

WHITMAN

MAGAZINE



The Truman Show

See how three Truman Fellows took off on unique and meaningful career paths of discovery and service.

WINTER 2024

Dancing to the Drum

The inaugural Páshxapa Powwow brought together at Whitman College various tribal leaders, honored guests, drummers and dancers from throughout the Pacific Northwest. Pictured: A slick-style dancer wears specific attire as a way of paying homage to the warrior history of the Cayuse tribe and showing gratitude to veterans. See page 4 for more powwow highlights.





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A FORCE IN CHEM COMPUTING

Associate Professor of Chemistry Dalia Biswas is changing how science is taught and explored at Whitman. See how she's helping students and faculty harness the power of computational tools to keep up with rapid changes in the sciences.

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UPWARD TOGETHER FOR OUR FUTURE

In October 2023, Whitman College had an epic celebration. After months of planning, the college announced the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign in its 164-year history. It's a bold new vision for Whitman's future.

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SCHOLARS OF SERVICE & SUCCESS

Meet three Whitman alums who received the prestigious Truman Scholarship, which supports graduate studies in public service. More than a decade later, the skills and values they learned as Truman Scholars and at Whitman still shape their unique careers.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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.

ON THE COVER Erica Goad '09 commuting by helicopter to field work for her job with the U.S. Forest Service in Coastal Alaska. See page 32.



“I am convinced that the world needs Whitties now more than ever.”

Shaping Futures & Lives of Purpose

EACH NEW YEAR offers a moment for reflection and vision. As we begin 2024, we see a world that is changing extraordinarily fast — societally, technologically, economically, and in many other ways. Tremendous challenges, as well as opportunities, are rapidly emerging. I am convinced that the world needs Whitties now more than ever — to meet this moment and shape the future.

In this magazine edition, you’ll find inspiring stories of Whitman alumni, students, faculty and staff who are making an impact. I often return to the words of the accomplished alumni in “The World Needs Whitties” panel, which took place on Oct. 13, 2023, and to the most crucial lessons they drew from their Whitman experiences — communication, connection and critical thinking.

Every panelist emphasized the importance of what they learned at Whitman about discourses around different viewpoints, cultures and experiences. International entrepreneur Tom Lapham ’99 talked about the ways his radio show on KWCW brought him into conversation with conservative church leaders protesting on campus against the gay community, and how those conversations prepared him for discussions with skeptical IT specialists abroad as his company worked on technology to support the Seattle Pride parade. Tom shared the lessons he learned about the power of creating a space where everyone felt respected and heard. Astronaut and educator Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger ’97 cited her work as a Resident Assistant in Prentiss Hall in preparing her to collaborate across cultures in her work on the International Space Station for NASA, and for the ways she now represents the U.S. space program around the world. Serial entrepreneur and publisher Jonathan Sposato ’89 described learning to transcend the barriers people draw between groups. Tech journalist Cecilia Kang ’94 explained how in her courses she learned to be curious, ask good questions, connect the dots and communicate to many audiences. Musician and Amazon attorney Drew Shoals ’05 talked about the ways that Whitman faculty provided the language to talk about different viewpoints across race and class, about the importance of deep listening and all that is gained by working to understand the perspectives of others.

At one point, a student in the audience asked the panel, “What experiences at Whitman made you the thinker that you are?” The panelists described the amazing faculty and breadth of classes they took at Whitman, engaging broadly beyond the classroom in athletics, music and more (three had radio shows!), and the friends and the alumni network that helped shape their purpose and their futures.

As Cecilia said, “Whitman opened up my mind and helped me see my place in the world.” That’s what Whitman does — and we have so much to be proud of as students learn how to think, create and collaborate in ways that make a lasting impact on the most important issues of our time. I am grateful for the support of alumni and families in helping make this meaningful work possible.

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To notify us of a change of mailing address or to opt out of receiving this magazine, please email addrchg@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.

On Boyer Avenue

NEWS FROM CAMPUS



Meet the Whitties Behind The Whitman Outdoor Journal

WHITMAN COLLEGE HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN for its robust Outdoor Program and adventurous outings.

Two current students — Harrison Whittemore '25 and Arden Hunt '25 — are leading a team who have trekked into new territory on campus with the creation of a slick four-color print magazine, The Whitman Outdoor Journal (WOJ).

Current students, recent grads, notable outdoor alum adventurers and Whitman legends like Bob Carson, Emeritus Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies, have already had their stories shared or told by the journal.

ALL THE STORIES

Whittemore says he was inspired to launch WOJ by a friend who was working on a similar publication at Colorado College. It made perfect sense for Whitman, says the Brain, Behavior and Cognition major from Boulder, Colorado, who serves as Co-President with Hunt and heads up the layout of the magazine. “I’ve been a part of the outdoor community since I arrived on campus and have had such an incredible opportunity to get to hear a wide range of perspectives and tales,” he says. “This school has a profound love of the outdoors which is just contagious.”

Both Whittemore and Hunt say stories drive the journal content—and while they love a good summit story, it’s not just audacious adventures they’re after. “We want to hear all the stories,” says Hunt, who oversees outreach

for content development for the journal. “We focus on the meaningfulness of the story, not necessarily the size of the achievement.”

As part of the WOJ’s editorial mission, the team also acknowledges the Indigenous land we live and recreate on, as well as the financial and situational barriers that can exist to outdoor adventures, says Hunt, a Psychology major from Bellingham, Washington. They want to make the journal available to everyone on campus, with the hope to both inspire and connect students to opportunities and each other.

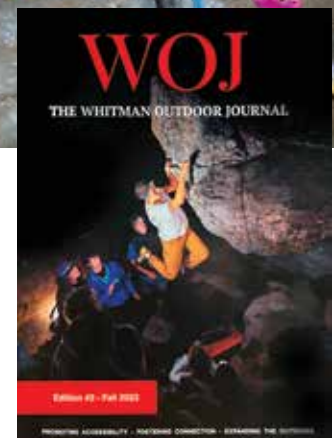
The first edition of WOJ was released in the spring of 2023, with regular editions now planned twice yearly. Like other official student-led publications, funding is provided through the Associated Students of Whitman College.

JUST THE BEGINNING

While Hunt and Whittemore are spending their Spring 2024 semesters abroad — in Austria and New Zealand respectively — they’re leaving their passion project in caring, capable hands for now.

“For me, the most rewarding part has been watching the WOJ editorial team grow,” says Whittemore. “It started with just a couple of us and has grown to a team of nearly 20 incredible individuals. There’s so much energy and passion in this group, and I believe we’ve created something that will outlast our own involvement.”

Explore more of The Whitman Outdoor Journal at whitman.edu/magazine.



Going places. Pictured above: Co-Presidents of The Whitman Outdoor Journal, Arden Hunt '25 and Harrison Whittemore '25.

GIVE A GIFT OF THE OUTDOORS

The Bob Carson Outdoor Program Fund allows Whitman students to participate in Outdoor Program trips, regardless of their ability to pay. You may make your gift online at give.whitman.edu and designate your gift to the Bob Carson Outdoor Program Fund.

PÁŠXAPA POWWOW

Celebrating Culture and Collaboration

MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE CAME FROM FIVE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES TO ATTEND

IN A HISTORIC DISPLAY of celebration and collaboration, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) partnered with Whitman College and Walla Walla Community College to host the inaugural Pášxapa Powwow on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Sherwood Athletic Center.

A Sherwood gymnasium was transformed for the powwow, the first held on the land now housing Whitman's campus in over 160 years.

CTUIR General Council Chairman Lindsey X. Watchman said, "Having a powwow here on the grounds very close to where the original treaty was signed in 1855 is definitely a monumental moment."

The Pášxapa Powwow drew in more than 400 people, with tribal members from throughout the region attending along with Whitman students, faculty, staff and members of the Walla Walla community. Invited drummers hailed from multiple Northwest tribal communities including the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Nez Perce and CTUIR.

ALUMS SHARE TRADITIONAL ART FORM

Two Whitman College alums — and expert beaders — helped complete the look for the first Miss Pášxapa, Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky '26. Roger Amerman '80 crafted the intricate beaded crown, and Feather Sams-Huesties '00 and Susan Sams created the Whitman Blues beaded bag.





"Place of the Wild Sunflower" is the translation of "Páshxapa"—the Cayuse name for the Walla Walla Valley. Far left: Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky '26 was crowned as the first Miss Páshxapa during the inaugural Páshxapa Powwow. Clockwise from top left: Timinah Ellenwood (CTUIR member) captivated audiences during the Tiny Tot competition; Aiden Wolf '25 and his sister Manaia (CTUIR members) walked together during the Grand Entry; Sophia Turning Robe (Spokane tribe and Siksika Nation; Whitworth University Class of 2025) in a jingle dress danced in the Women's Fancy/Jingle category; one of the 10 drum groups that provided music for dances throughout the day.



CAMPUS LIFE



Robart Hall in Junior-Senior Village Named

IN EARLY NOVEMBER 2023, Whitman College announced a leadership gift at T-Mobile Park in Seattle while celebrating the launch of the college's **Upward Together** campaign (see page 22).

The gift will support the naming of Robart Hall in honor of alumnus James Robart '69 in the college's plans for a junior-senior residential village.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'm thrilled to announce the naming of Robart Hall in honor of Emeritus Trustee, former Board Chair and my friend Jim Robart," said **Upward Together** Campaign Chair and Whitman Trustee Nancy Serrurier.

"Jim is a consummate Whittie and public servant. He has served the college for decades, including as a longtime advocate for strengthening the college's residential life."

A LIFE OF SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Judge James Robart is a Senior United States District Court Judge for western Washington. Robart served on the college's Board of Overseers from 1988-1999 and the Board of Trustees from 1999-2012, including a term as Chair. Robart has been a close advisor to Whitman presidents, including Tom Cronin,

George Bridges, Kathy Murray and now Sarah Bolton.

President Bolton said, "Jim Robart has done so much for Whitman, not only through his leadership and board service but also as an advisor to pre-law students through the years. Those fortunate young people are among many at Whitman who are inspired by his life of service and leadership. I am thrilled that current and future generations of Whitties will see his name on the place they call home."

A VIBRANT CAMPUS COMMUNITY GROWS

Robart Hall will provide apartment-style residences in the village, which will be located along Boyer Avenue and Marcus Street, on the west edge of campus near downtown Walla Walla. Robart Hall follows the announcement of gifts to name Harvey Hall in May 2023 — to honor longtime Chief Financial Officer Peter Harvey — as the second of three village buildings to be named.

Check out an architectural rendering of the proposed residential village at whitman.edu/magazine.



3 Things To Know About Whitman Connect

Whitman Connect is a virtual platform where you can connect with fellow Whitties, share the value of your experience and help others just starting their professional careers. Exclusive to the Whitman community, this is where current students and recent graduates are looking for your guidance and wisdom.

Here are three things to know about Whitman Connect:

1. It's an excellent way to give back through mentorship. After creating your profile, be sure to list ways you can help. New mentoring programs are in the works. Contact Jonathan Simons, Assistant Director for Career Mentoring Programs in the Career and Community Engagement Center (simonsj@whitman.edu), to learn how to get involved.

2. It's a great place to connect. Join one of the Whitman Connect community groups to find other Whitties in your career field or region or folks you share an interest or affinity with. Don't see a group for you? You can request one; email alumni@whitman.edu

3. It's loaded with valuable career resources. Looking for a career change? Check out the career paths feature. You'll also find professional development modules, articles and much more!

Learn more: whitman.edu/alumni/whitman-connect

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists published "What Can We Learn From 'Oppenheimer' About the Blind Spots in Nuclear Storytelling?" an op-ed by **Shampa Biswas**, the Judge and Mrs. Timothy A. Paul Chair of Political Science and Professor of Politics.

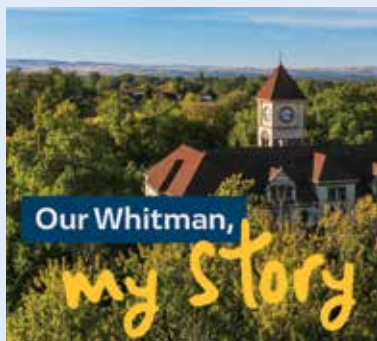
Professor of Psychology **Pavel S. Blagov** led Whitman students and alumni in publishing a research article in the peer-reviewed journal *Personality and Individual Differences*.

Michelle Janning, the Raymond and Elsie DeBurgh Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology, presented at the Future of Design in Higher Education. She also facilitated a conversation about creating an interdisciplinary program in Human-Centered Design.

Gaurav Majumdar, Professor of English, published a revised edition of "Illegitimate Freedom: Informality in Modernist Literature, 1900–1940." The book is the first scholarly exploration of links between informality and a wide range of British and anglophone modernist works.

Director of Academic Support Services **Richard Middleton-Kaplan** was selected to be part of the 2024–2025 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau.

Associate Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology **Brit Moss** presented at the Pacific Northwest Yeast Club. Moss engaged students in a semester-long research project using yeast, focusing on what it means to "do" science and "be" a scientist.



The "Our Whitman, My Story" podcast won Gold at the 2023 Circle of Excellence Awards by The Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The podcast is a collaboration between the Whitman College Office of Communications, Director of Content **Margie Reece '93**, and author and podcaster **John Moe '90**.

Associate Professor of Psychology **Erin Pahlke** appeared in "An Age-by-Age Guide to Talking to Kids About Race" on lifehacker.com.

Kevin Pogue, Professor of Geology, wrote the "Washington" entry in the Fifth Edition of the *Oxford Companion to Wine*. Pogue's contribution covers history, geography, climate and a wide range of other information.

Andrea Sempértegui, Assistant Professor of Politics, discussed ecofeminist movements in Latin America as a featured guest on the podcast "Discourse: The Grabbing Back Podcast."

Emily Sibley, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Research Associate in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, published a chapter on street art associated with the 2011 Egyptian Revolution in "The Bloomsbury Handbook of Postcolonial Print Cultures."

Ashmeet Singh, Assistant Professor of Physics, contributed information on black hole entropy and thermodynamics as an expert physics consultant for a video published by Veritasium on its YouTube channel.

Zahi Zalloua, the Cushing Eells Professor of Philosophy and Literature and Director of Indigeneity, Race, and Ethnicity Studies, was interviewed by the "New Books Network Podcast" about his new book, "Solidarity and the Palestinian Cause," which examines the Palestinian identity from the perspective of Indigeneity and Critical Black Studies.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy **Wenqing Zhao** presented at the Aristotle-Confucius Symposium in Athens, Greece, hosted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS



PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR

Pavel S. Blagov (Psychology)
Janet Davis (Computer Science)
Mark Juhasz (Chemistry)
Julia Ireland (German Studies and Philosophy)



GRANTED TENURE & PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Jonathan Collins (Chemistry)
Marina Ptukhina (Statistics)



PROMOTION TO SENIOR LECTURER OF SPORT STUDIES

Jose Cedeño (Head Men's Soccer Coach)
Matt Helm (Head Women's Volleyball Coach)
John Lamanna (Head Men's Basketball Coach)

NAMED TO ENDOWED CHAIR

Brian Dott, the Robert Allen Skotheim Chair of History





Making Connections

PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR PAVEL BLAGOV PURSUES HIS PASSIONS WHILE NURTURING STUDENT RESEARCH AND SUCCESS

BY PAM MOORE

YOU COULD SAY PAVEL BLAGOV is captivated by connections.

As a Professor of Psychology and Director of Whitman's Personality Lab, his research makes connections between memory and personality — and between personality and life outcomes.

At the same time, his multiple roles — including researcher, professor and psychotherapist — are also about making meaningful connections with both the Whitman and Walla Walla communities.

INTERSECTING INTERESTS

Growing up in Bulgaria's capital city, Blagov worked hard to gain admission to a highly competitive American high school, where he studied biology and philosophy. While

those subjects might seem unrelated, Blagov was fascinated by their intersections — and he saw psychology as the discipline where they overlapped.

"Where biology explains how science can trigger our actions, philosophy explains what it means to be a good human. And psychology seemed to me a perfect blend of both," he recalls.

His passion for psychology led him to Connecticut College, a small liberal arts college not unlike Whitman, where he double-majored in Psychology and Neuroscience/Neurochemistry. Alongside faculty advisor and mentor Jefferson Singer, Blagov researched the connection between autobiographical memories and certain aspects of personality and mental health.

Following research at York University

in Toronto, the completion of his doctorate at Emory University in Atlanta, and a predoctoral internship at Columbia University Medical Center in Manhattan, Blagov found a home at Whitman, where he teaches courses like Research Methods, Psychological Disorders, and the Science of Sexual Orientation.

A MEETING OF THE MINDS

Blagov couldn't help falling in love with Walla Walla. Recalling the stunning view of the valley spreading out at the foot of the mountains the first time he visited, he says, "Walla Walla was like Shangri-la." Since he joined the Whitman community in 2009, the area has more than lived up to his expectations.

“You have everything you need in this beautiful, small, self-contained city,” he says.

As a scholar of psychology, Blagov has a deep appreciation for being part of a supportive community and having the opportunity for personal expression — and he sees Whitman as having the just-right balance between the two.

“As a professor, a significant part of my role is to be nurturing and supportive of my students and to collaborate with fellow faculty and staff toward a shared goal of higher education,” he says. “At the same time, this kind of career allows me to work toward the professional pursuits I’m passionate about while helping my students reach their individual goals.”

Blagov recalls being particularly impressed by the Psychology Department’s collaborative nature. He appreciated that faculty members involved students in their research projects. And it was important to him that various areas of the field were represented and mutually respected. “My colleagues see applied psychology as part of psychological science, so they value the fact that I’m trained as a clinical scientist, and I value all that they bring to the table from their perspective as well,” he explains.

In addition to the Personality Lab — where Blagov and students study individual differences, mental health and neuropsychology — the department runs student-faculty research labs focused on cognitive, social, educational, developmental, comparative and abnormal psychology.

“My goal is to provide my students with a full range of experiences that will help them develop skills that can generalize to nearly any professional setting.”

—PAVEL BLAGOV, Professor of Psychology

IN THE CLASSROOM, THE LAB & BEYOND

As the Director of Whitman’s Personality Lab, Professor of Psychology and the owner of a local private psychotherapy practice, Blagov wears many hats — but he feels they complement each other seamlessly. “All of my roles influence each other and are interconnected,” he says.


While Blagov sees teaching as his primary role, he notes that his courses are informed by both his research and his clinical work. At the same time, as a researcher, he draws on his teaching skills when working with undergraduate research assistants. As a clinician, he relies on his skills as both a scientist and a teacher.

For example, in his practice, he often uses evidence-based techniques like cognitive behavioral therapy, a form of learning that “invites clients to examine their assumptions, learn new information and experiment like scientists as they try out new things in their lives.”

Blagov’s student research assistants at the Personality Lab benefit from those intersections too. While they help to expand the body of knowledge in the field of psychology, they’re also developing skills they can use wherever life takes them next.

“No matter what their career path looks like, whether they go on to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology, work at a nonprofit, start their own business, or anything else, my goal is to provide my students with a full range of experiences that will help them develop skills that can generalize to nearly any professional setting,” says Blagov.

Those include hard skills like research, critical thinking, study design, data collection and analysis, article writing, and public presentations, as well as soft skills like getting along with peers, effective leadership, and learning from supervisor feedback.

Blagov hopes his students remember what they learned at Whitman — and use those skills to become their best selves in a world that needs them. 



What happens in the Personality Lab?

Learn more about
Professor Blagov’s student-
faculty research at
whitman.edu/magazine.



Mindfulness & Kindness: When Students Become the Teacher

While Whitman students learn plenty from Professor Pavel Blagov—from how to interpret data to how to delegate responsibilities to more junior researchers—he’s also learned valuable lessons from his students.

Whitties are nothing if not kind, says Blagov. “I see this tension in the classroom between students wanting to assert their views and explore new ideas while also being very mindful of their peers’ sensibilities. Most of the time, they tend to err on the side of inclusivity,” he explains.

While Blagov does the best he can to stay informed, he admits his finger isn’t always on the pulse of Gen Z.

“So when I say something that’s not as inclusive as it could be, they’ll correct me in a kind, respectful way,” he says.

Having been raised under the shadow of a communist dictatorship that valued the collective over the individual, Blagov welcomes these interactions with open arms. As he explains, “I love seeing my students feel free to stand up for their values. This is what we want in a healthy society.”



History of a Tech Superwoman

CAT POSEY '05 SHAPES HER LIFE AROUND BUILDING COMMUNITY AND A BETTER PATH FORWARD

BY TARA ROBERTS

BUILDING A MEANINGFUL LIFE isn't about climbing upward for Cathryn "Cat" Posey '05. It's about understanding and responding to the needs of the moment. Posey's story as a tech leader and change-maker starts with—and remains guided by—her time as a History major at Whitman College.

"I love stories," Posey says. "I love how understanding our story helps us understand where we are, which is the only way you can figure out where you're going."

She believes the world today is at a critical moment. Rapid advancements in technology feel overwhelming, she says, but humanity has a chance to manage these changes.

To do that, Posey believes it's important to look to history: When today's biggest tech companies launched, the industry placed urgency on rapidly developing the software. Mitigating potential societal downsides sometimes took a back seat.

"We might be creating the same errors of the past," she says. "During that wave of technology in the early 2000s, there were hard questions that were put aside while people said, 'Let's just build the technology,' and then we had all these issues."

With that in mind, Posey has focused her work on using her knowledge and influence to help create both tech and support systems, particularly for women, to have a positive and thoughtful impact. “We have to ask ourselves, ‘What kind of future do we want?’ and be bold enough to create it,” she says. “It’s now or never.”

Having an impact.
Cat Posey '05 presenting at Impacta 2023 in the Dominican Republic. She presented a keynote, “How Brands Can Win in the Rise of AI.”



FUELED BY PURPOSE

Posey was first drawn to Whitman by history. On a campus visit from her hometown of Anchorage, Alaska, she sat in on one of Associate Professor of History Nina Lerman’s classes and was awed by the deep discussion.

As a History major who also minored in Rhetoric and Film Studies, Posey stood out for her curiosity, Lerman says. She was the type of student whose insights helped her professors see things in new ways.

“She was completely fabulous in any class discussion,” Lerman says. “She was very thoughtful about the readings and able to see complex layers and synthesize things. She was a scholar and a thinker in a wide context.”

Though she never expected a career in technology, Posey says her liberal arts education helped her “learn how to learn.”

She taught herself to code in her first post-college job. She planned to go to film school, but, as she moved up in tech, she fell in love with the industry’s possibilities while searching for community.

“I realized we needed to tell more stories of women in tech—and more inclusive stories—so that women could find themselves,” she says, “and so that we could understand what the moment was and where we needed to go.”

Inspired by the resilience and strength in Alicia Keys’ song “Superwoman,” Posey started the hashtag #CallingAllTechSuperwomen. The conversation evolved into a meetup at SXSW (South by Southwest), where attendees discussed the need for mentorship and sponsorship.

By early 2015, Posey had moved to Silicon Valley, become CEO of Tech By Superwomen and launched the organization’s first summit.

It was a pivotal point in her career. Later that same year, she was invited to join the United States Digital Service, President Obama’s tech startup, which aims to bring better government services to the American people through technology and design.

In 2017, Capital One hired her, and she became a Senior Director of Machine Learning. Then 2020 arrived, and everything changed again.

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

When the pandemic hit, the strain on women to juggle caregiving and careers became even more difficult. During that time, Posey reflected on everything the women she knew had experienced—socially, culturally and politically—since the last Tech By Superwomen Summit in 2018.

Once again, Posey leaned into the moment. She left Capital One in May 2023 and began a personal sabbatical and an opportunity to identify where she could best help others. Part of this is revitalizing Tech By Superwomen, though she is not yet publicly sharing plans.

“There remains a need, even more so now, for women to come together and have community around what we’ve been through, what we need,” she says.

Posey also connected with fellow Whittie Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg '01, founder and Executive Director of Black Women in Executive Leadership, or B-WEL. At a 2023 gathering of B-WEL fellows in Italy, Posey felt inspired by the connections she made.

“We go through a lot of isolation and loneliness in life. I think that’s true for everyone, but as a woman and a Black woman in leadership, it can be lonely,” Posey says. “The power of community strengthens you and reminds you that you’re not alone.”

WHITMAN — NEEDED IN THIS MOMENT

Posey says her effort to shape a better future includes her service on Whitman’s President’s Advisory Board. Posey says she’s proud of Whitman’s leadership in educating people who can ask urgent questions, add context and shape a better society for everyone—at this moment more than ever.

“We’re in a very tough time right now, and I think about the criticality of a liberal arts education,” she says.

“Students need an understanding and appreciation for what history teaches us, and how it helps us think about what kind of future we want.” **W**

Uplifting Black Women Leaders

When Cat Posey '05 met Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg '01, they quickly connected over their experiences as Black women leaders, Whitman alums and President’s Advisory Board members. The two were introduced by Whitman Trustee Nancy Serrurier, Kamau-Rutenberg’s longtime friend and mentor. Kamau-Rutenberg was impressed by Posey’s career and service.

“There are so few Black women in the space that she works in,” she says. “I’ve been really blown away by her courage, her bravery and her ability to exist as one of very few, if not the only.”

Posey’s esteemed career contributed to her selection as one of the 17 inaugural fellows of Black Women in Executive Leadership, or B-WEL, a newly launched global initiative founded and headed by Kamau-Rutenberg.

B-WEL works to promote and support Black women in and into leadership roles to “build a diverse bench of talent to drive solutions to the world’s most pressing problems,” Kamau-Rutenberg says.

Strength in wisdom and numbers. Read more about B-WEL and how Posey and Kamau-Rutenberg are coming together to encourage women leaders across the globe at whitman.edu/magazine.

The Joy of Discovery

STUDENT RESEARCHER MADELINE SENTER '25 LEARNS ABOUT THE PAST AND MAKES PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

BY DEBBIE RITENOUR

WHEN MADELINE SENTER '25 arrived on the Whitman College campus, they didn't know what they wanted to do with their life.

That was part of the appeal of Whitman. Senter knew the small liberal arts college would offer plenty of opportunities to explore their current interests and discover new ones. The Davis, California, native also knew that they wanted to take on the challenge of a double major — but first, they had to determine what those majors would be.

Senter took Introduction to Gender Studies their first semester and quickly decided the subject would be one of their majors. The second, however, remained unclear. Sociology seemed like a good option, but the course they took didn't spark the same certainty. They then started thinking about majoring in a foreign language.

Senter had studied abroad in France for their entire junior year of high school, after all, and was taking both French and Spanish classes at Whitman. Majoring in French seemed too obvious, they thought, but Spanish was a possibility.

At the end of their second semester, Senter told Professor of French and Francophone Studies Sarah Hurlburt '91 their plan: They were going to stop taking French classes and focus solely on Spanish.

"We had a long conversation, and she basically asked me, in a very kind way, 'What are you doing?'" Senter says with a laugh.

"She knew how much joy I got from speaking French. I sometimes joke that when I was learning French in France, I was so

happy that now I can't experience any other emotion when I speak it."

The next semester, Senter declared a Gender Studies and French and Francophone Studies double major. After briefly toying with the idea of adding a third major ("I had to be talked out of it"), they decided to minor in Religion.

A NEW PASSION

Whitman has provided many opportunities for Senter to nurture a wide variety of interests beyond their major and minor studies. They pursued their love for music by enrolling in Chorale and performing in a student-led musical, and they furthered their enthusiasm for education by tutoring elementary school students and serving as the language assistant for two French classes. When Hurlburt approached them about working on the Métis Family Photo Archive research project, they had no idea that they were about to discover yet another passion.

"At first, I was mostly interested in the project because it was an undergraduate research opportunity in the humanities, which is rare. I was also excited about interacting with my major in this way," Senter says. "My excitement has definitely shifted a lot since then."

The project involves creating a digital archive of photographs of Métis (mixed French Canadian and Indigenous heritage) families taken in the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s. In addition to analyzing



each photo to collect as much information about it as possible and cross-referencing that information with the databases on Ancestry.com, Senter conducts interviews with living descendants Joey Lavadour and Sam Pambrun, who loaned the photos for the project. The Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute in Pendleton, Oregon, also provided photos.

"When you work on a project like this, you pour so much care and time and attention into it. It absorbs you and becomes a part of you," says Senter, who has spent about 300 hours on the project so far. "I am so grateful that I'm able to help these families record their history and do so in a way that hopefully will last for a long time and be accessible to a lot of people."



A CAREER IN THE MAKING


For Senter, the project has been fascinating—so fascinating, in fact, that they have to stop themselves from falling down rabbit holes. “If you’re not careful, you can spend hours and hours and hours trying to figure out one piece of information,” they say. “I’ve done that before. You have to set boundaries.”

While working on the project has helped them strengthen their research and interviewing skills, Senter notes that the professional development they have gained pales in comparison to the personal transformation.

“I came into this project really excited about doing research. I didn’t expect to

find myself literally changed by it,” they say. “I think about people in the past—my own family, but also people in general—in a different way. The past is usually framed as something that’s very, very distant and separate from us, and I think that dehumanizes the people who lived in it. I now have greater empathy for them and feel more connected to them.”

The project has also helped Senter discover what they want to do with their life. After graduating from Whitman, they hope to earn a master’s degree in archive studies before beginning a career as a museum archivist.

“I want to be a part of this for a long time,” Senter says. “It makes me really happy.” 

Preserved With Care

Led by Professor of French and Francophone Studies Sarah Hurlburt '91, the Métis Family Photo Archive research project explores the lives of people of mixed French Canadian and Indigenous ancestry in Walla Walla County and Oregon’s Umatilla County in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Associate Archivist River Freemont and Madeline Senter '25 are working with Hurlburt to digitize and catalog nearly 2,000 photographs shared by the Lavadour and Pambrun families as well as Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute. The research team is implementing a post-custodial archiving process, which ensures the families retain ownership and possession of the actual photos.

The term “Métis,” which means “mixed race” in French, describes the descendants of French Canadian fur traders and the Indigenous women they married. These families settled near fur trade forts across the Pacific Northwest, including near Fort Nez Percés in the Walla Walla Valley.

The project is supported by grants from the Mellon Foundation and the Canadian government as well as by the Soden Student Research Scholar Award and the Louis B. Perry Summer Research Endowment, both of which fund student-faculty research at Whitman.



Explore the past

Read more about the Métis Family Photo Archive project at whitman.edu/magazine.

SPACES





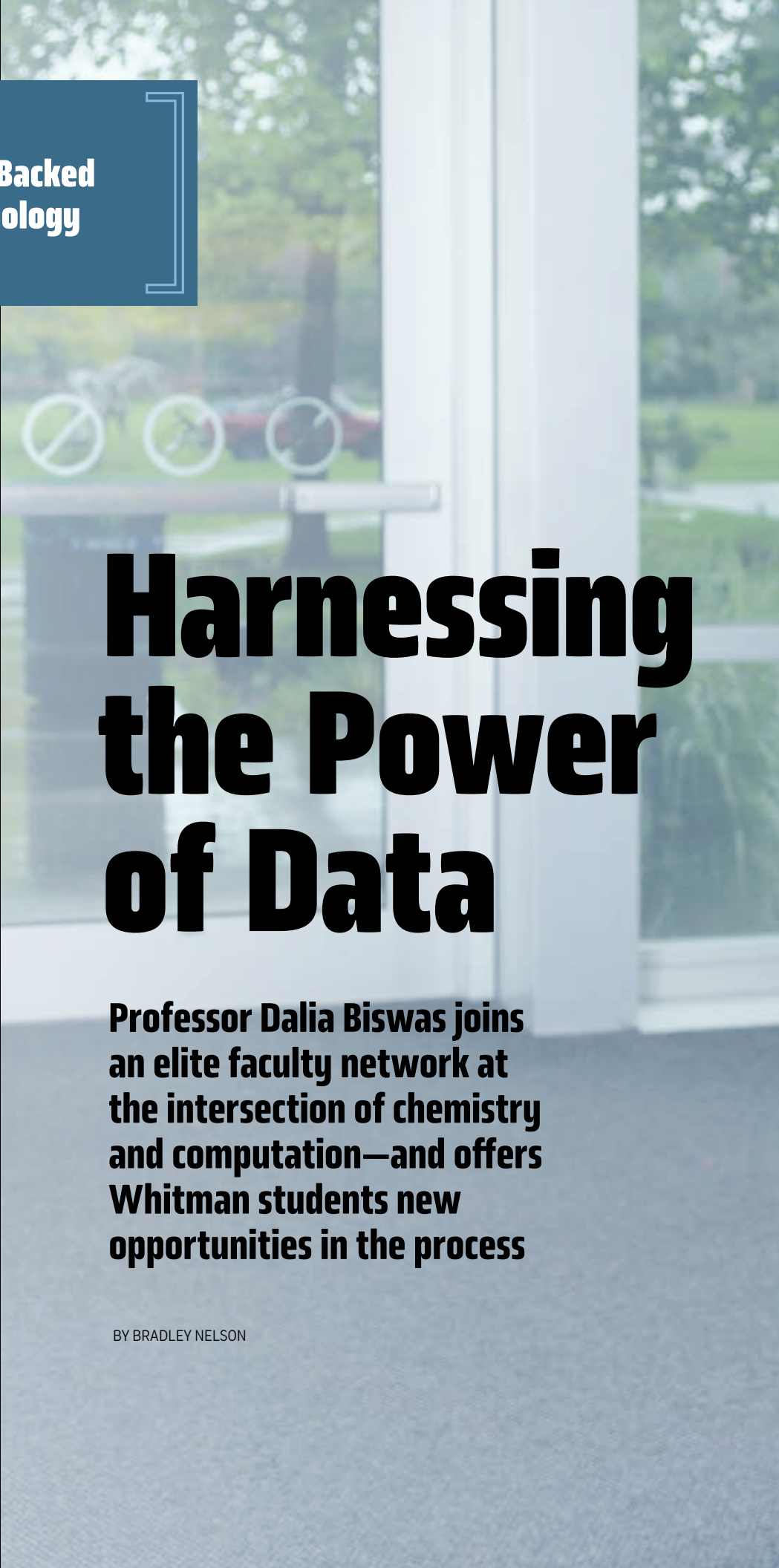
JEWETT CAFÉ

NESTLED BETWEEN JEWETT HALL and Lyman House, Jewett Café (or J-Caf) is a popular campus spot for current Whitties. Many alumni will remember the space as Jewett Dining Hall, which opened in 1964 with its all-you-can-eat buffet-style dining. It shared a kitchen with the sectioned-off Lyman House cafeteria. After more than 50 years, the space was renovated to create a café and community experience. In October 2018, the college unveiled Jewett Café as an inviting dining, studying and hangout space.

Students are welcomed into J-Caf—through the connecting Jewett Hall and Lyman House hallways—by the aroma of locally sourced Walla Walla Roastery coffee. Bon Appétit offers breakfast, lunch and grab-and-go options for students, staff, faculty and campus guests.



**Teaching Backed
by Technology**



Harnessing the Power of Data

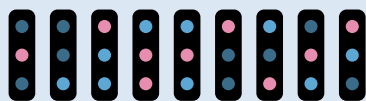
**Professor Dalia Biswas joins
an elite faculty network at
the intersection of chemistry
and computation—and offers
Whitman students new
opportunities in the process**

BY BRADLEY NELSON



**Dalia
Biswas**

KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY



Traditionally, chemistry has been a realm of meticulous laboratory work, data analysis and theoretical calculations.

Fast forward to today. Quickly.

The accelerating increase in computer processing power has opened exciting new possibilities for chemists.

At the forefront of these advancements at Whitman College is Associate Professor of Chemistry Dalia Biswas. In 2023, she accepted an invitation to join the Data Chemist Network (DCN) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) Center for Computer Assisted Synthesis at the University of Notre Dame.

As part of the network, Biswas will join a community of scientists across the country who share her interest in applying advanced computational tools to chemistry — and connect Whitman to a diverse and select group of partner institutions at an NSF-funded research center.

In her role at Whitman, Biswas is also helping students and her colleagues harness the power of computational tools to keep up with rapid changes in the sciences. As the lone computational chemist

at Whitman, she stands at the forefront of a paradigm shift in how chemistry is taught and explored.

But it's not only lessons in chemistry that are and will be changing dramatically, says Biswas.

“For chemists, computers help us manage our time and be more efficient. This is where the future of many fields is headed, not just chemistry.”

Amplifying Faculty Excellence & Preparing Tomorrow's Scientists

The Data Chemist Network seeks to connect excellent faculty members from underrepresented racial groups, especially those at institutions that haven't been traditionally involved in multi-institutional research centers. As a member of the network, Biswas will have access to new opportunities, such as funding for travel and training, access to grants and the ability to collaborate on research with other DCN members.

Biswas' new network membership also brings unique learning opportunities to her students. She'll regularly attend virtual meetings and research presentations, and she can invite students to attend as well. A Whitman undergraduate researcher will work in Biswas' lab every summer, supported by the Center for Computer Assisted Synthesis.

There are other student-focused possibilities yet to be explored, such as funding for additional undergraduate research at Whitman and access to internship opportunities, Biswas says.

A Career Merging Chemistry & Computing

Biswas has been using computational tools and data-driven methods for her entire career. In her doctoral work at the University of Montana, she used extensive computational chemistry to understand and anticipate the outcome of chemical reactions. In her postdoctoral work and at Whitman, she has continued to lean into this advancing technology in her research, including exploring the design and synthesis of complexes that have promise in environmental and industrial applications for cleaner energy.

Shortly after arriving to teach at Whitman in 2011, Biswas set out to acquire more powerful equipment to support her research.

Biswas gathered some hand-me-down hardware and used some of her startup faculty funds to buy five new computer nodes — workhorses of computer processing.

In 2014, she spent a sabbatical at the Max Planck Institutes in Germany working with theoretical chemist Frank

Neese. She then received an NSF grant to upgrade Whitman's computing equipment and support several years of further research with Neese.

A Vision & Computer Lab Realized

In 2019, a potential donor approached Whitman with an interest in funding computational science projects on campus, and Biswas joined a faculty group to share ideas. She made the case that although she had been hired at Whitman as a computational chemist, she did not have the necessary lab or tools to teach these concepts to her students.

What the college really needed was a computational lab, Biswas says. In this high-tech classroom, students could

access software that would allow them to visualize and manipulate molecules in three dimensions, for example.

In the fall semester of 2021, that vision became a reality.

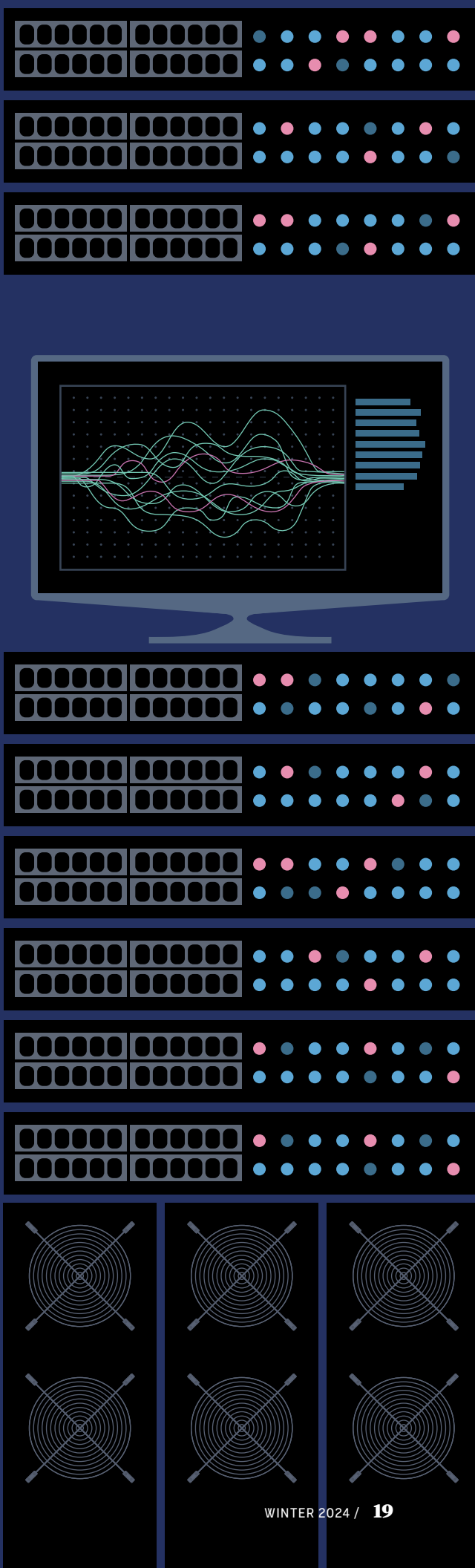
Jeff and Liesl Wilke, whose two children were Whitman students at the time, funded the creation of the Wilke Family Computational Laboratory. Biswas spearheaded the project with support from the Chemistry and Computer Science departments, Whitman College Technology Services and facilities staff. The new lab can accommodate 24 students and one instructor. Chemistry classes were the first to use the lab, but other departments, such as Biology and Physics, are also now making use of the computational lab.

Big Data Equals Big Breakthroughs

The NSF-funded Center for Computer Assisted Synthesis uses large data sets and machine-learning to optimize synthetic chemistry processes.

"The center is using data-driven chemistry to design molecules and optimize pathways for chemical syntheses," says Dalia Biswas. "They are exploring questions like, 'How can we reduce the number of steps to make new molecules of interest or optimize reaction conditions to improve yields?'"

Using computational tools, chemists can simulate chemical behavior and reactions to predict the likelihood that a particular pathway will be successful and test many different options to predict the most efficient pathways. This allows chemists to focus their lab research on the options that are most likely to succeed—with accelerated outcomes and results.





“This is where the future of many fields is headed, not just chemistry.”

—Dalia Biswas, Associate Professor of Chemistry

Teaching students to use up-to-date tools early in their academic career prepares them to enter the evolving scientific world.

“Change is good,” says Biswas, “especially when it is impactful and meaningful and helps students to grow and learn. We have been thinking about how to expose students to these ideas throughout their courses. We want to introduce computational thinking as early as Intro to Chemistry.”

A Ripple Effect: Innovating Across Disciplines

Improved student access to computational tools is allowing Chemistry faculty to evaluate and adapt their entire course curriculum.

Two Chemistry classes in particular, Computational Chemistry (CHEM 275) and Computational Biochemistry (CHEM 425), were revised extensively to take advantage of the lab's capabilities. Additional computational labs have been developed for introductory General Chemistry courses and Organic Chemistry, and this academic year, the

Organic Lab sequences are being restructured to add computational components.

Chemistry isn't the only department exploring new frontiers in computing. This past spring, with the support of a Pedagogical Inquiry Grant from the Provost's Office, Associate Professor of Computer Science John Stratton coordinated a Supporting Interdisciplinary Computing work group to discuss how to teach computational techniques to students across disciplines. Faculty members from multiple departments, from Chemistry to Psychology, reviewed literature, shared experiences, discussed teaching methods and sought input from students.

“As computational scientists, we have a lot we can share with each other,” says Stratton. “I am pleased to be in a position to facilitate these types of conversations and look at how we can do more interdisciplinary work on campus.”

As a result of the work group, many faculty members are now planning enhancements to their coursework and identifying potential cross-disciplinary partnerships. For future

graduates, that could mean new combined majors or programs. A Geology-Computer Science major was introduced in 2021, and a Chemistry-Computer Science major will likely be developed in the coming years. To illustrate the growing interest among students, several recent Whitman graduates were double majors in Chemistry and Computer Science.

Assistant Professor of Physics Ashmeet Singh is teaching a new Computational Methods in Physics course. The Physics Department is also working toward integrating computational tools across its curriculum.

“As physicists, we should not forget the fundamentals,” says Singh. “However, the field of physics is becoming more and more reliant on computation power to analyze and get insights into complex systems. We want to prepare our students accordingly.”

Assistant Professor of Biology Matthew Tien attended a conference in 2023 on computational biology at small liberal arts colleges, where he discussed potential teaching methods with faculty from across the country.

“Computational biology is such a new field,” says Tien. “There isn’t a standard established way to teach it yet.”

The Future Is Computing

The increased attention by faculty members to the importance of computational tools will undoubtedly increase the need for tools, hardware and lab space on campus.

“What Chemistry, and Dalia in particular, are doing is fantastic,” says Jeremy Davis ’21, Instructional and Learning Tech Lab Administrator. “Other faculty members have also pushed in this direction, but the Chemistry Department is providing a catalyst for a larger reaction.”

Davis was hired at Whitman in 2022 to maintain the computational lab and has played

a central role in helping others better understand the tools and capabilities.

The Wilke family funding also allowed Whitman to build a high-performance computing (HPC) cluster — informally referred to as a supercomputer — a new and powerful campus resource.

Broadly defined, an HPC cluster is a connected series of computers that are configured to work together to tackle difficult computational tasks — think mapping the human genome or rendering a Pixar animated movie.

An outside consultant was hired to build the new HPC cluster based on Biswas’ vision and Davis’ specifications. Technology Services staff are also developing expertise on growing, improving and maintaining the cluster, which can be accessed from the computational lab, but is also available more broadly through Whitman’s network.

This represents a leap forward for Whitman and the realization of many years of effort.

“When Dalia was hired, Whitman College had nothing like high-performance computing,” says David Sprunger ’96, Director of Instructional and Learning Technologies at Whitman.

Tien, who teaches an Introduction to Computational Biology class in the lab and makes use of the HPC for sequencing microbes’ DNA and RNA, recently submitted a grant for new hardware to expand the cluster further to boost its processing power and storage.

While the future is impossible to predict, the continued and increased use of computational tools in all fields of science and industry is a certainty. At Whitman, innovative faculty members like Biswas are charting a course to equip students with the tools, skills and insights they need to flourish in a dynamic and ever-changing scientific and complex landscape. **W**



Good Chemistry: Networking Leads to a Network Invite

Dalia Biswas learned about the Data Chemist Network in the spring of 2023, when Whitman’s Chemistry Department hosted Nicholas Ball, an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Pomona College and network member, to speak at Whitman.

Biswas shared her hopes for revising the curriculum to include more computational tools, and Ball recommended she apply to the DCN, which she did in April 2023. The invitation to join the DCN came quickly—in May 2023.

In her application, Biswas stated three goals:

1

Gain more advanced knowledge in computer-assisted synthesis.

2

Facilitate innovative computational projects suitable for undergraduate students at Whitman.

3

Connect and collaborate with scientists in the field.

An aerial photograph of the Whitman College campus, showing a dense forest of trees in shades of green and yellow. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text 'WE'RE GOING' is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered horizontally.

WE'RE GOING

Upward

TOGETHER

IN OCTOBER 2023, WHITMAN COLLEGE HAD AN EPIC CELEBRATION. AFTER MONTHS OF PLANNING, THE COLLEGE ANNOUNCED THE LARGEST COMPREHENSIVE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN IN ITS 164-YEAR HISTORY.

BY MARGIE MCDEVITT REECE '93



The Upward Together
campaign goal for
Whitman College is

\$200 million

Launching & Celebrating On Ankeny

On the evening of Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, alumni and friends of Whitman from across the country—joined students, faculty and staff on Ankeny Field. Specialty party tents made a festive backdrop to announce and launch the **Upward Together** campaign, which includes a goal of becoming one of a small group of colleges that meet the full financial need of all students.

“The world is changing extraordinarily fast—societally, technologically, economically,” said Whitman President Sarah Bolton. “We have been thinking together about the ways we need to evolve and invest in programs so that students now and in generations to come can expand their horizons and prepare for their futures at Whitman.”

“Investments in the academic program from the campaign will assist us to sustain and strengthen vital existing programs and to **BUILD POWERFUL NEW PROGRAMS** so that students will carry the transformative intellectual impact of a Whitman education into the world.”

—Professor Sharon Alker, the Mary A. Denny Professor of English and General Studies



6 PRIORITIES FOR UPWARD TOGETHER

President Bolton spoke to the crowd about the vision for Whitman's future—and introduced the campaign theme. Campaign Chair Nancy Serrurier (Parent '11) and Vice Chair Aaron Perrine '99 then took the stage to outline the priorities:

Access and Affordability:

A bold pledge to meet the full financial need of all Whitman students—opening our doors wider to the most talented, motivated and deserving.

Academic Excellence and Distinction:

A commitment to advancing academic programs, student-faculty research and experiential learning that will inspire students to choose Whitman and prepare them for great futures.

Vibrant Campus Community:

A historic investment in residential life, community-building, wellness and athletics to ensure that students connect and flourish.

A key component of the Vibrant Campus Community priority includes plans for a three-hall junior-senior residential village in the southwest corner of campus, near downtown Walla Walla (see page 6).

Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

A dedicated focus on programs that foster diversity, inclusion and belonging so that all members of our community thrive.

Strong Graduate Launches for All Students:

A heightened effort to help students explore careers, find their passions and create opportunities for postgraduate success and impact.

The Whitman Fund: Collective annual giving to help meet our students' immediate needs.



"Whitman has always been known as a place of community, care and collective action. Successfully completing this ambitious campaign will meaningfully transform how Whitman students live and learn and prepare for **LIVES OF SUCCESS AND PURPOSE.**"

—Nancy Serrurier,
Campaign Chair (Parent '11)



"That sense of accomplishment, that feeling of having delivered on **BIG GOALS FOR OUR FUTURE STUDENTS**—those are the moments and those are the impacts we will create and deliver with this campaign."

—Aaron Perrine '99,
Campaign Vice Chair

* THE WORLD NEEDS WHITTIES: AN ALUMNI PANEL LIKE NO OTHER

Cecilia Kang '94
New York Times reporter and bestselling author

Tom Lapham '99
CEO of CHEQ, founder of renewable energy ventures

Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger '97
Astronaut, educator and geologist

Drew Shoals '05
Corporate Counsel at Amazon Music, former drummer of Train

Jonathan Sposato '89
Serial tech entrepreneur, founder of JoySauce, Chairman of GeekWire and owner of Seattle Magazine



Whittie Wisdom on Display

As part of the **Upward Together** launch weekend, President Bolton moderated a panel of inspiring alumni who spoke about "Finding Success and Purpose in a Changing World" in front of a large crowd, including many students, at Chism Recital Hall in Whitman's Hall of Music.



* **Words to learn and live by.** Watch the panel discussion at whitman.edu/magazine.

Experience Speaks

How did your Whitman experience help prepare you for what you do now?

"Everything I do in my daily job is what I did at Whitman. ... Because what I do in my daily job is **I ASK QUESTIONS, I THINK CRITICALLY, I CONNECT THE DOTS AND THEN I WRITE.** This is what you all do every single day here at Whitman, no matter what your major is."

—Cecilia Kang '94



What skills and attributes do today's college students need to develop now?

"I have a saying which is, 'You get the love that you think you deserve.' And I think Whitties deserve a heck of a lot of love. So walk with more swagger. It's OK. You can afford it because **YOU COME FROM AN AMAZING INSTITUTION, ONE OF THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY.** Just know that. Don't have any doubt about that."

—Jonathan Sposato '89

"The things I always recommend are the four C's. Being curious. Being challenged, which I don't think is a problem for any Whitman student ... and **BEING COURAGEOUS,** and I think that's also something that is really developed here at Whitman, where you can try things that you didn't ever imagine yourself doing ... and then the championing ... I just think that Whitman students are great at going back and **CHAMPIONING FOR OTHERS.**"

—Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger '97





KIM FETROW '06 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

Collective Energy Rising

Less than 24 hours after its official announcement, the **Upward Together** campaign kept the party going with an even larger gathering. Many students joined alumni, faculty and staff on Ankeny Field to celebrate the launch and learn more about its goals.

President Bolton and the Campaign Chairs, Serrurier and Perrine, spoke about the overall vision for the campaign—and specifically about how it will benefit both current and future students.

At Friday afternoon's festivities, the large crowd was also treated to tasty bites from a variety of local food trucks and vendors as well as live music. The celebration wrapped with a mini-concert by the newly dubbed **Upward Together Band**—made up of students, faculty and alumni, including Trustee Drew Shoals '05, Corporate Counsel at Amazon Music and former drummer of the American rock band Train.





The Upward Together Band brought it! They ended the celebration with an inspiring rendition of the classic "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." The **Upward Together Band** for the launch celebration: Lau Paula Officer '23, vocals; Marina Balasanyan '24, vocals; Gary Gemberling, Lecturer of Music, trumpet; Dave Glenn, Professor Emeritus of Music, trombone; Doug Scarborough, Associate Professor of Music, keyboard; Jake Barokas '18, guitar; Michael Simon, Senior Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music, bass; Drew Shoals '05, Whitman Trustee, drums.

A FIELD FOR ALL SEASONS: DEDICATING HAYNER FIELD

As part of the **Upward Together** launch weekend, an enthusiastic crowd gathered to help dedicate a new turf field in honor of the longtime Whitman trustee and Walla Walla community leader James Hayner. After the dedication, the Whitman Blues soccer teams took to the new field to take on the University of Puget Sound. Thanks to \$3.6 million in generous gifts from alumni and friends, the new FieldTurf surface is now in place for year-round training and competition.



Take Me Out to the Ballpark

On the evening of Nov. 8, 2023, there was no opposing team at the home of the Seattle Mariners. Instead, it was a crowd united to cheer on Whitman College.

Nearly 200 Seattle-area alumni and families packed into T-Mobile Park's First Base Terrace Club for a reception to celebrate the launch of **Upward Together**—and learn more about the campaign's goals and priorities.

The event culminated with a lively conversation President Sarah Bolton moderated with Mariners Chairman John Stanton '77 and Whitman Trustee Jonathan Sposato '89.

Along with Seattle, other 2023 **Upward Together** launch receptions took place in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and Portland, Oregon.



Gathering for a great cause and good cheer. Below: Mariners Chairman John Stanton '77 greets a large fan base of Whitties to T-Mobile Park. At right: Many Seattle alums attended the event, including from left, Jud Heugel '02, Beth Salaguinto '88, Tammy Roe '88 and David Salaguinto '87.





WHITMAN
— BLUES —

Baseball Clubhouse Taking Shape at Borleske Stadium

When their 2024 seasons open, the Whitman Blues and Walla Walla Sweets will have a new home. Construction of a multipurpose baseball clubhouse is progressing ahead of an April 6, 2024, dedication in conjunction with Whitman's home baseball game versus the University of Puget Sound.

The 3,300-square-foot clubhouse will feature a team locker room, a training room, flexible team space, a recruiting room, and changing rooms for coaches and umpires.

The new facility is made possible by the generous gifts of alumni and families, including John Stanton '77 and Terry Gillespie (Parents '18), Grover and Sue Shade, and other parents of current and former Blues: Dan and Lisa Adams (Parents '25) and Keenan and Deborah Conder (Parents '23).

See progress on the clubhouse at whitman.edu/magazine.



Climb With the Blues.
Follow Whitman
varsity sports teams at
athletics.whitman.edu.
Find schedules, rosters
and more!

AN OPEN DOOR TO A LIFE OF SERVICE



**Meet three
Whitman alums
who received
the prestigious
Truman
Scholarship –
and see how it’s
shaped their
unique careers**

BY TARA ROBERTS

EVERY SUMMER, recent college graduates from across the country arrive in Washington, D.C., ready to change the world.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation selects exceptional college students who are committed to a career in public service to become Truman Scholars. In addition to the Summer Institute, where they participate in internships and gain behind-the-scenes experience with policymaking and nonprofit advocacy, Truman Scholars are awarded up to \$30,000 to support their graduate studies in a public service field.

In the last 40-plus years, only a dozen Whitman College graduates have earned the Truman. In 2008 and 2009, three Truman scholars crossed the commencement stage on their way to lives of service and purpose.

Past Truman Scholars from Whitman have followed varying paths since graduation. Let’s see where life has taken those three Truman Scholars from the early 2000s. What they share: A dedication to making a difference—rooted in the skills and values they learned through the Truman program and at Whitman.

CAITLIN SCHOENFELDER '09

Pursuing purpose in education policy



When Caitlin Schoenfelder was completing her Truman

Scholars application, she encountered a question about her plans: What did she hope to do, and what position did she hope to have five to seven years later?

At the time, her answer felt made-up. Now, her career supporting children and their families through programs and policy is remarkably like what she wrote.

“I think the Truman application process helps push you to create a vision for yourself early on,” Schoenfelder says. “Mission-driven work is something that I have always been drawn to, and public-sector work often has that ingrained, so it made sense to me to pursue the Truman even though my career path didn’t feel clear.”

Where It All Started

Schoenfelder came to Whitman from La Grande, Oregon, and majored in Politics with a minor in Latin American Studies. In her second year, she participated in a community-based research seminar and project through the Politics Department, studying the achievement gap for Latino students in Washington.

This sparked her interest in education and set off a domino effect of opportunities.

“The experience powerfully bridged theory and practice. I was able to look at a local social issue and bring intellectual

curiosity and research to identify solutions,” she says. “That was thrilling as a sophomore.”

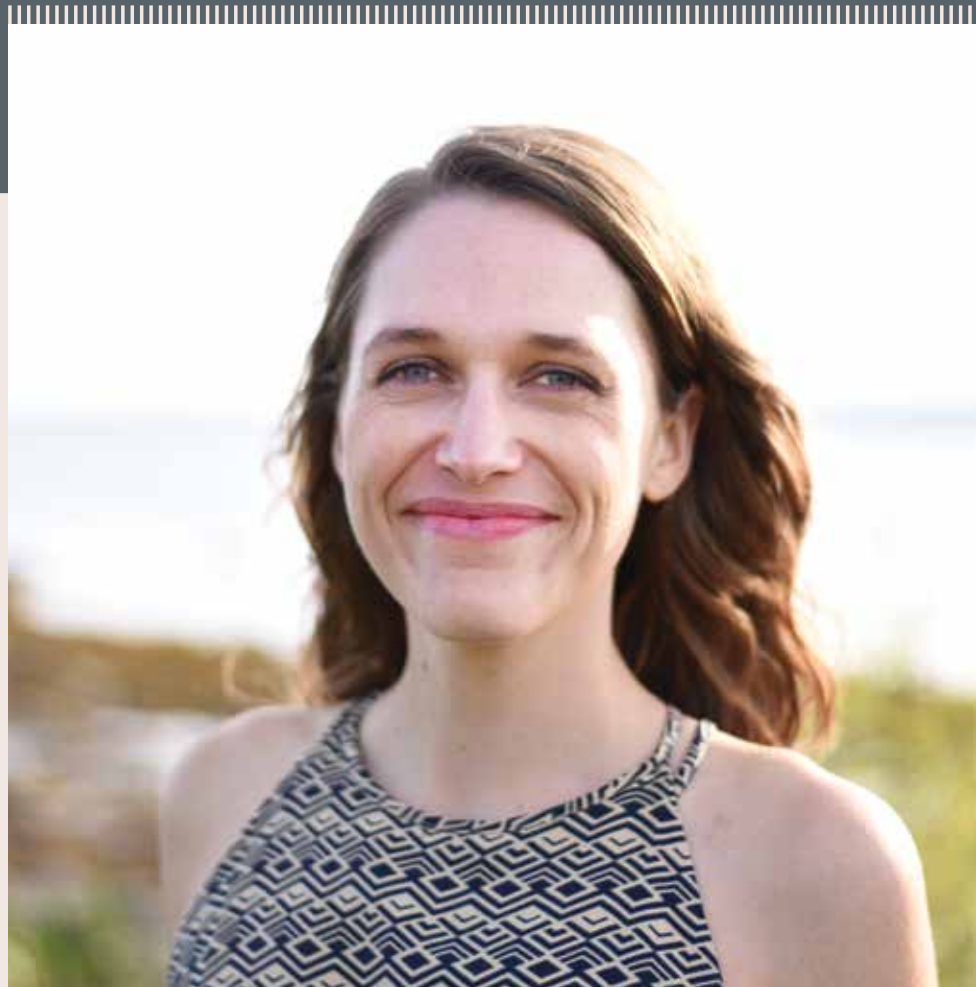
Schoenfelder presented her research in Olympia, worked for the Washington State Education Ombudsman, participated in and led trips for Whitman’s U.S.-Mexico Border Program, and organized experiential learning trips for fellow students to study immigration issues in the Pacific Northwest.

At the Truman Summer Institute after graduation in 2009, she continued to explore how education could mitigate social inequality, interning in community engagement for Michelle Rhee, then Chancellor of D.C. Public Schools.

Schoenfelder loved D.C. and stayed for a full year in the capital through the Truman-Albright Fellows Program. The next year, she melded her education policy and Latin American Studies experience in a fellowship through Princeton in Latin America to work on a national education initiative in Mexico.

Continuing to build on her passion for education, she earned her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and spent five years as a classroom teacher before shifting to policy work. She then used her Truman money to earn her Master of Public Affairs from Princeton University and began a career focused on early childhood care and education.

She worked as a consultant to help states develop long-term investment strategies in comprehensive early childhood education, then moved to New



York City, where she became the Child Care Policy Lead for the New York City Department of Education.

Making a Difference Closer to Home

In 2022, Schoenfelder returned to Washington state, where she works for the federal Administration for Children and Families. Through the Office of Child Care, an \$11.6 billion national program, she provides support for Oregon and Washington states and Washington tribes receiving grants to help low-income families access affordable child care and improve the quality of early childhood care and education.

Through this range of experiences, Schoenfelder has seen the power of creating policy that promotes equity and high-quality services for children and their communities — the dream she first imagined as a Whitman student applying to be a Truman Scholar.

“There is opportunity to make social impact in the private sector, but when you work in public service, you can often be more hands-on with both developing policies and systems as well as implementation,” she says. “I have always enjoyed being closer to the impact as opposed to influencing from the outside.”

ERICA GOAD '09

From inside the Washington, D.C., Beltway to the Alaska wilds

Love of the outdoors drew Erica Goad to Whitman from her home in Golden, Colorado.

She majored in Biology and Environmental Studies, worked in the Outdoor Program, and lived for a year in Tamarac House, an outdoors-themed residence. As a junior, she studied ecology and did fieldwork in Namibia through an ecology-focused program called Round River Conservation Studies, and as a senior, she explored the diversity of Western American lands and people through Semester in the West.

Ready To Protect the Planet

Goad sought out everything outdoors—and she also saw herself seeking work that mattered for the planet.

“I have this space that I love and appreciate, and then I see problems,” she says. “I wanted to ask what we can do to think about solutions to those problems.”

Her parents had careers in public service, so she was intrigued by the Truman Scholarship. She knew the program’s internship component would help her explore whether she wanted to pursue a career in environmental law and policy or focus on science.

At the Summer Institute in 2009, Goad was thrilled to meet fellow scholars and gain an inside look into the national political process. But she also learned about the intensity of working in policymaking.

As an intern at the Center for American Progress, she advocated for Congress to pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

“There’s all this energy, and all the youth climate activists were excited, and it looks like we’re finally going to do something about climate change,” she says. “It passed the House, and everyone cheered—and then it went to the Senate and just died.”

Into the Wild for Work That Matters

Goad stayed in Washington, D.C., a bit longer, completing a second internship at the Union of Concerned Scientists, but determined that national-level policymaking wasn’t for her. She decided to follow her science interests and headed back out West, working as a wildlife technician in Idaho and Arizona.

She used her Truman money to earn her master’s in Ecology at Colorado State University. After graduating, she pursued public service work that was wildly different than her experience in D.C. After some time with land

conservation nonprofits, she moved to Alaska and became a dog musher and guide for the National Park Service, then spent several years conducting forest research on climate change and wildfire for the Forest Service.

Exploring New Environmental Frontiers

Goad recently moved back to the lower 48 and pivoted to a new career in the business world, as Manager of Development for a solar company, Balanced Rock Power. The lessons she learned as a Truman Scholar continue to guide her.

“I’m not technically in public service anymore, but my Truman experience did help bring me to a place of wanting to do work that matters, work that informs policy, changes management decisions, or brings the community up and forward into environmental solutions,” she says.

“The Truman Scholarship was hugely impactful for me, and I’m so grateful that I got the support from Whitman staff and my professors,” she says, “not only because the Truman Scholarship helped pay for grad school but, most importantly, for the opportunities it afforded me and the people I was able to meet. It really expanded my horizons.”





Working adventures. Top right: Goad measuring trees as part of a forest inventory and analysis in Coastal Alaska with the U.S. Forest Service in 2019. Bottom right: On the back of a sled on the way to Wonder Lake in Denali National Park.

ADVICE FOR ASPIRING SCHOLARS

Whitman’s Fellowships and Grants team connects Whitties to a multitude of grants, fellowships and scholarships and supports them in the application process.

For many years, Bob Withycombe—Whitman College’s faculty director for the Truman Scholarship and other postgraduate awards—helped prepare students to pursue prestigious fellowships like the Truman.

“We expect all Whitties to be bright, hardworking and driven, but in addition, to be a successful candidate for scholarships like the Truman, students must be leaders in the classroom as well as being significantly engaged in the world beyond Whitman,” Withycombe says.

“The Truman Scholarships are really about what you do beyond the classroom. What can you do academically, plus what else can you do? It’s the plus that Whitman students are particularly good at.”

These past Truman Scholars, who benefited from Withycombe’s and Whitman’s support, offer words of advice for others pursuing transformative academic opportunities after graduation:

“Find a core sense of belief in yourself and your ability to think of meaningful, valuable and relevant ideas. Don’t just write a few drafts of your application—be prepared to do dozens. Find editors and advisors to help you through the process.”

—Joseph Bornstein ’08

“If you’re interested in applying, go for it. Applying itself is a helpful exercise in articulating your ideas and interests and understanding your goals, even if they change. The process can teach you interview skills, introduce you to mentors and open doors to other opportunities.”

—Caitlin Schoenfelder ’09

“Let your passions and interests guide you when answering application questions or during interviews. Put those liberal arts skills to work by showing critical thinking, knowledge of current events and the ability to communicate with a variety of audiences. You might not have a clear career path, and that’s OK. Use these scholarship opportunities to explore the things that fire you up.”

—Erica Goad ’09

JOSEPH BORNSTEIN '08

Putting big ideas into action

Joseph Bornstein's inspiration for pursuing a life of service got its first seeds planted during a gap year in Nicaragua between high school in Ashland, Oregon, and attending Whitman.

A man he befriended during that time, Alix, died a few months after Bornstein returned to the States and started college.

In his grief, he decided to rally friends to help fulfill one of Alix's dreams. Alix and his wife had inherited land but couldn't afford to build on it. Bornstein hoped building a home would give Alix's wife and 3-year-old son more financial security.

When Bornstein and the team he gathered—students from Whitman and his hometown—flew to Nicaragua to help with the build, they encountered many people in need and witnessed the vulnerability and volatility of the country's economy.

It was a transformative experience for Bornstein. He recognized the limits of the team's efforts in the face of systemic problems but also realized that he could contribute in meaningful ways.

Building Confidence in the Power of Change

Back in Walla Walla, he founded Whitman Direct Action, a student organization dedicated to promoting economically and environmentally sustainable development.

"I wanted to give students the opportunity to make a real difference and, in so doing, build an enduring sense of resolve and self-belief," he says.

As Bornstein shared this message with others, his professors reinforced it for him.

"Because the school was so focused on being a teaching institution, it helped me have the chutzpah to believe ... I have ideas that are meaningful, that contribute intellectually and creatively to the wider world," he says.

When he heard about the Truman Scholarship, it sounded like an amazing opportunity to build on his experiences and meet other community- and action-oriented people.

At the Summer Institute in 2008, Bornstein interned for the World Resources Institute, building a starter kit to support new nongovernmental organizations in emerging economies. That fall, he co-founded Semilla Nueva—a nonprofit aiding rural Guatemalan farmers—with fellow Whittie Curt Bowen '08.

Becoming a Founder for Causes

Bornstein eventually moved to Israel to start his own consulting agency for nonprofits and social ventures.

"During that consulting, I realized that it wasn't just me that struggled with online fundraising as a nonprofit founder, that at a chronic level,



nonprofits are lacking the tools and the resources and the know-how to effectively fundraise," he says. "There's a massive amount of money that is being left on the table—in my view, billions of dollars in charitable giving."

In 2017, Bornstein became the founder and CEO of CauseMatch, which helps nonprofits in the United States and around the world plan and execute effective crowdfunding campaigns.

In the company's early days, he bounced ideas off some of the friends he met as a Truman scholar, some of whom had also pursued nonprofit careers.

"That gave me a lot of confidence that I had validated

what I was seeing and that I had good insights that could make a serious impact on challenges nonprofits are facing," he says.

Bornstein also received a Watson Institute Fellowship while at Whitman, which helped him gain entrepreneurial skills and further confidence to pursue his passion at CauseMatch.

"I think at the end of the day, all these programs, they're looking for somebody who believes that they have ideas worth thinking and ideas worth sharing," he says. "I think that my time at Whitman really helped me believe in myself in that way, which set me up for that type of success."



A powerful and profound gap year. Joseph Bornstein with Alix Fermin, left, on his boat in Nicaragua.


SERVICE & EDUCATION MATTER

With the ever-increasing complexity of local, national and global problems, the world needs young people who are interested in public service more than ever.

“If you feel strongly about an issue, then public service is a way for you to get in there and ... help solve those issues,” Goad says.

Whitman continues to be a great place to prepare public leaders, Bornstein says. “The teachers all were focused on helping you hone your thinking skills and believe in your ability, your value to contribute as a thinker, as a creative.”

Through a liberal arts education, Whitman students can grow in ways that will prepare them to change the world, Schoenfelder says.

“One thing that Whitman does really well is provide support for students to do great things without needing to compete with each other. Making an impact requires collaboration, negotiation and practical problem-solving much more than individual achievement.” 

WHITMAN TRUMAN SCHOLARS THROUGH THE YEARS

Todd Moffett '81

David Nord '83

Paul Wuh '88

Michael Mann '91

Annee Worsham Hartzell '92

Tamatha Richardson Schreinert '92

Dan Le Nguyen-Tan '96

Jordan Kirk Royal '97

Bradley Bowen '05

Joseph Bornstein '08

Erica Goad '09

Caitlin Schoenfelder '09

The Fellowships and Grants team at Whitman provides support to students and alumni in their search for opportunities. In the last 15 years, 500+ Whitties have earned prestigious fellowships and grants, including 18 Watson Fellowships, 55 Fulbright awards, 43 Gilman International Scholarships and 33 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships.

Help Us Honor Excellence!

Nominate a Whittie for an Alumni Association Recognition Award!

There are multiple categories for recognition:

- **Pete Reid Award** for young alumni of the last 10 years.
- **Gordon Scribner Award** for distinguished service to the college.
- **Sally Rodgers Award** for lifetime achievement of alumni graduating 50 or more years ago.
- **Trailblazer Award** for alumni whose work exemplifies inclusion, promotes equity and values, and reflects the diversity of our world.
- **Alumna or Alumnus of Merit Award**, the highest honor the Alumni Association gives.

Tell us about an outstanding Whittie and learn more at whitman.edu/alumni-awards.

Nominations
are due by
March 15, 2024

Serve Your Alma Mater on the Alumni Board of Directors

The Alumni Association Board of Directors seeks new board members who will bring diverse perspectives and serve as advisors to the Office of Alumni Relations.

Apply soon!

Contact Jennifer Northam '91, Director of Alumni Relations, at northajl@whitman.edu or call 509-526-4794 by March 15, 2024.

Candidates of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply for the board, particularly alumni who identify as people of color, those who live in the San Francisco Bay area, and/or representatives from Whitman classes from the '70s and '80s.

More information can be found at whitman.edu/alumni-board.

Class Notes



PHOTO BY THEO DELMONACO '24

'Nancy Has Given Us All So Much'

Celebrating the long career of a Whitman College icon

For most Whitties, residence life is about a few memorable years on campus. For recently retired Nancy Tavelli, it was a life's work.

Tavelli retired in August 2023 after 46 years at Whitman. First hired in 1977 as Head Resident, Tavelli ended her career as Associate Dean of Students: Campus Life.

"I am so grateful to Nancy, as a friend, as a mentor, as a supervisor, says Andrew Johnson '09, Interim Director of Residence Life and Housing. "Most of what I know today as an educator and leader I learned from her."

TOASTING TAVELLI

In September 2023, over 100 folks attended a special event to celebrate Tavelli's long years of service to the college. Former Resident Assistants (RAs) and Resident Directors (RDs) came from all over the country—pictured above with Tavelli in the backyard of Penrose House.

Speakers at the event included Tavelli's spouse Professor Emeritus Keith Farrington, along with alums who had worked closely with Tavelli as RAs and RDs: Whitman Trustee Leigh Ann Lucero '91, Associate General Counsel

at Microsoft Corporation, and Jed Schwendiman '92, Vice President of Development at the University of Redlands.

Another accomplished speaker, Sean Gehrke, the Director of the Office of Educational Assessment at the University of Washington, started his higher education career working as a Resident Director for Tavelli in 2002.

Gehrke spoke about the countless people—from residents to custodians and security officers to faculty and staff—who have benefited from Tavelli's presence on campus. According to Gehrke, those folks learned from "Nancy's compassion, her calm under pressure... her seemingly never-ending grace, and her unwavering commitment to advocate for her residents, her employees, her colleagues and the overall student experience at Whitman. All these individuals have been touched and influenced by Nancy, both professionally and personally, whether they know it or not."

SUPPORT THE TAVELLI SCHOLARSHIP

Along with Lucero and Schwendiman, Emma O'Rourke-Powell '12 is leading a call for donations to a new scholarship fund in Tavelli's name. Visit give.whitman.edu/tavelli to make your gift.

Four Decades
Leading in Res Life

12+

Assistant/Associate Directors

335+

Resident Directors

1,600+

Resident Assistants

34,000+

Residents

Class Notes

1950s

Junius Rochester '57 continues to write for Post Alley. Rochester's blog explores the history and historical figures of Washington state. Recent writings include retrospectives on wine country, the Columbia Gorge, and Walla Walla banking origins, including the life and times of Levi Ankeny (1844–1921). Read more at postalley.org/author/rochester.

1960s

Vic Walker '61 was inducted into the Washington Officials Association Hall of Fame in August 2023 in Yakima, Washington. Walker has officiated football and

basketball for 57 years, as well as baseball and softball for 52 years.

1970s

Erik Reel's '75 solo exhibition of paintings at The Place in Portland, Oregon, was his first exhibition in the Pacific Northwest in 36 years and his inaugural exhibition in Portland. The exhibition ran August–September 2023. You can view his work at erikreel.com.

State School Directors' Association, and was counsel for the Washington House of Representatives' Higher Education Committee.



Alan Wing '79 was honored with the 2023 Ruhkala Community Service Award by the City of Rocklin, California. The annual Ruhkala Community Service Awards recognize exemplary community service efforts in the City of Rocklin. Wing collected over



Eric Johnson '72, Bob Crabb '72 and former Director of Alumni Relations **Nancy Mitchell** traveled to Dallas together for the memorial service of **Arthur "Art" Mitchell '72** in May 2023.

four-thousand volunteer hours and was awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

our students and of The Writing Center before his own.... He deserves the time to tell his story, and the world deserves the chance to read it."

1980s

Kathryn "Kathy" Anderson Pompeo '83 writes, "After 30 years with the King County Sheriff's Office Communications Center, I formally retired in March 2022 as the Operations Manager. I joined Blissful Knead — a luxury day spa in Burien, Washington — in April 2022; promoted to Spa Coordinator Manager in January 2023. It's less stressful and a lot of fun."

Dr. Burton Pu '84 retired in spring 2023 after 35 years at Washington University in St. Louis. Burton supported undergraduate and graduate students at the university's Writing Center for almost 24 years. According to the Director of The Writing Center, "Burton has always put the needs of

Barry Stoddard '85 was elected to the Washington State Academy of Sciences for his contributions to structure-based computational protein engineering. Members are selected for their scientific achievement and willingness to work on behalf of the academy for the benefit of Washington state.



Mary Adam Thomas '85 has released her latest book, "Challenge and Change: Miller



Julie Gaisford '65 and **Bill Turley '65** met in Provence, France, in June 2023 and toured the villages of The Luberon, Pont du Gard and the lavender fields (Ménerbes is in the background). Both were Political Science majors. Bill was en route to Seattle after visiting relatives in Slovenia.

Hull's Living Building Practice" (Ecotone Publishing). The publication explores the arc of the architecture firm's sustainability story — from its 1970s origins as a pioneer in environmentalism to its 21st-century role as a prominent designer of Living Buildings. Thomas has written multiple books about the Living Building Challenge.

Linda Kruschke '86, Director of Legal Publications for the Oregon State Bar, made the 2023 Fastcase 50 list, which honors 50 of the law's "smartest, most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries and leaders."

1990s



Heidi Swatsenborg Hart '91 was recognized as a 2023 CEO of Influence by the Idaho Business Review in May 2023. The program recognizes Idaho CEOs for leadership, innovation and service to their communities. Hart has worked for Terry Reilly Health Services for nearly 30 years, serving as the CEO for the last 11 years.

Jodi Allison-Bunnell '92 was inducted as Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in July 2023. Allison-Bunnell is one of four new Fellows named in 2023. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed by SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession.

Christian DeBenedetti's '96 Wolves & People Farmhouse Brewery received a Good Food Award from the Good Food Foundation in April 2023. The award is given to brewers who produce an exceptional beer, while demonstrating a deep commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. The brewery also earned a Gold Medal in the 2023 Oregon Beer Awards for its Traveling Companions Barrel-Aged Saison.

2000s

Rebekah Johnson Mileo '00 was honored with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year Award for Washoe County School District in the spring of 2023. The 2023 academic year was Mileo's 21st year of teaching English and Psychology at Reno High School in Reno, Nevada.

Ashley Trout '03, winemaker for Vital Wines and Brook & Bull Cellars in Walla Walla, is one of the four Great Northwest Wine Emerging Leader award recipients for the 2023 Auction of Washington Wines. Wine Enthusiast magazine named Trout among its "Top 40 Under 40" in 2018. Wine Industry Advisor selected her as one of "Wine's Most Inspiring People of 2020."

Quinn Gillespie '05 was elected Vice President of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST) during its spring 2023 meeting. The SCST is an organization of professional seed technologists dedicated to research, proficiency and improvement in seed testing from laboratories across the U.S. and Canada.

Mary Simpson Stanton-Nurse '08 was ordained as a Deacon in the United

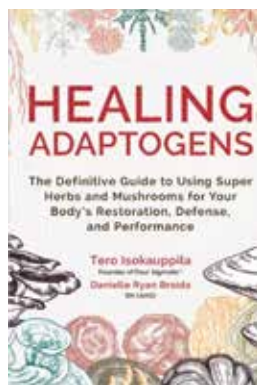
Methodist Church in June 2023. Stanton-Nurse will continue her work as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Seattle.

Aisha Fukushima '09 was selected to join the 2023 class of Young Leaders by The French-American Foundation. The organization brings together French and American professionals to discuss issues of common concern. Each cohort of Young Leaders attends two, five-day conferences over the course of two years to talk with experts and each other to develop a mutual understanding of the issues that affect both countries.

Rachel Patterson '09 started a new job as Director of Disability Policy at the White House Domestic Policy Council in April 2023.

Blake Saunders '09 is in his 10th year of teaching in Seattle Public Schools. Saunders is currently at Garfield High School teaching Choir, Drumline and Musical Theater. He also plays bass drum for Blue Thunder, the Seattle Seahawks' drumline.

2010s



Danielle Broida '13 co-authored "Healing Adaptogens: The Definitive

Guide to Using Super Herbs and Mushrooms for Your Body's Restoration, Defense and Performance" with Tero Isokauppila (Hay House Inc.). The book was released in September 2022.

Devyani Gupta '15, winemaker for Valdemar Estates in Walla Walla, is one of the four Great Northwest Wine Emerging Leader award recipients for the 2023 Auction of Washington Wines. In November 2022, Gupta was spotlighted in Pacific NW Magazine's "Meet 3 Women Guiding the Future of

Washington's Wine Industry." She began her term on the board for the Washington State Wine Commission in summer 2023.

Nina Sharp '19 is moving to Stockholm this fall to pursue a Master of Science in Finance at Stockholm School of Economics (SSE). Sharp is looking forward to learning Swedish, exploring Europe and making new friends. She is very grateful for the scholarship support from the American Friends of SSE.



Tabor Martinsen '15 recently became a U.S. diplomat. Martinsen and his newlywed wife, **Isabel "Bella" Zarate '14**, are moving to Costa Rica for their first tour abroad. Another alum, **Alexandria "Allie" Smith '16**, was in Martinsen's diplomat orientation class. Pictured: Smith with Martinsen at the swearing-in ceremony for the 168th specialist and 214th generalist class of U.S. diplomats on May 19, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

Happily Ever After



Angela Beck '08 to Forrest Petersen on June 3, 2023, at Camp Pālehua, Kapolei, Hawaii. **Melissa Andreas '09**, **Chris Fryefield '08** and **Lauren Helton '08** were in attendance as bridesmaids.



Cristine Tennant '10 to Friedi Majer in Albstadt, Germany, on June 4, 2023. Seven Whitties, along with their partners and—in some cases—babies, traveled to rural Germany to celebrate Cristine and Friedi. From left: **Annie Roberts '10**, **Lisa Curtis '10**, **Steve Shoemaker '10**, **Cristine Tennant '10**, Friedi Majer, **Katie Rouse '10**, **Charlotte Huus-Henriksen '10** and **Kati Kallins '10**.



Katelyn Sorensen '12 to Alli MacKay on Sept. 19, 2020.



Connor Hood '16 to **Emily Reynolds '16** on Sept. 18, 2021.



Calvin Brigham '17 to **Delaney Hanon '17** on June 3, 2023, in Snohomish, Washington. Calvin and Delaney met in the basement of Lyman Hall on the first day of First Year Orientation. In the wedding party were (from left) **Lorenzo Silva '17**, Jordan Edelson, **Will Friedman '18**, and officiant **Colin McCarthy '17**, most of whom lived in Lyman Hall with Calvin and Delaney.

Blake Saunders '09 to Marisha Medrano on Nov. 11, 2022, at Pike Place Market in Seattle.



Natalie Tamburello '12 to Matthew McMillan '12 on Aug. 15, 2020, followed by a ceremony in celebration of their first anniversary. From left: Binta Loos-Diallo '12, Bryant Fong '12, Sam Schonfeld '12, Patricia Vanderbilt '12, Christa Heavey '12, Cara Lowry '12, Carver Marshall '13, Grace Evans '12, Natalie Tamburello '12, Matthew McMillan '12, Enrique Mora '11, Nicholas Biehl '15, Sean Day '10, Matthew Morganroth '12, Max Rausch '11, Sina Yeganeh '09, and Carly Johnson '13.

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/classnotes.



Little Whitties



Archer James Dawe Karlsgodt, born on Aug. 19, 2022, to **Sarah Dawe '06** and Ryan Karlsgodt. The family lives in San Diego, California.



Gwendolyn Ann Stanton-Nurse, born on Dec. 12, 2022, to **Mary Simpson Stanton-Nurse '08** and Ashley Stanton-Nurse. Gwendolyn joins older sibling, Madeline (4).



McKinney "Mack" Lee Vavra Campbell, born on March 24, 2022, to **Kalla Vavra '09** and Chris Campbell.



Elliot Parker Mosher-Judkins, born Dec. 9, 2022, to **Sarah Judkins '10** and Meghan Mosher.



Camden Kate MacKay, born on Dec. 13, 2022, to **Katelyn Sorensen MacKay '12** and Alli MacKay.



Esther Millie Woodbury, born on March 29, 2023, to **Beth Levin Woodbury '14** and **Carew Haug Woodbury '14**.



Lilah Hood, born on June 6, 2023, to **Emily Hood '16** and **Connor Hood '16**.

In Memoriam

1940s

Margaret "Margie" Keyes Bennett '47 on June 30, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. After graduation, Bennett met and married her husband, Robert Bennett, in 1950. The family settled in Eugene, Oregon, where Bennett raised her children and was an active community volunteer. She served on several art, education and mental health boards; was an active member of several women's political organizations; and volunteered as a Class Representative and Reunion Fund Chair for the Whitman Class of 1947. Bennett is predeceased by her husband; she is survived by her three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

William "Bill" Lake '47 on Aug. 24, 2023, in Walla Walla. In 1943, at the age of 18, Lake enlisted with the U.S. Navy and enrolled at Whitman as part of the Navy's V-12 officer training program a year later. While he was at Whitman, Lake met his wife, **Susan Teague '49**. The couple spent 60 years of their lives together and raised three children. Lake was deeply involved in

the Walla Walla and Whitman communities. He served on several community boards including the Fair Board, Lion's Club, Walla Walla Historical Society and Fort Walla Walla Museum. Lake was also a frequent attendee at Whitman events. He attended or chaired just about every class reunion from 1959 until his 65th Reunion in 2015. It was in 2015 that Lake took on another volunteer role as the Class of 1947 Representative. Lake was an active and consistent presence on campus and in the community. He is predeceased by his wife, Susan, and one son. He is survived by a son and his daughter, **Sheila Lake Hair '76**, and numerous grandchildren

Mary "Lee" Masterson '48 on March 9, 2023, in Seattle. After Whitman, Masterson worked for a time as an administrative assistant and corporate secretary. While she was working at Seattle-First National Bank, Masterson returned to school in 1976. She earned a degree in Finance and Banking from Pacific Coast Banking School and accepted a position as Vice President at Sea-First National. In 2019,

she established the Mary Lee Masterson Scholarship Endowment at Whitman, providing need-based scholarships for junior and senior students majoring in Computer Science. Donations in her honor can be made at give.whitman.edu. In the designation, select "Other" and type in "Mary Lee Masterson Scholarship Endowment."

Margaret Wilson White '48 on July 24, 2023, in Port Angeles, Washington. Shortly after graduation, White married her college sweetheart, **Frank Platt '48**. The couple lived in the Port Angeles area while White attended the University of Washington where she earned her teaching certificate in 1950; they later divorced. After her children were grown, White returned to teaching for the Port Angeles School District, where she taught middle school until her retirement in 1987. White is predeceased by her husbands, Quentin Kintner and Vincent White. She is survived by her four children, including **Katherine Platt Doherty '76**.

1950s

Carmen Greenstreet Hagman '50 on July 26, 2023, in Spokane, Washington. Shortly after graduation, Hagman married Robert Hagman, and the couple had two daughters. Hagman taught kindergarten for over 40 years, retiring in the early 1990s. After retirement, Hagman and her husband enjoyed cruises and spending time with their grandchildren until his passing. Hagman is survived by her two daughters, their spouses, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Clement "Tim" Penrose Jr. '50 on May 28, 2023, in Whittier, California. Penrose was the grandson of former Whitman President Stephen B.L. Penrose. Tim Penrose married his college sweetheart, **Pauline "Polly" Hansen '49**, in June following his graduation. Penrose worked in the insurance industry for his entire career, including 40 years as Senior Vice President and Corporate Actuary. He also served on the Alumni Association Board from 1969–1974. In his retirement, Penrose was an avid golfer and reader, loved traveling with Polly and attending his grandchildren's sporting events. Penrose is predeceased by his wife, Polly. He is followed in death by his sister **Mary Lou Penrose Cadwell '51**. He is survived by his four children, including **Gareth Penrose Montgomery '75**; cousin **Phyllis "Penny" Penrose Bignold '56**; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou Penrose Cadwell '51 on June 4, 2023, in Sunnyvale, California. Cadwell met her husband, **C. Victor Cadwell '50**, and they wed in 1953. While raising their three children, Cadwell helped establish the Sunnyvale Women's Golf Club in 1969. She remained active in women's golf her entire life, receiving the 2006 Helen Lengfeld Award in recognition of her volunteerism. Cadwell was a frequent fixture at Whitman gatherings, including multiple reunions and Bay Area events. She is predeceased by her husband, Vic; a son; her grandfather, former Whitman President Stephen B.L. Penrose; her father **Clement Penrose '22**; and her brother **Clement "Tim" Penrose Jr. '50**. Cadwell

is survived by two of her children, including **Christine Cadwell-Kasik '80**; her cousin **Phyllis "Penny" Penrose Bignold '56**; and several nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Kathryn "Kay" Shields Besteman '52 on May 29, 2023, in St. George, Utah. After graduation, Besteman began a career as a teacher and speech therapist. She spent over 30 years in the education field, including obtaining her master's in Education from the University of Washington in 1974. After retirement, Besteman threw herself into community service as a docent for the Bellevue Art Museum and President of the Bellevue Friends of the Library board. She also maintained her connection to Whitman, attending numerous reunion events throughout the years. Besteman is survived by her husband, John; three daughters; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Nancy Lovett Husted '52 on July 19, 2023, in Anacortes, Washington. After leaving Whitman, Husted earned her teaching and counseling certifications from the University of Washington. She worked as an educator and counselor for the Issaquah School District until her retirement in 1982. In 1983, Husted and her second husband rowed a 17-foot wooden boat from Lopez Island, Washington, to Alaska and published a book about their journey. Husted reconnected with **Jerry Husted '51** in 2005 and the couple enjoyed traveling and spending time outdoors together. She is survived by her partner, Jerry; three children; seven stepchildren; and a dozen grandchildren.

Earl "Chris" Jensen Jr. '52 on Aug. 6, 2023, in Matthews, North Carolina. After graduation, Jensen enrolled in the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. While working toward his Master of Business Administration, Jensen reconnected with **Barbara "Bee" Sterne '50**; the couple married in Walla Walla in 1956. Jensen worked for IBM for almost 30 years before opening his own fiscal marketing consulting firm. He retired in 2006 from Microsoft Corporation. When Bee passed in 2010, Jensen established the Barbara Sterne Jensen Scholarship Endowment to provide scholarship support to students with financial need. Jensen is predeceased by his wife, Bee, and his sister, **Marian Mason '49**. He is survived by his wife, Blynn Field, and his two children. Donations in the Jensens' honor can be made at give.whitman.edu. In the designation, select "Other" and type in "Barbara Sterne Jensen Scholarship."

Nancy Ellingham '53 on June 9, 2023, in Mercer Island, Washington. After leaving Whitman, Ellingham earned her master's in English Literature from Northwestern University. She married alumnus **William VanArsdel '53** and the couple had two children. She co-founded the Central Area Mothers for Peace and Improvement (CAMPI) preschool, a program so successful the Seattle school district asked her to duplicate it with another eight preschools. She later married her high school "steady," George Pennell, in 1990 and retired from a career in education in 1995. Ellingham was a lifelong supporter of Whitman College, attending reunions and summer programs on

campus, as well as events in the Seattle area. She is survived by her husband, George; her two children, including **John VanArsdel '84**; her brother **Hayden Ellingham '55**; her grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Mary Swendsen Shryock '53 on May 5, 2023, in Bainbridge, Washington. During her time at Whitman, Shryock served as President of the Alpha Phi sorority. After graduation, she worked as an Administrative Assistant at the Bank of California and Office Manager at Diehl Engineering. Shryock spent her retirement years gardening, reading, baking and watching Seattle sports. She is survived by her three daughters, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Donald Hanson '54 on July 11, 2023, in Walla Walla. Hanson was active in football and baseball during his time at Whitman. He continued to support Whitman athletics as a member of the W Club and attended sporting events when he was able. After graduation, Hanson and his wife remained in Walla Walla and raised two children. Hanson worked as a salesman for Lehigh Portland Cement Co. until retirement in 1989. He enjoyed boating, camping, fishing and hunting. Hanson is survived by his wife of 71 years, Edna; two children; two grandchildren; a sister; and numerous nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren.

Richard "Dick" Werttemberger '55 on Aug. 9, 2023, in Langley, Washington. Werttemberger married **Yvonne Priaulx '55** in the late summer following their graduation. The family eventually settled in the Puget Sound area, where Werttemberger began his career in banking. He moved through the ranks of the People's

National Bank, serving as Vice President at several branches. It was during this time, Werttemberger first volunteered as a Class Representative. He served the Class of 1955 in that capacity for 36 years. Werttemberger maintained his strong connection to Whitman and his classmates until his passing. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne; their four children; and numerous grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Burton '56 on Aug. 10, 2023, in Edmonds, Washington. After Whitman, Burton was drafted into the U.S. Army and deployed to South Korea, where he served until 1958. After returning to the States, Burton was hired by the Edmonds School District, where

he taught band, music theory and choral music. He retired from teaching in 1989 but kept busy in retirement as a driver and guide for Grayline Tours of Seattle. Burton managed to make almost every reunion since his graduation, including his 65th in the fall of 2022. Burton is survived by his former wife, **Joan Marston Burton '57**; his three children, including **Barbara Burton '82** and **Richard "Dick" Burton '85**; several grandchildren and stepgrandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and friends; and nearly 260 former students.

Loren Lounsbury '56 on July 18, 2023, in Anchorage, Alaska. Lounsbury met his future wife, **Susan Houck**

Lounsbury '55, during his time at Whitman. They were married in the summer following her graduation. After completing his degree in Civil Engineering at Oregon State University, Lounsbury returned to Alaska to work for Lounsbury & Associates before taking the role as Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development for the state. Lounsbury was an active member of his community and served on the Whitman Board of Overseers for 15 years. Lounsbury is predeceased by his wife, Susan, and a brother. He is survived by his brother, **Jon Lounsbury '60**; his four children; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Emerita Professor of Astronomy Katherine "Kate" Bracher, on Oct. 26, 2023, in Portland, Maine.

Bracher earned her bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke and moved on to Indiana University-Purdue for graduate study. Her dissertation research concentrated on Wolf-Rayet stars, a class of rare, high-mass stars with unusual spectra showing strong emission lines. After earning her doctorate, Bracher taught at the University of Southern California for two years. She came to teach at Whitman in 1967 and stayed for 31 years.

At Whitman, Bracher shifted her research focus to the history of astronomy and for many years wrote a bimonthly article in *Mercury*, a publication of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. She was interested in early music, which led to co-creating the Renaissance Faire as well as to founding and directing the Whitman Renaissance Consort. The Consort, a collection of Whitman and community members, played at Ren Faire and gave a concert each year.

Bracher served for many years as the Secretary-Treasurer of Whitman's Phi Beta Kappa chapter. She helped create the first-year general education program and taught in it for many years, first in Search for Order and later in the Greek track. She was also a safe haven for students who felt unsafe due to their gender identity or sexual orientation. A few even crashed on her couch for a while or rented one of her upstairs rooms.

Retired from Whitman in 1998, Bracher moved to Austin, Texas, where her partner, Cynthia Shelmerdine, taught at the University of Texas. They eventually settled in Brunswick, Maine. Bracher's health was decent for many years but eventually she developed interstitial lung disease, which causes scarring of the lungs and inhibits oxygen uptake. **Andrea Dobson '82** shared this thought: "Many of us who knew her as teacher, mentor, Consort director and friend will miss her deeply but are grateful that death, when it came, came gently."



Phillip Tjelle '56 on June 22, 2023, in Issaquah, Washington. While at Whitman, Tjelle met his wife, **Carole Jo Boston '56**, and the couple were married in August following graduation. Tjelle attended graduate school at Stanford, where he earned a master's in Organic Chemistry. The couple moved to Bellevue, Washington, where Tjelle spent his career at Boeing as a chemical engineer, retiring after 35 years. Upon retirement, he and his wife traveled to all seven continents. He was a frequent event attendee and made it to just about every reunion, including both the Beta Theta Pi centennial and his 60th Reunion in 2016. Tjelle is survived by his wife, Carole Jo; four children; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Patrick "Pat" Conner '57 on May 26, 2023, in Eugene, Oregon. Conner earned his medical degree from the University of Washington in 1961 and spent his career as a physician, retiring in 1996. After retirement, Conner was determined to live quietly and as simply as possible. He enjoyed spending his

time hiking and fishing, and took up woodworking and blacksmithing. Conner was involved with the Deschutes Land Trust and an advocate for the protection, rights and welfare of animals. Conner is survived by his two children.

Joan Fredericksen Douglas '57 on May 8, 2023, in Los Angeles. Fredericksen married **William O. Douglas Jr. '57** during their senior year at Whitman. They had three children before they separated and Fredericksen relocated to Southern California. She taught elementary school for over 30 years in Los Angeles. Fredericksen is survived by her three children, her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren.

Dale Penrose Harrell '59 on July 13, 2023, in Chesapeake, Virginia. After Whitman, Harrell earned her master's in Sociology from Duke University, where she met her husband, Herbert. Harrell worked as a librarian for more than 20 years at public schools in Chesapeake. She also volunteered at the regional hospital and served on the board of the

Chesapeake Public Library. Harrell's commitment to community wasn't limited to Chesapeake, she was also an active volunteer for Whitman College. Harrell served in her capacity as a Class Representative for over 60 years. She was a frequent attendee at Whitman events, including maintaining a consistent presence at Whitman virtual events. Harrell is predeceased by her father, **Stephen B.L. Penrose Jr. '28**; her husband; and a sister. She is survived by her younger brother, two children, three grandchildren, and her cousin **Phyllis "Penny" Penrose Bignold '56**.

Joan Caldwell McAllister '59 on Feb. 25, 2023, in Lake Oswego, Oregon. After Whitman, McAllister completed her master's in Psychology in 1983 from Lewis & Clark College and her doctorate in the same from Pacifica Graduate Institute in the 1990s. She specialized in Jungian psychotherapy and worked in private practice in Portland, Oregon. McAllister is predeceased by her partner of 40 years, Michael, and her

sister **Claire "Mimi" Caldwell McLaughlin '61**. She is survived by her stepdaughters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and a former husband.

1960s

Robert "Bob" Halvorsen '60 on May 27, 2023, in Eugene, Oregon. During his sophomore year at Whitman, Halvorsen suffered an injury that put him in a full body cast for over a year. He moved to Colorado to complete his degree in Business at the University of Denver. Halvorsen earned his pilot license in 1965 and remained an aviation enthusiast his entire life. He and his second wife visited all 48 mainland states in his Cessna 210 aircraft, and he was a member of a number of pilot associations in the U.S. and Mexico. Halvorsen is predeceased by his two sons. He is survived by his wife, Iris, and a sister.

Beverly Bixby Zeigler '61 on May 21, 2023, in Bellevue, Washington. Zeigler was one of a small group of Whitman students who studied Dramatic Arts with professor Rod Alexander.

After graduation, Zeigler lived in Bellevue and raised two children. She loved theater at the Seattle Rep, travels to Mexico and Canada, and trips in the motor home to see family and friends. Zeigler was an original member of the WSU Extension Master Gardener program in King County. She spent much of her time in her own yard and volunteering. Zeigler is survived by her husband, Dennis; her two children; and three brothers, including **Harlan Bixby '63**, **Alan Bixby '68**.

David "Dave" Reilly '62 on Feb. 13, 2023, in Wagener, South Carolina. After earning an additional degree in Flight Science from Columbia University and a master's in Experimental Aerodynamics from the Institute von Karman in Belgium, Reilly switched career goals entirely. He returned to school to earn a Master of Business Administration from the State University of New York, Buffalo, in 1970. He spent the remainder of his career working in marketing. Reilly is survived by his wife, Patricia, and two children.

Whitman Leaders

Sigvard "Ted" Hansen Jr. '57 on Nov. 11, 2023, in Seattle. Hansen graduated from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1961. He worked as a professor and Chief of Orthopedics at the UW School of Medicine, where the Chair for Traumatology Research was endowed in his honor. Hansen served on the Whitman Board of Overseers (1985–1995) and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science in 1997. He received the Alumni Association's 2010 Alumnus of Merit Award. In 2011, he and his wife endowed a scholarship in the family name. Hansen was

later inducted into the Whitman Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016. Hansen is predeceased by his mother, **Beverley Means Hansen '29**, and sister, **Marilee Hansen '61**. He is survived by his wife, Dalia, and five children and stepchildren, including **Eric Hansen '85**.

Edna Soper on Aug. 25, 2023, in Walla Walla. Soper was the wife of the late Professor of Philosophy William "Bill" Soper, who taught at Whitman from 1954–1990. Edna Soper worked as Secretary in the Athletics Department

for several years. She is predeceased by her husband, Bill, and her children, **Virginia "Ginny" Soper Tollenaere '78** and **Wayne Soper '84**. Soper is survived by her daughter **Lynne Soper Vieth '75**, son-in-law **Rick Vieth '75**, and grandson **Brian Vieth '11**. Donations in the Sopers' honor can be made at give.whitman.edu to the Soper Award for Research in Philosophy, an annual award that supports student-initiated work in philosophy. In the designation, select "Other" and type in "Soper Award."

Victoria "Vicky" Cordova '63 on Jan. 18, 2023, in Washington, D.C. Cordova's first post-Whitman destination was West Berlin as a Fulbright Scholar. She credited that experience with setting the tone of her life with the U.S. Foreign Service. Cordova spent her 30-year career in embassies in four Latin American countries, Cameroon, Ottawa and Brussels. In 1993, she retired to Washington, D.C., and was a frequent fixture at Whitman-hosted D.C. events. She loved the opera and musical performances and volunteered as an usher at the Kennedy Center.

Roy Erickson '63 on July 15, 2023, in East Lansing, Michigan. While at Whitman, Erickson met his future wife, **Alice Hogland '63**. They were married the following year and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, while Erickson completed his doctorate in Mathematics. He spent his career at Michigan State University as a Professor of Statistics and Probability, retiring in 2007 after almost 40 years of teaching. Erickson loved music, and he enjoyed playing saxophone in several local big band jazz ensembles. He played clarinet once in a while and taught himself flute and piano. Erickson is survived by his wife, Alice; three sons; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Glenn Bridger '65 on May 16, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. Bridger claimed he brought away from Whitman a life friend and partner when he met **Karen Hays '67**; they were married in June 1966. Bridger worked for the Federal Highway Administration for 38 years, "retiring" in 2003. He then went on to work for HDR Engineering for another decade. Bridger was an active alumnus, attending or volunteering for several reunions and Whitman events. He is survived by his wife, Karen; two daughters; two grandchildren; and a brother.

1970s

Diane Colwell Barrick '71 on April 19, 2023, in Spokane, Washington. Barrick transferred from Whitman to the University of Montana, Missoula, in her junior year to complete her degree in History. She moved with her former husband, **Reid Barrick '70**, to Bellevue, Washington, to raise her family; they later separated. When her children were older, Barrick began a career in the Bellevue School District, where she worked as a Registrar until 2016. After retiring, she moved to Spokane to be closer to her sisters. Barrick is survived by her two sisters and a brother, three children, and two grandchildren.

Mary Blanding '76 on June 27, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. After Whitman, Blanding began her career as a ceramic artist. Her first professional showing was at the Oregon Potters Association Showcase in 1983. Throughout her career, Blanding exhibited at several hundred shows across the Pacific Northwest. She also taught ceramics classes in the Portland area. She is survived by two brothers.

Dawn Hart '77 on June 1, 2023 in Edmonds, Washington. Hart earned a master's in Education Administration at Seattle Pacific University and became a school administrator. She retired in 2019 after a long career as a teacher, superintendent and principal in several school districts around the Puget Sound. A close second to her love of education was her love of the great outdoors. Hart enjoyed hiking, camping and gardening. She and her husband, David, hiked portions of the Pacific Crest Trail and around Mount Rainier, and there were annual camping trips with grandchildren. Hart is survived by her husband, two stepchildren, and four grandchildren, as well as her mother, stepfather, and four brothers.

Carolanne "Kelly" Phelan Bartzokis '79 on Nov. 1, 2023 in Los Angeles. After Whitman, she earned her medical degree at the University of Washington followed by a psychiatry residency and fellowship at UCLA, where she met her husband, George. She practiced child and adolescent psychiatry for more than 20 years. Bartzokis volunteered for the

Whitman Parent Leadership Committee and the Student Life Committee while her daughter, **Katy Bartzokis '13**, attended Whitman. Predeceased by her husband, she is survived by her two daughters and four siblings. Donations to the Bartzokis Scholarship Endowment in her honor can be made at give.whitman.edu/bartzokis.

1980s

David "Dave" Cottrell '80 on June 26, 2023, in Grayland, Washington. Cottrell followed in his parents' footsteps attending Whitman. He went on to earn his doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Washington in 1983. The following year, Cottrell founded D&F Cottrell Cranberries with his brother, **Francis Cottrell '84**. Cottrell is also credited with implementing the project to rebuild the barrier sand dune that protects the North Cove community, effectively halting a century-long trend of shoreline retreat, according to the Washington Department of Ecology. Cottrell is predeceased by his

parents, **Walter Cottrell '46** and **Christine Hasbrouck Cottrell '53**. He is survived by his wife, Connie; a brother; and his sister, **Anne Cottrell Spencer '87**.

Richard "Rick" Frederick '84 on July 21, 2022, in Ellensburg, Washington. Baseball alumnus Frederick went on to work for Zeno Systems after graduation, eventually working his way to President of the corporation. His love of baseball continued after college, and he enjoyed watching the Seattle Mariners play. Frederick is survived by his parents, three daughters, one grandchild, and four siblings, including brothers **Brooke Frederick '81** and **Rob Frederick '84**.

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 Jaimee Maurer, Class Notes Editor, at maurerjl@whitman.edu or call **509-527-5052**.

FAST 5 WITH Baker Weilert-Pekar

A QUICK CONVERSATION WITH WHITMAN'S DIRECTOR OF DEBATE AND FORENSICS



It could be argued that **Baker Weilert-Pekar** was destined for the debate life. Whitman's Director of Debate and Forensics grew up attending the debate practices his parents ran at the local high school. Weilert-Pekar went on to study and debate at Arkansas State University (A-State), earning both their Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Communication. Weilert-Pekar later served as a debate coach and taught at ASU before joining Whitman as an Assistant Director of Debate and Forensics in 2019. We had a chance to ask Weilert-Pekar what keeps them committed to the pursuit of knowledge and to inspiring Whitman students in their passion —BY ZOE PERKINS '25

1 *What do you like most about debate and forensics?*

It keeps me engaged in thought. It makes me constantly reevaluate my own systems of beliefs—I can't just tacitly accept them. The other part of it is that I recognize it is a tool for students to learn how to engage with high-level ideas. I always tell the students to **search for the truth in a topic.**

2 *How is debate complementary to a liberal arts education?*

In my perfect world, it enriches the experience. Students involved in speech and debate interact with a lot of different thoughts and perspectives and **they get to take that into the classroom.** And it helps them make new lines of connection between what they learn in their different classes.

3 *How does debate help prepare students for their careers?*

For one, it provides the rhetorical tools necessary to orally present and feel confident in that presentation because the reality is you could have the best idea in the world, but if you're not able to articulate that idea it means nothing. It also **trains you to think quickly on your feet** ... constantly thinking and connecting ideas. Students often describe it as a cheat code for college.

4 *What do you find special about the Whitman community?*

There are a lot of different ideas from different places coming together at Whitman, **not in a clash but in an exchange.**

I think there's something beautiful about taking a step back and engaging from a place of trying to understand—to learn. I see it among students—naturally and genuinely—where they are trying to recognize someone else's humanity through the act of listening.

5 *Do you have a philosophy for mentoring students?*

I do. My job is to teach the skills of debate and forensics ... how to craft a solid argument and so on. But my guiding philosophy is that **you have to create a safe place for those things to happen.** I show up as myself in this space. I ask my students to do the same. We agree that we will respect the way we come to this space, and the only way that works is if it's also a place people want to be ... they're here because this isn't just a place to learn about debate and forensics, it's also where their friends are. **W**

“ I SEE IT AMONG STUDENTS — NATURALLY AND GENUINELY — WHERE THEY ARE TRYING TO RECOGNIZE SOMEONE ELSE'S HUMANITY THROUGH THE ACT OF LISTENING. ”

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Pathways to Success



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FINDING A FUTURE IN FINANCE. Hailing from Slovakia, Kludia Kyjovska '22 came to Whitman College and followed a growing curiosity about all things finance. Today, Kyjovska works alongside a number of other Whitties as an analyst at Trilogy Search Partners, where her primary focus involves providing guidance to entrepreneurs on potential acquisitions to evolve and advance their businesses. See Kyjovska's student experiences and career pathway—along with other alumni whose journeys showcase the transformative power of a Whitman education at whitman.edu/magazine.



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