

Live *wire*



WHITMAN COLLEGE
YOUNG ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Live|wire

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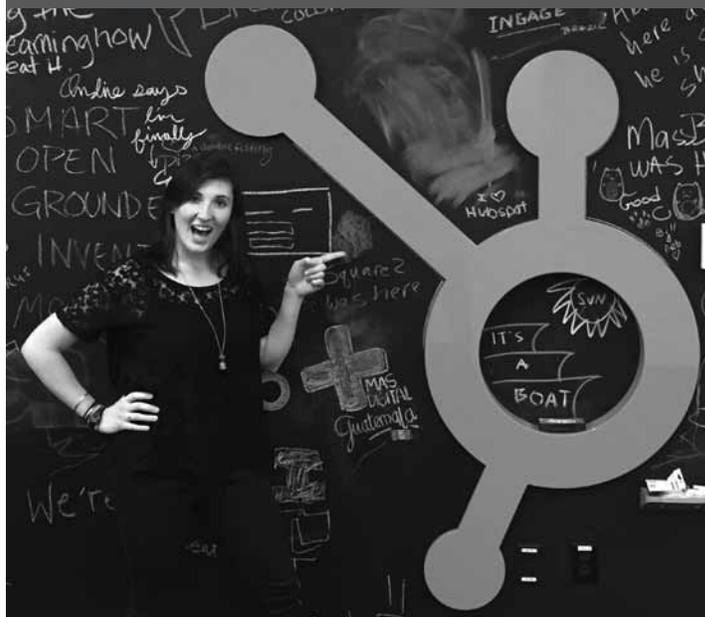
WHITMAN COLLEGE

Right After Whitman

Emma Snyder '14

Major: Film and Media Studies, Sociology

Business Development Representative,
HubSpot/Cambridge, Mass.



Emma Snyder grew up in Berkeley, Calif., and fell in love with Whitman the second she stepped foot on Ankeny as a prospective student. She wrote her film and sociology thesis on the social practice of Netflix binge-watching, and what kids culturally teach their parents, respectively. Emma was involved with various community service projects, was a member of Delta Gamma and studied abroad in Lisbon, Portugal.

How did Whitman prepare you for what you do now? Whitman prepared me by teaching me to be naturally curious and proactive about seeking learning experiences—which is necessary in a new job environment! I also don't think I have met a group of more passionate and quirky people than Whitties, and those qualities really stand out in the work world and the context of an 800-person company.

What resources/connections did you use to find your current position? I was in communication with **Joe Rodhouse '10** through the Whitman Alumni network. He played on a basketball team with someone at HubSpot, and connected me to him. This [connection] was crucial, since HubSpot now likes to boast that according to their statistics, it is more difficult to get a job at HubSpot than get into an Ivy League school.

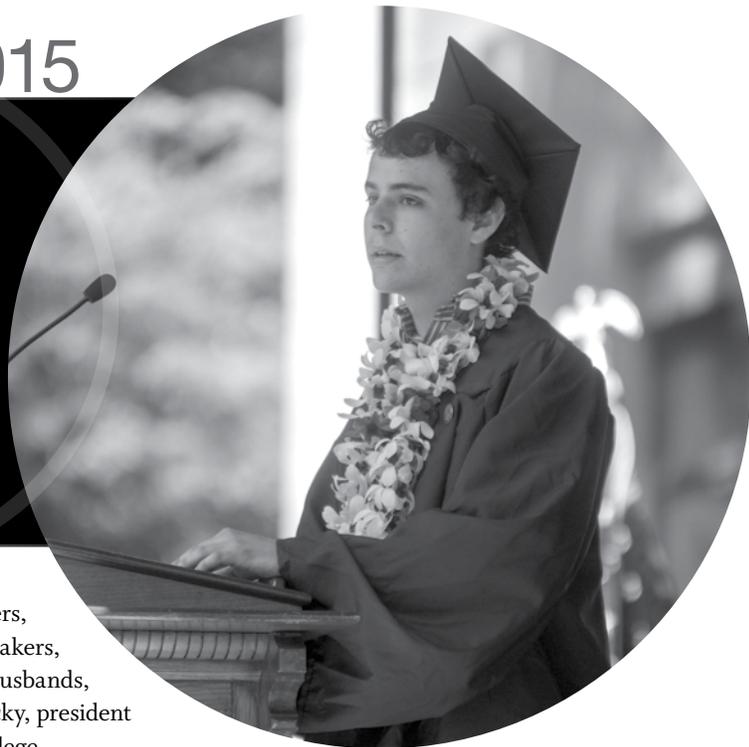
What is your favorite part of your work? My favorite part of the job right now is getting to learn a whole new skill set at such an accelerated pace. The month-long training felt like a marketing and business school crash course. I also love that the median age of the company is 26, and I get to learn from 800 incredibly bright, energetic co-workers!

For help using the Whitman Connect alumni network to contact alumni like Emma, check out the feature on page 11 of this magazine.

COMMENCEMENT 2015

From Here to Where: Life Within a Precious Snow Globe

Sam Adler '15



Thank you, George Bridges, for the introduction, and for being the president. And thanks to all of our families and teachers here today for being here today. And thank you Senior Class of 2015 for being here as well. Today is about us. But right now, it is about me. And since I have the privilege of standing before you all under the special tent for important people, I thought I'd write a few words that I could share with all of you. As an English major, I like to think that my last four years have all been leading up to this very moment, where I stand up before you all and talk for five minutes without actually saying anything at all.

If you think about it...I mean, if you really think about it, Whitman is like a big bubble. No, not the bubblegum kind of bubble. The bubble that I'm thinking of is more like...a snow globe. Well, inside this little snow globe is something like a teeny-tiny town, one filled with itty-bitty scholars who dedicate their lives for four whole years in order to learn, try, fail, vomit and read from their eensy-weensy, teeny-tiny textbooks.

But there's another thing I'd like to mention. Once a year one fourth of these little scholars put on itty-bitty square hats and get ready to leave the snow globe. Their names are called, they each collect their certificate of participation, and a door is opened, through which they exit the snow globe in a single-file line, slamming the door shut behind them so that none of the underclassmen can escape.

After departing the snow globe, I know that some of us will do great things. We will

become doctors, lawyers, change-makers, filmmakers, homemakers, trophy husbands, and, if you're really lucky, president of Evergreen State College.

I also know that some of us will do "just OK" things. And that's fine. If everyone did great things all of the time, there would be no contrast and that would be boring.

And thirdly, I'm confident that some of us will do awful things. We will pursue careers in the arts even though our oceans are rising and turning acidic at the same time. We will have children who will inherit our neurotic natures and our funny ways of walking. And we will move to hip parts of Portland or Seattle, start dressing like fancy lumberjacks, and actively try to conceal the fact that we have phony, institutional college degrees.

Whitman is a hell of a place. And in saying that, I don't mean to suggest that it is hell. It is actually quite comfortable. I recall my last four years with clarity and grace, thankfulness and undying servitude. It's where I discovered my passion for theater, where I took a semester of Gen Chem, where I learned to read and write, and where, on February 2, 2012, I became a man. I am speaking of course of my belated bar mitzvah ceremony. After which I lost my virginity.

But these fun and games and intellectual feats didn't just take place among my peers. The whole of Whitman is a family, and I will always treasure the memories I've made with college faculty—giggly tickle fights with George Bridges, decorating cupcakes and playing paddy cake with Tony Cabasco,

Class of 2015, let's lead expansive lives. I know that after leaving this snow globe today, you'll soon find other exciting, invigorating and more diverse snow globes to be a part of.

and staying up late and eating too many chips while brainstorming reasons for which I might attend the Undergraduate Conference with Keith Raether. We were only able to come up with ten, but we are convinced there are dozens, if not thousands.

But as fast as you can say "tee-hee, tee-hee, stop it you," these moments have turned into precious memories. My time here has been incredible. And whenever I find myself feeling sad or getting super angry about leaving this place, I think of all the friends that are going with me, I think of my parents who love me, and I think of how much I love myself.



One of my professors once told me this: “Life shrinks or expands in proportion to your courage.” Class of 2015, let’s lead expansive lives. I know that after leaving this snow globe today, you’ll soon find other exciting, invigorating and more diverse snow globes to be a part of. Yet despite our various paths, we are forever joined by what we have in common—we are all going to die and we all know Tom Whipple. Good luck, friends. Especially you, Tom Whipple. And if anyone in the audience happens to have any job connections in the exciting and rapidly expanding English industry, my temporary email address is adlersr@whitman.edu, and my cellphone number is 503-334-5636. That’s 503-334-5636. Thank you.

Sam Adler '15 is an English major from Portland, Oregon. During his time at Whitman, he participated in the campus improv group Varsity Nordic and performed in several theater productions, including the Instant Play Festival, the One Act Play Festival and the Harper Joy Theatre production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Sam spent his four years at Whitman also working for Bon Appétit Dining Services, and was ultimately promoted to student manager on Sundays. He took his senior seminar on Edmund Spenser’s 16th century epic poem *The Faerie Queene*. Sam is looking forward to graduating and returning to Portland, where he will launch the next chapter of his life, which he expects to fill with travel, writing, performing and living with his mom. See a video of Sam and Sayda’s speeches at: livestream.com/WhitmanCollege/commencement2015



A Lesson in Building Bridges Una lección en construyendo puentes

Sayda Valentina Morales '15

...being a leader is not about being the loudest voice in the room, but rather, it is about making space for the quietest ones to be heard.

“Caminante, no hay puentes, se hacen puentes al andar. Voyager, there are no bridges, one builds them as one walks.”

These inspiring words by Gloria E. Anzaldúa hung in my ASWC office this past year. They served to remind me that, unlike the proverbial two roads in a yellow wood, sometimes there is no road at all but rather a river with crocodiles and Class 5 rapids, and the only way to get across is to build the way.

If there were any metaphor that could capture my Whitman experience, it would have to be that. For although I wish I could say that my path to success has been a breeze, that I simply waltzed into Whitman, pirouetted into my graduation requirements and sauntered over here today, alas, the truth is that I have spent the last four years tripping on my own two feet, occasionally falling flat on my face, and brushing dirt off my shoulders every step along the way.

Now, you might be thinking, what qualifies me, out of all people, to be a leader of the Whitman community? And you know what, I have often wondered that too. Because for me, becoming a leader was never something I chose to do, but rather the opportunity to lead has always chosen me.

As a queer, working class woman of color and as the first in my family to graduate from college, it has been no easy task being a brown face at a white place. One might say that I dealt with culture shock when I first arrived. Who was this Birkenstock guy and how does one play this sport so epically titled “ultimate”? All jokes aside, transitioning into college is hard for anyone, but for students like me, dealing with so many identities and feeling underrepresented in so many ways meant that I spent the better part of my Whitman career trying to lift this weight off my shoulders.

My family, who I am grateful to say are here today, immigrated to this country from Honduras and Mexico to provide a better life for my siblings and me. This often meant sacrificing their dreams so that I could pursue mine. I know how much you wanted to be a Latina pop singer mom, I’m sorry.

So when I arrived to college and began to struggle to stay afloat, the fear and pressure to succeed and go where no one in my family had gone before was borderline debilitating. I am up here today not because of what I have done for the college, but rather I am here because of what the college has done for me.

I would not have attended Whitman had it not been for the Visit Scholarship Program that covered the cost of visiting Whitman my senior year of high school. I remember falling in love with the beautiful campus, the remarkably talented and passionate students, and the outstanding and dedicated faculty. I am grateful for the Whitman financial, academic and emotional support that has allowed what seemed like a dream back then become a reality today. At Whitman, I have found a community of students, staff and faculty who have supported me throughout my college journey.

It was through serving as logistics co-chair of the first annual Power and Privilege Symposium my sophomore year that I struck a balance in my academic career and developed confidence in my leadership abilities. Two students of color, **Marcial Diaz Mejia ’14** and **Mcebo Maziya ’15**, reached out to me to join them in their revolutionary project that would give voice to those of us who have been silenced. They found me at a time when the river ahead instead seemed like a tempestuous ocean. For the first time in my life, my marginalization was no longer a source of frustration and indignation, but rather my oppression was a tool that I could use to



empower myself and those around me. To have had the opportunity to watch a student-led endeavor like the Power and Privilege Symposium grow and embed itself into the very fabric of this institution has been a true honor.

My time at Whitman has taught me that being a leader is not about being the loudest voice in the room, but rather, it is about making space for the quietest ones to be heard. With the help of my fellow Whitman students, faculty and staff, particularly those of us of color, we have been able to shatter glass ceilings, tear back envelopes and raise even the most stubborn of eyebrows. From addressing instances of racial bias to advocating that the college divest from fossil fuels, Whitman community members have improved the college experience in immeasurable ways. And for that, I am grateful.

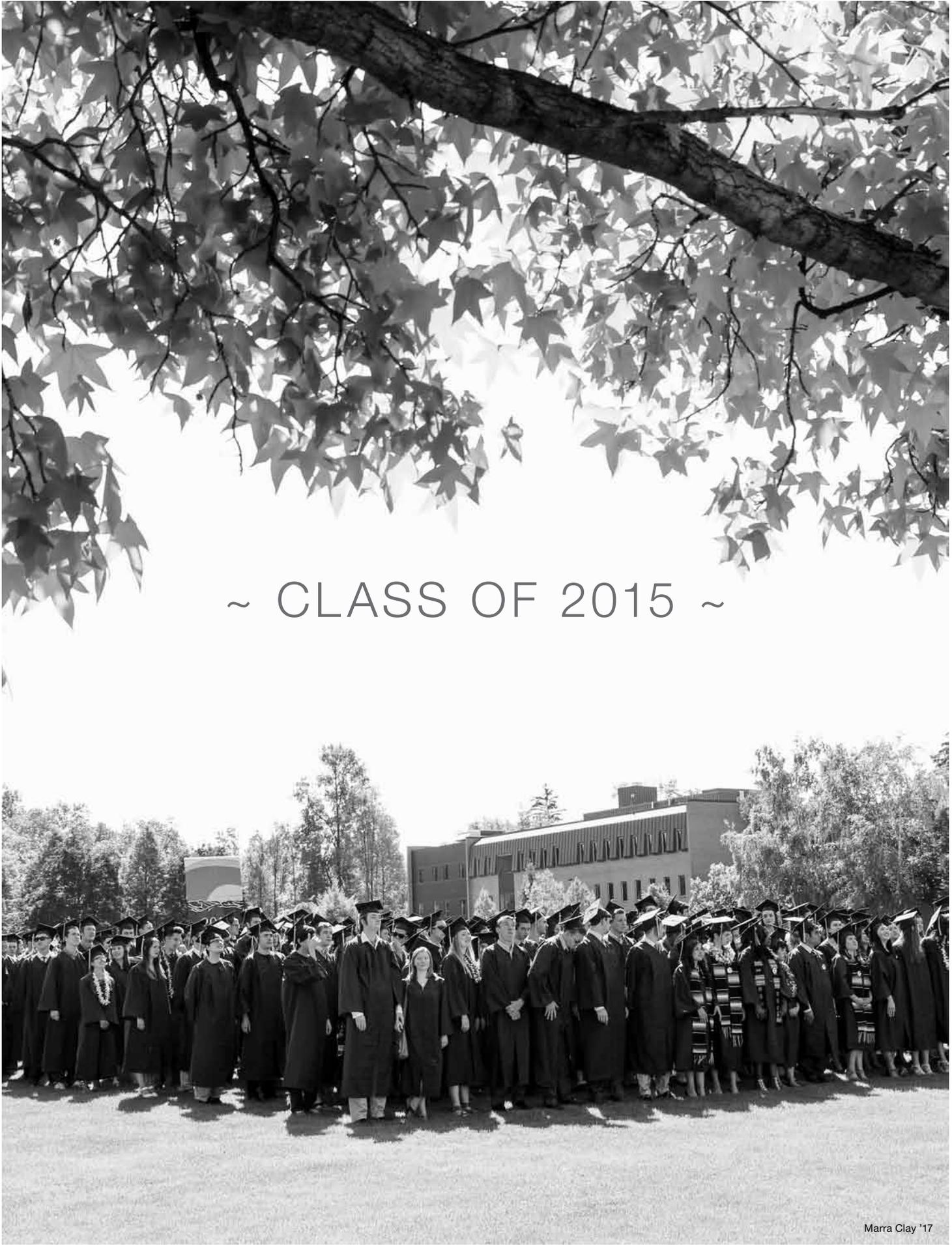
Were it not for Whitman, I am not sure I would be able to confidently say I am ready to face what lies ahead. And though what lies ahead for all of us seems daunting and challenging, know that Whitman has prepared us to face whatever comes our way, for the college has changed all of us as much as we have changed it. To not bend with the tide of change would be to undermine the very values that this liberal arts institution is predicated upon.

As we leave here today, I encourage you to look back on your last four years. As I reflect on my time here, one truth becomes particularly salient: progress inevitably necessitates change, but it is through change that we also receive the opportunity to grow, learn and experience the world in better, newfound ways. It is in looking back that we notice the bridges we’ve created along the way that allow us and those who follow to keep moving forward.

Sayda Valentina Morales ’15 was born and raised in the “boogie down” South Bronx, New York. As a daughter of immigrant parents from Mexico and Honduras and the first in her family to graduate from college, Sayda is thrilled to be leaving Whitman with a degree in sociology and a minor in art history and visual culture studies. While at Whitman, she served on the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) as both a junior senator and vice-president/student affairs chair; she served as scholarship director of her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta; she interned with both the Intercultural Center and the Office of Admission; and she co-founded and co-led All Students for Consent (ASC).



Marris Clay '17



~ CLASS OF 2015 ~

Marra Clay '17

First person ...

Taking Academia to Africa

After growing up on three different continents, **Emily Hervey '07** has maintained a mobile lifestyle. She completed her doctorate in 2012, and worked as a psychologist in Kenya for a year. Her first trip to Nigeria in August 2014 was followed by three months there in the dry season (January-April) and another modular course in the summer term. She has published research and books (www.worldwidewritings.com/publications), and is now implementing training programs to address psychological trauma in countries facing unrest and violence.

Photos courtesy of Emily Hervey '07

“You are welcome!”

The sentence was repeated by every person I met as I acclimated to the new time zone and muggy weather.

The first day of teaching arrived. As a single, white woman standing before a class of Nigerian men, most of whom were leaders in their communities, I was unsure how well I would be received. In a culture where men were usually more highly esteemed and women were expected to be married by their early twenties, I was amazed at how incredibly welcoming and respectful they were and how eager they were to learn psychology for application when their community members sought support and advice. My doctorate in clinical psychology, as well as having lived on four different continents, earned me credibility at the outset. The lectures I prepared daily became interspersed with animated discussions about nature vs. nurture, alternative ways to facilitate learning and change that go beyond giving advice, and whether behavior was based on biological reactions or free will. After spending eight hours together every week for three weeks, the mutual respect and care deepened.

When I arrived, Nigeria was struggling to contain the outbreak of Ebola in the south and the terror of Boko Haram in the north. With trauma present on all tiers of society, there was a growing awareness of the need for mental health care. A leader in the largest Christian denomination in the country stated, “The greatest need in the church today is for counselors.” However, the Psychology and Counseling M.A. program at this seminary was greatly lacking in materials and faculty, and very few people in Nigeria were educated enough to teach at a master’s level. As students met with me for guidance on writing their theses, I saw more clearly the lack of research tools and practical supervision. There was no denial on the part of the school’s administration; the graduate dean clearly communicated the program’s need for renovation. I could only appreciate more the wealth of resources readily available when studying psychology at Whitman and into graduate school. How helpful it would be for students to have consistent internet connections, especially if they could access articles from EBSCO! What a difference it would make to have more than one psychology book with a copyright later than the year 2000 in the library!

After four weeks of relying on generators to supply enough electricity to use PowerPoint in my lectures, taking medication to prevent malaria from all my mosquito bites, and using buckets of hot water for bathing, my time drew to a close.

“Dr. Emily, we love you; please come back.”

“Ma, you have been a mother to us; thank you.”

It was one of those moments that made many years, papers, presentations, and exams at Whitman and graduate school all worth it. I couldn’t promise to return, but neither could I deny the possibility of doing so. My ever-wandering feet may someday take me back. I know I am welcome.



Emily and her attendees at a two-day training on trauma.



A final meeting with school administrators.

It was one of those moments that made many years, papers, presentations, and exams at Whitman and graduate school all worth it.



Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni

The Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni is presented to an alumnus or alumna who demonstrates youthful exuberance toward his or her career and community and toward Whitman College, as exemplified by **Pete Reid '49** in his service to Whitman. The award is limited to graduates from the past 10 years. Criteria include recognition in their career or field of work, an exceptional commitment to serving others and a demonstrated commitment to Whitman College. Tell us about an outstanding Whittie today! Awards are presented each year during Reunion Weekend. To submit your nomination of a deserving classmate, use the form at www.whitman.edu/alumniawardform.



Whitman Connect

Across generations and around the world

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Whitman Connect is our new improved Alumni community—it offers many great features to search for friends and classmates, network with fellow Whitties, mentor students and more!

Updating your profile today is easy—just go to **connect.whitman.edu** to get started. Were you a member of Whitman Online? If so, you are already registered! All you need is your email address and password from Whitman Online. If you are a new user, contact the Alumni Office at 509-527-5167 or at alumni@whitman.edu for your Whitman ID (WID).

Please take a few minutes to join the more than 8,000 users of **Whitman Connect**.



Darren Burridge

An aerial view of campus, spring 2015

Submit to *Livewire!*

Has something exciting happened in your life this year? Send a photo and caption for *Livewire* by filling out the Class Note submission form at connect.whitman.edu/classnote. Then email your photo to livewire@whitman.edu.

Electronically submitted photos must be at least 300 dpi for a three-by-five-inch photo. Or, mail original photos to Whitman College Alumni Office, Attn: *Livewire*, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362.

If you would like your photos returned to you, please include a note. Don't forget to name everyone in the photo!



LOST *alumni*

If you know the whereabouts or the email addresses of any of these Whitties, please send that information to addrchg@whitman.edu.

2006

Peter Smith Avriett
Courtney Louise Jensen

2007

Praneeta Bremjit
Philip Juong Hy
Amanda Claire King
David Mark Ozog

2008

William S. Gibson
Eric Gatlin Grenfell-Phillips
Jyotsna Shivanandan
Robert Scott Westermann
Karl Sumner Young

2009

Andrew Jay Erickson
Forrest Chance Gray
Alexander Robert Henke
Alisa Larson-Xu
Charlotte Elizabeth McKiver
Alison Caroline Meith
April J. Vorhauer

2010

Kira Anna Badyrka
Nathan Alec Conroy
Breanne Lynn Robirds
Thomas Michael Roston
Carol Joyce Schaeffer
Karl Joseph Wallulis

2011

Enkhjin Batjargal
Harry Joseph Hixon
Samuel Nikolai Sidoine
Tyler Paul Whittier

2012

Joanna Jordan French
Caitlin Elizabeth Goldie
Carl Samuel Lundberg
Alegria Isabel Olmedo
Pablo Adolfo Vasquez Guzman

2013

William Richard Martin



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Whitman College Alumni Association
345 Boyer Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Upcoming Events

2016 Fall Reunion Weekend

Sept. 22-25, 2016

Tenth Reunion, Class of 2006

Visit www.whitman.edu/reunions

for more information and to RSVP



**WHITMAN
COLLEGE**