

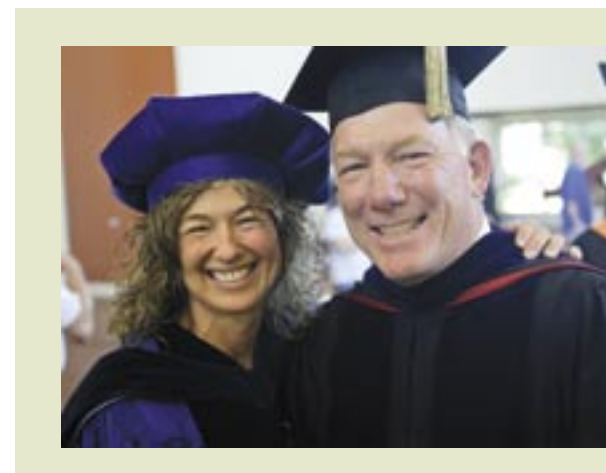
## Whitman starts year with record-breaking recruiting, retention, and fundraising

**W**hitman College sailed into its 122nd academic year on the heels of its strongest recruiting year and second strongest fundraising year and with one of the top five graduation rates west of the Mississippi.

The College has seen a 33 percent increase in applications in the past three years, said Tony Cabasco, dean of admission and financial aid, with Whitman receiving an all-time high of nearly 2,600 applications for this year's entering class.

The entering class this year, said Cabasco, contains an interesting mix of scholastic and extracurricular achievement. The class, which includes 17 student body or senior class presidents, and 270 students with community service experience, has a median SAT score of 1340 and a median ACT score of 30. The student body as a whole numbers approximately 1,450 and hails from about 45 states and 30 nations.

Whitman students, ranked by *The Princeton Review* as among the most satisfied in the country, continue to support the College with an ever-increasing retention rate. The retention rate for first-years who return to Whitman as sophomores is currently 95 percent, and the College's graduation rate is 86 percent, statistics envied by colleges and universities across the country.



Convocation photos by Matt Zimmermann, '04

Professor of English Jean Carwile Masteller presents the 2004 Convocation address, "And Life Steps Almost Straight: Words for a New Year." (See [www.whitman.edu/content/news/ConvAddress04](http://www.whitman.edu/content/news/ConvAddress04))

The faculty (including at left, Deborah DuNann Winter and Chuck Drabek) turn out in academic garb for formal Convocation ceremonies August 28.

Whitman's tuition for this academic year is \$26,870, but approximately 70 percent of students receive some kind of financial aid, said Cabasco, with the average need-based aid package including scholarship, loan, and work study coming in at around \$17,500; the average scholarship package is about \$13,300.

"The true cost of providing a Whitman education is approximately 50 percent more than the current tuition charge," said



Senior Christine Phelps and first-year Grace Kim join other students at a multicultural social during opening week.



ASWC president Bradley Bowen, '05, welcomes new and returning students at Convocation.

John Bogley, vice president for development and college relations. "The difference is covered thanks to income earned from Whitman's endowment and the fact that most facilities on campus were constructed with gifts rather than funded by debt."

Whitman raised approximately \$14.1 million during the last fiscal year, said Bogley, with more than \$13.5 million coming from private donations.

## Whittie wins prestigious Rhodes Scholarship

**E**lizabeth "Beth" Pearson, a Whitman College political philosophy major with an abiding interest in issues of global justice, is one of 32 U.S. students chosen as American Rhodes Scholars for 2005.

The oldest and most prestigious of the international post-graduate awards available to American students, the Rhodes scholarship provides for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England.



Rhodes Scholar Beth Pearson, '05

Pearson, a senior from Indianola, Iowa, and a member of Whitman's national champion debate team, was chosen from a U.S. applicant pool of 904 students representing 341

colleges and universities. "We are delighted for Beth," President Tom Cronin said. "She is an outstanding student, an excellent student leader, and one of the key reasons the Whitman College debate team was No. 1 in the nation last year."

"Whitman students have received dozens of post-graduate fellowships and scholarships in recent years, including those offered by the Watson, Fulbright, Truman, and Beinecke foundations," Cronin added. "Having one of our students receive a Rhodes Scholarship is especially pleasing because the program is highly competitive and selective."

Of those chosen as American Rhodes Scholars for 2005, Pearson is one of only three students from a West Coast college or university. The others are Joseph Jewell at the California Institute of Technology and Sarah Schulman at Stanford University.

*Continued on page 14*

## Rhodes Scholar:

*Studies at Oxford will focus on social and economic conditions in third-world countries*

Continued from page 13

Elizabeth Pearson is the sixth student, and the first woman, in Whitman history to win a Rhodes. She will pursue a master's degree in development studies at Oxford, where she plans to focus on social and economic conditions in third-world countries. Her studies begin in October 2005 when she and other U.S. students will be joined by an international group of scholars chosen from 18 jurisdictions around the world. About 95 Rhodes Scholars are selected worldwide each year.

"Beth is well known across campus for the strength of her intellect, her boundless energy and enthusiasm, and her commitment to the study of philosophy and politics," said Pat Keef, dean of the faculty. "Beth has a tremendous future ahead of her. She is an outstanding scholar, a young woman with the creativity and energy to make a mark on the world that stands before her."

Two summers ago, Pearson worked as a project assistant for the University of Iowa Employment Policy Group, helping design, research, and develop resources for employers to promote the hiring and retention of employees with disabilities.

Last summer, she served as a volunteer intern with Mobility International USA in Eugene, Oregon, where she focused on promoting the

inclusion of people with disabilities in international development programs. She researched, wrote, and edited the second edition of a manual for development organizations that provides practical strategies for including people with disabilities.

"I saw how activism could take shape on a worldwide level, and I realized how barriers to participation in political debate were less related to apathy or cynicism than they were to poverty, lack of access to education, and pervasive civil conflict," Pearson said. "I was increasingly drawn to a field committed to removing these barriers as the necessary prerequisite to building communities where political conversation is possible."

Her experiences last summer helped Pearson decide to pursue development studies at Oxford. The program is "structured to provide a theoretical framework with which to evaluate contemporary processes of economic, social, and political transition in poor countries," she said. "This multidisciplinary approach offers the resources to take the sort of political conversation I have been practicing at the undergraduate level to a global scale."

Once she completes her studies at Oxford, Pearson plans to apply to the World Bank's Junior Professional Associate program. "Direct experience in the international development field will be an asset when I return to academics to earn my Ph.D.

in development studies and go on to occupy a position with a government agency or a multilateral institution such as the United Nations Development Program."

As Pearson reflects on her desire to work on issues of human rights, poverty, and social justice, she recalls a question she once asked as a child. "I asked my dad why people couldn't just sit down at a table and work things out," she said. "Years later, my desire for such political conversation has deepened rather than dissipated."

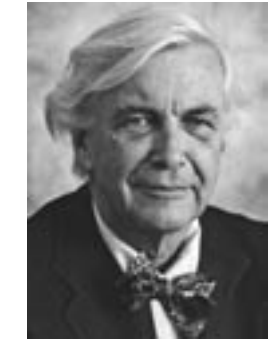
A National Merit Scholar, Pearson entered Whitman in the fall of 2001 as a Claire B. Sherwood Scholar and William O. Douglas Scholar. She performed with the Whitman Wind Ensemble and has had poetry published in the campus literary magazine. A member of the Order of Waiilatpu, which recognizes scholarship and service at Whitman, Pearson has been active in student government, serving on a number of committees, and is working as a tutor this fall in the Whitman Writing Center.

As a member of the Whitman speech and debate team, Pearson won the First Speaker Award this fall in a parliamentary debate tournament hosted by Reed College. She also has placed first in persuasive speaking and impromptu speaking events at other college tournaments.

Pearson began working toward her Rhodes Scholarship application as a sophomore after Julia Davis, director of Whitman's grants and fellowships office, asked if she might be interested in the program. "Beth's immediate response was, 'It's something I've always wanted,'" Davis said.

The grants and fellowships office actively seeks to identify talented students in different fields and helps them to cultivate their interests and then supports them through the grant application process.

— David Holden



## New fitness center to be named for Baker Ferguson, '39

The College's new fitness center will be named the Baker Ferguson Fitness Center. With construction of the facility to begin soon, the board of trustees voted unanimously at its November meeting to honor Ferguson, '39, a former chair of the board and a lifelong, avid skier and tennis player.

A Walla Walla native, Ferguson attended Sharpstein School and graduated from Walla Walla High School. After graduating from Whitman, he went on to earn an M.B.A. at the Harvard Business School.

During World War II Ferguson served in the Air Force in Europe

as a navigator on a B-17. He was a prisoner of war for two years.

Ferguson returned to Whitman after the war and joined the economics and business faculty. He later became a banker and eventually was named president of Baker Boyer Bank in Walla Walla.

He was a longtime member of the Whitman College Board of Overseers and Board of Trustees, serving as chair of the trustees from 1972 to 1982. Mentor to at least five Whitman presidents, he was legendary for his passionate devotion to helping Whitman prosper.

"Few people have contributed

more to both the success and the spirit of Whitman College than Baker Ferguson," said President Tom Cronin.

Ferguson was a leading figure in civic and business affairs in the region. In the late 1970s, he and his late wife, Jean, founded L' Ecole No. 41 winery.

Ferguson learned of the decision to name the fitness center for him at his 86th birthday party at his Walla Walla home. President Cronin noted that "Baker smiled a big smile and thanked everyone and replied that 'this is sure an elegant thing to do' and 'a very serious honor.'"



Photos by Amanda Zimmerman, '07

Whitman's soccer teams hosted a series of free one-hour "Little Kickers" soccer clinics on the campus this fall. Above, Vanessa Warner, a sophomore defender on the women's team, gives instruction on the fine art of drop kicking.



Whitman's Student Athlete Advisory Committee raised \$150 to buy books for Green Park Elementary School. The students, including Mara Abbott, left, a first-year member of the swim team, also spent a lunch hour reading to children at the school.

## Fall Sports Standouts

In soccer, senior co-captains Bradley Bowen and Brian Stater and junior Hillary Chisholm received Academic All-District First Team honors, and sophomore Sammie Arthur received Second-Team recognition. Senior co-captains Katey Schmitz and Kim Boese earned spots on the All-Northwest Conference team.

Volleyball captain senior Lyndsay Buckingham received All-NWC Second Team honors and set a new Whitman record for most digs per game in a single season.

Cross-country runner Sierra Witnov, a senior, earned All-Northwest Conference Second Team recognition and held her own at the national championships in Wisconsin against a field of 200 runners.

Rhodes Scholars are chosen based on criteria set down in the will of Cecil Rhodes, a British philanthropist. These criteria are high academic achievement, integrity of character, a spirit of unselfishness,

respect for others, potential for leadership, and physical vigor. The first class of American Rhodes Scholars entered Oxford in 1904. Whitman's previous Rhodes Scholars were:

Stanley Yates, '12, Edwin Douglas Ford, Jr., '21, Robert Brode, '21 (who won in 1924 while completing a Ph.D. at CalTech), A. H. Garretson, '31, and S. Baker Stocking, '67.

# On the Inevitability, Necessity and Desirability of Politics and Politicians

by President Thomas E. Cronin

**“If you can't say anything nice about a candidate, by God, let's hear it!”**

That sometimes seemed to be the operative rule throughout the past election year.

Americans have long had a decidedly mixed, if not altogether negative, view of elected officials — politicians. Such “profound” observations as “it's all politics, you know,” imply that things would improve if only we did not have politics and politicians.

Most Americans suspect politicians of being, among other things, ambitious, calculating, disingenuous, guileful, opportunistic and even unprincipled, and politician-bashing has become a favorite American sport and central part of the American political tradition. Much of this irreverence is generally healthy. Even our political heroes Washington, Lincoln and FDR were regularly and roundly roasted.

But derisive criticism of politicians and government by talk radio firebrands and cable TV pundits together with the relentless “trash-talk” negative ads have soured our political culture and are becoming a corrosive, paralyzing and leveling force in our society. It is a wonder anyone bothers to run. And it is little wonder that many people get wholly disaffected from the political process.

But politics, it is important to appreciate, is the lifeblood of democracy. Without politics, there is no freedom. And without politicians, we have no choices. Constitutional democracy requires people of courage to step forward, offer choices, debate and listen and be willing to run for office and then to serve.

Indeed, it is the politician's willingness to serve and to respond, within reason, to the voters' interests that is the indispensable link in making democracy work. A central principle of democracy holds that those who exercise power can only do so by running in an election.

Factions and partisan coalitions are a reality in every society. Politics is the art of accommodating the diversity and variety of public views and trying to build durable coalitions to solve public problems.

Politics isn't always pretty, but politicians are the indispensable horse-traders, coalition builders and agreement negotiators we employ to keep our diverse pluralistic society going. Political leaders create options



and opportunities and, at their best, help inspire people to imagine and see the possibilities of a better world. The political ability to debate and disagree civilly is absolutely essential to the functioning of a constitutional democracy.

Thus, politics is a necessity. It is a vital and sometimes even a noble leadership activity. And politicians are absolutely essential for the effective running of the American Republic, whose fragmented powers, separate branches and complicated federal structures necessitate political architects to mediate among factions, build coalitions, and fashion reasonable compromises among and within branches of government — in order to produce policies, law and action.

I'm concerned about those who are endlessly scornful of all politicians

President Tom Cronin, a political scientist, is the author, coauthor or editor of 10 books, including most recently *The Paradoxes of the American Presidency*, 2nd edition (Oxford Univ. Press, 2004) and *Government by the People* (Prentice-Hall, 2005).

and dream, naively, of some nonpartisan nirvana. Those who want to take the politics out of politics incorrectly think that their nonpartisan, nonpolitical would-be hero will generally be right and the public generally misinformed or wrong. Yet elected officials informed by public opinion and regular elections is the defining characteristic of a constitutional democracy.

There is no such possibility as “not having politics”; most of the great public issues and policy controversies are ultimately political issues. As an old mentor of mine nicely put it, when equally earnest or worthy groups want mutually incompatible things, unless we “shoot it out” or leave the power of decision to the whim of a dictator, we have no choice but to encourage democratic processes and constitutional politics.

We need politicians, but we deride them and then usually expect too much from them. We want politicians to be like us, yet better than us. We want politicians to be perfect (or nearly perfect), to have the answers, and to have all the “correct” values. We want politicians to do what we want, and, of course, to ignore what other people want. Yet we also insist they serve as scapegoats for things we dislike about government: like taxes, regulations, limits on our freedom and unpopular wars.

It is impossible for anyone to live up to all these ideals and properly juggle all these paradoxes or contrarian forces. The perfect politician never existed or could only exist in a community in which conflict did not exist — and probably where liberty and rights did not flourish. But our love of liberty and diversity is too much a part of our culture for us to want to live in any such community in which everybody agrees on every issue.

So two cheers for those in both political parties who had the guts and the courage and the stamina to run for public office, to offer choices and provide the glue that holds us, or at least tries to hold us, together.

Let's discourage those, including politicians themselves, who go about demeaning the profession of politics. Journalist Charles McDowell once proposed that every member of Congress be required to take an oath about the essential role politicians perform in our society. Perhaps we all might take a similar oath as this draining election year comes to a close:

I affirm that I am a politician. That I am willing to associate with other known politicians. That I have no moral reservations about committing acts of politics. Under the Constitution, I insist that politicians have as much right to indulge in politics as preachers, single-issue zealots, generals, bird-watchers, labor leaders, big business lobbyists, and all other truth-givers.

I confess that, as a politician, I participate in negotiation, compromise, and tradeoffs in order to achieve something that seems reasonable to a majority. And, although I try to be guided by principle, I confess that I often find people of principle on the other side, too. So help me God.

Democratic politics at its best provides the possibility for leadership, responsibility, and accountability, where — by acting together — citizens become free. It is in this sense that politics is not a necessary evil; it is a realistic good. And it is also in this sense that politics is necessarily the preoccupation of a free people, and its existence, with all of its attendant messiness, is a test of freedom.

## Honors & Achievements

John Desmond, Mary A. Denny Professor of English, is the author of a new book, *Walker Percy's Search for Community* (University of Georgia Press, 2004). In the first undertaking of its kind in Percy criticism, notes the publisher, Desmond traces the “central and enduring concerns with community” in Percy's six published novels. Desmond also is the author of *Risen Sons* and *At the Crossroads*.

Jeanne Morefield, assistant professor of politics, has written a book, *Covenants without Swords: Idealist Liberalism and the Spirit of Empire* (Princeton University Press, 2004). Morefield, who came to Whitman in 2000 after earning her Ph.D. at Cornell, explores “an enduring tension within liberal theory between many liberals' professed commitment to universal equality and their historic support for the politics of hierarchy and empire.” The book examines the work of two “influential inter-war liberals and internationalists,” Gilbert Murray and Alfred Zimmern.

Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, Baker Ferguson Chair of Politics and Leadership, has received the 2004 Excellence in Mentoring Award from the Women's Caucus of the American Political Science Association. He was recognized for his mentoring of the many Whitman women politics majors who are now teaching political and/or feminist theory.

President Tom Cronin received the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce 2004 Town-Gown Award. Cronin has been involved in the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, the Marcus Whitman Foundation, the Blue Mountain Land Trust, Walla Walla's annual Freedom from Discrimination Month, and the “Recovery High” project for area youth. He helped found the College's Center for Community Service, which matches Whitman students with civic endeavors in the community. The award also cites him for supporting the placement of sculptures in the downtown core and on the campus, “integrating the two entities into one beautiful community.”

Maggie Rajala, '04, and Professor Steve Rubin gave papers at the international conference of The Society of Police and Criminal Psychology held in Rome in October. Rajala's paper, “Effects of Positive Programming and Social Support on High-Risk Offenders' Likelihood to Recidivate,” evaluated a new inmate program at the Washington State Penitentiary. The paper was based on Rajala's psychology honors thesis. Rubin presented his research comparing incarceration rates of the U.S. and U.K.



Maggie Rajala



Matt Zimmermann, '04



Matt Zimmermann, '04

Yolanda King appeared in Cordiner Hall in "Achieving the Dream," a theatrical production in which she portrays several characters in the civil and human rights movement (including Stevie Wonder in the photo). She was keynote presenter for the 10th annual Walla Walla Valley Freedom

from Discrimination Month program, which Whitman co-sponsors. The eldest child of Martin Luther King, Jr., she has performed and lectured across the U.S. and in Europe, Africa, and Asia. She is a seasoned actor whose stage, television, and film credits reflect her commitment to social change.



Hubert Locke, the Arnold Visiting Professor this fall, gave a lecture on "The Holocaust and the Church."



Alison Carl White, executive director of Seattle Works, was one of three speakers at the annual Women's Education for Living and Leadership Symposium September 23 at Reid Center.

## FALL SPEAKERS AND EVENTS



Top, on one fall weekend, Reid Center's Coffeehouse series featured *The Lonely Pony* with seniors Drew Shoals at the keyboard, Mick Sherer on guitar, and Ben Kubany on drums. Left, professor of music David Glenn performed at one of the weekly Fridays at Four concerts.

◆ Peter Hayes, Theodore Z. Weiss Professor of Holocaust Studies at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and author of seven books on the Nazi era: "Popular Complicity in the Holocaust."

◆ Rob Manning, '80, chief engineer with NASA, entry, descent and landing manager for last January's Mars exploration mission's rovers Spirit and Opportunity: "Journey to the Red Planet."

◆ Joaquin Avila, nationally known expert on Latino voting rights and civil rights, member of the law faculty at Seattle University: "Political Integration:

Rescuing the Second Reconstruction."

◆ Hubert Locke, professor emeritus of the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, and the Whitman College Arnold Visiting Professor of Religion and the Holocaust, Fall 2004: "The Holocaust and the Church: A Second Look."

◆ Darlene Clark Hine, Board of Trustees Professor of African American Studies and professor of history at Northwestern University: The Skotheim Lecture, "Black Professionals and the Origins of the Civil Rights Movement."



Tommy Calloway, '06

Award-winning poet, actor, and musician Saul Williams, left, gave a presentation October 28 in Reid Center. Williams is considered a leading voice in the spoken work/slam poetry movement. The event was sponsored by ASWC.

Hibba Abugideiri, right, professor of history and international studies at George Washington University, visited with students after her lecture.



Sheehan Gallery opened its 2004-2005 season with an art faculty show that included photographs, paintings, etchings, and installations. Below, faculty member Charly Bloomquist speaks with a gallery visitor.



Matt Zimmermann, '04

◆ Hibba Abugideiri, professor of history and international studies, George Washington University, an expert on 19th-century Egypt and gender/women's studies of the Middle East: "Women and Islam: So What about Equality?"

◆ Uday Singh Mehta, professor of political science, Amherst College, author of *Liberalism and Empire* (1999): The Jackson Lecture, "Liberalism and Empire."

## Whitman receives rare first edition *Origin of Species*



*Darwin's classic book takes a casual ride; now rests safely in Penrose Library*

A funny thing happened to Darwin on the way to Whitman College. The evolutionist's classic biology tome, *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859, has spawned several generations of heated debate, courtroom drama, and new scientific thought. But for most of the last century one beautifully preserved volume of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution sat demurely on a bookshelf gathering dust in one home or another of three generations of the Bromley family. Then late in October, Chris Bromley, '97, pulled *Origin* off the shelf where it had rested next to Tom Clancy's latest thriller, tossed it in the back of his '95 Blazer, and chauffeured it from his home in Boise, Idaho, to his alma mater.

The Bromley family, in appreciation of the education Chris received

at Whitman, presented the first-edition volume, appraised at \$125,000, to a modest but appreciative gathering of professors, administrators, librarians, and President Tom Cronin at an informal ceremony in Penrose Library on August 28.

Only 1,250 copies of *On the Origin of Species* were printed in the first edition, and they were all sold on the first day it was offered for sale. "No one knows exactly how many books from the first edition still exist," said library director Henry Yaple.

About 100 years after the birth of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life*, Chris Bromley's grandmother Abbie purchased *Origin* at an auction house in New York for \$100 and gave it to her husband, Alexander, for his birthday in 1950. A physician, Alexander Bromley had a reverence for life that made the book very meaningful to him, according to his son Michael.

Now an attorney in Colorado Springs, Michael said his parents gave him the book on his 21st birthday, when they still harbored hopes that he would pursue a career in medicine. Earlier this year he decided to give the treasured family artifact to Whitman. It now holds a revered spot, protected yet accessible for student and faculty research, in Penrose Library.



Chris Bromley, '97, left, presents the Darwin tome to library director Henry Yaple.

Before being tucked securely away, however, *Origin* took quite a ride with Chris Bromley, who used the trip to take advantage of a few alumni events at Whitman. While he did stash the book in the safe at Howard Johnson's before going out to dinner, the priceless relic of the 19th century rested casually on the Blazer's passenger seat during a Whitman varsity soccer game. This was a step up from the unceremonious ride from Idaho, of course, and decidedly more dashing than the nearly 50 years on his grandparents' book shelf, but far from the book's dignified beginnings. Not to worry. Darwin's treatise is now safely ensconced in the Whitman library.

*Origin of Species* may be the most influential book of the last five centuries, said Delbert Hutchison, assistant professor of biology. "It completely changed the way we view ourselves, our responsibilities to nature, and our place in the world. Our getting a copy of the original printing is such an honor and a generous gift."

The book "literally changed the world overnight," added Charles Drabek, who chairs the biology department. "Today, nothing makes sense in biology except in the light of evolution."

— Lenel Parish

