

A Message from the President

An elite college that is not elitist

Dear Whitman Alumni and Friends,

This first year of my presidency has been one of learning, listening and exploring opportunities to enhance what already is a fantastic college. You may have heard me refer to Whitman as an elite college that is not elitist. I formed that opinion even before I took the job, and my experiences thus far have confirmed that perception.

As the spring semester continues, I'll host a series of alumni gatherings in cities across the nation. In addition to bringing you the latest campus news, I look forward to hearing your Whitman stories — your memories and your aspirations for its future.

I'm particularly eager to share with you the outcomes and progress of a variety of campus conversations about such far-reaching subjects as increasing diversity and access to Whitman, building on the quality of our academic programs and continuing the development of faculty to support the mission of the college.

We have formed a task force on campus diversity that is working to implement the vision as outlined in the new "Trustees Statement on Diversity." To support our discussions in this we have launched a Web page, at www.whitman.edu/diversity. I strongly encourage you to visit the site and join in the dialogue on this critical issue.

Discussions about our academic programs and goals continue work that was a focus of faculty attention last year. The conversations are based on a document titled "Building on Excellence: Continuing the Development of the Academic Program." Completed during the 2004-05 school year, the document guides us as we look to invest in an emphasis on student learning and the academic support needed to advance the already high quality of the Whitman academic experience for students.

It's an exciting time at Whitman, and I am thrilled to be a part of it. I value your support and your involvement with the college and look forward to seeing you on campus or in your area soon.

Sincerely,



George S. Bridges



Matt Zimmerman '04