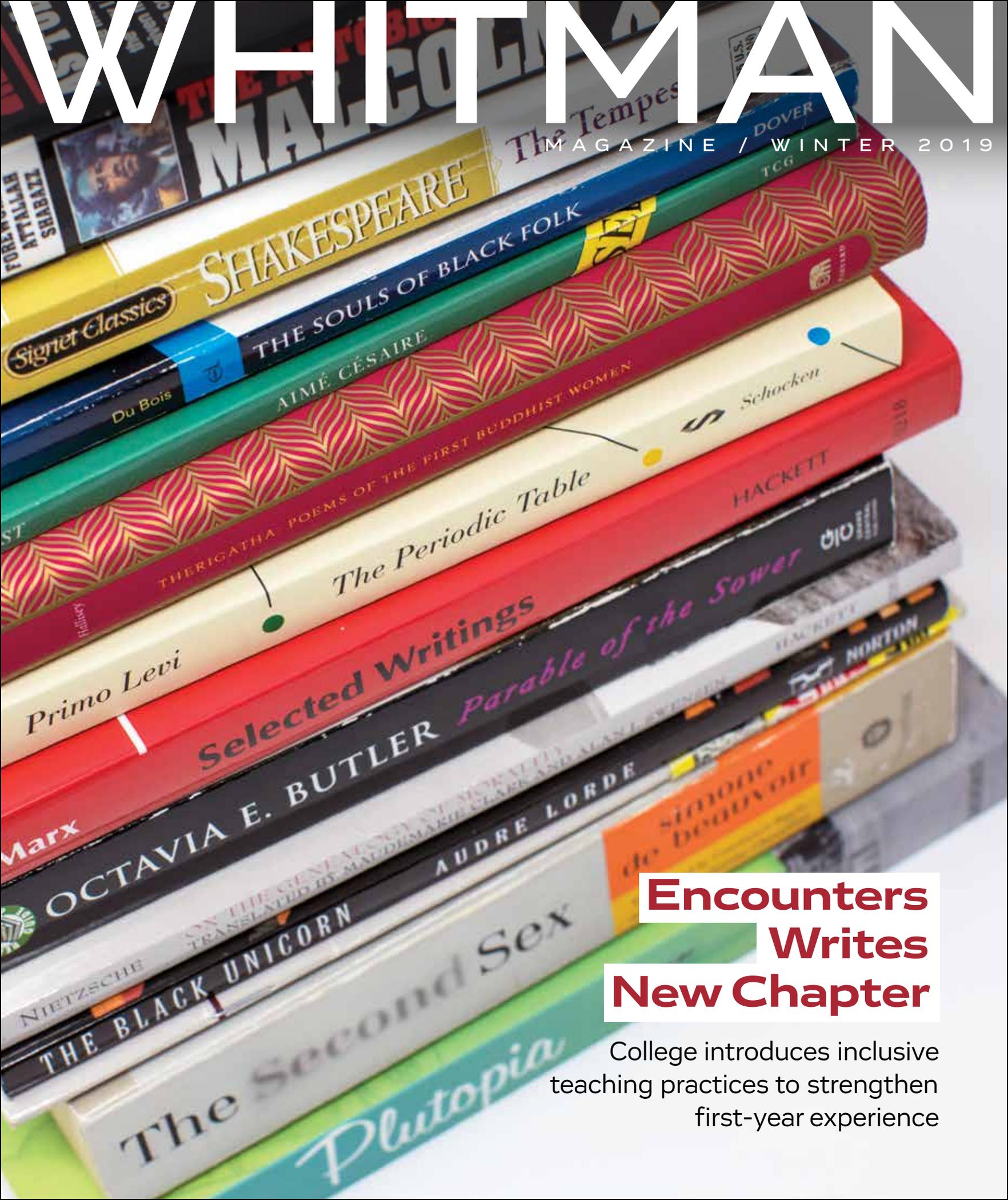


# WHITMAN

MAGAZINE / WINTER 2019



## Encounters Writes New Chapter

College introduces inclusive teaching practices to strengthen first-year experience

# WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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## WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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**This page:** Nancy Delgado '21, Julia Goodley '21 and Maddy Mellema '21 relax in the kitchen and lounge area of their section in Stanton Hall, the new residence hall named in honor of cellular industry pioneer John Stanton '77 and his family. Read more about Stanton Hall on Page 3. Photo by Rebecca Devereaux

**On the cover:** Shown among the stack of books are titles from the recently revised Encounters curriculum — one of the most diverse sets of texts in the course's history. Photo by Rebecca Devereaux

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# Listen to Learn, Learn to Lead

**H**appy 2019! Some days I find it difficult to believe that I am halfway through my fourth year as Whitman's president. I began my Whitman adventure with the students who will graduate in a few months. We have learned about Whitman together.

I have learned about faculty and staff dedicated to advancing the learning of each and every student, whether in our classrooms, residence halls, co-curricular programs, athletics, on-campus employment — virtually every aspect of a student's life at Whitman.

I have learned about students who come from all over the country and around the globe to continue satisfying their curiosity and building their readiness for a life of purpose and meaning.

I have learned about alumni who are passionate about this institution and who count other Whitties among their closest, lifelong friends.

I have learned about the Walla Walla Valley

and the Pacific Northwest, the region's history, challenges and opportunities.

All of that learning has helped to inform the planning process we have used to identify the top priorities for the college for the next five to seven years. We have spent this past fall talking to alumni, parents and other friends of the college all around the country about those priorities, listening to hear which ones resonate most with each of them. You will hear more about the results of those efforts in the coming months.

Student learning remains at the core of our mission; our planning efforts are aimed at making that learning even more relevant and better in tune with 21st century needs. We must ensure that current and future Whitman students will have amazing stories of helping to meet the needs of all types of communities around the globe, just like the stories you will encounter in this magazine. Thank you for your support in making this possible.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Murray  
President

**Student learning remains at the core of our mission; our planning efforts are aimed at making that learning even more relevant and better in tune with 21st century needs.**

# Campus News



## Dedication of Stanton Hall and Cleveland Commons

**T**rustees, donors, students, faculty and staff gathered Nov. 9, 2018, at the formal dedication of two spectacular new facilities on Whitman's campus: Stanton Hall and Cleveland Commons.

Named for cellular industry pioneer **John Stanton '77** (speaking at podium) and his family, Stanton Hall is the first student residence built on Whitman's campus in nearly 50 years. With the goal of achieving certification from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the building features solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations, LED bulbs throughout, natural gas fireplaces and low-flow water fixtures.

Located across the courtyard from Stanton is Cleveland Commons, the new 500-seat dining facility. Rather than a single buffet line, the sprawling space houses several mini-cafés serving globally inspired menus — from Indian curries, Italian pizza and pasta, to Asian noodle bowls and American comfort food classics.

Both new structures were designed by Portland, Oregon-based Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects as part of the Living at Whitman Initiative, launched by the Board of Trustees in 2015.

See more photos from the dedication at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).

# State Supreme Court Justices Visit Whitman

Whitman College students, faculty and staff members, and Walla Walla residents had the rare opportunity to see justice in action Sept. 10-11, 2018, when Washington's highest-ranking judges visited the campus for two days of candid discussion and education about the legal process.

Each year the Washington State Supreme Court justices travel to three colleges or universities. These visits allow them to not only show the human side of the law, but also learn what issues are important to students and the local community.

Justices Steven E. González and Susan J. Owens organized the visit to Whitman, which was instigated by a student.

"We were here for a conference about a year and a half ago. As part of that conference, we had discussions with students here who were interested in legal careers," González said. "We talked in part about the traveling court, and one of the students asked, 'When are you coming to Walla Walla?'"

An official invitation from President Kathleen Murray to



Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst of the Washington State Supreme Court listens to Whitman student **Emily Riggsby '20**. Fairhurst and her fellow justices shared experiences with students while sitting in on classes as part of a two-day visit to campus.

bring the court to Whitman followed soon after.

Seven of the court's nine justices attended classes, sharing experiences from

their personal and professional lives. They also gave students invaluable insight into the character it takes to pass judgment on some of the most

important issues facing the United States today.

Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst, who was elected to the bench in 2002 and has led the court

since 2016, attended History and Theory in Anthropology, taught by Associate Professor of Anthropology and General Studies Suzanne Morrissey.

Student **Merideth Zeigler '21** asked Fairhurst if she has faced gender discrimination during her career.

"I grew up thinking I could do anything I wanted to," Fairhurst said. "But some people seemed to think I should be a paralegal, not an attorney; that I should get coffee, not take a deposition."

Students taking The Middle East Media, taught by Assistant Professor Tarik Elseewi, discussed the portrayal of ethnic identities with González, the first Latino to sit on Washington's top court.

"We talked about implicit bias in the criminal justice system and how images can affect how we judge people, because they're studying that very thing through Islamic films," González said. "I talked about some things I've done in my career that relate to the issue of bias in the justice system, such as hate crime prosecution and

jury selection. It was a fascinating discussion and I'm so glad to have been a part of it."

In other classrooms across campus, Owens attended Modern Africa, taught by Associate Professor Jacqueline Woodfork; Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud attended Islamic Civilization I, taught by Associate Professor Elyse Semerdjian; Justice Debra L. Stevens attended Ancient Mediterranean Greece with Assistant Professor Sarah Davies; Justice Charles K. Wiggins attended Introduction to Modern European Political Theory with Assistant Professor Arash Davari; and Justice Mary I. Yu — who is the first Asian, woman of color and member of the LGBTQ community to serve on the court — attended U.S.-Mexico Border with Professor Aaron Bobrow-Strain.

"For me, Whitman is special," Yu said. "It's not going to be like any other visit, and part of it is having come here in 2016 to be the commencement speaker and receiving an honorary degree. This makes it a very personal connection

— and I have great admiration for President Murray."

After classes, Professor Paul Apostolidis moderated the panel "State Courts, the Federal Judiciary, and the Rule of Law." The panel gave students, employees and community members an inside look at the court system, and the responsibility the judges feel for it.

"I've been a judge for 18 years, but I'm aware of the gravity of every decision," Yu said. "It's something I take very seriously, and I'd describe it as a heavy burden in many ways."

"Our decisions impact every person in the state of Washington," Fairhurst said. "So, we wear that responsibility heavily."

Other topics discussed on the panel included the process by which judges are elected and/or appointed to the bench, the nationalization of politics and the importance of resolving disputes peacefully.

"I really hope students see that the justices are definitely keeping alive in the sphere of court deliberations the possibility of democratic discussion and negotiation on a rational level about

key problems that the public faces in this time of great change," Apostolidis said.

"Listening to the judges talk, they made the judicial process seem a lot more human," said student **Matthew Dahlstrom '21**. "We only see national coverage of what's going on and it's really polarizing, these clashes between political ideologies, but when they talked about what we can do at the local level, it made it seem not so bad."

On the second day of their stay on campus the justices held court in Cordiner Hall, where they heard oral arguments on two cases.

"We were delighted to have the opportunity to host the justices here on our campus as they deliberated these cases," Murray said. "Their visit provided an impactful way for Whitman students as well as the larger community to observe the judicial system in action."

Watch a video of the Washington State Supreme Court's visit at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).



Whitman College students, faculty and Walla Walla community members listen intently to five of Washington's highest-ranking judges during a panel discussion that took place Sept. 10 on campus at Cordiner Hall. Pictured, from left, are Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Justice Debra L. Stevens, Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst, Justice Steven E. González and Justice Mary I. Yu. Politics Professor Paul Apostolidis (far right) moderated. Photos by Greg Lehman

# Lab Tool Developed by Physics Professor, Students Brings College its First Patent

The first product patent issued to Whitman College is based on an invention by Carl E. Peterson Endowed Chair of Science and Professor of Physics Douglas Juers. A commercial version of the device, named Watershed, was launched in the summer of 2018. By using Watershed, researchers like Juers can improve the overall quality and reproducibility of their data.

The device was borne out of difficulties Juers and his team of research assistants were having reproducing measurements in their lab due to variations in humidity.

“We would repeat the same experiment and get a slightly different result,” Juers said. “We eventually determined that the variation was caused, in part, by dehydration of our samples while we manipulated them on our stereo microscope.”

Unable to find a commercial product that provided the control

they needed, Juers and his student assistants designed and built their own device. Working with Whitman Chief Financial Officer Peter Harvey, they applied for a patent and searched for a commercial partner, leading them to MiTeGen, a New York-based manufacturer and distributor of scientific equipment.

Students involved in the work include **Christopher Farley '16** (physics, bio-engineering), **Hailey Maeda '16** (biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology) and **Nick Wechter '16** (biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology). Juers' father David, a retired chemical engineer, also helped troubleshoot one aspect of the project during a Thanksgiving visit.

The team's research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and focused on improving techniques in structural biology.

Any advances that make progress in this field easier and more accessible



Juers sits next to a prototype of his patented invention, Watershed

can have significant applications to human health by improving basic understanding of the biology underlying various conditions and subsequently developing therapeutics.

“The device has become an indispensable part of our lab. We now only work with samples that

are under controllable humid flow,” Juers said. “This greatly reduces stress by slowing down the dehydration clock, allowing one to take more care during manipulations.

The device should be helpful to anyone working with small samples sensitive to dehydration.” **W**

## College Revises Emergency Protocols to Create Safer Campus

This fall, Whitman College finalized a revised emergency preparedness plan designed to improve response during a number of potential events, from weather-related incidents and natural disasters to human-caused crisis.

The process began in December 2017, when the President's Cabinet set as a priority for the year the reviewing and updating of the existing emergency preparedness plan and ensuring the campus community knew what to do in the event of a crisis.

The effort was led by CFO Peter Harvey in partnership with staff and faculty from across campus. The planning group worked with Emergency Planning Solutions (EPS) to evaluate the risks most likely to occur at Whitman and in Walla Walla, and how prepared the college was to respond to them. That information was used to update the college's emergency preparedness plan.



As part of the plan revision, Whitman College adopted FEMA's multi-hazard emergency management system, which is used by emergency response agencies throughout the nation and the Walla Walla region.

“Adopting the FEMA system improves our ability to communicate clearly with other responding agencies in case of a large-scale event,” Harvey said. “It means that we're all speaking the same language and are organized in the same way.”

EPS conducted several training sessions for the college on the emergency plan and the FEMA system, including one for cabinet members and a three-day training for 30 people who play lead or back-up roles in responding to different types of emergencies. It also conducted campuswide sessions in October to help students, faculty and staff prepare for a variety of emergencies.

“Helping keep our campus safe isn't just the responsibility of one person, or even our team of trained staff,” Harvey said. “A safe campus is the responsibility of everyone. It's about having good situational awareness, a commitment to safety, and the knowledge of how to respond.” **W**



## Mobilizing Snakebite Medicine

Like a snake in the grass, the threat of venomous snakebites doesn't get nearly the attention it deserves. But one Whitman alumnus is helping raise the profile of snakebites and improve treatments.

In September, herpetologist and wilderness paramedic **Jordan Benjamin '14** launched the Asclepius Snakebite Foundation (ASF) to reduce the death and disability caused by venomous snakebites.

“We will be traveling into the field to treat snakebite patients, establish clinics, train local providers, conduct clinical research and implement public health education initiatives where the need is greatest,” said Benjamin, ASF's

founder and executive director.

Venomous snakebites are one of the most devastating health threats in developing countries around the world — on the same level of magnitude as malaria and typhoid. The World Health Organization conservatively estimates more than 130,000 people die each year and another 400,000 are permanently maimed as a result of being bitten by venomous snakes.

Ample supplies of effective antivenom — costing just \$100 per vial — could take a big bite out of those numbers. Unfortunately, antivenom is prohibitively expensive for most villagers and in short supply, especially in sub-Saharan African countries where the medicine is needed most. In the early 2000s antivenom production for the sub-continent had fallen to only 20,000 vials per year to treat over 300,000 lethal snakebites, and many of these patients require two to four doses or more to neutralize the venom.

“What we really need are 500,000 — and up to 2 million vi-

als — of antivenom, which we don't currently have,” Benjamin said during a 2013 TEDx talk. Benjamin estimates less than 10 percent of patients will receive life-saving antivenom treatment when they need it.

ASF has assembled a team of international experts — including Whitman's resident snake specialist, Associate Professor of Biology Kate Jackson — in the fields of snakebite research, medical toxicology, herpetology and public health education, as well as several organizations that have committed to build stocks of medications, equipment and supplies.

Inosan Biopharma, an independent antivenom producer, has pledged to provide a new generation of field-stable antivenoms for sub-Saharan Africa. This groundbreaking product can be stored at room temperature, counteract poisons contained in the venom of different species of snakes and be given directly in poorly equipped rural areas, where

95 percent of snakebites occur.

ASF is preparing to deploy a team of researchers to Guinea in west Africa to establish a dedicated snakebite center and launch the first multidisciplinary, prospective study of neurotoxic snakebites on the continent. Primary goals of the Guinea study are to identify some of the factors responsible for the high case fatality rate that has been observed in patients and to identify novel strategies for improving the clinical management of these patients in the field.

“The great thing about treating snakebites is that seemingly up until the last few minutes before death, patients can improve — and improve dramatically. Basic treatment, a few vials of antivenom and proper medicine can make the difference between life and death,” Benjamin said. **W**

**Above:** Herpetologist/wilderness paramedic **Jordan Benjamin '14** examines a mamba, an extremely venomous snake, while conducting snakebite research in Kenya. Photo courtesy of Asclepius Snakebite Foundation

# Meet Poet Esther Ra '19

English major explores her Korean heritage and American upbringing through emotionally charged poetry

By Peter Szymczak  
Photo by Rebecca Devereaux

Her voice breaking, tears welling up and words rushing, **Esther Ra '19** reads a selection from her first collection of poems, “book of untranslatable things” (Grayson Books, 2018), to a rapt audience:

*who stops to hear the story of a tiger  
when its jaws are clamped hungry  
over your long-silenced  
throat*

*even behind the tiki torches:  
a loneliness so wet and empty  
only the glower of rage  
can reduce it*

“Reading my work is always a deeply vulnerable and scary experience for me,” Ra said. “It always humbles me that there are people who generously give their time and space to hear my words, and I want to repay them by truly speaking from the heart. Thus, I often choose poems that are deeply personal to me during



my performances, whether it is about my country, my life or my family.”

Ra was born in Seoul, South Korea, lived in California from age 1 to 7, then returned to South Korea for high school before coming back stateside for college. In addition to Whitman, she has studied English literature at the University of Oxford.

Ra said she cannot remember a time when she hasn't wanted to write.

“My mother says that when I was 3 years old, I declared that I wanted

to be a writer,” she said. “Although I have no memory of this, I've definitely been writing as long as I can remember — exuberant, horribly plotted fantasy novels, plays for my younger sisters and sentimental journals that sprawled on for two years.”

She began writing poetry in high school, where she discovered female poets like Sarah Kay, Sylvia Plath and Anna Kamienska.

“Once I grew intimate with

poetry, its mystery, its love lines and capacity for saying the most painful truths with slant honesty, I've never been able to wade out of its waters,” Ra said.

Her experience at Whitman, including membership in Poems Club, further informed and inspired her passion for writing verse.

“Writing poetry in English in Korea can be a lonely experience, so it was so exciting to be in a



community of people who loved writing,” she said. “We wrote, performed and practiced together every week, and became a slam poetry family — ‘slamily,’ as we used to call it.”

In 2016, Ra was one of the representatives for Whitman at CUPSI, a college union slam poetry competition, and one of their group pieces was selected for the final stage.

Ra would like to continue writing after college.

“Poetry doesn't feel like a career to me, so much as an attentive attitude toward life,” she said. “Korea and my family always tug at my heartstrings, but I also know that I will continue to run after my love for the English language in some form or another. I am grateful that Whitman could be my first step.” **W**



**WATCH THE STORY**  
Hear Ra read two of the poems from her new book at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).

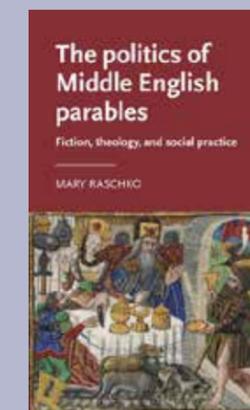
## Freshly Printed

These new books by Whitman College faculty members were published this year. See more works written by faculty at [whitman.edu/newsroom/faculty-books](http://whitman.edu/newsroom/faculty-books).

**“The Politics of Middle English Parables”** (Manchester University Press, 2018) by Assistant Professor of English Mary Raschko examines the dynamic intersection of fiction, theology and social practice in late-medieval England.

Parables occupy a prominent place in Middle English literature, appearing in dream visions and story collections as well as in lives of Christ and devotional treatises. While most scholarship approaches the translated stories as stable vehicles of Christian teaching, this book highlights the many variations and points of conflict across Middle English renditions of the same story.

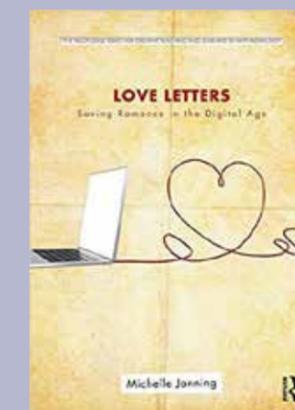
Raschko earned her bachelor's degree in English from Georgetown University in 2001 and completed her doctorate in medieval English literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009. At Whitman, she teaches literature from the Middle Ages through Shakespeare.



Raymond and Elsie DeBurgh Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology Michelle Janning explores modern love in her new book **“Love Letters: Saving Romance in the Digital Age”** (Routledge, 2018). Through stories, a review of past research and her own survey findings, Janning uncovers how people from different age groups and genders approach their love letter “curatorial practices” in an era when digitization of communication is nearly ubiquitous.

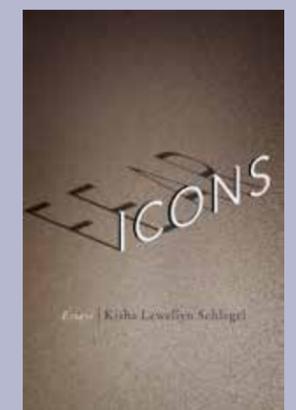
Janning shows how our connection to the material world and our attraction to nostalgia matter in actions as seemingly small and private as saving, storing, stumbling upon or even burning a love letter.

Janning joined the Whitman College faculty in 2000. She researches, speaks and writes about relationships, parenthood, pop culture, interior design, inequalities and Scandinavian life. She earned her bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College and her master's and doctorate from the University of Notre Dame.



“Who are we to each other when we're afraid?” asks Kisha Lewellyn Schlegel in her debut collection of essays, **“Fear Icons”** (Mad Creek Books, 2018). Schlegel looks at fear and faith — the ways the two are more similar than we realize — and the many shapes our faith takes, from nationalism to friendship, from art to religious dogma. From Donald Trump to the Virgin Mary, Darth Vader to the Dalai Lama, Schlegel explores what it means to be human, a woman, an artist and, in particular, a parent — what it means to love a child beyond measure, someone so vulnerable, familiar and strange.

Schlegel is assistant professor of English at Whitman. She has published essays in Tin House, Conjunctions, The Iowa Review and other literary journals. The recipient of a Washington State Artist Trust Grant and the Richard J. Margolis Award, Schlegel holds master's degrees in environmental studies from the University of Montana and fine arts from Iowa's Nonfiction Writing Program.



# “ I ASKED FOR NOTHING MORE THAN AN OPPORTUNITY ”

By Peter Szymczak



Photo courtesy of Gonzaga University

**O**n the basketball court **Tommy Lloyd '98** was a prolific scorer. He set the Walla Walla Community College single-game scoring record with 52 points and was the leading scorer in the NWAACC All-Star game with 22 points his sophomore season. He finished his collegiate basketball career playing for Whitman during his senior year, graduating with a degree in biology and a secondary teaching credential.

Lloyd has scored even more points on and off the court as an assistant coach with the nationally ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs men's basketball team. Now in his 20th season, Lloyd has shown an uncanny ability for recruiting international players and an affinity for building teams united by their diversity.

**You transferred to Whitman during your senior year, following two years at Walla Walla Community College and one at Colorado State University at Pueblo. How did your college experiences prepare you for your professional career?**

It was great having a lot of different college experiences: going to a community college, then a state university, and finishing up at Whitman. It was a pretty well-rounded academic experience. Whitman was great, and it was challenging. I had thoughts of being a doctor someday, but when I got to Whitman and found out how hard it really was, how smart the competition was, that's when I decided that my fellow classmates could go on and find cures for cancer and I could go coach basketball. I give Whitman credit for really teaching me how to think, how to solve problems

and come up with creative solutions. The scientific process way of thinking I learned at Whitman is something that continues to benefit me to this day.

**After college you played for international basketball teams in Australia and Germany, and have since specialized in recruiting international players from around the world — Japan, Poland, France, Brazil and Nigeria. Gonzaga men's basketball head coach Mark Few has said you have “an uncanny knowledge of the international talent and the international game.” How does a guy born and raised in Kelso, Washington, become an expert judge of character of people from vastly different cultures?**

My interest in international basketball was borne out of my family. We hosted exchange students every year when I was

# 2018-2019 WHITMAN BLUES BASKETBALL PREVIEW

By John Barry



## MEN'S TEAM POISED FOR DEEP POSTSEASON RUN

The Whitman College men's basketball team looks to build off a sensational 2017-2018 season that saw the Blues run through the Northwest Conference regular season on their way to an Elite Eight appearance in the NCAA Tournament. As one of the top scoring teams in the nation, Whitman treated its fans to a high-octane, high-energy offense that helped the Blues run the league table and produce four all-conference selections. Head Coach Eric Bridgeland was voted Northwest Conference Coach of the Year.

Bridgeland said this year's team is one of his best — and the 2018-2019 schedule is one of the toughest. With the return of two starters, including all-region guard **Joey Hewitt '19** and top recruit **Sam Geschickter '21**, who missed last season due to injury, the Blues are poised for another deep postseason run.

The Whitman faithful got an early look at the Blues with six of the team's first eight games played at the Sherwood Athletic Center. The campaign tipped off Nov. 11 with one of the toughest opponents of the season in LeTourneau University. The Yellowjackets finished last season 24-5 after advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

By season's end, Whitman's men's basketball team hopes to hoist a national championship trophy.

## HIGH HOPES FOR WOMEN'S TEAM IN REBUILDING YEAR

The Whitman College women's basketball team returned to the court looking to regain the form that featured an NCAA Tournament Elite Eight appearance in 2016. Last year's team finished 22-5 but also had an early tournament exit.

Coach Michelle Ferenz rebuilt this year's team after losing last season's Northwest Conference Most Valuable Player **Casey Poe '18**, as well as starters **Sierra McGarity '18** and **Emily Rommel '18**.

A key returnee is junior forward **Makana Stone '20**, a first-team all-conference selection last season. Stone spent a portion of her summer traveling and competing in Brazil for the USA Sports Tours and Events Division III Women's Basketball Team. As the squad's second leading scorer and top rebounder from a season ago, she figures to play a key role in helping her team make it to the postseason.

Travel was a prerequisite in the non-conference portion of their schedule, with the Blues playing away from the Sherwood Center for all but one of their non-league contests — that lone game coming against Walla Walla University in their home opener on Nov. 14. Passing their early season tests will be necessary for the women's team to compete yet again for a Northwest Conference title.



growing up, so I was exposed to people representing vastly different cultures, which I found interesting. My brother was an exchange student, but I was never able to be one because I was always playing varsity basketball.

My wife and I traveled a lot when we were younger, and one thing led to another and it's something we continue to enjoy to this day. For me, traveling isn't a bad part of my job; it's a benefit, a plus. I love the travel that comes with being a coach and meeting these different people. So, those two things meshed perfectly: my interest in international culture in general, not just basketball, and Spokane has been a welcoming community. The following and fan support is something the international players really enjoy.

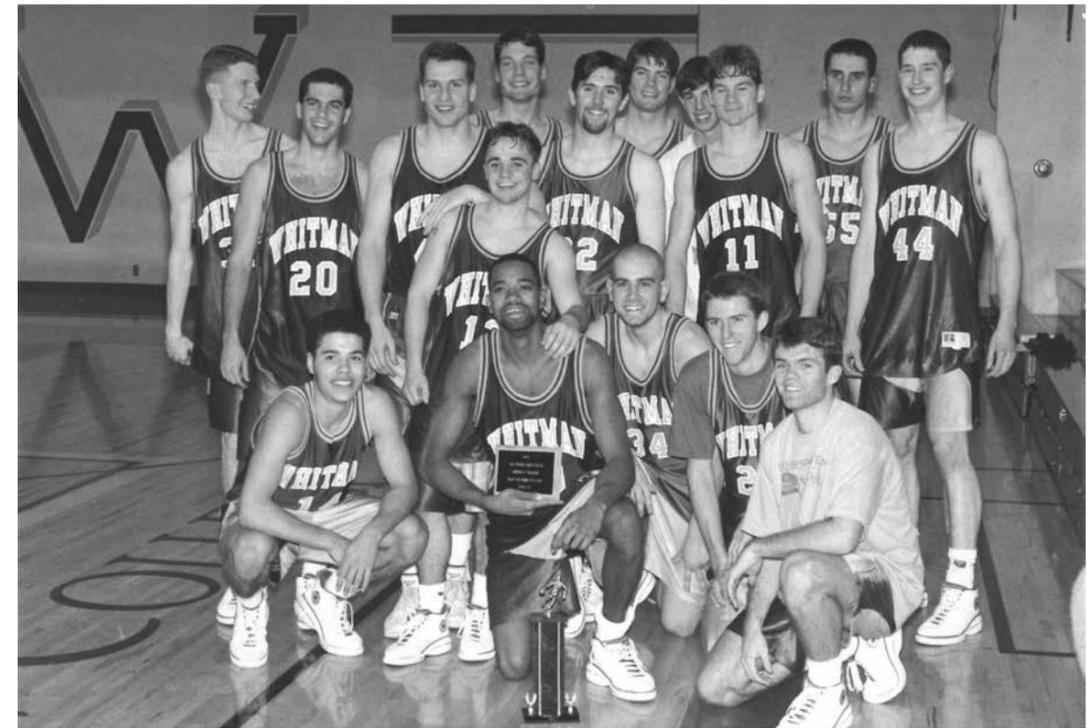
### Once you assemble a team of players from disparate places, how do you get them to mesh?

I think when you incorporate all these different cultures, at the end of the day people are people. You put them in a locker room and that diversity enriches it. People come from different backgrounds and have different experiences, and I think our players are genuinely sharing them with each other. It's a fun dynamic, to be sure.

### You've been an assistant coach for 18 years and been tagged as a coach-in-waiting. Tell us a little about the time and effort you invested to get the job — including volunteering for two years — and the factors that have made Gonzaga a fit for you over the long run.

When I first came to Gonzaga I asked for nothing more than an opportunity, and I received nothing more than an opportunity. It was a purely volunteer role. The timing was right because the program had

Tommy Lloyd wore jersey number 11 on the 1997-1998 Whitman men's basketball team.



just burst onto the national scene and it was still pretty resource poor. It needed someone who could come in and help with odds and ends. That's how I got a foot in the door and developed a great relationship with the other coaches, and Coach Few being the boss. An opportunity came up to hire me two years later and we did it, and I hit the ground running.

### What advice would you give recent alumni and current students who hope to build a successful career such as yours?

Consistency, loyalty, patience — those are the huge keys in my profession, and I'm sure it's the same for others. There's a tendency for people when they are starting up to be more focused on climbing the ladder rather than developing their craft. I think they risk losing sight of doing great work at their current job, constantly searching for someplace else that looks better. That's something I decided never to partake in. I've always felt that the job I had is the most important and deserves 100 percent of my focus. If other opportunities come out of that, they will be presented but I don't necessarily need to pursue them.

That being said, I knew right away that I was with good people and an up-and-coming situation, so that's also important. You always want to associate and affiliate yourself with people who have strong ideals and are high achievers. When you can get that synergy of being in a healthy growth environment and you sprinkle on your loyalty and service to the program, that's

a winning formula. At the end of the day, it shows really quick when you get in a new work environment who's loyal — who's here to serve the program versus themselves. If you don't bring a genuine approach to the job, I think your co-workers will sniff it out really quick.

### Over the years you've won numerous conference titles, NCAA berths and mentored All-American players, some of whom have gone on to play professional basketball. What makes a winner?

First and foremost, obviously, is work ethic and toughness. But there's a big mental part too, staying focused and continuing to improve, having the foresight to think like that. People want to make a tangible aspect of winning when it's a pretty abstract thing. In my mindset, I don't think like we've won championships; I think about what are we doing now to get what we want to achieve in the future. It's being present but not stuck in neutral — present with a mindset of, "What am I doing now that will

help me be prepared for what I want to achieve in the future?"

### How do you handle losing, especially an upset, such as last year's loss against the lower-ranked Florida State Seminoles in the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 round?

Hey, losing is part and parcel of the process. I mean, obviously, I don't like to lose but when it happens I embrace it. It's a real opportunity to be honest with yourself, assess what went wrong and what you do differently the next time. When we lose it automatically kicks in a mindset and process of what happened and how we can fix it. In coaching, and I'm sure a lot of other jobs, you have to like solving problems. You get exposed. There's a part of me that actually enjoys it because it is part of the process. Nothing is going to be without bumps in the road, and those who are the best at predicting where those bumps occur and how to proceed when you get past them, they are the people who will ultimately be most successful.

### Do you keep tabs on Whitman's basketball teams?

The last couple years I've been able to watch the teams play against Whitworth. I think Eric Bridgeland (Whitman men's basketball head coach) and Michelle Ferenz (women's head coach) are doing amazing jobs — they're taking Whitman to places a lot of people probably thought it would never get to. They're doing it consistently and it's been fun to watch. I'm really proud of them, the work they've done and continue to do. They have a clear vision and ability to execute it. It's been impressive.

What's great about Walla Walla and Whitman is they are places with a humble foundation but they produce amazingly high achievers. Students and faculty should realize they're sitting in the same seats as those before them who have achieved amazing things. I think it's one of those places where dreams can really come true. It's a great place to think big and do amazing things. **W**

BIOLOGIST

TRACKS

EVOLUTION

THROUGH

STUDY OF

MONKEYFLOWERS



Associate Professor of Biology Arielle Cooley and her students explore the patterns that arise from molecular codes

By Afrika Brown



When looking at the vast diversity of the evolutionary tree of life, humans are a pretty small twig.

In *Evolution for Everyone*, a new class for non-science majors at Whitman College, Associate Professor of Biology Arielle Cooley helps students think about their relationship to the world around them from perspectives informed by evolution, genetics and development.

“About 5 pounds of our body are not actually human cells — they’re bacterial cells. There are, by some estimates, more bacterial cells in your body than there are human cells, because bacterial cells are so much smaller,” Cooley said. “So that raises the question of how human are we, really?”

Questions about how organisms are made up, develop and evolve have fueled Cooley’s research in both plants and animals for years. Since coming to Whitman in 2012, her work has focused on the monkeyflower. She has used her research to investigate how molecular changes in DNA give rise to striking new flower colors and patterns.

“From a selfish point of view, it’s important to understand species that are not us because it would be very difficult for us to live without many of them. Non-human species are also just easier to study, in many cases. And because of our shared evolutionary history, we humans have a lot of biological processes in common with non-human species. What we learn about other

organisms can help us better understand ourselves.”

### Blooms in the Lab

Cooley is an evolutionary and developmental geneticist. Her plant of focus — the monkeyflower, or *Mimulus* — can be found in Southeast Asia and Australia, and along the west coasts of the Americas from the Bering Straits to Patagonia.

“I’m interested in how genes inside the body contribute to changes within a single lifetime — which is development — and also contribute to changes in populations and species on longer timespans — which is evolution,” Cooley said.

From her lab in the Hall

of Science, Cooley works with numerous undergraduate students to explore genetic mysteries.

“This is an undergraduate-powered lab, and my students do the research that is coming out of my lab. I really couldn’t do it without them,” Cooley said. “Teaching and research are very intertwined at Whitman. The research students in my lab draw on what they learned last semester in my genetics class, as they design experiments to test the effects of different genes on color patterning. And the research that we do creates examples and ideas for projects that I can bring back to my classes.”

During the academic year, Cooley will typically have four or five students working in the

lab, with an additional three to four students working full time over the summer. Student projects include extracting DNA, building transgenes and analyzing genomes. She currently has two grants from the National Science Foundation to support her study of monkeyflowers. Student research in her lab is also supported by funding from Whitman College, including Abshire awards and the Faculty-Student Summer Research grants.

Research at a small liberal arts college puts undergraduates at the front lines of discovery. The roles assigned to Whitman students in the Cooley Lab include tasks that graduate students would typically do in a master's or doctorate program. Her students also take advantage of her research partnerships with scientists across the country to develop new skills that surpass even her own.

"My grant funding supported flying a student to my colleague's lab in Virginia this summer to learn computational approaches, since that's not my area," Cooley said. The student, **Melia Matthews '20**, learned how to use a genetic mapping software called TASSEL. "Now Melia has brought that expertise back to our lab at Whitman, where she is able to share her skills with me and other lab members, as we try to find the genes that contribute to spatially complex color patterns in the flowers of *Mimulus* hybrids."

## The Monkeyflower Tribe

The monkeyflower received its moniker from Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, creator of the binomial classification system for naming species. He thought the flower petals resembled the face of a monkey.

Cooley completed her graduate work on monkeyflowers while at Duke University in

North Carolina. She did her postdoctoral work on fruit flies at the University of Michigan, then returned to the monkeyflower.

"Monkeyflowers are a wonderful system for undergrads because they are so charismatic and compelling. They are really biologically diverse and less studied than the fruit fly," Cooley said. "There is a whole lot still to find out about how genomes have evolved to create so much diversity in monkeyflowers, and my students are the ones doing it — they are making discoveries that extend the limits of human understanding."

Along with using other species to learn about human existence, the study of other species highlights the complexity of various living systems that inhabit our planet.

"The more you learn about other species, the more amazing they

seem," Cooley said. "Plants can do a lot of things that humans can only dream of. For example, since they can't run away from danger, they have evolved extraordinary chemical arsenals to defend themselves. These unique and powerful chemicals have been developed by humans into hundreds of medicines, from aspirin to cancer-treating drugs."

Cooley and her colleagues have published their findings about the monkeyflower in high-profile journals such as *Current Biology* and *The Plant Cell*. Whitman students are often coauthors. On a recent paper by Cooley in the *American Journal of Botany*, for example, four of the six authors were Whitman students.

As with her lab work, Cooley emphasizes that the papers she publishes are a collaborative process.

"No biologist is an expert in everything, and collaborating allows me to tackle complex questions that require more than one approach," Cooley said. "I think of my lab as being part of this constellation of researchers where none of us is good at everything, but we all share a common interest in how traits evolve and develop. We come at those interests from different perspectives and that is incredibly helpful in coming up with new and interesting ideas and findings."

As a biologist and professor, Cooley is tasked to ask and answer complex questions about our world. However, Cooley points out that the subjects addressed in science are helpful to students regardless of their chosen field of study.

"Regardless of your major, you haven't benefited from a liberal arts education if you haven't had

a chance to explore the particular challenges and intricacies of science," she said. "Our biology classes at Whitman help students develop their experimental creativity, analytical thinking and quantitative skills. And all future citizens of the world will need these tools, as complex problems emerge that demand multidisciplinary solutions."

"As we speak, climate change is perturbing biological systems and exacerbating social inequality around the world. Genetic breakthroughs are creating technologically and ethically complex situations that we don't yet have good frameworks for dealing with. Understanding how science works, and what it can and can't do, is a critical part of thinking about these issues. Fortunately, in my opinion at least, science is not just important, but also fascinating and fun to do!" **W**



"Because of our shared evolutionary history, we humans have a lot of biological processes in common with non-human species. What we learn about other organisms can help us better understand ourselves."

— Arielle Cooley



Photo by Taylor Wilke



# INSPIRING SCIENCE

Murdock Foundation honors physicist Moira Gresham for her research prowess and dedication to mentoring women in science

By Savannah Tranchell

**D**ark matter is a building block of the cosmos — without it, we can't explain how the galaxy we know today exists. But current knowledge of dark matter is based entirely on observations of distant space — unlike other matter types, it has eluded study in lab experiments. To study dark matter, researchers must combine knowledge in a variety of fields: particle physics, astrophysics and cosmology.

That combination of the known and the unknown is one of the things that drew Moira Gresham to dark matter.

"I've always been interested in cosmology, the study of the universe. Then in college, I really liked my particle physics class," said Gresham, the National Shipman Associate Professor of Physics at Whitman College. "Dark matter is an awesome marriage of particle physics and cosmology. You cannot think of dark matter without having some understanding of both of those things."

## A MATTER OF GENDER

Dark matter is difficult to study in part because it is so hard to find and understand. Gresham's work on the subject supports another type of elusive matter — women in physics.

"Physics is one of the worst of the physical sciences in terms of having gender balance," said Gresham, who joined the Whitman faculty in 2011. "I am the only woman in my department, and I take that as an opportunity to try to reach out to women in physics. I feel like I'm particularly well suited to help address that problem."

Each year, Gresham invites the women students studying physics over for a meal to talk about the gender dynamics at play in science classrooms. She also advises the Women in STEM club started last year by women students in physics and astronomy.

"I just want every person to pursue a career that they're passionate about. I know, and evidence shows, that there are a lot of people who get dissuaded or don't even think about a field in

which they might actually be well suited because they don't see anyone else like them doing that," she said.

## TEACHER, SCHOLAR AND MENTOR

In recognition of her scientific research and her dedication to mentorship, this fall Gresham was awarded the 2018 Lynwood W. Swanson Promise for Scientific Research Award from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

"Moira established a strong, student-focused research program soon after she arrived at Whitman," said **Rachna Sinnott '93**, director of Grants and Foundation Relations, and part of the team who nominated Gresham for the award. "Importantly, Moira's research has involved most of her students, from the six summer research students who are supported by her grants, to all of the students in her classes who learn from the examples of her research that she integrates into her lectures."

In addition to the Swanson Promise award, Gresham received another grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust in 2014, and in 2017 was awarded a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Gresham was able to use those grants to support research students in her lab.

"Moira's mentoring of women in physics has had a tremendous impact on our students, especially because of the dearth of women in that field," said Alzada Tipton, provost and dean of the faculty. "While Moira's mere presence in the classroom and lab shows our students that somebody like them can 'do' physics, it is her absolute excellence as a teacher and scholar that makes her a truly transformational mentor for our female students in the sciences."

Gresham wasn't alone in being honored by Murdock this year: Carl E. Peterson Endowed Chair of Science and Professor of Physics Doug Juers received an honorable mention.

Gresham takes pride on being available for students of all genders, but feels a particular pull to help her women students overcome any difficulties they

may face pursuing the sciences. She encourages her women students to have confidence in their knowledge and skills, and not to give up.

"That's where I want to try to come in — to recognize that it is difficult. This is hard. You will struggle. That is normal," she said. "If you like what you're doing, keep going."

## A PHYSICIST WITH A DIFFERENCE

As a high schooler interested in physics in Cheney, Washington, Gresham said she was unphased that other physicists — like Albert Einstein and Steven Hawking — didn't look like her. As an undergraduate at Reed College, she took her first physics class from a woman, Professor Mary James.

"I was really starting to think, 'Hey, I could have a career kind of like hers. And that sounds really appealing,'" Gresham said.

She went on to receive her master's degree at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, and a doctorate in theoretical cosmology and particle phenomenology from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Gresham has published 16 articles in peer-reviewed journals and often collaborates with other women in her field.

This fall she wrapped up a sabbatical studying asymmetric dark matter, which looks at how the preponderance of matter over anti-matter in the universe is tied to the presence of dark matter. She will continue that work, funded by her NSF grant, over the next year.

She appreciates that Whitman allows faculty the flexibility to continue research while engaging with students.

"I'm forming close mentoring relationships in the pursuit of new knowledge in my field. That's clearly very motivating for the students and a lot of fun for us both. I bring my research into my classes," she said. "Whitman has a balance of research and teaching that I find to be appealing. It's the teacher-scholar model — recognizing how each one can benefit the other. They feed one another." **W**

Anne-Marie Zell Schwerin '85 mentors Maeve McCracken '19, a sociology and French major who is interning at the Walla Walla chapter of the YWCA. Photo by Alicia Ruiz

YWCA

# Paying It Forward

Community programs bring alumni and students together to create positive change in Walla Walla

By Afrika Brown

# W

hen **Anne-Marie Zell Schwerin '85** was a senior at Whitman College, she had her first encounter with “the Whitman bubble.”

“I remember when I moved off campus, I lived on Birch. I had a group of friends who had dinner at one another’s apartments, and there were students in my friend group who weren’t sure how to get to Birch Street,” Schwerin said. “So, the Whitman bubble was real. It was tight.”

Now executive director of the YWCA of Walla Walla, Schwerin is working closely with Whitman and the Student Engagement Center to expand the bubble through community service and internships.

Her passion for service and working with Whitman students stems from her own experience as a student. Schwerin transferred to Whitman as a junior, and found more than just a place to earn a degree, she discovered a community that was devoted to broadening a student’s approach as to how they walk in society.

“The No. 1 benefit of a liberal arts education is it should open you up to the world and your heart as well, and Whitman does that better than any other place I’ve ever been,” Schwerin said. “It’s the spirit of this college, and I carry it with me.”

Schwerin said Whitman’s commitment to turning out leaders with open minds, open hearts and the willingness to be adventurous helped prepare her for her role at the YWCA. She also knows that when she hires interns from the college, they’ll bring those same skills with them.

This year, one of those interns is **Maeve McCracken '19**, a sociology and French major. McCracken assists Jessica Matthews, who serves the Whitman campus as the YWCA’s domestic violence and sexual assault advocate. As part of her internship, McCracken shadows Matthews at her office in Hunter or at the women’s shelter, learning skills that she can apply directly after graduation while providing aide to those in Walla Walla who are at risk.

“We’re not doctors, lawyers or therapists, we do advocacy-based counseling,” McCracken said. “After going through training, being able to sort of be in the field and actively participate in shadowing, I’ve learned a lot of different ways to respond to situations, how to listen actively to clients and be compassionate.”

Along with shadowing Matthews, McCracken also shadows other advocates when they attend court each Friday as the judge

hears dockets for sexual assault and domestic violence cases.

"I'm hopefully going into the field of education policy, so I think that it's especially important to recognize that people are starting in very different places, and helping them by providing them with the resources to get themselves to where they need to be has probably been the most crucial thing that I've learned," she said.

McCracken is just one of 11 students serving the Walla Walla community this year through the Student Engagement Center's Community Fellow Program.

Whitman's Community Fellow Program began in 2012 and finances a group of juniors and seniors to spend an academic year working part time at a Walla Walla Valley organization to address some of the area's social, economic and cultural challenges. The fellows meet leaders in Walla Walla and receive professional mentoring, career development guidance, and exposure to local organizations in



**WATCH A VIDEO**

Dozens of Whitman students participate in community-based internships each year. This year, **Erina Horikawa '19** is helping area children learn about healthy eating and where food comes from with the Walla Walla Valley Farm to School Program. Learn more about the project at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).

addition to the one where they work.

The Community Fellow Program is supported in large part thanks to a grant from the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Internship Endowment. Its community partners include ArtWalla, Port of Walla Walla, Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and Northern Idaho, Walla Walla Valley Farm to School and Walla Walla County Corrections Department.

Whitman's Internship Grant Program started in 1999 and provides funding for students who submit strong applications to participate in unpaid internship experiences at both for-profit and nonprofit organizations as well as government agencies. The Student Engagement Center funded 152 interns, 143 of whom received internships in the U.S., while nine were abroad; of the U.S. internships, 36 students interned within the Walla Walla Valley.

"These internships align so closely with students' academic and career interests. Students are able to test out theoretical concepts, apply classroom knowledge, carry out thesis research and hone skills they can apply in their future academic and career endeavors at Whitman and beyond," said **Victoria Wolff '12**, assistant director for internship programs.

"Students who pursue internships and fellowships in the Walla Walla Valley engage with the local community they call home during their four years here at Whitman. They leave the 'Whitman bubble' to build and foster mutually beneficial relationships with community members and organizations, while working on issues that will often

Walla Walla Symphony intern **Nathan Krebs '19** receives instruction from Paul Luongo, conductor of the youth orchestra and professor of music at Whitman. Photo by Greg Lehman



have positive and long-lasting impacts," she said.

Another organization benefiting from Whitman students is the Walla Walla Symphony, which has hosted both summer interns and Community Fellows. Last summer, symphony CEO **Leah Wilson-Velasco '03** worked with **Elsa Hager '19**.

"Elsa really took the lead on our rock 'n' roll camp for teens and did a wonderful job managing multiple moving parts

simultaneously," Wilson-Velasco said.

Along with providing essential office skills, community internships offer students the ability to try out a career path, Wilson-Velasco said. She credits Whitman students' readiness to dive into new projects and find ways to improve existing processes. Hagan was a vital part of the symphony team, Wilson-Velasco said, and critical to

the production of the Walla Walla Symphony's annual programs.

"Whitman students are great at problem-solving and coming up with creative solutions. Having another capable, eager, willing and intelligent person who is passionate about the arts in our network has been great," Wilson-Velasco said.

From her perspective, Schwerin can see the positive impact of the Community Fellows, not just on her organization, but also on the students themselves.

"We didn't have a community service program like this. If you did something, it was something you kind of put together as a side gig somewhere," Schwerin said. "I see a huge difference in the students now. They're all over the community. Now it's like it's expected and not just by the administration, but by the students. It's like, 'Yeah, I'm going to do my community service.' It's huge."

McCracken agreed that the opportunity to serve the

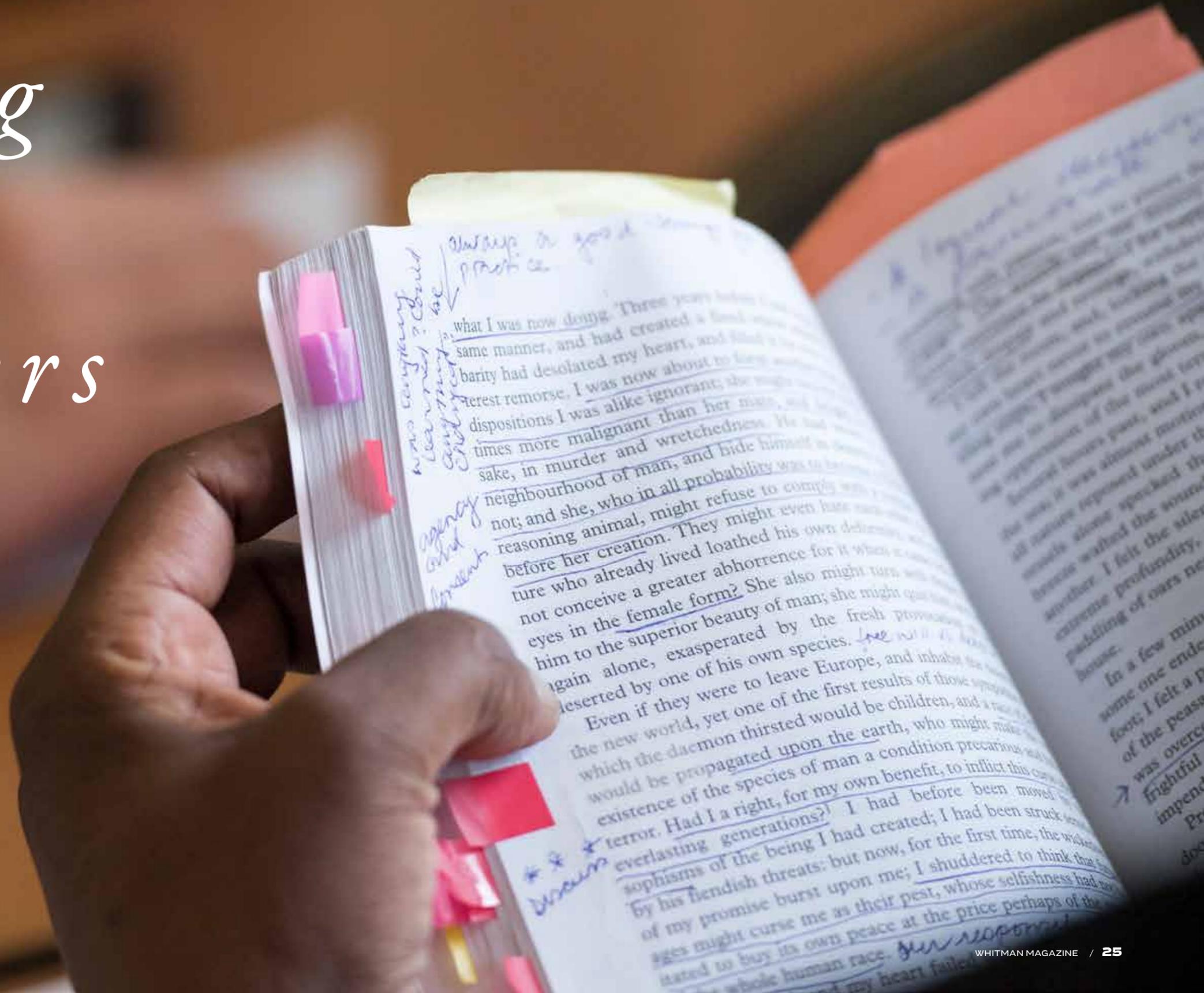
community is a benefit for students.

"I think when provided with these opportunities to go into a community organization, students are given a skill set with which to build on," McCracken said. "It's a very reciprocal sort of process. Students have the benefit of going out and giving back to the community that we live in, and community partners like the YWCA benefit from having fresh, new, curious minds come in and bring different ideas." **W**

# Creating Better Encounters

WHITMAN FACULTY PUTS  
FOCUS ON BUILDING INCLUSIVE  
CLASSROOMS AND DIALOGUE  
IN FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

By Savannah Tranchell



Interim Dean of Students  
Kazi Joshua teaches an  
Encounters course in 2016.



Every first-year student starts their Whitman College experience in Encounters. A year-long course that helps all students become familiar with the ways of thinking, analyzing and writing, Encounters provides the basis of a liberal arts education.

The program is meant to level the playing field for students from a range of backgrounds and experiences. This year, Encounters features a refreshed curriculum and a new philosophy toward teaching the course in a more inclusive way.

#### A GROWING CONVERSATION

Conversations around “inclusive pedagogy” — teaching made accessible to all students regardless of background or learning style — have intensified over the past several years at Whitman College and in the greater educational community, said Lisa Perfetti, associate dean for faculty development at Whitman.

“We started thinking about these issues on our own a while ago. We started to think about what do all first-year students need, and what is different about what they’re coming in with,” Perfetti said.

Whitman’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) developed workshops and seminars about creating an inclusive environment for specific types of students, such as first-generation, multi-lingual learners and members of the LGBTQ community. In 2017, the CTL brought in physicist Mary James, dean for institutional diversity at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, for a one-day workshop with faculty.

**“We learn better when we learn together. If we approach things as a collaborative effort, then that’s a better methodology all around.”**

— PROFESSOR  
BARRY BALOF,  
CHAIR OF THE  
FACULTY

Associate Professor Delbert “Hutch” Hutchison said James’ workshop was the most productive he had ever attended, and it shifted the way the evolutionary biology and environmental studies instructor thinks about teaching.

“What I liked is everything she said was applicable to every student,” Hutchison said. “It’s not about treating people differently — it’s about treating people in a way so that everybody can do better.”

In 2017, sociology Professor Helen Kim was appointed director of the Encounters program, formerly known as Core. In July 2018, she was appointed interim vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion. As Kim listened to faculty and students talk about Encounters, she noticed an opportunity to improve inclusivity.

“I thought, ‘Hey! We have this cool first-year experience that all first-year students are required to go through, and there are 27 faculty members, and there’s a weekly faculty session devoted to the program. This strikes me as an opportune time to get a group of faculty members to think about how to do more with inclusion and building a sense of belonging.’”

#### BUILDING INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS

This year’s Encounters syllabus is the most diverse ever taught in the course’s 30-year history, said Kazi Joshua, interim vice president for student affairs and dean of students. Readings focusing on the history and culture of Whitman and the Walla Walla area are combined with others emphasizing life experiences of a variety of different cultures and backgrounds, in place of Eurocentric texts.

As the United States becomes increasingly diverse,

Whitman’s curriculum must be kept up-to-date to reflect the diversity found on campus, creating an environment where students feel welcome, Joshua said. He wants students to be able to see themselves and their cultures in their studies.

“If we’re going to have a broadly diverse student population, then in their course of study they should be exposed to a variety of human experiences and cultures,” Joshua said.

However, a diverse curriculum only goes so far.

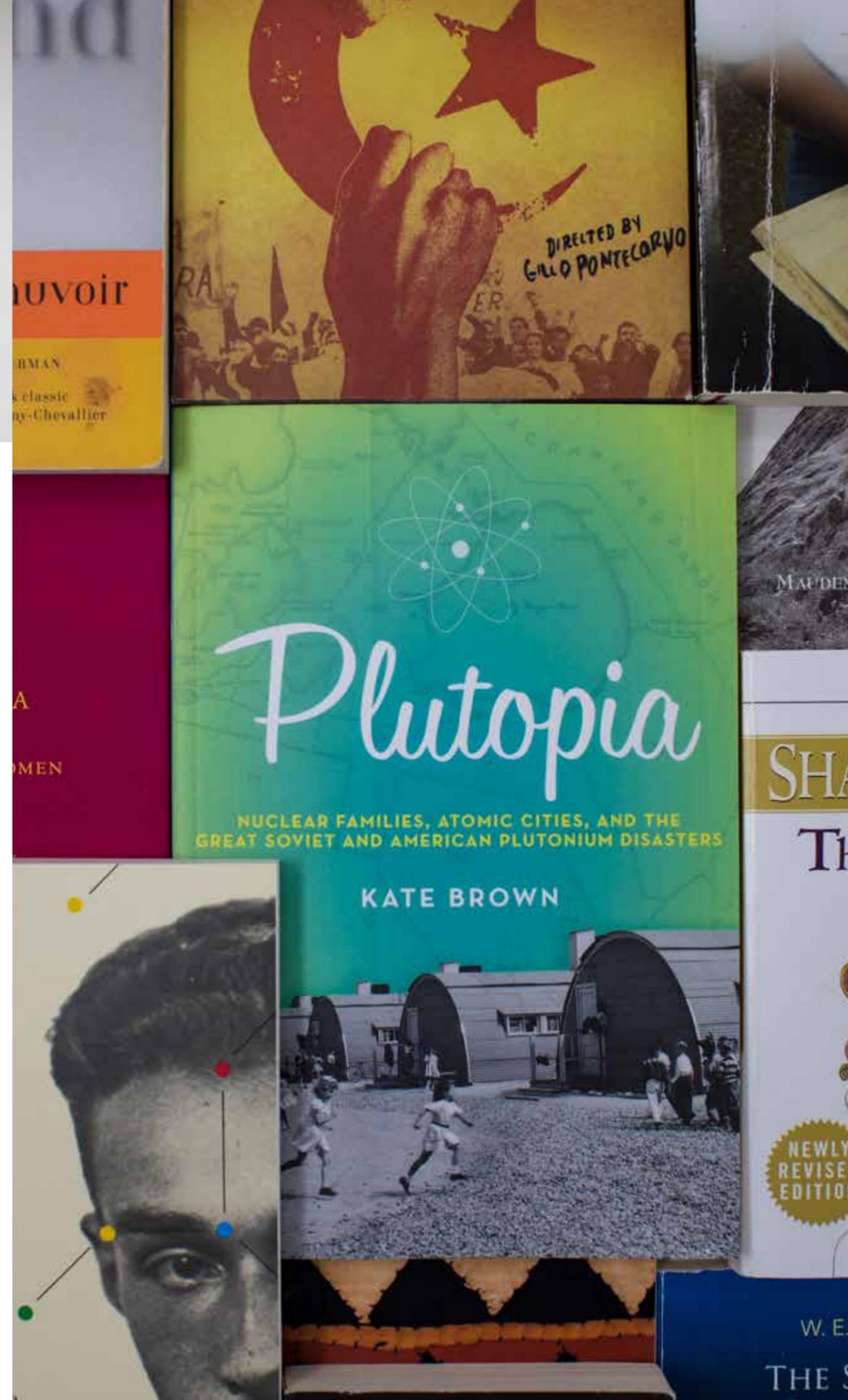
“It is not enough to have a diverse curriculum when the experience of students in the context of engagement in the learning environment is one in which they feel they are strangers on their own campus,” Joshua said. “So, the ability for a teacher to teach both content that represents a broad range of human experience and a classroom with students who come from a variety of backgrounds is crucial. How, for instance, do I create an environment where all students are involved and all students learn?”

Because Encounters serves as an introduction to Whitman’s expectations for students and its values, it was especially concerning for Kim to find that students felt excluded do not engage as strongly with the content, causing them to build weaker “habits of the mind” than their peers, Kim said. That missing foundation can have a snowball effect, causing some students to struggle at Whitman.

“It’s not just about wanting to create a classroom where students belong for the sake of belonging. It’s a building block for them to sustain their interest in the classroom to what it is they are actually able to accomplish in the class,” Kim said.



Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Julia Ireland leads an Encounters class.



For the 2018-2019 Encounters courses, students are studying one of the most diverse sets of texts in the course's history. Fall semester texts included:

- ▶ **"Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters,"** Kate Brown
- ▶ **Marcus Whitman Statue by Avard Fairbanks**
- ▶ **A Proper Monument? Exhibition in Maxey Museum**
- ▶ **"The Souls of Black Folk,"** W. E. B. Du Bois
- ▶ **"The Periodic Table,"** Primo Levi
- ▶ **"Parable of the Sower,"** Octavia Butler, and New Testament tellings of the parable of the sower
- ▶ **"The Tempest,"** William Shakespeare
- ▶ **"A Tempest,"** Aimé Césaire
- ▶ **"Apology and Crito in The Trial and Death of Socrates,"** Plato
- ▶ **"Letter from a Birmingham Jail,"** Martin Luther King Jr.

Access a history of Encounters texts at [bit.ly/whitman\\_encounters](http://bit.ly/whitman_encounters).

Encounters is an intense, discussion-oriented class, so creating a classroom where all students feel free to participate is paramount.

"What happens when you have out of 16 people, two people talking all the time? And it's a classroom that says that discussion is really important. Do you let that go along, or do you switch things up? You have to try to give people the opportunity to participate orally in different ways, so everybody feels like they have a contribution to make," Kim said.

### ONE PIECE IN THE PUZZLE

The fine-tuning of the Encounters program comes at a time when Whitman is solidifying its commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity in other ways.

In 2018, the Board of Trustees approved the college's strategic plan, which includes priorities to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion; increase access and affordability for all students; and update and innovate the curriculum.

In the past few years, the faculty approved new guidelines for tenure and promotion that require faculty to demonstrate the ways they are creating inclusive classrooms. This is the first academic year the guidelines have been in effect. A working group is also analyzing Whitman's general education program, including Encounters, to evaluate not only the content but also the pedagogical approaches.

"We learn better when we learn together," said mathematics Professor Barry Balof, who serves as chair of the faculty. "If we approach things as a collaborative effort, then that's a better methodology all around."

Shining a spotlight on inclusion also serves to enhance the profile of the discussion.

"I think the diversity strategic plan gives us reference points. We can kind of help see the story of those efforts and be able to locate ourselves in time and chart our progress by

these documents," Perfetti said. "It's important for people to recognize where they've been and where they're going."

The college's curriculum has not undergone a revision for 10-15 years, and around half of the faculty currently at Whitman were not here for the last overhaul, Joshua said.

"We know this is an opportunity that has not occurred for more than a decade. So, people are eager to ask, 'What are the key things that we could be committed to?'" Joshua said.

### AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

In addition to their other duties, Joshua, Kim and Hutchison are among the 27 faculty members currently teaching Encounters. As discussions around inclusive ways of teaching continue, all are excited to see how that knowledge branches out to other classrooms.

"This is the one course that all students at Whitman are required to take to graduate," Joshua said. "We believed that this course was formative. What better place for these high school students who happen to be on a college campus, who are strangers to each other, to learn in this way?"

Since taking the workshop on inclusive teaching in 2017, Hutchison has applied principles in his science classes, while continuing to engage his Encounters students in new ways. For him, it's not about focusing on what makes students different — it's about empathizing with them and understanding their backgrounds.

"It was nothing new that you realize everybody's different. I came from a rural environment from a high school that didn't prepare me for college," Hutchison said. "Not everybody comes to college and understands what's happening all around them. Students have so many experiences with which I can't understand, but I can try to be empathetic. I can remember that everybody matters — and try to let them feel like they matter. 'You were selected to be here for a reason. I have every faith that you can and will succeed — and I'm here to help you do that.'" 

**"It's not about treating people differently — it's about treating people in a way so that everybody can do better."**

— ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DELBERT "HUTCH" HUTCHISON



# Kicking into High Gear

Black belt channels confidence from martial arts into creating community on campus

By Peter Szymczak  
Photos by Rebecca Devereaux

Computer science major **Isaiah Banta '20** has come a long way from no intention of attending college to total immersion in campus life at Whitman.

Banta is a black belt in Taekwondo, a dynamic form of martial arts that features high jumping and rapid-fire kicking. A student of the discipline since the age of 10, Banta graduated high school planning to skip college altogether and teach Taekwondo instead.

After a few gap years and dashed dreams of starting his own martial arts studio, Banta began the college application process. Banta's aunt, Whitman alumna **Leticia Lopez '94**, was the one who put Whitman on his radar.

"She's a big reason why I came to Whitman," Banta said. "She always talked about how great the community is here."

Today, Banta has taken to college life at Whitman. He serves as a resident advisor at Lyman House, student leader in the Summer Fly-In Program, co-founder (with **Zach Clark '19**) of the Martial Arts Club, senator for Associated Students of Whitman College and tour guide/admission team manager.

"Giving tours is so much fun," Banta said. "It's a chance to interact with people who aren't familiar with Whitman."

He's especially found fulfillment in his role as an RA.

"Basically, I'm a community

builder and emotional resource, and general resource to campus. I host section dinners and meetings each week — everything from tea breaks to playing games or just hanging out. One night I took my section to the wheat fields outside Walla Walla for stargazing. We ate burritos and sang "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

A working-class student who grew up in Anza, California, Banta took part in Whitman's second Summer Fly-In Program in 2016 thanks to encouragement from his mother. Banta credits his mother, Anita Lopez-Salazar, with giving him the resources and confidence to pursue his dreams. On the Fly-In he was able to meet many students that had a similar story to his own.

"It was amazing. I can still name everyone that was part of my Fly-In," he said.

The Summer Fly-In program helps first-generation and working-class students feel comfortable, capable and prepared for their first time on campus. Over several days during the summer, they meet key staff and faculty, learn about resources and make connections with other new students. Banta now participates as a student leader.

For some students, going to college is an opportunity their parents didn't have; for others, it's an opportunity to make a better life than they had at home.

"Talking about these things

helps people get closer together," Banta said. "Before the Fly-In I wouldn't have had the confidence. It humanized the institution."

**Maggi Banderas '05**, associate director of the Intercultural Center and faculty adviser to the Martial Arts Club, has watched Banta soar.

"Isaiah is a compassionate, kind, enthusiastic and intentional individual. This comes across in the dedication he invests in his academic work, the different ways that he develops relationships and builds community, and his thoughtfulness in creating spaces where others feel comfortable and included," she said. "His involvement in different areas on campus is preparing him for success in future leadership opportunities and endeavors."

In the classroom, Banta enjoys studying algorithms for game theory and the ethics of artificial intelligence. He hopes to work for a high-tech company someday and is seeking an internship with a software firm.

By studying computer science and learning to write code, Banta has gained insight into how humans solve problems.

"Humans are amazingly smart at abstracting things. We're really good at putting a seed in the ground and knowing that it will grow, but not necessarily how it happens," he said. 



Isaiah Banta '20 speaks to prospective students and their families about life at Whitman during a Fall Visitors Day presentation at Cordiner Hall.

# Whitman Students by the Numbers

# 183

total **Summer Fly-In Program** participants

Martial Arts Club is one of 100 co-curricular activities at Whitman, and one of 11 athletic/sport/fitness-oriented student clubs including:

- ▶ archery
- ▶ trail running
- ▶ backcountry ski and snowboard
- ▶ whitewater kayaking, canoeing and rafting
- ▶ badminton
- ▶ yoga
- ▶ climbing (recreational)
- ▶ zumba
- ▶ disc golf
- ▶ fencing

In fall 2018,

# 42

students had declared **computer science** as a major

Brenna Two Bears '17 spent the summer as an intern at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.



# The Dream Chaser

Alumna Brenna Two Bears explores how museums can improve presentation of indigenous culture and artifacts

By Afrika Brown // Photos by Rebecca Devereaux

**B**renna Two Bears '17 was awakened to her life plan around age 10.

"The women in my family worked toward their higher education while raising children, and prioritized cultural revitalization along the way in order to help our communities," said Two Bears, who is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, with affiliations with the Navajo Nation and Standing Rock Sioux Nation. "I grew up with these role models and their influence led me to seek a career in museums, be it art or historical."

Two Bears' path has enabled her to travel from the West Coast to the East Coast and back again, all in pursuit of her goal.

## GUIDEPOSTS ALONG THE PATH

Two Bears grew up in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and

Flagstaff, Arizona. She graduated from Whitman with a bachelor's degree in art history and visual culture studies (AHVCS) in 2017. Two Bears credits her time at Whitman for giving her a greater sense of empathy, while also stimulating her consciousness.

"Though it was never easy going to college at Whitman, I know it wouldn't have been different anywhere else. At least there I was able to come to my own conclusions about the world and its injustices in an environment going through its own process to be more inclusive," Two Bears said.

Two Bears also praised professors within the AHVCS department for assisting her to develop her viewpoint as she prepared to enter the world.

"Without Dennis Crockett's Intro to Art History course, I would never have dreamed

that my perspective could matter in the world of art history," Two Bears said. "Krista Gulbransen taught her course on museums and the politics of display, and focused heavily on the history of colonization in museums."

With Gulbransen's assistance, Two Bears created her independent study, which focused on the way indigenous people, culture and art are represented in museums.

"In her independent study, Brenna examined the history of indigenous representation — and misrepresentation — in the museum. The ways in which display philosophy intersects with politics was central to her research. Brenna also explored potential curatorial techniques to decolonize museum spaces," Gulbransen said. "As

a culmination of this independent study, Brenna enacted these new curatorial strategies by designing and installing a display case in Maxey Hall using indigenous objects from the Maxey Museum collection. In a paper at the undergraduate conference, Brenna discussed the ways in which her installation was designed as a critique of traditional museum display and opened up new spaces for discussion of indigenous cultures."

After graduation, Two Bears received an internship at the School for Advanced Research (SAR) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Founded in 1907, SAR promotes indigenous creativity through artist residencies and stewards one of the world's finest research collections of Southwest Native American art.

Because of SAR's small staff size, Two Bears was able to work in various departments. The experience provided her the opportunity to work with their collection of Navajo rugs, teach children at the Santa Fe Youth Detention Center and serve as a representative for SAR at Native art conferences. It also inspired her to apply for other internships, one of which was the Lifchez/Stronach Curatorial Internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, which she received in 2018.

"When I realized I got the position, I ran outside to feel the earth beneath my feet and to see the sky. I took a moment to acknowledge the people who this land belonged to before colonization, to thank them for taking care of the land for as long as they did, so that I could be there centuries later," Two Bears said. "I made sure to explicitly thank my ancestors as well, as I have been doing since I could understand gratitude. They, all of them, went through what they did so that I could be here and do what I can."

## REINTERPRETING HISTORY

Two Bears is passionate about Native collections. Part of her internship was to support the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which returns culturally sensitive and funerary objects back to their tribes. The first day of her internship included the opportunity to sit in on meetings that would shape the history of how the museum told the story of her people, which for Two Bears was an eye-opening experience.

"Places that originally exotified and othered my people and our art were now welcoming our input seriously, for the first time," Two Bears said.

Two Bears also conducted specialized tours for the museum. As part of the tour, Two Bears was allotted four objects that best represented her chosen theme of environment.

"I chose pieces that would reflect the experience of a contemporary indigenous art historian and queer brown woman," Two Bears said. "I wanted to emphasize the different ways I connect to the environment and get the visitors to consider how that is represented in the art."

## FOLLOWING YOUR HEART

Two Bears' internship with the Met was scheduled to run through 2019, but she decided to end her internship early to pursue opportunities that aligned with her ultimate goals.

"I am currently in the process of working with Deana Dartt, who was the Anne Ray Scholar when I was the Anne Ray intern at SAR, and her business, Live Oaks Museum Consulting," Two Bears said, "I know that she is hoping to get consultants based in their hometown where the tribes are and help out museums in that region. So, since I'm in the Southwest, I would be here working and consulting with museums in the Southwest."

In order to become a certified consultant, Two Bears will need to train with Dartt for one year. While she waits for her training to begin, she has returned to Arizona and is becoming certified as a substitute teacher.

"I'm actually very happy that this happened because when I thought about working in museums, I thought that I would have to kind of suffer through working a full-time job with a museum for a long time to build up my name so I could become a consultant, so I can help out different museums," Two Bears said. "You know the younger, angrier part of me is really excited at the opportunity to go to a museum and say, 'You're doing this wrong,' and have them actually listen. Instead of having to work in a place like that, I can be hired to help them change it." 



**WATCH THE STORY**  
Hear more about Brenna Two Bears' time at the Met in New York City at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).



# WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

As chair of the Multnomah County Commission, alumna Deborah Kafoury fights for affordable housing

By Savannah Tranchell

A third-generation Whittie, Deborah Kafoury '89 has dedicated her career to ensuring that everyone in her community has a place to call home.

Kafoury's career in activism began at Whitman, where she served as president of her sorority, Delta Gamma, and also helped launch a women's resource center on campus. But she never imagined herself as a career politician.

"I majored in English, and I thought that I would become a

journalist," Kafoury said. "But the first job I got out of college was working for Congressman Les AuCoin, and I think after that I just didn't really look back."

She served in the Oregon Legislature from 1999 to 2005 and was the youngest woman to be elected as House minority leader. In 2008, she was elected to the Multnomah County Commission, and then elected as chair in 2014.

"I felt like the issues the county focused on were issues that

were my passion," Kafoury said. "Multnomah County serves as the community safety net, so when people have nowhere else to turn — they're elderly and disabled, they have health issues, they need assistance with job training — those are the folks that Multnomah County serves."

In February 2018, she received the Gretchen Miller Kafoury Advocacy Award from Transition Projects. The honor, named for Kafoury's mother, Gretchen

Miller Kafoury '63, honors advocates for homeless women.

## How did you first become interested in community issues?

In the family I grew up in, being involved in the community and giving back to the community wasn't a question of if but when and what. Both my parents were extremely involved in the greater Portland community. They both held elected office. They were active in politics

and in social change at a time when, in the early '70s, people felt really energized by fighting against the Vietnam War and fighting for women's rights and immigrant rights.

## When did affordable housing become an important issue for you?

I was always interested in homelessness and affordable housing. As a child, I saw how my mother's small acts of kindness changed people's lives. It wasn't unusual for me to wake up in the morning and see someone at the breakfast table I hadn't seen before, someone who was escaping domestic violence, a woman and her child who had nowhere else to stay. Sometimes they'd stay with us for a night or two, sometimes they'd stay for a year or longer. Our house was a safety net for a lot of people.

By the time I was in the Oregon Legislature, Portland had started really changing and becoming a cooler, hipper place to live. Rents had started rising. I was hearing from my constituents about how they couldn't find a place to live. I started looking at legislation to get more money into construction of affordable housing.

It was really difficult at the state level. At that point in time, it was really considered more of a big-city issue. Some of the folks in rural Oregon weren't as concerned about it. I have to say, boy, that has really come 180 degrees. Today there's not a county in Oregon where someone who's working full time at minimum wage can afford to rent an apartment. It's really about poverty. If you look at single moms with kids, the percentage of them living in poverty, it's overwhelming. It's shocking.

## Is affordable housing an issue specific to Oregon?

It's a national issue. I think if you

look at headlines from any newspaper around the country, communities are feeling the same pinch. One of the problems is the federal government over the past 30 years has really disinvested in affordable housing and Section 8 vouchers. The budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development has decreased dramatically. And so local communities are left to try to fill the void. In Portland the number of units of housing being built has not kept up. So when you have a lack of housing it drives the cost up and the competition for those available units. You see this all up and down the West Coast.

## What steps have you taken to address homelessness?

When I started in 2009, I was focused on family homelessness, because that was our area of responsibility. We really hadn't seen a lot of visible family homelessness in the early 2000s. Then we started seeing moms and dads and kids out in front of grocery stores, sleeping in their cars. We were hearing stories from teachers and school administrators that kids were coming to school and they hadn't had a good night's sleep because they were sleeping in the car.

A few years ago, we combined all of the county and city dollars and staff and plans under one roof, and now we have a Joint Office of Homeless Services. We jointly created a plan called a "Home for Everyone." Now we have hundreds of community members, business partners, the faith community, philanthropists, local government officials and people who have "lived experience," all coming together to figure out what needs to happen, to really give us that direction forward.

Because of those efforts, we've put an unprecedented amount of funding into our three strategic areas. One is to keep people from becoming homeless in the

first place. We can help with rent assistance to help keep people in their homes, which obviously is the cheapest and the most humane way to deal with housing security. Second, we doubled the number of publicly funded shelter beds in our community. The third thing is helping people get back into housing as quickly as possible after they've become homeless.

Even as we're doing all this and serving more people than we've ever served before — last year we served over 30,000 people in Multnomah County — we're still just barely keeping our head above water. We have more and more people who are falling into homelessness every day.

## Are the demographics of homelessness changing?

I think there's a growing realization that, with as many people who are experiencing homelessness, there are many different stories as to why people become homeless. We've really worked to put a face to stories to show the public that it's not the "other" or "them" — it's our friends, our family, our neighbors who could become homeless.

The number of homeless people who are elderly or disabled has been growing really rapidly. That shows there is a correlation between the price of people's housing and the number of people who are sleeping on the streets. It used to be — even five years ago — that you could afford a studio apartment in the Portland metropolitan area with the dollars you were receiving from social support programs, about \$730 a month. Now there's not an apartment in town you can rent for that.

## What can we do, either on the individual or government level, to address homelessness?

The really important first thing to do is to show compassion. I think

what's lost in our country today is realizing that we're all neighbors. We're all in this together. Too often we point fingers at people and blame people for what's going on, instead of figuring out how we can work together to solve a problem. That could mean that you embrace a homeless shelter coming into your neighborhood, even volunteer at the shelter, serve meals, organize a food drive or a coat drive. Similarly with affordable housing complexes that are being built — be supportive of that. If I had a dime for every time I heard, "I'm supportive of affordable housing, but I just don't think it's a good fit in my neighborhood."

## Where does that negative sentiment come from?

Fear. There's a lot of fear right now. Even though the economy is booming and there are some people who are financially better off than they have ever been, there's still a lot of people who are struggling, feeling like they're strapped. We're in a really uncertain time. I don't know that people have felt this untethered. Instead of reaching out to give somebody a hand, sometimes people just want to retreat.

## What's next in your fight for affordable housing in Multnomah County?

Our next initiative is around permanent supportive housing. It really is more complicated than just giving somebody keys to an apartment or a couple months of rent assistance. It's for those folks who have a severe disability, drug addiction, or severe or persistent mental health issues. They need more than just an apartment; they need an apartment with social services attached. We need to bridge that gap for them so that they can be successful. Communities are stepping up, and we want to do the same here. **W**

## Grants

Each year, Whitman faculty members and scholars receive generous grants for graduate study, self-directed research, teaching and public service. These grants enable a variety of research and education projects, as well as help students think deeply and critically about issues, ideas, values, their lives and the lives of others.



Associate Professor of Chemistry **Dalia Rokhsana** was awarded a three-year National Science Foundation grant from the Chemistry of Life Processes Program in the Division of Chemistry to investigate the reactivity of molybdenum-based enzymes. These enzymes are bacterial proteins that catalyze water-splitting reactions to produce hydrogen gas. Hydrogen is an important green energy source for fuel cells, propulsion systems and combustion engines.

Rokhsana and her group will use state-of-the-art computational chemistry and molecular modeling techniques to understand how the protein active site controls structure, function, specificity and reactivity. The research project will support six undergraduate students. Problems based on the research are also being integrated with coursework in computational chemistry and biochemistry.



Assistant Professor of Sociology **Alissa Cordner** was awarded a National Science Foundation grant in collaboration with colleagues at Northeastern University. The three-year project will examine the rapid formation of a national, networked social movement across the United States in response to industrial and military uses of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated compounds, a large class of compounds that have adverse health effects.

Researchers will work to understand the ways in which the movement is shaping science, chemical policy and cleanup levels. The project will provide residents and community groups affected by this chemical contamination with a greater awareness of how they can partake in the scientific process, public education and environmental policy development.

Cordner was also awarded the Schnaiberg Award for her book, "Toxic Safety: Flame Retardants, Environmental Health, and Chemical Controversies." The Schnaiberg Award is the outstanding publication award of the American Sociological Association's Section on Environmental Sociology. It is given every two years for a book that provides a significant contribution to the discipline.

Associate Professor of Chemistry **Mark Juhasz** received a National Science Foundation grant to support his research on boron clusters — molecules with a multitude of potential uses in medicine, chemistry and physics. The goal of the research is to develop efficient synthetic methods for preparing new boron clusters. The grant will support 10 students over the grant's three years.

Assistant Professor of Biology **Michael Coronado** received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R00 award. This is the second phase of an NIH Career Development Award designed to transition postdoctoral scientists to an independent tenure-track career. The grant has helped Coronado launch his research program in cardiac physiology, which looks at mechanisms of mitochondrial regulation in the heart.

Assistant Professor of Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies **Lauren Osborne** was awarded a pedagogy grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. The grant will allow Osborne to develop her thesis, "Embodied Learning in the Academic Study of Religion," and to develop non-Cartesian paradigms for understanding religion as



something more than "purely cognitive," while honoring the non-confessional methods that characterize the academic study of religion.

## Awards

Professor of Geology **Kevin Pogue** was awarded the Washington State Wine Walter Clore Washington Honorarium, presented to an individual in any aspect of the wine industry who has demonstrated a significant dedication to the advancement of the Washington state wine industry as an ambassador, mentor and champion of Washington wines.

In the early 2000s, Pogue began studying the notion of terroir — that the place where a grapevine is grown can impact the flavor of the eventual wine itself. Over the past decade, Pogue has helped convince farmers and winery owners that the truly compelling sites for planting grapes were on what he refers to as "edgier sites" — hillsides, poor soils, marginal climates, and other places where vines must struggle to establish footholds. His work has been influential in Washington's second wave of vineyard plantings, and in the resulting evolution of Washington's wine industry.



Professor of Sociology **Michelle Janning** was accepted into the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau for the 2019-2020 season. Janning will talk about her work on how home spaces and objects tell the story of what's happening in contemporary families. Over the course of the two years, she will give several free public presentations in locations across the state. The Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau enables communities to hear from cultural experts and scholars who can engage in conversations that deepen people's understanding and broaden their perspectives on a variety of public humanities topics.

faculty governance and the life of the college, serving multiple terms as chair of the Sociology Department. In addition, he also served as chair of the Domestic Off-Campus Programs Committee, chair of the Faculty Policy Committee, secretary of the Whitman faculty and numerous other committee memberships.

His wife, Claire, was also a fixture within the Whitman community, working in a number of different occupational positions in several different areas of the college. Her most recent position was administrative assistant in the college's Music Building. She died in 2012.

## Memorials

Professor Emeritus of Sociology **David R. (Ray) Norsworthy** died Sept. 11, 2018, in Walla Walla. Norsworthy came to Whitman in the fall of 1968 as an associate professor of sociology and taught at the college for 25 years, retiring in 1993. He taught a diverse range of courses: urban sociology, race and ethnicity, population, history of sociological theory, new religious movements and utopian communities.

Norsworthy was also active in

Professor Emeritus of History **Donald Paul King** died in —————

Bloomington, Indiana, on June 30, 2017. Born in Chicago and raised in Gary, Indiana, King earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate from Indiana University. He earned his licentiate from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

King joined Whitman's History Department in 1966. He taught western civilization, medieval history, renaissance and reformation, and developed a seminar on the holocaust. King served as chair of the History Department and chair of Division 1. He also served on

numerous committees, including the College Athletic Committee, Visiting Educators Committee and the Sheehan Gallery Committee.

In 1997, King retired after 31 years. He is survived by his daughter **Cynthia King '86** and granddaughter Eleanor.

Fine arts faculty member **Edward E. Humpherys**, 81, died July 25, 2018, in Walla Walla. Humpherys was born in Portola, California, and graduated from Portola High School and Chico State University. He received his master's degree in fine arts from Brigham Young University. After retiring from Whitman College in 2004, he sculpted in bronze in his backyard studio up until a week before he died.

Music faculty member **William Henry Duckham II**, 89, died July 30, 2018. Duckham trained as a classical orchestral player at the New England Conservatory, played principal clarinet for the Boston Civic Symphony Orchestra and toured with the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra. He attended Tanglewood as a fellow and later taught as an adjunct faculty member at Arizona State University, Oberlin Conservatory and Whitman College.



Whitman Magazine is pleased to recognize the achievements of our employees. Faculty and staff members can submit achievements for consideration by emailing Managing Editor Peter Szymczak at [szymczp@whitman.edu](mailto:szymczp@whitman.edu).



Communications staff member **Ruby Sharp** passed away Sept. 9, 2018, in Walla Walla. After attending business school, Sharp worked for several employers in Walla Walla, then joined Whitman College where she supported campus print services for 20 years. Sharp is survived by her five children, including **Jeff Streck '88** and daughter-in-law **Sarah Wood Streck '88**.



**Roberta "Robbie" Thelma Skiles** passed away Sept. 22, 2018, in Waitsburg, Washington. From 1976 to 1996, she was the executive secretary in the Dean of Faculty's office. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Norm, their two sons and three grandchildren.

# Class Notes



**Bob Cline '62** hosted **Howard '63** and **Roberta Graham Paulson '62** in Astoria, Oregon. The group posed on Pier 39 in front of the historic Tourist No. 2 ferry, which crossed the Columbia River between Astoria and Megler, Washington.



While on vacation in Saint-Tropez on the French Riviera, **Marshal McReal '84** and friends enjoyed the music of **Robby Seager '13**, who explained that although he was an economics major, it was at Whitman that he fell in love with music.

**Jim McCarthy '63** and his wife Jayne, former Whitman women's tennis coach, gathered with friends at Black Butte Ranch in Bend, Oregon, for a croquet tournament over Labor Day weekend. Pictured, left to right: **Nancy Gray Hawley '63**, **Mal Hawley '63**,



**Jim Moore '66** has been working on a two-volume book detailing the history of Whitman athletics. The first volume spans the first 95 years of the college's existence, from 1882 to 1977, ending in the scholastic year 1976-1977 when football was dropped as a varsity sport. This winter he plans to start developing

**Robb Ball '64**, **Julie Sims Ball '64**, **Larry Viehl**, **Jim McCarthy '63**, **Jayne McCarthy**, **Dick Sandvik '65**, **Sally Clarke Landauer '61**, **Pat Smith '61**, **Karen McCracken**, **Tom McCracken '63**, **Jane Viehl** and **Leslie Smith**.

the second volume covering the 1977-1978 academic year to the present. Moore has greatly utilized Whitman's archives to research the book, along with interviews with former members of the Whitman College community. But Moore has found that for certain sports — women's tennis, swimming, basketball, volleyball in the late '60s and early '70s, men's golf, wrestling in the '60s and '70s — records were not consistently kept and there were no reports of games or matches in the local newspapers. Alumni who participated in college athletics are encouraged to send him any available relevant information at [jmoore914@comcast.net](mailto:jmoore914@comcast.net).

**Roy Carlisle '69** spoke at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, and George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon, at conferences celebrating the 40th anniversary of the publication of "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard J. Foster. The book, one of the first Carlisle edited at Harper & Row San Francisco (now HarperOne) in 1978, has sold 2.5 million

copies, been translated into 25 languages and has never been issued in paperback because of its high annual sales.



**Evans Van Buren '70** was recognized by Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Multnomah Bar Association for 40 years of monthly volunteer service to low-income seniors. Van Buren has assisted with civil and consumer issues including wills, estates and housing. He retired from law practice in 2017 but remains an inactive pro bono member of the bar and volunteers with the Senior Law Project in Portland, Oregon.

**Jack Rasmussen '71**, director and curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, D.C., was named chair of the Maryland State Arts Council. In this role, he will drive the strategic direction of programs and funding for the state of Maryland.



**Eric Johnson '72** and **Makana Stone '20**, both biology majors at Whitman, presented at a conference of Washington state tribal biologists on "The Treatment of Humans Inadvertently Exposed to Potent Veterinary Anesthetic Agents Establishing Treatment Protocols" in Burlington, Washington. **Brandon Nickerson '06**, a biology-environmental studies major, was in the audience. Nickerson is working as a wildlife biologist for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in Olympia, Washington. Johnson, a retired anesthesiologist from Spokane, Washington, connected with Stone through the W Club's student engagement efforts.

**Andrew Niemyer '73** has annually led a group of pilots, along with their family and friends, who fly their Cirrus Aircraft general aviation planes to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. The 2018 group included Sergey Petrov and his daughter, **Svetlana Petrov '18**. They didn't discover their shared Whitman alumni status until the last day of the trip,

then had plenty to talk about, including the fact that Niemyer's wife, **Lisa Abrahams '76**, had recently spent more than two years practicing cardiology at Providence St. Mary Hospital in Walla Walla. Niemyer and Abrahams live in Duluth, Minnesota.

**Larry Konick '77** was apprehensive about retiring from his work as a pathology laboratory medical director in Salem, Oregon. Then he saw an advertisement in a professional journal looking for a pathologist to teach at a school in Uganda. Konick's love of travel and teaching made the position a perfect transition from a full-time job to retirement. Read more about his six-month teaching adventure at [larryinuganda.blogspot.com](http://larryinuganda.blogspot.com).

**Russ Fagg '83** practiced law and served two terms in the Montana Legislature before serving as a state district court judge for 22 years. He resigned his judgeship in 2017 to run for the U.S. Senate. After coming in second in a four-way primary, he opened his own law firm, Russ Fagg and Associates, specializing in mediation and arbitration, in Billings.

**Mike Hensler '83**, of Libby, Montana, is the new regional fisheries manager in northwest Montana. Hensler is a longtime

fisheries biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

**Laurel Collins Tomchick '83** retired from her position as program manager of the EnviroStars program in the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. In her honor, King County declared June 29, 2018, Laurel Tomchick Day. She is the daughter of **Fred '57** and **Janet Sue Mitchell Collins '57**.

**Marshal McReal '84** was elected to the board of trustees of Cambridge in America. The board advances the mission of the University of Cambridge and its 31 member colleges by providing expertise in fundraising and alumni relations. Peter Dawson, parent of **Adam Dawson '16** and spouse of Whitman trustee Christina Dawson, also serves on the board.

**David O'Neal '88** is a new managing director for the Seattle office of Freestone Capital Management. He will lead the wealth management firm's strategic growth initiatives. O'Neal has more than 30 years of experience, with previous leadership positions at Triad Financial Advisors Inc. and Brighton Jones. He is married to **Jane Wheeler O'Neal '89** and they have two sons, **Reed '22** and Jack.



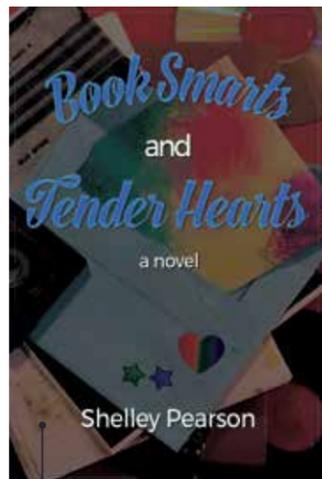
**Michael Franz Seidelhuber '95**, principal at Studio 151 Corporate Services, connected with **Derek Slone '18** at the Bay Area Whitties Helping Whitties event last January. Slone spent last summer researching technical solutions for Studio 151 at the San Francisco International Airport. He continues to work for the company.

**Janice Monger '97** is president and CEO of New York's Staten Island Museum, which houses art, natural science and history exhibitions and collections. She lives on Staten Island with her husband and two daughters.

**James Rigney '00** is head of marketing for Thor Industries Inc. of Elkhart, Indiana. He brings two decades of experience in global marketing strategy and brand development for brands including GrubHub, Red Bull, Converse and MTV.



**Bonnie Yocum Rough '00** published her third book, "Beyond Birds and Bees: Bringing Home a New Message to Our Kids about Sex, Love, and Equality" (Seal Press). Rough lives in Seattle with her husband, **Dan Rough '98**, and two daughters. Visit her website at [bonniejrough.com](http://bonniejrough.com).



**Shelley Pearson '02** self-published her debut young adult novel, "Book Smarts and Tender Hearts," a story about coming out, growing up and the way relationships change. Pearson lives in Portland, Oregon, with her partner and two cats. Visit her website at shelleypearsonwrites.com.

**Yuan-Ming Chiao '03** is teaching political science at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

**Samantha Arthur '07** successfully worked for three years to place the tricolored blackbird on the California endangered species list. She is conservation project manager at Audubon California in Sacramento.

**Justin Liberman '08** earned his master's degree in public health from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. His thesis research focused on health care utilization and clinical outcomes

among patients with heart failure who use opioids.

**Jillian Varonin '09** graduated from the University of California, San Francisco Biomedical Sciences doctoral program and moved to Washington, D.C., for a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

**Cathryn Klusmeier '14** was selected as one of 10 winners in a Journal of Design and Science essay contest. Klusmeier's winning essay, titled "Resisting Reduction: The Fluid Boundaries of Non-Communicable Disease," will be published in 2019 by MIT Press. Proceeds from the publication of this volume will support open access publishing at MIT.

**Daniel Hoffman '16**, an assistant project engineer at Skanska USA Building Inc. in Portland, Oregon, was part of a team that submitted a winning design for a unique bench for a Design Museum Portland contest. The bench, Tub(Time), is a seat intended to spark conversations about water in Portland and promote conservation through a personal experience by the user.

**Shireen Nori '16** was involved in planning and participating in an action at the U.S. Capitol to oppose Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation. Nori works as a digital campaigner for Sierra Club in Atlanta, Georgia, and has previously worked for the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and Planned Parenthood.

## Marriages/ Unions



**Teresa Molitor '94** to Joe Harper, June 2, 2017, in McCall, Idaho.

**Lena Boesser-Koschmann '02** to Devin Pace, June 21, 2018, in Evergreen, Colorado. They live in Denver, where she works for the National Park Service.

**Jaime Oberlander '03** to Sam Sager, June 8, 2018, in Seattle. The couple met while working at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, and recently moved to Nairobi, Kenya, where she is serving as the deputy director for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Education and Youth.

**Carson Burns '11** to Julie Irvine '11, July 11, 2018, in McCall, Idaho.



**Jessi Whalen '12** to Andrew Jenkins, July 21, 2018, in Newberg, Oregon. Pictured are **Galen Sollom-Brotherton '14, Haverly Brown '13, Emily Cornelius '12, Daniel Whalen '18, Stefan Wheat '12** (behind the bride), Whalen, **Amy Liechty '12, Sam Epstein '12** (behind Amy), **Grace Davis '12, Thomas Knook '13** (behind Grace) and **Aliza Whalen '15**.

**Jane Carmody '14** to Phoebe Horvath, June 1, 2018, in Walla Walla, followed by a reception on the Whitman campus.

**Sayda Morales '15** to Samuel Mitchell, July 21, 2018, in Holyoke, Massachusetts. **Lauren Vorona '15, Tina Welsh '15** and **Shannon Blair '15** participated in the wedding as bridesmaids.



## Births/ Adoptions

To Dave and **Christy Osborne Darlage '06**, a son, Parker Darlage, born Aug. 10, 2018. He joins brother Austin, 5.

To Jake and **Laura Hanson Schlachter '07**, a daughter, Hartley Kathryn Hanson Schlachter, born Jan. 24, 2018.

To Josh and **Melissa Naylor Trygg '07**, a daughter, Ruby Quinn Trygg, born May 22, 2018.

To **Ryan '08** and **Katie Reeder Lewis '08**, a son, Evan Lewis, born May 17, 2018. He joins big brother Parker, 2.



Whitman College is pleased to highlight the accomplishments and updates of our alumni. Submissions to Class Notes are limited to 50 words. Updates should highlight news from the past calendar year and may include career updates; publications; honors, awards or appointments; or other significant life changes you would like to share with the Whittie community. Send your submission to alumni@whitman.edu, mail to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362, or submit online at whitman.edu/classnotes. All submissions will be edited for content, length and style.

We love to celebrate with you! Submit a photo of your ceremony or newborn to be featured in Whitman Magazine. Announcements can be submitted to alumni@whitman.edu, mail to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362, or submit online at whitman.edu/classnotes. Be sure to identify everyone in the photograph, as well as alumni relatives for birth announcements.

# In Memoriam

## 1930s

**Helen Rasmussen Fogelquist '37**, April 25, 2018, in Culver City, California. She married Donald Fogelquist and together they raised three sons. In 1957, Fogelquist earned a master's degree in English at UCLA and went on to teach at Los Angeles City College. She retired as professor emeritus in 1983.

## 1940s

**Patty Ann Schwab Forsyth '42**, Aug. 3, 2018, in Olympia, Washington. She met Allen Forsyth, an Air Force pilot, in the summer of her junior year and they were married in 1942. After the war, they lived in Air Force postings around the country, as well as Japan and France. After her husband's retirement, the couple settled in Steilacoom, Washington, where they lived together until his death in 2002. Forsyth stayed active, volunteering for service groups and the Steilacoom Historical Museum Association, until moving to Dupont, Washington, in 2013. Survivors include her two sons.

**David Ellison '43**, May 27, 2018, in Bellevue, Washington. Ellison attended school in Olympia to become a court reporter. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He married Diane Morris in 1946 and earned his law degree from the University of Montana in 1948. Ellison had a long career in trust services,

including opening his own trust company. Survivors include four children and 10 grandchildren.

**Virginia Mess Young '44**, May 3, 2018, in Pittsboro, North Carolina. She graduated from the University of Arizona. After working as an advertising copywriter in San Francisco, she joined the State Department as a cryptographer and served around the world. She was married for 66 years to Ralph Franklin Young. They retired to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where Young supported many organizations, including the Chapel Hill Library, where she served as chair of the Board of Directors. She was preceded in death by her husband. Young is survived by a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

**Tirza Smith Williams '45**, June 22, 2018, in Yakima, Washington. She worked in a refinery in the San Francisco area as part of the war effort. She married Dale Williams in 1946. They returned to the Yakima Valley in 1947, where they grew apples and pears until their retirement in 1999. The couple enjoyed winters by the ocean near San Diego until her husband passed away in 2005. For more than 20 years, Williams developed plantings and did landscape design for the Yakima Country Club golf course. Survivors include two children.

**Florence Peterson Meyer '46**, July 8, 2018, in Bremerton, Washington. She earned her teaching certificate at Western Washington College of Education and taught kindergarten in elementary schools in Auburn, Bainbridge Island and the Seattle Public Schools. She married

William Meyer in 1947 and they had two children. They were married for 56 years, until her husband's death in 2003. Meyer was preceded in death by her son. Survivors include her daughter and six grandchildren.

**Oscar Drumheller Seawell '47**, Sept. 2, 2018, in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. He served in the U.S. Army, then earned a Master of Science in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked in nuclear engineering for over a decade, then became a professor. He met and married Bonnie Scott while teaching at the University of Idaho. In 1971, he helped develop new engineering programs at the University of Regina. After his retirement in 1989, he wrote a book, "Pulse of International War," published by Benchmark Press. He was preceded in death by his mother, **Marion Drumheller Johnson '17**; his father, **John Seawell '19**; and his brother, **John Seawell Jr. '43**. Survivors include his wife and three children.

## 1950s

**Charles Daiger '50**, Feb. 23, 2018, in Lynnwood, Washington. Daiger had a long career in insurance and real estate. Survivors include his wife and five children.

**Norman Grant '50**, Aug. 10, 2018, in Portland, Oregon. Grant served in the U.S. Army from 1945-1946. He was a graphic artist for many years at the Hollywood News. Grant was introduced to JoAnne Lockart by her brother, **Royce Lockart '50**. They married and raised six children in Portland. JoAnne died in 1994. In his retirement, Grant initiated the

Poetry Fun class at Senior Studies Institute, where he met Jan Vail-lancourt. They later married. He was preceded in death by a son and his brothers, **Mortimer '46** and **Robertson '48**. Survivors include his wife and five daughters.

**Harold Wilson '51**, June 14, 2018, in Shelton, Washington. Wilson taught for 26 years, during which time he also coached football and basketball at Shelton junior and senior high schools. He had a second career as a real estate developer. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Merle, and four children.

**David Kohls '52**, Sept. 6, 2017, in Walla Walla. Kohls served in the U.S. Navy. He married Phyllis Angell in 1964 and had a long career in banking at Seafirst Bank and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. He is survived by his wife.

**Buerk Williams '52**, Aug. 2, 2018, in Shavano Park, Texas. Williams earned his medical degree from the University of Washington and had a long and successful career as a radiologist. He was passionate about teaching and founded the Malone-Hogan Hospital School of X-Ray Technology in Big Spring, Texas. After his retirement, he donated his time and resources to support the Radiologic Technology Program at Brookhaven Community College in Dallas, Texas.

**Jean Chun Lee '54**, May 30, 2018, in Honolulu, Hawaii. She graduated from the University of Hawaii with a bachelor's degree in social work. She married Howard Lee and they had four children. Survivors include her husband and children, including **Carolyn '80**.

**Jean Tompkins Fredking '55**, Nov. 8, 2016, in Sonora, California. Survivors include her husband, William.

**Barbara House Lienhard '55**, Aug. 3, 2018, in Reno, Nevada. Married to **Fredric Lienhard '55** on the same day they graduated from Whitman, she taught second grade in Spokane before the couple moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for military service. They moved to Reno in 1959 and raised two children. Lienhard worked as a teaching assistant in the Washoe County School District for 30 years, retiring in 1989. She sang with the Sierra Nevada MasterWorks Chorale for nearly 35 years. Survivors include her husband, children and sister, **Marilyn House Pewitt '56**.

**Laura Strance Poston '55**, June 14, 2018, in Boulder, Colorado. She graduated from the University of Washington and earned her master's degree in education from Bank Street College of Education in New York City. She married Thurman Poston in 1957 and they raised two children. Poston taught elementary and middle school for 20 years in the Hudson Valley of New York, then spent several years in the Pacific Northwest as head of school at the Little School of Bellevue, Washington, then as director of the Pacific Arts Center in Seattle. Preceded in death by her husband, she is survived by her children.

**John Burns '56**, Oct. 2, 2017, in Statesville, North Carolina. Burns was an engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Survivors include his wife and a daughter.

**Mark Fullerton '56**, Oct. 18, 2017, in Kilmarnock, Virginia. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army and received the Korean Service Medal, two Bronze Service Stars and the United Nations Service Medal. He worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Fullerton and his wife, Connie, moved to Kilmarnock after they both retired from the CIA. Survivors include his wife, four children and two stepchildren.

**Melba Ross Meakin '56**, Jan. 11, 2017, in San Francisco, California. Meakin was known for founding the James S. Brady Therapeutic Riding Program for Horses in California Inc., an organization dedicated to uniting the city of San Francisco through horses and horse-related events. Survivors include her husband and five children.

**Allen Baim '58**, July 24, 2018, in Walla Walla. Baim served in Japan with the 441st Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment. In 1951, he joined the Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and attended Whitman College. He married Thelma Hill in 1952 and they raised two children. He retired in 1984 as chief of the Real Estate Division. He was active in the Walla Walla Elks Club and Pioneer United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife. Survivors include his daughter, Keri, and son, **Michael '79**.

**Janet Haltom-Ames '58**, June 21, 2018, in Gig Harbor, Washington. After Whitman, she taught first grade at Sacajawea Elementary School. She married Robert Ames in 1962. They had three children. She volunteered for multiple organizations in Seattle. After her husband died in 1990, she started her business, "R is for Reading," teaching numerous children how to read. She was instrumental in dedicating Cordiner Glen as a place for alumni to gather on campus to remember fallen friends. Survivors include a son, **Kenneth Ames '88**; a daughter; and extended family, including **John Bunnell '83**,

**Sarah McMillan Bunnell '53** and **Mary McMillan Brandt '55**. She was preceded in death by a son.

**Clyde Marshall '58**, July 30, 2018, in Portland, Oregon. He graduated from the University of Denver in 1962 with a master's degree in library science. Marshall worked as a reference librarian at the Multnomah County Library in Portland, then as a school librarian at Morrison Academy in Taiwan. Marshall returned to the Multnomah County Public Library until he retired in 2002. He married his wife, Judy, in 1984 in Victoria, British Columbia. In his retirement, he volunteered as a cataloguer at the Institute for International Christian Communication in Portland. He is survived by his wife and his sister, **Orla Rose Marshall Steenhagen '68**.

**Ann Packard Duelstgen '59**, May 22, 2018. She earned her nursing degree from the School of Nursing at the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU). Her career in psychiatric nursing led to her compassionate work as a case manager and support group facilitator with teen parent programs in the Portland area. She was an OSU Extension Master Gardener. Duelstgen was preceded in death by her sisters, **Judy Packard Bronkey '58** and **Penny Packard Taylor '61**. Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Robert Duelstgen, and three children.

## 1960s

**James Hutchinson '61**, July 29, 2018, in Melrose Park, Illinois. He earned a graduate degree from the School of Chemistry

at the University of Washington in Seattle. He married Jo Ann Kay Thomas in 1962, weeks before he was to attend the University of Alberta School of Medicine, Edmonton in Alberta, Canada. Hutchinson established a private practice and had a distinguished career as an attending otolaryngologist at several Chicago-area hospitals, and as an associate professor of otolaryngology at Rush Medical College in Chicago's Rush University. He also served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps. Survivors include his wife and three children.

**James Carter '63**, June 6, 2018, in Arvada, Colorado. He married **Dorothy Conner '64** in 1964 and they raised two children. Carter earned his master's degree and doctorate in economics from the University of Oregon in Eugene, and his MBA from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He retired as a professor of economics from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, in 1995. Carter was preceded in death by his wife. Survivors include a daughter and a son, **Richard Carter '92**.

**Jan Sulkosky Parmelee '63**, June 2, 2018, in Puyallup, Washington. After Whitman, she graduated from the University of Washington as an English major and married Charles Parmelee in 1967. She worked as an assisted living administrator for most of her career. Parmelee was an active member of the Gig Harbor Rotary and volunteered for an elementary school literacy program until she retired. She was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include two children.

**Stanley Rall Jr. '65**, May 27, 2018, in Redmond, Washington. Rall earned his doctorate in biochemistry from the University

of California, Berkeley, in 1970. He worked at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, then the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease in San Francisco. Rall was a generous supporter of scholarship and student aid at Whitman College, including the establishment of a scholarship endowment named for his mother, **Rachel Kester Rall '34**. Survivors include his wife of 20 years, Diana; two stepchildren; and extended family, including cousin **Earl Henderson '70**.

**Leslie Bell '66**, June 2, 2018, in Boise, Idaho. Bell spent a year teaching junior high school, then nearly 20 years in a variety of positions at the University of California Davis School of Medicine. She also worked as a political volunteer and professional fundraiser. Bell served on the Reunion Fund Committee for her 50th reunion. She was preceded in death by her father, **Max Bell '41**, and mother. Survivors include her sister, **Linda Bell Daniels '67**.

**Elena Brineman '67**, June 13, 2018, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. She earned a master's degree in nutrition from Oregon State University at Corvallis. She served as a member of the research staff for the Nutrition Institute for Central America and Panama in Guatemala. Brineman worked around the world for multiple agencies. She was recognized for her service in 1998 to the people

of Honduras in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. In 2000, she became USAID mission director in the Dominican Republic. She was appointed to the faculty of the Army War College in 2006 and became director of the Office of Military Affairs in Washington, D.C., retiring in 2011. Survivors include her sister and extended family.

**Sue Danielson Northup '68**, Aug. 27, 2018, in Helena, Montana. She married **Brent Northup '68** in 1967. Northup was a violin teacher and welcomed countless students into her home over the years. She was a steadfast volunteer for St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband; a daughter; and extended family, including cousin, **Jan Eyestone '54**.

**William "Scotty" Sells '69**, June 18, 2018, in Longview, Washington. He graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle. He earned his law degree from Hastings Law School in San Francisco. Sells served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps. He returned to active duty in 2003 and retired from the Pentagon in 2005 as a colonel. He subsequently served as a defense contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan. Survivors include his wife, Penelope, two sons and three daughters.

**Larry Thomas '69**, May 2, 2018, in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He served in the U.S. Navy in Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone (Panama), and later in the Naval Reserve. He earned his master's degree in education administration from Seattle University. He worked with job development assistance and social services agencies, then in sales with Ford Motor Company and Honda, and finally with the Internal Revenue Service as a customer service agent. Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Hilda Wilson-Thomas, and their children.

## 1970s

**David Blackledge '71**, July 18, 2018, in Creve Coeur, Missouri. He was a U.S. Navy surgical nurse, serving for nine years during the Vietnam War. Blackledge worked in surgery at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, California. He earned his MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and went on to a career in the pharmaceutical field. Survivors include a son and two brothers.

**Janice Hein Palmer '72**, June 2, 2018, in Walla Walla. Palmer married James Townsend in 1955, and the couple had four children before divorcing. In the early '70s, she enrolled at Walla Walla Community College and later graduated from Whitman with a degree in psychology. Palmer became the first female counselor at the Washington State Penitentiary, where she met her second husband, Robert Palmer. The couple moved to western Washington, where Palmer worked for the Department of Corrections. Later in life, they moved to Lewiston, Idaho, where she worked for the state placing foster children with adoptive

families. After retiring, the Palmers returned to Walla Walla to be near family. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son. Survivors include three children.

**Paula Downing King '73**, Dec. 17, 2017, in Walla Walla. She married Thomas King Jr. in 1987. She earned her law degree at the University of Oregon in Eugene. After working in Oregon as a civil lawyer, she moved to Arizona in 1995 and worked as a public defender for the White Mountain Apache Tribe and juvenile prosecutor for Navajo County in Holbrook, Arizona. King was also a successful science fiction author. She sold her first two novels late in 1989 to two separate publishers, and settled with Del Rey for three more novels. She published the "Cloudships of Orion" trilogy with Roc Books under the name P.K. McAllister. A few years later, under the pen name Diana Marcelas, King sold her fantasy trilogy, "Witch of Two Suns" to Tor Books. In 2015, she inherited her father's house in Walla Walla and returned to full-time writing.

**Sam Collins '79**, July 12, 2018, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Collins met his wife, **Karen Rockey '78**, at Whitman. They were married nearly 37 years and raised three children. He earned his doctorate in theoretical chemistry from Columbia University, then worked for several major financial services firms creating computer models of the firms' bond market risk. Collins was an avid sportsman: he participated in the road bicycle organization Randonneurs USA and learned to snowboard at age 49. He moved to Jackson Hole at age 52, earned his formal driver's license at age 60 and enjoyed motorcycle touring in Wyoming, Idaho and Colorado. Survivors include his wife and children.

## 1980s

**Dawna "Joy Grace" Maeda Bainbridge '80**, June 10, 2017, in Encinitas, California. She was a registered nurse, working as a critical care nurse and home care nurse. Bainbridge later became an acupuncture practitioner. She is survived by her husband, Stina.

**Charles Holt '85**, Aug. 4, 2018, in Maona Valley, Hawaii. Holt earned a doctoral degree in optometry from the University of California, Berkeley. He owned Honolulu Eye Care and co-owned Buena Vista Eyecare in San Jose, California. His family lived in Fremont, California, for the last 18 years. Survivors include his wife and three children.

**Susan Macias '88**, July 22, 2018, in Seattle. She worked as a paralegal for law firms in Tacoma and Seattle and developed an interest in maritime law. She traveled extensively, including visits to Europe, North Africa, Peru and Mexico. Survivors include her parents and her sister.

## 1990s

**Stephen Abel '92**, May 20, 2018, in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He earned a master's degree in physics, optics and optoelectronics at the University of Oregon in Eugene. He worked in engineering positions across several fields, including electron microscope platforms and nanotechnology. He married **Jade Larabee '90** in 1993; they later divorced. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodora and **William Abel '52**. Survivors include his wife of seven years, Christine Greenlee.

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## Alumni Association Recognition Awards

Seeking the unsung heroes, the behind-the-scenes orchestrators, the motivational and the inspirational!

Do you know:

- ▶ A Whittie making the world a better place?
- ▶ A classmate who has given countless volunteer hours to a cause?
- ▶ A friend who has made outstanding achievement in their career?

Then tell us about it! Nominate that Whittie for an Alumni Association Recognition Award. There are categories for young alumni, for distinguished service, for lifetime achievement and for alumna or alumnus of merit — the highest honor the Alumni Association gives.

Awards will be presented during Reunion Weekend, Sept. 19-22, 2019.



Go to [whitman.edu/alumni](http://whitman.edu/alumni), click on Recognition Awards, and tell us about an outstanding Whittie! Nominations are due by March 15, 2019.

## Seeking Passionate Leaders for Whitman's Alumni Board

The Alumni Association Board seeks to fill up to three vacancies with terms of service beginning on July 1, 2019. All alumni are invited to consider petitioning, with preference given to candidates who bring diverse experiences and perspectives to the position and contribute to increasing alumni engagement. Alumni who have previously submitted petitions will be considered.

Board members serve three-year terms beginning July 1. The Alumni Board meets in Walla

Walla two times per calendar year and via conference call in between. Attendance is required at meetings and expected at local area events.

Deadline to submit documents related to petitioning is March 15, 2019, c/o Nancy Mitchell, director of alumni relations, at [mitchenl@whitman.edu](mailto:mitchenl@whitman.edu).

For instructions for petitioning, board membership information and bylaws, go online to [whitman.edu/alumni/stay-involved/alumni-board](http://whitman.edu/alumni/stay-involved/alumni-board). For questions, call 509-527-5952.

Whitman College offers its condolences to the family and friends of our departed Whitties. Obituary information can be submitted to [alumni@whitman.edu](mailto:alumni@whitman.edu), mail to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362, or submit online at [whitman.edu/classnotes](http://whitman.edu/classnotes). Abbreviated obituaries are run in the magazine. Links to a full obituary can be found at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).

# Alumni News

Spanning four days (Sept. 27-30, 2018) and dozens of locations on and off campus, Reunion Weekend 2018 was a tremendous success. Twelve classes returned to Walla Walla, from the 65th reunion of the Class of 1953 to the 10th reunion of the Class of 2008. In addition to the standard reunion activities like class photos and Convocation, alumni stargazed on the roof of the Hall of Science, took walking tours of the campus art collection, peeked inside Stanton Hall and Cleveland Commons, networked with students and revisited local haunts.



Current students assisted throughout the weekend, especially during the Parade of Classes. From left to right: **Lily Gustafson '20**, Penny Collisson, **Chris Collisson '93**, **Mark Metcalf '93** and **Becca Linn '20**. Photo by Greg Lehman



Parade Dixieland Jazz was courtesy of the talented combo featuring **Bassel Jamali '19**, bass; Dave Glenn, professor of music (retired), trombone; Gary Gemberling, lecturer of music, drums and trumpet; and Keith Noel, trumpet. Photo by Greg Lehman



Members of the 20th cluster reunion enjoyed an update on the college from President Murray. Pictured are **Brenna Willott '98**, **Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger '97**, **Anne Marie Shields Charnholm '97** and **Danielle Garbe Reser '97**. Photo by Greg Lehman



Alumni and their families lined Boyer Avenue to cheer for the Parade of Classes. Photo by Greg Lehman



Several small groups gathered throughout the weekend, including the Whitman Christian Fellowship. Back row: **Dottie Prew Thorson '76**, **Brian Chronister '73**, Happy Chronister, Jess Davison, Ben Flugstad, **Glen Drake '72**, **Greg Thorson '74**, **Bill Starr '74**, **Joshua Smith '07**, **Tom Lane '74**, **Dave Anderson '75** and **Sarah Beaujon Le '06** (holding Coby Le). Front row: **Marilyn Brownell Beyer '74**, **Becky Gustafson Flugstad '74**, **Kathy Smith Starr '74**, **Zoey Lemaich Smith '08**, Dierdre Gibson, **Rodney Gibson '97**, Cathy Anderson, **Willy Van Krieken '74**, **Betty Eidemiller '74**, **Tiffany Ness Mathison '98** and **Tim Scudder '97**. Holding sign: **Mark Fisher '75**. Photo by Sara Beaujon Le '06



A highlight of the weekend was the All-Class Picnic on Ankeny Field. Photo by Greg Lehman



Coffee in hand, class of 2008 reunion committee co-chair **Ashley Durkin '08** (in the red coat) leads her classmates down Boyer Avenue in the Parade of Classes. Photo by Greg Lehman



The Whitman Jazz Ensemble played during Reunion Convocation. From left to right: **Taka Olds '19**, saxophone; **Daniel Leong '21**, saxophone; **Kevin Getty '20**, trumpet; **Spencer Thulin '21**, keyboard; **Annelise Ellingboe '20**, vocals; **Marco Thompson '22**, bass; and **Bornnie Kabongo '22**, drums. Photo by Greg Lehman

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 2018 Reunion

# 854

alumni, family and friends

# 21

musicians

# 10

Greek open houses

# \$1,076,304

in gifts and pledges

# 10

campus tours

# 12

class reunion photos

More than

# 275

staff, faculty and students behind the scenes

# 102

stargazers at the telescope lab

# 12

academic department open houses



Members of the class of 1973 and 1974 take a moment between photos and the parade to leaf through a yearbook. From left to right: **Michael Murray '73, Deborah Gaunt Murray '73, Willy Van Kreiken '74, Brian Chronister '73** and Happy Chronister. Photo by **Matt Banderas '04**



**WATCH A VIDEO**  
See more highlights from Reunion Weekend at [whitman.edu/magazine](http://whitman.edu/magazine).



**Gene Adams '53** was recognized in part for his dedicated service to varsity athletics at Whitman. From left to right: **Robert Colton '20, Trevor Osborne '20, Adams** and **JoJo Wiggins '19**. Photo by **Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91**



Alumni kicked off their weekend meeting students for career networking. Photo by **Katy Lalotis '21**



Student athletes **Makana Stone '19** and **Maegen Martin '19** from women's basketball assisted at the 9th Annual W Club Golf Tournament. Photo by **Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91**



**Roderick Wang '20, Alex Izbiky '20** and **Sarah Bosworth '21**, members of the Future Alumni Leadership Council, assist with reunion check-in. Photo by **Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91**

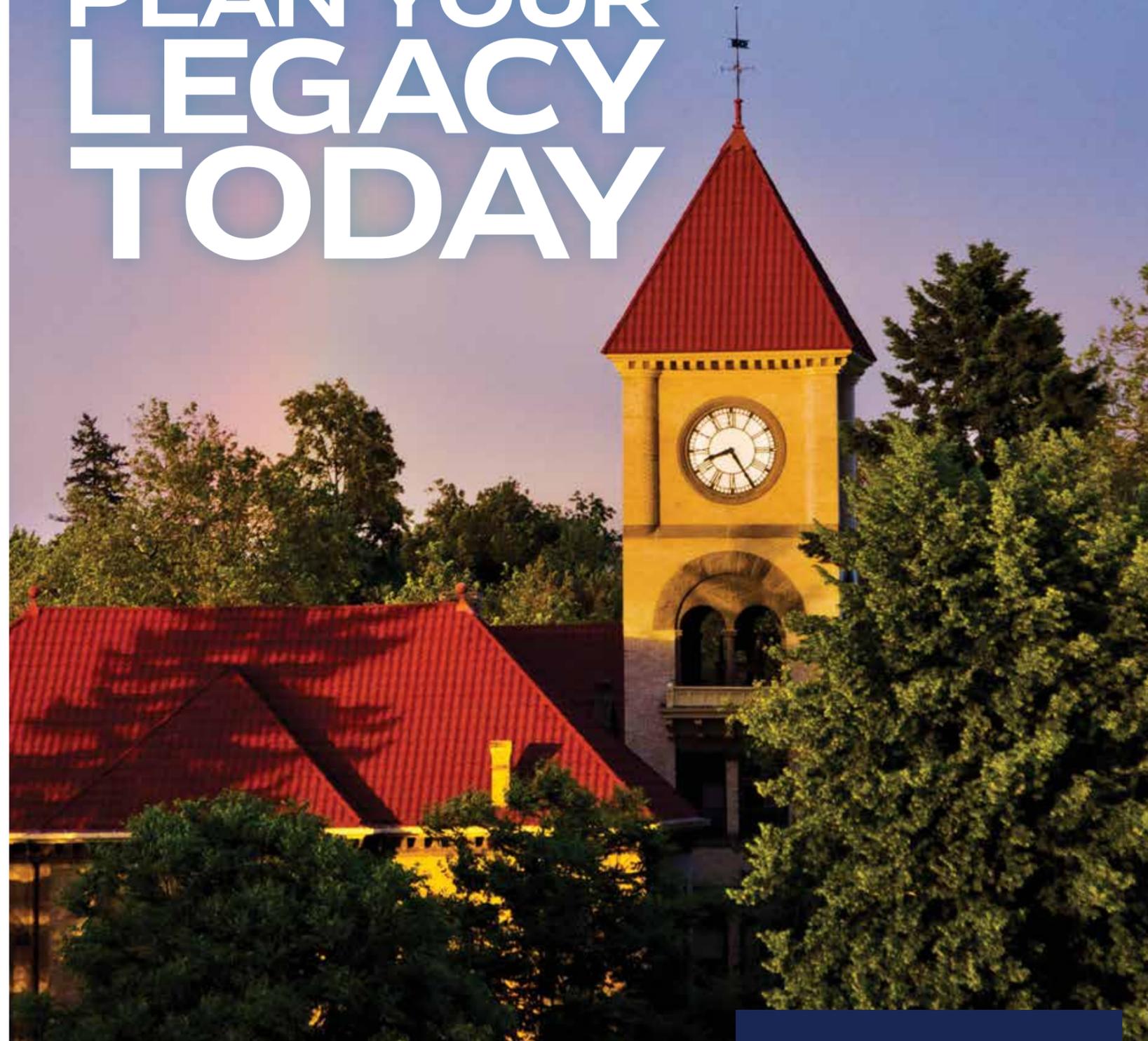


A student Christian choir spanning two decades, alumni of the New Freedom Singers gathered to reminisce and sing along. Standing, left to right: **Cindi Call '76, Wanda Dunbar Merz '74, Sally Call Sibson '74, Brian Grassley '72, Michael Murray '73, Kathy Curtiss '74, Steven English, Dana Jessen '73, Steve Kliever '73** and **Mark Weiseth '74**. Seated: **Brian Chronister '73, Barb Stimson Russell '73** and **Deborah Gaunt Murray '73**. Photo by Bob Sibson



Outstanding alumni were recognized for contributions to their career, their community and the college. From left to right: Alumni Association Board President **Mary Deming Barber '78**, Assistant Professor Akira Takemoto, **Gene Adams '53**, President Kathleen Murray, **Dick Neher '53** and **Becky Antilla Walliman '08**. Photo by **Arie Knops '17**

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345 Boyer Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

CALLING ALL ALUMNI

## Help Whitties Find Their Future

“Finding Your Future” is an ongoing series of panel discussions that helps students learn about careers in various fields directly from alumni professionals. Presented by the Student Engagement Center, the series takes place Saturdays on the Whitman campus and features a brief keynote address followed by introductions and networking.

Upcoming dates and areas of focus are:

**Jan. 26** — Energy and the environment, health care, science and engineering

**March 30** — Education and the arts, law and government, startup and business operations

Share your career trajectory and industry knowledge with the next generation of Whitties! Whitman alumni who are interested in speaking to current students by visiting campus as a part of this series can contact Director for Career Development Kimberly Rolfe at [rolfekb@whitman.edu](mailto:rolfekb@whitman.edu).



**Cathryn Posey '05** is founder of Tech by Superwomen and senior technology director of machine learning at Capital One. Posey visited Whitman's campus in 2016 to speak to students about her work and advise them on future career paths in the technology industry.  
Photo by **Nhi Cao '20**