



Dear Students,

Welcome to the 2011-12 academic year at Whitman! You are part of an impressive, bright and engaged cohort of students who have chosen a college known for its combination of academic excellence, the Northwest culture and an engaged community. 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.

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 an international 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 mosaic? 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 excellence, integrity and honesty, our culture of respect for all, and our dedication to mindful living that promotes engagement with the Whitman and Walla Walla communities. As always, I look forward to seeing you on campus.

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

Best regards,

**George S. Bridges**  
President