

# Summer 2009



Dear Students,

Welcome to the 2009-10 academic year at Whitman! You are part of an impressive, bright and engaged cohort of Whitties. I look forward to hearing about your summer experiences, meeting those of you who are new to campus, and catching up with those of you who are returning for another year.

Whitman's faculty, staff and I spend the summer planning and preparing for the school year. This summer we are completing several projects on campus for you. We are renovating an historic Walla Walla home to create the new Glover Alston Center, a part of our Intercultural Center, to open later this fall. An extensive remodeling project is almost complete at Sherwood Athletic Center which, when finished, will open with a spectacular new climbing wall, new gym, upgraded locker rooms, and more recreational activity rooms. We also will open a newly remodeled wing of Olin Hall, which contains new classroom space, a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony room and faculty offices. Finally, we are installing solar panels on the roof of the Bratton Tennis Center to provide a source of renewable energy. I encourage you to find some time to visit and make use of these new or recently renovated facilities that will enhance our campus.

More importantly, as you think about the year ahead, I urge you to read this handbook and reflect on your own aspirations and goals. What do you want to learn? How will you take full advantage of the intellectual, social, and recreational riches that Whitman has to offer? What do you want to contribute to the life of the college?

Also, consider your classmates and fellow students. You are part of a group of students who bring very different backgrounds and life experiences to our community. How will you share your insights and experiences? What unique attributes do you bring to Whitman's diverse tapestry? What new understanding do you hope to gain from listening to and learning from others? How will you engage and include others — particularly those with backgrounds, orientations or cultural perspectives different from your own — in your academic and social activities?

Think about how you want to participate in the Whitman community. The college's faculty, staff, and alumni are dedicated to ensuring that your educational experience at Whitman is exceptional. Get to know these very accomplished individuals, work alongside them on academic and community projects, and draw from their knowledge and experience.

Finally, I urge you to learn about Whitman's traditions and expectations. Foremost among them are our commitment to academic integrity and honesty, our practice of respect for all, and our dedication to mindful living that promotes safety in the Whitman and Walla Walla communities. As always, I look forward to seeing you on campus. You are invited to drop in during my open office hours ([www.whitman.edu/content/president/student-office-hours](http://www.whitman.edu/content/president/student-office-hours)).

I anticipate a wonderful year. Please use this handbook as a guide toward making your experience at Whitman spectacularly successful.

See you soon!

**George S. Bridges**  
President