

# Live

*wire*



WHITMAN COLLEGE  
YOUNG ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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# Young Alumni Engagement

## *New Programs for New Alumni*



**Sarah Deming '10**

**Sarah Deming '10** knows all about being engaged with Whitman. As a student, she served as President of the Black Student Union and CEO of the Whitman Investment Club. An economics major and member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, she also served on the Admissions Committee, Career Consultant Network and Senior Fund Committee. Not surprisingly, Sarah remains deeply engaged with Whitman after graduation. As a recent member of the Alumni Board and the newly

created Young Alumni Advisory Councils, she advises the Alumni Office on how best to keep alumni connected to Whitman and provide feedback to college leadership. “I wanted to give back because I benefitted so much from what Whitman gave to me,” says Sarah. “I know I’ll benefit from seeing Whitman from a completely different perspective and bring those insights to my work on the board and council.”

The Young Alumni Advisory Councils are a new program designed to support the Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Offices reach, serve, and engage graduates of the last decade. These volunteers are helping to build a positive connection between Whitman and its young alumni in Seattle, Portland and the Bay Area. “Joining these councils and helping with events for young alumni in your area is a great way to stay connected with your classmates,” says Sarah. Members also advise the offices on young alumni programming ideas, encourage attendance at reunions, and assist with fundraising messaging to young alumni. Besides finding new and innovative ways for young alumni to tap into the Whitman alumni network (See Whitman Connect article on page 18), members of these councils may find their participation a stepping stone to other volunteer opportunities with the college.

Part of their work involves partnering with the Student Engagement Center to help support the new Whitties Helping Whitties networking events. Sarah says, “I had a wonderful experience attending Whitties Helping Whitties this past January. While it was tempting to simply reconnect with old classmates, I greatly enjoyed and benefitted from talking to several students and young alumni who attended. I was inspired by their passion and poise, and was happy to connect them with any friends I had in their desired industry.”

For young alumni not located in Seattle, Portland or the Bay Area, there are still plenty of ways to remain engaged with Whitman. Sarah recommends, “Go to any events you can, stay in



2014 Reunion Weekend All Class Party.

touch with fellow Whitties, and help any recent graduates with advice and networking tips. I also like the Whitman Facebook page which keeps me updated on the happenings at the college.”

Sarah currently works at Google as Community Manager for Google Chrome in the Bay Area. When asked how her experience at Whitman influenced her post-graduation life, Sarah remarks, “I learned time management – there are so many great things to be involved with as well as the rigorous academic classes. I’ve also learned how to work and collaborate with a diverse group of people, which I’ve been able to apply in the workplace.”

Sarah’s parting words of advice for young alumni? “Do as many informational interviews as you can – it’s an easy way to both network and learn about potential careers.”



Anyone who is interested in becoming involved in the Young Alumni Advisory Councils should contact Alumni Relations Officer **Liesl Olson '11** at [olsonlm@whitman.edu](mailto:olsonlm@whitman.edu) or (509) 527-5988 for more information.

**Liesl Olson '11**



Matt Banderas '04

# Live|wire

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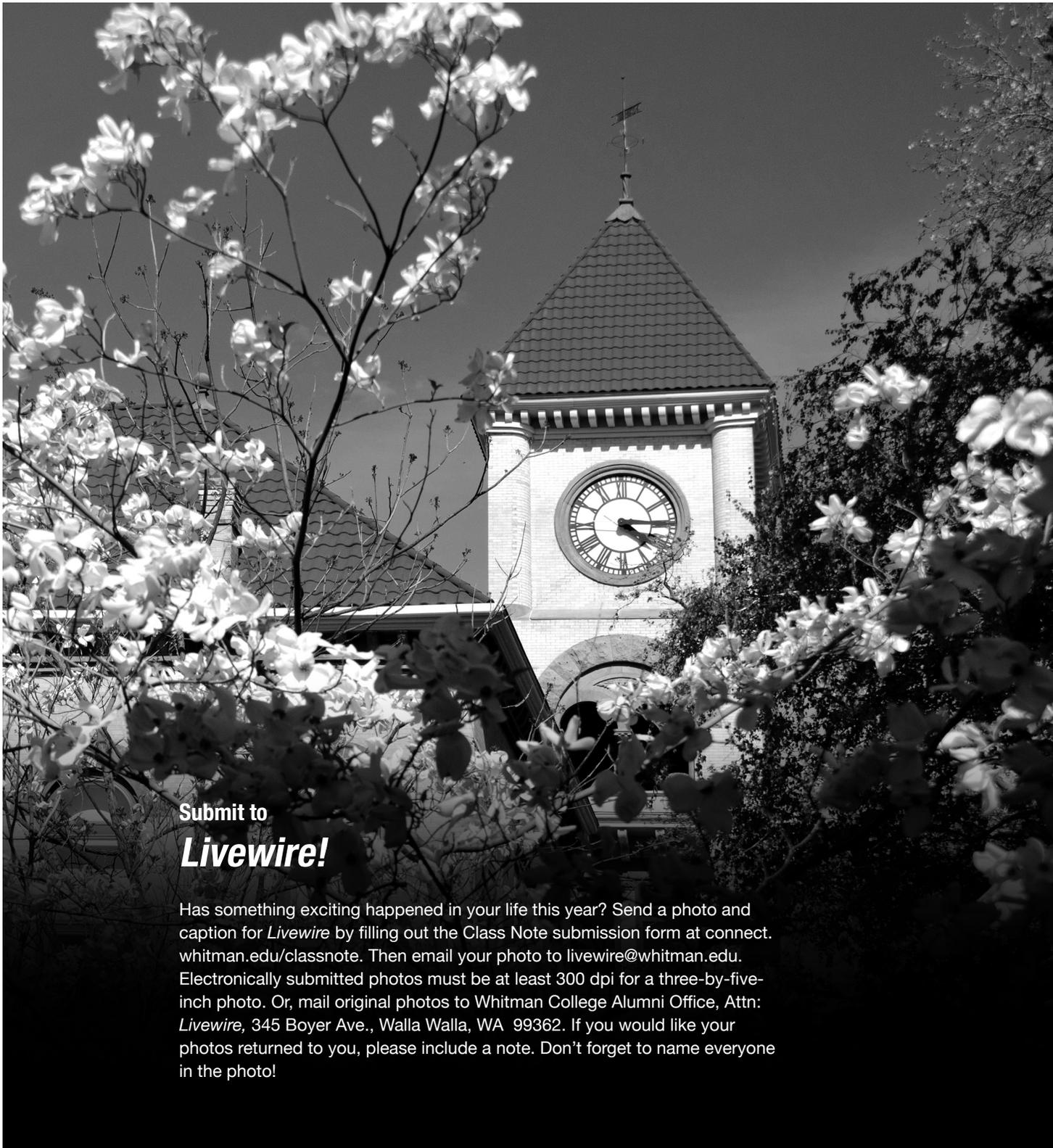
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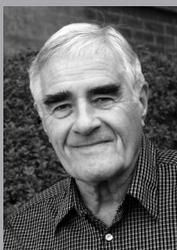


WHITMAN COLLEGE



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](http://connect.whitman.edu/classnote). Then email your photo to [livewire@whitman.edu](mailto: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!



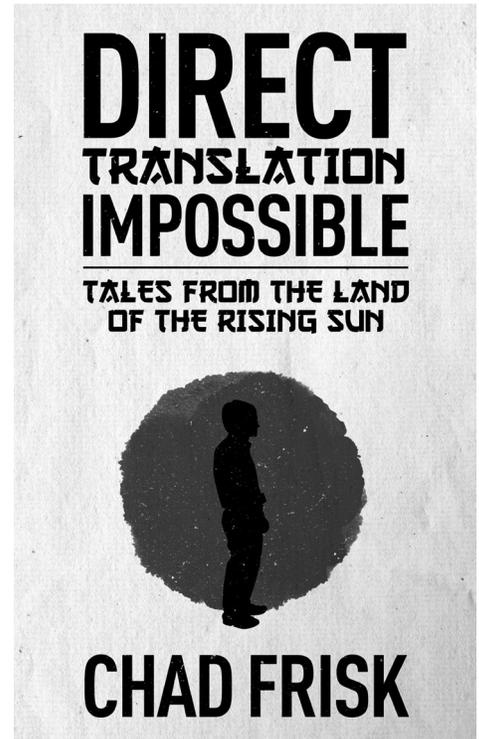
***Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni***

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](http://www.whitman.edu/alumniawardform).



(Left) Chad during his last week of teaching. He says, “Don’t be fooled by the attentive, quietly seated students. My classes never looked like this.”

(Below) The book cover for Chad’s book, *Direct Translation Impossible: Tales From the Land of the Rising Sun*.



## WHY SPENDING FIVE YEARS AS A FOOL WAS THE BEST CHOICE I EVER MADE

by CHAD FRISK '08

I had no idea what I was doing.

There they were, the more or less interested faces of a classroom of Japanese teenagers, and there I was, staring at them in horror, the “teacher” whose lesson plan had run out after 15 minutes.

After graduating from Whitman, I went to Japan to teach English. I knew enough things about English literature to graduate (I was an English major), but I didn’t know even one thing about teaching. But I thought I was going to be an assistant, so I wasn’t worried.

Then they put me in front of a class and said, “Teach.”

I did something. I wouldn’t call it teaching. But I kept doing it, and by my fifth year I would almost be willing to admit that at times, I resembled a teacher.

I wrote a book about it. The book was in Japanese so nobody could read it. A Japanese friend recommended I translate it into English.

“Would anybody actually want to read it?” I asked.

“My students would,” she said (she teaches Japanese at a high school).

“Well, alright,” I said. “If you say so.”

And here we are. The book, *Direct Translation Impossible: Tales From the Land of the Rising Sun*, has been translated into zero languages (not even from Japanese to English, but that’s another story), and sits atop zero bestseller lists, but I’m pretty happy with it nonetheless.

It’s the momentary fulfillment of a dream that began when I was in high school and went lucid when I was at Whitman. I wanted to be a writer. I played baseball (when the team was far less successful than it is now – kudos to **Sean Kinney ’05** and **Brian Kitamura ’10**), and I spent the bus trips writing. Mostly poetry, actually (which perhaps explains why we never won any games). I started and finished a 100-page epic poem at Whitman, and wrote many of those lines on the bus. Unfortunately (thankfully?) that poem is lost, entombed in the sealed mausoleum of a long moribund hard drive.

My book was not lost, however (in fact it’s on Amazon). It is about Japan, the years I spent marvelling at the language in high school, the lessons (read: ego-adjustments) I received from Takemoto Sensei at Whitman, and the silly things I said and did within the borders of the country itself. I learned a few things along the way, but mostly I just made a fool of myself. I encourage you to pick up a copy if you ever need to feel better about yourself.

Chad graduated from Whitman in 2008 with a degree in English, a bruised ego from four years on the baseball team and less Japanese ability than he thought he had. He was also a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, which may have done a lot to equip him to handle the unexpected. Which was good, because he encountered plenty of it in Japan. After teaching English for five years in Japanese elementary and junior high schools, he’s now back in the U.S., writing books and pursuing his master’s at the UW in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. The Japanese version of *Direct Translation Impossible* was released in February 2015. So if you know any Japanese speakers ...

*First person ...*

## *The Best Gift Whitman Gave Us*

Morgan Zelif Shimabuku '06 • Trish Hayward '06 • Natalie Rich Storti '06 • Sara Suffis Kuethe '06 • Jill DeVleming '06

Twice a year, we all look forward to the announcements in the back of *Whitman Livewire*. Maybe it's because Facebook didn't come out until we were juniors in college and therefore we still appreciate seeing these things in print, or perhaps it's because we feel it is a rite of passage to be featured here for the Whitman community to see. Regardless of the reason, for this spring's submission, we were thrilled to announce the third wedding among our group of five friends via a photograph with the caption, "these women are the best gift Whitman ever gave us."

The five of us, all Class of 2006 graduates, met and became friends our freshman year. Most of us lived on the same floor in Prentiss, but through hiking and kayaking Scrambles, Garrett Sherwood Scholars weekend and an early morning Spanish class, our friendship of five was solidified.



Trish, Jill, Natalie, Sara, and Morgan dressed as bananas on the subway in New York City.

While we each have different interests, opinions, goals and life directions, we recognized early-on in our relationship that our deepest similarity is in our drive, something that Whitman cultivates in its students. Whitman is a highly rigorous undergraduate institution, not only because of the challenging academics, but also because there are endless opportunities for extracurricular

activities. While we were all a part of the Delta Gamma sorority, Jill was also the captain of the snowboard team, Morgan played lacrosse and was a team manager, Natalie sang with Sirens of Swank, Sara was on staff at the newspaper and Trish was the captain of the tennis team, to name a few. These differing interests enabled us to always learn from each other, while simultaneously giving us free reign to follow our passions.



Trish, Sara, Morgan, Jill and Natalie during freshman year in Prentiss Hall.



The women posing for Halloween during senior year. Top row (left to right): Morgan, Jill and Sara. Bottom row (left to right): Trish and Natalie.

While we do not get to see each other as much as we would like, the five of us have gathered together at least once a year, every year since graduation, giving us time to reminisce about the old times and build new memories. When Trish moved to New York for a few years before grad school, despite the spatial limitations of a 400 sq. ft. apartment, we piled in and had the weekend of a lifetime. When four of us decided to run a marathon together, we chose to do so in Natalie's hometown of Portland so she could be our biggest cheerleader. From first meaningful jobs through breakups, broken bones, deaths in the family, acceptances, rejections, marriages and now babies, we have been there for each other through all of life's ups and downs.

This last time we came together was for Sara's wedding, and next year it will be Jill's turn. We know friendships like ours are abundant at Whitman and for that we are both proud and forever grateful. Thank you Whitman, for being the type of school that attracts driven, passionate and down-to-earth individuals, and thank you for giving us the gift of our lifelong friendship and a platform to share it with our alumni community.

## About Us

### **Morgan Zeliff Shimabuku '06**

majored in geology and environmental studies and now lives in Boulder, Colo. After getting her master's with a focus in hydrology, she now works at a nonprofit on water conservation issues.

**Trish Hayward '06**, who discovered her love of Asia while studying Mandarin at Whitman, lives in Hong Kong. She pursued a master's in Asian studies at Stanford and works at the Asia Society, where she promotes Asian culture.

**Natalie Rich Storti '06**, a history major, lives in Portland and just welcomed her first child, a son named Beckett. She started working in clinical research at OHSU's Knight Cancer Institute upon graduation and has worked her way up through the organization while earning her MBA.

### **Sara Suffis Kuethe '06**

who was always passionate about healthcare, majored in BBMB and worked at the NIH as part of the IRTA Fellowship. She earned her MBA at Duke University and has held various roles in the healthcare sector. She currently lives in San Francisco and works in marketing at Medtronic.

**Jill DeVleming '06**, an economics and art history double major, followed her passion for snowboarding and worked for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association after graduation. This role opened up other opportunities in business, leading her to earn her MBA at Duke University. She now works at Microsoft and lives in Manhattan.

Thank you Whitman,  
for being the type of school  
that attracts driven, passionate  
and down-to-earth individuals.

Jill, Sara, Natalie, Trish and Morgan  
running the Portland Marathon.





# Whitman Connect

*Across generations and around the world*

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

We are pleased to introduce our new and improved Alumni Community – Whitman Connect! If you were a current member of Whitman Online or are new to the alumni directory, you can enjoy a new user experience that will allow you to better search for friends and classmates, network with fellow Whitties, mentor students, and more!

**Whitman Connect** offers many great features:

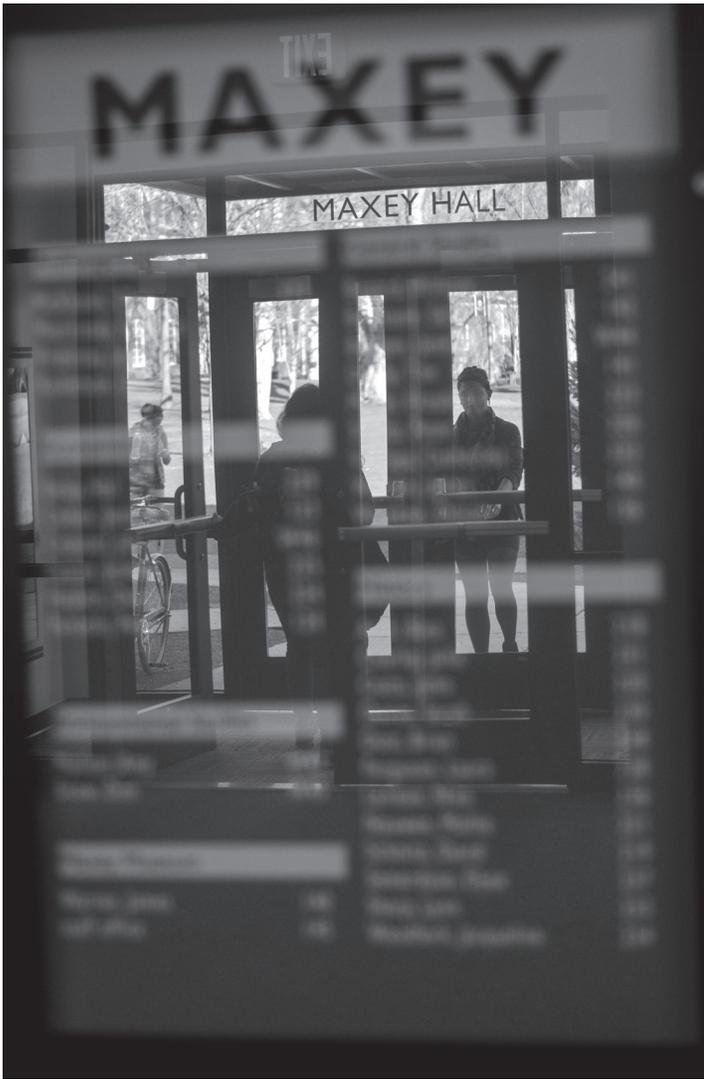
- **Update your Profile**
  - Update or add contact, family, education, Whitman activity, and business information
  - Set your own privacy settings
  - Connect to LinkedIn and populate your data
  - Add a personal photo and create a photo album
  - Upload your resume
- **Search & Network**
  - By class year, major, other schooling, location, business, and campus activities
  - Find your friends and classmates
  - Network with fellow Whitties in your area or industry
  - Be a career resource and mentor for current Whitman students and young alumni
- **Find Events** in your area and on campus
- Visit our new **Online Giving** page
- Find out about **Whitman in the News** and follow links to other **Campus Resources**

Logging on 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).

We've built Whitman Connect to improve the ways in which Whitties can help other Whitties. You can now authorize more of your information to be visible to other alumni and current students. Our students are excited by the opportunity to better utilize the Whitman network and its resources. Once logged in, please poke around the site, update your information, set your privacy settings and upload a photo or two.

Questions or problems? You can contact the Alumni Office above for more information.

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



Photos by Matt Banderas '04



# LOST *alumni*

If you know the whereabouts or the email addresses of any of these Whitties, please send that information to [addrchg@whitman.edu](mailto:addrchg@whitman.edu).

## 2006

Peter Smith Avriett  
Liesel Marie Barraca  
Courtney Louise Jensen

## 2011

Enkhjin Batjargal  
Emily N. Jackson  
William Wagner Reese

## 2007

Praneeta Bremjit  
Aaron Michael Hazel  
Philip Juong Hy  
Amanda Claire King  
David Mark Ozog

## 2012

Carl Samuel Lundberg  
Elizabeth Mimi Schiller  
Pablo Adolfo Vasquez Guzman

## 2013

Aaron Andrew Baumann  
Anna Gabriela Dawson  
William Richard Martin

## 2008

William S. Gibson  
Sarith Keo  
Jyotsna Shivanandan  
Robert Scott Westermann  
Karl Sumner Young

## 2009

Megan Helene Duffy

## 2010

Kira Anna Badyrka  
Nathan Alec Conroy  
Ian Arburua Delaney  
Benjamin Whitham Kron  
Albert Min Lee  
Thomas Michael Roston  
Carol Joyce Schaeffer

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

# *Upcoming Events*

## **2015 Fall Reunion Weekend**

Sept. 24-27, 2015

Tenth Reunion, Class of 2005

Visit [www.whitman.edu/reunions](http://www.whitman.edu/reunions) for more  
information and to RSVP



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