

# WHITMAN

MAGAZINE

## Critical Skills

From tech to engineering, liberal arts grads bring high-demand 'soft skills' to the workplace



WINTER 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Champions for the Value of Liberal Arts

AS I APPROACH the mid-point of my fifth year as Whitman's president, I hope it has become clear to all of you that I am a passionate advocate for the liberal arts mode of education that has always been at the core of what we do at Whitman. Today, we find the liberal arts under attack from a multitude of directions, and I believe it is incumbent upon people in roles like mine to speak out — loudly and often — about the value of what we do here. What could be more important than educating the next generation of informed citizens in thinking critically; speaking and writing in an articulate fashion; discerning truth from lies and half-truths; working in teams across difference and engaging in difficult dialogues? That's what we do in the liberal arts at Whitman, regardless of what major a student chooses to pursue.

Thankfully, the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, a Vancouver, Washington-based foundation that funds nonprofit projects and programs across Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, shares this belief and earlier this year brought together leadership groups from colleges and universities they fund for a two-day conference talking about "Leading Through Change." It was a rare opportunity to have focused, data-driven conversations over an extended period with the president, provost, chief financial officer, chair of the faculty, chair of the board and vice-chair of one of our board committees all deeply engaged. It was a huge investment of time and absolutely well worth it.

The consultants for the conference pulled together an amazing collection of data about each of our institutions and created charts showing how we are doing compared to peer colleges on hundreds of measures of financial and programmatic health. The good news, which I hope won't surprise any of you, is that we compare very well with our peers. Our programs are strong, our faculty and staff are open to and willing to embrace change, and our finances have been extraordinarily well-managed for decades.

The data also helped us to understand the challenges we face, especially when it comes to the declining percentage of admitted students who accept our offers of admission and ultimately matriculate at Whitman. This is a national issue, but we recognize that we cannot simply blame the national landscape. We believe we have to do a much better job of connecting the fabulous liberal arts education our students receive in our classrooms to "life after Whitman," to the lives of meaning and purpose our students will pursue after graduation.

Research shows that employers value all of what our students learn; in fact, they value the broad skills they develop more than any particular major. But our students need to know how to share the story of what they have learned and how that experience makes them ideal candidates for jobs or graduate school. That is the goal of our Life After Whitman strategic priority. We seek to be able to guarantee every student funding for a paid internship or a paid collaborative research opportunity with a faculty member during their time at Whitman. And we will require each student to qualify for that funding by participating in co-curricular programming related to the world of work, financial literacy, and resume writing and interviewing skills. We believe this is the next critical component in demonstrating to all of our prospective students and their parents the value of a Whitman education.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Murray  
President



# WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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## CLASS NOTES

To submit, go online to [whitman.edu/classnotes](http://whitman.edu/classnotes).

## WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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## NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Whitman College has a strong commitment to the principle of nondiscrimination in all its forms. In its admission, educational and employment practices, programs and activities. Whitman College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), gender, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran's status, or any other basis prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and applicable federal, state or local laws.







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**ABOVE** Jessica Boyers '20, left, hugs a classmate during a session of the sociology class she helped create with Professor Michelle Janning. Photo by Rebecca Devereaux.

**COVER** Kieran Lensen '20 and KC Cook '20 are finishing their engineering degrees at Washington University in St. Louis through the Whitman College 3-2 Engineering program. Photo by Whitney Curtis.



LIBRARY

## Penrose Library Welcomes Collection of Artists' Books

PETER NEWLAND '67 and Robyn Johnson have shared their love of artists' books for nearly 25 years. Now, they are sharing that love — as well as their collection of around 100 of the handcrafted works of art — with the Whitman College community.

In October, Penrose Library accepted the first of an ongoing donation of artists' books from the couple. The Newland-Johnson Book Arts Collection is housed in the Whitman College Northwest Archives, but its use as an academic tool spans the campus.

"We're lucky. Being in a rural location and a small town, we don't have big museums, so having an incredible collection like this come to us is pretty special," said Associate Professor Nicole Pietrantonio, who teaches book arts and printmaking in the Art Department.

Interest in artists' books isn't limited to art students, either. Pietrantonio's book arts classes are composed of students from majors across campus. That's one of the things about the books that also appeals to Johnson and Newland.

"They cross all disciplines," Newland said about artists' books. "There's no major at Whitman College for which there aren't artists' books that could appeal to those students as an idea of how they might want to express their own inquiries."

An artists' book is an art form that is often



Peter Newland '67, center, and his wife, Robyn Johnson, right, talk with Antonia Keithahn, assistant director of Disability Support Services, about their donation of artists' books during an open house in the Penrose Library.

forgotten, Pietrantonio said, but one that has a powerful history and a growing presence in modern art. The books often challenge the definition of what a "book" is, but they tell stories while playing with form, texture, text and materials. The books are meant to be held and opened and turned as well as read.

Whitman's book arts program began with Keiko Hara, who taught at Whitman from 1985 to 2006. That history and the continued commitment to teaching book arts was one of the reasons Newland and Johnson chose Whitman as the recipient of their collection.

"We visited Nicole's classes and observed the enthusiasm of the students as they saw the possibilities for their own creativity," Newland said. "We like Whitman's approach to the open archives, and how classes are encouraged to come in and handle them."

The college had about 100 artists' books in its collection already, said Ben Murphy, archivist and head of digital services at Whitman, including a few created by Newland. While the final total

of the donation won't be known until it has been completed (and Newland and Johnson have said they will likely continue to acquire books for their collection that will eventually end up at Whitman), the initial donation includes about 40 works.

"I think it is exciting. This size of a gift makes a bigger impact here than it would to a larger institution that already has a well-developed book arts program," Murphy said. "For us, it's really an impact in the amount that it enables us to grow these collections."

In addition to the donation of books, which will be spaced out over several years, Newland and Johnson also have created an endowment to support acquiring additional works, hosting events, and preserving and storing the collection. In addition, both the Northwest Archives and Department of Art are investing in intentionally acquiring more artists' books, particularly those that deal with the environment, books in Spanish or by Latinx artists, as well as other works created by regional artists.



## RESEARCH

# Mayo Clinic Partnership Guarantees Research Spots for Whitman Students

THIS SUMMER, Whitman College students have new access to biomedical research opportunities with the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Under a new Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) partnership, Mayo will hold two spots for current Whitman students to participate in research at one of three research centers in Arizona, Florida or Minnesota.

The strategic partnership is the result of collaborative work between Assistant Professor Michael Coronado and DeLisa Fairweather '87, who serves as director of Translational Cardiovascular Research at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. Whitman College is the fourth institution to create a SURF partnership with Mayo.

"When I first got here, one of my goals was to create research opportunities for undergrads," said Coronado, who joined Whitman's faculty in 2017 and teaches biology. "Mayo recognizes the need to create exceptional research opportunities for undergraduate students and Whitman College values research as a critical component of the Whitman experience. This collaboration could not be more perfect."

The partnership follows the model of Mayo's

existing SURF program, a highly competitive summer research fellowship. Each year, more than 1,300 students from around the country apply for the fellowship, and 150 receive it. The partnership allows a panel of Whitman science faculty to select the student researchers through an internal application process. The students then join the existing SURF program at Mayo Clinic.

The successful students will each receive a \$6,000 stipend to cover travel and room and board for the summer experience. The funds are being provided by the college's Doctors Robert F. and Elizabeth M. Welty Student/Faculty Research Endowment.

The SURF program provides an in-depth research experience in the biomedical field and prepares the students to continue their research in a doctoral program.

"The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship allows students to experience research firsthand in an active research environment," Fairweather said. "The focus of the majority of labs at Mayo Clinic are translational — that is, the research is based on a clinical need and research is aimed at developing new ways to diagnose or treat patients."

The partnership builds on existing opportunities the college provides for students. For the past decade, the college has partnered with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington, on a Summer Undergraduate Research Program. Now with Mayo, Whitman students have guaranteed research opportunities at two major scientific research institutions.

"It's really special that we have these research opportunities here," Coronado said. "I want to create the same reputation for the Mayo Clinic program that we have with Fred Hutch. I want to get as many people as possible to know about the program and experience impactful scientific research."

Applications for the first cohort of students were due this month, and the first two Whitman-Mayo Clinic research fellows will be announced later this spring.



Michael Coronado

## COMMUNITY

# Book Chronicles Regional, Baker Family History

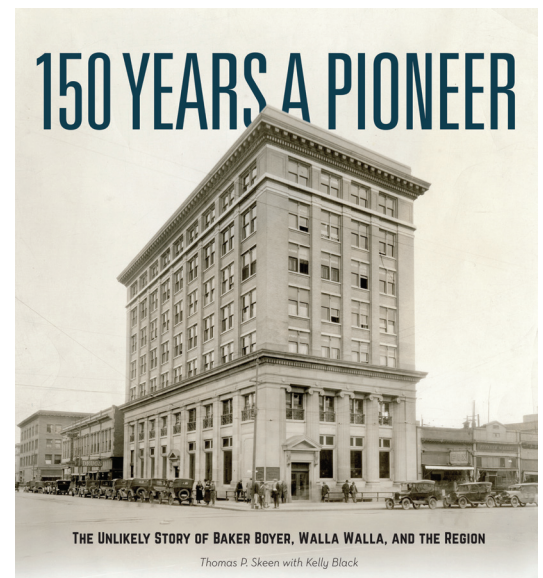
THIS FALL, Baker Boyer Bank in Walla Walla celebrated its 150th anniversary with the release of "150 Years a Pioneer: The Unlikely Story of Baker Boyer, Walla Walla, and the Region."

The book celebrates the long history of the Baker family collaborating with the community to create growth and vitality. That spirit of collaboration has deep ties to Whitman College. It was Dorsey S. Baker's donation of land that served as the footprint for Whitman Seminary, which opened its doors in 1866.

In 1883, the school received its four-year charter as Whitman College. Since, at least 32 of

Baker's descendants have attended Whitman, and 23 have served as faculty members, in administrative roles, as trustees or in other oversight positions. In 2004, the college named the fitness center the Baker Ferguson Fitness Center after Baker Ferguson '39, a former faculty and board member. Other family milestones with Whitman include Henrietta Baker Kennedy, who was the first woman to earn a degree in mathematics from Whitman in 1914.

Learn more at [www.bakerboyer.com/150book](http://www.bakerboyer.com/150book). Turn to the back cover to see more about how Baker Boyer Bank continues to impact students at Whitman.





Community Consulting Specialist Shelly Rasmussen, left, and Becky Turner, executive director of The STAR Project, talk with students during a luncheon for the Whitman Student Consulting Corps.

REBECCA DEVEREAUX

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT CENTER

# New Consulting Corps Benefits Both Nonprofits and Students

NONPROFITS IN THE WALLA WALLA Valley have a new resource for creating a healthy, thriving organization: The Whitman Student Consulting Corps.

Funded by a \$231,000 Core Grant from the Sherwood Trust, the Consulting Corps is a three-year pilot program that brings benefits to both area nonprofits and Whitman students, said Shelly Rasmussen, the community consulting specialist in the Student Engagement Center (SEC) who oversees the corps and the seven students working for it this year.

“The basic goal of the corps is to provide high-level, really broad-based management consulting to nonprofit organizations in the Walla Walla area,” she said. For the first year, the goal was to partner with five nonprofits, increasing to 10 for years two and three. This year, they exceeded their goal, ending up with seven partners,

which provide services from health care to addiction recovery to arts to education.

Each nonprofit is paired with a student, who works with it and Rasmussen to lead a self-assessment conversation. After completing the self-assessment, the student works on crafting a proposal that helps the nonprofit prioritize the areas it needs to focus on to maintain a healthy organization.

It’s a process all nonprofits can benefit from, said Becky Turner, executive director of The STAR Project in Walla Walla, which was one of the first groups to sign on with the Consulting Corps. STAR assists people with felony convictions as they work to successfully reintegrate with society after being released from prison.

This year, STAR is conducting work on its strategic plan, so the opportunity to participate in the Consulting Corps was particularly appealing, Turner said. It will

also allow Turner to better understand the needs and priorities of her staff.

“I want to know what is the most important thing to focus on. What’s the second most important thing?” she said. “What I think, and what my staff thinks, it’s not always the same thing. Staff members are generally working on the line item things, day-to-day operations. This is an opportunity for us to figure out where we’re thinking the same, where we’re thinking differently, and ultimately, how to position the organization for success in the coming years.”

While the corps’ main mission is to strengthen nonprofits in the Walla Walla Valley, the experience also brings plenty of value to the students participating. Consulting is an increasingly interesting career field for students, Rasmussen said, and liberal arts students are well prepared to enter it.

“I believe that liberal arts education reinforces a wonderful set of skills, such as critical thinking and understanding the intersectionality of a lot of different ideas and disciplines,” Rasmussen said. “A lot of students in different majors are thinking about consulting. I think an art history major could be a great consultant. A math major can be an incredible consultant. This gives students the opportunity to understand and work on consulting projects and have that firsthand knowledge.”



## INTRODUCTIONS

# Whitman Welcomes New Vice President for Development

ON NOV. 1, Whitman College welcomed Steve Setchell as the new vice president for development and alumni relations. Setchell succeeds John Bogley '85, who served the college for more than 25 years.

Before coming to Whitman, Setchell served as the vice president for development and alumni engagement at DePauw University in Indiana. He holds a seat on the President's Cabinet and is responsible for oversight of all fundraising and alumni engagement efforts at Whitman. Development and Alumni Relations includes a team of 33 employees.

"Steve impressed me with his history of success as a fundraiser and his nuanced understanding of the fundraising process," said President Kathleen Murray. "But more than that, his ability to build relationships and his genuine interest in Whitman and the broader Walla Walla community set him apart. I look forward to the innovative strategies he will bring to Whitman in the coming years and to our work together."

Setchell held various positions at DePauw University over the past 23 years, serving as the vice president for the past two years. During that time he led the university through the final 19 months of a development campaign that totaled \$383 million in gifts and new commitments.

"During my visit to Whitman, I was impressed by an exceptional academic tradition of talented faculty and students, the thoughtful and visionary leadership of President Murray and the Board of Trustees, strong cabinet and development and alumni relations teams, loyal alumni and friends, a vital commitment to student access and equity, decades of prudent financial management, and a beautiful campus and vibrant downtown at the doorstep to the Blue Mountains," Setchell said.



Steve Setchell

## FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

### FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

The Whitman College faculty has approved a new first-year curriculum, which will replace the existing Encounters program. Like Encounters and Core previously, the curriculum will focus on acclimating students to academic expectations at Whitman. In Fall 2020, students will enter learning communities, taught by groups of faculty members, focused on a common topic. Students will transition in the spring to seminars taught by individual faculty members who will create courses that emerge from their area of expertise. The yearlong experience will focus on learning goals that emphasize exploration and argumentation through reading, writing and oral communication.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Assistant Professor of Politics Jack Jackson** has authored "Law Without Future: Anti-Constitutional Politics and the American Right," published by Penn Press in 2019.

**Assistant Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology Brit Moss and Hannah Klaeser '17** co-authored a peer-reviewed article, which published in September in the journal *Plant Direct*. Moss and Klaeser, a biology major, worked on a team with plant biologists and software engineers at the University of Washington and Virginia Tech

to develop and pilot a new web-based tool that enables exploration of genetic diversity within the plant genus *Arabidopsis*, which is found all over the globe and widely used in plant biology research.

With a group of colleagues, **Erin Pahlke, associate professor of psychology**, recently co-authored the paper "Toward a Developmental Science of Politics" in the *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*. The piece reports the results of a multisite interview study of children's political knowledge and attitudes before and after the 2016 election.

**Assistant Professor of Religion Lauren Osborne** published a peer-reviewed article in the journal *Religion Compass*, "Feeling the words: Sayyid Qutb's affective engagement with the Qur'an in *Al-Taswir al-Fanni fi al-Qur'an*." In the article, Osborne considers Qutb's 1945 literary-aesthetic work on the Qur'an, in which he presents a comprehensive theory of Qur'anic style called "artistic imagery" (*al-taswir al-fanni*).

**Associate Professor of Japanese Yukiko Shigeto** published an article on post-3/11 (Japan's triple disaster) fiction titled, "Fidelity to the Dead: the Question of Complicity

in *Tsushima Yuko's Wildcat Dome*," in *Japan Forum*, the journal of the British Association for Japanese Studies based in SOAS University of London.

### AWARDS

**Politics Professor Aaron Bobrow-Strain** was nominated for the 2019 Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize in nonfiction for his recent book, "The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story." Nominations for the 2019 prize were made by librarians throughout the Brooklyn Public Library's 59 branches.

### INTRODUCTIONS

In September, Whitman College welcomed **Laura Sanchez** as director of the Intercultural Center. Sanchez has a master's degree in organizational communication from Eastern Washington University, and bachelor's degrees in sociology and broadcast journalism from Central Washington University.

### CORRECTION

**Xiaobo Yuan** joined the faculty as an assistant professor of anthropology and religion this fall. Her areas of research include global Christianities, religious minorities, post-Socialism, urbanization and development zones in East Asia, China and the Chinese diaspora, and China/Global South encounters. Yuan was misgendered in the fall issue of *Whitman Magazine*.



# Orchestrating Knowledge

MUSIC AND HISTORY BLEND TOGETHER  
FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PAUL LUONGO

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BY TARA ROBERTS

ONE YEAR, THE LEAD violinist in the Whitman Orchestra might be a music performance major preparing to compete for a place in a major conservatory. The next year, it might be a student majoring in English literature, biology or anthropology.

To orchestra conductor Paul Luongo, it makes no difference what his students study, as long as they love the music — and he appreciates how Whitman’s liberal arts

model allows this intermingling to happen.

“Once you get into orchestra rehearsal, the rest of the world melts away for an hour and a half,” Luongo said. “It’s just musicians making music, and it’s a pretty cool atmosphere to have these bright, inquisitive students who intersect in that way.”

Luongo, an associate professor of music and Paul Garrett Fellow, came to Whitman in 2012. After studying orchestral conducting and musicology at Florida State University, he was looking for a college that would allow him to continue both conducting orchestras and research. Once again, Whitman hit the sweet note.

“At a liberal arts college, I get the opportunity to do both — to pursue two passions that complement and inform each other,” he said.

Luongo loves the multi-semester, multi-year investment he can make in students through the orchestra. He enjoys guiding them as they prepare to perform, starting from the initial rehearsal of a new piece.

“It’s this question of how you get these 50 people with different ideas — different backgrounds, different commitment levels because of their schedules, different





Associate Professor and Paul Garrett Fellow Paul Luongo directs orchestra students during a rehearsal in Cordiner Hall in 2017.

experiences — to unify their vision and to arrive at this end goal,” he said. “That puzzle is scary, but tantalizing.”

Then comes the moment a piece comes together, and the performers and their director lose themselves in the music.

“Music is a temporal art. If you think about Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, it never exists at any one moment. It’s not like a painting where you hold it up and you say, ‘It’s here.’ If you’re in one moment of a musical work, the prior moment is gone and will never be there again. And the moment about to happen doesn’t yet exist,” he said. “This makes for an amazing experience when you’re really in it, because you’re just in that moment of music.”

Helping an orchestra of collegiate musicians reach this point is challenging but rewarding. Luongo loves pushing students beyond what they realized they could achieve.

“If you can ignite this passion, they surprise themselves,” he said.

Luongo finds different challenges in the classroom, where he is among Whitman’s music history faculty members. His goal in these courses is not only to give music majors the historical foundation they need, but also to excite non-majors and help them see how their fields intersect with music.

His research blends his experiences directing orchestras and teaching music history.

**“Once you get into orchestra rehearsal, the rest of the world melts away for an hour and a half. ... It’s a pretty cool atmosphere to have these bright, inquisitive students who intersect in that way.”**

PAUL LUONGO – associate professor of music

He recently concluded a project studying Theodore Thomas, the founding director of the Chicago Symphony. Luongo examined the performance choices Thomas made as the symphony toured the United States in the 19th century, before orchestras were commonplace in much of the country.

Now he’s beginning an analysis of major textbooks often used in collegiate music history classrooms and the role they have played in constructing conceptions of the musical canon over the past 50 years.

“I think one of the greatest challenges we’re facing as a musicological community is, decades ago, the musical canon was nice, neat, contrived and very narrow. It was also certainly very white and very male,” he said. “More recently there’s been an effort to broaden this canon and look to composers who might not look like or have the same background as the previous group, creating what are sometimes called counter canons.”

The question, then, is how textbook

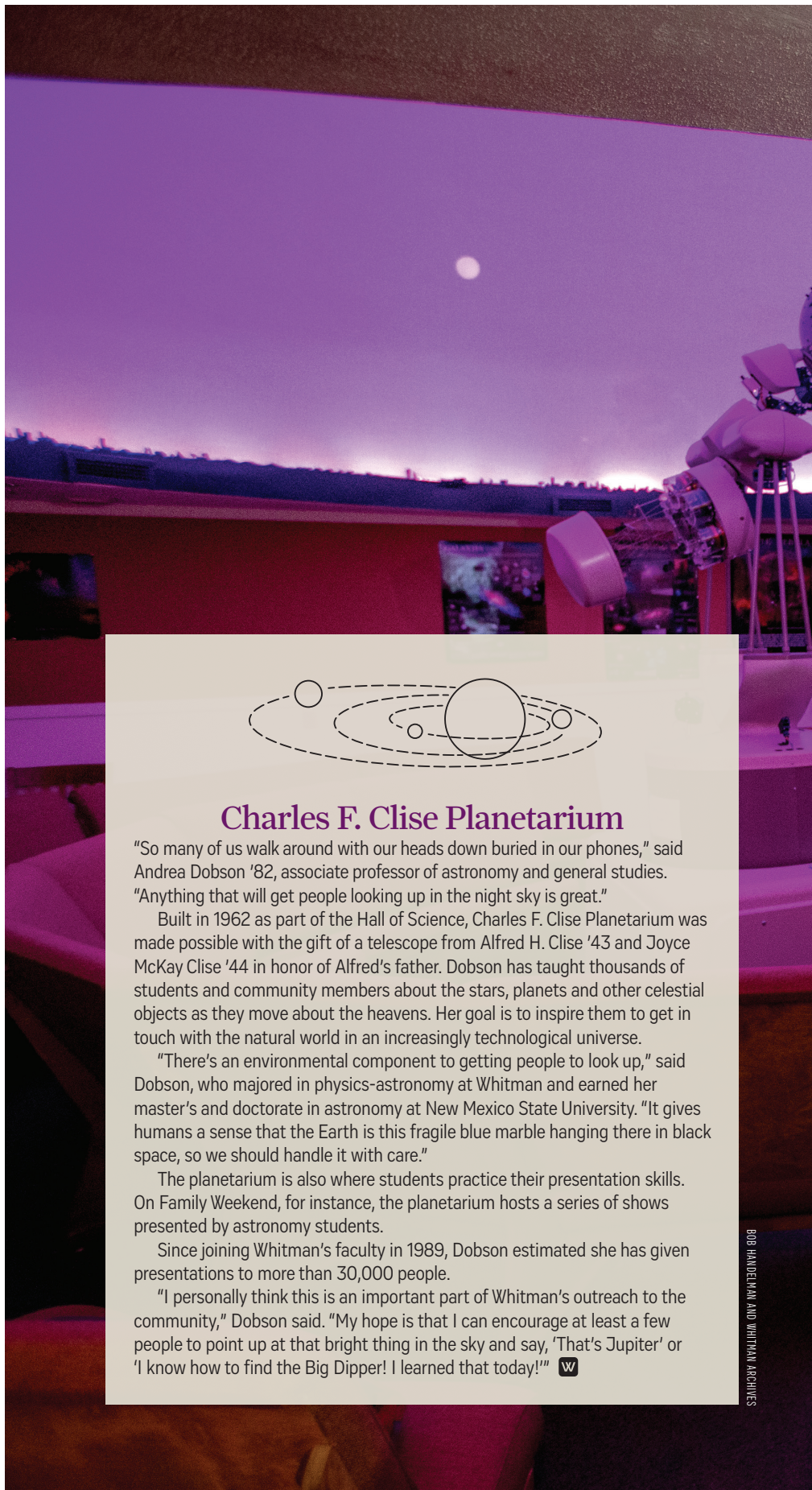
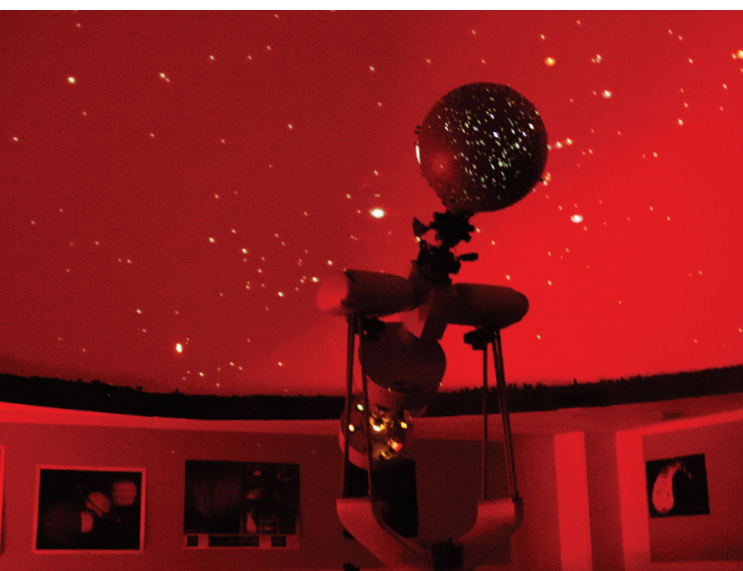
publishers responded to these counter canons. Luongo’s early research indicates they decided to include old and new.

“They’re then handing the professor massive sweeping texts along with the difficult decision of choosing to artificially chop up the text to try to create a palatable experience; in this way publishers sidestep these difficult decisions,” he said.

Luongo’s passion for music history often leads him to reflect on the place of his orchestra in history, too. Whitman has a 121-year tradition of orchestral activity.

“When thinking about playing Beethoven’s Fifth or Barber’s ‘Adagio for Strings,’ it’s not just my group approaching this music, and it’s not just my group approaching this piece that has been played by other orchestras. It’s my group approaching this piece that has been played by other Whitman students at other times,” he said. “I think it’s something that roots our student experience in the long Whitman history.” **W**





### Charles F. Clise Planetarium

"So many of us walk around with our heads down buried in our phones," said Andrea Dobson '82, associate professor of astronomy and general studies. "Anything that will get people looking up in the night sky is great."

Built in 1962 as part of the Hall of Science, Charles F. Clise Planetarium was made possible with the gift of a telescope from Alfred H. Clise '43 and Joyce McKay Clise '44 in honor of Alfred's father. Dobson has taught thousands of students and community members about the stars, planets and other celestial objects as they move about the heavens. Her goal is to inspire them to get in touch with the natural world in an increasingly technological universe.

"There's an environmental component to getting people to look up," said Dobson, who majored in physics-astronomy at Whitman and earned her master's and doctorate in astronomy at New Mexico State University. "It gives humans a sense that the Earth is this fragile blue marble hanging there in black space, so we should handle it with care."

The planetarium is also where students practice their presentation skills. On Family Weekend, for instance, the planetarium hosts a series of shows presented by astronomy students.

Since joining Whitman's faculty in 1989, Dobson estimated she has given presentations to more than 30,000 people.

"I personally think this is an important part of Whitman's outreach to the community," Dobson said. "My hope is that I can encourage at least a few people to point up at that bright thing in the sky and say, 'That's Jupiter' or 'I know how to find the Big Dipper! I learned that today!'" **W**

BOB HANDELMAN AND WHITMAN ARCHIVES







# Making the World Better

JORDON CRAWFORD '21  
PASSIONATELY  
GIVES BACK TO HIS  
COMMUNITY AND  
FELLOW STUDENTS

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BY SAVANNAH TRANCHELL





WHEN HE WAS GROWING up in Jamaica, Jordon Crawford '21 was taught a simple lesson: Make the world better.

And that's just what he's trying to do at Whitman College.

"I was always drilled, 'Each one helps one.' You always make things better than you found it," said the junior race and ethnic studies and politics double major. "I decided to change things for the better in any way, shape or form that I could."

Since coming to Whitman as a Davis United World College (UWC) Scholar in 2017, Crawford has partnered with others to improve the experience for international and underrepresented students, particularly other men of color.

"The concept of 'race' was foreign to me before coming to the U.S.," said Crawford, who grew up in a predominantly black country, and then had attended a UWC international school in Germany. But after arriving in Walla Walla, he was in the minority. The experience influenced his decision to study race and ethnic studies and politics, with the hopes of going into law.

"I went from being Jordon, the black man, to the black man who is Jordon," he said. "I became very intrigued about the role

encouraged him to honor that commitment.

Then he landed in Pasco, Washington.

"I panicked. Driving in — seeing nothing but the sweltering August heat, nothing but wheat fields and brown — it was weird," he said. "I got here, and I was one of the only people who looked like me at the time. It was this question of where do I fit in? Where does my Jamaican-ness fit in? Where are my talents best used? What's my community?"

Crawford admitted he considered transferring, but instead remembered what his family taught him, and committed to helping Whitman become a place that can be home for students like him.

"When I saw other black men on campus, I didn't know them. That felt weird," he said. "What I realized was there wasn't a space for men of color to come together in fellowship and talk and demand things from Whitman, and hold institutions accountable."

In 2018, Crawford and Segun Sodipo '18, Asare Buahin '20, Fathi Assegaf '18, Kalilou Ali Kadiri '22, and Bornnie Kabongo '22 created the Men of Color Association, or MOCA. The group brings men of color together weekly to build relationships and talk about what they are facing.

## **"What I realized was there wasn't a space for men of color to come together in fellowship and talk and demand things from Whitman, and hold institutions accountable."**

JORDON CRAWFORD '21, race and ethnic studies and politics

and importance of race in social settings. The race and ethnic studies courses really gave me the tools and the vocabulary to interact with those structures."

Crawford came to Whitman a little bit by accident. Whitman has a partnership with the Davis UWC Scholars Program, which runs 18 schools on five continents. UWC Scholars earn an international baccalaureate, and then receive financial support to continue their studies at a U.S. partner school. Crawford looked at Whitman because of the partnership, but didn't realize that Washington was its own state. The budding lawyer thought he was coming to study in the nation's capital. When he realized his error, it was too late — he'd submitted his application Early Decision, and his college counselor

"We talk about things like sports, or police brutality, or power and privilege, or interracial relationships," he said. The group also started the Barbershop Project.

"Black hair is a big part of black culture, but in Walla Walla, finding people who can cater to that need is rare," Crawford said. MOCA partnered with three local barbers, who agreed to come cut hair on campus for free. Donations during the event were given to the Walla Walla Music Foundation, which supports at-risk youth with after-school music programs. This year, the project will support Friends of Children of Walla Walla, a resilience-based child mentoring group.

MOCA isn't the only way he's giving back at Whitman. This year, Crawford is the executive chair for the Power and Privilege Symposium, the college's annual daylong



GREG LEHMAN

**Left: Jordon Crawford '21 listens to discussion during a meeting of Whitman's Men of Color Association.**

**Above: Crawford greets incoming students and their families during move-in last August.**

examination of social issues and structures. Crawford is working to make Power and Privilege more inclusive by encouraging majority group students to participate.

"In years past, Power and Privilege has been seen exclusively as something for people of color. But racism isn't going to be stopped by people of color," Crawford said. "We need white students to stop racism. We need men to solve the patriarchy. We need cisgendered folk to solve transphobia."

Crawford is also a member of the college's Debate Team, participates in orientation and has served as a tour guide for the Admission Office.

"I have seen Jordon in these last three years grow and transform in ways that are almost unprecedented. From a UWC graduate who was not sure whether Whitman was in Washington state or D.C., and wondered whether this was a place he could belong and thrive, to a prominent presence on campus," said Kazi Joshua, vice president for student affairs and dean of students. "As a man of color on Whitman's campus, when Jordon saw that there was no group dedicated to their thriving, he founded one. That in a nutshell is Jordon: He identifies issues, analyzes them, creates a plan, involves others and tries to solve the situation. He is a born leader, gifted and intellectually brilliant." **W**









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# Creating Community

**Jessica Boyers '20 and Professor Michelle Janning co-create sociology course to build bridges between Whitman students and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities**

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BY PAM MOORE

PHOTOS BY REBECCA DEVEREAUX

**T**hough books and lectures are the foundations of traditional academic learning, some lessons require hands-on experience.

Jessica Boyers '20 and Professor Michelle Janning are creating an opportunity for Whitman students and local young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to take advantage of all of the above. With lessons from the instructors — and from each other — they'll learn what it means to be an inclusive community.

**Jessica Boyers '20 participates in a discussion during the sociology course she helped create with funding from the Ben Rabinowitz Award.**

Growing up in Davis, California, with her parents and her older sister, Boyers was always active, playing multiple sports and working part-time.

"I've always loved being around people," said Boyers, who is majoring in chemistry.

Meanwhile, she noticed a family member with disabilities was often excluded from social gatherings and struggled to find a sense of belonging. This made Boyers acutely aware of how fortunate she was.

It also inspired her to be a change agent.

"I wanted to invest my time in making sure that people feel included," she said. As a first-year student, Boyers joined the Buddy Program, a student-led initiative through the Student Engagement Center (SEC) that gives Whitman students and Walla Walla adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities the chance to forge friendships through social and recreational activities. She interned at the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network this summer and now serves as the Buddy Program coordinator.





Boyers dreamed of having a course that would give Whitman students and members of the disability community an opportunity to explore issues of community, ability and inclusion in an academic setting.

“Whitman focuses so much on diversity,” she said, citing the college’s commitment to racial and socioeconomic diversity. “But there’s this whole population we don’t think of as often.”

Boyers found a mechanism to make

the course a reality through the Ben Rabinowitz Award, which is run through the SEC. Given in honor of former Whitman College President Tom Cronin, the award offers financial support to students seeking to create programs or learning initiatives that promote compassion in medicine or politics and enrich the Whitman community. Today, the SEC supports several student-led initiatives that were brought to life by Rabinowitz

recipients, including the Buddy Program.

When she applied for the award, teaming up with the local disability community was Boyers’ top priority.

“Community means everything to me,” she said. “The whole goal of school is working with other people and learning and listening and having open perspectives.”

Thanks to programs run by the SEC — including the Rabinowitz award, Whitman Internship Grant program,





“ I’d like for all people to feel that they’re valued for who they are without judgment.”

Jessica Boyers '20

Boyers’ motivation to apply for the Ben Rabinowitz Award was simple: “I’d like for all people to feel that they’re valued for who they are without judgment.”

Other Rabinowitz awardees shared similar goals and worked with the SEC to accomplish them. Freedom Songs, an annual community-focused concert featuring performances by artists of color, encourages attendees to rethink the messages behind the music.

“The goal of Freedom Songs is to have listeners develop empathy and compassion,” Leavitt said.

Leavitt remembered seeing Boyers’ application and thinking, “Oh my gosh, it’s like the ‘Generation Two’ of the Buddy Program.”

He loved that her proposal built on the work of previous Rabinowitz awards.

“This was something that had been made possible through Rabinowitz funding and going further with it in a way that wasn’t possible when the Buddy Program had been created,” Leavitt said.

During the application process, Boyers sought out sociology Professor Michelle Janning to teach the course. Janning remembered Boyers walking into her office and explaining her idea: She envisioned Whitman students learning about community and inclusion alongside members of the Walla Walla disability community. But she needed help putting it in the context of an academic class. They started brainstorming.

“My first thought is usually ‘Let me see if I have time,’ but for some reason,

this topic, this idea was just always ‘Yes,’” Janning said.

Their initial meeting would be the foundation for a special topics sociology course titled “Defining Ability and Developing Community,” which was offered for the first time this fall. Supported by the Ben Rabinowitz Award and funding Janning secured through the college’s Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant, the course lets Whitman students and Walla Walla Valley young adults, including those who are on the autism spectrum, have Down syndrome and/or carry a diagnosis of anxiety, study community, inclusion and ability using a sociological lens — together.

While Boyers brought her own ideas about topics she wanted to cover, Janning worked with her to frame it as a sociology class.

“And by that I mean it’s not a class on what does it mean to have autism or to have a visual impairment,” said Janning. “It’s a class about how we socially define what ability is and how there are ways in which our definitions either enhance or inhibit the development of community.”

Already familiar with many Buddy Program participants, Boyers hoped to include those not already involved in the Whitman community in order to reach people who lacked opportunities to participate socially. To help them target young adults in the community who would benefit from the class, Janning and Boyers enlisted Cyndy Knight, director of the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network.

Community Fellows, and numerous student-led volunteer opportunities — students have the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with myriad Walla Walla community partners.

“The SEC helps students like Jess take their energy and knowledge and turn that into something that lets them contribute and learn, make connections with people, develop compassion and develop professional chops,” SEC Director Noah Leavitt said.



Right: Students enrolled in the sociology course SOC 294: Defining Ability and Developing Community give each other a fist-bump during class in October.

Below: Sociology Professor Michelle Janning talks with the class in October.



“ Rather than an approach of ‘I’m here to serve you,’ Whitman students are amazing at cultivating an attitude of ‘I’m here to learn from you.’ ”

Cyndy Knight, director of the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network

When they presented their idea to Knight, she said yes immediately. “We were super excited,” Knight said. The Disability Network works with more than 400 families, and Knight knew identifying just eight students to participate would be difficult. To help, she introduced Janning and Boyers to Jacob Butenhoff, who teaches in Walla Walla High School’s STEP program (Students Transitioning into Employment Possibilities). Designed for

students ages 18-21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities, STEP helps young adults develop vocational skills, participate in community activities, access transportation, and enrich their social skills through classroom and community participation. With Butenhoff on board, “it became a partnership of four,” Knight explained. Janning served as the faculty instructor, while Knight, Butenhoff and Boyers co-facilitated this fall’s course. The class illuminates the everyday

lived experiences of people with disabilities. Through discussions, field trips to workplaces and homes of Walla Walla residents with disabilities, guest speakers, collaborative learning and projects, students gain an understanding of how community, citizenship and ability come to be collectively defined. The students may be learning more from each other than they are from Boyers and her team. “Rather than an approach of ‘I’m here






to serve you,' Whitman students are amazing at cultivating an attitude of 'I'm here to learn from you,' Knight said.

Meanwhile, the STEP students' perspectives are expanding, too. Knight said simply stepping onto Whitman's campus and seeing themselves as "a college kid" opens their minds to new possibilities.

"We have planted the idea that students with intellectual and developmental disabilities can attend higher education," she said.

Meanwhile, through weekly classes, Boyers hopes participants create meaningful connections. Those connections lay the groundwork for the kinds of conversations that lead to the community-building that's at the heart of both the Ben Rabinowitz Award and the SEC.

"It seems to me that disability is almost a taboo-type subject," Boyers said. "Discussion is valuable and allows for growth as we strive to create an inclusive society." 

# Enduring Outcomes

Since the Ben Rabinowitz Award was created, several of the programs funded by the grant have turned into permanent programs or clubs at Whitman College. Among them are:

**The Buddy Program:** Established in 2011 by Michaela Lambert '14, and still going strong today, the Buddy Program stemmed from Lambert's desire to address the lack of support for adults with intellectual and development disabilities in the community. The program facilitates opportunities for friendship and to build community between Whitman students and community members.

**Glean Team:** Samuel Curtis '16 founded the Glean Team with his Rabinowitz award. The group is now an Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) sponsored student organization that works to raise awareness around issues of food insecurity in the Walla Walla Valley. It harvests and donates fresh produce to the Blue Mountain Action Council.

**Freedom Songs:** In 2016, Joel Ponce '16 and Jess Faut '17 brought Freedom Songs to Walla Walla. The concert invites Whitman students and Walla Walla Valley residents to share in the experience of listening to and thinking critically about the messages around race, privilege and oppression. The event is accompanied by the Freedom Zine, which showcases art and writing by students of color.

**stART:** Ali Holmes '16 launched stART in 2015 with her Rabinowitz grant to increase access to arts education around Walla Walla. Now an ASWC-sponsored student organization, the group teaches Whitman students to create lesson plans in visual arts, music or theater and then teach them in area schools.



Esther Ra '19, right, reads a poem while Dorothy Mukasa '19 sings along in a hybrid duet performance during a Freedom Songs event in 2018.

LEO CORRALES '21



# Tech Ready

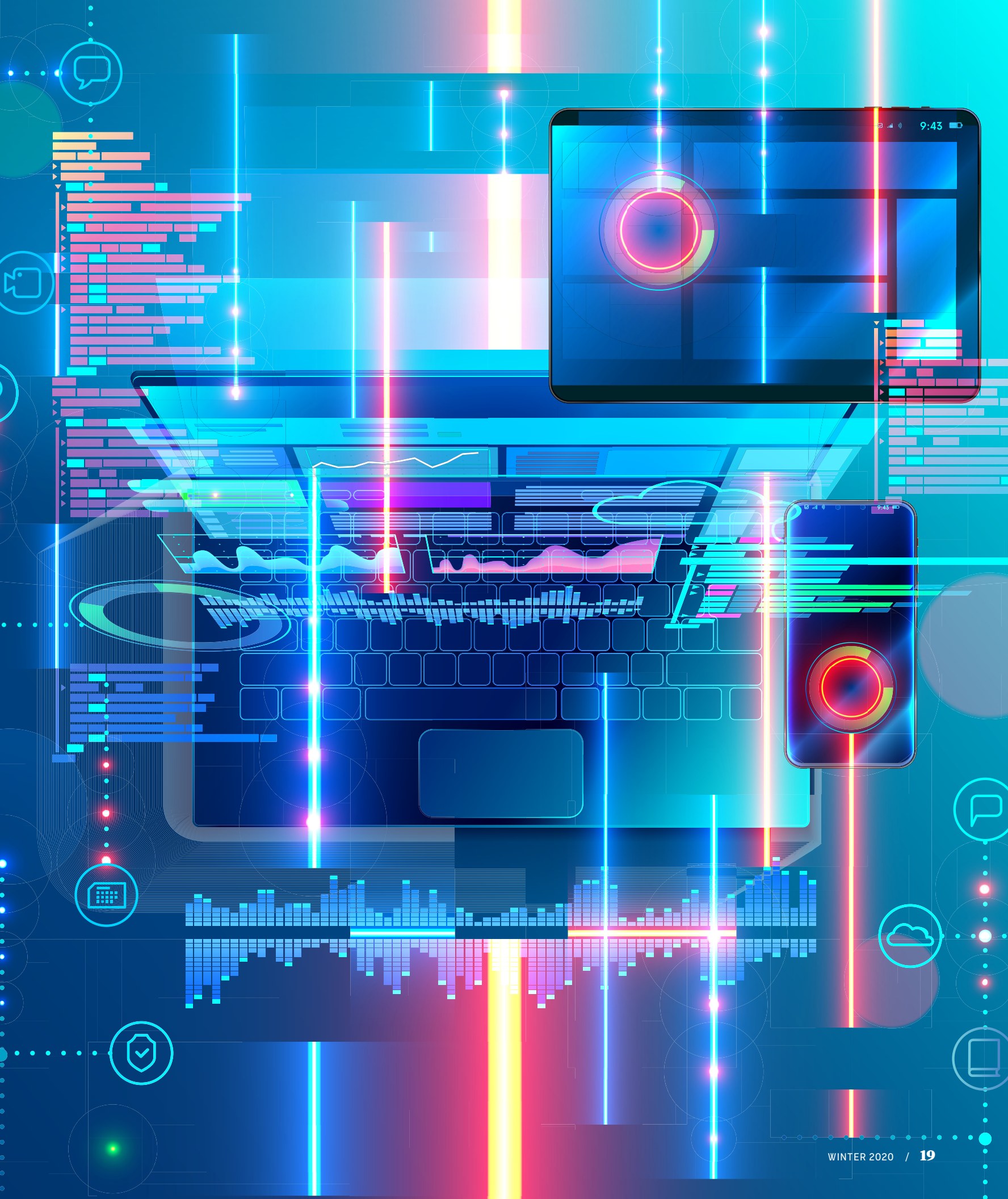


Alumni prove a liberal arts education is more than relevant in today's technology-driven economy

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BY STACIE JONES







Technical skills are increasingly important in this digital age, but that doesn't mean the skills emphasized in a liberal arts education — often considered “soft skills” — are any less valuable.

The high-tech industry has long valued the versatile, creative mindset and soft skills that are hardwired in those who study in the liberal arts tradition.

However, the national conversation in recent years surrounding the benefits of a technical education versus a liberal arts education may lead some to think otherwise. Today's technological advancements and increasingly competitive global economy demand a technically trained workforce. This growing focus on technical education presents the question: Is a liberal arts education still relevant in today's technology-driven economy?

Absolutely.

## Leading Innovation

When Norman Cheuk '91 joined the gaming division at Microsoft, Bill Gates was CEO, Solitaire was among the company's top computer games and Xbox was still three years away from its debut.

The year was 1998. And Cheuk was on the ground floor of what would eventually become one of the world's largest video gaming companies.

Cheuk has held many roles in his 21 years with the gaming giant — from managing large teams of developers, to overseeing Xbox's expansion in Japan, to directing the company's interactive content entertainment business. Today, he is the senior director of business development for one of Microsoft's biggest gaming advancements: Project xCloud, a video game streaming technology that went into preview in October.

It's a career that many would say doesn't fit a liberal arts graduate with a degree in politics. But Cheuk is just one of many Whitman College graduates challenging the idea that liberal arts degrees don't provide the skills students need to succeed in today's ever-changing workforce.

“Technology companies like Microsoft have always looked for people who can think creatively, because problem-solving is at the heart of what we do,” Cheuk said. “Solving problems is something that comes naturally to many liberal arts students.”



Norman Cheuk '91

Cheuk credits his liberal arts education for preparing him to thrive in Microsoft's innovative environment.

“Being able to have a range of different influences in the way that I was educated, versus being focused on a particular subject matter, has been really important in my career, particularly at Microsoft,” Cheuk said. “Because innovation is really about bringing together different information, different processes, different techniques and different insights, and then incorporating those ideas or constructs into the technology and experiences we try to innovate on.”

## A Well-Rounded Education

Yarden Blausapp '18, a software developer in New York, said out-of-classroom experiences at Whitman complemented her in-class learning and helped her develop sought-after professional qualities.

“With Whitman being such a small school, and having a culture where everyone was so involved, I got to hold a lot of leadership positions, and I think a lot of that helped me develop in a professional way,” she said.

During her senior year, the mathematics major completed a fellowship at the Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance, a marketing association for local wineries. Sponsored by the Student Engagement Center as part of the Community Fellows Program, Blausapp's fellowship challenged her to create a Structured Query Language (SQL) database to consolidate and analyze vineyard data.

The real-world project gave her a competitive advantage for her first job at BNY Mellon, where she is part of the predictive analytics team to design and program a new database for the global investments company.

“Any job, even a pure software developer job, requires working with other people and being creative to an extent,” Blausapp said. “I think my job is creative, and my ability to engage with people, especially when there are points of disagreement, and come together to find solutions was definitely strengthened at Whitman.”

Anthony Skinner '95 also credits his liberal arts education for providing a strong foundation on which to build his 20-year technology career. Since 2015, Skinner has been chief technical officer for iSpot.tv, a tech company that uses its proprietary technology to measure the performance of TV advertisements for clients like Jeep, P&G, Burger King and many other big-name brands. He oversees



Yarden Blausapp



“Solving problems is something that comes naturally to many liberal arts students.”

Norman Cheuk '91, Microsoft

around 85 employees, from technologists and software coders, to product designers and technical writers.

Prior to joining iSpot.tv, Skinner held technical leadership positions at GE Healthcare, MediaNet Digital and Moz, a software development firm that specializes in search engine optimization technology.

Skinner majored in economics at Whitman. He said his classes not only helped him develop a strong work ethic, but also taught him how to think deeply about a range of subjects and to articulate complicated ideas to diverse audiences — skills he uses daily.

“At Whitman, you take classes around many different areas that make you more well-rounded and prepared to think about the world differently,” he said. “You are pushed to work hard and challenged by your peers. Liberal arts schools are known for that.”



Anthony Skinner '95

### Learning How to Learn

For Steve McConnell '85, liberal arts and technical education have a lot of similarities.

“One of the things people don’t really appreciate or understand is the commonality between an engineering education and a liberal arts education,” he said. “In both fields of study, there’s a concept of breadth and depth — there’s a real premium placed on knowing enough about enough different things to know what you don’t know.”

Essentially, a liberal arts education teaches students to “learn how to learn,” McConnell said. And in an industry driven by change, the ability to quickly adapt, grow and innovate is not merely valued, it’s necessary.

McConnell, who was a philosophy major at Whitman, is founder and CEO of Construx Software, a Bellevue-based firm that provides consulting and training to software development organizations. A nationally recognized thought leader, McConnell wrote “Code Complete,” the software development industry’s all-time bestselling book. He is also past chair of the IEEE Computer Society’s Professional and Educational Activities Board, where he influenced curriculum and professional standards for the technology and engineering fields.

McConnell believes a rigorous liberal arts education exposes students to big ideas across disciplines and equips graduates to tackle today’s complex societal and technical challenges with context and high-level thinking.

“In the software development industry, we say: ‘It’s easier to teach a smart person how to program in Java than it is to teach a person who knows how to program in Java how



Steve McConnell '85



to be smart,” he said. “In other words: It’s not about the knowledge of the specifics, it’s about the critical-thinking skills — the brainpower.”

According to the report “Robot-Ready” by researchers at Strada Education Network and Emsi, a labor market analytics firm, human skills — such as critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, leadership and communication — are among the most in-demand skills by employers, including those in the technology sector.

“People coming from a liberal arts program who possess good human skills that translate to a variety of jobs are appealing because they are already good thinkers, and can be trained vertically on say, social media or programming,” said Rob Sentz, one of the authors of the report, in an article published by EdSurge.

The 2018 report’s researchers claimed that liberal arts graduates make up a larger percentage of the tech workforce than technical graduates — pointing to LinkedIn data that estimates that between 2010 and 2013, the growth of liberal arts majors entering the technology industry from undergrad outpaced that of computer science and engineering majors by 10%.

“Companies are looking for intellectual dexterity just as much as they need technical expertise,” the report stated.

## Complementary Skills

The report also recommended that liberal arts students further increase their marketability in the high-tech industry by complementing their human skills with technical skills. Kanupria Sanu '17, an economics-mathematics major, said she was able to do just that at Whitman — combining technical training in mathematics, computer science and statistics with the soft skills she gained in humanities and social sciences courses.

“The technical skills are useful as an entry point,” she said. “But to really accelerate and ascend in this field, you need to have those crucial communication and critical thinking skills.”

Sanu began building her technology career in Silicon Valley two years ago as a business analyst for Sephora, the global cosmetics retailer. She recently advanced into a new data scientist position at ThirdLove, a near-billion-dollar lingerie startup founded by a former Google executive. The e-commerce company developed image-recognition technology that uses a smartphone camera to digitally fit customers. Sanu combines her critical thinking and analytical skills with her technical training to inform marketing and product strategy.

“To succeed in data-centric roles, you have to elevate yourself beyond providing numbers,” Sanu said. “That’s where a liberal arts degree has incredible value. You need to analyze the data and then level that up to provide strategic recommendations and thought partnership for the business.”

Computer Science Assistant Professor John Stratton said the Whitman computer science program aims to leverage the college’s strong liberal arts curriculum to provide students the



Kanupria Sanu '17

2018-2028

# Anticipated Job Growth

32% information security analysts

21% software developers

11% computer and information systems managers

13% web developers

10% computer support specialists

6% computer engineers

Bureau of Labor Statistics



# “To really accelerate and ascend in this field, you need to have those crucial communication and critical thinking skills.”

Hanupria Sanu '17, ThirdLove

ideal balance of technical know-how and soft skills.

“What we are really doing here is trying to teach students to be creative and inquisitive with strong self-teaching and self-learning skills,” said Stratton, chair of the Computer Science Department. “We want them to be able to ask questions and to make judgements that go beyond the technical.”

A major component of the computer science program is developing students' understanding of the human side of technology. Students learn to make these connections through Whitman's core humanities and liberal arts requirements. They also take courses like CS 267: Human-Computer Interaction. Taught by Associate Professor Janet Davis, the course focuses on the societal and cognitive psychology aspects of software development.

“If we are developing things that are going to be used by people, we want to consider how the software we design will influence or be perceived by the people who are going to be using it,” Stratton said.

The computer science major first became available to Whitman students in 2017-18. In May 2019, the program graduated its first cohort of 11 students, some of whom have gone on to jobs at Amazon and the YouTube division at Google. Interest in the computer science program is growing, with 18 seniors this year and 27 declared majors so far in the Class of 2021.

All computer science majors complete a senior capstone project. For many projects, teams of students work with clients from the community or campus organizations to design a technical solution to a real-life problem. For instance, capstone teams recently developed a new registration and scheduling system for organizers of Walla Walla Great Explorations, an annual STEM conference for middle school girls held at Whitman.

These types of real-world client interactions help

graduates develop valuable communication and interpersonal skills, Stratton said.

“Yes, companies need skilled software developers, but some of the most valued professionals are the ones who not only understand the technical requirements, but who can also put themselves in a client's shoes,” Stratton said.

Tywen Kelly '18 works at Pixvana, a Seattle-based startup that develops virtual reality cloud software. Kelly said the communication and writing skills he gained while studying film and media studies at Whitman have been critical in his role as a liaison between the firm's clients and technical teams.

“I think my ability to write and communicate with the software engineers on the team is incredibly valuable,” he said.

Kelly believes liberal arts graduates fill a critical gap in the technology workforce.

“In general, the tech industry needs more writers, more systems thinkers — people who can think outside the box, and not necessarily engineers,” he said. “I think there are a lot of vocational programs that are pumping out very qualified makers, but we need people who can think more about the broader implications. We need more Whitman students, more liberal arts majors, to help balance that out.” **W**



Tywen Kelly '18



# A Better Kind of Engineer

Students in Whitman's 3-2 Engineering program build a technical career on a solid liberal arts foundation

BY SAVANNAH TRANCHELL

**a**s a high school senior, Calder Hughes was pretty sure he wanted to be an engineer. But he also knew that he wanted more out of his education than traditional engineering programs typically provided.

While exploring college campuses, he realized he liked the feel of what liberal arts colleges provided. That's when a counselor told him about 3-2 Engineering programs, which allow students to attend both a liberal arts college and an engineering school. The Portland, Oregon, native decided to only apply to schools that offered them.

That included Whitman College.

"I wanted to do the exploration that was allowed by liberal arts, but still come out with a technical degree," said Hughes, who graduated from Whitman in 2004. "I liked that I had all these options. I wasn't locked into engineering right out of high school. I had some idea what I wanted at age 18 — but I also had a sense that I was 18, and there was a lot more I didn't know about yet."







WHITNEY CURTIS

KC Cook '20 and Kieran Lensen '20 are completing their engineering degrees at Washington University in St. Louis through Whitman College's 3-2 Engineering program. The students studied physics/pre-engineering at Whitman.



Physics Professor Fred Moore knows many prospective students are in the same place that Hughes was when he entered the program in 1999.

“Very few students know with complete certainty what type of engineer they want to be,” said Moore, who serves as advisor for Whitman’s 3-2 Engineering program. “The 3-2 program is excellent for folks who think they may want to do engineering, but maybe they want to do a biology major. They know they want science, but maybe not what science.”

In the nearly 70 years Whitman’s 3-2 Engineering program has been in place, more than 200 students have completed the program, which includes three full years at Whitman College, and then an additional two years at a partner engineering school. The student finishes with two complete bachelor degrees — one from each institution.

After three years at Whitman studying mathematics and physics, Hughes transferred to Columbia University in New York City and earned a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering.

Each spring, five to six Whitman students will leave as juniors to finish the program at either Columbia, Washington University in St. Louis (WashU), the University of Washington, or the California Institute of Technology — a 50% increase from a few years ago, Moore said.

In addition to letting students study outside of STEM fields, Whitman’s 3-2 program gives students the time to pursue outside interests, such as athletics. That’s more difficult to achieve at a strictly engineering-focused college.

It’s what drew KC Cook ’20 to the program. By attending Whitman, Cook was able to walk on to the Blues basketball team.

“Both of my sisters went to small liberal arts schools,” said Cook, who knew she wanted to study engineering. “I knew I wanted a well-rounded education. I knew early on that I eventually wanted to get into engineering; I thought it was a pretty good compromise to get two degrees out of it.”

Cook personalized her experience even more. Also a Portland, Oregon, native, she turned her program into a 4-3: She spent four years at Whitman before transferring to WashU, and is taking advantage of a discounted extra year to earn a master’s degree. Cook started as a member of the Class of 2018, and walked in that commencement ceremony, but she’ll officially earn her bachelor’s degree in physics, pre-engineering, with a minor in Spanish and mathematics this spring, when she finishes her program at WashU. From there she’ll also have a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering and a master’s in engineering management.

Whitman’s partner schools see the benefit of a liberal arts foundation for engineers. WashU has run its

dual-degree program for 45 years, and graduated more than 1,800 students.

“We have found the value our liberal arts students bring to the engineering community is really incredible,” said Ron Laue, senior assistant dean for the Engineering Dual Degree Program at WashU’s McKelvy School of Engineering. “One of the reasons that we continue to value the program is because we see the assets that these students bring with them — communication skills, lateral thinking, problem solving, the ability to write. All of those are values of a liberal arts education. When they combine that with the problem-solving and technical skills that they get with engineering, and the qualitative skills, they really are in a great position.”

Hughes said his fellow 3-2 students at Columbia had more mathematics and physics skills than their traditionally educated counterparts. While Columbia students were taking classes to learn the math they needed to use in their engineering classes, the liberal arts students already had the skills and could apply them.

“We’d had so much more math and physics at that point,” he said. “The 3-2 program really prepares you to go into that engineering school.”


After graduating from Columbia and Whitman, Hughes took a job as an engineer at Insitu in Bingen, Washington, working on unmanned aircraft. In 2014 he earned a master’s degree in mechanical engineering and product design methodology from Stanford University. Now he’s the president at FlightHouse Engineering, a company he started with a colleague that offers consulting services for companies developing unmanned aircraft.

“The fact that I did creative writing classes, and I did take these other disciplines definitely made it a lot easier to interact with other parts of the businesses I was in, and to do other things than just the engineering work,” he said. “Basic engineering curriculum doesn’t really include things like public speaking. Having those skillsets behind the engineering allowed me to branch out a little bit more beyond just technical roles.”

After graduating this spring, Cook hopes to work at an engineering firm. But she also hopes to bridge the passion for social justice she built at Whitman with her interest in engineering.

For Hughes, the selling point of Whitman’s 3-2 program is Whitman itself.

“For me, coming to Whitman, that’s what I think of as my college experience. It was so rich and so much fun. Going to Columbia was kind of like going to a job,” he said. “I got to have that really rich undergrad liberal arts college experience, and I still got to get out of it with a technical degree in a field I was excited about working in.

“I think for people looking for more of that undergrad experience and traditional college experience, you can definitely find that at Whitman.” 





“I knew I  
wanted  
a well-  
rounded  
education.”

HC Cook '20

WHITMAN COLLEGE

KC Cook '20 is completing her engineering degree at Washington University in St. Louis through Whitman College's 3-2 Engineering program.



# *turning tragedy into passion*

CRYSTAL ELLIS '01  
FIGHTS FOR SAFER HOMES  
FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

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BY CATIE JOYCE BULAY



COURTESY PHOTOS

**C**rystal (Borm) Ellis '01 would rather talk about the physics of furniture or history of consumer protection law than her life. The tenacious mother of three never wanted to be in the public eye, but that's where she finds herself more and more these days. Whether it's in front of TV cameras or Congress, she advocates for safer furniture-making standards and educates parents on the dangers of furniture tip-overs.

"I think of the people who are like me before my son died, who believe that the products on the marketplace are safe, that they are going to be protected," said Ellis, who graduated from Whitman College with an English degree and went on to get her teaching credentials from the University of Washington, Bothell. "I had done a lot of research about home





safety and baby-proofing. I really thought that I had all of the pieces necessary to be prepared. I didn't know about this danger. I never knew that a 30-inch dresser would kill my son."

Then one morning five years ago, while she was tending to her young baby, she heard her husband scream.

"I have never before or since heard that sound come from my husband," she said. "It was terrifying. I knew immediately that something was very, very wrong."

Sometime in the early morning, her almost 2-year-old son Camden had gotten out of his new toddler bed and leaned into his dresser's open second drawer, just enough weight to tip it onto him. Her husband found him stuck under the dresser. He had suffocated. Ellis performed CPR and was able to stabilize her son to bring him to the hospital, but after spending four days in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in a coma, he was

taken off life support and died on Father's Day, just days after his second birthday.

"I remember meeting every single respiratory therapist, neurologist, attending, and asking them, 'Does this happen? Have you seen this before?'" she said. "They kept saying, 'Yes. Yes, this happens.' I had never heard of a dresser killing a child."

Ellis now knows that every 11 days a child dies from furniture or a TV falling on them, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

"It was shocking to me," she said. "How could this be such a prevalent problem?"

It was a slow road to advocacy for Ellis, who had to first navigate a new world of grief while caring for her 3-month-old. "I have always dealt with struggle with research," said Ellis, who read 13 books on grief in the weeks after Camden's death.

Her counselor helped her channel that research

**Camden Ellis in May 2014, taken just two weeks before the tip-over incident that took his life.**



*“We can change the conversation about consumer protection, and we can change the conversation about who has the power in this country.”* – CRYSTAL ELLIS '01



Crystal Ellis, center, testified in front of Congress on June 13, on what would have been Camden's 7th birthday, about the importance of passing the STURDY Act. From left, Charles A. Samuels, lawyer; Chris Parsons, Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters; Ellis; and William Wallace, Consumer Reports.

toward something more positive.

“It wasn't long after that, that I started collecting all of the statistics and data and stories from other families,” said Ellis, who began meeting other parents across the country whose children had died from furniture tip-overs and were advocating locally. They eventually formed Parents Against Tip-Overs (PAT) in April 2018.

“We were a little hesitant at first, but once we got the ball rolling, we realized that we had a real direction in our mission, and we started forming a plan,” said Ellis, who now lives in Kenmore, Washington, with her husband, Charlie, and daughters, Caitlynn, 5, and Caiya, 2. She is now close friends with several of the mothers in the group who describe her as a strong voice for consumers, unafraid to ask hard questions or have difficult conversation.

“I have watched Crystal grow from a person overcome with emotion because of Camden's death to a fiercely passionate consumer advocate who will stop at nothing to end furniture tip-overs,” said fellow PAT founder and friend Janet McGee. “PAT is much more

active and vocal because of Crystal's involvement.”

Ellis speaks at Safe Kids events and parent conferences around the country and runs PAT's social media. She has done extensive research, including working with student engineers tasked to design safe dressers and physicists at the Consumer Reports test lab.

She testified at the budgetary hearing for CPSC last March and was in front of Congress in June, speaking on the importance of the Stop Tip-overs of Unstable Dressers on Youth, or STURDY Act, which passed the House with bipartisan support in September; as of publication, the act was still waiting to be heard in the Senate. The act creates tougher standards for the furniture manufacturing industry and makes compliance mandatory. She made a point to connect with Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rogers, the ranking Republican House member of the Consumer Protection Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, to garner support.

“There have been far too many heartbreaking incidents of furniture tip-overs, situations that are






avoidable and that we can play a role in stopping,” said McMorris-Rogers in an email. “That’s what the STURDY Act will help do, and I was proud to get this legislation passed in the House in September to ensure furniture is safe for children and stop these unnecessary tragedies. It may seem commonsense, but it still takes people like Crystal bringing these issues to the forefront and making them a priority. I’ve been so appreciative of her advocacy on behalf of Parents Against Tip-Overs and her work on this legislation.”

Ellis credits Whitman for providing the connection to McMorris-Rogers, whose district covers Walla

Walla. But more than that, Ellis, now a school librarian, said her experiences at Whitman gave her the skills she needed to begin her advocacy work.

“Whitman gave me the confidence not just to get into the room, but the confidence to stay in the room and know that my voice matters, that my research matters, and that when you know that you’re on the side of right you keep speaking up, and you keep speaking out,” said Ellis, who grew up near Bothell, the oldest of five children in a working-class family, and attended Whitman on scholarship.

“We learned how to find the people who can help us best make change, and work with them, and build relationships to make a bigger change,” she said of her time at Whitman. “That’s what I’m teaching my daughters. I’m teaching them that we can take this really, really bad thing that happened to our family, and we can help other people stop this from happening to them, that we can change the conversation about consumer protection, and we can change the conversation about who has the power in this country — that should be the people.” 

Crystal Ellis, from left, holds Caiya, 2, and Charlie Ellis holds Caitlynn, age 5, in July 2019.

## Netflix Documentary

Parents Against Tip-Overs was included in a new documentary series, “Broken,” released by Netflix on Nov. 27. Produced by ZeroPointZero productions, the series looks at areas of fraud, corruption and negligence in cosmetics, e-cigarettes, furniture and plastics.





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SAVANNAH TRANCHELL

# Let It Snow

## WATER RIGHTS ATTORNEY CHRIS BROMLEY '97 HELPS SKI RESORT CAPTURE RUNOFF FOR SEASONAL BENEFIT

MANY PEOPLE NEVER think twice about where water comes from — it falls from the sky, it is easily available through any faucet, and it covers 71% of the globe. It seems a nearly infinite resource.

Chris Bromley '97 knows it's not — and as a water rights attorney, it's his job to help

individuals and businesses find the balance of the many demands on water.

Bromley has carried a lifelong interest in water use and availability.

“I was born and raised in Colorado, in an arid western state where irrigation is required for anything really to grow,”





PHOTO COURTESY BOGUS BASIN SKI RESORT

Snowmaking machines use stored water to create a snow base at Bogus Basin Ski Resort near Boise, Idaho, in November.

said Bromley, who earned a degree in politics from Whitman and a Juris Doctor from Gonzaga University School of Law. “There are a lot of people, when I tell them I’m a water rights attorney, they just look at me like, ‘What? What are you talking about?’ But there’s a growing awareness of the importance of water — we can’t live without it. It’s really a finite resource. And we have a growing population, and growing needs — you have to make it work. That’s where water attorneys and engineers

**“You get exposed to all sorts of different classes at Whitman. Water law involves history, politics, religion, science, math, law, policy, ... it involves everything.”**

CHRIS BROMLEY '97 – water rights attorney



come in. We try to figure out how to help people make it work.”

Among the clients Bromley has assisted in navigating water needs is Bogus Basin Recreation Area near Boise, Idaho. This year, for the first time the ski resort is running 24 machines making snow on the mountain, the culmination of a multi-year, multimillion-dollar effort to build a holding pond to capture water. Bromley was key to the effort.

“I scratched my head about Bogus and water rights and snow making for 10 to 15 years,” said Bromley, who loves skiing and was on the varsity ski team while attending Whitman. “I would go ski at Bogus and ride around on the chairs and notice that there was no snowmaking, even though there were pipes on the ground. I could never figure out why it wasn’t being used.”

At the time, Bromley was a deputy attorney general for the Idaho Department of Water Resources. He discovered the resort had previously considered drilling a well to access underground water sources for snowmaking, but the geology wasn’t right. But Bromley knew there was an easier way to access water.

“What surprised me was that nobody had looked at it from capturing surface water. I’d mountain bike in the summer and ski in the winter, and I could hear water all over the place up there,” he said.

He approached General Manager Brad Wilson, and eventually worked with Bogus to create a plan to create a pond to capture runoff and surface water and store it for


winter snowmaking. By then, Bromley was a founding member of McHugh Bromley, PLLC, and was able to help Bogus negotiate the water rights.

Given that water is a finite resource, it may seem a waste to capture it for use by a ski resort. But it actually has advantages beyond the economic boost the ski area sees from having more consistent snow coverage.

“You have snow on the mountains, and it melts in a big hurry in April, May, June,” Bromley said. “That’s water that is going to flow out of the basin without being used — nobody is going to benefit from it. So Bogus is able to capture it when it’s not needed for downstream use.”

The snowmaking machines put the water back on the mountain in a crystalized form. The machine-made snow forms a dense base that melts slowly in the spring, creating a slower runoff, which can help downstream farmers who need more water later in the growing season.

Being able to understand the science behind hydrology and geology is a big benefit for Bromley, and something he credits the broad-based education he received at Whitman for providing.

“You get exposed to all sorts of different classes at Whitman. Water law involves history, politics, religion, science, math, law, policy, ... it involves everything,” he said. “A liberal arts college exposes you to how do scientists think, how do politics majors think, how do the sociology majors think? You learn all of that.” 



# Class Notes

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WHITMAN COLLEGE ARCHIVES

**READY IN ALL SEASONS** These two Whitties were practicing their kayaking techniques in equipment borrowed from the Outdoor Program. Do you know more details about these two? Send information you have about this photo to Jennifer Northam at [northajl@whitman.edu](mailto:northajl@whitman.edu).

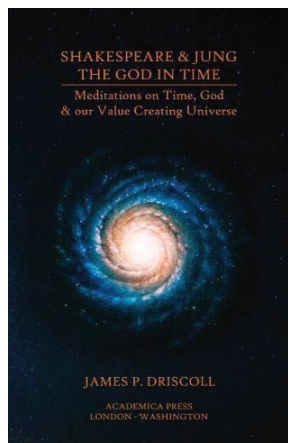


**Share your memory** Whitman College is honored to share recollections of our alumni. To share your memory, email Jennifer Northam, Class Notes editor, at [northajl@whitman.edu](mailto:northajl@whitman.edu), or mail to her attention at Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Photos are welcome. Not all submissions will be published in the magazine, but may be featured on the Whitman College Alumni Instagram, [@whitman\\_alumni](https://www.instagram.com/whitman_alumni).



## 1950s

**R. Cargill Hall '59** received the Major General I.B. Holley Award from the Air Force Historical Foundation for his sustained, significant contribution to the documentation of Air Force history. Hall is a historian and author who served as chief of the research division and deputy director of the Air Force Historical Research Agency, and as a historian at Headquarters Military Airlift Command and Headquarters Strategic Air Command. He lives in Arlington, Texas.



**James Driscoll '65** had his book, "Shakespeare and Jung — The God in Time," published by Academica Press. Driscoll, who earned his doctorate in English literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## 1960s

**John Rector '65** has published and updated a revised edition of "The History of Chile," originally published in 2003 by Griffin. Rector is a professor of Latin American history at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon.

**Roy Carlisle '69** is the publishing director of a new Silicon Valley-based publishing house, Transpersonal Publications, part of the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology Foundation. He will develop and implement the foundation's publications strategy for new books and a scholarly journal. Carlisle brings more than 40 years of experience as an executive in the trade and scholarly book industry to this position.

**Alex McGregor '71** has been recognized as a distinguished resident of Pullman, Washington. He was honored with a permanent engraved tile placed in the Walk of Fame sidewalk in downtown Pullman. McGregor is president and chair of a farm services business, the McGregor Company, serving growers in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.



**Jim Knowles '64** was elected treasurer of the Garfield Golden Grads, his high school alumni association, which raises funds for scholarships. In the past year, they sent 35 scholars to schools with \$110,000 plus earnings from their \$1.1 million endowment.



**Jack Greene '71** is in the process of developing and distributing Chinese and Japanese versions of "War Drum Games" and "Bonsai Games," two titles from his import and export wargame company, Quarterdeck International. Greene has established his company in his new home in Vicksburg, Mississippi, with his wife, Kathleen.

## 1970s

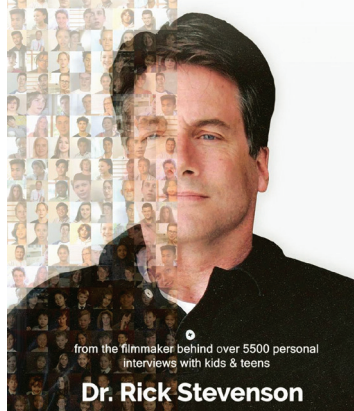
**Mary Anne Maul '71** has a new job as an attorney with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Galveston, Texas.

## 1980s

**Kirby Gould Mason '86** has been included in "The Best Lawyers in America" for 2020, recognizing her outstanding achievement in her area of practice. Mason practices medical malpractice law at HunterMaclean in Savannah, Georgia.

## 21 Things You Forgot About Being a Kid

a partial guide to better understanding our children and ourselves



**Rick Stevenson '77** published a new book, "21 Things You Forgot About Being a Kid: a partial guide to better understanding our children and ourselves," from 5000 Days Publishers. The book is based on The 5000 Days Project — a longitudinal study consisting of over 5,500 in-depth, personal interviews with kids from six continents over the past two decades, positing that remembering what it's like to be a kid can help us be better parents and better people. Stevenson lives in the Seattle area.





**Sidney Knapp Pepple '86**, pictured from left, had a mini-reunion with Delta Gamma sisters **Nancy Bratton Anderson '86**, **Theresa Link '86** and **Kim Usher Dodge '87** at Mt. Hood, Oregon. In May, she celebrated the graduation of her daughter, **Claire Pepple '19**, a third-generation Whittie. Sydney's mother, Claire's grandmother, was **Marlene Clark Knapp '59**.



**Heather Pilder Olson '89** is editing her latest project, a documentary on homelessness in Aberdeen, Washington. Other work in progress includes a TV pilot script, "Crack the Whip." Olson is part of the inaugural class of Green Room Fellows, a yearlong writing program designed to increase access and support for Northwest screenwriters through the Bigfoot Script Challenge.



**Rosemary Nolan Shaw '90** had a celebrity visit at her T-Mobile office in Seattle: T-Mobile founder and Seattle Mariners chair **John Stanton '77** (right) and Hall of Famer and Seattle Mariners legend **Edgar Martinez**. They offered their views on the importance of improving diversity in sports, and Stanton spoke about his pioneer days in the wireless industry and his role with the Mariners.



**Tom Hagley '90** published "Cultivating Community Schools" in the August 2019 issue of School Administrator magazine. He works as chief of staff and chief communications officer for Vancouver Public Schools in Washington. He also was spotlighted in a new book, "Broader, Bolder, Better: How Schools and Communities Help Students Overcome the Disadvantages of Poverty," published in 2019 by Harvard Education Press.



**Submit a class note** Whitman College is pleased to highlight the accomplishments and updates of our alumni. Submissions to Class Notes are limited to 50 words. Updates should highlight news from the past calendar year and may include career updates; publications; honors, awards or appointments; or other significant life changes you would like to share with the Whittie community. Send your submission to [alumni@whitman.edu](mailto:alumni@whitman.edu), by mail to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362, or online at [whitman.edu/classnotes](http://whitman.edu/classnotes). All submissions will be edited for content, length and style.





**Shilpa Goradia Bratt '91** gathered with friends to celebrate the appointment of **Ketu Shah '90** as judge on the King County Superior Court. Pictured from left: **Rob Kosin '92**, Ketu, Bratt, **Didi Manhas Saluja '92**.



**Allison Gill Sanford '10** graduated from Harvard Law School in May, and will clerk for Judge William Dato on the California Court of Appeal. After clerking, she plans to work in civil liberties and criminal justice reform.

## 1990s

**Jennifer Walsh Bowman '92** composed, recorded and produced her first solo piano album, "Piano Palettes," which received silver medals in the composition and instrumentalist categories of the Global Music Awards. Bowman lives in Olympia, Washington, and is an accompanist in the music department at Pacific Lutheran University.

**Christopher Perdue '93** received a promotion to the rank of captain in U.S. Public Health Service. He serves as a senior health security analyst in the Department of Health and Human Services, recently becoming director for the National Biodefense Science Board in Washington, D.C.

**Angela Fonesbeck '97** has been appointed as a judge for the 1st District Court in Logan, Utah. Prior to this appointment, Fonesbeck presided nearly five years over the 1st District Juvenile Court.

**Heather Wright '99** was recently awarded a 2019 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the U.S. government's highest award

for scientists and engineers in the early stages of their independent research careers. Wright is a research geologist for the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program, a cooperative partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Agency for International Development's Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance. She lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband and two daughters.

## 2000s

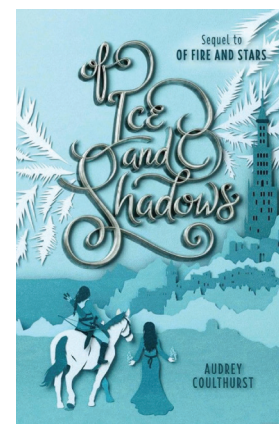
**William Conley '01** was appointed senior vice president and chief technology officer at Mercury Systems. He will direct and accelerate Mercury's vision and leadership in technology that provides solutions to the aerospace and defense industry. Previously, Conley was program manager for the strategic technology office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

**Katey Schultz '01** released "Still Come Home" through Loyola University Maryland's Apprentice House Press. This novel follows her award-winning first book, "Flashes of War." Both are set in the Middle East. Schultz lives in Burnsville, South Carolina.



**Michael Hankel '04**, right, pictured with his father, Dave Hankel, received the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and a NATO medal for his service in Afghanistan. His next post is Kuwait.

**Samantha Howell Barnhart '04** received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Albany Law School, given to alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years and have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to Albany Law School through consistent volunteerism and engagement. Barnhart is the pro bono director at Southern Legal Counsel in Gainesville, Florida.



**Audrey Coulthurst '04** has published two young adult books this year: "Starworld," from Candlewick Press; and "Of Ice and Shadows," from Balzer + Bray, a sequel to her 2016 novel, "Of Fire and Stars." Coulthurst earned a master's in writing from Portland State University and lives in Santa Monica, California.



## 2010s

**Dylan Plung '11** earned his Master of Arts in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Washington in Seattle. He has one academic article published, another under review, and has spoken at Harvard and the Association for Asian Studies. He received major national fellowships, including Foreign Language and Area Studies and Blakemore Freeman, to study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan.

**Ryan Campeau '13** was selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks Scholar for a summer program on Asian Pacific American experiences in the Pacific Northwest. The weeklong program was held at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience in Seattle.

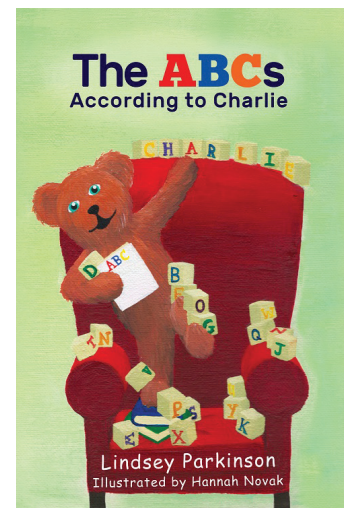
Campeau teaches fourth grade in College Place, Washington.

**Eric Schmidt '13** received his architectural license from the Montana Board of Architects and practices with High Plains Architects, P.C., of Billings, Montana. His work centers around high-performance, environmentally resilient design, historic rehabilitation, adaptive reuse and community development. Schmidt earned his Master of Architecture with Certificate in Technical Teaching in Architecture at the University of Oregon in 2016.

**Tory Davidson '15** works as community engagement manager for Storycatchers Theater, a non-profit musical theater group that works with justice-involved youth in Chicago. Through programming inside and outside of justice centers, children and young adults turn their life stories into musicals.



**Gretchen Grimm '12, Lydia Lund '12, Julia Shapiro '12 and Annie Truscott '12**, members of the band Chastity Belt, have released their fourth album, the self-titled "Chastity Belt." The release from the Seattle indie rockers is garnering rave reviews. Equally well-reviewed is Shapiro's solo debut of last June, "Perfect Version." Chastity Belt came together and performed during the members' student days at Whitman.



**Hannah Novak '17** has illustrated a children's book, "The ABCs According to Charlie," written by Lindsey Parkinson and published by Blyssster Press. A fine arts major, this is her first published work. Novak's mother is **Traci DeMarco '87**.

## Births/Adoptions



To Grady and **Kathryn Hoover Blacken '01**, a son, Henry MacKinnon Blacken, born May 26, 2019.



To Chad and **Lydia Hayes Owens '08**, a son, Conrad Hayes Owens, born July 5, 2019. He joins brother, Beau, 2.



To **Seren Pendleton-Knoll '09** and Chris Saldana, a daughter, Mariele Davie Pendleton Saldana, born Oct. 3, 2018.



### Submit a baby photo

We love to celebrate with you! Submit a photo of your family addition to be featured in Whitman Magazine. Announcements can be submitted to alumni@whitman.edu, by mail to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362, or online at whitman.edu/classnotes. Be sure to identify everyone in the photograph, as well as alumni relatives, for birth announcements.



# Marriages/Unions



**Derek Jentsch '93** to **Aubrey Mailliard Rawlins**, June 2, 2019, in Yorkville, California. Back row, left to right: **Hong Vo McCarroll '95** Katie Van Winkle, **Jason Pribilsky '93** (professor of anthropology), **Patricia LaBounty-Owens '93**, **Anna Maria Aune-Moore '93**, **Kate Flexer '93**, **Sarah Trail McGovern '93**, **Emily Klein '16**, **Gretchen Parker Taylor '93**. Front row, left to right: Jentsch, Rawlins and **Jill Van Winkle '94**.



**Corey McKrill '04** to **Sarah Bronstein '05**, May 17, 2019, in Juneau, Alaska. **Erica DeWitt Tillinghast '04**, **Jeff Tillinghast '04** with daughter, Beia, and son, Devon, **Lindsey Case Thompson '06** with son, Elliot, **Genevieve Gagne-Hawes '03**, **Kate Lyman '04**, **Kalin Schmoldt '04**, **Laura Davis '05**, **McKrill, Bronstein, Lina Menard '05**, **Sarah Gilman '03**, **Nicole Comforto '04**, **Noah Bronstein '08** and **Dylan Carlson '05**.



**Elizabeth Sieng '11** to **Sean Warrick**, Oct. 27, 2018, in Austin, Texas. Back row, left to right: **Thu Tran '11**, **Trang Pham '11**, **Charles Harris '10**, **Lydia Ngai '11**, **Alethea Buchal '12** and **Danielle Barnes '10**.



**Sarah Evans '11** to **Billy Armstrong**, June 15, 2019, in Leavenworth, Washington. Left to right: **Simon Pendleton '11**, **Diane Feuillet '11**, **Brian Wakefield '11**, **Stephanie Foster '11**, **Evans**, **Morgan Dumitru '11**, **Armstrong**, **Alisha Pena '11**, **Viral Oza '11**, **Nat Clarke '11**, **Katie Pearson '11** and **Hannah LaCroix '11**.





Clara Easter '12 to Brad Petek, Aug. 17, 2019, in Montana. Left to right: Claire Martini '14, Tessa Matson '12, Jeff Ratte '80, Sara Moorehead '79, Bruce Easter '79, Cynthia Faubion '80, Pamela Croci '74, Madeline Hess-Maple '14, Easter, Petek, Rebecca Young '12, Sofia Infante Strother '12, Alyson Brozovich Williams '12, Elizabeth Schiller '12, Linh Le '12, Austin Easter '14 and Tim Strother '12.



Devin Stone '12 to Anna McDevitt, Aug. 24, 2019, in Estes Park, Colorado. Whitties in attendance included Natalie Anaya '12, Virginia Barratt Rudolph '12, Jan Hudson '12, Brenton Weyi '12, Alejandro Fuentes Mena '13, Emily Coba '12, Paul Kruss '12 and Sean Day '10.



Jeanette Fe Weber '14 to Andrew Weber, July 27, 2019, at the Como Zoo and Conservatory in St. Paul, Minnesota. Holly Nelson '96 and Alasdair Stewart '94 officiated the ceremony. Front row, left to right: Andres Crane '14, Nicole James '11, Carol Pengshung '14, Fe Weber, Weber, Molly Johanson '14, Kaylee Kautz '14, Cindy Chang '14, Alexandra Schaffer '14. Back row, left to right: Melina Hughes '14, Abby Sloan '14, Nick Davies '14, Stewart and Nelson.



Laura Neff '15 to Michael Dvorak, June 22, 2019, in Sacramento, California. Sophie Schouboe '15 and Evelyn Levine '15 were in the wedding party; Gabriel Lewis '14, Henry Carges '17, Dylan Martin '15, Katie Jenike '15, Meaghan Clark '15 and Kelsey Brennan '15 were among the guests.



**Submit a photo**

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# In Memoriam

## 1930s

### Elaine Studebaker

**Thomas '38**, July 7, 2019, in Prairie Village, Kansas. After Whitman, she earned a degree from the University of Washington, and married Donald Thomas in 1940. They were married nearly 50 years and had three children. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son; survivors include a son and a daughter.

## 1940s

### Dorothy Livengood

**Baker '41**, July 20, 2019, in Upland, California. She was married to Leslie Baker until his death in 1992. Together they raised two sons. Baker volunteered for multiple organizations throughout her life, receiving recognition from Sepulveda Veteran's Hospital of San Fernando Valley. Survivors include a son and nephews, **John Livengood '85** and **Peter Livengood '82**.

### Charlotte Allen

**Zimmermann '42**, May 9, 2019, in Bellevue, Nebraska. She married Robert Young in 1942, and spent her adult life as an Air Force officer's wife; they were married for 35 years and raised six children. Settling in Nebraska, she had a career in retail management. Following her husband's death she traveled frequently, and a trip to London introduced her to Ralph Zimmermann. They were married for 24 years. She is survived by four children, including **Deborah Young Reece '67**.

### Wilma "Willie" Roesch

**Kishpaugh '43**, March 17, 2019, in Pendleton, Oregon. After Whitman, she attended Bryn Mawr and the Sorbonne in Paris, and modeled for *Cosmopolitan Magazine* in New York. She married William Kishpaugh in 1945; together they raised three sons. She was preceded in death by her son, her husband, and a sister, **Jeanne Roesch Slavich '46**; her survivors include two sons.

### Margaret "Peggy" Glase

**Bagnall '45**, Aug. 29, 2019, in Morristown, New Jersey. She earned a master's in English from Columbia University, New York, in 1946, and married Roger Bagnall. She taught high school English in the Bay Area; Lopez Island, Washington; Northfield, Massachusetts; and Oyster Bay, New York. Bagnall retired in 1985, and the couple moved to Morristown to be closer to family. She was preceded in death by her husband; she is survived by her four children, including **Anne Bagnall Yardley '71**.

### Virginia "Jinny" King

**Delano '45**, June 20, 2019, in Portland, Maine. After Whitman, she attended Wellesley College. She married Myles Delano in 1948, raising two daughters. Delano was an activist, advocating for environmental and social issues wherever she lived. Survivors include her daughters and a nephew.

### Charlotte Goodnow

**Clayton '47**, Jan. 2, 2019 in Richland, Washington. She married **Duane Clayton '47**

and they had two sons. The family settled in the Tri-Cities, Washington, where her husband worked as a nuclear physicist. Clayton was a music teacher and played the organ at All Saints Episcopal Church for more than 25 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Duane, and her son, Charles. Survivors include a son.

### Thomas Eglin '47

July 3, 2019, in Yakima, Washington. He served in the U.S. Navy, then earned his degree from Whitman. He earned education degrees at Central Washington University in Ellensburg and had a long career as a teacher and administrator. After his retirement from education, he started a career in real estate. He married wife Bonnie in 1953 and they raised two children. Survivors include his wife; his son, **Thomas '78**; his daughter, Deborah, and son-in-law, **Mark Baldwin '77**.

### Marnell Strom Gray '49

Jan. 19, 2019, in Snohomish, Washington. She married **Paul Gray '48** in 1947. Together they raised three children. She was preceded in death by her husband; survivors include a son and two daughters.

### Russell "Russ" Hobbs '49

Jan. 25, 2018, in Tacoma, Washington. He married **Beth Andrews '47** in 1946; they had four children. Hobbs was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. After retirement, he served as Pacific Northwest district chair for Kiwanis International. He was preceded in death by a son; survivors include his wife and three children.

### J. Patricia Clarkson

**Lange '49**, April 8, 2019, in Beaverton, Oregon. She married

**Robert Lange '49** in 1948 and they raised three daughters. Early careers took them to the Midwest, where she worked in the architect's office for Dayton's Department Stores. Upon her return to the Pacific Northwest, she stayed home with her children and turned her hobby of throwing clay pots into a business, Pat's Pots. The couple retired in Beaverton, Oregon. Survivors include her husband; her daughters, including **Sandee Lange Brogan '73**; brother-in-law **Ned Lange '56** and sister-in-law, **Priscilla Alsip Lange '61**.

### Doreen June Wilcox

**Murray '49**, July 9, 2019, in Gig Harbor, Washington. After Whitman, she married Dale Murray in 1948. They had four children and were married for 70 years. Murray is survived by her children and grandchildren.

## 1950s

### Phyllis Peterson Lajala '51

May 6, 2019, in Hemet, California. She earned a bachelor's in elementary education from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She married **David Leaverton '48** and they raised two sons; Leaverton died in 1987. She taught grade school for 35 years. She married Robert Lajala in 1992 and they retired to Tuscon, Arizona. She was preceded in death by her second husband; survivors include her children and grandchildren.

### L. Booth Maycock '51

July 6, 2019, in West Jordan, Utah. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific during World War II. He enrolled at Brigham Young University and met Edna Harman, from Walla

Walla. They were married in 1947 and Maycock finished his degree at Whitman. They returned to Utah, where he served the Sons of Utah Pioneers, Jordan River Temple Chapter as president and went on to be elected national president in 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife, and is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### Bradford Lucas '52

June 16, 2019, in Moses Lake, Washington. Lucas served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper in the 111th Airborne. He met **Joy Ann Mott '52** at Whitman and they were married in 1951. He taught high school English and drama, first in Bellingham, Washington, and later in Ipswich, Massachusetts. The couple embraced the teachings of the Baha'i faith and lived in Managua, Nicaragua, to share them. Political unrest and natural disaster sent the family back to Washington and they settled in Moses Lake, Lucas teaching and directing high school plays until he retired. The Lucas's co-chaired their 35th Reunion. He was preceded in death by a daughter. He is survived by his wife and four children, including **Paul Lucas '86**.

### Patricia Smith Oakshott '52

Aug. 13, 2019, in Spokane, Washington. After Whitman, she earned a teaching certificate from Western Washington University in Bellingham, then taught in secondary schools in Washington and Oregon for 14 years. She worked for the Spokane Public Library for 21 years until her retirement in 2001. She met Tom Oakshott at her first teaching position and they married in 1953. They



### Submit an obituary or in memoriam

Whitman College offers its condolences to the family and friends of our departed Whitties. Obituary information can be submitted to [alumni@whitman.edu](mailto:alumni@whitman.edu), by mail to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362, or online at [whitman.edu/classnotes](http://whitman.edu/classnotes). Abbreviated obituaries are run in the magazine. Links to a full obituary can be found at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).



raised four children. Preceded in death by her husband and two daughters, her survivors include a daughter and a son.

**Robert Worrall '52**, Dec 11, 2018, in Inverness, Florida. Worrall served in the U.S. Army in World War II. After Whitman, he earned his MBA at Harvard in 1954, and married Janet Davidson in 1956. Worrall had a successful career in business finance and marketing, both overseas and in the U.S. He designed the buckskin-clad Marcus and Narcissa, the Fighting Missionaries logo used for many years. He was preceded in death by a daughter; survivors include his wife and a daughter.

**Ellen Unoki Horiuchi '53**, Oct. 13, 2018, in Waipahu, Hawaii. She taught elementary school in Spokane, Washington, and in Hawaii. She married Tom Horiuchi and they raised three children.

**Ann Senior Dunifer '54**, Dec. 13, 2018, in San Antonio, Texas. She earned a master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a library science certificate from San Diego State University, and worked as a teacher and librarian as well as serving as a captain in the U.S. Army. She married Charles Dunifer in 1974; he passed away in 2011. Survivors include her sister, **Katherine Senior Holdgrafer '57**.

**Robert Kelso '54**, April 18, 2019, in Thermopolis, Wyoming. After Whitman, he returned to Wyoming as a social worker in Uinta County. He met Janine Hoagland there and they married in 1965. Kelso earned his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Wyoming in Laramie, then worked at the Gottsche Rehabilitation Center in Thermopolis. He was voted Wyoming Psychologist of the Year in 1990 and retired in 2008. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, his daughters, and a sister, **Lora Kelso Jolley '56**.

**John Richards '55**, June 18, 2019, in San Jose, California. Richards earned his Doctor of Medicine at Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto, California. He practiced as an OB/GYN in San Jose and was a founding physician at Alexia Brothers Hospital where he served twice as Chief of Staff and was recognized numerous times for his contributions to building the hospital. In 2007, the Alumni Association selected Richards for the Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement. He was preceded in death by a sister, **Mary Richards Gerth '53**. Survivors include two sons, a daughter and a step-daughter.

**Karen Jones Armstrong '57**, Sept. 20, 2019, in Olympia, Washington. She married **Jack Armstrong '57** in 1957 and earned a teaching certificate from the University of Washington in Seattle. Her career spanned teaching, real estate and property management. Armstrong belonged to several service clubs and

volunteered for the Alumni Association. Survivors include her husband; three daughters; and son-in-law **Randal Moore '84**.

**Josephine Coffin Beck '57**, March 20, 2019, in Santa Maria, California. She met **Everett Beck '57** at Whitman and they were married during spring break of their senior year. The couple moved to California, where she taught fourth grade and he attended graduate school at Stanford University. They had three children and settled in Santa Maria. Beck was involved in the Parent-Child Study Center at Alan Hancock College and was later hired to lead the parent participation preschool. She served as director of the campus children's center and eventually coordinator of the Early Childhood Studies program at Hancock. Upon her retirement in 1993, she volunteered and traveled extensively. Her survivors include her husband, three children, and extended family including **Shirley Quine Coffin '56**, **Robin Beck '60**, **Daniel Coffin '80** and **Laura Coffin Hardebeck '85**.

**Frederick Collins, Jr. '57**, July 12, 2019, in Bellevue, Washington. At Whitman, he met his wife of 62 years, **Janet Sue Mitchell '57**. Collins had a computer systems engineering career at The Boeing Company, IBM and Xerox. In retirement, the couple started a Bellevue pet-sitting business. Collins was a co-chair for his 25th Reunion. He is survived by his wife and children, Richard, Steven and **Laurel Collins Tomchick '83**.

**Ruth Hanna Leisle '57**, April 6, 2019, in Littleton, Colorado. She married **Frank Leisle '58** in 1957 and raised four children; they later divorced. When her children were grown, Leisle enjoyed 20 years working at Macy's. She

is survived by three sons, a daughter, and two grandsons.

**Kathryn Hoshaw Hansen '58**, March 17, 2019, in Mt. Vernon, Washington. She married Roger Hansen in 1960 and they raised two sons together. Hansen spent time as a Cub Scout den leader for her boys, both of whom became Eagle Scouts. She volunteered 1,000 hours in the police department's Citizens on Pro-active Patrol. She was preceded in death by her husband; survivors include her sons and a brother.

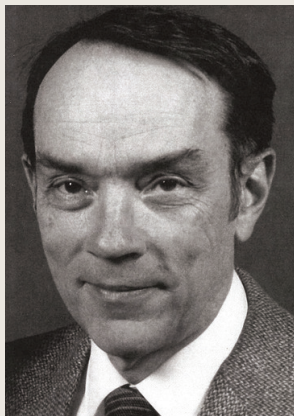
**Dean Perkins '58**, March 23, 2019, in Mugla, Turkey. Perkins married **Sanders Faust '58** in 1957; they divorced in 1980. He married Ruth Mohler in 1981. Following a career in the insurance business, he suffered a stroke. While in rehab, he started painting. The stroke cost him his ability to read and write permanently, but painting became his outlet of expression. Perkins traveled extensively and settled on the Aegean Coast of Turkey. Survivors include a son, a daughter and two stepdaughters.

**Frank Wood '58**, Aug. 2, 2019, in Blue Ridge, Texas. After Whitman, Wood served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He then flew for the Department of Defense, eventually working for Branniff International Airlines, Express Airlines and American Airlines. He married Cheryl McBeth in 1993, and they ran a cattle ranch in Blue Ridge. He was preceded in death by a son; survivors include his wife; the mother of his children, Janice Wood; two sons; a daughter; and two stepchildren.

**Rolland "Ron" Dibble '59**, Nov. 14, 2018, in Bremerton, Washington. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked as an Oregon State Trooper before attending Whitman. Dibble earned his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Cambridge, and worked in private and

## FACULTY OBITUARY

Professor Emeritus Louis Philip ("Phil") Howland, died on July 10, 2019. Howland taught physics at Whitman College for nearly 30 years, retiring in 1994 as the Benjamin Brown Professor of Physics. Born in Somerville, New Jersey, Howland attended the Taft School from 1943–1947. He earned his bachelor's degree in engineering physics from Cornell University in 1952, and his doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1957. Howland taught at Dartmouth College from 1958 to 1964, and joined Whitman's Physics Department in 1965. Howland's research specialized in theoretical solid-state physics. In his general physics course, Howland was renowned for demonstrations that employed equipment he developed to demonstrate theory and real-world events. Many students fondly recalled his ability to make complex issues understandable via these elaborate experiments. In 1984, Howland was awarded the Lange Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Natural Sciences. He served the college as chair of the faculty, department chair, and through committee service. Survivors include his wife, Grace Howland; a sister, Eleanor Black Eskey; children, Susan Luth, Julie Howland, David Howland, **John Howland '86** and Stephen Howland; and seven grandchildren.





government practices. He retired in 2004. Survivors include five children.

**Ann Shelton Foster '59**, April 26, 2019, in Vancouver, B.C. She married Stephen Foster in 1964 and they had two children; they divorced in 1977. Foster taught English as a second language and developed a keen environmental awareness, which led her to adopt vegetarianism, give up her car and simplify her life. She was preceded in death by her son. Her survivors include a daughter, a granddaughter and a daughter-in-law.

**Kenneth Tucker '59**, March 28, 2019, in Kingston, Washington. He married Sharon Lou McLeod in 1958 and they had three children; they later divorced. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle in 1965. The family settled in Wenatchee, where Tucker was the first plastic surgeon in town. He later moved to Seattle and practiced there until his retirement in 2006. He married Joanne Reiner Unterseher in 1980 and they were together for 37 years, until her death. Survivors include five children.

## 1960s

**Henry Huntsman '61**, July 7, 2019, in Olympia, Washington. He married **Pat Forrest '61** in 1961, and earned his law degree from the University

of Washington law school in Seattle. He had a long career as an industrial appeals judge for the State Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals in Olympia, retiring well after his 70th birthday. An avid mountain climber, Huntsman summited all of the mountains in the Pacific Northwest, including Mt. Rainier four times. Survivors include his wife; his son, **John '87**; and his sister-in-law, **Beverly Forrest '62**.

**Kirk Prindle '61**, April 13, 2019, in Clinton, Washington. Prindle married **Judith Gibbons '62** in 1965, and together they raised two children. He earned his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Washington Medical School and practiced as a cardiologist for 35 years. He worked as a research scientist for the National Institute of Health, and was a sheep farmer in his retirement. His survivors include his wife; a son and a daughter; a sister, **Martha Prindle McLaughlin '58**; and extended family including **Cynthia Boersma '86** and **John McLaughlin '88**.

**James Chapman '62**, June 25, 2019, in Shoreline, Washington. Chapman earned his master's degree in civil engineering from Columbia University in New York. He married Carol Ann Kurtz in 1966 and they moved to Seattle; they had two children. He worked for The Boeing Company for nearly 30 years, primarily on the Minuteman Missile. Following his

retirement in 1995, the couple traveled the world and spent time at their property in Lostine, Oregon. His survivors include his wife, a son, a daughter, and two granddaughters.

**Linda Mason Moats '64**, May 27, 2019, in Meridian, Idaho. She married William Moats in 1965 and they had a daughter. Moats' first career was as a fifth-grade teacher. She continued to teach for 13 years. The family settled in Idaho City, Idaho, and she became the business manager for the Basin 72 School District. She earned her MBA from Boise State University and later worked for several years in the state legislature and for the Idaho Association of School Administrators. The family moved to Juneau, Alaska, and Moats worked on the oil spill response group formed after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. She later worked for the City and Borough of Juneau Engineering Department and finished her career with the Alaska Association of School Administrators. When they retired, the couple purchased a hobby farm in Milton-Freewater. Moats served on her 50th Reunion committee. She was preceded in death by her husband. Her survivors include her mother, her daughter and her grandchildren.

## 1970s

**David Wardenaar '75**, Jan. 22, 2019, in Rancho Cucamonga,

California. After Whitman, he earned a master's degree in business at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. He married Angelique Ferrio in 1978 and they raised three children. Wardenaar was chief financial officer for several manufacturing companies. Survivors include two sons and a daughter.

**Joyce Harkin Arnold '79**, Feb. 28, 2019, in Coupeville, Washington. After graduation, she worked in the children's section of the University Bookstore in Seattle, where she wrote short, insightful reviews of her favorite children's books. She married **Herb Arnold '78** in 1983 and they had a son; they later divorced. After traveling around the world as a Navy wife, Arnold taught elementary school in the Oak Harbor school district until her retirement in 2017. She was best known for her work with gifted and talented students. Survivors include her son and a large extended family.

## 1980s

**Penny Tomioka Daly '88**, May 26, 2019, in Shoreline, Washington. She married Scott Daly in 1993 and they had a daughter. Daly worked in quality assurance and testing. Survivors include her husband and daughter, Katherine.

**Catherine van Veen '89**, May 6, 2019, in Seattle. She spent time in New York after graduation, then returned to

the Pacific Northwest and married Miles Goda in 2003. She worked as a content creator and editor for social media, both for agencies and for herself. Survivors include her husband, her parents and her brother, **Derek van Veen '91** and sister-in-law, **Sandra Henson '93**.

## 1990s

**Cammy Bentz '93**, May 17, 2019, in Portland, Oregon. She earned a master's in clinical mental health counseling from Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado, in 2003. Bentz worked in several clinical settings and opened a private counseling practice in 2014. She married her life partner, Karen Lewis, in 2017. Survivors include her wife, her mother and siblings.

## 2010s

**Colleen O'Bannon '12**, July 6, 2019, in Dallas, Texas. At the time of her death, she was a second-grade teacher at Frederick Douglass Elementary School in the Dallas Independent School District. O'Bannon was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas and was a passionate advocate for conservation and women's rights. She is survived by her parents, her brother, and a large extended family.



### SEEKING WHITMAN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

One of the most gratifying experiences enjoyed by members of the Whitman community is the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of one of our own. Whitman College is actively seeking to identify individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Whitman Athletics and have helped bring excellence and distinction to the college and its athletics program. These individuals will be considered for induction into the Whitman Athletics Hall of Fame.

A nomination form may be found at [athletics.whitman.edu](http://athletics.whitman.edu) in the History and Tradition section.



# Seeking Passionate Leaders

## FOR WHITMAN'S ALUMNI BOARD

**The Alumni Association board** seeks to fill up to three vacancies with terms of service beginning on July 1, 2020. All alumni are invited to consider petitioning with preference given to candidates who bring diverse experiences and perspectives to the position and contribute to increasing alumni engagement. Alumni who have previously submitted petitions will be considered.

Board members are eligible to serve two three-year terms. The alumni board meets in Walla Walla two times per calendar year and via conference call in between. Attendance is required at meetings and expected at local area events.

Deadline to submit documents related to petitioning is March 15, 2020, c/o Nancy Mitchell, director of alumni relations, at [mitchenl@whitman.edu](mailto:mitchenl@whitman.edu).



For instructions for petitioning, board membership information and bylaws, go online to [whitman.edu/alumniboard](http://whitman.edu/alumniboard). For questions, call 509-527-5952.



WHITMAN COLLEGE

# Call for Nominations

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION AWARDS

**We are seeking the unsung heroes, the behind-the-scenes orchestrators, the motivational and inspirational!**

- Do you know a classmate who has given countless volunteer hours to a cause?
- Do you have a friend who has achieved excellence in their career?
- Do you know a Whittie making the world a better place?

**Then tell us about it!** Nominate that Whittie for an Alumni Association Recognition Award. There are categories for young alumni, for distinguished service, for lifetime achievement and for alumna or alumnus of merit — the highest honor the Alumni Association may bestow.

**Awards will be presented during Reunion Weekend, Sept. 24-27, 2020.**



Go to [whitman.edu/alumni](http://whitman.edu/alumni), click on Recognition Awards, under Stay Involved, and tell us all about it! Nominations are due by March 15, 2020.



WHITMAN COLLEGE



# Reunion 2019 Recap

Scholarship donors were able to meet with students supported by their gifts to the college.



Jim Dow '71 with Georgia Seltzer '21, a Dow-Bainbridge Scholarship recipient



Laurel Boniface Meredith '59 greets Judith Borseth Hullin '64



From left, Professor Emeritus Skip Wade, Phillips Wade Cronin Scholarship recipient Haven Dick-Neal '21 and Professor Emeritus Holly Phillips

Photos on the steps of the Memorial Building and Baker Center were followed by the Parade of Classes, led by the Walla Walla High School Band.



Members of the classes of 2003, 2004 and 2005



Don Miller and Bill Dunn, Class of 1954



President Murray and Bridget-Michaele Reischl walk the parade with Dan and Nancy Bell Evans '54 and Phyllis and Everett Greer '54



Midori Stocker Dillon '82, Traci Hill Barela '83, Judy Wheelon Bennett '83, Carolyn Snyder '83, Paul Schuster '83



**Outstanding alumni were celebrated for their achievements: Michael May '44 received the Alumni of Merit Award, and Sue Brown Martin Songer '67 received the Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement.**



Michael May '44



Sue Brown Martin Songer '67

**Reunion Convocation recognized each class in attendance, and announced the fundraising totals of each milestone reunion.**



Steve Hammond '79, trustee and co-chair for the 40th Reunion, calls for each reunion class to stand and be recognized.



A jazz ensemble from the music department played as reunion-goers entered the Chism Recital Hall. Players included Marco Thompson '22 on bass and Noah Dunn '22 on drums, as well as Daniel Leong '21 on saxophone, Spencer Thulin '21 on piano and Ashlyn Quintus '20 on vocals.



Jan Hough Rolfe, Jean Davis Burpee and Jon Burpee of the class of 1964 stand to be recognized.



The grand total for all 2019 reunion classes announced by reunion co-chairs Steve Hammond '79, Chuck Porter '79, Chris Searls Porter '79, Polly Sidwell '79, Stephanie Drugge Henderson '94, Alex Cofield '94, Katie Phelps Buckingham '09 and Kate Acosta '09.



Bill Ward '54, Dan Evans, Nancy Bell Evans '54, Phyllis Greer, Ev Greer '54 and Don Miller '54 lead the Whitman Hymn to close convocation.



The annual all-class picnic was held, for the first time, on the lawn between Stanton Hall, Anderson Hall and Cleveland Commons.



Members of the 35th reunion classes enjoy their table in the shade.



Another excellent ensemble from the music department played during the picnic: James O'Brien '20; piano instructor Gary Louis Hemenway; Bornnie Kabongo '22; associate professor of music Doug Scarborough; and Ben Branda '23.



The sand volleyball court proved quite popular with the younger attendees.

## Reunion 2019 by the Numbers

*September  
19-22, 2019*

IT WAS THE VERY  
FIRST REUNION FOR

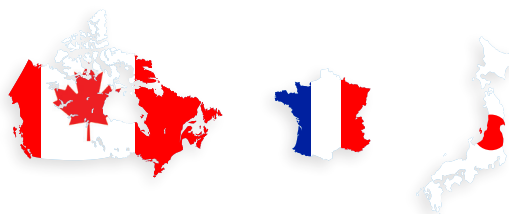
**118 alumni**

**832**

*alumni,  
family and  
friends  
attended*

ALUMNI TRAVELED FROM 33 STATES AND

**three countries**



(CANADA, FRANCE AND JAPAN)

**12** *classes on campus,  
spanning generations from* **1954 to 2009**



PHIL 110

# Introduction to East Asian Philosophy

4 CREDITS | ZHAO

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A gateway for students to engage with East Asian philosophies, this course provides a broad overview of the major schools and central debates in **China, Korea and Japan**. This course may be taken for credit toward the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) major.

**AMES HISTORY:** The Asian Studies program first appeared in the 1994-1995 college catalog, and the first Asian Studies majors graduated in 1995. The program evolved into Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) in the 2016-2017 catalog.

**Course Objectives**

*To expand their critical thinking skills, students learn about the key figures in East Asian philosophy. By semester's end, students will be able to sympathetically engage with original texts and adequately explain and interpret key concepts; critically reflect on the central questions, ideas and arguments in relation to their own cultural upbringings;*

*and develop initial ideas of their own personal philosophy.*

**"PHILOSOPHERS ARE IMAGINARY FRIENDS WHO STUDENTS CAN ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION WHILE THINKING ABOUT THEIR OWN WORLDVIEW."**

WENQING ZHAO - assistant professor of philosophy

**PROFESSOR BIO:** Born and raised in mainland China, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Wenqing Zhao specializes in **Chinese philosophy, bioethics, moral psychology and philosophy of gender**. Since joining Whitman's faculty in 2018, she has taught seminars in global health ethics and gender issues in Asian philosophy that stem from her interest in applied ethical issues in non-ideal and multicultural contexts. She takes an interdisciplinary approach to her teaching and research, drawing upon studies in law and public policy, cultural anthropology and empirical psychology. Prior to Whitman, she was a post-doctoral researcher and associate director of the Center for Comparative Philosophy at Duke University. She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese.

**READING LIST**

- Confucianism: Kongzi*
- Confucianism: Mencius*
- Confucianism: Xunzi*
- Mohism*
- Daoism: Laozi*
- Daoism: Zhuangzi*
- Zen Buddhism: Dogen and Hakuin*



**To spotlight the practical side of philosophy, Zhao asks students to tidy up their dorm room and consider their philosophy of organizing in relation to Marie Kondo's KonMari Method and the Confucian philosophy of the nonsentient things in our living environment.**



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If recipient has moved, contact Sarah Jones at [jonesst@whitman.edu](mailto:jonesst@whitman.edu).

## Video Snapshot



**BANKING ON DEEP THOUGHT** Sam Geschickter '20 brings the philosophical thinking from his religion major to his internship at Baker Boyer Bank. His research at the bank sparked an idea for his senior thesis that explores and analyzes the philosophy behind risk models in the world of business and finance. Hear more about how Geschickter is using his liberal arts education in business at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).