On April 28, Whitman alumna Sandy Flores, the first Latina to be sworn into the Walla Walla County Bar, was the guest speaker at a lunch for high school students involved in WISE (Whitman Institute for Scholastic Enrichment) and College Coaches. These programs are sponsored by Whitman College to help students develop a college-bound mentality and to learn skills to be successful in college. Ms. Flores participated in the WISE program as a resident assistant in 2008 and 2009 and graduated from Whitman in 2008.

The WISE program is a three-day program for local students entering 8th and 9th grade who may be first generation college students or are from families with low incomes. Additional support is offered by the college to students as they enter Walla Walla High School through the College Coaches program. Whitman College students are matched with high school students to meet weekly to help them be successful in their courses and to start preparing for college. Both programs have social events and reunions throughout the school year. The program expanded this spring to include tutoring for students enrolled in AP science classes and we will continue building on this opportunity in the next school year with the goal of ensuring that students are not only motivated to attend college, but are also prepared to be successful in college-level courses.

If you would like more information about the WISE program or an application, contact Sonja Aikens, WISE Program Coordinator, at aikenssl@whitman.edu. For more information about the College Coaches program, please contact Susan Prudente, Outreach Coordinator, at prudensk@whitman.edu
Engaged in the Community

Ruth Ladderud, Walla Walla Public Schools Board member, Whitman alumna (1982, Biology) and staff member, led a Civic Engagement workshop for Whitman students this February. This lunchtime event was filled to capacity with students who were inspired by her civic involvement over the past 20 years. Ruth encouraged attendees to find a mentor and assume various leadership positions in order to discover interests and passions. Ruth currently volunteers at Garrison Middle School.

Thank you school partners!

This past October, our school outreach Community Service Interns presented the work of the Whitman Mentors, America Reads/Counts, College Coaches, and Storytime programs to the Walla Walla Public Schools school board. These students represented nearly 400 students who donate over 3,000 hours of service in our public schools each year.

We are proud of our students and their desire to contribute to local schools and we know this couldn’t happen without the welcome and support of a great number of teachers and administrators who help make these learning opportunities possible. Thank you for your support, and please contact Mary Burt or Susan Prudente if you have suggestions on how to improve or build upon these partnerships.

Kristen Garcia’s third grade class at Blue Ridge Elementary benefits from Professor Andrea Dobson’s assistance with a lesson on the solar system.
Outreach Highlights for the 2012-2013 School Year

• School outreach was able to connect a local Explorer Class with the Intercultural Center’s Visiting Storytelling series in February of 2013. Storyteller Kathya Alexander captivated Beth Clearman’s sixth grade students with her personal reflection of the Civil Rights movement in the South and the impact it had on her own development, education and professional career.

• America Reads/Counts placed tutors in both math and literacy at Blue Ridge Elementary this year, where this work-study program has not had internships for the past several years. There are currently 30 Whitman program interns in six elementary schools as well as DeSales High School. Each week of the school year, interns spend 98 hours tutoring students in math and 226 in direct reading/literacy support.

• Professor Andrea Dobson and her astronomy students led more than 50 planetarium shows for the schools and community this past year.

• Visiting professor of physics Cyril Slezak provided a free half-day workshop to middle and high school teachers on “Action Research in the Science Classroom”. Science teachers from area middle schools and high schools will also be attending a week-long Summer Institute at Whitman on June 17-21.

• Green Park Elementary PTA invited the science outreach program to visit their school in March and lead two days of hands-on science activities with their students in preparation for the Science Celebration on April 11. Science faculty Machelle Hartman, Dalia Rokhsana and Cyril Slezak, along with 10 Whitman science students, brought hands-on physics and chemistry activities for students and families in attendance. Science outreach sponsored 30 visits to classrooms for science activities this year.

• Science outreach has expanded its partnership with Blue Ridge Elementary, including sponsoring attendance for science teachers Kristen Garcia, Janifer Sam and principal Kim Doepker at the LASER STEM Education Leadership Institute in June. Whitman BBMB major, Corinne Pingul, who has been volunteering at Blue Ridge this past year, will participate to gain additional STEM education skills to inform her work in science outreach next year.

• Whitman professors shared their passions and experience with area elementary students partnership with the Walla Walla Public Library. Associate professor of chemistry, Allison Calhoun, presented on Coral, Coral Reefs and Diving in October. Bob Carson, professor of geology and environmental studies, presented on Volcanoes and Mt. St. Helens in November. Erin Pahlke, professor of psychology, concluded the outreach program in December by presenting on All the Colors that We Are.

• For additional updates in Science Outreach, please see our Annual Report at www.whitman.edu/content/bbmb/hhmi-grant/outreach

• For viewing photographs and reflections on our school-based outreach programs, please visit www.whitman.edu/csinternblog
Whitman Sponsors Annual Science Fair

This year marked the second year that Whitman College sponsored a community science fair, with a total of 18 science inquiry projects submitted by area middle and high school students. Professors Andrea Dobson, Heidi Dobson, Marion Gotz, Tim Machonkin and Dalia Rokhsana served as judges. Teacher Darin Durand, from John Sager Middle School, was the teacher with the most student projects. Whitman students Alli Deurksen, Louise Fix and Danielle Wilson assisted students at Sager with their projects during lunch times and student Sam Crosby mentored a sixth-grade student.

The grand prize for the fair went to Macy Quinn-Sears, a seventh grader at Garrison Middle School, for her detailed investigation of how different brands of hair sprays worked to propel a potato gun launcher. She won an iPad mini and case. Her science teacher is Luke Hamada. Other prizes included microscopes, gift certificates from the Whitman College bookstore and prizes from the Chemistry and Biology departments. The outreach program plans to continue to sponsor this project again next year for students in 6-9th grade.

For more information on how to enter the fair or how you can get involved, please contact Mary Burt.

Outreach Staff at Whitman College

Susan Prudente is the outreach coordinator in the Student Engagement Center at Whitman College. She leads programs such as the America Reads and America Counts tutoring programs with local schools and guides student-led outreach activities, such as College Coaches, Whitman Mentors and Storytime Project. Susan can be reached at prudensk@whitman.edu

Mary Burt is the science outreach coordinator, based in the science department at Whitman College. She is the primary contact for science-related activities for the schools and community. Mary can be reached at burtmb@whitman.edu

Hector Diaz, a sixth grader from Meadowbrook Elementary, won a prize for his investigation of penny cleaners.

Macy Quinn-Sears, grand prize winner of the Whitman College Science Fair.

Susan Prudente, Outreach Coordinator (Student Engagement Center)

Mary Burt, Science Outreach Coordinator (Science Department)