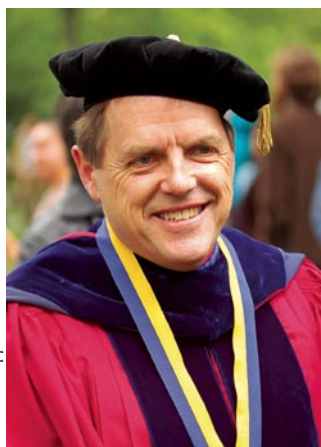


A Message from the President

Passion for learning flows through all the Whitman family

When we in the Whitman community consider our commitment to education, what we are really describing is loyalty to a life and a love of learning. The promotion and cultivation of lifelong learning is a Whitman tradition that spans 124 years as a liberal arts college of national distinction. This allegiance is reflected not only in the work of our faculty and students, of course, but also in the lives and professional efforts of our alumni and staff. The examples are endless. As I reflect on another exceptional academic year at the college, I'd like to share a few of these efforts with you.



Andrew Propp '10

President George Bridges at Commencement 2007.

This year eight students from the Class of 2007 and two of our alumni earned Fulbright Awards, the most of any year in the school's history. Our students also received a Truman Scholarship, a Beinecke Scholarship, a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and two Projects for Peace awards — all prestigious prizes given to only a few individuals nationally each year. Our debate team, led by Professor of Forensics Jim Hanson, finished No. 1 in the nation in combined policy and parliamentary debate. All are examples of exceptional critical thinking, accomplishments by which any college or university in the country would be extremely proud.

One of our distinguished faculty, Tim Kaufman-Osborn, left his Baker Ferguson Chair of Politics this year to serve as interim dean of the faculty, a generous demonstration of goodwill and an enormous commitment of time, thought and hard work. Under his leadership, the college moved forward on all academic fronts, including an endowed professorship in economics and three additional tenure-track lines under the college's diversity initiative. Tim deserves our deep gratitude not only for his 25 years of service to Whitman but also the broad, incisive thinking that each day he brings to this campus.

Imagination and innovation are part and parcel of expansive thought. One of many manifestations at Whitman is the work of our Technology Services team directed by Chief Technology Officer Keiko Pitter. This spring Whitman received the Hugi Excellence Award for its creative applications of technology to learning in higher education. Keiko and her dedicated staff keep Whitman on the leading edge of educational innovation.

Finally, there is the example of **June Berkey Shoemaker '47**, who recently retired from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. June was an English major and Drama Club member at Whitman. Sixty years later, she wrote a staff member that she had just completed her 33rd semester of classes at Harvard. Her inspiration? "Whitman stirred my love of learning."

Such is the life that Whitman fosters. As an educator, I am honored — and delighted each day — to be part of a school so committed to the principles of learning. Thank you for allowing me to share such a rich, vital reward.

Sincerely,

George S. Bridges