What is the purpose of the Alumni Board?

In 1895, Whitman College alumni organized the Alumni Association to promote the interests of its members and their alma mater. Today the Whitman College Alumni Association continues to foster and maintain those interests between Whitman and its extended families.

To carry out this mission, the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association maintains standing committees which advise the Alumni Office on alumni matters and communicate alumni reactions to college programs.

In other words, they work to keep you connected, and to bring your concerns back to the administration.

J Preston Frederickson ’02, Walla Walla, Wash., President
Kirsten Adams Gable ’01, Spokane, Wash., Vice President
Ari van Schilfgaarde ’07, Berkeley, Calif., Young Alumni Representative
Mary Deming Barber ’78, Anchorage, Alaska
John R. Blackmon ’79, Las Vegas, Nev.
Norman Cheuk ’91, Bellevue, Wash.
James E. Dow ’71, Bainbridge Island, Wash.
Minda McLaughlin Merrow ’62, San Diego, Calif.
Nick Paslides ’82, Sedona, Ariz.
Beth Long Salaguinto ’88, Bothell, Wash.
Kieta Mall Skoglund ’89, Arlington, Va.
Louise Stephens ’07, Stanford, Calif.

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In their words ...

A Whittie follows in the Buddha’s footsteps

By Shannon Hall ’11

There was order to every moment. Various laws governed our lives from the position we sat in during meditation to the manner in which we took our only meal.

I had lived in the Buddhist temple in northeast Thailand for weeks observing the same daily routine. We would wake up at 3 a.m. to meditate, sweep the pathways during sunrise, take our single meal shortly after, and finish the day with personal studies and more meditation.

But there is one day that stands out in my memory; one day is removed from the rest. It’s the day we moved a large Buddha into the temple.

I woke up to a bell ringing across the grounds and dressed myself in a black sarong and a white blouse. In the pitch-dark, I walked from my kuti – a single-roomed hut without electricity – to the main sala – a well-lit open pavilion.

For two hours, I sat beneath a large golden Buddha, deep in meditation. But over time, the cicadas quieted their scream – the sheer volume of which reminded me of Bangkok’s missing sirens – and the fireflies lost their light. The sky transformed into a brilliant shade of pink.

But a few hours into our routine, we did something unexpected: We left the temple grounds.

Outside the main gate, I found a large Buddha statue sitting on the bed of a moving truck. Every Buddha I had seen so far had been gilded. But this one was magnificently white and covered in orange robes for the journey. Monks holding orange umbrellas shaded him from the hot sun.

Receiving the Buddha was tradition mixed with modern technology. We entered

“There was order to every moment.”
With each new meditation, we saw the Buddha’s rapidly changing attire. He turned from white to orange to gold – a transformation akin to the one the Buddha underwent beneath the Bodhi tree thousands of years ago.

the temple grounds together. The monks led, followed by the laymen, the laywomen, the community members, and lastly the Buddha on the moving truck.

Our hierarchy walked in bare feet while chanting. We were welcoming the Buddha – a tradition in every temple that has lasted for centuries. As we entered the forest, the monks let the trees shade him and lowered their umbrellas.

It was well over an hour by the time we reached the doors to the main sala. The Buddha was approximately eight feet tall and weighed over a ton. So managing to get him off the truck, up multiple sets of stairs, and finally onto the tall shrine took a lot of deliberation and very minimal movement.

The monks and laymen would attempt to move the Buddha while yelling at each other in Thai. The words “stop!” “left!” and “right!” filled the normally quiet temple.

When the Buddha finally reached the shrine – a process that took over four hours – his greatest transformation was yet to come. For a week he remained white. But then one morning, a woman arrived to gold leaf him. She worked all day and night, only pausing when we used the main sala for meditation.

With each new meditation, we saw the Buddha’s rapidly changing attire. He turned from white to orange to gold – a transformation akin to the one the Buddha underwent beneath the Bodhi tree thousands of years ago.

Originally from Portland, Ore., Shannon Hall ’11 received her B.A. in physics-astronomy and philosophy from Whitman in 2011. She was a student academic adviser and a resident assistant while on campus. But she also studied abroad in Scotland and worked on her pilot’s license after returning. Since graduating she has finished her M.S. in astronomy and has lived in Laramie, Wyo., Seattle and Cambridge, Mass. The next few years will likely take Hall around the U.S. while she continues to gain experience in science journalism.
By Clark Blumenstein ’06

In 2003, friend Sam Johnson ’06 tipped me off to an exhibit of massive wooden speakers and vacuum tube amplifiers that looked like “miniature submarines” in the Sheehan Gallery. Additional reports came in from friends Gus Gustafson ’06 and Drew Lorona ’06 of having their “minds blown” in the woodshop of Terry Cain of Cain & Cain Audio during a field trip of their Music Technology class taught by Prof. Peter Crawford. It was striking to me that music reproduction could be considered an art form in its own right.

After meeting Terry, I was compelled to study this undeniably powerful source of fun and peace creating convincing music reproduction. Some of you reading this may have danced to the “3-watt disco” PA system that Terry built for me.

Junior year, I became more serious about the study of acoustics, hearing loss, and musical instrument construction. I needed to round out my studies, so I considered a music major. Although I had never played an instrument, the department was supportive. Jackie Wood helped me with the learning curve of the piano. Susan Pickett and her Women as Composers class especially had a deep impact on me, showing that intelligent use of one’s resources makes it possible to shed light on a frontier of beautiful work from underrepresented artists.

After graduating in 2006, I started my own company out of a tin shed in the backyard of a rental home on Hope Street (a dead end) in Walla Walla. I never could have imagined it would lead me to apprentice in Japan, or that I would send a pair of speakers to researchers in Antarctica, or have the chance to reconnect with so many Whitman alumni.

Conversations during these meetings with other Whitties inevitably drift. A common theme that runs through generations of alumni is the desire to become world citizens, affecting change by embracing, as opposed to ignoring, our interdependence and diversity. Through my company, I have learned that manufacturing is at the forefront of global practices that need reform. We need to modify our physical world more intelligently, and talent is needed at the front lines. This is where the benefits of a liberal arts education come in. Even though I was unable to research the manufacturing topics I was interested in from an academic standpoint, Whitman’s liberal arts ethic taught me to self-educate and collaborate with confidence.

As manufacturing continues to catch up with the rest of the green economy, we are going to see more and more well-designed products. I hope that the success story of our non-toxic woodshop facilitates a better understanding of the impact of our buying decisions on soil, air and ocean.

This last year, our company has doubled its production volume yet is still a small team of young people doing their best to beautify music and proliferate quality. If you are in the greater Seattle area, I encourage you to stop by!

Visit blumensteinaudio.com to find out more.
Submit to Livewire!

Has something wonderful happened in your life this year? Send a photo and caption for Livewire by filling out the Class Note submission form at www.whitman.edu/classnotes. 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!
WHITMAN ONLINE is the best way to keep in touch with classmates and make connections with other Whitman alumni.

Register at www.alumniconnections.com/whitmancollege/. You'll need your Whitman ID (WID) to verify your account. Do you remember yours? If not, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@whitman.edu or 1.800.835.9448, ext. 1.

Features:
- Search by name, class year, geographic location and more.
- Upload your résumé.
- Set up an email forwarding address to use with sites like Facebook.

Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni

The Alumni Association gives the Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni to an alumnus or alumna who demonstrates enthusiasm toward his or her career, community or Whitman College as exemplified by Pete Reid '49 in his service to the college. This award is limited to graduates of the last 15 years. Standards for recognition include outstanding recognition in his or her career or field of work, outstanding service to others and a demonstrated commitment to Whitman College.

Please use the form at www.whitman.edu/alumniawards.

Lost Alumni

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

2004
Julie A. Armstrong
Cindy S. Godard-Gross
Shannon R. Matzinger
Samuel and Jeanne K. Peterson
Noah B. Sanders

2005
Kalileen E. Miller
Ayman Raof Mourad

2006
Aaron Walter Bell
Gareth Collin Campbell
Tory Joe Corson
Corinne Cathcart Gibbon
Jordan Richard Kline
Andy Chang Lee
Donnel Alexander Malkemus
Natalie Udwin

2007
Carl Lee Edwards
Robyn D. Edwards
Amanda Claire King
Moanapuaalaaloa Lymann

2008
Shaheryar Akbar
Erik Thor Andersen
Katharine Marie Avery
Gayle Lynn Chung
Beth Anne Davis
Jeffrey Bert DeGroot
Cecil Clay Jones
Jessica Si-Din Lee
Benjamin John Sexson
Jyotsna Shivanandan
Robert Scott Westermann
Kimberly Ann Wetter

2009
Alexander Warren Abrams
Matthew Robert Bartha
Jared Michael Burns
Jennifer Mochizuki Doane
Megan Helene Duffy
Mary-Eileen Gallagher
Charles Beckmann Rohr
David Youngblood

2010
Evan Ross Aegerter
Kira Anna Badyrka
Graham Taylor Brewer
Luc Lemoine Brodhead
Nathan Alec Conroy
Kayla Cordelia Cooper
Ian Arburus Delaney
Albert Min Lee
Kendi Marion Thomas
Karl Joseph Wallulis

2011
Emily N. Jackson
William Wagner Reese

2012
Pablo Adolfo Vasquez Guzman
Upcoming Events

Smith Rock Outdoor Program Weekend with Brien Sheedy
May 9-11, 2014
Camp, hike, climb!
Details to follow; watch your email.

2014 Reunion Weekend
Sept. 17-21, 2014
Fifth Reunion, Classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010
Tenth Reunion, Class of 2004
Visit www.whitman.edu/reunions for more information and to RSVP.