

# WHITMAN

MAGAZINE

## In Vino, Variety

Meet alums—like  
Devyani Gupta '15—  
who are working in  
diverse roles across  
the wine industry



FALL 2021



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# A Warm Welcome

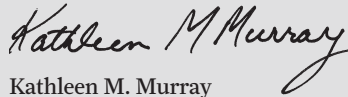
AS I SIT WRITING this column in the waning days of summer, I feel a sense of excitement and cautious optimism for the coming academic year at Whitman College. As of today, we anticipate welcoming more than 500 new first-year students, our largest incoming class ever. Our completely revamped new-student orientation is focused on preparing them for the Whitman academic experience and helping each one of them develop that powerful sense of belonging to this community that so many of you have described to me over the years.

Like many other colleges across the country, we have made the decision to require all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated prior to the start of the semester, believing this is the best way to keep our community safe as COVID-19 variants continue to plague our country. As a “fully vaccinated campus,” according to Washington Governor Jay Inslee’s definition, vaccinated people will have to follow fewer physical distancing and other coronavirus protocols, although we will be starting off the semester with an indoor mask mandate for everyone to combat the spread of the delta variant. Already more than 90 percent of our campus community is fully vaccinated, giving us confidence that we can safely reopen. As more information becomes available about booster shots, we will closely monitor recommendations and keep our community updated.

And I am thrilled to be traveling again, heading out across the country to visit with as many of you as possible in whatever configurations offer the most peace of mind — outdoor, masked, etc. I hope you will watch your email for announcements of Whitman events in your area. I have missed seeing you and hearing your stories of your life at and beyond Whitman.

I recognize the difficult times we have endured and the challenges we will certainly face going forward, but this is, for me, still a time of hope and anticipation of better times ahead.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Murray  
President



# WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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## CLASS NOTES

To submit, go online to whitman.edu/classnotes.

## WHITMAN MAGAZINE

Published four times a year by Whitman College, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Periodical postage paid at Walla Walla, WA, and additional mailing offices (USPS 968-620). ISSN: 0164-6990.

## 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** L'Ecole N° 41 owners Megan '79, Marty and Riley '09 Clubb help bottle the 2018 vintage of L'Erudite. Sales of the red blend, which will be released this fall, benefit a Whitman College community outreach program. Learn more on page 25. Photo by CM Bell.

**ON THE COVER** Devyani Gupta '15, assistant winemaker at Valdemar Estates in Walla Walla. Photo by Kim Fetrow '96 of Kim Fetrow Photography.

Whitman College is located on the traditional Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla homelands. We pay our respect to tribal elders both past and present and extend our respect to all Indigenous people today. We honor their stewardship of the land and ecosystem and commit to continuing that important work.





## MENTORING

# From First Year to First Career

**A new program pairs incoming first-years with their own career coaches**

**Early and often.**

Coaches, like Mitzy Rodriguez Camiro, assistant director for internship programs (pictured above), will start and guide intentional conversations about career paths and possibilities.

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON for today's college students to start thinking about the career they want — whether they arrive on campus with a profession in mind or hope to explore several fields.

Whitman College's Student Engagement Center (SEC) has launched a new program that will pair each incoming first-year student — beginning with the Class of 2025 — with a career coach for intentional conversations about their future.

"It is our goal with this program to start those conversations early in order to assist all students

in accessing opportunities and resources that will prepare them for their best life after Whitman," says Kimberly Rolfe, director for career development. "We believe this program will help students understand the wide variety of professional growth and learning happening while they are students at Whitman: research with faculty, community involvement, internships and student jobs, classroom projects, and building relationships with professors and peers."

Through the program, students will work with a career coach

for the duration of their time at Whitman. The coaching program is customized for each student, whether they already know exactly what they want to do after they graduate or haven't yet considered any options, according to Rolfe.

"Our coaches will offer mentorship in debriefing and reflection as a student engages with activities, experiences and information that explore career trajectories; eliminating the myth that career development must begin with a defined career path," she says.



# The Search is On

A committee of selected Whitman community members has begun the work of finding the college's 15th president

THE SEARCH FOR Whitman College's next leader is now in full swing— after President Kathleen Murray's February 2021 announcement that she will retire at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. The college's board of trustees, which is overseeing the search and transition process, announced in April that it had approved a core search committee that includes trustees Joe Davis '80, Steve Hammond '79, Jonathan Sposato '89 and Julie Taylor, as well as incoming faculty chair Rebecca Hanrahan. Danielle Garbe Reser '97 was chosen to chair the committee.

"I could not be more pleased with this selection," Nancy Seurrier, immediate past board chair, wrote in an email to the Whitman community. "Danielle has served Whitman College for more than two decades, including 14 years of prior board service, first as a member of the Alumni Board, and most recently as vice chair of the President's Advisory Board."

## BUILDING THE TEAM

The process gained momentum in the spring with the addition of several new members to the search committee. The final cohort of 17 includes two students (including senior Salma Anguiano, profiled on page 12), two staff, four faculty

**"We know how critical this decision is for the college's future."**

—DANIELLE GARBE RESER '97



**Search party.** Trustee Danielle Garbe Reser, '97, who has also served on both the Alumni Board and the President's Advisory Board and is a former Whitman admission officer, is now chairing the Presidential Search Committee.

and nine trustees and alumni leaders. The committee also announced its partner in finding Murray's replacement: Storbeck Search. The firm has more than a decade of experience managing executive search efforts for liberal arts colleges, including recent presidential searches for Colorado College, Carleton College and Haverford College.

Storbeck and the committee collaborated to host a series of listening sessions with various Whitman communities. "All of that feedback that we heard through the virtual listening sessions and all the hundreds of online comments we received were factored into shaping the search prospectus," says Garbe Reser. The document, a crucial recruitment tool that outlines the community's hopes and aspirations for both the college and its next leader, was released at the beginning of the summer and is available to view online. Advertisements for the position were placed on various search platforms and in major higher education publications.

## LOOKING AHEAD

This fall, the committee will move into the selection of candidates and finalizing the last steps of the process, says Garbe Reser. "The trustees have asked our committee to plan for the next president to start on July 1, 2022, so our ideal timeline would be to announce the selection by December of this year to allow time for transition at the start of the next calendar year."

Although hard work and tough decisions are ahead, Garbe Reser is optimistic:

"We know how critical this decision is for the college's future. We're excited to be able to showcase the incredible place Whitman is and for the opportunity to attract someone who's ready to partner with and galvanize our community and move us forward into the future."

*Stay up to date with the search process at [whitman.edu/presidential-search](http://whitman.edu/presidential-search).*



## Green Theme

The college will explore climate justice in 2021-2022

Last fall, Whitman College introduced its first-ever academic theme, Race, Violence and Health. For 2021-2022, the college will again have a unifying theme for speaker events, panel discussions and academic programming. The new topic, "Climate Reckonings, Climate Justice," is intended to generate a broad, campus-wide discussion that explores how different intellectual traditions engage with and respond to the global climate and the uneven impacts of its threats across populations and places. Professor of Physics Kurt Hoffman, chair of the academic theme committee, hopes the benefits of that discussion will reach beyond campus. "We have a second objective of engaging with our region through local partnerships and by seeking productive actions that will improve communications and understandings between different groups that have common goals."



# What Whitties Did This Summer

BETWEEN SEMESTERS, STUDENTS PURSUED THEIR PASSIONS, GAVE BACK AND GOT A JUMP ON THEIR CAREER PATHS



**Kid Stuff.** Nomonde Nyathi spent the summer before her junior year working as an intern at the Queen Elizabeth Adventist Children's Home, an orphanage in her hometown of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. "It was such a pleasure getting the chance to meet and spend time with these wonderful and intelligent children," says Nyathi, whose responsibilities ranged from serving meals to helping with homework.



**Hit the Trail.** In mid-June, seven Whitties participated in an Outdoor Program (OP) trail crew trip, partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and the Blue Mountain Land Trust's Blues Crew for a long weekend of trail restoration in the Umatilla National Forest. Led by the OP's Stuart Chapin, sophomore Charles Awounor, juniors Sothea Teng and Ben Wendlandt, seniors Reeve Boyer and Anna Johnston, along with PeiPei Cai '21, worked on a five-mile section of the North Fork of the John Day River Trail. Their work included cutting and removing downed trees, cutting back brush and redigging eroded paths.



**Great Chemistry.** Seniors Kaylie McCracken and Lauren Yumibe worked with Associate Professor of Chemistry Nate Boland as part of a three-year research project studying chemical reactions that affect the availability of metal ions to living organisms. Their research is funded by a National Science Foundation grant.



**#WhittieLife.** Follow @whitmancollege on Instagram.

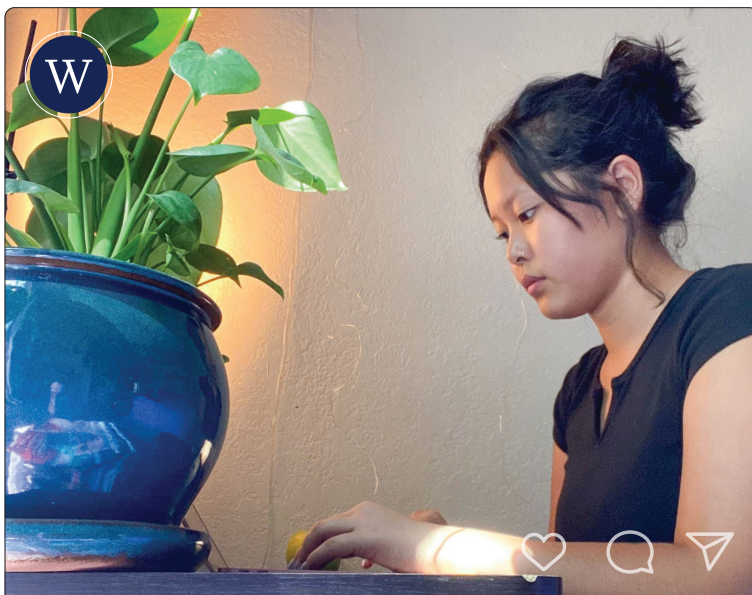




**Outstanding in Their Fields.** Junior Eila Chin, along with seniors Alex Gerber and Maddie Bowers, spent many days over the summer studying grasslands with Tim Parker, biology professor. Based at Wallula Gap Biological Station, about 35 miles from campus, the group observed the measurable effects that climate change may have on north- and south-facing slope grasses and groundcover.



**Lab Partners.** Seniors Austin Chiles, Junxi Chen and Emma Anderson spent many summer days in the lab with Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology (BBMB) professor Brit Moss studying auxin, a plant hormone, and observing how cells in plants bind and detect this hormone. They also conducted fluorescent-based molecule imaging to detect and measure auxin. As a recipient of a Beckman Scholars Award, a prestigious student-research award funded by the Beckman Foundation, Chiles will work on the project with Moss for a total of 15 months. Moss's research, and Chen and Anderson's internships, are funded by a grant Moss was awarded from the National Science Foundation.



**Breaking News.** Thanks to a Whitman Internship Grant, junior Elea Besse spent the summer break working at the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, the valley's daily newspaper. During her time with the U-B, she wrote both news pieces and feature stories but says she particularly enjoyed reporting on the local art scene. "I've gained a sense of how art and artists fit into their community, how community informs their art and how it cyclically reinforces the culture of the community," she says.



**Digging In.** Seniors Erika Goodman and Nia Combs interned at Welcome Table Farm, working alongside junior Keeli McKern, who was an intern there in the summer of 2020. "It was great seeing the full cycle of growing produce, harvesting it, and delivering it and seeing the smiles on everyone's faces," says Goodman, who is majoring in environmental humanities. Combs, an anthropology-environmental studies major, says she was especially happy with the work because she was able to put into practice what she'd learned about the importance of sustainability and organic farming in her classes. Goodman and Combs were paid for their work through Whitman Internship Grants.



# 500+

Whitman welcomed more than 500 students—the largest incoming class in the college's history.

ADMISSION

## By the Numbers

### The newest Whitties in facts and figures

WHITMAN COLLEGE'S INCOMING CLASS is the largest in the school's history—but we're confident that won't be the only reason the Class of 2025 is notable. These students have already wowed us with their accomplishments, which range from winning a national award for climate change research to competing on a Junior Olympics water polo team.

"Our admission team loved getting to know these incredible students and their stories over the past several months and I have no doubt that the Class of 2025 will arrive eager to make a difference on campus and in the Walla Walla community," says Adam Miller, interim vice president for admission and financial aid, adding that he's excited for the rest of the Whitman community to meet the incoming class.

We can't wait to share these students' stories and achievements over the next four years.



**37** STATES  
**39** COUNTRIES

**22%**  
**13%**

U.S. students of color

International students

are represented in the incoming class.  
*12 are from right here in the Walla Walla Valley!*

**67**

incoming students will be the first generation in their family to attend college.  
*They're gonna be so proud!*

**76**

incoming students are Pell Grant\* recipients.  
\*Awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Pell Grant is a form of need-based financial aid that typically doesn't have to be repaid.



**3.76**  
**AVERAGE GPA FOR INCOMING STUDENTS**



**3,122 lbs.**  
**THE TOTAL WEIGHT OF WALLA WALLA SWEET ONIONS SENT TO STUDENTS WHO CONFIRMED THEIR SPOT IN THE CLASS OF 2025**



## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

**Arielle Cooley, associate professor of biology**, was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to examine the genetic interactions that create color patterns in monkeyflower petals (genus *Mimulus*). Together with John Stratton, assistant professor of computer science, and colleagues at the College of William and Mary, Cooley is using mathematical modeling, computational approaches and molecular genetic techniques to understand how spatially complex patterns develop. The grant will support research experiences for at least six undergraduates and three high school students.

**Nancy Day, associate professor of psychology**, published "Neurophysiological Coordination of Duet Singing" in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences with colleagues at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the Claremont Colleges consortium. Their work took them to the slopes of an Ecuadorian volcano to record brain activity in plain-tailed wrens as they rapidly duetted a learned song. The study explores how the brain may mediate vocal turn-taking (such as when humans converse).

**Mark Hendricks, assistant professor of chemistry**, was awarded two grants to support his research into the synthesis of nanocrystalline materials. One, from the American Chemical Society's Petroleum Research Fund, will investigate the factors governing the control of crystalline phases during nanocrystal synthesis. The second, from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, will test novel approaches to developing semiconducting nanocrystals. Together, these grants will support 11 student research positions over three years.

**Tim Machonkin, associate professor of chemistry**, was awarded a Murdock BRIDGE research grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to investigate the structure and activity of a key enzyme that could be helpful in breaking down organic compounds that are persistent environmental pollutants. The three-year

grant will support research experiences for five students.

**Chanel Meyers, assistant professor of psychology**, published a paper in the journal *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations* titled "The Impact of Social Norms on Navigating Race in a Racially Diverse Context," which finds that people adopt more race-conscious (as opposed to colorblind) behaviors when in racially diverse environments.

**Lauren Osborne, associate professor of religion**, published a peer-reviewed article, "The Mediated Qur'an: Religious Education and Recitation via Online Distance Learning in the Sultanate of Oman" in the *Yale Journal of Music and Religion*. The research for this article examines the role of media in relation in modern religious education, and was supported by Aid to Faculty Scholarship and Instructional Development (ASID) funding.

**Jason Ralston, assistant professor of economics**, with Charles North, associate professor of economics at Baylor University, published an op-ed in *Arkansas Business* analyzing a new law in Arkansas permitting jurors to donate their jury pay. Citing research they published in 2019 on a similar practice in Texas, Ralston and North argue that the process could create juror bias and propose a simple solution.

**Rob Schlegel, senior adjunct assistant professor of rhetoric, writing and public discourse**, published "The Sentence" in *The Nation*. The poem is from Schlegel's fourth collection, "Childcare," which is forthcoming from Four Way Books.

**Michael Simon '02, senior adjunct assistant professor of music**, released a four-song EP, "Social Distancing: Four Songs of the Pandemic," recorded entirely remotely by the members of his band in 2020. This project was also Simon's thesis for a MM in Music Production from Berklee College of Music, a degree earned with distinction last September.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Douglas Underwood, emeritus professor of mathematics**, passed away on June 2, 2021.

He was a revered teacher and mentor to generations of Whitties and a valued colleague to those who had the privilege to work with him.

After earning a bachelor's from Case Western Reserve University and a master's from the University of California, Berkeley—both in mathematics—he came to Whitman in 1958, and served the college for the next 40 years.

He completed his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin in 1968. In 1980, he spent a sabbatical year at Washington State University taking classes in computer science and, together with Dick Thomassen, he developed Whitman's very first offerings on the subject.

Underwood received the 1982 Whitman College Town-Gown Award due to his dedication to the Walla Walla community, and the 1990 Lange Award for excellence of teaching in the natural sciences.

In recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the college and its students, Underwood was appointed to the Alexander Jay Anderson Professorship in 1985.

Underwood was preceded in death by his wife, Sally. He is survived by his daughters, Judith and Deborah.

—Submitted by Pat Keef, William K. and Diana R. Deshler Chair of Mathematics





# The Time is Now

WHITMAN'S NEW VP FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BELIEVES THE COLLEGE IS READY FOR CHANGE

BY TARA ROBERTS

JOHN JOHNSON'S PATH TO becoming Whitman College's new vice president for diversity and inclusion started in first grade.

Johnson grew up in a working-class Black community in Philadelphia, but was bused to another neighborhood for school. The experience was an education unto itself.

"I'd spend all this time at this predominantly white school, and I'm the person who is marginalized; I'm the person who's alienated in the space," Johnson says. "I'm the poor Black kid who's coming into this white

middle-class community, and I'm just trying to find my way. And I'm encountering people who don't even know me, and they hate me."

When he started his undergraduate studies at Temple University, another predominantly white institution, he was determined to fill the gaps in his education.

"That experience, from first grade through the twelfth grade, taught me in many ways, through a variety of negative experiences, that my intellectual heritage, my history, my culture's contributions to civilization were





PHOTO BY CALLAN BOIRE-SHELDON, SENIOR FROM PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON

**“By the time I’d finished my undergrad, and I’d experienced so much of what I could call conditioning—efforts to miseducate me, encouragement to assimilate in order to matriculate—I knew I needed to do something about it.”**

JOHN JOHNSON, VP for Diversity and Inclusion

answer to racism but remained fascinated with the ways it engaged questions of identity and power. He entered his Ph.D. program with funding, but struggled with attending yet another institution with few Black students.

Johnson sought out community by mentoring undergraduates in the school’s Black Student Union. When a faculty member commented he should be spending less time with the students and more time with his department, he countered by rewriting his research plan—and making the students his research focus.

His new mission was to examine how ethnic student organizations worked to recruit and retain students. He visited eight University of California campuses, interviewing dozens of people, investigating how the institutions supported Black students and building a list of best practices.

### FROM RESEARCH TO LEADERSHIP

Johnson’s research acted as a training ground for the rest of his career. Rather than continue on the academic side, he switched to student affairs, working in positions such as director of the Institute of Black Culture at the University of Florida and coordinator of the African American Center for Academic Excellence at Humboldt State.

These student-focused roles helped Johnson develop an administrative approach that values connection and coordination. He pushes back against siloed thinking that categorizes students as “yours” or “mine” instead of recognizing opportunities to work together.

“We understand our goals as aligned—once we do that, we can streamline things, we can actually save money and we can meet the needs of the students better,” he says.

Whitman is a prime place to build relationships, Johnson says. He has experience

with small college towns, predominantly white schools and private institutions, and sees Whitman’s tight-knit community as an advantage that’s aligned with his strengths.

“This work is very difficult, and some schools are more ready for the work than others,” he says. “At Whitman, there’s clear community commitment, clear student commitment, a developing infrastructure and apparatus. There are resources allocated, and the school has a desire to change.”


### FROM ‘WELCOME’ TO AT HOME

Johnson comes to Whitman from California State University, Sacramento, where he served as the director of the centers for diversity and inclusion and most recently as the director of inclusive excellence learning. His time at Sacramento State provided him with opportunities to expand his portfolio and focus on diversity and inclusion issues more broadly. Because his work has consistently taken an intersectional approach, he was able to address issues like ableism, cissexism and Islamophobia directly.

Johnson’s philosophy for improving diversity and inclusion in a community is guided by three questions from African American psychology: Communities must first determine who they are, interrogate if they are who they say they are and, from there, consider if they are everything they ought to be.

“If we talk about being inclusive, are we? If we talk about eliminating bias, let’s see how we’re eliminating bias,” he explains.

Johnson says people often think of equity as being generous or providing a service to people who have been disenfranchised or minoritized—instead of actively trying to address structures of oppression.

“It’s the difference between welcoming you into my house, and talking about what we need to do together to create a home for both of us.” 

not likely going to be included in my curriculum when I entered college,” he says.

He took classes in women’s and ethnic studies, seeking out content that spoke to his experience as a Black man. What he learned seemed so essential, he couldn’t believe it wasn’t required. He developed an interest in psychology, hoping it might help him understand the causes of racism.

“By the time I’d finished my undergrad, and I’d experienced so much of what I could call conditioning, efforts to miseducate me, encouragement to assimilate in order to matriculate, I knew that I needed to do something about it,” Johnson says.

### FROM EXPERIENCE TO EXAMINATION

Johnson earned a master’s in educational psychology at Ball State University before beginning a doctorate at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He no longer believed psychology could unveil an






## Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy Lab

At first glance, Room 213 in Whitman's Hall of Science looks like a small natural history museum: Illustrated species identification posters and cabinets full of taxidermy birds line the walls, skeletons of fish, small mammals and more birds perch atop raised platforms, and jars of preserved reptiles crowd the shelves.

Professor of Biology Kate Jackson, who uses the room for her Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy and Herpetology labs, knows some may recoil at the sight: "To a person stumbling in unexpectedly, it's a bit creepy—there are things that are dead, things in jars, skeletons and so forth," she says.

However, Jackson (pictured bottom right with her pet boa constrictor, Cookie) sees it differently. This is not a museum or macabre—it's where biology students come for hands-on investigation and learning. "For my students and I, what we get from the space is a depth and intensity of knowledge," she says. "It's a space where students come for three hours at a time, every week for an entire semester and lose themselves in a dissection. It's a kind of deep immersion in study, which I think is increasingly rare in a world of shortened attention spans and cell phones." 











# A Strong Voice For the Future

CHANGEMAKER AND LOCAL ACTIVIST  
SALMA ANGUIANO PUTS HER COMMUNITY FIRST

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BY SYDNEY LONDON '23

AS THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC year gets into full swing, Whitman's student body government has a new leader: senior politics and Chinese major Salma Anguiano, who was elected president of the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) in May 2021.

One of ASWC's primary roles is to ensure that the student body's values are represented in the college's high-level decision-making. And this year, the college faces one very crucial decision: selecting a president to replace Kathleen Murray, who will retire at the end of the academic year. As president of ASWC, Anguiano is also a member of the Presidential Search Committee, the group of students, faculty, staff and trustees tasked with helping to select the college's 15th president. (Read more on page 3.) When asked what qualities she wants to see in candidates for this vital position, Anguiano says they are similar to the traits she aims to exhibit during her terms as ASWC president: passion, authenticity and transparency.

## OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Anguiano's first foray into leadership started when an advisor at her Hermiston,



Oregon, high school encouraged her to join the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing students for careers and active roles in their communities. Anguiano became deeply engaged in the organization and decided to run for state and, eventually, national offices.

Running her first campaign wasn't easy for Anguiano. "At the time it was hard, I didn't really know what I was doing," she admits. But although the experience was unfamiliar, she knew she was capable: "People saw potential in me," Anguiano says. The self-confidence this support gave her led to a successful campaign — Anguiano was elected Oregon's FCCLA president, one of the first women of color to hold the office at the state level.

During her campaign and later when in office, Anguiano says she knew others within the organization questioned her ability to perform her duties, mainly because of her identity as a Hispanic woman. "The narrative of people telling me that I don't fit the picture of a leader is one I've heard before," she says. Anguiano

to protect undocumented workers through engagement, workshops and conversations with legislators. Anguiano is also working on an accompanying documentary that highlights the experiences of some of those undocumented workers in eastern Washington. She hopes the film, which she anticipates will be released in the fall of 2021, will motivate others to get involved. "I see the documentary as space for people's voices to be heard, but also as a call to action. Whitman's community lacks engagement with the undocumented population and many are oblivious to the atrocities that occur in our greater communities. I hope this documentary teaches them something."

On campus, Anguiano participated in organizations such as Debating for Democracy and lent her voice to several committees dedicated to meeting the college's diversity, equity and inclusion goals before deciding to run for president of ASWC. She says the challenges and criticisms she encountered during her FCCLA presidential runs in high school helped prepare her for her most recent campaign. "I take the jabs as compliments."




**Stepping up.** Salma Anguiano's time in the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) prepared her to lead.

is a value she takes seriously; she believes it is the backbone of creating change, being an effective leader and gaining the student body's trust.

Anguiano says she knows the change she desires won't come easy, but she is motivated to work for the benefit of those surrounding her. "Seeing students enjoy the changes that were made and not have to go through similar challenges makes me really happy."

Anguiano has noted that the pride that comes with her efforts coincides with her peers and community members being celebrated for their accomplishments as well. Doing the work and recognizing when others do their part is something that she wants to make a habit out of for ASWC this year, knowing that creating and upholding this culture will keep others motivated throughout the taxing work that has to be done.

"I'm here to make Whitman a diverse, equitable and inclusive space. That is what I campaigned on ... This is work that I've been doing and I'm going to continue to do this upcoming year and as an alum once I leave Whitman.

"I know that there have been people before me who have done a lot to make Whitman a better place for me, and I want to leave my mark and make Whitman a better place for the students who come after me." 

**"I know there have been people before me who have done a lot to make Whitman a better place for me, and I want to leave my mark and make Whitman a better place for the students who come after me."**

SALMA ANGUIANO, president, Associated Students of Whitman College

went on to prove naysayers wrong through her many accomplishments as president, which included creating career and technical education programs at her own school and advocating for these programs at other low-income schools around the country.

### SHINING A LIGHT

As a Whitman student, Anguiano has continued to push for brighter futures and better conditions for the larger community. She's currently deep in a project that means a lot to her: *Protegiendo Nuestras Raíces* (Protecting Our Roots), which aims to advocate for a fair compensation system

### HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

With the campaigning behind her, Anguiano is now looking ahead to the agenda for the next year of duties of student government. She has a long list of goals, including analyzing how the student body wants to use its budget, creating more democratic elections with higher student participation and properly addressing the college's history regarding colonization. She's confident she and her team can achieve all of it.

"If I had to summarize a theme for this year it would be change, passion, authenticity and more change," Anguiano says. "I want to create an authentic organization — one without a façade." Authenticity





# FACING *the* MUSIC





*the* WHITMAN  
COLLEGE ORCHESTRA  
EXAMINES RACISM  
*in* CLASSICAL MUSIC  
AND PLEDGES *to*  
DIVERSIFY ITS  
REPERTOIRE

BY LARA HALE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY REBECCA DEVEREAUX

In the fall of 2020, Whitman College's entirely online learning format created challenges for faculty and students alike. For Whitman's orchestra, directed by Associate Professor of Music Paul Luongo, it also presented an opportunity for reflection and change.

It started when Luongo connected with colleagues from other colleges in Washington and Oregon to talk about what they, as orchestra conductors, could do when they couldn't lead live orchestras.

"In the midst of those discussions, we were also talking about the tragic murder of George Floyd and the ripples that were happening from that," Luongo says.

Soon the cohort came to a decision. "If we weren't going to be actively rehearsing music live, we thought this was a good time to look for productive conversations and exploration and growth around classical music, and in particular, racism in classical music — which has long been a fraught issue in American history."

## A HISTORY *of* EXCLUSION

In the 1920s and '30s, says Luongo, there were more Black American voices in composition than ever before. At the same time, there was a significant pushback in orchestral composition from white American composers, which was partly entwined with some American cultural insecurity. Eager to prove that they were as culturally sophisticated in their perception as that of their European peers, white American composers were producing ultramodern works that cut out the threads most of the era's Black composers were exploring — like jazz and African-American spirituals — which reflected their own lived experiences and cultural history.

"This was not where the establishment wanted to go," Luongo says. "And so, American orchestral music moved in an ultramodern direction, and a predominantly white direction. This aesthetic bias became coupled with a racial bias that silenced so many wonderful African-American classical contributions."

## SHIFTING *the* CENTER

Committed to exploring the issue further, Luongo joined the orchestra directors of the University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, Washington), Lewis & Clark (Portland, Oregon) and Seattle Pacific University to form the Northwest Orchestra Consortium. The group pooled their resources to invite performers, composers, researchers and arts administrators who are on the front lines of the issue of institutional racism in classical music to participate in discussions with their students.

"Through the course of those conversations, we began to see some real possible, actionable steps for [the Whitman] ensemble," says Luongo. "We might not be able to change the conversation nationally but we can control our sphere of influence."

One of the virtual sessions in the fall was with renowned countertenor Reginald Mobley, the first-ever programming consultant for the Boston-based Handel and Haydn Society. Mobley, who sang with the Whitman Orchestra as a soloist several years ago, is also a leading advocate in promoting antiracism in the choral community and co-authored the Black Voices Matter Pledge, a call to action for choral artists.

The conversation with Mobley inspired several of the orchestra students, including violist Llewyn Merrill, a junior from Olympia, Washington, and violinist Abby Herrick '21, to form a group to dig deeper into the issue.

"Our main goal was to produce a pledge [similar to the Black Voices Matter one] for the Whitman Orchestra, but it became something that will continue on to be more than just that," says Herrick, who was a founding member of the Whitman College Orchestra Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee in her senior year.

Luongo explains: "The student committee isn't going to be choosing the music that the orchestra plays, but they will meet with me several times a year to discuss my rationale for the repertoire that I may have selected, address concerns and bring ideas. They'll engage in their own research to uncover other possibilities and take a greater responsibility for their student experience and for the direction the ensemble takes."



## A PLEDGE *to* PROGRESS

The committee's pledge, completed in the Spring 2021 semester, outlines the ensemble's commitment to the reflection, critical interrogation and action in three areas.

First, through its repertoire — diversifying the music played to include under-represented works and examining the value of works from the white, male-centered canon before programming them.

Second, in the way they rehearse; in addition to creating an inclusive environment for practice, the ensemble will make efforts to learn about the historical and cultural context of works, not just learning how to play them.

And finally, in performance — by introducing the orchestra to historically neglected audiences, inviting guest performers from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and educating its audience on the value of diversity, equity and inclusion in orchestral music.

After sharing the pledge with Kazi Joshua, dean of students, and Helen Kim, associate dean for faculty development, the committee sought feedback from Mobley.

"We wanted him to challenge us on our pledge and kind of kick the tires a bit — help us think more critically about our ideas and actionable items for [the 2021-22 school year] so it's not just a statement but actually a plan for modifying how we behave as an ensemble," Luongo says.

Merrill says Mobley's feedback was positive and inspired the committee to take a proactive approach.

"We had already started to think about what steps we could take to make sure that this pledge actually does what it's intended to do, and to make sure that we stick to it," he says. "[Mobley] probed us to think harder, asking: 'What does this really mean to you?' What can you do to make that happen?'"

## REVISING *the* REPERTOIRE

The Whitman College Orchestra Spring 2021 Concert demonstrated the pledge's principles put into practice. In addition to works by Aaron Copland and Béla



Bartók, the program included "Serenade for Strings and Piano" by 20th-century Black composer William Grant Still, and "Arachanga" by Reena Esmail, a contemporary Indian-American composer who was one of the virtual guests in the Northwest Orchestra Consortium's speaker series.

Although she started learning violin when she was 7 years old, Herrick says this was still one of the first times she's performed works by composers who were not white men. "I think all of the first times happened at Whitman. As an orchestra, we'd played music composed by people of color and women before, but we'd never had such an in-depth discussion about the importance of that before this last year," she says.



**Countertenor and activist Reginald Mobley advised on the orchestra's pledge.**







**LISTEN AND LEARN.** Hear the orchestra perform William Grant Still's "Serenade for Strings and Piano," listen to Reginald Mobley speak about expanding the canon, and read the diversity and inclusion committee's pledge at [whitman.com/magazine](http://whitman.com/magazine).



**Composer Reena Esmail, who is Indian-American, was one of the consortium's virtual speakers.**



**Abby Herrick '21 was a founding member of the diversity and inclusion committee in her senior year.**



**Lewyn Merrill (foreground), diversity and inclusion committee member.**

Individually, Luongo says he has grappled with these issues and considered them in his programming for several years, but he hadn't really engaged students in the process. Herrick says she was glad to be involved.


"Classical music likes to stay in its own little sphere and not branch out, and I think that it's important to try to change that exclusivity and to acknowledge the racism in it," she says. "A lot of music has been buried and still isn't played. I think we have to question that."

Merrill says he hadn't thought about these issues until fairly recently. "Really, it was this last fall semester that made things click for me about how classical music, compared to other areas of music, is much less diverse." That's when he started to consider not just the lack of diversity in

the canon, but some of the forms of gate-keeping around classical music, like the traditionally formal (and often expensive) concert dress code. "There are some very subtle ways that it's just not equitable."

The process of creating a just and equitable orchestral community is an iterative one, says Luongo, and the pledge is the first attempt at a blueprint for change.

As a recent graduate, Herrick won't be a part of the orchestra's next steps, but she is confident they'll be in the right direction.

"I think smaller schools like Whitman can really make a change in classical music, specifically. We have a lot more ability to make changes in what we play and what we learn because we can be more flexible and we have different priorities than a conservatory might. I think it's really exciting." 



A photograph of a vineyard at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The vineyard rows stretch across the landscape, with grapevines in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. Large, white, serif text is overlaid on the image, reading "From Vine to Table".

# From Vine to Table

Meet industrious Whitties who are pairing their liberal arts education with fine wine

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BY LARA HALE





COURTESY L'ECOLE NO. 41



Autumn transforms Walla Walla with golden yellow and blazing red leaves, a new class of students arriving on campus and an influx of visitors, who come to drink in the views and the vino during crush and fall release events.

The commercial wine industry in Walla Walla is relatively young — and it's had ties to Whitman College since its earliest days. When Jean and Baker Ferguson '39 founded L'Ecole N<sup>o</sup> 41 in 1983 as a retirement project, it was only the third commercial winery in Walla Walla and the 20th in Washington state.

The Fergusons' daughter, Megan Ferguson Clubb '79, and her husband, Marty Clubb, assisted with fall harvest activities through the early years of the winery. In 1989, the couple took over as L'Ecole's manager and winemaker.

Today, Walla Walla's wine scene is booming with more than 200 wineries, and L'Ecole is a third-generation family enterprise co-owned by Megan, Marty and their children, Riley '09 and Rebecca, who have both been involved in the winery's operations.

As the local industry has grown, so too has the number of Whitties who go on to careers in wine — and their roles are as diverse as the varieties of grapes that thrive here.





# *In the Vineyard*

**Todd Harrington '09**

Vineyard Operations Manager, Washington Vintners



**L**ate spring, after the threat of frost has passed, is Todd Harrington's favorite time to walk through the vines. "It's just starting to warm up then, and the vines are actively growing," he says. "You start to see the lush green glow of the vine, and you still have the green ground cover soaking up the last of the winter moisture. That's a really beautiful time to be in the vineyards."

Harrington often slips into such evocative language when he talks about his work as a vineyard manager, painting vivid pictures with his words, as though he's setting the scene for a sweeping cinematic saga.

His love of storytelling is what led Harrington to major in rhetoric and film studies at Whitman. In his junior year, he studied French cinema in France. That's when he discovered that winemaking can be a form of storytelling too.

"There are stories about the vineyards, these sites with several millennia of grape-growing, and the histories of the families who have farmed those areas for many, many generations and then even down to the details of that year, and that vintage, all kind of wrapped into one bottle that I could enjoy years or decades after those winemakers have gone and passed it on to the next generation," he says. "That was the bridge between film and wine for me. It spoke to me on those same levels."

## A PATH THROUGH THE VINES

After graduating from Whitman, Harrington started working as a tasting room assistant at Seven Hills Winery. Although he'd originally planned to go to film school, he'd fallen in love with the community of Walla Walla and was excited by the opportunities its burgeoning wine scene presented. In 2012, he enrolled in the enology and viticulture program at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) and, after completing it, took an internship with Tranche Cellars. He eventually transitioned into the vineyard side of Tranche's parent company, Washington Vintners, which owns three other estate brands (Corliss, Secret Squirrel and San Juan Vineyards) and sells fruit to around 40 other wineries.

Harrington initially thought he'd follow a path to become a winemaker, but says growing up in agriculture-focused Montana played a role in determining a different direction: "The pastoral way of life and business really resonated with me. There are some beautiful wineries and it's very tranquil in the cellar, but it's hard to beat a sunrise in the vineyard and being drenched in sunshine during the long summers that we have here."

Today, he is vineyard operations manager for Washington Vintners, helping manage the company's logistics, client relations, fruit sales to third-party wineries, and strategic planning and development as it replants existing vineyards and acquires new ones. "My position is somewhat of a bridge between our field managers, who are out there every day, boots on the ground, touching the vines." His role also requires communicating with winemakers who are highly educated in chemistry and enology. "I've got to use both the lexicon of wine-making and wine tasting, but also of vine physiology, the biology of those vines, the terroir, the geology, the hydrology and climate of those areas. It's really a large collection of disciplines that I have to have a grasp on, and an understanding of how those factor into the final product and the bottom line. I think Whitman did a great job preparing me for that."



HAYLEY YOUNG

## Talking Terroir

Whitman geology professor Kevin Pogue's work in the wine industry started casually in the late '90s, with friends in the business asking him to evaluate potential vineyard sites. After the events of 9/11 made it impossible to continue his research on Himalayan geology in northwestern Pakistan, Pogue needed a new focus. "I realized that the growth of viticulture in the Pacific Northwest in general, and the Walla Walla Valley in particular, could benefit greatly from a better, more detailed understanding of our landscape, geology, soils and climate," he says. In the years since, he's presented papers at national and international terroir conferences, introduced a course in terroir to Whitman's curriculum, contributed lectures on terroir to the enology and viticulture programs at Washington State University and Walla Walla Community College, and been awarded the Washington Wine Commission's Walter Clore Honorarium for his service as an ambassador, mentor and champion of Washington wines. Pogue has also quite literally put Pacific Northwest wines on the map: He wrote the petitions that earned the Rocks District of Milton-Freewater its American Viticulture Area (AVA) status in 2020, and made Candy Mountain and White Bluffs two of Washington state's newest AVAs in the past year.



# *In the Cellar*

**Devyani Gupta '15**

Assistant Winemaker, Valdemar Estates





**P**lenty of college seniors are still figuring out their career plans. But Devyani Gupta already had the next eight or so years mapped out: She would earn her Whitman degree in psychology and Spanish, then take a job with a research lab, earn a graduate degree or two in psychology and become a professor.

After graduating with honors in both majors, Gupta took the first step down that path. She moved to Seattle to become a research project coordinator for the University of Washington READi Lab, which conducts research related to early detection and treatment of children with autism spectrum disorders.

During the week, she worked on a study designed to help connect service providers and predominantly Spanish-only speaking parents in rural areas, to ensure they could access services. And on Saturdays, she resumed the job she'd had in her senior year — working in the nearby tasting room of Walla Walla-based Amavi Cellars and Pepper Bridge Wines — this time, in the wineries' Woodinville location, around 30 minutes from Seattle.

She found her research work meaningful, but it didn't take long to realize that her carefully planned career path wasn't what she wanted after all.

"It was a really cool research project and it's something that was important to me, but it was definitely a wakeup call because I wasn't happy or excited about it," Gupta says. "After getting a taste for working in wine, talking about wine, and being around other people who are just as excited to work in wine, going into research just felt a bit like getting sucked into a black hole. It just didn't make me light up like wine did."

## TAKING A LEAP

A mutual friend suggested that she reach out to another Whitman alum, experienced winery founder Ashley Trout '03 (see below), who Gupta learned had a similar experience

in discovering that her original career path, the one she'd worked toward for years, didn't make her happy.

Inspired by Trout to follow her passion, Gupta left her research job to enroll in Walla Walla Community College's Enology and Viticulture Program. While studying, she worked in the tasting room at L'Ecole and in the vineyards at Seven Hills Winery, and did her second-year internship on the production side at Figgins Winery, where she worked as a harvest enologist after completing her degree.

Gupta was hired as assistant winemaker at Valdemar Estates in 2019 — the opening year of the winery, which is the Walla Walla brand of a renowned Spanish wine group that's been in the same family for five generations. She loves that the winery's relatively small size offers her the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of duties.

"During most of the year, it's just [Marie-Eva Gilla, director of winemaking] and I in production. So in April, we were monitoring the planting of our two estate vineyards, racking wine, putting together blends for June bottling and the next night, hopping in the work truck, putting on nice clothes, off-loading 10 cases and pouring at an event."

Speaking at winemaker dinners is a relatively new responsibility. And though it's not her favorite part of her job ("I'm a little bit of a social person, but I'm more on the introvert side"), it's one Whitman prepared her for: "It didn't matter what your major was; you had to present in every single class. You basically could not get out of public speaking — that's probably one of the biggest soft skills that Whitman taught me."

***"It didn't matter what your major was ... You basically could not get out of public speaking ..."***

## To Good Health!

**Ashley Trout '03** started making wine in her first year at Whitman and opened her first winery, Flying Trout Wines, just three years after she graduated. To say she's made her mark on the industry would be an understatement: In the more than 20 years since her first crush, Trout has worked eight harvests in Argentina, founded two more Walla Walla wineries (Brook & Bull and Vital Wines), poured her wines at an Academy Awards pre-party for nominees and been named to Wine Enthusiast's "40 Under 40" list. In launching Vital Wines, Trout's impact has gone beyond making fantastic wines—she's helping to make a healthier community. The brand funds better access to health care for seasonal vineyard and winery workers in the Walla Walla Valley, with all proceeds supporting SOS Health Services, a free community clinic. Trout says that in addition to drastically raising the budget for the clinic, she started Vital Wines as a means to start a conversation amongst members of the local industry about how they treat each other as co-workers, friends and family. During a spring 2021 virtual event for Whitman alumni, Trout said of the nonprofit winery: "Vital is very fulfilling. It's my passion project."





# Behind the Scenes



## 'Brielle Baker Cunnison '95

Operations Specialist, Cayuse Vineyards

**A**lthough she doesn't work on the stock exchange, you could say 'Brielle Baker Cunnison '95 works in futures. Cunnison is operations specialist for Cayuse Vineyards, one of the most widely acclaimed wineries in the region. The Cayuse brand is so sought-after that the wines are purchased by members up to two years before they are produced. As a result, customers expect an exceptional experience from the moment they purchase the wine to when they finally drink it years later.

While at Whitman College, Cunnison never saw her future in wine or even Walla Walla. "I'll never forget my first visit to Walla Walla in 1990," Cunnison says. "I felt like I'd entered the Old West." She, along with her husband and Whitman classmate, John Cunnison, decided to move back to the valley from San Diego a little more than 10 years after graduating. "It was largely because we were looking for a good quality of life and place to raise a family," she says. When they returned, the pair found the

same small-town charm they remembered coupled with unfamiliar amenities that hinted at the city's new status as a destination for wine lovers and foodies.

The English major took a job at a local communications company, while John joined Baker Boyer Bank. After about seven years in her communications role, Cunnison was ready to move on: "I felt I could use a change," she says. "As I was looking at jobs, I got an email from the general manager at Cayuse Vineyards. We knew him through an extended group of friends, which included some Whitties. It was out of the blue, but it was perfect timing."

### GROWING RESPONSIBILITIES

Cunnison started working part-time in the ultra-exclusive winery's downtown Walla Walla office, with primary responsibilities in customer service and compliance, and as the business grew, so



# Cheers to a great cause

With the fall release of their 2018 L'Erudite ("The Scholar"), L'Ecole N° 41 owners Megan Clubb '79, Marty Clubb, Riley Clubb '09 and Rebecca Clubb will help create opportunities for Walla Walla area middle-school students, primarily from low-income backgrounds, to experience higher education.

All profits from the sale of the special bottling benefit the Whitman Institute for Scholastic Enrichment (WISE), a program that introduces rising ninth-graders to college life with the aim of inspiring them to pursue a college education. During the all-expenses paid, multiday immersion program, students attend classes taught by Whitman professors, enjoy activities on Ankeny Field and spend two nights in a residence hall. WISE participants and their parents also can sign up for college prep workshops and panels with Whitman financial aid and admission staff. More than 300 local students have benefited from the WISE program since its inception in 2006.

L'Erudite is a blend of 40% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 30% cabernet franc from the most distinguished blocks of the estate winery's Seven Hills and Ferguson vineyards. While most of L'Ecole's bottle labels bear the image of the historic Frenchtown School it calls home, L'Erudite features another schoolhouse: College Hall, which once stood on land donated to Whitman by Dr. Dorsey Syng Baker, the great-grandfather of Baker Ferguson '39, who established L'Ecole with his wife Jean in 1983. The wine is available exclusively in L'Ecole's Westside and downtown Walla Walla tasting rooms and online at lecole.com.

***"I really credit my education at Whitman for helping me be flexible and curious and asking the right questions."***

did her role. Today she works from the Milton-Freewater, Oregon, wine studio, which serves as the production facility for Cayuse and its sister brands, No Girls, Horsepower and Hors Catégorie.

As operations specialist, Cunnison's responsibilities include entering harvest data into the winery management software — essentially creating the wines virtually and tracking inventory. She also coordinates shipments to the wine media and to charities who auction it off to raise funds. She plays a major role in organizing Cayuse's annual members-only party, as well.

"It isn't an industry I trained in so it's all been a learning curve these last eight years. It's meant a lot of asking why is it this way, or saying this doesn't seem right or we could do this better," she says. "I really credit my education at Whitman for helping me be flexible and curious and asking the right questions."

## A TASTE FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

Although Cunnison's role doesn't require an in-depth knowledge of wine, she says learning about those things from the experts she works with (including enologist Will Thompson '09) is a fantastic perk. One of the ways she increases her education is through blind tastings that Cayuse owner and winemaker Christophe Baron hosts for his team. Cayuse competes with some of the best wines in the world, and she feels it is her role to support the exceptional wine making at Cayuse with behind-the-scenes processes of equivalent quality.

"I have learned how to identify varietals that I'm tasting, and I've been able to experience wines from all over the world. It's a fun process," she says.

And that's one of Cunnison's favorite things about wine — that even experts in the field are still experimenting and discovering. It's the perfect industry for those with a thirst for knowledge.

"There's no room to be bored — there's still always something new to learn," says Cunnison.





# In the Tasting Room

**Alex Motamedi-Ponnaz '11**  
Hospitality Manager, Force Majeure

Visitors to Force Majeure tend to be serious connoisseurs and collectors. At the premium estate winery in the Rocks District of Milton-Freewater, south of Walla Walla, they're not just there to sip and swirl—but to have in-depth discussions about the finer details of these fine wines, from how they were made to how they'll age.

Alex Motamedi-Ponnaz is only too happy to oblige them. "I'm a dyed-in-the-wool extrovert," he says. "I'm the kind of guy that being alone for a long time drains my energy and interacting with people gives me energy. It puts a pep in my step."

As the winery's hospitality manager, Motamedi-Ponnaz is responsible for the full visitor experience and he's such a natural at connecting with guests and making them feel at ease that it seems impossible he ever imagined doing anything else.

Although Walla Walla's wine industry was already booming when Motamedi-Ponnaz came to Whitman, he says he was largely oblivious to its significance for most of the time he was a student.

"When I came here, I just thought: This is a cute college town in a quiet corner of the Northwest," he says, adding that he saw a new side of Walla Walla after he was old enough to visit the tasting rooms. "I realized that, in terms of the economy and jobs and national and international renown, this is also a wine town."

## FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

After graduation, the history major stayed in town, and enrolled in a master's of secondary education program. "Eventually it dawned on me how tough teachers have it. I have such respect for teachers; it's a really stressful job. It wasn't the right track for me."

In the meantime, he'd been working in wineries in various capacities and found the experience eye-opening: "I started seeing the

whole process of how wine is made, getting a real kind of technical, scientific and artistic sense of it. I knew I'd only scratched the surface of a very large and very interesting iceberg, and I realized maybe I could make a career out of this."

Encouraged by his fiancée, now wife, Gillian Frew '11, he enrolled in the viticulture and enology program at WWCC and faced a new kind of learning curve. "I was a humanities and social sciences guy, and then I started doing courses in soil science and organic chemistry, as well as the history of wine, sensory analysis and tasting classes."

He spent a lot of time working on the production side while he was doing the wine program: sorting and crushing grapes, checking acidity, alcohol and sulfur dioxide levels, pumping over and punching down fermenting juice, barreling down wines and topping barrels off as they evaporated. He thought he'd follow that path and become a winemaker, although he had misgivings about the often-solitary conditions of working in a cellar.

"But then I gave tasting rooms a shot," he says. "And I realized that I can speak out of a theoretical knowledge of wine and a deep historical and cultural knowledge of wine, as well as my lived experiences making the stuff. That kind of career track fit like a glove."

In his current role, Motamedi-Ponnaz is tasting room pourer, facility tour guide, educator, salesperson and every bit an entertainer. Because Force Majeure is a limited-production facility with a lean crew, he still gets involved with some production tasks from time to time and he admits he sometimes thinks back fondly on his student days "foot-stomping shiraz," but believes he's headed down the right path.

"I really get to flex my social muscles. Who knows — maybe the future will hold more winemaking for me, but I'm very happy where I am now."



**A**s a writer and critic, Owen Bargreen is well-known in the wine world. For more than 15 years, he's traveled to wine regions all over the globe, interviewing winemakers and reviewing countless bottles. He shares his insights with aficionados and eager amateurs alike through his Instagram and Facebook accounts—with thousands of followers—and on his website, the Washington Wine Blog, as well as in magazines such as Decanter. Certified by the Court of Master Sommeliers, Bargreen has hosted wine tastings and education sessions for corporations including Amazon, Microsoft and Google. In 2021, he also became the Washington editor for the highly respected wine publication *Vinous*, and formally launched a wine-tasting concierge service.

And wine isn't even his day job. Bargreen, aka Dr. Bargreen, is a clinical psychologist specializing in violence prevention who practices in Everett, Washington.

## PASSION PROJECT

Walla Walla's wine scene was just beginning to bud in 2002, when Bargreen was a senior history major at Whitman College. He'd developed an interest in wine through his parents, and started going to the handful of local tasting rooms that were open at the time.

"The idea of becoming a wine critic wasn't something that entered my mind in 2002, but over time, I became very passionate about learning about wine," he says. "And I can definitely connect that in some way to me being a history major at Whitman; learning about the history of wine—and the geography and culture—was fascinating." He'd taken many psychology classes at Whitman, and after graduation he spent a year working with foster youth in Everett, Washington, assisting behavior modification and carrying out treatment plans from their therapists. He then went on to earn his doctorate of clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego in 2007.


It was during his graduate studies that his love for psychology was complimented with his love for wines of the world. "During the time I was in San Diego, I was doing blind tastings with my friends, reading books about wine and trying to learn as much as I could about wine. I was always taking notes and writing about the wines we tasted, and eventually I started putting my notes online," Bargreen says.

His interest in tasting and writing about wine continued to develop as he moved back to the Seattle area and found that the Washington wine industry was thriving. At the same time, so was his career as a clinical psychologist. He established his private practice in 2008 in his hometown of Everett, where he also worked as an associate professor of psychology at (now defunct) Trinity Lutheran College for five years.

Although his day job and his passion project may seem like night and day, Bargreen says they have some things in common—and that his work as a clinical psychologist gives him an edge as a wine critic. "I've done over 100 Instagram Live videos with winemakers and top producers in the industry and I've been able to utilize my interviewing skills as a psychologist in that arena. I think that helps me, and positions me as a critic that's a little bit different, with a skill set unlike others."

Taking notes is another similarity between the two fields—and another area where Bargreen stands out among wine critics.

Although he says he tries to be concise when he writes stories about wine and wineries, he admits his tasting notes are generally more detailed than those written by a lot of other critics, especially when he's writing about a truly remarkable wine.

"I feel like not writing detailed tasting notes on an extraordinary wine would be a discredit to the wine, and the people behind it." 



# At the Table

## Owen Bargreen '02

Wine writer, critic and certified sommelier

COURTESY OF OWEN BARGREEN





# Meet the Moes

Writer and  
podcast host  
John Moe '90,

and his daughter,  
Kate, an incoming  
first-year,

bond over all  
things Whitman.





**D**uring his days at Whitman College, theater major John Moe '90 kept his classmates entertained as an actor in many Harper Joy Theatre productions, a humor columnist for *The Pioneer*, and a host on KWCW radio. He later parlayed his "K-Dub" radio experience into a career on-air, reporting, hosting and producing shows for American Public Media as well as KUOW-FM, Seattle's National Public Radio affiliate station.

Now based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Moe uses his wit to entertain and educate about a serious subject. In his groundbreaking podcast "The Hilarious World of Depression," he interviewed well-known comedians and performers who have dealt with clinical depression, including Andy Richter, Margaret Cho, Michael Ian Black and Rachel Bloom, with the goal of destigmatizing and alleviating shame related to the disorder. On the show and in his book of the same name (published in May 2020), Moe also talks openly about his own experience of depression. His new podcast, "Depresh Mode," launched in March 2021, continues the conversation, exploring a broader range of issues—including eating disorders, work burnout, grief and bipolar disorder—through interviews with celebrities as well as mental health experts.

With his daughter, Kate, headed to Whitman to join the Class of 2025, we thought it was the perfect time to turn the tables on Moe, making him the interviewee for a change. In this conversation, which took place when Kate was home for a short break from summer camp in the Minnesota Northwoods—a kind of rehearsal for going off to college—John reminisces about his time at Whitman as Kate looks forward to hers.



**Whitman, a family tradition.** John Moe '90 and a young Kate, now class of 2025.

**Whitman Magazine: John, what do you wish you'd known when you were starting off at Whitman, as Kate is now?**

**John:** That I didn't have to worry about whether I belonged there. I didn't know much about the school when I showed up, which I think was not uncommon in the 1980s.

I think I wish I had known that life wasn't a test, and that I didn't have to prove myself. And that I didn't have to hide in the areas where I wasn't too strong, and I could just embrace what the place is, which is four years that you get to go live in this place and think and talk and develop and learn with these other amazing people—what a glorious opportunity that is! And if you spend a lot of time worrying about it, worrying that you're doing it wrong or spinning out on anxieties, that's going to put some clouds on it.

But something that I figured out towards the end was that the department you are in doesn't really matter very much. And the experience everybody is having is kind of more or less the same. It's one of the many

reasons I'm really delighted Kate chose Whitman. Of the top 10 reasons I'm delighted, me having gone there isn't on the list. It's that she can make friends anywhere she goes with all walks of people.

I want Kate to know that college, and Whitman in particular, is there to be embraced. And so having a radio show isn't what somebody else does, it's what you can do. And being on the newspaper isn't something somebody else does, it's something you can do. I took a class in Chinese civilization that I think about all the time. I was a theater major, but that was something I could do. So that's what I'm hoping for Kate, that she could not get caught up in labels and categories and groups, and just fully embrace the experience.

**WM: Are there experiences that you had at Whitman that you hope Kate will also have—or will not have?**

**John:** I hope that she'll go to parties that are fun and I hope that she'll have the presence of mind to leave a party that sucks and maybe do something

more fun with like-minded friends.

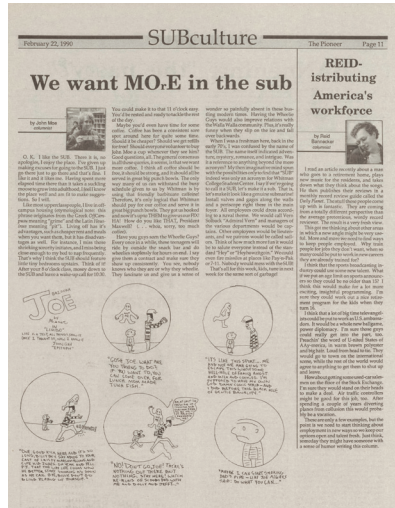
And I really hope that she's on the radio there. I really hope she gets a Kate show, because Kate has a hobby and interest—a passion, really—for vinyl records that she has recently been cultivating. She got me a turntable for Father's Day and

**"When I was at Whitman, I was able to figure out who I wanted to be, and then I had people there to help me be that, and it's who I've been ever since."**

**—John Moe '90**

some records, so now we can share our vinyl enthusiasm together. She can go shop for records at Hot Poop in Walla Walla, which is something I did in the 1980s. And the chance to share your passion for music with the community, I think, is a beautiful thing. I have so many great memories of doing shows at K-Dub.





To each, their own. As a performer in many Harper Joy Theatre productions, a writer and humor columnist for The Pioneer and a resident of Anderson Hall, John made his mark on Whitman College. Kate is excited to attend her father's alma mater, and looks forward to forging her own path.

**WM: Are you interested in getting involved in radio, Kate?**

**Kate:** To the first point, about parties ... I think in the last few months, I've realized what I want and I'm seeing what I don't want. I have no filter when it comes to talking to my parents about parties, because they make me very anxious sometimes—the parties, not the parents. But I feel like right now I'm having experiences where I'm like, "Okay, I'm happy I did that. I'm very happy I will never be doing that again."

As for radio, I do think it would be very exciting—and I can absolutely just talk about whatever for hours.

**John:** Kate does like to talk. And sometimes when she's passionate about something and going on about it, I kind of daydream of her at three in the morning in the lounge at Anderson

starting her adult life. It's a comfort for me that I can picture some of the spaces that she's going to be doing this in.

**WM: Kate, what has your dad told you about Whitman that made you interested in coming here?**

**Kate:** Honestly, it didn't really have a lot to do with him. I think I applied because of him, but a lot of [my decision to attend] had to do with the types of people I knew who went to Whitman. I went to a really small high school, and I see a lot of people going to Whitman, and I'm like: "Oh, I like these types of people." Then I started like diving into it more and thought, "OK, Whitman is really cool. I love it."

But honestly, [Interim Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid] Adam Miller sold me. I interviewed with him and thought: "This is my type of person." My dad always talked about being good friends with his professors, and, like, being on the same level and talking to them using first names. So I always knew that I was going to have professors like that, but before I even committed, Adam was like that.

**John:** I certainly didn't want to recruit her to Whitman because it's very important for Kate—and for me—that her experience is her experience, and not my experience. By the same token, I've talked about it her whole life,

especially the connections with some of my favorite professors. When I was at Whitman, I was able to figure out who I wanted to be, and then I had people there to help me be that, and it's who I've been ever since.

**WM: Are there things you're worried about with Kate going off to college?**

**John:** I get more worried that Whitman won't be ready for Kate than I do about Kate not being ready for Whitman. I don't know if you all know what you're getting yourselves into. What do I always say, Kate? The most dangerous place to stand ...

**Kate:** ... is between me and what I want!

**John:** I guess I worry because I don't know what the experience will be like for Kate. I know what it was for me, but it's going to be different for her for so many reasons. For generational reasons, for just the type of person she is. And that's why I didn't go along for her campus tour because Kate was concerned that I would be saying, "Oh, well, one time I stood right here and did this." And that's probably accurate. I probably would have done that.

**Kate:** It was something where I would have been too scared to say I was going

**"I want Kate to know that college, and Whitman in particular, is there to be embraced."**

going on and on with a friend about some of these things, or like, finals week in the library going over these things. And it helps me when I get anxious about Kate moving out and





to go there. Not too scared, but it was very important to me to see the college without his input.

**WM: Did you get an uncanny feeling seeing the places your father talked about when you came for a campus tour?**

**Kate:** I feel like I did when I was watching the virtual tours. It was always in the back of my mind, but actually seeing it in person was great. And I did when I saw Anderson Hall, where my dad lived. I was like: “That one window is where you were, Dad!” It was kind of cool. The thing I’m really shocked he didn’t tell me about was all the ducks. I love them so much!

**John:** I always took pride in pointing out Anderson Hall because I lived in the room directly above the door on the second floor. And so I can always look on those campus tour videos and say: “Wait, that’s my room!” But I think Kate probably didn’t spot a lot of things or places because when I talk about Whitman I always talk about the people. I talk about my friends there and the professors there. And I tried to tell Kate throughout her search process: “Find a college where you think your people are; where there are people that you connect with.” But for Kate, she connects easily with lots of people, so I told her, “Find where you feel most at home because the people there will be your network for the rest of your life.” 

# The Hilarious World of John Moe

In his own words

**M**y brother died by suicide in 2007. And so I began to talk about it a few years later, just saying: “Hey, take your depression seriously. It can be a fatal illness. Here’s what happened because my brother didn’t get the help he needed, because of the shame and the discrimination that goes along with it.” He thought he was doing something wrong. He thought he was bad.

By this point, I had been in broadcasting and writing for a long time, but I’d never got anything like the response I got from just my handful of tweets about it. There was an outpouring: people telling me their stories, people telling me, “Hey, I read your tweet, and I just made an appointment with a therapist.”

And I know I can string some words together, and write halfway decent—but I also recognized this was about more than that. People are sick of keeping it hidden. Whenever possible, I use the word discrimination instead of stigma, because that’s what it is. It’s making summary judgments about somebody based on something that is beyond their control.

I quickly realized there’s a hunger to talk about this. There’s a hunger to make this the next littering or drunk driving or anti-smoking; the big collective cause that we can get behind, but not enough people are talking about it. There is a demand and I can be the supply. So I started getting really interested in it too, as a thing that I could use to make some meaning of why I was on earth, which is an awfully big statement, but it was awfully true.

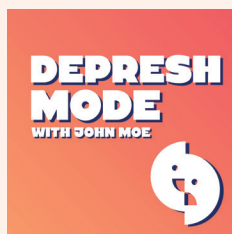
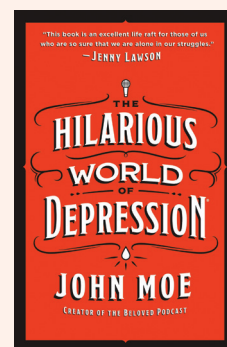
When I was about to start my first show [“The Hilarious World of Depression”], my wife got appendicitis. It went into sepsis, and we could have lost her. And I thought:

This could be any of us at any time. And also, being middle-aged, I was thinking: What am I doing in here? What am I contributing? How can I leave this place better than I found it? I’m not particularly religious, I’m not even particularly spiritual, but it just seemed like the kind of thing to do.

I found that by having normal conversations about mental illness, that it provided comfort for people. And along the way, I could provide some good, useful information, and I could provide some education on some things—but the main thing that I think I can provide is having normal conversations about a normal thing that doesn’t get talked about enough.

I remember being at my brother’s [memorial] service in Seattle and having the thought: “We don’t talk about this at all.” He didn’t talk to anybody about what was going on with

him, and he died because of it. And if we don’t talk about it at all, more people are going to die. If we do talk about it, there’s a chance they could live. Not a guarantee. It’s not a black and white thing, but generally, logically, the more we talk about it, the more people will be saved. Why the hell would we ever choose not to talk about it?







COURTESY OF AARON HAZEL

# In the Paint

ARTIST AARON HAZEL '07  
EXPLORES THE HUMAN  
EXPERIENCE THROUGH  
HIS WORK

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BY TARA ROBERTS

WHEN A VIDEO of jogger Ahmaud Arbery being shot and killed hit the news in May 2020, Aaron Hazel '07 painted two portraits.

The first was from a photo of Arbery grinning in a tuxedo.

The second was of Travis and Gregory McMichael, two of the men later charged with murdering Arbery.

Hazel tearfully painted Arbery, a person of color like him. In the past, he'd tried to emotionally distance himself from similar stories, but Arbery's death compelled him to take action.

He felt sick as he painted the McMichaels. When the piece was done, he filmed himself punching through the canvas, then taped the shredded remains to the wall of his studio in a cathartic act of performance art.

From then on, Hazel committed himself to commemorating unjust deaths in

**Activism through art.** Aaron Hazel shares the lives of underrepresented figures through his portraits.



paintings he does not intend to sell. He painted George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Elijah McClain. He painted Sean Monterrosa, shot by police who mistook a hammer for a gun, and Walter Wallace Jr., a man with bipolar disorder killed by Philadelphia police.

Many people criticized this choice, Hazel says. He initially broke into the art world with lighter subjects — especially paintings of athletes and Western scenes — and the new work was outside his norm.

“But when things like this happen, it affects me, as it should all of us,” Hazel says. “As an artist I have the ability to absorb, examine and communicate these moments.”

## WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN

Hazel is a prolific painter, showcasing dozens of works across galleries in the West and even more online. He tends to paint with energetic looseness while maintaining high levels of realism.

“Whenever I’m starting a painting, I can’t wait to start the next,” he says. “I love the process of painting, but there are so many things I want to paint.”

Peruse Hazel’s Instagram feed (@ahaze2) and you’ll see a range of subjects that fascinate him. Alongside the memorial portraits are Wonder Woman and the Wolf Man, bison and moose, 19th-century Native leaders and Civil Rights heroes, Jimi Hendrix and Nipsey Hussle. A child perches on a pair of skis, a Compton Cowboy rides a rearing horse, an early-1800s Irish laborer hefts a basket on her hip. Not every piece is a portrait, but most focus on faces.

“I feel like when I paint a face, I’m deeply engaging myself into every facet of that person’s being. At that moment, all I can think of is them,” Hazel says. “I’m creating this super intimate experience with them.”

Hazel never dreamed of being a full-time artist when he was growing up in Boise. He majored in art while playing basketball at Whitman, thinking he’d go into advertising or marketing, or even continue his hoops career.

While he laments not spending quite as much time in the studio as he did in the Beta Theta Pi house or on the court, he loved learning from incredible artists on the Whitman faculty, especially retired professor Keiko Hara. His professors introduced him to oil painting and pushed him to rethink his concept of fine art.

He found support in other areas, too. The late Whitman sports information director Dave Holden encouraged Hazel to show his art for the first time, in a pre-game exhibition. Hazel was nervous, but he sold two paintings — one to a professor, one to his grandmother.

“It put a seed in my brain, thinking, ‘Wait, maybe I could sell a few paintings on the side someday while working my corporate job,’” he says.

After college, he studied with Declo, Idaho, painter Robert Moore, who helped him refine his style. Moore says Hazel’s hunger for art reminded him of his own passion as a young man. Over the years, he’s watched Hazel develop his ability to create a piece that works on multiple levels, beyond recreating a likeness.

“There’s a design within the design, and that’s where I’ve seen him just blossom and be able to evoke emotions from his images and his paintings,” Moore says.

## SO MANY STORIES TO TELL

Hazel was bartending in Bellevue, Washington, in the early 2010s when Seattle Seahawks players started commissioning his work. After the Seahawks won the Super Bowl in February 2014, Hazel was flooded with requests. That May, he quit bartending. He’s since returned to Boise, supplying galleries, fulfilling commissions and painting whatever strikes him.

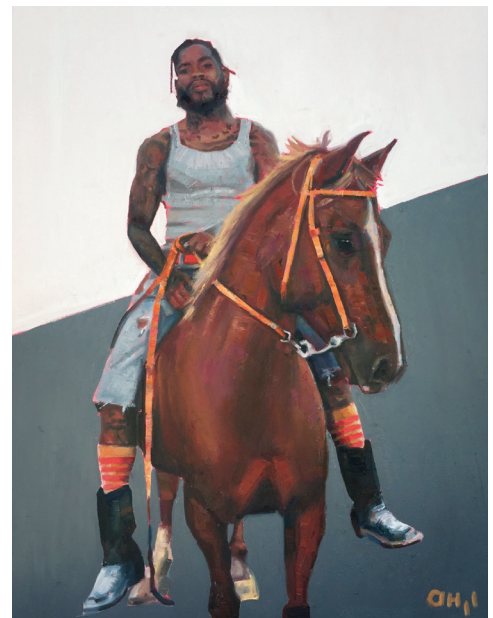
Recently, he’s focused on underrepresented figures, especially indigenous people and Black cowboys. He works off historical photographs, reading about people as he captures them on canvas.

“This is a great chance for me to unearth the lesser-known stories of the Old West,” he says.

He has an eye on the “New West,” too. He’s planning a photo shoot and art show with the Compton Cowboys, a group that rescues and raises horses to highlight the legacy of Black equestrians and serve their often-stereotyped city.

Hazel loves learning about his subjects and sharing their lives through his paintings. He’s got a stack of canvases waiting for the next story to tell.

“There are so many avenues of information that I’ve yet to learn,” he says. “I want to understand different perspectives and different lifestyles. I’m a sponge at this point.” **W**







**A seat at the table.** Ian MacGowan, pictured far left, with several members of Congress at a press conference to announce their bipartisan support for the provision in the Voting Rights Act that would lower the voting age.

# Lobbying for a Generation

## HOW IAN MACGOWAN '61 PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN LOWERING THE VOTING AGE TO 18

BY LARA HALE

FIFTY YEARS AGO, THE 26th Amendment was ratified, granting 18-year-olds the right to vote and immediately enfranchising more than 10 million new voters.

Although the 26th had the fastest path to ratification of any of the 27 Constitutional amendments — taking just 100 days to go from passage by Congress to becoming the law of the land — it took many years of lobbying by grassroots and community

organizations to lay the groundwork.

Whitman College alum Ian MacGowan '61 played a major role in the effort.

A psychology major, MacGowan says he wasn't particularly interested in politics as a student. After graduating, he moved to Washington, D.C. to pursue a graduate degree, but realized he didn't want a career in academia. He took a job with a law firm instead, and began his career as a lobbyist.



“I was young, I was teachable and I had some good mentors,” MacGowan says. He lobbied for corporations, labor unions, public agencies and nonprofits, and as his knowledge of political processes grew, so too did his interest in politics. In particular, he was strongly opposed to the Vietnam War — and he started to wonder how he could use his lobbying background to help put an end to it. He found an opportunity in 1968 when he was asked to lead the national campaign for the 18-year-old vote as director of the Youth Franchise Coalition.

## EARLY SUPPORT

Although the campaign MacGowan led was launched in 1968, calls to lower the voting age to 18 had been around since the 1940s. Early proponents included Warren Magnuson, a Democrat who had raised an 18-year-old vote bill in his home state of Washington before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1944, and Jennings Randolph, also a Democrat, who served West Virginia first as a member of the House of Representatives and later as a Senator.

Their support was in response to President Franklin Roosevelt’s decision in 1941 to lower the military draft age from 21 to 18 in an effort to boost troop support for WWII. Randolph, who would later become known as the father of the 26th Amendment, argued: “If you’re old enough to fight and die for your country, then you are old enough to vote.” He introduced legislation to lower the voting age not just once, but 11 times.

“The issue had public support, but never got through the system because many of the people in the decision-making part of Congress didn’t want it to happen,” says MacGowan.

“We figured out in the very beginning that we had to work with both sides of the aisle.”

—IAN MACGOWAN '61



## A SECOND CHANCE

The 18-year-old vote regained momentum in the 1960s as another military conflict escalated: the Vietnam War. The comparison between the age requirements for military service and voting was again a crucial selling point, MacGowan explains.

The organization he directed, the Youth Franchise Coalition, came out of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (now called the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights), which was then composed of around 80 organizations, including the NAACP, National Education Association, Council of Churches, League of Women Voters, Young Republicans and Young Democrats, who were working on the Voting Rights Act.

“It was the core of people that cared about the 18-year-old vote, which gave us a tremendous resource to reach out to different constituencies to use in the campaign,” says MacGowan.

MacGowan and his fellow activists started their campaign at ground level, in

the states. “Because of the coalition we had, we could reach out to churches, we could reach out to Young Republicans, to labor unions, to corporations that were supporting the issue in their home states,” he says. They had those bodies reach out to the political representatives that shared their affinity or interest — for instance, a very pro-labor senator would be contacted by labor unions in their constituency and encouraged to support the campaign.

Though many of the lawmakers in favor were young and had less political sway, the activists formed alliances with them to build their confidence in the issue. Several powerful leaders were on their side too. In addition to Randolph and Magnuson, proponents included Senator Barry Goldwater, who had been the Republican presidential nominee in 1964, and then-Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, a Democrat.

“[The issue] had been sitting around for years, and with the rising pressure from the war, you had people from both sides of Congress wanting to do something,” says

## 3 WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ian McGowan’s advice for students—or anyone—interested in changing the world.

### 1. Study up.

Familiarize yourself with the public policy—the laws, regulations, courses of action, and funding priorities—surrounding the issue you’re passionate about.

**2. Get in.** Look for opportunities to work within the system. It’s easier to get a seat at the table if you’re already in the room. Find ways to get involved with the bodies and individuals that influence or create public policy; volunteering with a community organization or for a local politician are great ways to start making connections and honing your skills.

**3. Listen.** “One of the key skills is learning how to sit down and talk to people, without being threatening, and have them listen to you. And that means you have to listen to them, too.”

**SOC 278 Social Movements and Social Change** aims to give students a toolkit for becoming empowered members of their communities. Read more on page 48.



MacGowan. “It improved their image, and it was a philosophical issue they believed in.”

## PARTY LINES

Today, sentiment regarding issues related to voting — such as statehood for Washington, D.C., the disenfranchisement of citizens who have been convicted of felonies, restrictive polling station provisions and voter identification laws — is often aligned with a particular political party. But the movement to lower the federal voting age had supporters and detractors amongst both Democrats and Republicans, MacGowan says.

“It wasn’t a partisan issue. We figured that out in the very beginning that we had to work with both sides of the aisle, find people who were championing the idea and start working with the people who didn’t believe in it and see if we could get some of those [to change their mind] so we could build a credible base.”

Persuading the issue’s opponents was especially challenging because they were not forthcoming about why they were not in favor. “It was hard to get any specific reason,” MacGowan says. “But the basic political reason was that they were afraid of their constituencies.”

Whether they were out in the community or on Capitol Hill, MacGowan says, the activists wore professional attire and approached the people who were on the fence or wouldn’t commit to it in a friendly, collaborative manner to soften them to the issue.

“We didn’t want it to be confrontational. With the war going on, there were plenty of protests and riots, but ours was a very staid political strategy.”

Even so, the 18-year-old vote ballot measure failed in all five states that held elections during that period. The silver lining was that the activists made plenty of alliances with politicians and campaign leaders in those states — and the defeat energized many of them.

## A TURNING POINT

Back on Capitol Hill, renewal of the 1965 Voting Rights Act was going through Congress. Young senators Edward Kennedy and Birch Bayh sought the counsel of



PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM BARLETT, COURTESY OF MOHAI SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION

**Signs of the times.** Seattle youth march for a reduction in the voting age in 1969.

Constitutional experts, who opined that it was legal and appropriate for the voting age to be lowered by statute. Their enthusiasm ignited support for the approach from some members of the old guard, and in 1970, Kennedy persuaded Congress to add a provision to the Voting Rights Act that guaranteed citizens 18 years and older the right to vote in local, state and federal elections.

“This is where public policy and strategy comes in,” MacGowan says. “We built the power, we built the interest, but it took the leadership to be able to make Congress produce.”

Several states challenged the constitutionality of lowering the voting age via the provision in the Voting Rights Act. So did President Nixon and Attorney General John Mitchell. The issue came before the Supreme Court, which ruled that citizens 18 and older could vote in federal elections, but that Congress could not set that requirement for state and local elections.

The December 1970 ruling meant that most states would have to maintain two separate registration and voting procedures, an expensive and inefficient prospect. With the 1972 national election and a bureaucratic nightmare looming, Congress swiftly proposed and passed lowering the voting age by constitutional amendment within three months. The proposed 26th Amendment, which guaranteed the minimum voting age could not be higher than 18, was sent to the state legislatures for their consideration. Ratification was complete by July 1, 1971. **W**

## MAKING HISTORY

After his work on the 18-year-old vote, Ian MacGowan continued his career in public policy, working on successful campaigns that led to great change, including Washington state’s AIDS Omnibus Act. Passed in 1988, the comprehensive act defined the way the state would provide AIDS care services, ordered AIDS education in public school, and guaranteed civil rights to people with the disease. It was the first such act in the United States, and became a model for the rest of the country.

Today, MacGowan is involved with several projects documenting and commemorating the work that went into lowering the voting age. In addition to helping create an archive of the history, he is also part of a forthcoming documentary film, and is collaborating with the Close Up Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization, on a program that will be used in high schools around the country starting this fall. He has also contributed to a book, “Let Us Vote: Youth Voting Rights and the 26th Amendment” by Jennifer Frost to be published in December 2021.



# Class Notes

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PHOTO BY DMITRI MOORE, COURTESY OF AISHA FUKUSHIMA

## Blazing Ahead

The first-ever Trailblazer Diversity and Inclusion Award Goes to Aisha Fukushima '09

A public speaker, performer and activist, Aisha Fukushima '09 fights for justice and freedom with joy and positivity. She is the founder of RAPTivism, an international organization that combats oppression through hip-hop.

She's also the first-ever recipient of the Trailblazer Diversity and Inclusion Award, selected jointly by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Alumni Association. The new award recognizes alumni whose work exemplifies inclusion, promotes equity and values, and reflects the diversity of our world.

The daughter of music industry booking agents, Fukushima spent her childhood between Japan and Seattle, and by middle school was writing rap lyrics, poetry and stories to express herself and her political convictions. She earned the Claire Sherwood Memorial Scholarship and became a rhetoric and film studies major at Whitman, where she was also involved in the college's original Power & Privilege Symposium, as well as the WISE program (Whitman Institute for Scholastic Enrichment) to introduce low-income and first-generation middle school kids to college life.

Upon graduation, Fukushima received a coveted Watson Fellowship to further her study of global hip-hop traditions in India, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Denmark and the United Kingdom. The resulting album, "RAPTivism," included collaborations with 20 political hip-hop artists rapping in solidarity against injustice.

Since then, she has continued to expand what she describes as the three main branches of RAPTivism: education, music and online community-building. Fukushima is currently working on another full-length album for which she not only wrote the lyrics and melodies, but also had the opportunity to use her production skills. She is also developing a new podcast, "The Future of the Present," which she says will feature powerful conversations on social justice, identity and how to set the changemaking stage for future generations.

As for her own future, Fukushima says she would one day like to write a guide for would-be activists: "My current vision is for the book to share some of the strategies that I've cultivated over the years around social justice facilitation, and how to leverage the power of our voices as agents of change."

**Meet the other 2021 Alumni Award Winners on page 46.**



## 1950s

**Junius Rochester '57** has published three short essays in two publications recently: "Prominent Historians from Washington State" and "Overland Trails," in the December 2020 and the March 2021, respectively, editions of Pioneer Presences, the newsletter of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington; and "Henry Broderick and Henry L. Mencken-a Bi-Coastal Correspondence," for the April 2021 edition of Menckeniana, the magazine of the H.L. Mencken Society. In celebration of the Pioneer Association's 150th anniversary, Rochester reviewed the history of pioneer picnics, annual celebrations throughout the state. Many colorful details for his essay were drawn from the writings of **Nard Jones '26**, novelist and former chief editorial writer for The Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

## 1960s

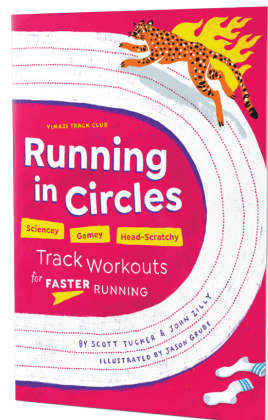
**Roger Whitlock '63** was featured in the January issue of Olympic Peninsula Lifestyle Magazine for his watercolor landscapes

and streetscapes in and around Edmonds, Washington. An award-winning artist who spent 46 years teaching and painting in Hawaii, Whitlock returned to the mainland four years ago.



## 1970s

**Bill Rodgers '70** served as editor and photographer of "The Blues – Volume V," published at the end of 2020. The book was produced by the Walla Walla-based Blue Mountain Land Trust to celebrate the natural beauty of the John Day River Basin. Rodgers, a retired geologist, lives in Waitsburg, Washington.



## 1980s

**John Zilly '85** has co-authored "Running in Circles: Sciencey, Gamey, Head-Scratching Track Workouts for Faster Running." Interval training is practically guaranteed to make runners faster, but can be incredibly boring. The book is filled with workouts that make interval training interesting and fun. Zilly is also a co-founder of running shoe startup, Vimazi.

**Suzy Rosik Dodd '83**, a project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, has led three NASA missions:

Spitzer Space Telescope, Nuclear Spectroscopic Array Telescope, and Voyager — the latter of which has, after 35 years, entered interstellar space, the first manmade object to do so.

**Susan Buxton '85** has been named the new director of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, where she had been the interim director since September while continuing to serve as head of the state Division of Human Resources. She stepped away from human resources in mid-April. In her new role, Buxton will oversee management of 30 state parks, the registration programs for boats, snowmobiles and other off-highway vehicles as well as a number of outdoor recreation grant programs.

**Kirby Gould Mason '86** was recognized as a 2021 Georgia Super Lawyer. This honor represents the top attorneys from each state in the nation. Those recognized with this distinct honor are selected based upon independent research, professional achievements and peer review.



**Joe Davis '80**, chair of the Whitman College Board of Trustees, was named to the EMpower 2021 Role Models list of Top 50 Advocates, by INvolve, a global consultancy that champions diversity and inclusion in business. The honor celebrates senior leaders who are not from ethnic minority backgrounds but are championing and advocating for their ethnic minority colleagues. Davis is chair at The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) North America, a global management consulting firm, where he oversees operations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

According to INvolve, during Davis's tenure, BCG has appointed more women, people of color and LGBTQIA+ people to leadership roles than ever before. Davis is also credited with expanding BCG North America's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) networks and allyship groups' membership by more than 75%; founding BCG's Racial Equity Task Force; and leading the effort to develop the consultancy's inaugural DEI report to increase transparency and accountability.

Davis lives in Miami with his wife, **Sarah Nordholm Davis '80**.





## 2000s

**Amelia Holeman Cook '03**, co-founder of manufacturing company Goodwinds Composites, engineered and manufactured the lightweight composite tubes used as landing gear for NASA's Ingenuity Helicopter. Ingenuity landed on Mars as a part of the Perseverance Rover mission and aims to be the first controlled flight on another planet. Goodwinds Composites, located in Mount Vernon, Washington, manufactures carbon and fiberglass rods and tubes used in a variety of industries, including aerospace, musical instruments, agriculture and sporting goods.

## 1990s

**Margaret Loucks '92** is an actor, singer and comedy writer. She has improvised as the rehearsal host for the Golden Globe Awards and dozens of other award and reality programs, in addition to performing as a rehearsal singer, musical improviser, cabaret artist, and commercial, voiceover, and stage actor. When she isn't performing, she's writing comedy, or punching up other people's scripts and stand-up routines. She currently divides her time between Los Angeles and New York City. Read more at [magiloucks.com](http://magiloucks.com).

**Alisa Cohen '95** has partnered with Laura Close to form Close Cohen Career Consulting, LLC, an executive career coaching and leadership development practice based in Seattle and working with clients nationally. Close Cohen Career Consulting manages executive career coaching projects as well as candidacy preparation projects for clients who work at global enterprise companies like Microsoft, Google and Amazon. Cohen previously worked for Amazon, Starbucks and Eddie Bauer, among others.

**Sarah Baird Kirk '95** has been named the new provost and dean of faculty at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. Kirk previously served as associate provost and professor of chemistry at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

## 2010s

**Carrie Sloane '12** started a position as a 3D artist at Niantic, a software development company. She has been working in the video game industry as a 3D/environment artist for five years. Sloane taught herself 3D modeling after majoring in music at Whitman.



**Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg '01** is the inaugural executive director of Rise, the anchor to a \$1 billion philanthropic commitment to identify and support global talent made by former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and his philanthropist wife, Wendy. Kamau-Rutenberg, who recently stepped down after seven years as director of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development was featured in Forbes in August.



**Rosendo Guizar '94** has been promoted to chief credit officer at Baker Boyer Bank. He says the credit for his success goes back even further than his 22 years of experience at the Walla Walla-based financial institution — to the encouragement and guidance he received from his high school librarian, **Darcy Judd Wyant Ahlquist '54**.

As a bookish student at Grandview High School in Grandview, Washington, Guizar often found himself reading the newspaper in the school library. That's how he first connected with Ahlquist, who talked to him about his classes, helped him volunteer as a tutor and, seeing his potential, took him to a prospective student day at Whitman.

"She's been extremely supportive of me, more than I can ever repay her for," says Guizar.

Guizar and Ahlquist have remained in contact over the years through visits and greeting cards — Ahlquist even attended Guizar's wedding.

"He strives to compete — almost with himself — in order to get ahead," Ahlquist says. "He's my success story."



## Happily Ever After

**Todd Trzcinski '82** to Lana Kim, May 26, 2020, in Portland, Oregon, and also on Zoom. Whitties in attendance were Todd's cousins, **Priscilla Graham Wyckoff '67** and **David Wyckoff '67**. The couple will live in Manhattan, New York City.

**Katie Daugert '01**, to Romain Fraconville, Dec. 18, 2020, in Bellingham, Washington.



**Scott Lawley '77** to Rachael Mayfield, June 6, 2020, in their backyard in Albany, Oregon. Friends and family attended virtually, including **Chris Coats '76**, **David Brown '77**, **Bob Casey '77** and **Art Stevens '78**.

## Little Whitties



To **Erik and Jane Boman Hammerstrom '07**, a daughter, Ivy Josefine Hammerstrom, born March 2, 2021. She joins sister Maeve, 2.



To **Colby and Andrea Seymour Walker '09**, a son, Logan Seymour Walker, born July 6, 2020.





## In Memoriam

### 1940s

**Helen Hoska Hill '40**, Mar. 1, 2021, in Bellingham, Washington. After Whitman, she served overseas as an American Red Cross staff assistant. She married Eugene Hill and had three daughters. Hill was predeceased by a brother, Lukas Hoska, Jr. '36.

**Herbert "Herb" Ladley '40**, Apr. 30, 2021, in Kingsport, Tennessee. He married **Amy Jane Reichert '39** in 1944 and they raised three children. Ladley earned a master's degree in business and finance from the University of Washington in 1946 and became a CPA. He served in the U.S. Navy for three decades, including three wars. He retired from the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1969, with the rank of Captain. A longtime class representative, Ladley was devoted to his alma mater. He supported funds established by his sister **Frankie Ladley**

**Wakefield '27**: the Herbert and Pearl Ladley Chair of Cognitive Science, named for their parents, and the Gerald DeRoss Ladley Scholarship, named for their brother. The Ladleys added to the family legacy at Whitman with the Amy Jane Reichert Ladley Scholarship and ongoing support for a variety of projects and purposes. He was predeceased by his wife of 71 years; sisters **Frankie Ladley Wakefield '27** and **Esther Ladley Wright '34**; and brother **Gerald Ladley '27**. Survivors include two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and cousin **James Ladley '58**.

**Ruth Pearce Conley '41**, Jan. 4, 2021, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. After Whitman, she enlisted in the Women's Army Corps where she married Paul Conley in 1945; together they had four children. When the family settled in Ponte Vedra, Conley supported and volunteered for

the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Predeceased by her husband, her survivors include her children, nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Cope Gale '42**, Mar. 22, 2021, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He served in the Idaho National Guard, U.S. Air Force ROTC and the U.S. Navy, then spent the rest of his career as an attorney. Gale married Virginia Keeton in 1942 and they had five children. They were together until her death; he married Dawn Koster and settled in Coeur d'Alene. Survivors include his wife, children and many grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

**Aileen Mardis Pepin '42**, Dec. 28, 2020, in Redondo Beach, California. She completed her undergraduate degree at Washington State College in Pullman, Washington, and married **Harry Pepin '41** in 1942. They traveled the world for her husband's military career and retired in their hometown of Walla Walla. Pepin was predeceased by her husband. Survivors include a son and four grandchildren.

**Marjorie "Margie" Windom Guletz '44**, Mar. 12, 2021, in Jackson, California. On a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, she met Scotty Guletz and they were married in 1946. Together they raised four children. After 12 years in Hawaii, the family settled in Jackson. Guletz was a charter member of the Amador Branch of the American Association of University Women in 1969, maintaining membership until her passing, and sang with the Amador Choraliers. The family traveled extensively, including a string of annual camping trips in Germany. Guletz was predeceased by her husband, a son and a granddaughter. Survivors include her three children, including **Bob Guletz '69**; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and a brother, **Robert Windom '50**.

**Norma Cooper Kenyon '44**, Feb. 27, 2021, in Portland, Oregon. She married **James Kenyon '44** in 1945 and they raised two children. She studied briefly at Julliard School in New York City and taught piano. She was predeceased by her husband. Survivors include a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.

**Gordon Rogers '45**, Apr. 20, 2020, in Beaverton, Oregon. He married Florence Ruckes in 1952; they raised a son and a daughter, Joyce Rogers Bergstrom, who attended Whitman for two years. Rogers was a mechanical engineer and retired from Lamb-Grays Harbor Company in 1974. He was predeceased by his wife.

**Beth Andrews Hobbs '47**, Dec. 22, 2020, in Lakewood, Washington. At Whitman, she met **Russell Hobbs '49**. They married and raised four children together. Hobbs worked in public relations and served in the Washington state legislature as an aide. She volunteered for the Washington Federation of Republican Women, both locally and nationally. Predeceased by her husband and a son, her survivors include a son and two daughters.

**Elizabeth Koch Vestal '47**, Apr. 28, 2021, in Sacramento, California. After graduation, she married **William "Tom" Vestal '47**. She taught first grade for the Santa Clara Unified Schools and ESL to adults. Vestal also served as an ombudsman to senior care facilities in Santa Clara County. She was predeceased by her



husband of 60 years. Survivors include a sister, **Florence Koch Cameron '47**, five daughters, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Marianne Anderson Hubbard '48**, Dec. 23, 2020, in Federal Way, Washington. She married Joe Hubbard in 1946 and they raised four children. Hubbard was predeceased by her husband.

## 1950s

**Melvyn "Mel" Laidlaw, Jr. '50**, May 6, 2021, in Walla Walla. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II as a hospital corpsman and pharmacist's mate. After Whitman, he earned his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. Laidlaw began his practice in internal medicine, eventually opening Walla Walla's Catherine Street Clinic. He taught microbiology and parasitology at Whitman and served as the college's Director of Health for 11 years. Laidlaw was instrumental in bringing a paramedic program to the Walla Walla Valley and was chief of the outpatient department at Walla Walla VA Medical Center. He was predeceased by his wife and a son. Survivors include two daughters.

**Diana "Dido" Middleton MacGregor '51**, Mar. 14, 2021, in Vancouver, B.C. She was Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter president during her senior year, and maintained many Kappa friendships throughout her life. She married her late husband Wallace "Joe" MacGregor in 1952, and they made their home in Vancouver for the rest of their lives. She raised a family and had a professional life as an accountant. She was predeceased by her husband in 1999. Among the survivors

are two sons, two daughters, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and niece **Susan Middleton Cruikshank '90**.

**Jackson Partin '51**, Mar. 29, 2021, in Atascadero, California. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He married Amie Johnson in 1947 and they raised four children together. Partin earned his doctorate in education from the University of California-Los Angeles and after a 30-year career in education, spent retirement equally divided between the family's two farms. Survivors include his wife; two sons; two daughters, including **Cheryl Partin '70**; and three grandchildren.

**Harold Valentine '51**, Jan. 16, 2021, in Auburn, Washington. He married **Marilyn Bird '51** in 1951; they raised two daughters and were married for 55 years until her death in 2006. Valentine married Ruth Brink in 2010. After Whitman, he earned a master's degree in political science from the University of Washington in Seattle, and his doctorate in education from Washington State College in Pullman, Washington. Valentine served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged with numerous medals and citations. He taught high school for 28 years and continued teaching in the community long after retirement. Valentine was a longtime class representative for the Office of Annual Giving, served as co-chair for his 45th reunion and received the Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement in 2011. He was predeceased by three brothers, including **Charles Valentine '47**. Survivors include his wife; two daughters; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a brother, **Robert Valentine '50**; a sister, **Virginia Valentine Hailey '40**; and niece, **Gretchen Valentine '71**.

**Jane Butler Field '52**, Apr. 27, 2021, in Kaneohe, Hawaii. She married Harry Field, Jr., in 1953 and raised four children together. She taught second grade then worked on the family farm. Survivors include her husband, three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Gay Selak Joyce '52**, Feb. 9, 2021, in Petaluma, California. She married Robert Joyce in 1966. A lifelong learner, Joyce went on to earn six more degrees and taught for many years. She was predeceased by her husband.

**Roger "Bud" Evans '54**, Sept. 24, 2020, in Oakland, California. He served in the U.S. Army during both World War II and the Korean War. He married **Joanne Christie Lewis '54** and raised two sons; they later divorced. Evans married Aileen Sumida in 1980. He had a career in business management and retired from Safeway Stores as manager of industrial engineering. Survivors include his wife of 40 years, his sons, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Patricia "Pat" Neal Weaver '54**, Feb. 18, 2020, in Auburn, California. She married Charles Weaver in 1957 and they raised three children. Weaver worked in education administration. She was predeceased by her husband.

**Molly Ireland Whittemore '54**, Feb. 12, 2021, in Lake Oswego, Oregon. At Whitman, she met **Sam Whittemore '54**; they were married in 1955 and had two children. Whittemore worked for U.S. Bank for more than 20 years, retiring in 1991. She was a child advocate for the local CASA program and served as a Campfire leader. Whittemore also served on her 50th reunion committee. She was predeceased by her husband and son. Survivors include her daughter,

four grandchildren, and extended family including nephew **Pieter Whittemore '86**.

**Virginia "Ginny" Herring Mahan '55**, Apr. 16, 2021, in Walla Walla. She married **Loyd Mahan '51** in 1957 and they raised three children together. Mahan's father owned the Herring Groseclose Funeral Home, and she started as office manager there; she became a licensed funeral director in 1973 and became president and owner in 1985. Mahan was a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Reach to Recovery Program for decades and was the first woman to chair the Washington State Funeral Directors Association. She served as co-chair for her 10th, 20th, 40th and 60th reunions. Predeceased by her husband, she is survived by a daughter and two sons.

**Patricia "Pat" Rosenberg McDaniels '55**, Dec. 26, 2020, in Eugene, Oregon. After Whitman, she earned her master's in library science from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1964, then moved to Eugene to work as a librarian at the University of Oregon, where she met and married Dave McDaniels. They raised two sons. She was a decades-long member of the League of Women Voters of Lane County. She was predeceased by a brother, **Thomas Rosenberg '59**. Survivors include her husband, her children and four grandchildren.

**Peggy Jorenby Miles '55**, Feb. 26, 2020, in Seattle. She married Larry Miles in 1961; they later divorced.

**Delbert "Del" Klicker '56**, Apr. 22, 2021, in Walla Walla. He married Kim Stallwood in 1963 and they had three children; they later divorced. Part of the Walla Walla Valley's famous Klicker family, he worked on their cattle ranch and in the

strawberry, blueberry and tree farms. As a former three-sport varsity athlete, he was an ardent in-person supporter of Whitman athletics and was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011. Klicker was predeceased by his brothers, **Jake '45** and **Dave '58**.

**Jack Armstrong '57**, Feb. 10, 2021, in Olympia, Washington. He married **Karen Jones '57** in 1957 and they raised three daughters. Armstrong served in the U.S. Army, then earned his D.D.S. from the University of Washington Dental School in Seattle. He was a dentist in the Olympia area for more than 30 years, though a passion for real estate kept him occupied long past his retirement. Armstrong served on his 50th reunion committee. He was predeceased by his wife; his mother, **Eva Speir Armstrong '32**; and a sister, **Joan Armstrong Moody '59**. Survivors include his daughters and five grandchildren.

**Carol Cunningham Luckhardt '57**, Jan. 31, 2021, in San Jose, California. After Whitman, she taught physical education in junior and senior high school. After earning her master's degree in education from Stanford University in 1964, she became director of the physical education department at Jordan Junior High School in Palo Alto. She married John Luckhardt in 1974. Luckhardt volunteered for her church and supported many local agencies through the Luckingham Charitable Foundation established by the couple. She was predeceased by her husband. Survivors include her sister and many nephews and nieces.

**Edward "Ed" Newcombe '57**, Feb. 13, 2021, in Boise, Idaho. He earned his medical degree from McGill University of Medicine in Montreal, Quebec. Newcombe moved to San



Francisco to work at Laguna Honda Hospital, where he met and married his wife, Sue. They moved to Boise, Idaho, where he practiced for more than 35 years. The Newcombes went on many medical missions around the world in their retirement. Survivors include his wife and son.

**Sandra Ritchie '57**, Feb. 25, 2021, in Walla Walla. After Whitman, Ritchie moved to Richland, Washington, and worked as a speech therapist and later as a school administrator. She earned her master's degree in speech and language pathology from Portland State College in Portland, Oregon, in 1966. She retired to Walla Walla.

**John "Fitz" Fitzgerald '58**, Mar. 5, 2021, in Catonsville, Maryland. He earned both his master's degree and Ph.D. in government and political science from the University of Chicago. In 1966, Fitzgerald joined the faculty of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He retired in 2002 after 36 years of distinguished service, earning the Superior Civilian Service Medal. He married Eugenie Zorn in 1991, and they were loyal supporters of Whitman for more than 30 years, establishing the John and Eugenie Fitzgerald Scholarship Endowment to provide need-based aid to Whitman students. Fitzgerald is survived by his wife.

**Grace Carlisle Magee '58**, Nov. 13, 2020, San Diego, California. After Whitman, she moved to San Diego in the 1960s where she taught music and voice, performed in local events, and joined the chorus of the San Diego Opera. She married Jerry Magee in 1972. She was predeceased by her husband. Survivors include family in the Pacific Northwest.

**Robert "Bob" Anderson '59**, Oct. 25, 2020, in Redmond, Washington. He served in the U.S. Navy, then earned his master's degree in health education from the University of Oregon in Eugene. He had two children from a previous marriage; he later married Maryan Bohnenstingez. Anderson spent many years as a coach in the Eugene School District and at Mount Hood Community College.

**Bruce Campbell '59**, May 10, 2021, in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. After Whitman, Campbell served in the Peace Corps, one of the first from Oregon and one of the first to serve in the Philippines. He taught high school and then taught adult education with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Campbell became a health education specialist for the Indian Health Service on the Umatilla Reservation. He retired in 1990.

**Jacqueline Quine Mielke '59**, Mar. 26, 2021, in Troutdale, Oregon. After graduation, she married **Roger Mielke '58** and earned her nursing degree from Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon. The couple moved to Campbell River and had four children. They later separated. Mielke then worked as a registered nurse at a long-term care facility until her retirement. She was predeceased by her mother, **Dorothy Hull Quine '31**. Survivors include her companion of 40 years, Jack Chicalo; her children; and five grandchildren.

## 1960s

**E. Richard "Dick" Hill, Jr. '60**, July 1, 2020, in Richland, Washington. Hill worked in the information technology field and retired from Battelle Pacific

Northwest Laboratory. He married Dorothy Crowder in 1959 and they raised two children together. The couple enjoyed travel during their retirement, including a cruise of the Greek Islands. Survivors include his wife, son and daughter, **Traci Hill Barela '83**.

**Terry Lofsvold '60**, Mar. 9, 2021, Eagle, Idaho. After Whitman, he earned his master's in education, specializing in recreation administration. Lofsvold spent his career in recreation. He worked at Bogus Basin Ski Resort in Boise, Idaho, for more than 20 years, serving as general manager from 1984-1991. It was there he met Carol Neal and they were married in 1981. Lofsvold served as a co-chair for his 35th reunion. Survivors include his wife, a daughter, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**Alfred "Fred" Moss '60**, Apr. 19, 2021, San Jose, California. He served for four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, then earned his law degree from the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle. Moss specialized in maritime law. He served on the Planned Giving Advisory Council for the Office of Development for six years. Survivors include his children and stepchildren.

**Paul Knostman '61**, Feb. 18, 2021, in Pebble Beach, California. He married **Victoria Durham '64** in 1964 and attended Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, which led to a commission in the U.S. Navy. He went on to earn his master's in environmental studies with a subspecialty in oceanography/meteorology at the Naval Postgraduate School. After 20 years of active duty he retired from the Navy and was a consulting environmental specialist and technical writer

in oceanography, marine climatology and marine biology. He served on the Whitman College Alumni Board and was a devoted volunteer at The Monterey Bay Aquarium for 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Vicki; their two children, Greg Knostman and **Peggy Knostman McClintick '90**; and four grandchildren.

**Janet Powers Sears '61**, July 17, 2020, in Cashmere, Washington. Sears worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant most of her adult life. After retiring, she volunteered at the Senior Center of Cashmere. Survivors include a daughter, two sons and four grandchildren.

**Sharon Johnson Agueda '62**, Mar. 9, 2021, in Columbia, Maryland. She earned a master's degree at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. She worked at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., where she met her husband, Orlando Agueda. They married in 1968 and lived in Brazil, where she became fluent in Portuguese. Upon retirement, she returned to the U.S., eventually settling in Columbia. Agueda is survived by her sister, **Mary Johnson Lawson '59** and brother-in-law, **Roger Lawson '59**.

**Mary "Lynn" Young Bennett '62**, July 4, 2020, in Lancaster, California. She earned her B.A. in English and was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard.

**Carl Iverson '62**, Feb. 11, 2021, in Monmouth, Oregon. Iverson earned his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1967. He had a distinguished career as a football coach, including two stints at Western

Oregon University. Iverson was professor of kinesiology and head football coach at Western State College of Colorado; he was named Professor Emeritus in 2006 and inducted into the Hall of Fame there in 2010. He capped off his career with international coaching in Australia and Austria. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and nine grandchildren.

**Robert Vose, Jr. '63**, Jan. 3, 2021, in Spokane, Washington. He started his career as a teacher in Winthrop and Cle Elum, Washington, then became a logging truck driver. He returned to teaching driver's education and retired from the Department of Licensing in 2012. He was predeceased by his wife, Karen. Survivors include his children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Clinton Willour '63**, Feb. 4, 2021, in Houston, Texas. After Whitman, Willour completed his degree at the University of Washington in Seattle. He worked at Phi Delta Theta International Headquarters until 1970, when he relocated to Houston. Willour was deeply involved in the art community, serving as director of Tibor de Nagy Gallery in New York City for more than 15 years, then became curator of the Galveston Arts Center in Galveston, Texas, also serving as executive director from 1995-2005. His retirement in 2016 was marked with an exhibition celebrating his 25 years at the institution. Willour is survived by his husband, Reid Mitchell.

**Louis "Rick" Hough '65**, Dec. 10, 2020, in Ilwaco, Washington. Hough married Nancy Walker in 1965. He worked for the Boeing Aerospace Company for nearly 40 years as an engineer. Survivors include four sons and a grandson.



**Cathy Melendy Monajjem '65**, Nov. 28, 2020, in Arlington, Virginia. An English major at Whitman, she married Farhang Monajjem in 1966 and they had a daughter. She was predeceased by her husband.

**Michael "RC" Owen '65**, Apr. 13, 2021, in Potlatch, Idaho. He married Linda Reyes in 1965 and they had two sons; they later separated. Owen served in the Peace Corps for two years in Colombia as an agricultural extensionist. He earned his master's degree in architecture from the University of Washington in Seattle and worked in Vancouver, B.C., Edmonton, Alberta, and Seattle. In 1984, he accepted a teaching position at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, Washington. He was named a Fulbright Scholar in 2001 and spent a year teaching in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at CEDAC (Center for Design, Architecture and Building). He married Alice Spitzer in 1995. Owen retired from WSU in 2006 and the couple spent summers in Idaho and winters around the world. He served on the committee for his 45th reunion and was a member of the Building & Grounds Committee. Survivors include his wife, two sons,

five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**Richard Elmore '66**, Feb. 6, 2021, in Boston, Massachusetts. He earned his master's degree in public policy from Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California, and his doctorate in education from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Elmore taught at the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington in Seattle, earning a distinguished teaching award in 1985. He started teaching at the School of Education at Harvard University in 1990 and became a nationally recognized leader in the public policy of educational improvement. Elmore was named *Alumnus of Merit* in 1999.

**Cathy Wilkerson Williams '69**, Apr. 15, 2021, in Yakima, Washington. She married **C. Donald "Don" Williams '69** in 1969 and they raised two sons together. After Whitman, the couple attended the University of Washington in Seattle, where she earned her master's degree in English. She taught middle school in Bothell, and taught English and Western Civilization at East Valley High School in Yakima for

29 years. Survivors include her husband of 54 years, two sons and a granddaughter.

## 1970s

**David Millen '70**, Mar. 19, 2021, in Yakima, Washington. After Whitman, Millen earned his law degree at the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle. He specialized in maritime and aviation law. Millen served as a co-chair for his 10th reunion. Survivors include a daughter, a brother and a sister.

**Jane Bowman Halady '71**, Jan. 5, 2021, in Brunswick, Georgia. After Whitman, she earned her teaching certificate at Seattle Pacific University. Survivors include her son.

**Harper Pete Sekijima '72**, Mar. 16, 2021, in Meza, Arizona. Known as Gale Pete at Whitman, she earned an M.B.A. in finance from the University of California, Berkeley. She had a career in finance and eventually moved to Phoenix, Arizona, in 1997 to work for 1st Interstate Bank. Sekijima was predeceased by her parents and her older sister. Survivors include three brothers.

**Timothy Sullivan '74**, Jan. 5, 2021, in Walla Walla. He had a career in banking and real estate appraisal, working most recently for Associated Appraisers. Sullivan was a passionate Seahawks fan. He is survived by a brother, a sister, three children and a grandson.

**Richard "Rick" Van Hoose '75**, Feb. 2, 2021, in Vancouver, Washington. After Whitman, he worked as a teller at First Independent Bank, soon transferring to the trust department where he worked for 27 years. Van Hoose married Sue Johnson in 1979 and they raised two daughters. Survivors include his wife, daughters and four grandchildren.

**Amy Newman '77**, Jan. 23, 2021, in Chicago, Illinois. She earned her master's degree in psychology and her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and worked as a clinical psychologist in hospitals in the Chicago area. Newman also served as adjunct faculty for several institutions. Survivors include her two children and her siblings.

## 1980s

**Eddie Pearson '85**, Jan. 16, 2021, in Los Angeles, California. After Whitman, he completed his degree at Walla Walla University. He had a career in computer technology, working in the IT departments of a variety of companies. Survivors include three children.

## 1990s

**Shelley Luppert-Barnard '90**, Apr. 24, 2021, in Chicago, Illinois. She married **Christopher Barnard '90** in 1991 and together they raised three children. Luppert-Barnard earned her master's degree from the University of Chicago Oriental Institute in the Near Eastern Language and Cultures division. Her specialization was in middle Assyrian trade relations. She served as the office assistant at Augustana Lutheran Church for many years. Survivors include her husband; three children, Sandy, Jacob and Arrow; father-in-law **Ralston Barnard '64**; mother-in-law **Carolyn Penner Barnard '66**; and a brother-in-law.

### Class Notes Policy

Whitman College is happy to highlight the achievements and milestones of our alumni. To have your item appear in Class Notes, fill out the form at [whitman.edu/classnotes](http://whitman.edu/classnotes), email [alumni@whitman.edu](mailto:alumni@whitman.edu) or mail a note to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Class Note submissions are limited to 50 words and should include updates from the past calendar year. Class Note submissions may include career updates; publications; honors, awards or appointments; or other significant life

changes you would like to share with the Whitman community. Any photographic submissions for Class Notes, marriages/unions or births/adoptions should include the identities of all people pictured, as well as alumni relatives for births/adoptions. It is the responsibility of the submitter to obtain consent from others pictured or mentioned in the submission.

For In Memoriams, Whitman College runs the name of the deceased, their graduate year and major, and the date and place of death; when available,

we will include career information, survivors and other highlights of their life, including recorded service to the college or honors received from the college. Photographs for obituaries are run at the discretion of the Office of Alumni Relations for those designated "Whitman Leaders." The college makes a good faith effort to confirm the information submitted with the concerned parties. All submissions are subject to editing for style, content, length and clarity. Address questions to Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91, Class Notes editor, at [northajl@whitman.edu](mailto:northajl@whitman.edu) or call 509-526-4794.



# A Strong Tradition

## Whitman Welcomes New Alumni Board Members and Officers

IN 1895, THE WHITMAN COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION was founded to promote the interests of its members and their alma mater. Today, the association continues to foster and maintain those interests between Whitman and its extended family of alumni. Meet more board members and reach out at [whitman.edu/alumni-board](http://whitman.edu/alumni-board).



### ADAM DELGADO '12

Adam Delgado joined the Alumni Board for a three-year term on July 1. A politics major, he is currently living in the San Francisco Bay Area and works as a User Experience Researcher at Facebook, Inc., where he co-founded the new Community Trust & Safety team to focus on equitable engineering and product development. Previously, as a Product Researcher at Instagram, he supported launches of the COVID-19 and US 2020 information centers, helping millions of people find vaccines and register to vote.

Since graduation, Delgado has worked for Google, Cooley, International Monetary Fund and Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, D.C. Adam is also an alumni fellow of Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT), a national nonprofit supporting career development and advancement for underrepresented students, and participates in the MLT Ascend program to support early persistence and career readiness for first-generation, low-income college students. He has supported and advocated for first-generation, LGBTQ and students of color on campus through the Intercultural Center and was the first student representative for diversity and inclusion to the Whitman Board of Trustees. With his service on the alumni board, Adam hopes to connect with alumni and advance the current diversity, equity and inclusion efforts of the college.

### DENNIS MCNAIR '67, PRESIDENT

Dennis McNair grew up in Dayton, Washington. He earned a biology degree from Whitman and both a master's and a Ph.D. in zoology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. McNair and his wife, Karen Jacobson '68, live in Pennsylvania, where he taught physiology and ecology for 33 years at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Although he retired from university teaching and administration in 2013, he still conducts research on dragonfly and damselfly ecology and distribution. McNair is currently a trustee emeritus of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and has sung with the orchestra's chorus for 37 years. He's a founding member and past president of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society. He's served as an associate class representative since the late '70s and co-chaired his class's 40th, 45th and 50th reunions.



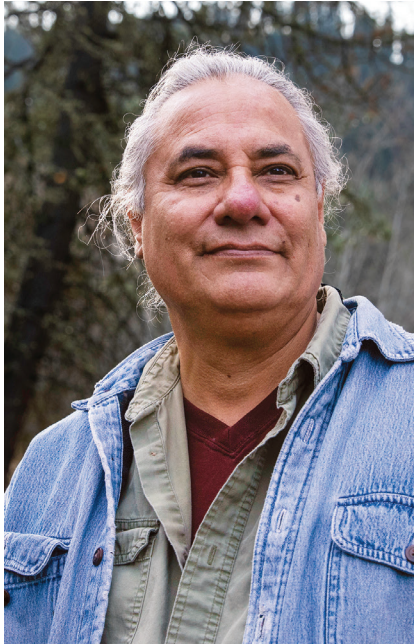
### EVAN JONES '97, VICE-PRESIDENT

Evan Jones is the director of business development for United Educators Insurance Company, where former Whitman Trustee Janice Abraham serves as the president and CEO. Originally from Cheverly, Maryland, Jones majored in sociology at Whitman and was a two-year co-captain of the men's basketball team. He was also a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and the Black Student Union. After graduation, Jones served as assistant men's basketball coach, admissions officer and director of the Intercultural Center at Whitman before moving back to the Washington, D.C. area. Jones now resides in Pasadena, California, with his wife, Adrienne, and is excited to contribute in this new role as vice-president of the alumni board.



# Cue the Applause

The Alumni Awards recognize outstanding achievement and service to the college



**ALUMNUS  
OF MERIT**

**MARCUS  
AMERMAN '81**

A member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, artist Marcus Amerman was born in Phoenix and grew up in the Pacific Northwest before settling in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After Whitman, he took additional art courses at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. He credits

the Plateau region and its wealth of talented bead artists with introducing him to the traditional art form of beadwork. Amerman has made this art form his own by creating a new genre of bead artistry in which beads are stitched down, one by one, to create realistic, pictorial images.

Amerman draws upon a range of influences to create works that reflect experience living in three different regions with strong artistic traditions; his academic introduction to pop art and social commentary; and his inventive exploration of the potential artistic forms and expressions using beads. Although he is best known for his bead art, he is also a multimedia artist, painter, performance artist, fashion designer and glass artist. His work is in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Portland Art Museum and the American Museum of Natural History, among many others. His cultural background and Whitman education continue to influence his artwork while challenging assumptions about what it means to be a Native artist.



**GORDON  
SCRIBNER  
AWARD FOR  
DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE**

**JIM DOW '71**

Described as the ultimate Whitman ambassador, school teacher Jim Dow has been a Whitman leader for five decades, from encouraging his Bainbridge Island students to look at Whitman to serving on a multitude of the college's boards and committees.

Since retiring from full-time teaching, Dow has made Whitman his priority. His passion is evident in all his interaction with alumni, staff, students and prospective students. He maintains a list of contacts so he can pass Whitman students along to professionals in their fields of study and job interests. Dow knows the hard work, dedication and passion of Whitman students and the value they bring to the workplace, and works to make connections wherever he can.

A passion for giving back drives Dow's ongoing contributions to the Whitman community. In addition to his countless friendships, mentorships and connections with students, faculty and alumni, Dow is an alumni representative for the admissions office and has served on both the alumni and W Club boards. He is currently a member of the President's Advisory Board. But it is the relationships that he builds with prospective and current students and alumni of all ages that are truly inspirational.



**IDENTITY AND INSPIRATION.** Read more about how Marcus Amerman melds culture and craft, and watch a video of the artist at work at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).





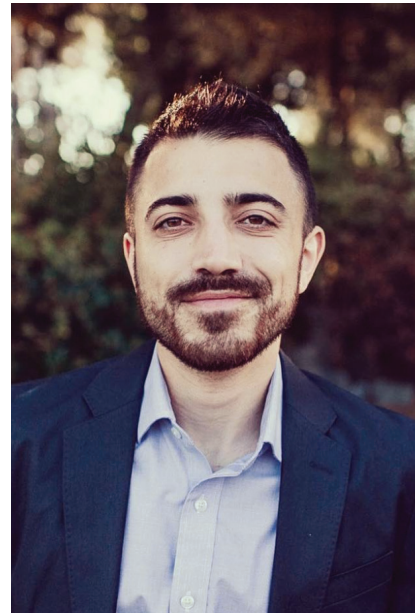
**SALLY RODGERS  
AWARD FOR  
LIFELONG  
ACHIEVEMENT**

**PAM WALTON '66**

An award-winning documentarian, Pam Walton is dedicated to telling the truth about American life. Her films have chronicled LGBTQ lives, politics and culture, working to change our culture's homophobic views of gay

and lesbian people and, more recently, focusing on ageism. Walton's work has screened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Margaret Mead Film Festival, and has been included in the prestigious International Public Television Screening Conference (INPUT). Walton's next film, "The Lodge," documents the first retirement community to offer independent and assisted living to LGBTQIA+ seniors and their allies.

Walton has two master's degrees from Stanford University, one in education and the other in communication (film and video production). She was a lecturer in communication at Stanford from 1989 to 1999. Although she only attended Whitman from 1962-1964, when she returned to campus for her 50th reunion she noted, "That time has stood as two of the most important years of my life." The reason for Walton's selection for this award can be found in the motto of her eponymous production company: for her work in "Illuminating gay and lesbian lives and the journeys of extraordinary older women."



**PETE REID  
AWARD FOR  
YOUNG ALUMNI**

**DAVEY  
FRIEDMAN '11**

Since graduating from Whitman, Friedman has used his success as a leader in fast-growing startup companies to help current and recent grads build community, find job opportunities, and put their liberal arts education to

good use in the real estate and technology industries.

After completing a master's in Middle East studies at Tel Aviv University in Israel, Friedman joined WeWork as the company's 90th employee. He started in a frontline sales role and rose in the organization to become head of sales for the West. As soon as he was able, Friedman turned his passion for Whitman into opportunities for recent graduates. In addition to hiring a handful of talented Whitties himself, in January 2016 Friedman facilitated the Whitties Helping Whitties networking event, where he served as the keynote speaker and encouraged students to use the skills they learned at Whitman to seek opportunities in top companies with confidence.

In 2019, Friedman started a grassroots Slack channel called "Whitties in Tech" that within two weeks grew to more than 500 members. The group is now more than 600 members strong and has become an active platform for Whitties to network, discover job opportunities and access mentors in the technology sector.

Friedman's entrepreneurial spirit, enthusiasm for creating opportunities for Whitties and commitment to mentoring makes him an ideal recipient of the Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni.



**TRAILBLAZER DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD**

**AISHA FUKUSHIMA '09**

The Alumni Association launched a new distinction, the Trailblazer Diversity and Inclusivity Award, created and chosen in collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Learn more about the award and its inaugural winner, Aisha Fukushima '09, on page 37.



SOC 278

# Social Movements & Social Change

4 CREDITS / MIRELES



Discussions about **historical movements** such as the **Civil Rights movement** enable students to learn ideas and concepts they can apply to contemporary movements. “The goal is to help them make sense of what they’re seeing in the world around them,” says Mireles.



**PROFESSOR BIO** Associate Professor of Sociology Gilbert Mireles teaches courses in social stratification, social movements, Latinos in U.S Society and introductory sociology. His research is broadly focused on the sociopolitical integration of immigrant communities into the United States. Mireles holds three degrees in sociology: a B.A. from Swarthmore College and an M.Phil. and Ph.D., both from Yale University.

**The Course:**

**An introduction to the sociological study of social change and collective action.**

Students will review classical and contemporary perspectives on social movements. The causes, internal dynamics and outcomes of social movements will be analyzed from macro and micro sociological perspectives. Theoretical models presented stress organizational and political processes and the intersections of politics, culture and identity.

## READING LIST

**Malcolm Gladwell's** essay “Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted”



Excerpts from **Alexis deTocqueville's** “Democracy in America”

**Max Weber's** essay on social stratification “Class, Status, Party”

**Doug McAdam's** “Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970”

TOP LEFT: LEFFLER, WARREN K., PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; TOP RIGHT: PEN AMERICAN CENTER, CC BY VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**“ULTIMATELY FOR ME, THE LARGER AIM IS FOR STUDENTS TO BECOME EMPOWERED AS MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, TO FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD BE INVOLVED AND INVESTED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.”** — GILBERT MIRELES, associate professor of sociology



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## A Whitman Fund Scholarship Can Transform a Student's Life

"I come from a working-class family in a small town in southern Oregon. Because of wonderful scholarship support, I am able to attend an amazing liberal arts college like Whitman! Thank you for giving me the opportunity not only to attend, but to thrive at Whitman." — Nora Rooney, junior







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

## Whitman Stories



**TUNE IN.** In the fall of 2020, the Whitman Orchestra committed to doing their part to make their classical music repertoire more diverse and inclusive. One step the ensemble pledged to take is including more works by Black composers and others who have traditionally been excluded from the canon. Read more on page 14 and see a video of the orchestra performing William Grant Still's "Serenade for Strings and Piano" at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).