



WHITMAN COLLEGE

Summer 2012
Campaign
Newsletter

In today's increasingly complex and globally connected world...

Whitman must broaden and deepen its rigorous and personalized education in the liberal arts and sciences

We must make a Whitman education more affordable

We must strengthen our financial base to better meet the educational needs of our students

Now is the time for an unprecedented commitment to Whitman's students and the College's future.



Volunteers Take the Campaign Vision Public

The public launch of the \$150 million *Now Is the Time Campaign* in November of 2011 declared Whitman College's intention to build on the historic strength of a Whitman education and make the education offered to our students the most valuable experience possible.

In this report, you will read more about why this campaign is so urgent and how a remarkable outpouring of generosity is already having an impact on today's students. More than \$97 million in commitments were made during the quiet phase of the campaign (July 1, 2007-November 18, 2011), and in the first seven months since its public announcement that total has risen to more than \$110 million. Volunteer campaign leaders call upon all Whitman alumni, parents, and friends of the College to join them in embracing the vision for Whitman. The outcome will be Whitman students who are prepared to meet the challenges of living and leading in the 21st century.

We encourage you to visit the campaign website: campaign.whitman.edu, attend events in your area, or visit campus to learn more about the vision for Whitman's future and how realizing it will build a brighter future for the College and its students.

Campaign leaders include, from left to right, Chair of the Board of Trustees Peter van Oppen '74, President George Bridges, and Campaign Chair John Stanton '77.

Your Support is Vital

John Stanton '77, Campaign Chair



Thank you to the many alumni and friends who have made Whitman a top priority for their giving. With your help, we were delighted to surpass \$110 million toward our \$150 million goal for the *Now Is the Time Campaign* earlier this summer! I am tremendously proud

to be a graduate of Whitman College and inspired by those who have made the commitment to pay it forward to future generations.

We are well on our way to meeting our goals, but our success is by no means assured. Many of the College's most generous supporters have already made their commitments to the campaign. To ensure the stability and growth to which we aspire in this campaign, we need additional alumni who are not yet donors to give, we need those who give infrequently to give each year, and we need more of our loyal donors to make multi-year and leadership commitments.

Your support will make a difference. Financial aid currently relies too heavily upon Whitman's annual budget – additional gifts to scholarship endowment will provide wider access for students from all backgrounds. Additional support for faculty and academic programs will help us maintain the balance between breadth in the liberal arts and depth in each major subject area – the approach that makes a Whitman education outstanding. And finally, because Whitman's endowment per student is significantly smaller than the colleges with which we compete most frequently for students, growth in the endowment through this campaign will make a tremendous difference in the overall experience we are able to provide for our students.

Now Is the Time for your commitment to Whitman's success.

We invite those of you who believe in the mission of the College and this campaign to join us. We ask each of you to make a gift – whether it is \$50 per year or \$50,000 – to show your support for Whitman and liberal arts education. Every gift counts. *Now Is the Time* for your commitment to Whitman's success.





Now Is the Time

A Campaign for Whitman College

ACADEMIC STRENGTH | Goal: \$75 million | Raised through June 30, 2012 - \$49,062,255, 65% of goal

- Broaden and deepen the curriculum through strategic additions to the faculty
- Cultivate innovation and excellence in teaching and learning
- Increase extraordinary learning experiences for students
- Support the facilities and equipment necessary for a quality education
- Prepare students to lead in a globally connected world

Five new professorships and chairs have already been established, and two others are in process, to bolster the academic program. Others have been planned through estates.

\$49 million*

ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY | Goal: \$50 million | Raised through June 30, 2012 - \$32,134,910, 64% of goal

- Endow need-based scholarships
- Bolster merit/talent awards

Forty-one new named scholarship endowments have been created so far during the campaign.

\$32 million*

FINANCIAL STRENGTH | Goal: \$25 million | Raised through June 30, 2012 - \$16,533,324, 66% of goal

- Build the unrestricted endowment for flexibility
- Increase yearly contribution from the Annual Fund for long-term stability

\$17 million*

**More than \$12 million committed to the campaign has yet to be designated by the donor and therefore is not counted in our progress toward these goals.*

Thank you to all who have contributed to date.

We are pleased to profile a few of the many transformative campaign gifts on the following pages...



Overall Goal: \$150 million

Expanding library collections and international horizons

The Jack Coleman Pitts and Dorothy De Simone Pitts Endowment

The joy of humor, the importance of planning, the worth of education, the wonder of adventure, the magic of philanthropy, the importance of reading, the rewards of hard work, and the delight of the humanities...

These are the virtues that Janet Pitts Beckmann's parents instilled in her and are those that she hopes to inspire in current and future Whitman students through her gifts to establish the Jack Coleman Pitts and Dorothy De Simone Pitts Endowment. The endowment, named in honor of Beckmann's parents, provides scholarship aid for students studying abroad and additions to Penrose Library.



Janet Pitts
Beckmann

Beckmann's connection to Whitman College developed in an unusual way. She and her late husband, George M. Beckmann, had always believed in the value of a liberal arts education. Both had a background in education – he as a longtime professor of Asian

studies and dean and later provost at the University of Washington, and she as associate dean at the University of Miami School of Nursing and dean of the school of nursing at University of Alabama, Huntsville. Both also authored scholarly and professional books. When they started thinking about how they might make a difference with charitable support, they researched small liberal arts colleges and thought about how they could supplement the transformative learning experiences that take place in such a setting. Whitman was fortunate to be among the colleges they looked at carefully. After George's death in 1998, Janet set out to make their hopes a reality. She contacted Whitman and set up the plan for the George M. and Janet Pitts Beckmann Endowment to support library acquisitions and study



Jack Coleman Pitts and Dorothy De Simone Pitts

abroad experiences that give students the opportunity to explore linguistics and the humanities around the world. Excitement about the *Now Is the Time Campaign* has prompted Janet to provide funding that will launch the Beckmann Endowment now, prior to the generous planned gift from her estate.

Janet Beckmann's connection to Whitman deepened over the years – she and her mother became familiar with Whitman's programs and people, and Janet attended a Summer College session. When Dorothy De Simone Pitts died in 2007, Janet wanted to do something for Whitman in memory of her mother and her father that would have an impact on the College as part of the campaign. In 2008, she created the Jack Coleman Pitts and Dorothy De Simone Pitts Endowment in memory of her devoted and loving parents, who instilled in her a respect for education and knowledge. The endowment is already providing considerable yearly support for its two purposes: study abroad and library acquisitions.

STUDY ABROAD

Hannah Siano '13 was a fitting recipient of the Pitts Study Abroad Scholarship for 2011-12. A senior politics/environmental studies major from Everson, Washington, Hannah is a first generation student also inspired by her parents: "Neither of my parents attended college, but



Hannah Siano

they are educated about and respectful of the natural world and our humble place in it,” Hannah wrote. The Pitts Scholarship supported Hannah’s study abroad in Ecuador this spring, where she studied Spanish at the School for International Training’s Comparative Ecology and Conservation Program. On campus, she is heavily involved in conservation and sustainability projects. Her efforts on campus and her experience in Ecuador helped lead to a prestigious honor for Hannah this fall when she was named a winner of the Udall Scholarship, which supports students dedicated to pursuing careers related to the environment. In the future, Hannah hopes to bring environmental education to K-12 classrooms.

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The second purpose of the Pitts Endowment is to support the library’s purchase of material in Asian studies, religion, and classical Greek and Roman studies. “The library is the heart of the college, and libraries often are forgotten when big gifts are made to colleges,” says Janet.

Her gift is improving library offerings in a significant way. Last year, more than 115 books and other materials were added to the collection with proceeds from the endowment, including titles such as “A Companion to Greek Mythology,” edited by Ken Dowden and Niall Livingstone; “Mount Fuji: Icon of Japan,” by H. Byron Earhart; and “Civilizing Habits: Women Missionaries and the Revival of French Empire,” by Sarah A. Curtis.

Janet Pitts Beckmann was elected to the Board of Overseers in 2010. She hopes that excellence at Whitman will be furthered through her gifts and her leadership. The impact of the Pitts Endowment can already be seen today in the library and the opportunities for study abroad students. And her estate gift, when received, will add significantly to the Beckmann and



International learning experiences prepare students for leadership.

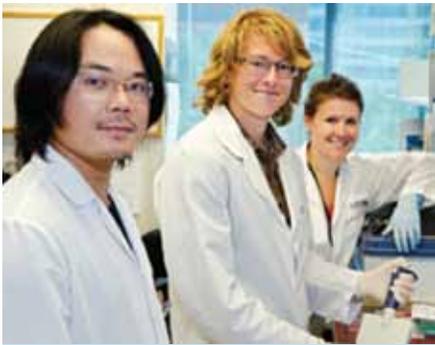
Pitts family legacies at Whitman. Those exploring the world, whether through reading and research or through hands-on learning around the globe, will be inspired for years to come thanks to Beckmann’s thoughtful philanthropy.



In their own words...

Scholarships Provide Opportunities

Access is a major component of the *Now Is the Time Campaign*.



“Whitman has been one of the best experiences of my life. I love this place, the people, and the classes. And coming from an Alaskan crab fishing family I could not have afforded this opportunity without help. I find myself reflecting more and more upon how valuable my time here has been, and how more than anything Whitman has given me a lifelong desire to learn.”

– Nathan Ord '12

More than 40 new scholarship endowments have been created so far through the campaign and many other donors have made multi-year commitments to bolster existing need- and merit-based awards. These investments in students will pay dividends for years to come as our graduates take on leadership roles in our communities.

Here, we profile two grateful scholarship recipients, who are among the hundreds who receive support from Whitman donors each year:

► **Nathan Ord '12**, the 2011-12 recipient of the Michael and Susan Gillespie and Kit Sheehan Muller scholarships, graduated with honors in his biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology major. In the summer of 2011, with support from a Whitman College grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Nathan did research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center on antibody response. He is pictured here (center) with lab mentors at the research center.

► **Omar Ihmoda '12** graduated from Whitman *summa cum laude*. He also earned honors in his history major by presenting his thesis work on Middle Eastern immigrants in Argentina at the annual History Honors Conference. While at Whitman, Omar was supported by the William and Jeanie Anderson and Robert Whitner scholarships and was selected by faculty for the Ronald V. Sires-Robert L. Whitner History Award – all funds that were made possible by gifts to the College.



“Finding out that I would be the first member of my family to attend a four-year college meant a tremendous amount to me and my family. The education I have received at Whitman has not only helped me find stable and meaningful work, but has also made me a more capable, thoughtful, and engaged world citizen. I can only hope that I will be able to use my education in a manner that honors the generosity of scholarship donors.”

– Omar Ihmoda '12

Honoring mentors and inspiring futures

The Neilen-Anderson Professorship in Rhetoric

The study of rhetoric and practice of debate have a distinguished history at Whitman College. The College's early commitment was expressed in 1918 with the creation of the Dovell-Gose Prizes in Oratory, established by members of the Board of Overseers in memory of William Thomas Dovell, Class of 1888, and Christopher Columbus Gose, Class of 1886 – Whitman alumni who went on to distinguished careers in law. Decades later, when Megan Salzman won the women's division of the Dovell-Gose contest, it was the culmination of the most impactful experience she had at Whitman College.

Although she was active in her political science major and wrote for *The Pioneer* on occasion, effectively expressing an argument in the debate program became her primary passion while Megan was a student here. In 1981, she attended the national forensics honor society (Pi Kappa Delta) national honorary speech tournament and took second among 96 speakers in group discussion

and received an excellent rating in informative speaking. Her coach that year, in his first year at Whitman College, was Professor Bob Withycombe.

The confidence in oral and written communication that Megan developed at Whitman propelled her forward. She completed a Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Organizational Communication at Wake Forest University, became a writer and a communications manager, and served as president of the Salzman-Medica Foundation, supporting animal rescue efforts and higher education.

While at Wake Forest, she met her future husband, John Medica, a student in the Master of Business Administration program. John's career in business management took them to California, Texas, and eventually to Virginia, where they now reside. Over the years, Whitman College remained a top philanthropic priority for the couple; they kept in close contact with Professor



Professor Bob Withycombe and rhetoric students plan an argument.



Professor Bob Withycombe with Megan and John Medica at the November 2011 campaign launch in Seattle.

Withycombe and Professor Jim Hanson and enjoyed watching the debate program and rhetoric department grow, change, and adapt to students' educational needs and advances in technology. In 2001, they established the Salzman-Medica Debate Endowment to provide long-term support for the program and scholarships for promising debaters.

In 2009, Megan was elected to Whitman's Board of Trustees and joined in the efforts to design and launch the *Now Is the Time Campaign*. The Medicas wanted to make a gift to the campaign that would help transform the Whitman experience for current and future students and also honor their mentors. With the Salzman, Medica, Withycombe, and Hanson names well-known in Whitman debate, they realized that the names of two of their most influential supporters had not yet been mentioned – those of their earliest mentors, their mothers. Megan and John decided to establish the Neilen-Anderson Professorship in Rhetoric to further strengthen Whitman's program and to acknowledge the important influence their mothers had on their life passions and educations. Megan and John remind us all, "Families have two sides!"

Megan's mother, Ethel Ann Neilen (1924-2007), was a first-generation American of Irish descent, born and raised in New York. After graduating from high school with honors, Miss Neilen entered the workforce and later relocated to the San Francisco Bay area, a place where she had no family or friends. There she met



Megan Salzman at graduation in 1981 with her proud parents, Robert Salzman and Ethel Neilen Salzman.

and married Megan's father, Robert W. Salzman, and continued to work outside the home until adopting a baby and becoming a full-time homemaker, raising three children. An avid reader, opera buff and enthusiast, and a firm believer in the benefits of education, Ethel Neilen Salzman helped inspire Megan to become the first member of her family to graduate from both college and graduate school.



Among its many other achievements, Whitman's debate team captured its third straight national championship in parliamentary debate.

John Medica's mother, Helen Kathryn Anderson (1935–2009), was also born and raised in New York. Educated in Catholic parochial schools, Miss Anderson was a gifted student who also did not find college an option. In Helen's early teens, her mother passed away. She then took care of her father and the household while finishing high school. After graduating with honors, Helen modeled professionally, continued to take care of her father, and eventually met and married John's dad.



A voracious reader and always up to date on domestic and foreign politics, Helen was committed to instilling the value of higher education in her two sons – as evidenced by her son, John, who earned both a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration. Helen Anderson Medica was a pioneer in recognizing the value of helping out others in need; she routinely and continuously volunteered in a variety of capacities and organizations for more than 50 years.



Throughout her life, Helen Anderson Medica was a proponent of education and volunteerism.

The Neilen-Anderson Professorship in Rhetoric honors mentors, like these two mothers, and creates a professorship in the program that inspired Megan's intellectual aspirations. The Medicas hope that the Neilen-Anderson Professor will have a life-changing impact on future generations of Whitman students, just as their mentors influenced them. Megan Salzman Medica explains, "Oral and written communications skills are integral to a liberal arts education. This tenure-track faculty member will help cultivate these important skills across the curriculum and will serve as a mentor, attracting students with a wide range of interests in debate, speech, politics, social activism, and the use of persuasion. Each generation of Whitman graduates has stories that describe the inspiration and influence that the College had on their lives. We hope this professorship will help inspire new stories."



Additional campaign gifts that are changing student experiences:

► **INTERNSHIPS**

Internships offer students an opportunity to integrate their liberal arts education with experience in the professional world. As demand from students has increased in recent years, numerous Whitman donors have responded generously with gifts to support internships. In 2007, the College was able to provide stipends for fewer than 30 students who had designed internships to supplement their studies with hands-on job experience. This summer, with increased support through the campaign, almost 100 students took part in the program, completing projects with agencies such as the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Columbia Land Trust, and the local Helpline, and learning more about how their educations in the liberal arts might apply to future careers in areas from research to software development to public relations.



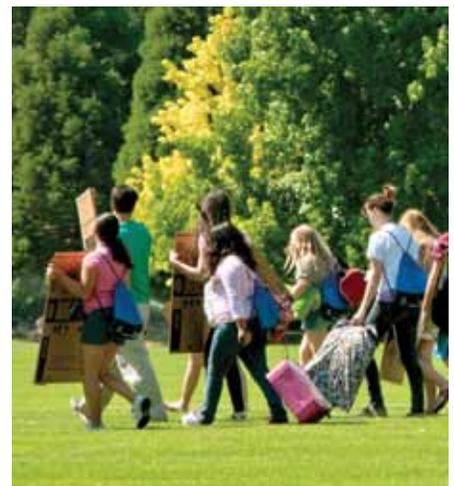
► **GLOBAL STUDIES**

A grant from the Mellon Foundation in 2008 helped Whitman launch a large-scale effort to globalize our liberal arts curriculum. Faculty from all disciplines have worked together to infuse global themes into their classes, develop new interdisciplinary courses, and organize programs. A campus-wide symposium with visiting experts and significant student participation has become a popular and effective annual program. Faced with the end of the Mellon grant this year, alumni, parents, and friends came forward with current fund support and endowment gifts that will help sustain and expand this important program. With support from the campaign, faculty and students look forward to future symposia addressing topics of immediate relevancy around the globe.



► **W.I.S.E. PROGRAM**

A gift from Trustee Megan Clubb '79 and her husband, Marty Clubb, has ensured that the Whitman Institute for Scholastic Enrichment – started in 2006 to bring middle school students from the Walla Walla area onto the Whitman campus for a taste of college life – will continue for years to come. Megan and Marty are the owners of L'Ecole N° 41, one of the oldest wineries in the Walla Walla Valley, established by Megan's parents, the late Jean and Baker Ferguson '39. The Clubbs are making an impact on the Walla Walla community and the College that has meant so much to their family by dedicating the proceeds from a L'Ecole special issue red blend, L'Erudite ("The Scholar"), to fund and endow this special program. Their campaign gift will help provide local middle school students with the inspiration and resources to pursue higher education and current Whitman students with the opportunity to serve as their mentors on the Whitman campus.





WHITMAN COLLEGE

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Whitman Changes Lives George Bridges, President



Whitman's challenging, personal, and highly supportive model of learning ignites a remarkable passion for understanding complex problems and how to solve them. I have witnessed this passion in the hundreds of students and alumni with whom I have met and worked over the seven years of my presidency. Their passion, love of learning, and critical habits of mind have enabled them and previous generations of graduates to lead in their careers, communities, and collaborations with others. Their accomplishments and recognition that Whitman contributed to their success inspire all of us.

The *Now Is the Time Campaign* aims to ensure that Whitman's strong tradition of excellence continues and that an even brighter future for our current and future students lies ahead. Through campaign gifts, Whitman

will provide much needed scholarship support for outstanding students, broaden and deepen our academic programs, and strengthen Whitman's financial foundation in order to provide long-term stability for the College.

Thousands of Whitman's loyal alumni and friends give faithfully every year. Many – some of whom you have read about here – make leadership gifts that transform the College and its programs. This campaign is having a tremendous impact on Whitman and the experience of our students; I ask each of you to give generously as we prepare the next generation of leaders. On behalf of the students whose educations you enrich with your support, thank you.

Whitman inspires a love of learning, critical habits of mind, and lives of leadership.