

Live *wire*



WHITMAN COLLEGE
YOUNG ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Live|wire

What is the purpose of the Alumni Board?

In 1895, Whitman College alumni organized the Alumni Association to promote the interests of its members and their Alma Mater. Today, the Whitman College Alumni Association continues to foster and maintain those interests between Whitman and its extended family.

To carry out this mission, the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association maintains standing committees which advise the Alumni Office on alumni matters and communicate alumni reactions to college programs.

In other words, they work to keep you connected, and to bring your concerns back to the administration. Let them know how you feel!

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Louise Stephens '07, San Francisco, Calif.



ALUMNI OFFICE STAFF

Nancy L. Mitchell, Director of Alumni Relations
mitchenl@whitman.edu

Jason S. Arp '94, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations
arpjs@whitman.edu

Jennifer D. Northam '91, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations
northajl@whitman.edu

Rikki L. Gwinn, Administrative Assistant for Alumni Relations
gwinnrl@whitman.edu

And new to the Alumni Office!

Liesl M. Olson '11, Alumni Relations Officer
olsonlm@whitman.edu



WHITMAN COLLEGE



Matt Banderas '04

CONTENTS

- 3 Commencement 2014 | Senior Speech | **Rosemary Hanson '14**
- 5 Submit to Livewire
- 6 First Person | **Lisa Curtis '10** and **Carolyn Erving '16**
- 8 Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni, Whitman Online, Lost Alumni
- 9 Upcoming Events

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345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362
800.835.9448, ext. 1
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Submit all photos, queries and comments to
address above or to livewire@whitman.edu

Edited by **Liesl Olson '11**
Designed by **Chris Bishop '79**, Publications Design Manager
Cover photo by **Matt Banderas '04**



On Walking to Reid; Meditations of Pilgrimage

(alt. The Future and
Other Equally Silly Things)

(alt. alt. Shrimp and
Other Mammals;
The Value of a
Liberal Arts Education)



SENIOR SPEECH

by
ROSEMARY HANSON '14

COMMENCEMENT
MAY 25, 2014

Rosemary Hanson '14 is an anthropology major from Tacoma, Wash., with a minor in Japanese. During her time at Whitman, she worked in the residence halls as a student academic adviser and a resident assistant, wrote for the humor section of *The Pioneer* student newspaper and was a proud student employee of the Whitman Security Department. Last spring, she studied abroad in Osaka, Japan, and in summer 2013 had the amazing opportunity of excavating in Jordan with Professor Gary Rollefson. Next year, she intends to travel in China with the Whitman in China program and teach English at Northwestern Polytechnical University in Xi'an. Rosemary was chosen by her peers as the 2014 Senior Class Commencement Speaker. See a video of her speech at: www.whitman.edu/newsroom/commencement-2014.

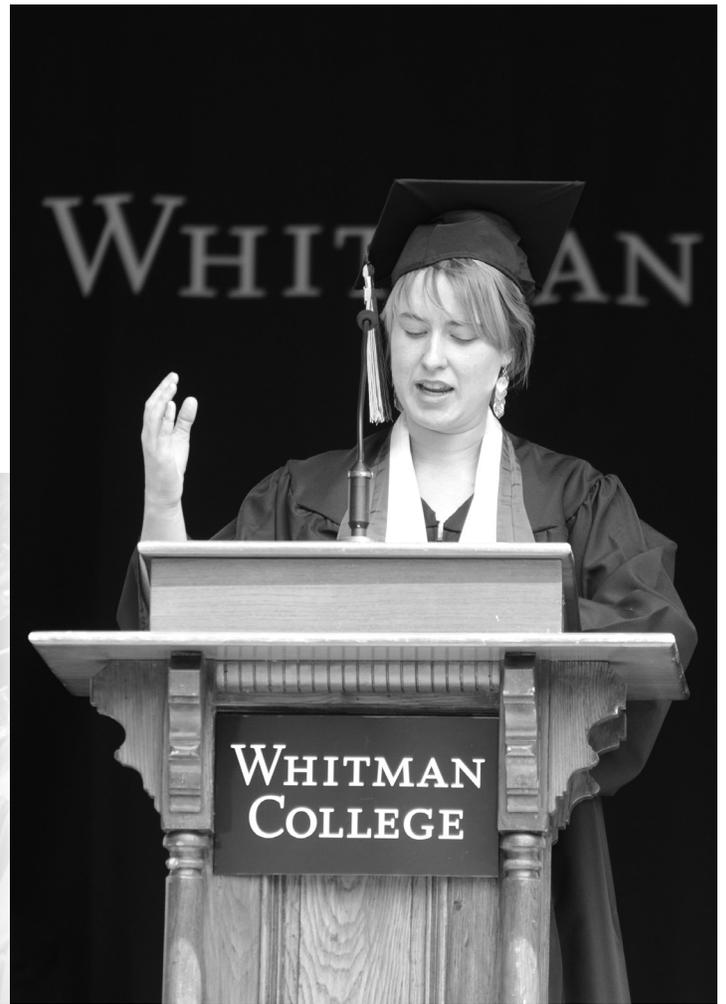


Photos by Matt Banderas '04

You must bear with me for I have a tragically poetic disposition, so when I think about my time in college, the metaphor that springs to mind is that of a pilgrimage. Perhaps I have an overactive imagination, but I imagine barefoot, shirtless, Frisbee-toting devotees to some deity of wisdom and severe sleep deprivation ambling through this sacred journey from here to there and nowhere in particular. As with all such journeys, it has been through the company of fellow travelers that we have found the holiness of the trek, in the laughter that has made us forget the dust and the dirt and the deadlines, and the friendship that has gotten us off Facebook and carried us over the soul-crushing, gut-wrenching chasm of “what do you mean it’s due tomorrow?” But here we are, suddenly, at the final cathedral. The twelfth labor is over, the eighth semester done. We’ve beaten the final gym leader and, badge in hand, our next step is uncertain.

The problem of the pilgrimage is that now we must return to the real world, and I’m sorry to say, Carl Sagan, but I’ve waded a little way up and the water is not inviting. Beset by Millennial ridicule, economic pessimism and a general postmodern angst, we’ve ridden off into the sunset, only to find ourselves alone in the desert in the dark. So I want to say something inspirational about the future. I want to go off on a soapbox sermon about how, as the lost generation, we are the first to be able to truly wander. To widen our thoughts beyond the edges of the universe we know and to plumb the depths of human feeling

We are older, we are wiser.
We have learned to walk
this road together, and
though we separate, our
feet remember the rhythm
of this, our first odyssey.



Annabelle Marcovici '15

deeper than we've ever gone before. If indeed everything has been said before then it is our job to say it better or stop saying it at all. To set our sights on that which is more elusive and rewarding than success – a life full of meaning and joy. We have been handed a dysfunctional world and now it is ours to rebuild, fairer, greener and full of coffee shops. The future is more uncertain than it has ever been before and as we stare into the yawning void I say: Bring it on, boo-yah, let's go.

But the truth is that, as idealistic as I am, I'm also a realist. And I am here to break bad news: We're going to get old and we may even get boring. Some of us will hop on the bandwagon of a new world order headed off in the wrong direction, and others of us will accidentally become the Man, man. In our revolutionary, innovative wanderings we will venture back into the well-tilled fields of marriage and parenthood from which few return intact, or accumulate furry familiars with hip dysplasia and exorbitant and borderline extortionary vet bills. More often than not our holy pilgrimage will be replaced with the kinds of nature hikes my Dad plans, where halfway through you realize that you're on the wrong path, don't have a map, the sun is going down, and that is probably definitely a bear. We're going to make stupid mistakes and I for one am excited. I'm excited to watch my friends grow and age and make good choices, or at least make choices, or at least try to make choices. Perhaps it is because I am a hopeless gossip, or that delayed gratification is not my strong suit, but I really want to know who ends up on a hippie commune, or with spoiled children, or gives up the corporate life to become a painter. I can't wait to

see how we shape this new world we're given, good and bad, for the future is always an exciting mystery (but an oddly familiar one). And before we know it, we too may find ourselves sitting in the glaring heat of the afternoon watching our children shame the family by graduating from Willamette, Mars Campus.

But as exciting and terrifying as the future is, I want to return at last to this pilgrimage business. I want to return to this moment. For it is from here that our paths diverge (some forever, others for longer than we might want). Yet as we walk out of this dim place of worship into the squinting sunlight, accomplished and exhausted and desperately needing a shower, we are not the same as when we started. The journey was not wasted. We are older, we are wiser. We have learned to walk this road together, and though we separate, our feet remember the rhythm of this, our first odyssey. Our feet remember the wisdom and the laughter and the love. So let us face the paths and pathless places of our future with the memories of fellow pilgrims past; the ways of walking we have taught each other. And in this way, though we may diverge forever, we will always walk in step together.

So in this last motionless moment, before the final walk we will ever make together, I want to thank you and congratulate you, Class of 2014. May our journey be unpredictable, uncompromising and fun.



Submit to *Livewire!*

Has something exciting happened in your life this year? Send a photo and caption for *Livewire* by filling out the Class Note submission form at www.whitman.edu/alumni/classnoteform.htm. Then email your photo to livewire@whitman.edu. Electronically submitted photos must be at least 300 dpi for a three-by-five-inch photo. Or, mail original photos to Whitman College Alumni Office, Attn: *Livewire*, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. If you would like your photos returned to you, please include a note. Don't forget to name everyone in the photo!



Lisa Curtis '10 testing out Kuli Kuli bars at the Oakland Farmers Market.

First person ...

Life Inside Kuli Kuli: When a Whitman Intern Comes to a Whitman-Founded Company

By Lisa Curtis '10 and Carolyn Erving '16

Lisa: Three weeks after graduating from Whitman, I found myself on a plane headed to Niger. My interest in Africa started after a Politics in Africa class at Whitman made me realize just how many misconceptions there are about the African continent. Thankfully Professor Magnusson made us memorize all of the countries in Africa so I actually had some idea of where I was headed!

My Peace Corps Service in Niger ended abruptly after seven months when a terrorist group attacked Niger's capital city. I was forced to leave a village that I'd come to think of as home and friends who were akin to family. I also left behind a project I'd been working on to improve nutrition through *Moringa oleifera*, a tree with incredibly nutritious leaves that grows in hot dry climates like Niger.

I was determined to find a way to continue what I'd started in the Peace Corps. Out of that desire, I founded Kuli Kuli. We work with women's cooperatives in West Africa to grow moringa, use it to improve nutrition locally and then source a portion of the harvest to the US in order to provide a sustainable livelihood for our farmers. Our first product is a nutritional bar that is sold in more than 100 stores in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest. We just received our first round of investment and are planning to launch a second product, a moringa powder for smoothies, in the fall.

Kuli Kuli is still a very small team and so we were delighted when Whitman helped us host Carolyn Erving as our summer communications intern.



Carolyn: When Lisa presented her company, Kuli Kuli, to my Political Ecology class last fall, I was immediately drawn to the combination of environmental, social and entrepreneurial causes. My time at Whitman has pushed me to question what it means to create long-term, sustainable change through action. Kuli Kuli provides an answer to this through its partnerships with women in Africa. There are no blind handouts, short-term volunteers, or risk of future overexploitation of natural resources – three aspects that make me proud to be a part of this company. As the summer communications intern, I spend much of my time forging relationships and pitching ideas to reporters. I also manage and edit the online blog which allows me to pursue two of my passions at once: writing and cooking. Overall, my time at Kuli Kuli has allowed me to explore how action toward a better world is able to come to fruition outside of the classroom while

also instilling the importance of long-term partnerships in my life beyond academia.

Lisa: It's been really exciting to have interns like Carolyn helping us grow our business. Our ultimate goal is to help moringa join the ranks of well-known superfoods like quinoa and chia while helping to improve nutrition worldwide.

Kuli Kuli recently won a \$25,000 grant from the Ledbury Launch Fund contest. To learn more about Kuli Kuli or purchase their moringa products online, visit www.kulikulifoods.com.

(Top)
This photo was taken in Niger when Lisa was in the Peace Corps. Here she is gathering water with her host sister.

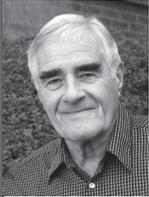
(Bottom)
Carolyn Erving '16 is spending her summer working for Lisa's company Kuli Kuli with a Whitman internship.

Lisa Curtis '10 grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and graduated from Whitman with a degree in politics-environmental studies. While at Whitman, she was very active in sustainability efforts on campus, culminating in her work as Sustainability Coordinator during her senior year. Lisa also interned at the White House and the United Nations Environment Programme during her time at Whitman. Lisa has found her sweet spot between international development, marketing and business at Kuli Kuli, and hopes to continue this business for the rest of her life. **Carolyn Erving '16** is a junior environmental humanities major at Whitman. A Seattle native, she spends her time at Whitman running on the cross-country team, volunteering with the Cool the Schools program and DJ'ing at KWCW, the campus radio station. She hopes to take the skills she is developing at Whitman and Kuli Kuli to enter into social entrepreneurship or environmental law after graduation.



Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni

The Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni is presented to an alumnus or alumna who demonstrates youthful exuberance toward his or her career and community and toward Whitman College, as exemplified by **Pete Reid '49** in his service to Whitman.



The award is limited to graduates from the past 10 years. Criteria include recognition in their career or field of work, an exceptional commitment to serving others and a demonstrated commitment to Whitman College. Tell us about an outstanding Whittie

today! Awards are presented each year during Reunion Weekends.

To submit your nomination of a deserving classmate, use the form at www.whitman.edu/alumniawardform.

Reconnect through

Whitman online

WHITMAN ONLINE is the best way to keep in touch with classmates and make connections with other Whitman alumni.

Register at www.alumniconnections.com/whitmancollege/.

You'll need your Whitman ID (WID) to verify your account.

Do you remember yours? If not, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@whitman.edu or 1.800.835.9448, ext. 1.

Features:

- :) Search by name, class year, geographic location and more.
- :) Upload your resume.
- :) Set up an email forwarding address to use with sites like Facebook.

LOST *alumni*

If you know the whereabouts or the email addresses of any of these Whitties, please send that information to addrchg@whitman.edu.

2004

Shannon H. Kelley
Laura Jane Matsen
Joanna M. Means
Ashley C. Meganck
Christine Sara Reynolds

2009

Jared Michael Burns
Megan Helene Duffy
Mary-Eileen Gallagher
Stephanie Jitsu Gil
Charles Beckmann Rohr
David Youngblood

2005

Elizabeth K. Anderson
Peter Jungman Ham
Emily Rae
Hannah Elizabeth Swee
Stefan Wolf

2010

Kira Anna Badyrka
Nathan Alec Conroy
Ian Arburua Delaney
Ryan John Finnegan
Albert Min Lee
Thomas Michael Roston
Kendi Marion Thomas

2006

Liesel Marie Barraca
Aaron Walter Bell
Corinne Cathcart Gibbon

2011

Enkhjin Batjargal
Emily N. Jackson
William Wagner Reese

2007

Philip Juong Hy
Amanda Claire King

2012

Pablo Adolfo Vasquez Guzman

2008

Shaheryar Akbar
Erik Thor Andersen
Gayle Lynn Chung
Beth Anne Davis
Jeffrey Bert DeGroot
Cecil Clay Jones
Rosanna Merrill Robinson
Jyotsna Shivanandan

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Whitman College Alumni Association
345 Boyer Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Upcoming Events

2014 Fall Reunion Weekend

Sept. 17-21, 2014

Fifth Reunion, Classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010

Tenth Reunion, Class of 2004

Visit www.whitman.edu/reunions
for more information and to RSVP.

Join fellow Whitties in a city near you this fall as
we welcome new alumni living in your community!

Watch the online calendar of events, your mailbox
or email inbox for details.



**WHITMAN
COLLEGE**