



The Alaffia Sustainable Skin Care Company extracts its shea butter and other indigenous oils and butters using traditional methods that involve a complicated process briefly outlined here.



Shea butter is the oil from the nuts of the shea tree, which grows throughout the West African savanna.



Ripe shea fruit is collected as it falls from the shea trees, then shelled, cleaned and dried for storage.

Dry, clean shea nuts are carefully selected by hand for the day's production of shea butter.



Lore Fauser Rude

Prairie Rose Hyde '95 and Olowo-n'dja Tchala visited Alumni House with their children Yemi Tchala, 2, left, and Abiola Tchala, 4, when they spoke on campus in November.

Beauty of natural skin-care product reaches far beyond healthy glow

The Alaffia Sustainable Skin Care Company has a history as rich as the pure, unrefined shea butter it sells.

The fledgling multinational company, brain-child of **Prairie Rose Hyde '95** and her husband, Olowo-n'dja Tchala, also provides fair prices and wages to the farmers and the members of the Agbanga Karite Cooperative in Togo, West Africa.

The company's story begins in 1991, when Hyde arrived at Whitman from Oroville, Wash. She came armed with a scholarship, a desire to be involved in everything that Whitman had to offer, and the knowledge that some day she wanted to join the Peace Corps and travel to other parts of the world.

At Whitman, she says, she was further inspired by a study-abroad semester in Australia and by Professor Heidi Dobson's Plants and Peoples biology class.

"Her class really made me think about the relationship between humans and plants and how we rely on them for our survival without really thinking about it."

After graduating with honors in 1995 with a

degree in biology, Hyde joined the Peace Corps, where she used her background in biology and agriculture as a sustainable agriculture/agroforestry volunteer in Africa. She also met her future husband and business partner, Tchala, in Kaboli, Togo, West Africa. If anyone asks how they forged their dynamic union, Hyde will smile, and Tchala will tell you that he "was very persistent."

Their joint persistence eventually led them back to the United States and UC Davis, where Tchala earned a degree in organizational theory and Hyde a double master's in ecology and international agricultural development.

"The Peace Corps opened my eyes to my own misperceptions of 'development' and made me realize how little I knew about the logistics of world trade, sustainable life choices and the importance of preserving cultures while the world becomes more and more homogenous," says Hyde.

"Even so, I think the quality of education at Whitman was over and beyond what many of my Peace Corps and graduate school colleagues received at their undergraduate

institutions. It was something I noted again and again.”

Tchala, who grew up in the poverty of West Africa, used his studies to develop “a sense of what makes some countries poor, and others not.” Always on his mind, he told an audience at Whitman last fall, was the thought, “I can’t just leave my country and its poverty.”

All this came together for the couple when they finished their degrees at UC Davis and looked for jobs.

“During our studies, we had come to the conclusion that working for someone else meant answering to someone else and their values,” says Hyde.

“This pushed us to think of an alternative — one that would provide for us and our family as well as our larger community in Togo and now in the United States as well.”

Since Tchala’s family and community in Togo had been making and trading shea butter for generations, this seemed like a natural base for a company. When a friend gave them a jar of refined, white shea butter, the potential for marketing the “real” shea butter — rich, unrefined and natural — seemed possible.

“With a small loan, a lot of hard work and determination, it became possible,” says Hyde. “We always knew it would take off, but I didn’t know it would happen so fast!”

In three years the couple has built the Alaffia business, affiliated with a cooperative located in the village of Sokodé, Togo. The women of the co-op do the same backbreaking and intensive work women have always done in Togo to create shea butter. The difference is they make a livable wage with which they can support their families.

There are no middlemen in the Alaffia business. Shea butter is made in Sokodé (see the process in inset boxes) and shipped to the “factory” in Olympia, which is situated near the house where Hyde and Tchala live with their two young daughters, Abiola, 4, and Yemi, 2. Here, the butter is turned into a multitude of lotions, creams, balms and soaps using formulations created by Hyde, the biologist, and marketed by Tchala, the businessman and face of the company.



Prairie Rose Hyde '95 is shown at the company's factory in Olympia, Wash. At Whitman last fall, she taught students how to make the lotions in a biology lab.

Shea butter has been used for centuries in West Africa for skin care, cooking and medicinal purposes, and it has been exported for almost that long, but many of the products that make it to the United States have been “refined” to take all color, texture and smell from the shea nut. In the process, says Hyde, many of the nutrients (such as Vitamin A) are lost and sometimes chemicals are added. And the skills and hard work of the women who traditionally gather the nuts and make the butter have been underpaid and marginalized.

Hyde and Tchala’s enterprise, in the past three years, has added about a half million dollars to the Togo economy. Tchala and Hyde earmark 10 percent of the Alaffia sales for community projects in Togo such as school roofs, supplies and scholarships; bicycles for students to use as transportation; and reforestation efforts.

In addition, 5 percent of the opening order from each newly affiliated store now goes to the Fousena Fund, named after Tchala’s sister who died in childbirth in 2005.

What they have created, say Tchala and Hyde, is much more than a business or a skin-care product. It’s a social movement, and it’s a model they hope others will follow. Alaffia (named after a greeting in West Africa) Fair Trade Sustainable Skin Care

has empowered one community in Togo.

“One of our main goals is to help people start this in other areas of Africa,” says Tchala. “I feel morally responsible to dedicate my life to empowering our communities there. We have chosen to promote indigenous African natural resources that are culturally, spiritually, economically and ecologically sustainable.”

Hyde and Tchala live by the same values they promote.

“Be sure to recycle the containers,” Tchala urged the Whitman audience as he passed out orange sample bottles of Alaffia Lavender Mint Handcrafted Shea Butter.

— Lenel Parish



See www.alaffia.com and www.empowermentalliance.org.



After being crushed and lightly roasted, the shea nuts are ground into a thick paste.



The shea paste is then whipped with fresh, clean potable water until the oils separate and rise to the top.



The oil is stirred as it cools and crystallizes into creamy, pure and unrefined shea butter.



The owners earmark 10 percent of Alaffia sales for community projects in Togo such as purchasing bicycles for students to use as transportation.

Reunions 2007-2008

Fifty-Plus Reunion June 8-10, 2007 Classes of 1956 and earlier

Special gatherings for 1942-1943, 1947-1948 and 1952-1953
www.whitman.edu/alumni/reunions_50plus.cfm

**Fiftieth Reunion
Class of 1957
May 17-20, 2007**
www.whitman.edu/alumni/reunions_50th.cfm

**Thirty-Fifth Reunion
Classes of 1971, 1972, 1973
April 26-29, 2007**
www.whitman.edu/alumni/reunions_spring.cfm

**Tenth Reunion
Class of 1998
Sept. 26-28, 2008**
www.whitman.edu/alumni/reunions/cfm

**Fortieth Reunion
Class of 1967
April 26-29, 2007**
www.whitman.edu/alumni/reunions_spring.cfm

**Twenty-Fifth Reunion
Class of 1983
Sept. 26-28, 2008**
www.whitman.edu/alumni/reunions/cfm

**Fifth Reunion
Classes of 2002, 2003, 2004
Sept. 26-28, 2008**
www.whitman.edu/alumni/reunions/cfm



Model: Cody Parsons '08

WHITMAN BOOKSTORE



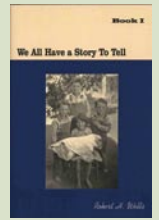
A **World of Good** brings beautiful, handcrafted gifts from artisans around the world. The fair trade creations help support artisans, build community and protect the environment.

For more information on products available and to order:
 E-mail stulla@whitman.edu or call (509) 527-5328 or 527-5274



Whitman Alumni Collection

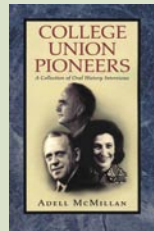
Robert Wells '43 has written two volumes of "We All Have a Story To Tell: Memories of Another Time." Bob writes, "Fascinated as I am with the stories people can tell about their lives and careers, I found myself taping the stories of family and later of friends. Other family members and friends also shared written memoirs with me. These stories seemed worthy of sharing as they reflected the personal reminiscences of people living in a century of great change." Book 1: 1900-1941. Book 2: Events That Surround World War II. (Authorhouse, 2006.)



David Allard '51 is the author of "Uncle Clayton: A Soldier's Life in Letters." U.S. Army Pvt. Clayton Allard of upstate New York was killed in action in the Philippines on Dec. 26, 1901. His family wasn't notified of his death until months later, and his body was never returned to the United States for burial. More than a hundred years later, Allard, Clayton's great-nephew, transcribed and published the young soldier's war letters in this book. "I feel like in some ways, my great uncle has finally come home," said Allard, a retired federal administrative law judge living in Evans, Ga. (RoseDog Books, 2006.) Also available on amazon.com.



Adell McMillan '55 authored "College Union Pioneers: A Collection of Oral History Interviews." It is part of a larger collection of interviews conducted while she was on sabbatical from the University of Oregon in 1978. McMillan is the director emeritus of the Erb Memorial Union at U of O. She previously authored "A Common Ground: The Erb Memorial Union, University of Oregon from 1950 to 2000" and co-edited and co-authored "College Unions-Seventy-five Years," published by the Association of College Unions-International. (Xlibris, 2006.)



Walla Walla author Sam McLeod (a.k.a. Steve Johnson) has penned three books about life in Walla Walla. All three book covers "Welcome to Walla Walla," "Bottled Walla," and "Blue Walla," feature the artwork of **Jeff Hill '78**. Hill's art also graces the walls of many wineries in Walla Walla, as well as wine labels. The style of his art has earned him the moniker "Vineyard Van Gogh." The books about Walla Walla are available at amazon.com and the Whitman College Bookstore, (509) 527-5274 or www.whitman.edu/bookstore. Johnson is the father of **Abby Johnson '05**.



Bruce Williams '78 is the author of "Microsoft Flight Simulator as a Training Aid: A Guide for Pilots, Instructors, and Virtual Aviators." See www.ASA2fly.com, www.BruceAir.com or e-mail brucew@bruceair.com. (ASA, December 2006.)

Steve McConnell '85 is the author of "Software Estimation: Demystifying the Black Art," his fifth book. Amazon.com named his new book its No. 1 Editor's Pick of 2006 Computers & Internet books. "I'm still enjoying working at Construx Software in Bellevue, Wash., with **Mark Nygren '85** and occasionally **Hank Meuret '86**."

Whitman rises in Peace Corps service

From Paraguay to Peru and Thailand to Tanzania, Whitman consistently ranks high in the number of its alumni in service to the Peace Corps.

This year the college rose four ranking points to No. 12 on the Peace Corps' Top 25 list of producers of volunteers among small schools.

There are 19 Whitman alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps, working in 14 different countries.



Erin Gettling '03 with her students in Ukraine.

Erin Gettling '03 is one of 274 Whitman alumni who have served since the Peace Corps began in 1962. Following graduation, she lived in Hlobyne, a small town in central Ukraine, where she taught conversational English to school children.

"Entering the Peace Corps in Ukraine was one of the best decisions of my life," she said recently.

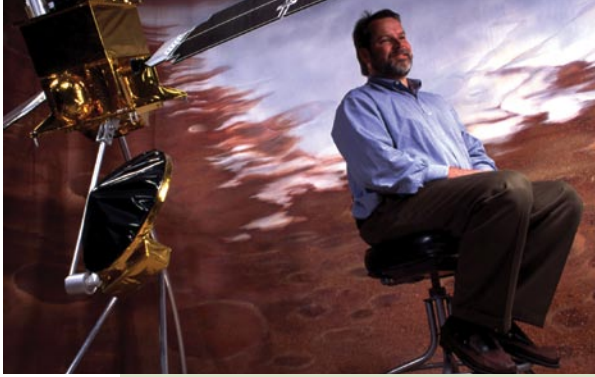
"I was able to use the skills and education I gained at Whitman to benefit the people in my adopted community. At the same time, the people I worked with taught me a great deal about myself and what I want from my future."

Following her Peace Corps stint of teaching, she enrolled in the master's of arts in teaching program at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore., where she is today.

Whitman alumni are currently serving in Guatemala, Senegal, Bulgaria, Niger, Micronesia, Nicaragua, Azerbaijan, Benin, Equador and South Africa, in addition to Paraguay, Peru, Thailand and Tanzania.

Alumni Association honors ...

... the chief engineer for NASA's Mars Exploration Program



Rob Manning '80 says Whitman helped him realize his dreams.

His childhood dream of becoming a space engineer is still coming true. **Rob Manning '80**, chief engineer with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, is quick to credit Whitman with helping him develop the self-discipline and study skills that put him where he is today — building the space probes he read and dreamed about as a child.

Manning spent his childhood living a "Huckleberry Finn existence" in rural northwestern Washington.

"I didn't believe that I could really become an engineer until I got to Whitman," says Manning. But the possibility of completing the Whitman-Caltech 3-2 program (which enabled him to earn a bachelor of arts degree from Whitman and a bachelor of science

degree from Caltech in five years) inspired him. That, and fear, he says.

"I literally lived in the college library under a portrait of the great Indian Chief Joseph. He was very stern and seemed to encourage me not to lose sight of my goals. I didn't."

The rest is history. In 1981 (while still a student at Caltech), Manning was offered a part-time position as an electronics draftsman for the Galileo mission at JPL. He worked on NASA spacecraft computer systems until the Mars Pathfinder project took over his life in 1993. There he served as chief engineer and also led the Entry, Descent and Landing team.

Pathfinder and little Sojourner Rover successfully bounced into Mars history on July 4, 1997. Later Manning led the development of the Mars Sample Return Lander until the failure of two Mars probes in 1999 indefinitely postponed the development of Mars Sample Return.

In an attempt to regain NASA's Mars exploration stature, Manning and a team at JPL conceived and proposed the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission based on the Mars Pathfinder design in April 2000. Rob became the MER System Engineering Manager and later, Entry, Descent and Landing Manager.

He supervised his second and third hair-raising robotic Mars landings when

ALUMNUS OF MERIT

Spirit and Opportunity rovers landed successfully in January of 2004. Since then, Manning has been chief engineer for NASA's robotic Mars Exploration Program at JPL.

In 2004, Rob was named by *Space-News* as "one of 100 people who made a difference in civil, commercial and military space since 1989."

"I am very proud and amazed that I have been selected as this year's Alumnus of Merit," Manning says. "I came to Whitman from a small farm town where academics, science and engineering seemed the furthest thing in the world. I was very nervous.

"The approachability, the enthusiasm and the extraordinary quality of the faculty surprised me. The Whitman community welcomed me into a world I had only dared to dream to be part of.

"Almost unbelievably after a quarter century, I have found myself a solid fixture in the world of robotics and space exploration. My comfort to ask questions, to express enthusiasm and wonder at our natural world as well as the never-ending depth of human creativity comes squarely from the examples the Whitman community laid before me.

"Whitman is an amazing place, and I am proud to have experienced it."

... professor who puts theater in the spotlight for alumni trips

Theatre Professor **Nancy Simon '63** received the Alumni Association's 2007 Faculty Award for Service for her "extensive participation in the Ashland Shakespeare Festival, Senior Alumni College, Harper Joy Theatre on the Road, Walla Walla, Seattle and Berkeley alumni events, and Harper Joy Theatre open houses during reunion weekends."

"Honored" by the award, Simon said she has always considered herself very fortunate to be a part of the Whitman family.

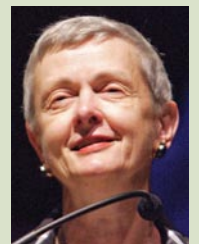
"I came to Whitman College sight unseen," she said, "on the recommendation of alumna **Betty (Elizabeth Fouts) Van Oppen '40**, who had gone to school with **Rod Alexander '41**, who was then the director of theater. Little did I know that it would be the place I would spend most of my life."

FACULTY AWARD

Whitman, she added, was a good fit then and remains a good fit today. "I really believe in what we do here."

A member of the Whitman faculty since 1967, Simon is known on campus for her dedication as teacher, director, adviser and mentor to innumerable students.

She has advised the Drama Club, the Fine Arts House and the Walla Walla theater community, and at the 1997 Commencement ceremonies she received the George Ball Advising Excellence Award.



Nancy Simon



Stephanie Van Dyke '99 works with villagers in Ddegeya, Uganda, last summer as they prepare the foundation for a new clinic.

... a woman who built a medical clinic for people in rural Uganda

Stephanie Van Dyke '99 is embarking on the spring break of a lifetime. A second-year medical student at Albany Medical College, she is heading up a mission in late March that will take two doctors, a trauma nurse and 10 medical students to a village in Uganda that has never had medical care.

Awaiting the group is a new medical clinic and two small dormitories (to house volunteers) that Van Dyke built last summer with the help of a small inheritance from her grandmother, and the hard work of her parents, volunteers and 50 villagers from Ddegeya, Uganda.

The idea for the Engeye Health Clinic was born the year after Van Dyke graduated from Whitman. Armed with a psychology degree but unsure about her next step, Van Dyke let her passion for travel and volunteer work propel her around the world.

Her first stop was Uganda, where she taught English to the children of Katooke but soon discovered that what

PETE REID AWARD FOR YOUNG ALUMNI

they needed more was basic medical care. This epiphany inspired her to choose a career in medicine with the goal of building sustainable medical clinics in Uganda and other underserved areas around the world that work in collaboration with the United States but are not dependent on outside resources.

Van Dyke says that even as a teenager she "yearned to help those who were disadvantaged." But her experiences in Uganda, and later Pretoria and Thailand, she says, created a focus that had not existed for her before her travels.

"After graduation (from medical school), I definitely envision myself living in Uganda at least half the year making sure the clinics run well," she says.

www.engeye.com For details on the Engeye Health Clinic, visit www.engeye.com.

... a woman who has made a career of volunteering, helping others

Mary Jane Corliss Shea '71 has served Whitman as an overseer and regional vice chair, a member of Whitman's Development Committee and Career Counseling Network, and a class representative.

What she loves most, however, is serving as an advocate for Whitman when she can recommend a potential student to the college.

"That is the best legacy I can imagine," she says.

GORDON SCRIBNER AWARD

In one of many letters penned to her classmates she noted, "I feel that Whitman College and the people I met there aided and equipped me to change and grow." Shea has lived a life true to the liberal arts education Whitman provides, and her career and volunteer list are all about helping others.

A retired educator and Child Life Specialist at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Shea spent her career "helping children and their families with the stress of hospitalization through education, play and emotional support." In 1995 she was the recipient of Sacred Heart's Patient Teaching Excellence Award.

Her volunteer activities include serving as chair of the annual Children's Hospital Fair at Sacred Heart and as a trustee of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society (now the Museum of Arts and Culture or The MAC). She is an active member of the Spokane Symphony Associates, has served on the board of the Spokane Guild's School for Neurologically Handicapped Children, and volunteers at The Barton School, where she teaches English as a second language.

In addition, Shea's family sponsored Whitman Night at the Spokane Symphony in 1993, 1996 and 1997; and she organized the 1992 Spokane "Theater on the Road," which involved securing theater space for a Harper Joy Theatre production for alumni and prospective students in the area.



Garry and Mary Jane Corliss Shea '71 prepare to try out a zipline in Hawaii.

— stories by Lenel Parish

Alumni Association honors ...

... a mother who turned grief into SIDS crusade

Mary Shuham Dore '50 and her husband, Fred, a lawyer, state senator and state Supreme Court justice, turned their grief over the 1961 "crib death" of their daughter, Christine, into a lifelong prevention crusade against what is known today as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and its devastating effect on parents.

The Dores believed that all parents deserved to know why their babies had died of what pediatricians then referred to as crib death.

"We were in a situation where these sudden unexplained deaths had been occurring for 2,000 years, and yet no one was doing any research. People would talk about pneumonia and polio, but people avoided talking about sudden unexplained infant death even though at that time nearly three out of every 1,000 babies died suddenly."

The Dores spent their lives (Fred died in 1996) fighting for legislation to recognize and research these deaths, and comfort the parents of SIDS babies. They raised money for the necessary medical research to prevent SIDS, and they tried to comfort bereaved parents like themselves who had lost a baby to the ailment.

In 1987, years after the Dores began their battle, the National SIDS Foundation newsletter *The Leaflet* ran an article noting that Mary's "concern for SIDS parents never lessens. A personal note from Mary often finds

its way to the home of newly grieving SIDS parents. Her main role now: Giver of Peace."

"Every death must be looked at," Dore says, "and every parent counseled. We should be willing to look at and recognize any threat that raises the risk factor.

"One thing that can certainly be done is to make sure parents recover from their loss and the medical profession gets an accurate count and study of these occurrences," she says. "In Washington, we have a pretty good method; the program has a tremendous background."

Early legislation the Dores worked to establish created a central location where all SIDS victims could be autopsied and researched. Originally this was the University of Washington Medical School; later the school transferred the base of the research project to Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center. One of the leaders in research there was **Dr. J. Bruce Beckwith '55**, who ultimately identified the syndrome now known as SIDS.

Dore, who lives in Bellevue, Wash., says she is "very pleased about the award; it's nice to be recognized. But I most want the babies to be accounted for. Parents cannot recover without knowing why, and that's why it's so important that each occurrence is properly handled and classified."

— stories by Lenel Parish



... a musician who has shared his gift for half a century

John Keil Richards '40 was inducted into Idaho's Hall of Fame Association in 2001, decades after he left Payette, Idaho, to attend Whitman in 1936. During the intervening years, Richards has distinguished himself as a musician, music historian and college administrator.

A longtime member of the Oregon Symphony (1947-1999), where he was principal tuba player, Richards has for many years conducted the Portland and Salem Tuba Christmas events. He directed and arranged music for the professional Portland Symphonic Band, and more recently, he founded the Polished Brass ensemble.

Richards is conductor of the Metropolitan 100-plus Youth Symphonic Band and has toured with the group in Russia, Scandinavia, Finland, Austria, Hungary and Italy. This July, the band will visit China.

His collection of historic instruments was legendary in his days at Lewis and Clark College, where he was director of instrumental music, chairman of the education department and associate dean of the faculty.

"Whitman was and is the major influence upon my concepts of life in general," Richards says. "It afforded the opportunity to explore and come to appreciate history, philosophy and those subjects and experiences that breathe life into all activity. Its mentors continue to make a difference in the lives of many, including mine. I am deeply touched and flattered by this award and pray that I may be worthy of it."

SALLY RODGERS LIFELONG ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Mary Dore



Where in the world have you met a Whittie?

If you get that "It really is a small world, isn't it?" feeling when you run into a Whittie somewhere in the world, e-mail the story (and a photo, if you have one) to Nancy Mitchell at mitcheni@whitman.edu.

A class note submitted by **Nagle Jackson '58** about his play at the Hedgerow Theatre in Philadelphia was forwarded to the Alumni Office and Margaret Hoglund, who was planning a March trip to Philadelphia for alumni. Hoglund contacted the theater and Nagle about the possibility of the Whitman group attending a performance. The Hedgerow Theatre volunteered to rent vans to pick up the group and deliver them to the theater so that they can watch "A Hotel on Marvin Gardens," the play written by Jackson. He also staged Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" for the Utah Shakespeare Festival in the summer of 2006.



Andrew Niemyer '73 wrote, "In 1977 my wife, **Lisa Abrahams '76** and I were living in southwestern Spain during my first Navy squadron tour at the Rota Naval Station. One day, while I was away on a detachment, my wife was driving our car, which had 'Whitman College' and 'Delta Tau Delta' in the back window while running errands on base. Behind her a small car began blinking its lights and an arm waved from the driver's side. The driver pulled along side and asked, 'What year?' Believing he was referring to the car, she replied '1973 BMW!' 'No,' the answer came, 'What year did you graduate from Whitman?' The other car was driven by **Charlie Budenz '67**, a Naval Reservist serving at one of the Navy commands on the base. When I returned we had a delightful evening together. Fast forward to around mid-1993. I was serving as Operations Officer in a combined Navy-Coast Guard unit based at Naval Station Treasure Island on San Francisco Bay. I was attending a briefing at the Commander, Coast Guard Area Pacific Headquarters in Alameda, Calif. I glanced around the room and across the way was another Navy officer who seemed familiar. We were about half way through the meeting when it came to me, and I had to control myself from blurting out his name. Yes, 16 years later and half a world away from where we first met, Charlie and I again met up, fraternity brothers and fellow Whits together again!" E-mail aniemyer@charter.net.

TRIPS ■ TOURS ■ EVENTS

Summer College

June 10-15, 2007

Alumni, parents and friends will come together to explore

FIRE

from the liberal arts perspective.

Sunday, June 10 — Friday, June 15

Includes a field trip led by the U.S. Forest Service to study the impact of recent wildfires in nearby Columbia County.

The week will include studying the concept of fire, including a session on pan-religious thought and practice, a lecture on the early roots of nationalism (burning effigies), a fire demonstration and a presentation on wildfires.

Summer College 2007 faculty includes Associate Professor of Religion Jonathan Walters, Associate Professor of Chemistry Ruth Russo, Associate Professor of Art Charles Timm-Ballard and Professor of History David F. Schmitz.

Whitman graduate and Watson Fellow Rachel Smith '03 will talk about her study of wildfire suppression in Australia.

Experience this intellectually challenging, blue-book-free week.

Cost: from \$180 to \$595 for the week



Kayak Washington's San Juan Islands

June 18-21, 2007 n July 9-12, 2007

Kayaking and camping adventures with faculty and alumni. For details, visit www.whitman.edu/alumni/seakayaking2007.htm



Arctic Norway and Svalbard

July 4-21, 2007

Bob Carson, professor of geology and environmental studies, will lead this tour. Prices range from \$3,395, including airfare. Contact Johnna Brown at Worldwide Travel in Walla Walla at (509) 525-8040 or (800) 283-9987. Details: www.whitman.edu/alumni/norway2007.htm



Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Aug. 3-5, 2007

Theresa DiPasquale, associate professor of English, will accompany theatergoers for Shakespeare's "The Tempest," "Taming of the Shrew," "As You Like It" and "Romeo and Juliet," plus Tom Stoppard's "On the Razzle." Accommodations and meals at Ashland Springs Hotel. Details: www.whitman.edu/alumni/ashland07.htm



March 21, 2007 Eugene, Ore. Lecture by David Glenn, professor of music, and jazz concert

March 30, 2007 Portland, Ore. Whitman Jazz and Wind Ensemble

April 5, 2007 Spokane, Wash. Keiko Hara exhibit, Lorinda Knight Gallery

April 18, 2007 Portland, Ore. Whitman Connections reception

April 19, 2007 Seattle, Wash. Whitman Connections reception

REGISTER EARLY FOR TRIPS AND TOURS:

For information, call (800) 835-9448, ext. 1, or (509) 527-5167; e-mail hoglund@whitman.edu; or visit www.whitman.edu/alumni/tripsschedule.cfm

Alumni help former longtime theater professor celebrate 80th

Editor's note: When Jack Freimann, former Whitman professor, mentor and friend turned 80 last fall, Terry McConn '74 traveled to New York to attend the birthday party and wrote the following article for the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin.

I'll never forget when I first met Jack Freimann, who was then Whitman College's theater director.

It was in late summer of 1970. He was 43. I was a scared, 18-year-old freshman "drama-major-to-be." Just before my first Play Production class in Harper Joy Theatre, he flung open a hallway curtain and bounded down the aisle to greet the 10 or so students who were waiting anxiously to see him after the summer break. I was the only one who didn't know Jack personally, so I just watched from the sidelines. Maybe it was the way he said "hello" to them. Perhaps it was the enthusiasm he exuded at seeing his old friends.

It was probably the magic I sensed he had to possess to elicit such excited cheers. Somehow I knew immediately that this stranger — this youthful dynamo, this most unprofessor-like professor — would be someone I'd admire the rest of my life.

Jack came to Whitman in 1962 as scenic designer and assistant professor of dramatic art and speech. He had attained degrees from New York and Fordham universities, and worked professionally for Broadway and Off-Broadway plays, and at such places as Bucks County Playhouse in Pennsylvania and the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

He was named director of Harper Joy in 1967 and enjoyed a career as teacher,

director, designer, producer and actor. He later said he expected to stay at Whitman only a year, but lasted 30 before retiring in 1992 and moving back to New York City.

During Jack's tenure — his real name is John, but I've only heard one or two people ever call him that — Whitman's theater department gained national renown. He guided many students to professional careers, accepted several awards, was recognized when Whitman named an endowment after him, and received an honorary doctorate from the college in 2001. Even the small theater at Harper Joy — once known as the Black Box — has been dubbed officially the Freimann Stage.

He forever will be considered a cornerstone of Walla Walla theater. And he has inspired and enriched hundreds of lives. I took most of Jack's classes and got to work under his direction on a couple dozen shows before graduating in 1974.

We continued our friendship that now spans 36 years. So it didn't take long for my wife, **Sherry Fletcher McConn '74**, to persuade me to attend his 80th birthday party in New York on Nov. 10. Jack was born on that day in Yakima in 1926.

To celebrate, his good friends, Nina and Tim Lannan, threw



Jack Freimann and Terry McConn '74 at Jack's birthday party in New York.

Photo courtesy of Terry McConn '74

a bash in the upstairs rooms of an elegant, landmark Italian restaurant just blocks from Jack's midtown Manhattan apartment. It was a stand-up affair with wine, hors d'oeuvres, Italian food and a cake shaped as a Broadway "Playbill" program sporting Jack's likeness.

Many who attended were friends from the New York area, but a few former students flew in from various parts of the country.

We, too, renewed friendships, but mostly talked about the guest of honor. We traded stories, memories. And we agreed that what Jack taught us through the context of theater transferred to the core of who we are.

There were all these unspoken rules when working with Jack. Or spoken only once. Tardiness and arrogance, for instance, weren't tolerated. You learned your lines, concentrated at rehearsals, and followed costume and lighting deadlines. You worked hard because right beside you was the hardest worker of all. But it was such fun. As we were pleasing Jack, we were preparing to please audiences — and ultimately ourselves.

In return, he gave each of us encouragement, attention, kindness, the skills to discover ourselves, and the confidence and determination to tackle most any task. I can count on one hand the times I heard Jack raise his voice in anger. He seldom needed to, but when it happened we blamed ourselves.

The Freimann years were ones in which style, trust, mutual respect, grace and dignity prevailed in the form of a creative leader and charismatic mentor.

A good friend told Jack after his party that all of his other friends are so nice. But that says more about Jack than about us. He wouldn't associate for long with any other type of person.

Jack taught us, by example, to face challenges with wit and humor. He still is the cheeriest, funniest person I know. Occasionally over the party noise, his trademark giggle pierced the air. High, raspy, loud, strong — and heartfelt as ever.

While not partying, he acts in plays, movies, commercials such as a national ad for Target stores a few years ago, and performs in St. Louis every summer. He reads voraciously, checks his e-mail religiously, attends theatrical productions several times a week, and dotes on his Scottish terrier, Lachie.

To me, he doesn't appear or behave any older than when he left Whitman. He walks faster than I, and recalls events and names more quickly.

Before I went to New York, Pat Henry, a former Whitman colleague of Jack's, dropped off a card for me to deliver to him. In our brief conversation, Henry said it all:

"Jack Freimann is the youngest man I've ever met. If he lives another 80 years, he'll still be the youngest man I've ever met."

Terry McConn '74 has been a reporter at the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin for nearly 20 years. Sherry Fletcher McConn '74 is enjoying her 17th year teaching at Walla Walla High School. They have two grown sons.

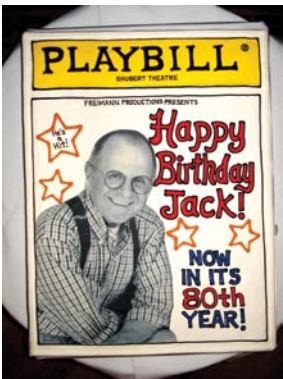
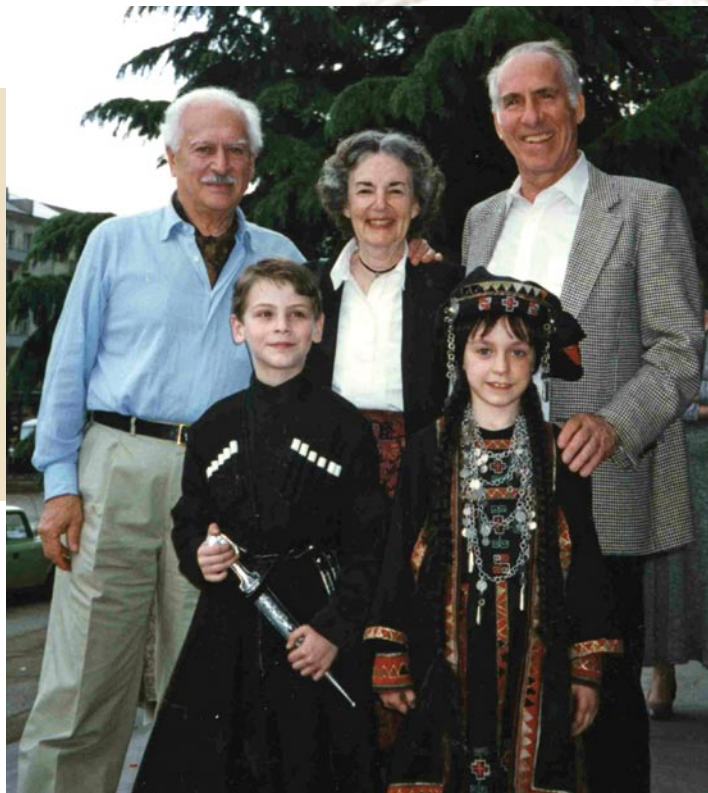


Photo courtesy of Frank Lott '83

Global entrepreneur invests in Whitman



Priscilla and Gordon Riess '49, center and in jacket at right, pose with Georgian friends during a visit to Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia.

Gordon Riess '49 and his wife, Priscilla, have at times lived in primitive conditions in former Communist countries. Not most people's idea of desirable retirement locations. But these were challenging assignments for Gordon, an international entrepreneur, philanthropist and author, who in his "retirement" used his expertise to help rebuild devastated industries with the International Executive Service Corps.

Although Gordon traveled the world in his professional career, he has always remained close to Whitman, and he firmly believes in the value of a liberal arts education. Through a gift annuity, he and Priscilla have transferred their fondness and beliefs into action that will help Whitman continue to educate and prepare future leaders. Their gift annuity will provide a secure income for them for life, as well as funding for future generations of Whitman students.

In many ways, Whitman brought Gordon to his global career and volunteer efforts. He believes his Whitman years fostered his entrepreneurial skills and prepared him to find success in a constantly changing business world.

After leaving Whitman with honors and a degree in economics and business administration, Gordon earned his MBA *cum laude* from Harvard University and held senior executive positions in Ford Motor Company, International Paper Company and Cinema International Corporation.

Gordon continues to teach at the university level and in executive training courses and serves as an expert witness in legal cases. He vows to never completely retire and to always support Whitman.

Benefits of gift annuities

The gift annuity created by Gordon and Priscilla benefits Whitman and also provides them with:

- †Safety of an income for life guaranteed by Whitman College.
- †A charitable deduction to reduce income tax.
- †Tax efficient income that results in more money to spend after taxes.

*To learn more about gift annuities and other ways you can support your alma mater while also providing benefits to your family, contact **Jamie Kennedy '96**, director of planned giving, at (509) 527-5989 or visit www.whitman.edu/giving/pg.cfm.*