

WHITMAN

MAGAZINE



Women in Blue

Discover how women at Whitman led the way in college athletics and how Title IX transformed women's sports years later



Beach vibes ...

Senior chemistry and biology major Jenny Kim from Vancouver, Washington, and junior computer science and Japanese major Jasper Kim from Tacoma, Washington, enjoy an unusually warm March day in their Intermediate Sand Volleyball class, led by Matt Helm, lecturer of sport studies and head women's volleyball coach.



4



12



16

Inside

16

FAREWELL, PRESIDENT MURRAY

Kathleen M. Murray, Whitman's 14th president, retires at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. Her colleagues and supporters say it's her dedication to student learning they'll remember most.

22

INGENIOUS COLLABORATION

Tech entrepreneur Jim Edmunds '78 launches a digital platform to benefit the Walla Walla business community—with help from a team of Whitman interns.

28

WOMEN IN BLUE

During the 50th anniversary year of Title IX, we take a look back at athletics at Whitman—where women were forerunners in some sports. At the same time, we celebrate Whitman sports legends and today's Whitman Blues, a fierce force of strength and skill.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
ON BOYER AVENUE	3
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MICHELLE JANING	10
SPACES: FOUTS SENIOR STUDIOS	12
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SÚELI GWIAZDOWSKI	14
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: HB LOZITO	36
CLASS NOTES	39
SYLLABUS	48

ON THE COVER Members of the 2021-2022 Women's Soccer team from left to right: Haley Cornelison '23, Carolina Gonzalez '23, Emily Badgley '24 and Hanna Lynch '24.

CORRECTIONS In the piece "Leaving Afghanistan" in the Fall 2021 issue of Whitman Magazine, there was a reference to potential negotiations with the Taliban to surrender Osama Bin Laden "in 2003." The year referenced should have been "2001."

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.

Goodbye—and Thank You

I'M SITTING IN THE Seattle airport as I begin to write this — my last letter for Whitman Magazine. This space, like so many others in the Pacific Northwest, has become very familiar over the course of these seven years. I've come to treasure the stunning drive to Portland through the Columbia River Gorge. I think my car could drive itself from Walla Walla to Pasco, through the beautiful unique landscape, given how many times I've made my way to and from the airport in Pasco. The Long Shadows tasting room has become a favorite place to take friends and family who visit, with its magnificent Chihuly glass and views to the distant horizon. But it's the spaces and faces on the Whitman campus that I have come to know the best and that I will miss the most.



I've had plenty of time to contemplate what I'll miss. I shared the news of my retirement with the Whitman community on February 22, 2021, and my final day in this role will be June 30, 2022, a full 16 months later. The length of the transition on this end is a function of the amount of time needed to plan for and run the search for the next president. It certainly gives one plenty of time to contemplate both the process of leaving and what comes next.

It also prolongs the process of saying goodbye, with alumni events and professional meetings across the country and throughout the year. While I'm not fond of the many goodbyes, I've appreciated the many opportunities to say thank you — to donors and friends of the college who have supported our work, to students and alumni who have been and remain at the center of our work and remind me every day that the world needs more Whitman grads, to the staff and faculty who never lose focus on our mission of student learning, and to professional colleagues who have helped make this work much less lonely and isolating than it would otherwise be. I don't know that I'll ever be able to express sufficient gratitude to the senior leadership team at the college and our Board of Trustees who have stood with me as we worked through the many crises and difficult decisions that face higher education today. That collective work has made Whitman even stronger and better positioned to serve future generations of Whitties.

To all of you, especially those I have not had an opportunity to greet personally this year, goodbye and thank you. It has been an enormous privilege to serve as the 14th president of Whitman College.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Murray
President

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Kathleen M. Murray

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To notify us of a change of mailing address or to opt out of receiving this magazine, please contact Sarah Jones at jonesst@whitman.edu.

CLASS NOTES

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

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NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

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



COMMUNITY

Tribal Tradition

A Plateau Long Tent temporarily erected on campus provides a place for a unique learning experience

Historic event. A Plateau Long Tent—believed to be the first ever built on a college campus—stood on Ankeny Field from April 18-26, 2022. To learn more about the sacred space and the ways the community engaged with it, visit whitman.edu/magazine.

IN APRIL 2022, the Whitman College community had a one-of-a-kind opportunity to broaden its understanding of the history of the Walla Walla Basin and the Native communities of the area during a weeklong event that centered around a Plateau Long Tent on Ankeny Field.

“The Long Tent is truly a stunning and majestic example of Indigenous architecture that is unique to the world and comes from the Inland Northwest/Columbia River Plateau region of North America,” says Roger Amerman (pictured above), a Choctaw

tribal member who attended Whitman from 1976-1977 and served as the lead consultant on the project. With a history stretching back more than 1,000 years, Long Tents have been used for lodging as well as social and ceremonial activities.

The tent was built with the endorsement and partnership of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and other tribes in the region.

Whitman students and professors from more than a dozen courses and programs—including art, art history

and visual culture studies, English, environmental humanities, environmental studies, philosophy, politics, religion, sociology and First Year Seminars—were able to engage with the Long Tent. There were also events open to the greater community.

Some of the topics explored included cultural perceptions of Indigenous peoples, Long Tent and Plateau culture and ceremony, contextualizing the “Whitman Legend,” place names, and the Treaty of 1855.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Devon Player '23 Named Newman Civic Fellow

WHITMAN COLLEGE JUNIOR Devon Player from Snoqualmie, Washington, has received a Newman Civic Fellowship from Campus Compact, a Boston-based nonprofit working to advance the public purposes of higher education. The sociology major is one of just 173 college students to be accepted into the 2022-2023 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows.

The students selected for the yearlong fellowship, which promotes personal, professional and civic growth, are leaders at their schools who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing their communities.

“Devon’s community work has been centered around social justice issues of equity and access,” wrote President Kathleen Murray in her nomination letter. “She invites her peers into engagement opportunities both on and off campus. She asks important questions about the root causes behind social injustices that she encounters and seeks opportunities to address these injustices in positive ways.”

Player began connecting with the Walla Walla community before she even started at Whitman through an experiential summer learning program led by the Career and Community Engagement Center. Since then, she has worked as a tutor in a second-grade classroom through the America Reads/America Counts program, developed an online platform to engage the local community in conversations around antiracism, and worked with



the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health in a project to address vaccine equity and accessibility. Most recently, she served as program coordinator for Whitman’s newly formed Food Justice Project, which works in partnership with Blue Mountain Action Council Food Warehouse to collect, sort and distribute meals to those experiencing food insecurity.

“I see it as a responsibility of being part of the Walla Walla community,” says Player of her steadfast engagement. “I think campus can sometimes feel like it’s our own little bubble, so it’s important to recognize the ways the larger community supports me and figure out the ways that I can be supportive to the community as well.”

VISITING VOICES

Alums Urge Action on Climate

Jaimes Valdez '03 and Juliana Williams '07 share local strategies for addressing global challenges

SCIENCE-FICTION WRITER William Gibson once mused, “The future is already here. It’s just not evenly distributed yet.” This holds true for climate change — both its disastrous effects and the technologies that could help mitigate them.

“What we’re continually seeing is that wealth is often an insulator from harm,” says Jaimes Valdez '03, manager of the Portland Green Energy Fund. “The wealthier communities globally, and within the United States, have more resources to deal with the impacts of climate change.”

Valdez and Juliana Williams '07 presented ideas for people who want to contribute to climate

solutions in “Equity in Practice: Addressing Climate Anxiety Through Local Action” in early February 2022, part of this year’s academic theme, “Climate reckonings, Climate Justice.”

The pair’s expertise took root in their experiences at Whitman.

While studying physics and environmental studies, Valdez served on Whitman’s environmental committee and helped organize the Northwest Renewable Energy Festival.



Jaimes Valdez



Stacy Mwangi, left, and Joy Nampaso, right.

Mwangi '24 and Nampaso '23 Awarded Projects for Peace Grants

WHITMAN COLLEGE SOPHOMORE Stacy Mwangi and junior Joy Nampaso have each been awarded up to \$10,000 from the Projects for Peace program, which enables students at its partner institutions to develop innovative, community-centered projects that address critical issues around the world.

The students, both from Kenya, will travel to their home country in the summer of 2022 to implement their projects.

Mwangi's project Twaleta Mwasoma—meaning “We bring a book, you read” in Kiswahili—focuses on literacy for children, something she became

passionate about during a gap year fellowship. She hopes the community-based program will be a stepping stone that allows students in Kenya's alternative primary schools to build a brighter future. “What I am trying to do with literacy is give people a level ground for them to succeed,” says Mwangi. “It's like giving them an opportunity to fight for themselves.”

Nampaso will use her grant to implement Linda Dada—“Protect the Girl” in Swahili—a project designed to raise awareness of the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation, a ritual that is still common amongst

the Masai community, despite being banned by Kenya in 2011. “The Project for Peace is such a great resource for me to finally actualize ... something I've always wanted to do for the girls in my community,” Nampaso says.

Having two separate Projects for Peace awardees in one year is rare, according to Jess Hernandez, director of fellowships and grants. “Whitman's success rate is truly a testament to the caliber of Whitman students and the civic-minded, leadership qualities they possess,” she says.

Read more about the grant-winning projects at whitman.edu/magazine.

This led to his career with local climate efforts, including the justice-focused, community-driven Portland project.

Williams was spurred to climate action by a Whitman class field trip to a wind farm. She campaigned to institute a student fee to purchase renewable energy—a small change, she said, but a step toward larger action.

Williams now works for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. She and her colleagues have been striving to implement energy justice into their work. This principle

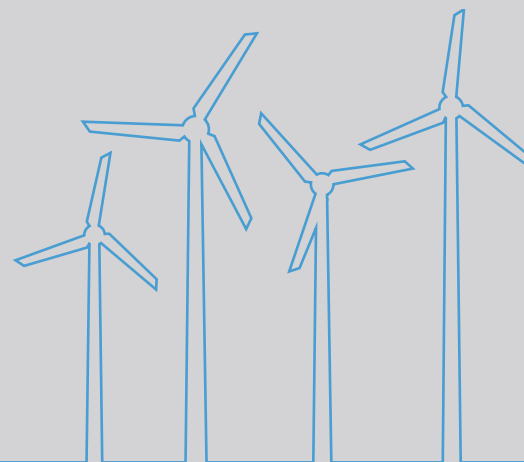


Juliana Williams

centers the voices of people who have been historically excluded from technological benefits, yet disproportionately burdened by pollution, energy costs and disasters.

Climate change can feel overwhelming, Williams said. But she returns to the theme of local action for encouragement.

“If you're doing your part, and you trust that other people are doing their part—or help them do their part—that is our best option for being successful,” she told the audience.



Whitties Around the World

AFTER A PANDEMIC-PROVOKED HIATUS, THE OFF-CAMPUS STUDIES PROGRAM RESUMED IN FALL 2021. SEE SOME STUDENTS' FAR-FLUNG ADVENTURES



NANTES, FRANCE

Ella Veljovich, junior biology major from Mercer Island, Washington, participated in IES Nantes French Language Immersion and Area Studies.

Why study abroad?

I chose to study abroad to improve my French language skills, explore French culture, and experience life in the country my grandmother is from. All of my courses—language, sociology, art history, translation and drawing—were taught in French, and I earned credits for my French minor.

What did you learn from the experience?

Living in another country can be hard but also exhilarating—and both sides of the experience can lead to immense personal growth.



COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Delaney Talovic, senior biology-environmental studies major from Lake Oswego, Oregon, participated in the DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia Copenhagen Semester.

Why Denmark?

Scandinavian countries are known for their commitment to sustainability and green technology, so most of their universities incorporate this into their curriculum. Also, many of the world's

leading grad schools in environmental science are located outside the U.S., so I wanted to know if I'd be able to acclimate to a new country where English is not the primary language.

What did you study?

My core class was "Climate, Glaciers, and Human Impact." Other classes included the biology of marine mammals; environmental philosophy; Danish design; and Danish language and culture.



TURKS AND CAICOS

Natalie Ritter, junior biology major from American Canyon, California, participated in School for Field Studies Marine Resource Studies program in Turks and Caicos.

Why did you participate in this program?

Studying abroad gave me the opportunity to explore different cultures, meet people who shared in my interests, and gain hands-on experience in a new environment.

What did you study?

My program focused on three key topics; tropical marine ecology, resource

management and environmental politics. There was also a direct research component toward the end of the semester.

How did you benefit from this experience?

I learned how to conduct field research as well as how best to relay information to the public. One of the key takeaways from this program, for me at least, was looking at the political side of marine studies and how everything is a double-ended blade, in the metaphorical sense. As a result, my values and opinions on matters concerning our environment have changed for the better.



STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Irene Tsai, junior psychology and Japanese major from Snohomish, Washington, participated in the DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia Stockholm Semester.

What did you study in Stockholm?

My core course was forensic psychology. Other courses I took while I was abroad were: Medical Ethics, Psychology of Performance, Swedish, and Human Trafficking and the Sex Trade. I went abroad trying to narrow down what field in psychology I wanted to focus on and instead I found a new interest I want to pursue: combating human trafficking.

What surprised you about Swedish culture?

I learned a lot about Swedish culture, their daily life and routines. Living with a host family, I got to experience the traditions Swedish families usually have right before Christmas, and eat plenty of authentic Swedish cuisine. The biggest culture shock for me was the approach to education. Their children are very independent, due to the efficient and easy access to public transportation, and in schools, they have specific focuses starting from the end of middle school. The education system also does not put much emphasis on getting good grades in the first five to six years at school, instead allowing children to explore their genuine interests early on. I wish America would incorporate more of their academic style.

Aidan Schutter, junior biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology major from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, participated in the DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia Copenhagen Semester.

What was your coursework like in Denmark?

I studied within the Human Health and Disease: A Clinical Approach program at DIS Copenhagen. This program was taught by two Danish doctors and encompassed everything from basic human anatomy and pathology to clinical treatments of diseases to the structure of socialized medicine within Denmark. Outside of my core program, I served as a research assistant at Copenhagen University and took classes in ethics and politics.

What did this experience teach you?

The biggest thing I learned was how much a person can grow when they take risks and do the uncomfortable. Due to the pandemic, studying abroad was a bit daunting. Not only were we dealing with COVID-19, but suddenly I was at a school where I knew no one. It felt like being a first-year all over again. But, after taking initiative and forcing myself out of my shell, I got to meet and develop close connections with wonderful people and travel Europe for the first time in my life. These connections I made are some of the strongest in my life, and I am so thankful I got to spend four months in Europe with my best friends. Looking back, I see the importance of being present and living life one moment at a time.



COPENHAGEN, DENMARK



RABAT, MOROCCO

Liam Failor-Wass, junior politics major from Santa Cruz, California, participated in the School for International Training Morocco Migration and Transnational Identity program.

Why did you choose the Morocco program and what did you study?

I was looking for an immersive study abroad experience in a non-European setting. I studied migration, cultural identity in a transnational context, Moroccan Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic.

What was the highlight of this experience?

The greatest and most impactful part of the program were the field trips. We met with NGOs working with migrant communities (both documented and undocumented), we also got to visit one of the Spanish enclaves and see European border policies in action, and most importantly, we were also able to meet with migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa to engage in great conversation and share a meal.

VENTURE VICARIOUSLY

Around 45% of students participate in Off-Campus Studies, including semester-long international and U.S.-based programs and summer study abroad opportunities, during their Whitman College career. Get more first-hand intel on Whitties' OCS experiences by reading their blogs from past and present at blogs.whitman.edu/off-campus-studies.

Amongst the Trees

Whitman College has once again been awarded the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA designation, which honors colleges and universities and their leaders for promoting healthy trees and engaging students, staff and faculty in the spirit of conservation. Here's a glimpse at Whitman's fabulous trees—by the numbers.

1:1 student-to-tree ratio
1.22 trees per student, to be exact.

1,641 trees on campus
The most common species are flowering dogwood and Norway maple.



Twenty campus trees are more than **100 years old**. The oldest of these, a **wych elm** in front of Hunter Conservatory, is also one of the tallest at 100 ft.

1 in 5 campus trees are evergreens, including both conifers and broadleaf trees that happen to be evergreen.



147ft.

The **GIANT SEQUOIA** near the Hall of Science is the college's tallest tree



We Are the Champions

Whitman's campus boasts four "champion" trees—defined as trees that are among the largest—if not *the* largest—of their species in Washington state. They are the **weeping cherry** in front of Marcus House, the **golden rain tree** west of Maxey, the **burr oak** next to Douglas, and the **hackberry** on the southwest wall of Maxey West.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Aaron Aguilar-Ramirez, assistant professor of Hispanic studies, was awarded a Graves Award in the Humanities. This biennial award, based at Pomona College, recognizes junior faculty members who demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in the teaching of the humanities. With Graves funding, Aguilar-Ramirez will attend two academic conferences for teachers of Spanish and travel through Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to connect with instructors who run the best Spanish as a heritage language programs in the country. The long-term goal of this project is to develop a more robust course catalog for heritage learners of Spanish.

Theresa DiPasquale, Gregory M. Cowan Professor in English Language and Literature, published "New Alchimie: Reading John Donne's 'Nocturnall' Through Poems by Kimberly Johnson and Alice Fulton" in the open-access peer reviewed journal *Connotations: A Journal of Critical Debate*. The article emerges from DiPasquale's scholarship and teaching on links between 17th-century poetry and contemporary poetry.

Marion Götz, associate professor of chemistry, was awarded a Bridge research grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. The project will investigate the mechanism of proteasome inhibition of a drug that is used clinically to treat multiple myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells. The three-year grant will support summer research experiences for six students. Murdock Bridge grants are specifically designed to support seasoned faculty members who have established and previously funded research programs; they are meant to serve as a bridge toward additional federal funding.

Christopher Leise, associate professor of English, published "The Tropological Infrastructure of Colson Whitehead's *Black Midwest*" in the peer-reviewed journal *Studies in the Novel*. Arguing that Whitehead's award-winning contemporary

novels encourage new ways of acknowledging the disfranchisement of Black people from developing their own spaces for flourishing in the 19th-century Midwest, Leise's essay also helps explain Whitehead's distinctive aesthetic approach to reading the built environment as a vital site of Black history.

Gaurav Majumdar, professor of English, published his second book "Illegitimate Freedom: Informality in Modernist Literature, 1900-1940" (Routledge, 2021). The book is the first scholarly exploration of links between informality—as an aesthetic, behavioral and political model—and a wide range of British and anglophone modernist works.

Erin Pahlke, associate professor of psychology, co-authored an article in *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. "White Parents' Socialization of Racial Attitudes: A Commentary on Scott et al." focuses around a current debate in psychology: whether researchers should encourage white parents to discuss race with their children.

Jim Russo, associate professor of biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology, was awarded the 2021 Pete and Hedda Reid Service Award by the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce and Whitman College in recognition of his decades-long advocacy for the health of the Walla Walla community. In addition to his instrumental role in the development and implementation of nutrition and fitness standards for Walla Walla Public Schools, Russo contributed significantly to the COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign in Walla Walla, facilitating the use of Whitman's laboratory equipment in storing vaccine doses that would eventually reach thousands of people in the community. He has also provided invaluable counsel as a member of Whitman's pandemic response team, promoting policies that prevented outbreaks among the campus community and led to greater health and safety in the Walla Walla Valley.

IN MEMORIAM



J. Patrick "Pat" Tyson, professor of English and theater emeritus, died Nov. 25, 2021.

Admired for his enthusiastic teaching, Tyson had, in the words of one colleague, "a larger than life presence; a booming voice and laugh; a scholar's curiosity guided by an artist's sensitivity; and an indomitable desire to teach and mentor."

Tyson, who earned a bachelor's in English from Texas Technological University, an M.A. in English at Texas Christian University and a Ph.D. from Tulane University, began his Whitman College career in 1965. He was promoted to professor in 1979. In addition to teaching classes in English and world literature, he began teaching theater classes in 1990.

A giant of the faculty, Tyson was involved in the creation of the General Studies Core Program in 1981, served as chair of the General Studies Committee, the Library Committee, the English Department, the Division of Humanities and Arts, and as Chair of the Faculty from 1984-1986. He was appointed a Garret Fellow in 1973 and the Mary A. Denny Professor of English in 1989. In 1997, he received the Thomas D. Howells Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Humanities and Fine Arts.

Following his retirement in 1998, Tyson became a master gardener and sculptor. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, and three children, Richard, Elizabeth (Libby) and Anne.

Digging Into Everyday Life

SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR MICHELLE JANING
FINDS MEANING IN THE MATERIAL AND MUNDANE

BY JODIE NICOTRA

Michelle Janning
and her dog Pluto.

KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

SOMEONE ONCE REFERRED TO Whitman College sociology professor Michelle Janning as an archaeologist of contemporary society—the kind of person who pokes around in your underwear drawer to figure out what’s going on with the world.

Indeed, given Janning’s research on domestic spaces and practices, the appraisal is more literal than figurative.

“I’ve got lots of underwear drawer stories—both mine and the ones people bring me,” she jokes.

Janning has published more than a draw-erful of books and articles on topics ranging from love letters to contemporary parenting, to spaces and stuff of contemporary home life, and to the impacts of the pandemic on families.

A sociologist by professional training—she earned her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Notre Dame—Janning’s thinking has also been shaped by anthropological research, seeded as an undergraduate at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, when she was a sociology-anthropology major.

“The rich cultural context and qualitative elements of inquiry that take time and depth—yes, sociologists do that—of course we do,” she says. “But it was really my readings about anthropological research that inspired the significance of material culture as symbolic of people’s value systems and practices and access to resources.”

PLAYING HOUSE

Janning’s interest in how everyday life and material objects reflect larger social forces has been with her since adolescence. She has a vivid memory of how, as a 14-year-old, she begged her parents to get her a magazine subscription—not to Seventeen, like many girls her age, but to Elle Décor. The stylish design magazine featured high-end pieces, and Janning remembers wondering not just about the beauty of the objects, but about who got to have them and who was in charge of managing them.

“That’s where social class and gender have stuck with me as areas of intersecting inequality for the questions I ask,” Janning says. “A lot of my research feels quite benign and apolitical, but really what I’m doing is pointing out places where inequalities are present in our access to valuable resources, including things that are deemed aesthetically valuable.”

By far, though, Janning’s biggest inspiration has been her mom, Yvonne. Her mom taught home economics in their small town in

rural Minnesota, so as Janning was growing up she was constantly exposed to things like sewing, cooking and home decor. But Yvonne’s real passion was family relationships. She went on to earn a master’s in family education and became the first-ever director of the community’s Early Childhood Family Education program, creating programs for previously overlooked populations, such as teen parents, single dads and Native American parents. Through her mom’s work, Janning became interested in the social forces that help contextualize family relationships: why some families don’t receive the same resources as others, or why some families are leery of public institutions.

“I really am grateful, because she’s got so many stories about her experience with families that are informing the larger data projects that I’m working on,” Janning says.

WRITING HOME

Janning is one of those relatively rare scholars whose work appeals to both academic and general audiences. This is no accident; while research on domestic spaces and practices might inherently have some public appeal, Janning has taken deliberate steps to make her work accessible to the lay reader.

Her reach beyond academia is thanks in part to her involvement with the Council on Contemporary Families (CCF), which aims to improve the quality of national dialogue around family and domestic issues. Janning joined the CCF board of directors in 2010, eventually serving as chair for four years. She’s

published many publicly oriented articles on the subjects of her scholarly work on the CCF’s blog on The Society Pages website.

But most of Janning’s public success has come from her own commitment to sharing her research and expertise. When she stepped down from an administrative position in 2013, Janning made the decision to focus more on her writing. She created a blog and wrote down titles for what eventually became 65 blog posts over the following couple of years.

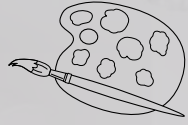
“I realized that the more I wrote, the more I wrote,” she says. “And so, in that sense, I got my voice out there in the ether, even without having completed all the projects that were mulling about in my head. And because of that, then you get quoted in various places, and then you get found, and then you can put it on your website, and then you get asked by publishers to write an edited volume about parenting.”

For her next project, Janning is working on a social sciences research methods book for architects and interior designers that aims to inform the design process with helpful and empathetic user-experience data collection techniques. At the same time, she’s involved in an interdisciplinary group of Whitman staff and faculty dedicated to exploring whether Whitman could implement a human-centered design program.


“I’m just so grateful and happy that I’ve gotten to do what I’ve gotten to do, and that Whitman is a place that’s allowed me to dabble in so many different fields that have led to these paths and connections that I didn’t know existed.” 📖

“A lot of my research feels quite benign and apolitical, but really what I’m doing is pointing out places where inequalities are present in our access to valuable resources, including things that are deemed aesthetically valuable.”

— MICHELLE JANNING, professor of sociology



Fouts Senior Studios

In the Fouts Center for the Visual Arts, the Ben G. Stone Studio Wing, houses two stories of art studios. These individual studios are reserved for senior art majors, offering each student a space of their own to create work for their thesis exhibition at Sheehan Gallery. “The studio wing is a crucial space for our seniors to develop the professional skills necessary to sustain a working artistic practice after graduation,” says Amanda Evans, visiting assistant professor of art and senior thesis advisor for the Class of 2022. This year’s artists presented a range of projects including research-based portrait oil paintings, an immersive ceramic and video installation, a participatory library, four-color silkscreened portraits, and more. View their completed works—including the larger-than-life beetle sculptures created by Fi Black, pictured here—at whitman.edu/magazine. 

KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY







Fighting for What's Right

FOR JUNIOR SÚELI GWIAZDOWSKI,
CIVIL RIGHTS ARE NOT UP FOR DEBATE

BY GENEVIEVE VOGEL '24

INSPIRED BY THE EXPERIENCES and grit of her mother, Súeli B. Gwiazdowski says she's known advocacy and the law would be a part of her future from a young age. The Whitman College junior grew up hearing her mom's stories about immigrating to the United States after losing both of her parents, and witnessing the discrimination and sometimes aggressive suspicion toward her mother, a Brazilian woman of color.

"Being alongside my mom while she was treated so differently from me on the basis of her skin color and status as an immigrant is what I think motivated my initial interest in civil rights," Gwiazdowski says.

She found a way to channel her interests in middle school, when her English teacher recommended that she join the debate team. "She knew that I was passionate about politics and loved in-class dialogues." Gwiazdowski fell in love with debate, rising all the way to the state championships in her first year of high school. She excelled in policy debates, where her developing passion for community advocacy and political action shone through.

In her sophomore year, she participated in a protest against police brutality spurred on by the shooting of a neighbor with mental disabilities during a crisis call.

Around the same time, she got involved with ACCE Action, a California-based organization focusing on housing rights. For Gwiazdowski, who says housing insecurity and terrible landlords were a regular part of her life, the cause hit especially close to home.

Her attendance at protests aligned her with other passionate organizers, who she eventually joined at the capitol in Sacramento to lobby for Proposition 10, a rent-control bill. Instead of being at protests in her home of San Diego, accompanied by friends and supporters, she was inside the crucible of law for the state of California. For the first time, Gwiazdowski was given a view into a truly professional law setting.

“It was then that I realized I could pursue a professional career working towards the same kinds of change. Before, the idea that I could go beyond my hometown hadn’t presented itself as a possibility,” Gwiazdowski says.

BECOMING HER OWN ADVOCATE

Her sophomore year of high school also marked the beginning of a new phase of advocacy for Gwiazdowski—this time, fighting for herself.

That year, the degenerative spinal condition Gwiazdowski was born with rapidly worsened, requiring her to use a cane, then leg braces and, eventually, a wheelchair. Before then, most of her classmates were unaware of her condition.

“Everyone was able to single me out as a disabled kid. That was the first time I had ever experienced my disability being entirely visible. All of a sudden, my whole world changed and I was perceived in a completely different way than I had been a couple of weeks before.”

As her symptoms progressed, the perception by her fellow students wasn’t the only difficult change. Although federal law is meant to protect students with disabilities and allow them to the greatest extent possible to learn in classrooms with nondisabled students, Gwiazdowski says her high school claimed it could no longer support her education due to inaccessible facilities. In her junior year, she was forced to transfer to a special education classroom at another school. For Gwiazdowski, that meant the end of competing in debate and no access to honors-level classes.

That abrupt change further motivated Gwiazdowski to challenge the status quo.

Every day seemed to be a fight just to receive the kind of education Gwiazdowski knew she could thrive in. In spite of dismissal from her special education teachers, she knew she possessed the motivation and intelligence to succeed. Soon, it became a question of whether she needed to transfer again or drop out of school completely. After successful negotiations with the school system, she was able to attend an independent study program to finish junior year and complete high school through homeschooling.

“Throughout all this time that I was fighting to be able to get a seat in general education classrooms with my previous classmates, I was being told to give up and move on,” Gwiazdowski says.

Informed by her experiences with educational settings and school-based support systems, Gwiazdowski felt a deep draw to disability and education law and policy.

BACK TO DEBATE

At the same time Gwiazdowski was speaking up for her education at high school, she was also looking ahead to her college career.


She knew she wanted to attend Whitman, but as a first-generation and working-class

student, Gwiazdowski made the financial choice to first spend a year at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC). There, she met administrators who helped arrange accommodations. She founded an affinity and advocacy group for students with disabilities and campaigned for campus accessibility improvements. While a student at WWCC, she visited a Whitman debate team meeting, where she connected with Lauran Schaefer, the college’s director of debate.

When she transferred to Whitman in the fall of 2020, she joined the debate team and, soon after, founded Whitman’s first affinity group for students with disabilities, the Disability and Difference Community.

In the summer of 2021, Gwiazdowski had the opportunity to work with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, enabled by a First Generation Internship and Career Opportunity Endowment from Whitman. She describes the experience of working with the agency that handles cases where free and appropriate education has been denied to students—similar to what Gwiazdowski had faced herself—as “incredibly intense and rewarding.”

In the fall of 2021, she began a yearlong fellowship with The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation at Loyola Marymount University. The virtual program recruits and trains students with disabilities who aspire to careers in law. It’s an important step toward a more inclusive justice system: People with disabilities have been historically excluded from the law and related professions, even though they currently make up 26% of the U.S. population, Gwiazdowski says.

“The fact that I can only think of a handful of disabled people who are active in law, policy, or politics right now—that’s embarrassing for our country. We need more representation, less pity, and for allyship to go beyond retweets.” 

SHOWING UP AND SPEAKING UP

The Disability and Difference Community (DISCO) affinity group seeks to connect students with disabilities in a manner that fosters support and inclusion. Members can share backgrounds and act as advocates for one another, while at times offering education to allies.

That education has sometimes been part of an organized program, such as Whitman’s annual Power

& Privilege Symposium, where Gwiazdowski has led discussions about accessibility and ableist language, but is often more informal.

“Every single setting that I am in, I find myself noticing a medium of ableism in some capacity or another. We are here to be educated, but often students are put into a position where they are educating simply by existing in that space, showing that people ‘that disabled’ can be in college settings independently,” she says.

Read more about Sueli’s internship at the Office for Civil Rights and her upcoming summer internship in Washington, D.C. at whitman.edu/magazine.





Farewell, President Murray

**Whitman's 14th
president forged a
legacy of prioritizing
student learning**

BY GILLIAN FREW '11

“Your business here is to learn.”

It's a phrase so closely associated with President Kathleen Murray — since her first Whitman College Convocation address in 2015 — that when campus closed due to COVID-19 in March 2020, students gave it a darkly comedic pandemic twist on social media: “Your business here is to leave.”

Now two years later, as the world slowly returns to a new kind of normalcy, it's Murray who is preparing to leave — capping her final semester at Whitman with an in-person Commencement ceremony, which will include families and guests for the first time since May 2019. After seven years in office, Murray's mood is bittersweet as she reflects on retirement — and shepherding the school through such historic and tumultuous times.

“During the campus closure, I would often walk around Ankeny Field, hoping that someone would wander by just so I would be reminded that there really were people around,” Murray says.

For Murray, it was the dedicated people she had around her — virtually, if not physically — who made the difference during those lonely and logistically challenging times.

“My advice to other college presidents is to build a great team around you, because it's such a complicated job now. I have an incredible cabinet, and I don't know how we would have made it through COVID without every single one of them. We function very much as a team, and they do amazing work for this college.”

Provost and Dean of the Faculty Alzada Tipton returns the compliment. “One of the things I've loved best about working with Kathy is cabinet meetings, which is not something other people see. We have very energetic discussions, and she encourages us all to speak out. That allows us oftentimes to come to a consensus, but she is also very capable of stepping in and saying ‘OK, thanks for everybody's feedback and here's how we're going to go,’ in a way that makes everyone feel heard. That's a tremendously uncommon thing, at least in my experience—that ability to be simultaneously welcoming and decisive.”

Nancy Serrurier, chair of the board of trustees from 2018-2021, agrees. She believes Murray's clear-eyed leadership during the pandemic struck the right chord, especially when it became evident that the school would need to temporarily switch to remote learning.

“She recommended that very difficult decision to the board, which we knew would have a financial impact, and I thought that was courageous,”



Serrurier says. “It was the right decision, and it wasn't easy. Her North Star was the health and well-being of the people in this community, and that is a reflection of her values. I think she has an enormous amount of empathy and compassion. Time and time again, when there were really challenging moments, that's when she's risen to her best.”

Much has changed since Murray's solitary strolls around Ankeny early in the pandemic. Classes have been back in person for more than a year. Residence halls are bustling again and cherished college activities like sports, plays, concerts and improv shows are back in swing.

Murray recalls an outing to Cleveland Commons, the dining hall constructed during her presidency, soon after it reopened for indoor service.

“Her North Star was the health and well-being of the people in this community, and that is a reflection of her values.”

—Nancy Serrurier

“People kept stopping me just to say how happy they were to be back together, to be sitting with their friends and enjoying a meal as opposed to taking it back to their room,” she says.

“I have to praise our entire community for how we’ve handled the pandemic. People are paying attention. They’re doing the right thing. And yes, we’re all tired of it. Yet, through it all, we’ve kept the focus on student learning.”

For Peter Harvey ’84, chief financial officer and chair of the Coronavirus Task Force, that emphasis on student learning—above all else—is the most significant part of Murray’s legacy.

“What I think is the most important cornerstone of Kathy’s leadership and presidency is her mantra of keeping what is best for students and student learning at the forefront of every decision we make. Her message to students that ‘your business here is to learn’ really summarizes her belief in a liberal arts education and what she brought to Whitman,” Harvey says.

First Impressions

Murray assumed the presidency in 2015, making history as the first woman in that role. Previously, she had served as provost and dean of the faculty at Macalester College in Minnesota, where she was appointed acting president for a semester in 2013. Prior to that, she was provost at Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama. Murray began her career at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, where she was a piano professor for almost 20 years.

A gifted musician, she grew up the youngest in a blue-collar family in Iowa with four older brothers, and attended Illinois Wesleyan University as a first-generation college student. She earned a bachelor’s in music there before going on to earn a master’s in piano performance from Bowling Green State University and her doctorate in piano performance and pedagogy from Northwestern University. The path that led her to the president’s suite in Memorial Building started several years before the search, when Murray was invited to Whitman to conduct a review of the staffing in the provost’s office.

“What I remember most distinctly is that I was there to talk about staffing levels, and there was a session for faculty where I thought three or four



November 2018. President Murray speaks at the official dedication of Stanton Hall and Cleveland Commons. The \$40 million project transformed the residence life and dining experience on campus.

people might show up. Who really wants to talk about this? And the place was packed. People were genuinely interested, and that really stuck with me: Here was a faculty that was so engaged ... that they really wanted to be part of the conversation.”

Laura and Carl Peterson Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of Psychology Melissa Clearfield was on the presidential search committee and later served as chair of the faculty, a position she says she ran for in part for the chance to work with Murray.

“I remember there was a point when the finalists each got a chance to speak about Whitman, and Kathy spoke so eloquently that all of us on the committee got choked up at how well she captured who we are and what a great sense of community we have,” Clearfield says.

For Tipton, it was a high regard for Murray that inspired her to apply for the role of Whitman’s provost in 2015. The two had met by happenstance years earlier, when Tipton and her husband were attending a new parent event at Macalester with their son.

“We sat down at a table and a tall, stately woman came over and sat down next to us, and we started chatting. I discovered she was the provost at Macalester, and we had a great conversation. It was far more fun than I ever expected that dinner to be,” Tipton says. “When I came here to work with Kathy, all my hopes from that conversation came true a hundredfold, including the support she’s offered in the areas of faculty development, career and community engagement, athletics, the two Mellon grants for community engagement ... the list just goes on and on.”

Serrurier and search committee co-chair Brad McMurchie ’84 also had positive gut feelings about Murray long before the formal interview process.

“During the presidential search, Brad and I flew out to the Midwest to unofficially meet with several of the candidates from our pool, and one of them was Kathy,” says Serrurier. “After our conversation with her, Brad and I looked at each other and said, ‘That’s the next president.’ So it was a really strong connection from the beginning. We both had the impression that this was a person that had the qualities and mindset we were looking for.”

Murray came away from that first meeting with Serrurier and McMurchie with a similar sense of excitement. “Their passion for this place and their energy about the search and the board was really infectious. The more I learned about Whitman, the more impressed I was.”

When Murray arrived on campus for her official unveiling as the next president, accompanied by her partner Bridget Reischl, it was cause for celebration.



May 2017. Whitman College and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) sign a memorandum of understanding. President Murray and Kathryn Brigham, secretary of the CTUIR Board of Trustees, sign the document.

“I will never forget the moment in Maxey Auditorium when they announced who the new president was going to be,” Murray says. “There was an audible gasp when Brad McMurchie said my name — and it was very clearly about, ‘We finally have our first woman leader.’ Then he announced Bridget’s name and there was another gasp, as in, ‘not only is she a woman but she’s showing up with a woman!’ That was a sign of the kind of welcome we were going to receive.”

Jack Percival '16 was one of the student representatives on the search committee and served as president of the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) during Murray’s first year at Whitman.

“I remember asking her to dinner at the house I shared with two roommates behind Anderson Hall after one of our regularly scheduled meetings,” Percival says. “I was so nervous to extend the invitation, but I wanted to build a better relationship with her and demonstrate the warmth of the Whitman community as she settled into a new role in a new place. To my surprise, Kathy said that she and Bridget would be delighted to join us. We shared a wonderful evening, and it’s something that my friends and I still remember fondly.”

A New Agenda

It didn’t take long for Murray to make her mark at Whitman, restructuring campus leadership to improve cooperation and elevating the head of diversity, equity and inclusion to a cabinet-level position. The college also conducted a major campus climate survey and created an inclusion task force to implement a host of action items, including enrolling the most diverse student body in Whitman’s history.

“I have to praise our entire community for how we’ve handled the pandemic.”

—Kathy Murray



March 2022. President Murray holds office hours in Cleveland Commons to connect with students. Whitman Blues basketball players and twin sisters, Caira and Shaira Young, from Las Vegas, stop by to thank Murray for her support in their championship season (see page 34).

“The view of leadership got a lot more holistic and a lot more collaborative,” says Clearfield. “In the cabinet, I had as much a voice as anybody else, and whenever there was an issue with faculty, she would seek me out and talk it through with me. She didn’t always do what I thought was best, but I always felt heard. I really appreciated a lot of aspects of her style. She showed me that she was paying attention, especially to folks who were being marginalized.”

Tipton echoes this sentiment. “The thing that struck me right away is just how smart she is, how able she is to stay on top of all the different details that all the cabinet members are bringing to her, and to ask really incisive questions. The collegiality that she exhibits inspires this really deep level of respect. And the consideration of what’s best for students, again and again, I think is the hallmark of her presidency.”

This commitment to the student experience is evident in one of the most lasting achievements of Murray’s tenure, the development of Whitman’s strategic priorities. (See page 21.)

“When she came in, it was time to develop a new strategic plan and get funding for it, and that’s precisely what she’s done,” says Serrurier. “She really helped the whole campus catalyze the most important initiatives that needed to be worked on in order to move the college forward, to serve students now and in the future.”

An Enduring Legacy

During her presidency, Murray cultivated impressive fundraising—with more than \$100 million in gifts and commitments to advance the college’s mission. This philanthropy enabled Whitman to increase financial aid to students with need by 50% and reduce gapping (the amount of unmet financial need per student) from more than \$10,000 to a maximum of \$4,000. It also facilitated the construction of two new modern and sustainable buildings: a dining hall, Cleveland Commons, and Stanton Hall, a sophomore residence hall.

“As a first-generation college student myself, I really am proud of our progress around access and affordability, our laserlike focus on that,” says Murray. “We’ve made huge strides in terms of the financial aid available to students.”

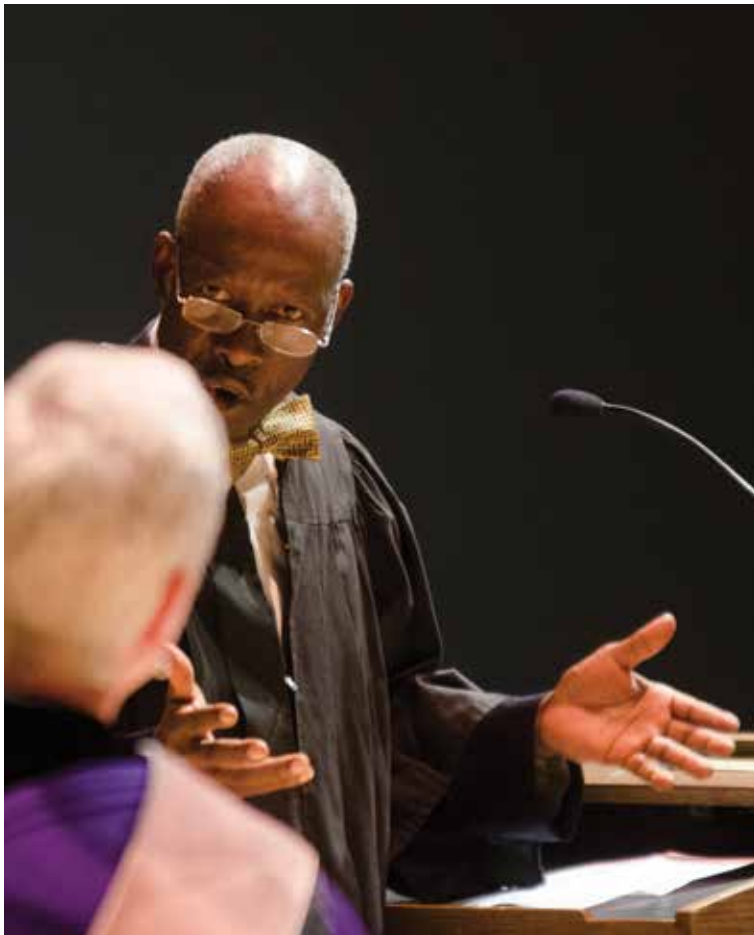
Clearfield, who co-chaired the strategic planning committee along with Murray and Serrurier, highlighted the magnitude of setting these priorities and seeing them through. “The whole strategic planning process was one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever had the opportunity to do. I had a level of leadership that very few schools offer faculty. And so to me that really speaks highly of Kathy’s view of shared governance. No other schools put a faculty leader in charge of strategic planning. I was an equal partner in that. I learned a lot and the faculty have already made significant changes to the curriculum. Some of those are still going on.”

Serrurier points to the relationship between Murray and the Board of Trustees as another example of her success.

“One of the things we wanted to do was to strengthen that partnership and be there for each other, and Kathy’s style was to use the board in a way that was collaborative ... We wanted a relationship with her that was mutually respectful and modeled the fact that we were in this together to try to make Whitman the best it can be, and she was that way from the start with the board and with her cabinet. I’m very proud of that.”

A Fond Farewell

As the college prepares to enter its next chapter, Murray sets her sights on one with less of an agenda — retirement. She looks forward to reconnecting with family and getting reacquainted with the piano, which she hasn’t had time to play seriously in many years.



September 2015. Chief Diversity Officer Kazi Joshua addresses the audience and Whitman's newly installed 14th president, Kathleen Murray, in a ceremony in Cordiner Hall. In 2016, Murray elevated Joshua's role to a vice president and cabinet-level position. Joshua is currently the dean of students.

Murray will miss the students most of all, she says.

"She always made the effort, if we saw each other, to come say hi and ask how I was doing," says Cedric Jacob-Jones '19, a student-athlete who got to know Murray, a basketball fan, on and off the courts.

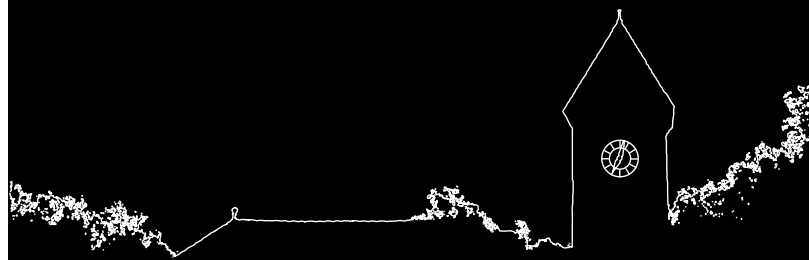
"Whitman students work incredibly hard, and they do it in a really collaborative, supportive fashion," says Murray. "On some campuses there's a notion that if you do really well, that's going to negatively impact me, and so there's a competitive edge there that I just don't see at Whitman, and it's because our students believe that if they support each other, everyone can succeed. And that is just a really remarkable thing. We hear that from prospective students when they tour — that they notice how supportive people are of one another."

Percival, the former ASWC president, said he was always clear on Murray's main objective. "I was struck by her passion for advancing student learning through the rigorous liberal arts education that Whitman offers."

So where did the famous phrase — "Your business here is to learn" — originate? Fittingly, it was coined by the very mentor who encouraged Murray to pursue a college presidency, the late Rik Warch, who was president of Lawrence University for 25 years.

"My focus since the start of my career has been on student learning," Murray says. "I've never taken my eye off of that."

Join us in thanking President Murray for her caring and careful stewardship of Whitman College. Send her a greeting of farewell and wishes for a happy retirement at whitman.edu/magazine. **W**



5 Strategic Priorities

Whitman College established these five strategic priorities in 2017, after a collaborative strategic planning process that began with Kathy Murray's presidency in 2015.

- » Increasing access and affordability
- » Enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion
- » Innovating the curriculum
- » Connecting to life after Whitman
- » Celebrating the college's location

The Kathleen M. Murray Endowed Chair of Computer Science

President Murray is retiring, but future generations of Whitties will enjoy her legacy, thanks to a generous gift from Christina and Peter Dawson, parents of Adam Dawson '16. Their \$2 million gift to endow the Kathleen M. Murray Chair in Computer Science will allow the college to search for another computer science faculty member this year.

"Peter and I are both very fond of Kathy, and we wanted to make this gift to boost the faculty in computer science and name it in her honor," says Christina. "I think that if you care about the liberal arts and you want young people to have the best education they possibly can, you give to Whitman to help Whitman deliver that education. That's really what it boils down to."

Established in 2015, computer science is a rapidly expanding department whose graduates have gone on to secure careers at Google, Microsoft and other competitive companies. Currently, each full-time department faculty member advises almost 30 students. The computer science faculty provides a rigorous program of study not only for their own majors, but increasingly for students across majors by collaborating with other departments on interdisciplinary work.

The Dawson family has also provided the financial support for Whitman to become a JED Campus, bringing new resources to support student mental health and suicide prevention through the Jed Foundation, a national nonprofit program that has expanded to more than 370 colleges and universities.



Ingenious collaboration

**Tech entrepreneur Jim Edmunds '78
launches a program to benefit the
Walla Walla business community—with help
from a team of Whitman interns**

BY PAM MOORE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIM FETROW '96



Jim Edmunds wasn't sure what his next step would be after graduating from Whitman College.

“Like a lot of students, I was sort of a blank slate as to what I was going to do,” he says. At the time, he didn’t see himself creating a company that would ultimately give back to both Whitman and to the greater Walla Walla business community.

Fast-forward 44 years, and not only is Edmunds the founder of software firm Ingeniux, his company is helping create technology to support regional entrepreneurs—and Whitman interns are part of his team.

After earning his degree in history, Edmunds spent the first 10 years of his career in the film industry. “Then I got married and had kids and had to get serious about making a living,” he says. Based in Seattle, he made what felt like a natural move to the tech industry. He got his start working for Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen making digital entertainment products, which eventually led to stints at MSNBC and video games company Electronic Arts. Edmunds recalls: “I didn’t really have a huge tech background. But I did really have an interest in the cognitive discipline around the way people interacted with technology.”

That interest—and the skills

Edmunds developed at Whitman—would continue to serve him as the founder of Ingeniux, a software company he established in 2000. “Whitman equipped me with the ability to communicate very well,” he says. Perhaps more importantly, he credits Whitman with giving him the critical-thinking skills he’s drawn on throughout his career.

The tech entrepreneur says Whitman changed the trajectory of his life. “I had a very comfortable middle-class upbringing,” he says. “But [Whitman] just pushed me to a different level and provided me with self-confidence that really furthered my professional life and my personal life.”

Because of that, he says, “I’ve always felt like I owed a debt to Whitman to give back.” Presently that includes a valuable and ongoing in-kind donation—Edmunds and Ingeniux provide both content management software and hosting for the Whitman website. Over the past four decades, Edmunds has also served as an alumni class representative on the planned giving committee, and as a member of the President’s Advisory Board.

WALLA WALLA HOMECOMING

Edmunds’ company, Ingeniux, provides content management software that empowers people to create and manage digital content without programming skills. In 2015, the company started looking for a second office location outside of Seattle. They considered Walla Walla as well as several other smaller cities in the Midwest and Southeast U.S. However, Edmunds was always clear on one thing: “I love Walla Walla.”

While the Whitman connection was certainly part of the decision to ultimately put down stakes in Walla



Teamwork. Ingeniux employs several Whitties, including Alex Pratt '22, left, and intern Jack Allard, right, a junior.



Walla, other factors were also in play. Besides being in the same time zone as the Seattle headquarters, Edmunds says the quality of life in Walla Walla is excellent. “If you’re a wine and food person, it’s an especially fantastic place.” Meanwhile, three local colleges, Whitman College, Walla Walla Community College and Walla Walla University, offered a wide pool of talent the company could draw on.

After a weeklong executive planning retreat in Walla Walla, the team “fell in love” with the area, and an attractive economic development program from the Port of Walla Walla ultimately sealed

the deal, says Edmunds, who now splits his time between Seattle and Walla Walla.

COMMUNITY TIES

Ingeniux serves a broad spectrum of business, education and government clients. And in June 2021, its roster grew to include the Community Council of Walla Walla. Using input from community members to study issues facing the region and implement initiatives to address them, the council seeks to build a vibrant region for every member of the Walla Walla Valley community. A recent

“
**The Whitman
interns are
really committed,
energetic, great
self-starters.”**

—JIM EDMUNDS

council study, Education as a Path to Economic Growth, generated a long list of recommendations—including the creation of an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem to both support entrepreneurial education and drive small business success.

The implementation task force developed a working group to focus specifically on this recommendation. Edmunds explains, “[They] suggested that a key component of the ecosystem would be a website that would serve as a clearinghouse of information for starting and growing businesses, and create an online community of entrepreneurs and business owners to share insights and support each others’ activities.” As he puts it, this website is poised to be the answer to the question of, “How can we encourage startups and other entrepreneurial activity in the Walla Walla Valley and provide an environment that is hospitable and conducive to that?” That includes existing startups as well as those that locals—including Whitman students and alumni—are poised to launch in the future.

Enter the The Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Portal project. As a member of the task force, Edmunds didn’t hesitate to volunteer Ingeniux—and some of its Whitman student interns—to design, build and host the portal. He feels giving Whitman students the chance to develop their skills while enhancing the local business community is an absolute win-win.

“In the spring of 2021, I worked with members of the task force and various community stakeholders to identify requirements for the portal,” says Edmunds. At that point, the Ingeniux design team began the process of creating a website design and defining major features and functionality.

“The portal website will provide information and resources for Walla Walla Valley entrepreneurs to start, grow, and manage their businesses successfully,” says Edmunds. The content will include organizational resources such as local, state, and national organizations that assist business owners as well helpful resources on small business management. The portal, which is scheduled

to go live in May 2022, will also give users free access to features including a regional events calendar and a community blog.

While anyone can visit the site and take advantage of the resources and information there, to contribute content to the portal (which is also free), users will have to create an account with their name and some basic identifying information. Registered users can create announcements, submit events and participate in discussion forums.



“

The portal will provide information and resources for Walla Walla Valley entrepreneurs to start, grow and manage their businesses successfully.”

—JIM EDMUNDS

WHITMAN TALENT

Ingeniux started hiring student interns, including many from Whitman, shortly after its Walla Walla office opened in 2016. Several Whitties, including computer science grad Eric Lim '21, philosophy major Alex Pratt '22 and juniors Jack Allard and Gabriel Kelly, have contributed to the portal project.

According to Edmunds, "The goal is to have them come out of the internship program with some experience working in a commercial software company with a team of programmers to complete a project." It's evolved over time to include three tracks: engineering/software programming, user experience (or UX) and content management.

Technical skills are undoubtedly an important predictor of success in all three tracks. But Edmunds feels Whitman students' intellectual curiosity and liberal arts background are valuable too. "There are a lot of other things that go into it, so it's nice to have people with a broader perspective."

According to Edmunds, they tend to fit right in. "The Whitman interns are really committed, energetic, great self-starters. You can just put them on a project. You don't have to give them a lot of supervision and they can run with it." Over the years, he estimates six or seven interns ended up becoming full-time employees.

While they certainly offer the skills and enthusiasm to get things done, the Whitman students also give Edmunds something most CEOs don't get to experience in a typical office environment: nostalgia. "You can't help but be reminded of the way you were when you were a student and a recent graduate. It's great," he says.

Though Edmunds feels the school has changed in a lot of ways since he graduated, the most important aspects have remained intact. "The one thing that's stayed the same, I think, is the level of engagement and quality of the students that go there." And the fact that Edmunds is collaborating with Whitties to enrich the Walla Walla business community—it's ingenious. **W**

A Culture of Trust

While the Whitman student interns bring a lot to the table, they leave the internship program with new skills too. Jack Allard, who decided to take the 2020-2021 academic year—when Whitman classes were remote—as a gap year, started at Ingeniux in the summer of 2020. When his fellow Whitties joined the team the following summer, his experience working on the content management system that runs the portal website meant he was able to help train his peers. Allard, from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has since returned to being a student full-time, but still fits part-time work at Ingeniux around his class schedule. "It's been a very educational experience."

Gabriel Kelly, from Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, says he went into his summer 2021 internship hoping for hands-on programming experience and came away with so much more. Edmunds was a mentor to him, counseling him on everything from professional goal-setting to the art of being "effective and polite" when communicating with team members in other departments.

Eric Lim agrees that being part of the Ingeniux team benefited him in ways he didn't expect. A computer science major now working as a freelance web designer in Boise, Idaho, he was focused on gaining technical experience at Ingeniux. He got the experience he was seeking as part of the UX track—along with some lessons about leadership. Despite Edmunds' senior role in the company, he was very present with the interns, creating what Lim calls "a very inclusive" culture where he felt free to ask questions. "[Edmunds] knows what he expects from you, he knows what he wants, but he's also very helpful," Lim says.

It would be fair to say that Edmunds' warm, efficient leadership style permeates the entire Ingeniux team. Alex Pratt, from Redmond, Washington, who joined Ingeniux as an intern on the content management track and recently accepted a full-time position with the company, says the more experienced employees consistently included the interns in their decision-making processes and were always available to answer questions. Most importantly, he felt the office culture was one of trust and autonomy. "There's a baseline of trust that you'll get your stuff done."



Real world skills. Web designer Eric Lim '21 gained technical experience as an intern on the UX track at Ingeniux.



Whittie to Whittie. Ingeniux founder Jim Edmunds became a mentor to Gabriel Kelly during the junior computer science major's internship at the tech company.

WOMEN IN BLUE

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark gender equality legislation Title IX, which transformed women's sports in high schools and colleges—including Whitman College. But the history of women's athletics at Whitman goes back well before 1972. Whitman athletics involved women as early as the men, and women were forerunners in several sports.

BY LARA HALE
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM JIM MOORE '66
AND THE WHITMAN COLLEGE AND NORTHWEST ARCHIVES



THEY WERE NUMBER ONE

On a warm evening in May 1897, the Walla Walla community—both town and gown—gathered to watch the area's first-ever public basketball game. Staged by Whitman College as a means to raise funds for a new residence hall, the event was held in a downtown building then used as an armory because the college didn't yet have an indoor space large enough to accommodate the court and spectators.

The entertainment during the intermissions included orchestra performances and ballroom dancing. And the ball players? Young women—Whitman's first collegiate basketball team—who scrimmaged for the local crowd, Bloomers vs. Skirts.

It had been fewer than five years since James Naismith, a physical education teacher at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, invented basketball to keep his male students active when harsh New England winters prevented them from going outside to play football and lacrosse. It proved popular, and soon spread to other YMCAs and colleges in New England. Less than a year later, a gymnastics coach at Smith College introduced basketball to the athletics program of the women-only school in 1892.

That's where it caught the attention of Pearl Gunn, who left Smith in 1895 to become an instructor in music and German at Whitman College—where she also became the school's first basketball coach.

Whitman's first intercollegiate basketball game was also played by women: Whitman defeated the women of Washington Agricultural College (the



A brief debut. Whitman College's first intercollegiate basketball game was played by women in March 1902.

predecessor of Washington State University) 15-12 in March 1902. Later the same year, President Stephen Penrose announced that women would no longer be allowed to play basketball against other colleges, stating that "... the girls are under enough strain and expend enough nervous energy in the contests at the school without engaging in intercollegiate games."

Whitman College women would not play another intercollegiate basketball game until the 1969-1970 season.

MAKING VARSITY: THE EARLY YEARS

It took 39 years from the date Whitman College was founded in 1882 until the first women were awarded varsity letters in 1921. But that doesn't mean women weren't participating in sports. Intramural—most often "inter-sorority"—teams formed for sports including basketball, tennis and field hockey, with a few intercollegiate match-ups peppering the early days of women's sports at Whitman.

1886

The Whitman College Athletic association is chartered and the college's first sports team (men's baseball) is formed.

1895

Pearl Gunn introduces the recently invented sport of basketball to Whitman women.



Advantage Whitman. Mignon Borleske, pictured with the women's varsity tennis team in 1935, played a key role in growing the college's women's sports programming.

COACH & CHAMPION: MIGNON BORLESKE

Raymond "Vince" Borleske, Whitman's athletic director from 1915-1947, is a well-known figure in Whitman sports—thanks especially to the stadium that bears his name. His wife, Mignon, was a force herself. She contributed significantly to Whitman's reputation as an excellent school for women by championing women's intramural sports programs. She also oversaw the college's first women's intercollegiate tennis tournament, held on the Ankeny courts in May 1921 against

the University of Idaho. In December 1931, during the Great Depression, the Northwest Conference ended tennis competition due to costs. When women's varsity tennis was reinstated in 1934, Mignon Borleske was still there, coaching. Though varsity tennis fell off again in 1940, she oversaw women's intramurals through the end of her Whitman career. In honor of her service, the Mignon Borleske Award was established in 2009 for Whitman's top woman athlete each year.

1897

Whitman women (Bloomers vs. Skirts) stage Walla Walla area's first-ever public basketball game. (See "They Were Number One" page 29.)



1902

Whitman women play their first intercollegiate basketball game.

Ankeny Field is built as the new grounds for men's athletics. It replaces Baker Field, which is then designated for women's athletics.

1903


The Young Women's Athletic Association is formed at Whitman. It is one of the first women's athletics organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

The way we wrote. The language seen in these yearbook clips from the 1940s reveals norms and attitudes towards women's athletics at the time.


Hockey

Whitman Coeds not only learn the gentler graces at school but they also are taught the more virile activities.

Hockey is taught as one of the courses offered by the physical education department. The girls hold forth with their shinny game in the back court of Prentiss Hall, during the good weather. There are about forty girls turning out for this stirring sport, which also teaches some of the elements of the manly art of self-defense.



The Rally Girls are of a newly formed organization built around **six pretty girls**. Their main purpose has been to instill "pep" in the student body. The Rally Team gave Whitman one of its most exciting years in good, peppy entertainment. The excellent cooperation of the student body this year was undoubtedly due partly to the exceptional work of these co-eds. These girls have the true, traditional Whitman fighting spirit.



Caldwell Keller Penners
MacMillan Betty Lou Smith Koehler

The language is no accident, says Kaitlyn Patia, assistant professor of rhetoric, writing and public discourse. "I think the comments about the women athletes' appearance, emphasizing their (good) looks, definitely relate to the concerns that physical activity would masculinize women," she says, adding that doctors of the late 19th and early 20th centuries used medical diagnoses not based in science to curtail the physical activity and mobility of women. One example: "bicycle face," a term coined by doctors who claimed using the newfangled means of transportation—and therefore freedom—could lead to undesirable and possibly permanent features such as a clenched jaw and bulging eyes. These conditions extended beyond appearance to misplaced concerns that vigorous activity could damage women's well-being, particularly with regard to mental and reproductive health, adds Patia.

Attitudes toward women in sports have come a long way since then, but recent controversies such as compulsory skimpy uniforms for Olympic volleyball players and criticism of tennis star Serena Williams' on-court outfits show that the preoccupation with women athletes' appearance continues.

'SIX PRETTY GIRLS'

In a 1902 edition of *The Pioneer*, coverage of Whitman's first intercollegiate basketball tournament—played by women (see page 29)—included the line: "... the basketball heroines looked most charming in their new college sweaters and W's." Flipping through archive copies of the *Waiilaptu*, Whitman's yearbook, reveals more references to women athletes' appearance and demeanor that by today's standards seem to diminish their accomplishments on the fields and courts.

1904

Whitman men play their first intercollegiate basketball game.

1905

A three-story brick gym is constructed to replace the college's original facility, a small wooden structure. The new facility features a main hall for exercise, a "swimming tank," a gallery, trophy and reception rooms, and separate dressing rooms and bathrooms for men and women.

1921

Whitman women defeat their University of Idaho counterparts in their first intercollegiate tennis tournament. Players Margaret Sayre and Margaret Sellars become the first women to win varsity letters.

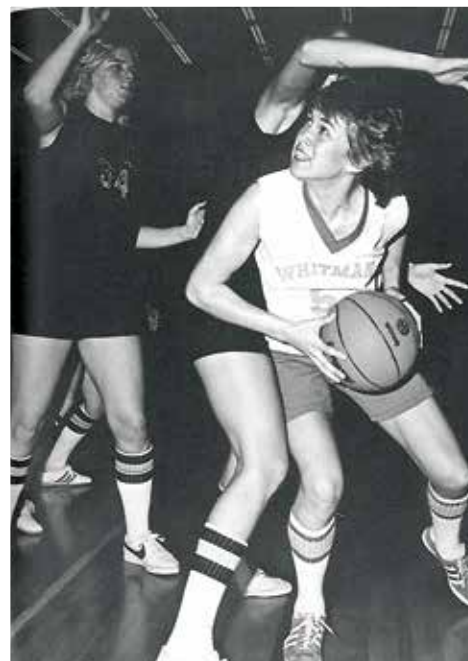


RACING AHEAD >>>

Equal opportunity. Women's athletics expanded in the late 1960s and 1970s. Below, a scene from a Whitman women's basketball game (1974–1975).

Although intramural and club offerings for women started expanding in the 1930s to include sports like fencing, skiing and field hockey, intercollegiate and varsity athletics opportunities fluctuated, often disappearing for years—or even decades—at a time. Reasons ranged from misplaced concerns about women's health and hardiness to a lack of competitors at other Pacific Northwest colleges. It wasn't until the late 1960s that women's varsity teams were established on a permanent basis. Tennis came first in 1968, with basketball following in 1969 and volleyball in 1972.

This was the beginning of a new era of women's athletics at Whitman—with advancements prompted in part by societal changes and student demand. Another contributing factor was a 1968 report by a consultant the college hired to assess its athletic department, which pointed out “the indefensible situation that provides one woman [athletics] staff member to five male staff members ... in a college of 450 women and 650 men.” The enactment of Title IX helped ensure the women's athletics program grew—today, Whitman offers nine varsity sports for women and eight for men.



9 FACTS ABOUT TITLE IX

Title IX—the landmark gender equity law—passed 50 years ago. Here's how it's helped level playing fields here and across the country.

I Title IX was part of Education Amendments of 1972, enacted by President Richard Nixon in June of that year. The regulations were finalized by President Gerald Ford in 1975, and the deadline for compliance was in 1978.

II Its text states: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

III Although its applications are broad, Title IX is most often associated with providing better opportunities for women in sports.

IV In 1972, only around 300,000 high school and college women played sports. Forty years after the passage of Title IX, that number had risen to more than three million.

V The law requires that men and women be offered equal opportunities to play and equal provision of equipment, facilities, travel allowances, coaching, publicity and more.

VI Title IX oversight is managed by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

VII Statistics related to equity in athletics for institutes of higher education, including Whitman College, are collected by the Department of Education and can be viewed at ope.ed.gov/athletics.

VIII There have been numerous legislative challenges and revisions to Title IX over the years, from Senator John Tower's failed 1972 attempt to exclude revenue-generating sports from Title IX regulations to

changes enacted by former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in 2020. The Biden administration released its own proposed revisions to rules pertaining to the enforcement of Title IX in April 2022.

IX Whitman has one staff member dedicated to coordinating Title IX compliance, and several deputies to aid in that effort. Learn more at whitman.edu/campus-life/diversity.

WOMEN HALL OF FAMERS

Whitman Athletics Hall of Fame was launched in 2003 to honor athletes and coaches who made significant contributions to athletics at the college. Candidates are nominated by the community and selected by an executive board made up of former Whitman student-athletes and coaches. Athletes are eligible 10 years after graduation; coaches and administrators five years after completing their Whitman careers. Want to nominate a sports superstar? Visit whitman.edu/magazine.

Erica Aydelotte '92
Women's Basketball

Kim Flerchinger Bolander '87
Women's Basketball

Amanda Bradford '98
Women's Basketball, Track & Field

EARLY SPLASH



Lee Coleman, Swim Coach
A professor of physical education and coach of men's and women's swimming, Coleman was the first woman with a professional coaching background to serve Whitman for a significant length of time.

Shauna Banks Coleman '97
Swimming

Tina Thompson Farley '91
Women's Soccer, Alpine Skiing

DOUBLES TROUBLE



Leslie Whitten '00 and Amy Fong '00, Women's Tennis
Whitten and Fong were doubles partners throughout their four seasons (1996-2000) which included a 36-match NWC winning streak over their last two-plus seasons. The dynamic duo earned All-NWC honors each of their four seasons.

As senior co-captains, Whitten and Fong not only dominated in doubles, but also, were a one-two punch in singles. Whitten compiled an 11-1 NWC mark while Fong's conference record was 9-1. As juniors, Whitten and Fong compiled a 20-1 doubles record, 15-0 in conference, with Whitten being named NWC Player of the Year.

Kristin Richelle Goodwin '98
Women's Volleyball

Keri Hall Greenheck '88
Women's Soccer

Jillian Huber Debritz '04
Women's Volleyball

UNDEFEATED



Lynn Greer McKelvey '88
Women's Tennis
Greer McKelvey rolled un-checked through her 1988 senior season, winning singles, doubles and team titles in the Northwest Conference and NAIA District I.

Barb Ream '00
Women's Volleyball

Mandy Rockwell '99
Women's Volleyball

Jessica Bissonnette Rolfe '96
Track & Field, Cross Country

Katie Rubenser '94
Women's Basketball

TRIPLE THREAT



Susan Hubbard Sakimoto '89
Women's Basketball, Women's Volleyball, Track & Field
The first woman inducted to the Hall of Fame, Hubbard Sakimoto led Whitman to a conference championship in basketball, shared in a conference title in volleyball, and competed in the NCAA national championships in track & field. She earned six of her 10 varsity letters in her first two years at Whitman.

Jennifer McClure Spurgeon '94
Women's Basketball

READ MOORE ABOUT IT

When it comes to the story of Whitman sports, there's no greater authority than Jim Moore '66. In fact, he's written a book on it, covering the college's first 95 years. Moore's exhaustive research for "A History of Whitman College Athletics: 1882-1977" has drawn from Whitman College archives (The Pioneer, Whitman athletic department records, Waiilatpu yearbooks, et al.), Walla Walla newspapers and Northwest Conference archives. The book is expected to be published later in 2022.

HERE & NOW

We've come a long way, Blues!

The future of women's athletics at Whitman is now—and it is fierce. Fiercely committed. Fiercely competitive. Fiercely resilient. Here's a quick look at the current state of Whitman women's varsity athletics. Follow along at athletics.whitman.edu.

BASKETBALL

Head coach: Michelle Ferenz (since 2001)

Athletes in the program: 16

Whitman for the win, all the wins! In February 2022, the Blues claimed the Northwest Conference (NWC) Women's Basketball regular and tournament championships and advanced to the NCAA Tournament, winning their first-round game and ending the season with an impressive 26-2 record, including going undefeated in conference play.

“Whitman student-athletes want excellence. They want people who will support them to be the best they can be — not just in the classroom, but on the court or in the pool or on the field. They want to be challenged. They want to learn how to be leaders.”

— MICHELLE FERENZ, Head Women's Basketball Coach and NWC Coach of the Year



LACROSSE

Head coach: Heidi Colford (since 2021)

Athletes in the program: 15

Lacrosse is back! Like other teams across the country, Whitman Lacrosse had an abrupt end to their Spring 2020 season due to the pandemic. The following season (2021), they were unable to field the required roster to compete. In late February 2022, they took the field with a team of nearly all new faces, including first-year coach Heidi Colford — and made a triumphant return with a 20-4 win over Eastern Oregon University.



CROSS COUNTRY >>> DISTANCE TRACK

Head coach: Scott Shields '91 (since 2010)

Athletes in the program: 12 (Cross Country); 13 (Distance Track)

Two-season athletes. Following a 2019 Northwest Conference championship in Women's Cross Country, Whitman's long-distance runners were offered a new opportunity—to compete in Distance Track each spring. Distance track runners participate in track and field events that are 800 meters and longer.



“The opportunities now for our young women are greater than they ever have been, which is also a result of our coaches who have worked hard to create those paths.”

—KIM CHANDLER, Whitman College
Director of Athletics (since 2019)



GOLF

Head coach: Skip Molitor (since 2008)

Athletes in the program: 5

Winning on GPA.

Whitman's Women's Golf was recognized by the WGCA (Women's Golf Coaches Association) as one of the top academic programs in the nation. With a team GPA of 3.767, the Blues ranked eighth overall in Division III and tops among Northwest Conference programs.



SWIMMING

Head coach: Jennifer Blomme (since 2000)
Athletes in the program: 20

Top of the pool! In February 2022, the Whitman women's swimming team won the NWC Championships — their fourth straight conference title, a remarkable run of championships that began in 2017. Head coach, Jenn Blomme was named the NWC Women's Coach of the Year.



SOCCER

Head coach: Michelle Voiland (since 2020)
Athletes in the program: 30

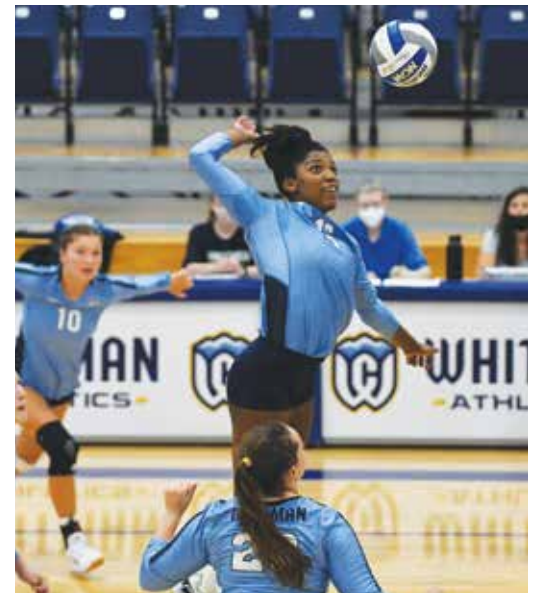
Looking forward to a strong future.

To start the 2021 season, women's soccer welcomed 21 new players to their program—from as nearby as Richland, Washington, and as far as Vestibula, Alabama.

TENNIS

Head coach: John Hein (since 2008)
Athletes in the program: 11

Returning serve. With no graduating seniors on the 2021-2022 roster, Women's Tennis will come back strong next season with a young team and leadership by returning standouts Angel Le '23, NWC Player of the Year, and Irene Tsai '23.



VOLLEYBALL

Head coach: Matt Helm (since 2012)
Athletes in the program: 17

Powerhouse players. Volleyball's 2021 record (6-19) didn't reflect their gritty and competitive play — they led their opponents in both aces and blocks. In the fall of 2022, Whitman will return to the court with an experienced group of seniors leading the way.

WOMEN'S VARSITY SPORTS 2021-2022

9
TEAMS

120+
STUDENT ATHLETES



Small Towns, Big Hope

HB LOZITO '06 SAYS THEIR LIBERAL ARTS
EDUCATION HELPS THEM LEAD THE WAY
FOR RURAL QUEER COMMUNITIES

BY TARA ROBERTS

AS A STUDENT AT Whitman College, HB Lozito majored in environmental studies and politics—but they also learned printmaking, helped run the campus garden, and studied tiger conservation and the international wildlife trade while studying abroad in India.

After graduating in 2006, Lozito worked in environmental justice organizing in Portland, Oregon, then became an urban farmer in Oakland, California. Lozito didn't love city life, so they returned to a farm in Maine. During the long winters, they learned carpentry.

In 2011, Lozito followed friends to Brattleboro, a town of 12,000 in southern Vermont. It was the perfect place to put down roots while continuing to branch out.

Today, Lozito is the executive director of Out in the Open, a Brattleboro-based non-profit that “connects rural LGBTQ+ people to build community, visibility, knowledge

and power,” according to its mission statement.

Out in the Open supports a multitude of activities: cultural events, agriculture projects, political activism, history and archiving, health care advocacy, podcasting, mutual aid and more.

To Lozito, the variety in their life and work feels familiar — like the liberal arts.

“People are always like, ‘You do a lot of different things’—and we do. It’s the breadth of my Whitman education distilled into an organization.”

A RURAL EDUCATION

Lozito grew up in small-town Maine and wanted to attend a small college. They found one 2,800 miles away.

“I never thought I would be someone who went really far away, but there was something about it that was exciting.”

Lozito found community in their first-year residence hall, building bonds that have lasted decades. (Among the first monthly donors to Out in the Open was one of those first-year friends.) As a member of the Environmental Studies House, Lozito was introduced to communal work.

But Lozito also felt separated from some fellow students. From a working-class background, Lozito didn’t always fit with the crowd that prized high-end outdoor gear and went on expensive excursions. But Lozito learned from this too.

“My own experience brought me to a point of being interested in environmental justice work, looking at some of the intersections of class, race and the environmental movement.”

“People are always like ‘You do a lot of things’—and we do. It’s the breadth of my Whitman education distilled into an organization.”

—HB LOZITO '06

Although Lozito wasn’t involved in the queer community at Whitman in their first two years, they started to explore their identity as a queer and trans person while studying abroad. In India, they met students from across the U.S. who shared their interests and LGBTQ+ identity. This multifaceted education followed Lozito into their career, coming together in Out in the Open.

A RURAL MISSION

Out in the Open didn’t exist when Lozito moved to Vermont, but the soil that allowed it to grow was fertile.

“I immediately was welcomed into a wonderful community of people who are committed to this place, committed to each other and deeply invested in their community,” Lozito says.

Together with a friend, they started hosting queer music shows that were an instant hit.

“There was a palpable sense of, ‘We’ve been waiting for this, and here we are, all together.’”

Lozito’s community organizing grew into a volunteer board role in an LGBTQ+ nonprofit. From there, they became the executive director at Out in the Open in 2014.


Out in the Open’s early work was “pushing against that mainstream idea that you have to move to a city as a queer person to have a nice time or have a safe life or even have community at all,” Lozito says.

The work Out in the Open has done since has helped write a new narrative and lived experience: where queer people can seek out the kind of place they want to live, no matter how small, and find a home.

A RURAL VISION

As their work continues, Lozito hopes not only for an increase in rural trans and queer visibility, but also for the power and resources trans and queer people need to live safely and meet their needs.

That dream — for acceptance and purpose — extends to the current and future queer, rural, working-class students who study at Whitman.

“I hope they find a home within themselves and within the community there,” Lozito says. “And that they’re able to use the gifts that are uniquely theirs and what they learn and experience in their time there to continue in the long line of LGBTQ+ people throughout history who have been working toward liberation for all people.” 

QUEER JOY IN POP CULTURE

In the pandemic years, HB Lozito has found it more important than ever to celebrate queer and trans joy. Here are a few of their pop culture picks:

Amy Schneider on Jeopardy!

Schneider, a trans woman, shattered records on the classic game show in early 2022.



“Schitt’s Creek”

A rural queer love story is a central storyline in this hit sitcom.

Geo Soctomah Neptune

Follow this Indigenous Two-Spirit artist on Instagram @niskapiswin.



“Yellowjackets”

Showtime’s new series includes queer characters whose joy shines amidst a plane crash plot.

“Country Queers” podcast

Check out Season 2, Episode 1, at countryqueers.com for an interview with Lozito.



REUNION

Old friends, new memories

- **50th Reunion for '70 & '71**
June 23-26
- **Class of 2020 Celebration**
June 24-25
- **Semester in the West 20th Reunion**
September 2-5
- **Fifty Plus Reunion**
1955, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967
September 27-29
- **Reunion Weekend**
1982, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1997, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012
September 30-October 2
- **Varsity Swim Reunion**
October 21-23

It's time to celebrate!

Are you coming to a reunion?
RSVP and let your friends know
with a tweet, text or call!

#BackToWhit22



WHITMAN COLLEGE



whitman.edu/reunions



reunions@whitman.edu



509-527-5167

Class Notes



Team USA Slope Support

Whittie alums help athletes maintain peak form at Beijing Olympics

When Team USA's skiers competed in the Beijing Olympics in February 2022, two of the professionals ensuring they were in top shape were Whitman College alumni.

Torey Anderson '12 and John Rumpeltes, who attended Whitman from 1974-76, are part of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's physical therapy team. They've traveled the globe to world-class competitions with their athletes, but the 2022 Beijing Games were their first Olympics.

It's no accident Anderson and Rumpeltes were at the Beijing games together. As principal of a physical therapy company in the Puget Sound area for decades, Rumpeltes treated U.S. Ski athletes and began volunteering for the team. At the same time, he often recruited Whitman grads to work in clinical support for his company, helping them gain experience for careers in physical therapy and medicine.

Anderson was one of Rumpeltes' recruits. As a biology major and member of the Blues ski team, Anderson had worked and trained at Whitman's Sherwood Athletic Center. Later, when she graduated from PT school, Rumpeltes introduced her to U.S. Ski's medical director.

Within six months, Anderson was the head physical therapist for the women's Alpine Ski Team.

She now splits her time between the world's best ski hills and the team's training center in Park City, Utah. Anytime her athletes are on the snow, she's with them. But she's also there to advocate for all their medical needs.

"In the last three years, the athletes I work with have battled eating disorders and depression, grieved the sudden loss of family members, sustained severe concussions, experienced season-ending injuries and known true trauma," she says. "So much of what I love doing is helping them build confidence and trust back in their bodies."

After volunteering with U.S. Ski for more than 10 years, Rumpeltes values the depth of the connections he's built.

"Besides the clinical problem-solving that I enjoy, the long-term relationships with athletes, coaches and other support staff is a big draw of doing this," he says. "I can show up at an event and immediately plug in and hit the ground running."

Giving a lift

For years, John Rumpeltes has helped his fellow Whitties pursue careers in physical therapy. This year, one of those mentees and experts, Torey Anderson '12, joined him serving Team USA at the 2022 Winter Olympics (pictured above). "I think the common threads with the Whitties I've worked with are a keen intellect and curiosity to understand, and a work ethic to work hard and be a good partner," says Rumpeltes.

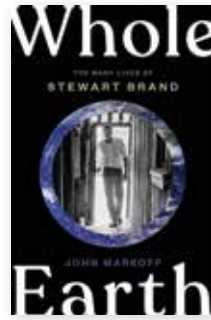
1950s

Junius Rochester '57 served as guest speaker and historian aboard *Quest*, a Lindblad Expeditions National Geographic ship, for a Pacific Northwest river cruise. The cruise stopped in Astoria and Cascade Locks, Oregon, and Clarkston, Washington. Rochester gave lectures providing local descriptions and historical context at each stop along the way, including the Palouse, the wheat fields and vineyards surrounding Walla Walla and, of course, Whitman College.

1960s

Kyra MacIvleen '61 has spent pandemic time walking in her neighborhood, seeing gardens, remodels in progress, and people and families in the streets and their front yards enjoying themselves. "My wish would be that the camaraderie and quieter atmosphere could continue and that we wouldn't revert to old patterns of behavior," she says. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, MacIvleen used pandemic time to read books by James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, Ibram X. Kendi, et al., and demonstrate on a nearby corner with positive response. A trip to New Orleans was educational and eye-opening, seeing neighborhoods devastated by the hurricane still not repaired.

1970s



John Markoff '71 published a new book, "Whole Earth: The Many Lives of Stewart Brand," (Penguin Press), a biography of Brand's extraordinary life, from 1950s Stanford to the Summer of Love, the birth of personal computing, and the great disruptions of the online age. A longtime computer and technology reporter for The New

York Times, Markoff is currently a research affiliate for the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford.

Doug Eglington '72 has been retired from the King County Executive's Office for the past 11 years and is enjoying retirement in West Seattle. He's active in Kiwanis, Sammamish Heritage Society and Eastside Friends of Seniors. Eglington and his wife, Shari, have two children and recently welcomed a new granddaughter, Paris.

Ceil Lucas '73, professor emerita at Gallaudet University, accepted the Linguistics, Language, and the Public Award on behalf of Gallaudet's Black American Sign Language research team from the Linguistic Society of America

at the society's annual meeting earlier this year. This award honors work that effectively increases public awareness and understanding of linguistics and language. Lucas shared the research team's film, "Signing Black in America," during a virtual event for Whitman in 2021. The presentation may be viewed at whitman.edu/virtual-whitman. Go to Alumni Virtual Events and search "Signing Black in America with Ceil Lucas."

Sharman Badgett-Young '75 has retired, along with her husband, Tom Young. They have moved to Anacortes, Washington, on Fidalgo Island. Badgett-Young plans to continue writing fiction books from her new home.



"The best part of the Whitman tennis team is the support I receive and knowing my teammates have my back and I have theirs."

—Ilina Jha, '25

You can help our scholar-athletes be on top of their game.

To support varsity athletics, go to whitman.edu/wcgifts



Mary Deming Barber '78 was appointed to the city council of Gig Harbor, Washington. Barber and her husband, Alan, moved to Gig Harbor in 2014 from Anchorage, Alaska, where she had her own public relations company and did extensive volunteer work. Since arriving in Gig Harbor, she has joined the parks commission and advocated for an adopt-a-park program, and devised a strategy to involve more businesses and organizations in Parks Appreciation Day. Recently, she has been involved in the parks commission's update of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. With Barber's appointment, history was made: This is the first time in the town's history that there is a female majority on the city council as well as a woman mayor.

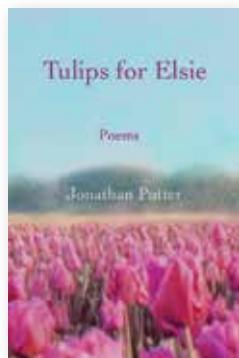
Karen Howe '78 was elected to the city council of Sammamish, Washington. She ran on a platform of building bridges between the council and experts in the community and creating authentic dialogue on partnerships and necessary compromises, believing that greater public engagement would strengthen community bonds. Howe had a long career in business management and marketing before turning to volunteer work as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and service on several boards.

1980s

Lora Williams Helmer '81 retired from her media career of more than 35 years and has returned to the Columbia Gorge of Oregon, where she was born

and raised. She volunteers for three main organizations: Rotary; The Discovery Center in The Dalles, where she is curating four generations of family history; and ShelterBox USA. ShelterBox delivers relief in the form of shelter anywhere in the world in response to natural disasters and conflict. Helmer volunteers as a speaker and fundraiser.

Amy Abbenhaus Barlow '87 has joined Alliant Insurance Services as senior vice president and will focus on leading agribusiness and forestry growth and development initiatives. Most recently, Barlow served as senior vice president for a global insurance brokerage where she worked as the Pacific Northwest and Northern California middle market brokering leader. She lives in Portland, Oregon with husband **Darryk Barlow '85**.



Jonathan Potter '87 published his second poetry collection, "Tulips for Elsie: Poems" (Korrekktiv Press). In his review of the volume, author Garrison Keillor said, "Mr. Potter's given us a bold adventurous book with plenty of sharp turns at high speed, with some gestures toward Neruda and Merwin..." Potter lives and works in Spokane, Washington.

2000s

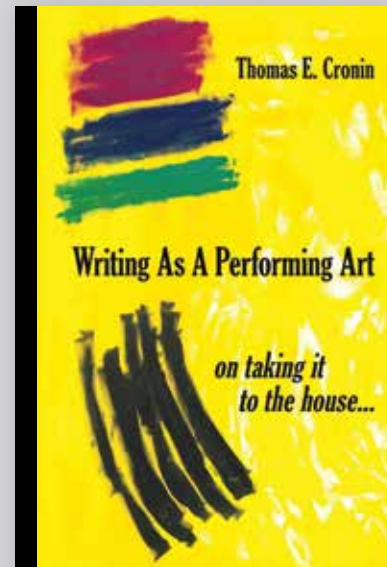
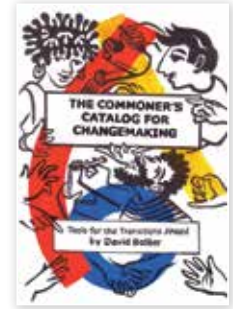


Rebecca Wines '01 recalls Professors Emeriti Pat Henry and Mary Anne O'Neil encouraged her to join the Teaching Assistantship Program in France after graduating, and later, to attend graduate school. She cannot thank them enough for their advice and support. A decade after earning her Ph.D. in French at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, she is an associate professor of French and a core faculty member in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. (A fellow Whittie, **Cindy Strong '82**, is also on the faculty there.) Working with a colleague from the University of Iowa, Wines has published an edited volume titled "Pour le Sport: Physical Culture in French and Francophone Literature" (Liverpool University Press). The project stems from one of her research interests: analyzing sports narratives through an intersectional lens in order to illuminate cultural attitudes about different facets of personal and collective identity. "Pour le sport" includes a chapter Wines wrote entitled "Henri Desgrange, Cycling, and Modern Masculinities."

Megan Higgins Leatham '06 was named president and CEO of the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, a nonprofit organization promoting amateur and Olympic sporting events throughout Colorado Springs. Leatham was most recently executive director of the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb.

2020s

Cameron Conner '20 was the primary researcher and writer on "The Commoner's Catalog for Changemaking: Tools for the Transition Ahead," by David Bollier (Schumacher Center for a New Economics). The book is based on the Whole Earth Catalog that came out in the '70s, with a goal to give people access to tools they can use for strengthening collective community wealth and well-being.



PRESIDENTIAL PRO TIPS

Tom Cronin, president emeritus, has a new book, "Writing as a Performing Art" (Abuzz Press). Written to encourage, motivate and inspire nonfiction writers of all ages, it celebrates why we write and why we must write, and reviews the strategies veteran writers employ. One of the book's aims is to help writers cultivate the "inner editor" by reminding them of the importance of editing, rewriting and polishing their work. Cronin served as Whitman's president 1993-2005, and is McHugh Professor of American Institutions and Leadership Emeritus and former interim president at Colorado College.



Off to a Great Start!

These recent Whitman grads share how they're pursuing careers and making a difference



OMAR ALDAHLEH '20

Then: Biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology major

Now: Epidemiologist at Amazon in Seattle

What he's doing: As an epidemiologist for Amazon's COVID-19 response team, Aldahleh writes and presents science briefs for several of the company's COVID-19 teams around the world and helps direct company policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also assists in the development of programs to tackle vaccine hesitancy among Amazon employees.

Not to brag but ... Aldahleh is on track to complete a master's in public health from George Washington University in December 2022.

Shoutout: "During my last semester at Whitman, Professor Alissa Corder introduced me to the field of public health through her course 'The Sociology of Health and Illness.' With her mentorship, I was able to attend grad school and ultimately land my dream job as an epidemiologist. Her passion for teaching and desire to foster a classroom environment that required me to challenge my worldviews is a highlight of my time at Whitman. My only regret is not having taken a class with her sooner."



ISABELLA SHERWOOD-REID '20

Then: Religion major

Now: Pastor of new ministries for Cameron United Methodist Church in Denver

What she's doing: Sherwood-Reid's role has two key focuses: new ministries and digital. She describes the new ministries aspect as "basically coming up with new ways of doing church beyond sermons and sitting in pews." A few examples? Getting involved in climate crisis advocacy groups and starting an antiracism program at the church. The digital ministries part of her work means fostering online engagement through social media and virtual services.

On the horizon: She will complete her master of divinity from Iliff School of Theology in May 2023 after a yearlong Clinical Pastoral Education residency and is formally in discernment to be ordained.

Shoutout: "It's very rare to be able to enter into a pastoral position prior to ordination or completion of an M.Div. degree, but my very rich and thorough education at Whitman enabled me to have the basis for this job (thank you, religion department!) and the leadership skills I gained through my sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, showed I was capable of this position. I absolutely would not be able to have this kind of job without my Whitman education in the classroom and beyond!"



ALEX IZBIKY '20

Then: Economics and psychology major

Now: Program director at El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado

What he's doing: Izbiky is taking part in a two year fellowship with El Pomar Foundation that allows young professionals who are interested in serving the state of Colorado in a variety of sectors to kick-start their careers and develop into community leaders. As a fellow, he also gains exposure to all of the foundation's philanthropic programs. "This leads us to be in close coordination with grant partners at nonprofits across Colorado, as well as engaged in strategic planning about how El Pomar's grant dollars can best be utilized to serve the community and solve some of the challenges facing Colorado communities."

On the docket: After completing his two-year fellowship in May, Izbiky plans to take the summer off to travel and decompress before starting law school at the University of Michigan in the fall of 2022.

Shoutout: "Kim Rolfe in the Career and Community Engagement Center and Whitman alumni Kincaid Hoffman '17 and Jeff Hopfenbeck '11 — both former El Pomar fellows — helped prepare me for my application and interviews."



MICHELLE ZHANG '21

Then: Computer science and sociology major

Now: Law student, Santa Clara University School of Law in Santa Clara, California

What she's doing: Zhang is enrolled in Santa Clara's Tech Edge J.D. program, which combines legal, business and technology education. She's also been accepted into the summer associate program at Allen & Overy LLP as an intellectual property fellow on the hiring track — meaning after she completes summers with A&O, she'll be on track to being an IP litigation associate at a law firm.

Shoutout: "Lots of love to the sociology department — thank you, Professor Michelle Janning and Associate Professor Álvaro Santana-Acuña. So much gratitude to Associate Professor Janet Davis and Andy Exley from the computer science department for encouraging me to look beyond the immediate scope of being a software engineer. Law school was absolutely the right choice for me."



HARRY KELSO '20

Then: Film and media studies and Spanish major

Now: Communications manager and science writer at TAE Technologies, Inc. in Foothill Ranch, California

What he's doing: Kelso develops content to explain fusion energy to wide-ranging audiences. He also dives into data about the worldwide state of access to electricity to explore the ways fusion technology can help achieve the UN's global sustainability goals.

Master plan: This spring, Kelso will complete a master's in science writing from Johns Hopkins University.

Shoutout: "Physics Professor Kurt Hoffman graciously worked with me on two independent studies to learn more about fusion energy, a passion of mine cultivated while doing a summer fellowship at MIT. He did this despite my being a film and media studies major, and those independent studies remain to this day my favorite courses at Whitman, conveying the strengths of a liberal arts education."



THOMAS HARRIS '20

Then: Physics major

Now: Materials and microsystems engineer at HRL Laboratories in Malibu, California

What he's doing: Harris is responsible for the software and hardware of cryogenic testing systems that allow his research group to characterize the material and structural properties of the electronic devices HRL fabricates. "Think microchip testing at low temperatures," he says. "The data I collect and analyze is used to make higher-quality controllable quantum systems called 'qubits' that are at the cutting edge of quantum information science and quantum computing."

Shoutout: "I'm grateful for the hands-on coursework and summer research I was able to participate in through the Whitman physics department. Those opportunities helped me build a skills foundation I'm using every day in my current position."



Tell Us About It!

Whether you're just starting your first job, embarking on a career change, or preparing to retire after a fulfilling life's work, we want to help you share your news with your classmates. To submit your big news, visit whitman.edu/alumni/send-a-class-note.

Marriages/Unions



Sarah Dawe '06 to Ryan Karlsgott, July 24, 2021, on Little Bull Island, Montana. **Kaylin Greene '06** shared a reading during the ceremony and **Lena Nachand '06** was in attendance. A highlight on their honeymoon road trip back home to San Diego was a night in Walla Walla, featuring a wine tour with **Jenna Bicknell '06**.



Lyndsey Wilson '12 to Mark Simons, Aug. 28, 2021, in Healdsburg, California. Pictured, left to right: **Ken Anderson '08**, **Kristin Coverdale '11**, **Maryn Juergens '10**, **Vanessa Casey '12**, **Sarah Deming '10**, **Madeline Schutt '12**, **Simons, Wilson**, **Katelyn Sorensen '12**, **John Hodges '11**, **Hannah Payne '11**, **Hanna Ory '11**, **Jenna Fritz '13**, **Courtney Sanford '12**, **Siri Smith '12**.



Brian Vieth '11 to **Zoey Rogers '13**, Sept. 26, 2021, at The Inn at Abeja, Walla Walla. After three wedding postponements, the couple was finally able to gather safely with two generations of Whitties. Front row (left to right): **Caroline Carr '13**, **Stacey Rosenzweig '13**, **Sammy Sidione '11**, **Matthew Oakes '11**, **Rogers, Vieth**, **Lynne Soper Vieth '75**, **Elizabeth Gossard Coleman '11**, **Gretchen Swanson '11**, **Anna Conrad '13**, **Katie Douglas '13**, **Haley Ireland '13**, **Ben Serrurier '11**, **Michael Scigliano '11**, **Katie MacQuivey '11**, **Matt MacQuivey '11**. Back row (left to right): **Chris Machesney '12**, **Will Falltrick '11**, **Ian Coleman '11**, **Aleah Jaeger '13**, **Hayley Beckett '13**, **Rachel Shober '13**, **Carter Timbel '11**.

Little Whitties



To **Cameron Scott '00** and Haley Thompson, a daughter, Magnus (Maggie) Josephine Scott, born Sept. 28, 2021.

In Memoriam

1940s

Lois "Wheat" Wheatlake Fitzgerald '42, Aug. 20, 2021, in Fairfield, California. She married Francis "Fritz" Fitzgerald in 1945 and together they raised three children. She volunteered for Girl Scouts, P.E.O. and the Women's Board of Westminster College for more than 50 years. She was predeceased by her husband and her brother, **Burton Wheatlake '38**.

Roberta Gowen Montgomery '45, June 18, 2021, in Tacoma, Washington. At Whitman, she met and married **Charles Montgomery '48**. They raised three children. She was predeceased by her husband of 66 years.

Elmer Klein '48, Oct. 1, 2021, in Marysville, Washington. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve and received his training at the V-5 Navy pre-flight program at Whitman. He went on to attend

Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. Klein married Betty Jane Woolen in 1946 and raised four children. He spent his life working on rented and owned dairy farms, as well as working for several regional dairy organizations. Klein was predeceased by his wife of 65 years. Survivors include his children and five grandchildren.

Forbes "Warner" Williams '48, Oct. 13, 2021, in Portland, Oregon. As a sophomore, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Europe. Williams was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal. After Whitman, he married **Sylvia Whitford '50**. Williams earned an M.A. in political science from the University in Oregon in Eugene, and a doctorate in education from Stanford University. He retired as Dean of Undergraduate Studies at

Portland State University after more than 20 years at the institution. Predeceased by his wife and his brother, **Rodney Williams '50**, survivors include five children, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Barbara Beasley Clevenger '49, Oct. 16, 2021, in Seattle. She married David Clevenger in 1947 and they settled in Yakima, Washington, to raise three sons on the family orchard. Clevenger managed payroll for the orchard and volunteered for her church and the Yakima Junior Aid and their nursery for special needs children. Predeceased by her husband of 45 years, survivors include her sons, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

1950s

Carol Comer Weir '50, Oct. 5, 2021, in Spokane, Washington. After Whitman, she taught school in Chelan, Toppenish and Waitsburg, Washington. She married Robert Weir in 1955 and they raised a son. Weir started an antique cut glass business in 1972, specializing in American

Brilliant cut glass. Her specialized knowledge led her to serve as national president of the American Cut Glass Association for two years. She was an active dealer until her retirement in 2010. Weir spent many years as a volunteer with Providence St. Mary Regional Cancer Center. She eventually relocated to Spokane to be closer to her son. Predeceased by her husband, survivors include her son and numerous nieces and nephews.

Verna Ramaley Kam '51, March 28, 2021, in Fontana, California. She married Richard Kam in 1958 and they lived in Hawaii for many years, raising two sons. Kam taught piano, and earned a master's degree in music education from the University of Hawaii in 1980. She was the owner and director of the Sebastian Music School and as a member of the Music Teachers National Association, Kam served as the state president of the Hawaii chapter. Survivors include her sons and a brother, **Thomas Ramaley '53**.

Joan Boldt Sobottka '51, Nov. 9, 2021, in Seattle. After graduation, she worked in Seattle

first as a social worker and later at the University of Washington Dental School, where she met a student named Hugh Sobottka; they were married in 1956 and raised three daughters together. Sobottka volunteered for a variety of organizations and was a member of the Women's University Club and Seattle Kappa Alumnae. The couple retired to the Mirabella Seattle senior community and lived there for 12 years. Survivors include her husband of 65 years and her daughters.

Thomas "Tom" Beach '53, Oct. 19, 2021, in Des Moines, Washington. He was a Korean War veteran and had a long career in business, retiring as vice-president of operations at Viox Corporation in Seattle. Beach married **Marilyn Dunn '55** in 1956 and they raised three children. Predeceased by a son, his survivors include his wife, two children and four grandchildren.

Theodore "Ted" Rogers '54, Nov. 7, 2021, in Bellingham, Washington. After Whitman, he married **Jane Allen '53** in 1954. The couple had two children

Whitman Leader



Robert "Bob" Bratton '53, Oct. 18, 2021, in Vancouver, Washington. The grandson of former Whitman College President Walter A. Bratton (1936-1942),

he was a member of Beta Theta Pi and an athletic powerhouse, earning 11 varsity letters in track, tennis and football. He received the Niles Trophy, recognizing his inspirational leadership in football.

He considered the highlight of his time at Whitman meeting **Aileen Connolly '54**; they

were married in 1956. That same year, Bratton accepted a job with IBM. He stayed with IBM for 15 years until he was appointed Deputy King County Executive by King County Executive John Spellman. During his time in that role, the NFL announced intentions to add two expansion football teams. Bratton was part of the team that built a presentation, flew to New York City and delivered their bid for a Seattle franchise. Seven cities in all submitted their intentions for teams, but their presentation rose to the top. In 1974, Seattle was awarded a franchise. The Kingdome was completed and the Seahawks played their first game in a sold-out Kingdome in September 1976.

Bratton's vocation was politics. He was legislative district chairman and state finance chairman for the Republican party. He and his wife hosted many party meetings in their home. John Spellman was elected governor in 1980, and he appointed Bratton to Chairman of the Utilities and Transportation Commission, a six-year

term. After retirement, Bob and Aileen spent 20 winters enjoying the sun and golf in Palm Desert, California. In 2015, they moved to Vancouver, Washington, to enjoy their twilight years closer to family.

Bratton maintained strong ties with Whitman, hosting countless gatherings of alumni, serving on the Alumni Board, including a term as board president, and on the Board of Overseers from 1982 to 1997, when he was named Overseer Emeritus. The Brattons were also generous donors to the college, supporting the Robert Bratton, Sr. Scholarship for students from Olympia, Washington, as well as endowed professorships and varsity athletics.

He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years; a son, Dan; and his brother, **Walter Bratton '60**. Survivors include a son, Mike; a daughter, Christine; two grandsons; and nephews and nieces, including **Nancy Bratton Anderson '86**.

and raised them on Mercer Island, Washington. They later divorced. He married Eileen Rogers in 1994 and the couple lived in Port Townsend, Tacoma and eventually in Bellingham. Rogers played duplicate bridge and obtained the status of Silver Life Master. Predeceased by his second wife, his survivors include a son, a daughter and five step-grandchildren.

Patricia Guffey Thibaudeau '54, Oct. 28, 2021, in Seattle. After Whitman, she earned a master's degree in social work from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She married Rodger Thibaudeau in 1959 and settled in Seattle, raising two children together. As their children grew older, Thibaudeau volunteered as a lobbyist for mental health issues, which led to a paid position with Washington Women United. In 1992, she ran for the state legislature and was elected to the House of Representatives, and later was elected to the Senate where she served until her retirement in 2007. Her last formal service was to co-chair the Governor's Blue Ribbon Health Care Commission. Predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Thibaudeau's survivors include her son and daughter.

M. Diane Moore Caggiano '55, Dec. 28, 2021, in Blairstown, New Jersey. She had two sons from a first marriage to **Jack Ringo '53**, and was stepmother to a son and daughter through a second marriage to Carmen Caggiano. After living all over the country for her spouse's work, Caggiano spent her later years on her property, Wool Winder Farm, in Hope, New Jersey, creating an award-winning garden. Predeceased by her husband, her survivors include two children, two stepchildren, five grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Ralph "Ron" Cook '55, July 6, 2021, in Carmel, California. A first-generation student, he

spent a year of postgraduate art study at the University of Washington in Seattle and worked as a draftsman at The Boeing Company. During this time, Cook joined the University Unitarian (UU) Church and went on to attend Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, earning a bachelor's degree in divinity. He was ordained by the UU church in Ventura, California in 1961 and became an activist for racial justice. Cook was among those who marched with Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Birmingham across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. He spent time in Europe and Africa, eventually joining the faculty at Starr King School in 1969 until his retirement as Minister Emeritus in 1996. Survivors include his wife, Deborah Streeter, and two children.

Gordon Leitch, Jr. '55, Aug. 28, 2021, in Dundee, Oregon. After earning his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, he had a private practice in ophthalmology for more than 30 years in the Portland area and in Baker City, Oregon.

John "Jack" Howay '56, Nov. 17, 2021, in Atlanta. He earned his J.D. from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and joined the U.S. Navy in 1959, beginning what would become a 28-year career as a lawyer in the Judge Advocate General Corps. Howay served aboard the U.S.S. Hancock and worked as a prosecutor of admiralty law for the U.S. District Court of Northern California. He attended the Naval War College in 1973 and was appointed legal advisor and legislative assistant to General George S. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in 1976. Howay presided over the Navy's Southern Judicial Circuit Court before retiring in 1987. His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. Married to Barbara Gail Johnson

in 1962, they raised four children in homes across the country. The couple retired to Lakeland, Florida, for 30 years and moved to Atlanta to be closer to family in 2019. Howay's survivors include his wife, four children and six grandchildren.

Bruce Wright '56, Aug. 17, 2021, in Spokane, Washington. He earned his M.D. from the University of Washington Medical School in Seattle, and practiced as a radiologist. He married Nancy A. Wright and the couple attended Alumni College and Whitman trips to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for many years. Wright also served as a committee member for his 50th Reunion. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Marianna Grabhorn '57, Oct. 5, 2021, in Walla Walla. She transferred to Whitman from the University of Kansas, joining her first husband, Don Jones, for a job in Walla Walla. They raised four children together. Grabhorn worked in journalism, first at the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin and later as director of news services and associate director of communications at Whitman. She retired from local health news agency, Coffey Communications, in 2009. Grabhorn married Paul McCaskill in 1985. Her survivors include her husband, four children and four grandchildren.

Carol Sorenson Hadley '57, Nov. 15, 2021, in Everett, Washington. She married Douglas Hadley in 1957 and they raised three daughters. Hadley taught piano for 30 years, eventually moving her piano studio into the family home. She retired from teaching in 1988. Survivors include her husband, three children and eight grandchildren.

Peter Michelson '57, Sept. 2, 2021 in Boulder, Colorado. After Whitman, he earned an M.A. in English literature from the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Michelson went on to teach at the University of Notre

Dame in Indiana; Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and the University of Colorado Boulder. He was a widely-published author of books of poetry and prose. The University of Notre Dame Hesburgh Libraries house his collection of academic and literary works. Survivors include three daughters and four grandchildren.

Robert Shearer '57, June 15, 2021, in Fort Lee, New Jersey. He earned his M.Div. from the General Theological Seminary in New York in 1960, and served numerous churches and organizations in leadership roles for Episcopal dioceses around the country, specializing in interim ministry and restoring vitality to parishes. Shearer was serving as Priest-in-Charge at Church of the Good Shepherd in Fort Lee at the time of his death.

Roland "Skip" Urban '57, March 9, 2021, in Santa Barbara, California. A member of Phi Delta Theta and the varsity football team, he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, and lived around the world. Survivors include a sister, two sons and three grandchildren.

F. John Knowles '58, Sept. 29, 2021, in Walla Walla. He married Dorothy Ann in 1954 and had a varied career including teaching, surveying and woodworking. In 1985 the couple purchased The Bicycle Barn and worked there into their retirement. Predeceased by his wife, Knowles' survivors include nine children, 37 grandchildren and 64 great-grandchildren.

Donna Lobdell Weitz '59, Oct. 24, 2021, in Kennewick, Washington. After graduation, she married Victor Weitz. They lived with their four children on a farm in Pasco, Washington, until his death in 1966. Moving into town, Weitz supported her family as a musician, performing locally in social clubs, restaurants and bars, as well as on cruise ships and resorts around the Pacific

Northwest. She retired from the Clover Island Inn in 1985 to help manage The Balloons Above Tri-Cities Balloon Shoppe with her daughter, officially retiring in 2016. Predeceased by her husband and a daughter, survivors include three children and a large extended family.

1960s

Allan Pasco '60, Oct. 12, 2021, in McLouth, Kansas. After graduating from Whitman, he earned his M.A. in French from Northwestern State College in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Pasco was the Hall Distinguished Professor of Nineteenth-Century Literature at the University of Kansas, Lawrence from 1989 until his death. He wrote 11 books on French literature and culture of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. In recent years, he donated a significant collection of rare 18th- and 19th-century French books to Penrose Library, many of which had served in his own research, and was honored by a library exhibit in 2018. Pasco is survived by his Whitman classmate and wife of over 50 years, **Dallas Christiansen Pasco '60**, four children and numerous grandchildren.

Edmund Wells '62, Sept. 5, 2021, in Mill Creek, Washington. After Whitman, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard. Wells married **Elizabeth Matzen '66** in 1967 and they settled in his hometown of Lake Forest Park, Washington. After rising to claims manager at Safeco Insurance, he left to start his own claims adjusting firm, Dodge and Wells, with his close friend **Harold Dodge '60**. A movie fan at heart, he bought his first VCR in the early '80s, which led him to open Ballinger Village Video in 1987, a business he owned for 15 years. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, two sons and four grandchildren.

Roger Williams '62, Oct. 3, 2021, in Walla Walla. After Whitman, he earned his M.Div. from Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia, Canada, and became a priest for the Episcopal Church. He served throughout the Pacific Northwest, Japan and in Fairbanks, Alaska. While Williams was in Alaska, he met Jane Zak and they were married in 1984. He earned his M.A. in applied behavioral sciences from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. He retired from ministry in 1998 and farmed on the family property in Pomeroy, Washington, and the couple eventually retired to Walla Walla. Survivors include his wife, two children, two stepchildren and numerous grandchildren.

Roger Polzin '63, June 12, 2021, in Olympia, Washington. Before Whitman, Polzin served in the U.S. Navy. After Whitman, he worked for the Equitable Life Insurance company in several cities. He earned his M.B.A. from the University of Washington in 1966 and embarked on a long career of public service, holding a number of positions in Washington state government. Polzin officially retired from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner as deputy commissioner for Management Services, though he continued to work on projects and contracts with various state agencies for

many years. Polzin is survived by his wife of 49 years, Linda, and two daughters.

Peter Bruner '64, June 11, 2021, in Aberdeen, Washington. During his college days, he worked at the Walla Walla YMCA as a swimming teacher and coach, continuing in that capacity until 1968. Bruner joined the Aberdeen School District to teach swimming, a position he held until his retirement in 1997. He also coached the high school swim teams and the YMCA swim team for several years. Bruner enjoyed a second career as a Realtor for Windermere of Grays Harbor. Predeceased by a son, his survivors include his wife of 49 years, Dolores Hiles, and three children.

Jill Burton-Dascher '64, Nov. 18, 2021, in Stanwood, Washington. She earned her B.A. in English from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. She worked as an English teacher, an insurance underwriter and then at The Boeing Company, where she met Art Dascher. They were married in 1967 and settled on Mercer Island to raise two children and countless animals. Burton-Dascher wrote a humor column for the Mercer Island Reporter when her children were young and she retired as a social worker from the Greater Seattle Intergroup in 2005, after 23 years of service. Survivors

include two daughters and five grandchildren.

Edward "Greig" Horner '66, July 29, 2021, in Port Angeles, Washington. After graduation, he married **Anne Hall '68** and joined the U.S. Air Force and became a pilot, a career that spanned 23 years and postings that sent him around the world. He retired in 1989 and settled in western Washington. Horner is survived by his wife, three children and five grandchildren.

1970s

Sean Harrigan '73, Sept. 03, 2021, in Spokane, Washington. He had a long, successful career as a leader in pension fund investment and health benefits, starting in 1973 with the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW). Harrigan eventually retired in early 2006 as the executive director of UFCW, Western States Council and international vice president of the UFCW International Union. He served on many state, national and international boards in pursuit of improving conditions for working people. Survivors include his wife, two children, five grandchildren and extended family including brother Pat and sister-in-law **Marietta Harrigan '87**.

Steven Zabinsky '74, Dec. 27, 2021, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After Whitman, he earned a M.S. in aeronautical engineering and a Ph.D. in computational physics from the University of Washington in Seattle. Zabinsky worked at Microsoft for several years and received a patent filing award in 1996. He later became involved in Re-evaluation Counseling, a peer-based counseling procedure. Predeceased by his parents and his brother, **Zach Zabinsky '76**, survivors include life partner, Chris Bouajila, her daughter, and extended family.

1990s

Joshua Gartner '97, Nov. 29, 2021, in Sacramento, California. He married **Corrine Hagar '97** in 2003 and they settled in Sacramento, where they raised two sons. He loved nature and the outdoors and whitewater kayaking became a passion. Gartner was a regular volunteer on the electrical crew of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, and his skill at residential wiring led him to become a licensed electrician. His connection to Whitman was strong and he served as an associate class representative for the Office of Annual Giving. Gartner is survived by his wife; his sons, Graham and Adam; and his grandfather.

2000s

Brian Congdon '02, Sept. 16, 2021, in Herndon, Virginia. After Whitman, he lived in Maracay, Venezuela, teaching English to Spanish speakers. He met and married his first wife, Ysbell, in 2003. They moved to Fairfax, Virginia, where Congdon worked as senior webmaster for the U.S. Department of Commerce. His love of art and design led him to start his own graphics design business, Architektos Design, in addition to his day jobs. Congdon married Carol Neri in 2021. He is survived by his son from his first marriage, his wife, her two children, and a large extended family.

Cody Fierro '05, Oct. 13, 2021, in Kalispell, Montana. After Whitman, where he was a member of the varsity men's soccer team, Fierro moved to Kalispell and worked as boys head coach at Glacier High School for a year, then assistant coach at Flathead High School for three years. He worked at the Summit Preparatory Charter High School and started their soccer program.

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, email 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 or call 509-526-4794.

ENG 340

Victorian Grotesques

4 CREDITS / GAURAV MAJUMDAR

Course Description

This course examines **literary works published during the Victorian era** (1837–1901) for their deployment of the grotesque to interrogate aesthetic norms, gender definitions, class anxieties, propriety, progress and comic absurdity.

"A GROTESQUE IS SOMETHING THAT CONTRASTS AESTHETIC NORMS

AND, BY DOING SO, OFTEN CONTRASTS MORAL NORMS." —GAURAV MAJUMDAR

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Professor and Chair of the English Department **Gaurav Majumdar** received his B.A. from the University of Delhi, M.A. from the University of Rochester, and Ph.D. from New York University. The author of two books, his main areas of research are **British and Irish modernism, as well as postcolonial literature in English.**



Reading List

"Our Mutual Friend" by **Charles Dickens**

"Discords" by **Mary Dunne** (writing as George Egerton)

"Goblin Market" by **Christina Rosetti**

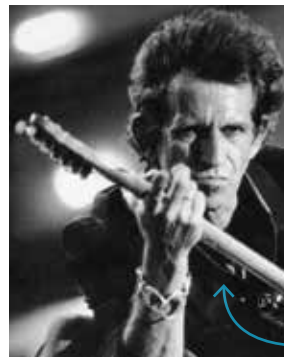
"Salomé" by **Oscar Wilde**

"Through the Looking-Glass" by **Lewis Carroll**

Full of comic absurdity!



Grotesque figures, while conventionally threatening,



can draw sympathy as well as repel. A few examples? **Frankenstein's monster, the Jabberwock, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, and even Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones.**



POWER & VULNERABILITY Grotesque isn't specific to Victorians, but the enormous societal shifts of this era led to some compelling examples. The **British Empire** was then at the height of its power, yet there was an underlying insecurity about some changes that went along with that, including **rapid industrialization, colonial tensions and challenges to gender conventions.** "Writers like Dickens, Wilde and Rosetti explored the edges of English triumphalism ... to point to the vulnerability of that power," says Majumdar.

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—**Kiana Ching** is a junior from Kailua Kona, Hawaii, who will be the first in her family to graduate from college.

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