

## Whitman College

Whitman College's programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences have earned a national reputation for excellence. In the classroom and the laboratory, as well as through participation in the college's residential and extracurricular programs, Whitman students acquire the knowledge and talents to succeed in whatever careers and life paths they choose.

What students from across the United States and from many other countries find at Whitman today, as students did a century ago, is a closely-knit community of dedicated teachers and students working together to achieve lives of intellectual vitality, moral awareness, personal confidence, social responsibility, and the flexibility to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Recruiting and celebrating professors who are committed to excellence in teaching, advising, and scholarship has always been a top priority of the college. As Whitman's third president, Stephen B. L. Penrose said, "It's the faculty who make a college great." Whitman's thirteenth president, George S. Bridges, says, "Whitman offers a colorful mosaic of experiences, relationships and opportunities. We are proud of our campus and the diversity and accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty."

In addition to maintaining a faculty of the highest caliber, Whitman College is strongly committed to:

- fostering the intellectual depth and the breadth of knowledge essential for leadership;
- supporting mastery of critical thinking, writing, speaking, presentation, and performance skills;
- integrating technology across the liberal arts curriculum;
- promoting a strong faculty-student collaborative research program;
- promoting a rich appreciation for diversity and tolerance and an understanding of other cultures; and
- encouraging a sense of community by offering a vibrant residential life program and extensive athletic, fitness, and outdoor opportunities.

The primary evidence of any college's successes can be found among its graduates. Whitman's alumni include a Nobel Prize winner in physics; a United States Supreme Court justice; an ambassador to Iraq; leaders in law, government and the foreign service; respected scholars; presidents of major corporations; renowned artists, entertainers and writers; prominent journalists; leading physicians and scientists; and thousands of active, responsible citizens who are contributing to their professions and their communities.

### The Mission of the College

This mission statement, approved by the Whitman College Board of Trustees, guides all programs of the college:

*Whitman College is committed to providing an excellent, well-rounded liberal arts and sciences undergraduate education. It is an independent, nonsectarian, and residential college. Whitman offers an ideal setting for rigorous learning and scholarship and encourages creativity, character, and responsibility.*

*Through the study of humanities, arts, and social and natural sciences, Whitman's students develop capacities to analyze, interpret, criticize, communicate, and engage. A concentration on basic disciplines, in combination with a supportive residential life program that encourages personal and social development, is intended to foster intellectual vitality, confidence, leadership, and the flexibility to succeed in a changing technological, multicultural world.*

### Environmental Principles for Whitman College

Recognizing the impact Whitman College has on the environment and the leadership role Whitman College plays as an institution of higher learning, the college affirms the following environmental principles and standards, which will be followed while exploring practical ways Whitman College can promote an environmentally conscious campus.

- To reduce the amount of non-recyclable materials, reuse materials when possible, and utilize recycled materials.

- To consider the eco-friendliest science and technology available to decrease our environmental impact.
- To continue to build an energy-efficient campus in the 21st century.
- To patronize companies that are active in their defense of the environment.
- To encourage individuals' environmental accountability through programs of environmental education.
- To consider environmentally friendly options when they exist and are practical when making decisions regarding developmental projects.
- To further the use of reused materials, recyclable materials and the Internet for campus communications.
- To encourage and request food service to make environmentally friendly decisions when purchasing food and supplies, reducing waste and reusing materials.
- To maintain campus grounds through the employment of bio-friendly substances and services.
- To strive to improve upon current practices so we may engage the trends of the industrial world with the natural environment.

## The Faculty

Whitman College's full-time faculty currently numbers 120. In addition to their dedication to teaching and advising, Whitman faculty members conduct an impressive amount of original research.

Believing that an active professional life supports enthusiasm in teaching and advising, the college encourages faculty members' scholarly work through a generous sabbatical program, the faculty scholarship fund and other resources. In the past several years Whitman faculty members have received awards, honors and fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Battelle Northwest Laboratories, the Battelle Research Institute, the Fulbright Fellows Program, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the PEW Charitable Trust, Research Corporation, Sigma Xi, the Washington Commission for the Humanities and the Washington State Arts Commission.

The faculty, with the president and the provost/dean of the faculty, is responsible for basic

academic policy and for the formulation of the curriculum. The faculty also has a responsibility for student life and welfare.

## Facts about Whitman

After missionaries Marcus and Narcissa Whitman were killed by a small group of individuals from the local Cayuse tribe in 1847, Cushing Eells resolved to establish a school in the Whitmans' memory.

From its beginning in 1882, Whitman College has been independent of church and political control. In 1914, Whitman became the first college or university in the nation to require undergraduate students to pass comprehensive examinations (now called senior assessments) in their major fields. The installation of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter in 1920, the second at any Northwest college, marked Whitman's growing reputation.

The campus's most recognizable landmark is the clock tower atop Memorial Building, which was constructed in 1899. Among recent construction projects are renovation of the Hunter Conservatory, renovation and expansion of Penrose Library, completion of the new Reid Campus Center, and construction of a new science building, as well as a fitness center and a health center.

Located in the center of campus, the library serves an important role in the life of Whitman students. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the academic year, Penrose Library provides resources, spaces and services to support the academic community. The library has over 18,000 journals and houses more than 400,000 catalogued volumes. In addition, the Orbis Cascade Alliance, via the Summit online catalog, gives students and faculty prompt access to more than 26 million volumes from more than 30 colleges and universities throughout Washington and Oregon. Penrose Library is a 23 percent Federal depository library and houses more than 200,000 United States and Washington state government documents, dating back to 1789. The Whitman College and Northwest Archives comprise approximately 3,500 linear feet of historical materials, including both college records and Walla Walla Valley manuscripts. Library staff provides professional services that include library or-

entations, individual research consultants and formal classroom instruction. Staff members are committed to insuring the success of students as they pursue their information needs.

Whitman is committed to providing information technology tools for all members of the college community. All residence hall rooms have connections to the campus network. The college provides all students with computer accounts, e-mail addresses, and access to the Internet through wired or wireless connection. Computers are available for use in the library and in several computer labs around campus.

Whitman College has a measure of financial stability unusual among private colleges and universities. It has eliminated all deferred maintenance on its physical plant, and the market value of its endowment and outside trusts exceeds \$300 million. Such success is largely due to the continuing interest and support of business and financial leaders, to loyal alumni whose percentage of giving to the college is among the highest of any college or university in the nation, and to sound financial management.

The campus is one block from the downtown area of Walla Walla, a city of 30,000 in southeastern Washington. The town's setting in golden wheatlands shadowed by the Blue Mountains provides countless opportunities for skiing, hiking, bicycling, fishing, rock climbing, and white water rafting. Recently named one of the nation's top 25 "small town cultural treasures" and cited by *Sunset* magazine as having the best main street in the West, Walla Walla is known for its art galleries, its symphony orchestra, its community theater, and its premium wineries. Whitman sponsors dance groups, opera, musical soloists, fine arts film series, and performances by the college's excellent music and theater departments. The college hosts nationally recognized lecturers in science, letters, politics, current history and other fields.