating for more than 200 people and two smaller rooms for more intimate gatherings to accommodate the 510 students who will live in the complex.

DORM

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Princeton completes new residences

for student art and a grand dining hall for more than 200 people, with seating on bluestone floors beneath a vaulted, 35-foot ceiling.

Two smaller dining rooms off the main dining hall offer more intimate meeting and eating spaces — one set around an octagonal table beneath a chandelier.

The new residential college is named for online auction giant eBay Inc.'s President and CEO Meg Whitman and her family, who made a \$30 million gift in 2002 toward its construction. Whitman is a Princeton alumna, as is London-based architect Demetri Porphyrios, Whitman College's design architect.

The college's completion allows Princeton to expand undergraduate enrollment, which was about 4,760 last year, to about 5,200 by the fall of 2012 and to give undergraduates of all four classes as well as graduate students a greater chance to interact with each other more closely on a regular basis.

Since 1982, Princeton's five pre-Whitman residential colleges housed freshmen and sophomores, while juniors and seniors lived in upperclass dorms or apartments.

With Whitman online, the new system of three four-year and three freshman-and-sophomore-only res-



MICHAEL MACUSO/THE TIMES

Martin Stewart, a football player from Colorado and one of the first students to move into Whitman College, pauses to take in the view outside Fisher Hall.

idential colleges gives upperclassmen the added option of staying in a residential college past their sophomore year.

Most of Whitman's residents have yet to move in to their new digs, something that will happen in force this weekend.

Some — mostly athletes who had to show up to campus earlier than their classmates in preparation for the upcoming sports season — have already made themselves at home.

Martin Stewart, a Princeton

freshman football player from Colorado, is impressed.

"It's nothing like back home," said Stewart, who drew a room in Whitman as his Princeton residence by lottery — the method the university uses to make housing assignments.

Stewart said he was wowed by everything from the richly appointed dark wood floors to the location of the room.

He lucked out and drew a third-floor corner room overlooking Spelman Hall that he will share with his

roommate because it is larger than most of Whitman's single rooms.

Like all of Whitman, Stewart's room has high-speed and wireless Internet access and is equipped for cable-TV service, though the students have to pay extra if they want the latter.

The university plans to mark the opening of Whitman College with a public lecture by Porphyrios on Sept. 26, followed by a dedication ceremony for the campus community on Sept. 27.

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