

A Message from the President

Momentum continues with visual arts center

The members of the Board of Trustees voted unanimously at their November meeting to break ground on our new Center for Visual Arts.

This is a milestone for the entire Whitman community. Our gratitude goes out to all of the generous donors who brought the project close enough to our fund-raising goal to begin construction.

This news comes on the heels of the dedication of two other facilities on campus. The Baker Ferguson Fitness Center, including the Paul and Louise Harvey Pool, represents not only the legacy but also the Platonic model — mind, body, spirit — of the late **Baker Ferguson '39**. Baker was a cornerstone of this college, and his passion for life and devotion to Whitman will forever echo from the walls of the fitness center.

Similarly, the new Welty Center reflects the ethic of care exemplified by the late **Dr. Robert Ford Welty '35** and **Dr. Libby Welty**, for whom the center is named. Hearing Libby speak about a facility that encourages students to be responsible for their health was a reward as well as a delight. “It’s not the age, it’s the bounce that counts!” she said. Words well worth remembering.

Both events underscore the human relationships upon which Whitman is built. And it is the human infrastructure that demands our attention now that the physical infrastructure of the college is complete.

The value of those relationships — the collective efforts of our faculty, students and staff — is easily seen. As I write this letter, members of the faculty are putting into practical form the vision for Whitman that was endorsed this summer by the Board of Trustees. Phil Brick’s innovative Semester in the West program was recently featured on National Public Radio. Our

Study Abroad program continues to produce extraordinary learning experiences and results, as illustrated in these pages. Over the past few months, stories in *The New York Times*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Washington Monthly* and *The Seattle Times* have all saluted Whitman as one of the finest liberal arts schools in the country.

The school’s legacy of community service also lives on. This year’s recipient of the Town and Gown Award is Professor of Psychology Deborah DuNann Winter. Congratulations, Deborah.

To all of you — faculty, staff, donors, alumni — who contribute each day to our collective momentum, thank you. I am grateful for all that you have done, and continue to do, in advancing and deepening the college’s tradition of rigorous study, critical thinking and mindful discourse. Thank you for making Whitman such a powerful and supportive learning environment — for all of us.

Sincerely,



George S. Bridges



Chris Bishop '79

Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Welty and President Bridges at the Welty Center dedication.