

# *A Message from the President*

December 2005

*Dear Whitman Alumni and Friends,*

By the time you read this, I will have been on the job as Whitman's thirteenth president for a little more than six months. In early November, at the installation ceremony, I was deeply gratified and humbled to receive the support and good wishes of so many members of the Whitman community and friends of the college.



*Matt Zimmerman '04*

Though the technical purpose of the event was to discharge the academic ritual of investing me as president, I viewed it as a day not about me, the individual, but about the college with me as a representative of what lies ahead for Whitman.

In my address I spoke of access to the opportunities afforded by a Whitman liberal arts education. I'd like to turn that a bit and say thank you for the opportunity to lead Whitman College. When my family and I considered this opportunity, we knew the college was great. But we didn't know just how great Whitman people are. Put simply, the faculty and students are incredibly talented, and they are supported and assisted by staff members who are intensely dedicated to the college. Alumni remain loyally devoted to their alma mater; volunteers and donors contribute to the life of the college through meaningful, transformative gifts of time, talent and treasure. Governing board members make Whitman's mission their own, steering and guiding the college toward excellence in every possible way. I feel confident I can count on you to continue in these ways.

It didn't take me long to form impressions of the college that I now see playing out daily. Behind the beautiful campus scenes you see in photos of Whitman is a place built on relationships. This is a cohesive community with strongly held values. I have had countless conversations with Whitman people, each one revealing ways in which the college has touched me and touched the lives of so many. This is such a wonderful place because of the people – how deeply they care and how they give to one another as they work to advance the mission of Whitman College.

So I thank you all for the opportunity and for your contributions in so many aspects of making Whitman College excellent. Thank you for valuing Whitman's rigorous, supportive and very personal approach to liberal arts education and for your trust in me as the college's president. I look forward to leading Whitman in the coming years, implementing expressions of our shared commitment and passion.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George S. Bridges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*George S. Bridges*