

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!

alumni@whitman.edu

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WHITMAN COLLEGE



Photos by Greg Lehman

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Submit all photos, queries and comments to
address above or to livewire@whitman.edu

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Exploration Vessel *Nautilus*. Recent expeditions for Liz include exploring ancient Greek and Roman shipwrecks and searching for Amelia Earhart's lost *Electra*.



Photo courtesy of Ocean Exploration Trust

Starry, starry nights – from golden wheat fields to the Black Sea

FIRST PERSON BY LIZ SMITH '02

The first time I went to sea, I was terrified. We sailed out of Pago Pago on a 64-meter research vessel during the early hours of an incoming typhoon. Six-meter swells made me seriously doubt my career move from communicating astrophysics to documenting ocean exploration. It was more adventure than I'd bargained for, daydreaming behind the counter at the Whitman Outdoor Program Rental Shop, more than a decade ago.

Five days into the trip, floating out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, I lay down on the pitch-black bow and let the waves rock me while the Southern sky blared brightly all around me. I thought of my days in the Walla Walla wheat fields, bundled up in the crisp night air using the 16-inch Newtonian telescope north of campus. The welcome memory set my heart at ease and I began to fall in love with sailing in far-away seas.

This past summer I took in the stars under a different sky, half a world away. For two and a half months, I worked aboard the Exploration Vessel *Nautilus* with Titanic-discoverer Dr. Bob Ballard in the Black Sea and off the coasts of Turkey, Cyprus and Syria. During our expeditions, we used Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to explore the seafloor where no one has gone before. It's not all that different from my previous work at NASA, where scientists searched the sky for clues to our origins. This past season, we found 2,000-year-old ancient shipwrecks and a set of fossilized whalebones.

As our oceanographers search the seafloor, my job is to help broadcast live streaming HD video from aboard our underwater vehicles.

After we launch the ROVs into the water, we spend hours in anticipation, watching as their lights create a halo in the deep darkness and shapes crystallize into what may be the next big discovery – and all of our work is done in front of a live audience of armchair explorers.

I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing.

You can view past expeditions and join in our live explorations this summer at www.nautiluslive.org.

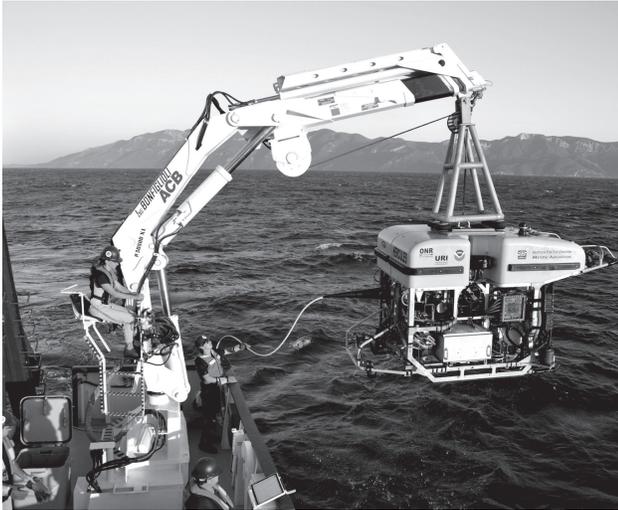


Liz Smith '02 came to Whitman from San Francisco, Calif. Whitman's first astronomy major*, she was also involved with the Outdoor Program, Coffeehouse, and on the editorial staff of both *The Pioneer* and *blue moon*.

*Astronomy was a planned major.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3



Launching ROV Hercules off the coast of Turkey.



Liz is currently a science communications specialist with a focus on developing and implementing multimedia strategies for research and conservation organizations. She holds an M.F.A. in science and natural history filmmaking from Montana State University and has spent the last four years working aboard research vessels in the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

Prior to working in ocean research, Liz produced films and multimedia about astrophysics and earth science at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and worked for the National Park Service. She is a member of the International Environmental Communications Association, the flying Ninety-Nines, American MENSA, and she sits on the Alumni Advisory Council for Montana State University's Department of Film and Photography. She is a certified Advanced Scuba Diver and a single-engine private pilot.

*"I can't think of anything
else I'd rather be doing."*

Photos courtesy of Ocean Exploration Trust



Craig Lesley '67 and Devan Schwartz '06.

Whitman's writing circles

Last fall I took part in a ritual we all know well: the drive to Walla Walla. I was with a couple of Portland friends headed to our five-year reunion. As we crossed the Columbia River and continued the pilgrimage through wheat fields with a view of the Blue Mountains pressing against the sky, my head was somewhere else – on my graduate school thesis, a novel manuscript. I was being advised by novelist **Craig Lesley '67**, who would soon be attending his own Whitman reunion.

I first met Craig in 2003 when I took his Introduction to Creative Writing class at Whitman. And so it felt fortuitous to work with him again while studying for my M.F.A. degree at Portland State University. It wasn't until a thesis advising meeting that I realized we shared our alma mater. Since then, Craig helped me complete a draft of the novel *American Cuerpos* and aided me in landing a teaching job through Writers in the Schools.

Our convergences don't end there. I received a summer job as a newspaper reporter in Baker City, Ore. Craig lived in Baker City as a child, back when the town was still called Baker. I was surprised to find that Craig's books had once been banned there by religious conservatives who objected to his work.

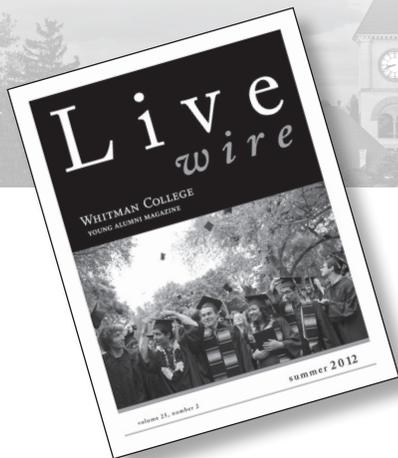
I feel lucky to have taken additional writing classes at Whitman with Scott Elliott, Don Snow and Katrina Roberts. My experiences working with Lenel Parish in the Communications Office also gave me a leg up in journalism. I'm writing now from Klamath Falls, Ore., where I cover natural resources and politics for the local newspaper.

Devan Schwartz '06



Submit to *Livewire!*

Has something wonderful 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/classnoteform. 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!



Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni

The Alumni Association gives the **Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni** to an alumnus or alumna who demonstrates enthusiasm toward his or her career, community or Whitman College as exemplified by **Pete Reid '49** in his service to the college. This award is limited to graduates of the last 15 years. Standards for recognition include outstanding recognition in his or her career or field of work, outstanding service to others and a demonstrated commitment to Whitman College.



Please use the form at whitman.edu/alumniawards.



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 resumé.
- ;) Set up an email forwarding address to use with sites like Facebook.

LOST LOST *alumni*

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

2003

Emily J. Bennett
Wendy M. Hanson
Yoko Hasegawa
Mark R. Hinshaw
Cuong M. Luu
Charlene Renee Strozinsky

2008

Shaheryar Akbar
Erik Thor Andersen
Katharine Marie Avery
Gayle Lynn Chung
Jeffrey Bert DeGroot
Cecil Clay Jones
Benjamin John Sexson
Carolina Adelia Van Horn

2004

Juli A. Armstrong
Cindy S. Godard-Gross
Maggie Sue Rajala
Noah B. Sanders

2009

Alexander Warren Abrams
Marja Lisa Applegate
Jennifer Mochizuki Doane
Megan Helene Duffy
Mary-Eileen Gallagher
Vanessa Marie Johnson
Sarah Elizabeth North
Cynthia Berenice Suarez
David Youngblood

2005

Laura English Davis
Andrew M. Fraser
Kurt P. Lervick
Kaileen E. Miller
Ayman Raouf Mourad
Julia B. Talley

2010

Evan Ross Aegerter
Jerreh Badjie
Kayla Cordelia Cooper
Kendi Marion Thomas
Daniel Robert Will

2006

Samuel Choi Barnhart
Gareth Collin Campbell
Tory Joe Corson
Corinne Cathcart Gibbon
Jena Marie Griswold
Jordan Richard Kline
Natalie Udwin

2011

William Wagner Reese

2007

Carl Lee Edwards
Robyn D. Edwards
Amanda Claire King

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345 Boyer Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Upcoming Reunions

2013 Fall Reunion Weekend

Sept. 27-29, 2013
10th Reunion, Class of 2003
Visit www.whitman.edu/reunions
for more information and to RSVP.

2014 Fall Reunion Weekend

Sept. 19-21, 2014
5th Reunion, Classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010
10th Reunion, Class of 2004
More information available in 2013!



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