

WHITMAN

MAGAZINE

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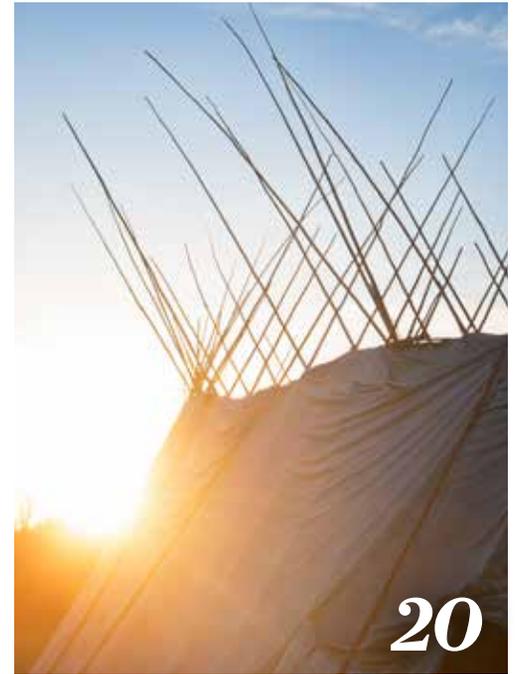
The Long Tent brings
Native experts and deep
learning to campus

FALL 2022

In the field ...

Professor of Geology Pat Spencer examines a rock specimen with Jenner Smith '22 above Oxbow Dam South of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area in May of 2022. The goal of this trip, taken by 30 students and five faculty members, was to expose students to real-life examples of things they've learned in the classroom.





Inside

10

SPEAKING HIS TRUTH

Steve Hammond '79 delivered a moving commencement address to the Class of 2022 urging graduates to “help others where you can.”

18

LIFESAVING WORK IN THE CLASSROOM

Professor of Biology Kate Jackson’s students worked collaboratively with Canadian peers to help prevent snakebites a continent away.

20

A LONG TIME COMING

For an epic and invigorating week, a plateau Long Tent became a one-of-a-kind classroom, bringing Native culture, voices and educators to campus.

28

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Videographer and director of photography, Rick Smith '02, takes his camera and curiosity into the field for fulfilling work and endless adventures.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2

ON BOYER AVENUE 3

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ROSALINDA MENDOZA 12

SPACES: KWCW RADIO STATION 14

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: TANNER FILION 14

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: WILLIAM BARES 36

CLASS NOTES 39

SYLLABUS 48

Land Acknowledgment | Whitman College is located on the traditional Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla homelands. We pay our respect to tribal elders both past and present and extend our respect to all Indigenous people today. We honor their stewardship of the land and ecosystem and commit to continuing that important work.

ON THE COVER A plateau Long Tent graces the Whitman College campus in April 2022. Drone photography by William Frohne.



Greetings from Walla Walla!

I AM DELIGHTED to have moved in and begun to get to know the wonderful Whitman community. These first few weeks have held the tremendous pleasure of meeting staff, faculty, alumni, and students who are on campus for the summer. In every encounter, a deep dedication and care for this place — and for our mission — shone brightly.

I am often asked why I chose to come to Whitman. The answer is simple: Whitman is a great college with a mission that matters. From the first conversations I had with members of the Whitman community, it has been clear that our college makes a difference, providing exceptional opportunities for learning and growth to terrific students from across the country and around the world. The experiences students have here are transformational — impacting their lives and inspiring their work for decades after graduation. And, through the lives of our graduates, Whitman contributes to the world in ways that are profoundly needed.

This issue of Whitman Magazine shows just a few of the outcomes of our mission. Academic excellence recognized through national fellowships and awards. An entrepreneur bringing a cultural staple to new audiences. Documentary filmmaking that tells the earth's story. Athletic records broken. Research discoveries made by faculty and students. Creative intersections of art and technology. And powerful reckonings with historical and present injustices, followed by action to address them.

As we begin the fall semester, I am immensely proud of what Whitman makes possible. And I am eager to begin work with faculty, staff, students and alumni to chart a course for our future. Together, we will engage big questions. How do we continue to provide a broad education that inspires talented young people in a time of such rapid global change and disruption? What capacities will our graduates need in the coming decades to build lives of purpose and to make a difference in their workplaces and communities? How do we ensure that Whitman is accessible and deeply welcoming for students, staff and faculty of all identities and perspectives, and that it continues to become a more just campus — and to advance a more just world? What should we learn from the environmental challenges facing our region, and what actions should we take to be part of a more sustainable future?

Whitman is a place of extraordinary teaching, learning, growth and community. Our liberal arts education provides students with insights from many perspectives, and prepares them to engage with the most important questions of their time. That mission has never been more important and I am honored to be a part of it with all of you!

Sincerely,

Sarah Bolton
President

“I am often asked why I chose to come to Whitman. The answer is simple: Whitman is a great college with a mission that matters.”

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CLASS NOTES

To submit, go online to whitman.edu/classnotes.

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NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Whitman College has a strong commitment to the principle of nondiscrimination in all its forms. In its admission, educational and employment practices, programs and activities, Whitman College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), gender, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran's status, or any other basis prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and applicable federal, state or local laws.



OUR 15TH PRESIDENT

A Warm Whitman Welcome

COMMUNITY. COOL TREATS. CHEERFUL VIBES. This summer, Whitman College staff, faculty and students came together to welcome President Sarah Bolton to campus.

Bolton officially became Whitman's 15th president on July 1, 2022. Later that month, the campus community was invited to meet their new president and enjoy a casual gathering on Ankeny Field that included artisan ice pops, gourmet ice cream pops and a spread of seasonal appetizers — all prepared by Bon Appétit, the college's dining and catering provider.

The guest of honor mingled with the crowd — meeting many for the first time. "It was great to meet President Bolton," says Marc Anthony Hidalgo, a senior admission intern, who attended that day. "I thought it was amazing that she immediately

thanked us for our work in admission, how we help prospective students see themselves at Whitman. She just arrived and she was already thanking us. I am excited to see what she'll do here."

Later that same week, Bolton hosted her first open office hours in Memorial Building, inviting the campus community to stop by and connect with her and others.

ON THE ROAD WITH SARAH

This fall, President Bolton will also be visiting various cities to connect with alumni, families and friends of the college at receptions hosted by Whitman. In September 2022, events were held in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Walla Walla. See upcoming events at whitman.edu/alumni/attend-events.



Bright spirits. Bright futures. President Bolton meets three of Whitman's senior admission interns at her welcome event on July 20, 2022. Pictured from left: Cheysen Cabuyadao-Sipe, an anthropology major from Lahaina, Hawaii, Sarah Bolton, Marc Anthony Hidalgo, a sociology major from Houston and Nomonde Nyathi, a psychology major from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

‘The Opportunity to Find Myself’

Whitman scholar awarded prestigious Watson Fellowship

Sylvia Adome '22 from Busia, Kenya, is one of only 42 students in the United States to be awarded the 2022 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. The prestigious yearlong program provides fellows with \$36,000 and “the opportunity to test their aspirations and abilities through a personal project experienced on an international scale.”

Adome, a double major in theater and economics at Whitman College, will spend 12 months traveling the United Kingdom, Greece, France, Canada, Brazil, Australia and Jamaica for her project “Exploring Spaces for African Artists in the Diaspora.”

“My goal is to explore and understand how African artists are navigating predominantly Westernized artistic spaces. I will investigate the figurative burden the word ‘home’ bears among African performers and how artistic ‘homes’ can emerge and flourish in foreign spaces,” Adome wrote in her project proposal.

Adome came to Whitman intending to study economics, but caught the theater bug as a first-year and went on to declare it as her second major in her sophomore year. During her time at Whitman, she was engaged in every aspect of the theater program, from working in backstage production to performing on stage to writing her own plays.

Adome, who plans to pursue a graduate degree in theater after her Watson year, believes the fellowship will allow her to explore something a master’s program may not: the areas where her two majors intersect.

“I’d like to try to navigate both environments—doing theater and understanding the economic aspects of theater. There’s no grad school that can teach that the way I want, but Watson is giving me that opportunity; the opportunity to find myself, career-wise, and also just as a person,” she says.



“My goal is to explore and understand how African artists are navigating predominantly Westernized artistic spaces.”

—SYLVIA ADOME '22

Whitties accepted into Fulbright Programs

Three Whitman College recent graduates have been accepted into the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Fulbright is the largest U.S. exchange program, offering students and young professionals opportunities to teach and conduct research in more than 140 countries, with about 1,900 grants awarded annually.

Whitman is regularly credited as a Fulbright “top producer” due to the volume of students and

graduates who apply for and earn scholarships through the program. This year’s Whitman recipients are:

Lindsey Merritt '22 (anthropology and German studies double major) was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant award to Germany.

Rhône Grajcar '21 (History — Empires & Colonialism and South Asian and Middle Eastern studies double major) was awarded a

Fulbright-Nehru Open Study/Research Award to India.

Caroline “Cello” Lockwood '19 (economics–environmental studies major) was awarded a Fulbright Open Study/Research Award to Italy.

Additionally, sophomore **Tuere Cunningham** was selected to participate in the Fulbright U.K. Summer Institutes, where she will explore the culture, heritage and history of the United Kingdom while experiencing higher education at a U.K. university.

Adam Rosenberg '22 (philosophy and German studies double major) received

an English Teaching Assistant award from the Austria Teaching Assistants Program, which Fulbright oversees.

AN ESTEEMED HISTORY

Established by Congress in 1946 and sponsored by the Department of State, Fulbright bestows grants on the basis of academic and professional merit as well as a record of service and leadership. Since its inception, it has provided roughly 300,000 students, scholars, teachers, artists and scientists the chance to achieve distinction in their fields through international study.



‘Aspiring Scientist’ named 2022-2023 Goldwater Scholar

Whitman College senior **Grace Newman '23** has been named a 2022-2023 Goldwater Scholar by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology major from Juneau, Alaska, is one of only 417 students across the United States selected for the award from a pool of more than 5,000 applicants.

Established by Congress in 1986 in honor of former U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater, the Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate award given in the sciences. It recognizes students with outstanding potential who plan to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.

Newman, who plans to earn a Ph.D. in a health-related field while exploring environmentally-friendly laboratory techniques, says she aspires to a career that helps people and the environment. “The process of applying for this scholarship helped me feel more confident in my own abilities as an aspiring scientist and grew my desire to pursue a career in research immensely,” she adds.

Newman is the ninth Whitman student since 1990 to earn a Goldwater Scholarship, which covers up to \$7,500 of eligible expenses for tuition, fees, books, and room and board per year.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Mark Juhasz, who chairs Whitman’s internal Goldwater selection committee, commends Newman’s outstanding academic performance and ability to grasp complex ideas. “As a student in my organic chemistry classes, her depth of understanding was impressive. Her questions were probing and reflected insights I would expect from a Ph.D. student, not a college sophomore — but Grace is not a typical college student,” says Juhasz.

“Her questions were probing and reflected insights I would expect from a Ph.D. student, not a college sophomore.”

—MARK JUHASZ, associate professor of chemistry

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



Advancing Essential Work

The National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) recently appointed Whitman College Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion John Johnson to its highly selective Chief Diversity Officer Fellows Program.

Johnson is one of only seven fellows chosen nationally for the 2022-2023 academic year. The NADOHE fellowship provides mentorship and professional development opportunities for new and early career chief diversity officers.

Johnson holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Before joining Whitman, Johnson served in diversity and inclusion roles for campuses in the California State University system.

In the spring of 2022, the Division of Diversity and Inclusion coordinated a sizable cohort of Whitman staff, faculty and students—23 strong— to attend NCORE, the National Conference On Race and Ethnicity, in Portland, Oregon. NCORE is an established resource for DEIA (diversity, equity, inclusion and antiracism) capacity building in higher education.

What's Your Whitman Happy Place?

We surveyed students, faculty and staff to see what spots on our beautiful campus brought them joy and comfort. Here are some of the responses.



Cleveland Commons. Whether you're meeting friends in the coffee shop, tucked away in a booth grabbing lunch or quiet study time, or meeting in one of the glass-walled gathering rooms, Cleveland Commons is a modern mecca on campus.



Lakum Duckum. Ringed by a walking path, illuminated by a lighted fountain at night and with built-in seating, this geothermal spring is a hot spot for Whitties and ducks alike. As one student said, "... as long as there are baby ducks, I am content."



Ankeny Field. For generations of Whitties, this spacious green has been a communal space for sport, play and creative shenanigans—and on the best days of the year: an inspiring outdoor classroom.

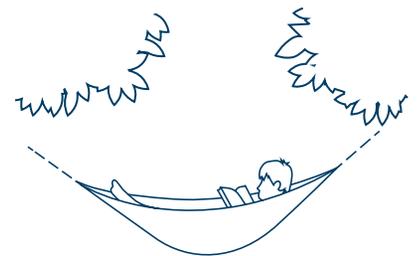




Climbing Center. With more than 7,000 square feet of climbable surface, the state-of-the-art facility for the upwardly mobile has sections designed to mimic a range of natural features.



Narnia. The garden-like area bisected by College Creek is perfectly suited for quiet moments of reflection. It may appear to be a fantasy world but it's the real deal when it comes to natural beauty.



My hammock!

Whitman students are resourceful when it comes to relaxation. On a campus that boasts a 1:1 tree-to-student ratio, it's no surprise that hammocks made our happy place list.

Also mentioned ...

The dance studio, the Hall of Science planetarium, the amphitheatre, College Creek near the Topophilia Gates, the bench with the "rose arch near the tennis court" and "my bed ... preferably at 7 p.m."



Penrose Library. We have so much information available on our on-the-go devices, but alumni should know that the campus library remains a go-to location and endless resource—and happy place—for the modern Whittie. (Learn more on page 8.)

In the Stacks

FAST FACTS FROM PENROSE LIBRARY

1957

The year the library was built, with new wings added in 1974 and 2000

250

Languages represented in the library's materials

5K+

Rare books included in the Whitman College and Northwest Archives

650K+

Physical books, tapes, slides, films, maps and bound journals

DIGITAL



540K

E-books

45K

Streaming videos

9K+

Digital college documents and records

200+

Databases

“

I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of a library.”

— Jorge Luis Borges



OLDEST PRINTED BOOK

The “Nuremberg Chronicle,” published in 1493.

Check It Out! The library loans out more than books—you can also borrow bikes, board games and light therapy lamps.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Shampa Biswas, professor of politics, participated in a webinar hosted by The Chronicle of Higher Education—sharing how Whitman College’s adoption of an academic theme provides a curricular offering that distinguishes it from other colleges. Biswas was part of a panel exploring best practices for enhancing college curriculum.

Pavel S. Blagov, associate professor of psychology, was featured in “What Is Heteroflexibility?” on Mashable. The article discussed this evolving concept of sexuality.

Jack Jackson, associate professor of politics, published an article in the South Atlantic Quarterly titled “New Aristocracy: Political Wealth, Neofeudal Labor, and American Law.”

Michelle Janning, professor of sociology, Class of 2022 graduates Julian Landau, Jess Lilly and Kaia Roast, and Ruby Matthews '21 published “Coming Home to College: Living Arrangements and Perceptions of Adulthood for U.S. College Students during COVID-19” in Taylor & Francis Online.

Álvaro Santana-Acuña, associate professor of sociology, has published a new book, “Vida, magia y obra de un escritor global” (“The Life, Magic and Work of a Global Writer”). The book grew out of his role as curator of the University of Texas at Austin exhibition on Nobel laureate and writer Gabriel García Márquez, which was viewed by more than 15,000 visitors.

Doug Scarborough, associate professor of music, released an album, “The Color of Angels.” All About Jazz called the album “a compelling collection of new

works, fusing music of the West—jazz, with overtones of classical and prog rock—and traditional Middle Eastern elements.”

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The following faculty and staff were recognized at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year:

Arielle Cooley, associate professor of biology: G. Thomas Edward Award for Excellence in the Integration of Teaching and Scholarship

Arash Davari, assistant professor of politics: Suzanne L. Martin Award for Excellence in Mentoring

Tarek Elseewi, associate professor of film and media studies: George Ball Award for Excellence in Advising

Rachel George, associate professor of anthropology: Robert Y. Fluno Award for Distinguished Teaching in Social Sciences

Kurt Hoffman, professor of physics: Distinguished Faculty Award for Service to the Alumni Association

Christopher Leise, professor of English: Thomas D. Howells Award for Distinguished Teaching in Humanities and Arts

Jim Russo, associate professor of biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology: A. E. Lange Award for Distinguished Science Teaching

David Sprunger, director of instructional and learning technology: Sally A. Hooker Award for Excellence in Staff Support for Teaching



Above & Beyond

Each year, Whitman College honors and celebrates staff members who excel beyond their job expectations, bring forward creative and innovative ideas, promote a positive culture, and contribute to the overall excellence found at Whitman with the Janice Abraham Award.

In May of 2022, the Janice Abraham Award was presented to (pictured left to right with then-President Kathy Murray):

Greg Lecki, Diversity & Inclusion
Joanie Lucarelli, President’s Office
Karri Mickelson, Financial Aid
Victor Saldana, Conferences, Events and Scheduling

Finding Purpose in People

FROM ADVOCATING IN THE WORKPLACE TO SPEAKING TRUTH TO HISTORY, STEVE HAMMOND '79 FOSTERS HUMAN CONNECTION

BY GILLIAN FREW '11

ON A BRILLIANT MAY day more than 40 years after his own Whitman College graduation, Steve Hammond '79 faced the Class of 2022 from behind the podium—a tall figure in a long black robe.

Smiling at the sea of students before him, Hammond congratulated them not only on earning their college degrees but on doing so during a pandemic. Punctuating his words was the fact that this was the first in-person ceremony for families in over three years.

"Remember how you got here," he counseled the graduates. "It hasn't been easy, has it? But you have shown strength and perseverance. You have grown and stretched in ways that you never would have believed possible."

Hammond spoke from a place of poignant—and often painful—personal experience. While there was no lockdown or quarantine to contend with when he was in school, he could certainly relate to feelings of isolation.

"As a person of color on this campus in the '70s, I struggled ... I didn't feel very welcome here at times," he told the crowd. "Role models were few. It took me several years of reflection to realize how fortunate I am to have received a Whitman education."

Fostering the inclusion and mentorship he felt he missed as a young Black man at Whitman has been a defining feature of Hammond's career with the U.S. Geological Survey—and a focus of his time as a college trustee. Again and again, in his speech and the interview for this post-commencement profile, he returned to the importance of cultivating relationships to sow change.

STANDING TALL FOR CHANGE

Hammond grew up in Denver and set his sights on engineering school before a serendipitous trip to Whitman changed his mind. He majored in math and geology, played on the tennis team, and was a founding member of the Multi-Ethnic Center for Cultural Affairs (MECCA), still part of the Interest House Community. He also hosted a popular jazz radio show on KWCW. But despite his involvement on campus, being one of only a small number of Black students brought challenges.

"There was an aspect of loneliness and feeling separated that left me a bit frustrated," he says.

Still, Hammond has Whitman to thank for his most significant relationship. He and his wife, Charlotte Bibb Hammond '79, met in a

stairway in Anderson Hall and recently celebrated their 42nd anniversary.

In many ways, his Whitman experience prepared him for a distinguished career at a majority-white institution: The U.S. Geological Survey. Starting as an intern, he went on to be recognized multiple times by the Secretary of the Interior for service during the bureau's hazard response activities, including after Hurricane Katrina and Deepwater Horizon. Hammond is now an Emeritus Scientist and volunteers his time to specifically support people of color and women in STEM fields.

"Aside from all the scientific work, which I loved, I was also on this crusade to try to get the organization to flex, to shift how it operated—to see itself differently and be more inviting to people. You get a seat at the table so you can be part of those decisions, become a role model and create a better environment."

That same philosophy guided Hammond's decision to join Whitman's Board of Trustees. "I had the goal of moving the needle on diversity, being a part of the change."

"As you begin your life after Whitman, I encourage you to carry your experiences with you. Don't bury them too deep. Allow them to help you work on becoming a better person and to help others where you can."

—STEVE HAMMOND '79, Commencement Address, May 22, 2022

While he acknowledges there is still work to be done, he praises resources like the Summer Fly-In Program for first-generation and working-class students, the Power & Privilege Symposium, and the Glover Alston Center, as well as the leadership of Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion John Johnson.

And this important work means more than sitting in meetings, he says. "It takes energy to be involved in the college in a way that helps you to understand the issues that are going on, versus when they're presented to you in a boardroom. If I'm going to be at that table, I think it's really important to plug into the Whitman of today, to be engaged with students.

"It's been a real honor to serve the school in the various capacities that I have, and to create the collaborative opportunities and friendships that have come from that." 

FACTS, FICTION & FOLKLORE: ONE FAMILY'S STORY

Steve Hammond delves deeply into matters that pique his interest and touch his humanity, including his own genealogy. His fascination started early, as far back as middle school, when a cousin claimed that a branch of their family tree descended from Martha Washington.

"Trying to look at the facts, the fiction and the folklore and figure out how this puzzle fits together—I've been working on that for close to 50 years."

Indeed, Hammond is related to the family of America's first president. His ancestor, Charles Syphax, was enslaved at Arlington House by George Washington Parke Custis, nicknamed Washy, who was Martha Washington's grandson by her first husband. Washy had two daughters, an enslaved child named Maria and a white child named Mary. The two half-sisters went on to wed Charles Syphax and Robert E. Lee, respectively.

The Syphaxes established themselves as part of an elite society of African Americans freed before the Civil War, and remain a prominent family in the Washington, D.C., area. Hammond's connection to the Syphaxes isn't simply his past. It's also his present: He is part of a growing movement lobbying Congress to remove Robert E. Lee's name from Arlington House, opened in 1972 as a memorial to the confederate general. In 2021, he was interviewed about his work for NPR's "All Things Considered."

"I'm convinced that stories like this one can be valuable as we grapple with our history so that people can hear the story of everyone who was enslaved I want to put a spotlight on bringing together the human connection side of the story."

As Hammond puts it, "It's part of remembering how I got here."



‘Meant To Be Shared’

ROSALINDA MENDOZA '06 DRAWS ON HER HERITAGE AND EDUCATION IN BRINGING MEZCAL TO THE U.S.

BY PAM MOORE

“I ALWAYS KNEW I wanted to start a business,” says Rosalinda Mendoza '06. Early on in her journey to entrepreneurship, she chose to study economics at Whitman College — with that future business dream in mind. What she didn't know at the time was the company she'd eventually launch would tie her deeply to her family's cultural heritage — and require flexibility and fortitude.

In late 2019, Mendoza left a stable tech job and gave her full attention to Mocel Mezcal, a small-batch, artisanal mezcal brand she co-founded with her sister Elizabeth. But it wasn't long before the world — and its supply chains — turned upside down. Not one to back down in the face of an obstacle, Mendoza, who divides her time between Seattle, Yakima and Morelia, Mexico, used the pandemic as a learning opportunity and a confidence booster. “If there was ever a time to learn about supply chains and logistics, this was the time to do it,” she says. “If we survived 2020 and 2021, we're good to go from here.”

CONNECTING TO LAND & HISTORY

While Mendoza's can-do attitude has undoubtedly been a huge factor in her success, so has her personal connection to her business. Growing up in the Yakima Valley as the daughter of farmworker immigrants, she spent time with her grandparents in rural Michoacán, Mexico, often. Through those experiences, she developed a deep appreciation for the process of growing food and what it takes to bring such ingredients to the table.

As the Mendoza sisters got older and their palates expanded to appreciating not just the

cuisine but also the spirits from Michoacán, they began to wonder why mezcal wasn't being imported into the United States. "It snowballed from there. We were just so passionate about this incredible history, how we could help establish a mezcal culture in the U.S.—one that considers the land, the culture and the way it brings people together."

According to Mendoza, many families in Michoacán are still making mezcal the same way they made it hundreds of years ago, using the same ancient techniques and the same two ingredients: water and agave.

"When you drink mezcal you're connecting to this history, you're connecting to the land that provided these complex agaves, and you're also connecting with the people around you," she explains. "Mezcal is really meant to be shared." In 2018, the two sisters established Moxel.

CREATING A MEZCAL CULTURE

Focusing on her "why" has been key in navigating the inevitable challenges of startup life. As it turned out, supply chain issues were just the beginning.

Leaving her corporate job to go all-in on her business was "extremely risky." Mendoza feels that while the financial barriers to starting a business can be significant, they're not talked about often enough, particularly among women founders and founders of color.

According to Mendoza, while we often hear about people starting companies out of their garage, "that's only part of the truth." The other part—that's too often missing—is their funding source. While Mendoza says there's nothing wrong with accepting a loan or a gift from family, she didn't have that option. "It was scary because as a first-generation college student, I didn't have a safety net. I was the safety net for my family," she explains.

Mendoza admits she's asked herself, "What was I thinking?" more than once on her journey as an entrepreneur. Every time, she comes back to her passion for creating connections and honoring her heritage "We're not just bringing mezcal. We're also sharing this incredible history with people and we are helping establish a mezcal culture in the U.S."

In the spring of 2022, the sisters' Michoacán mezcal became available in the states. Learn more at moxelmezcal.com. 

WHAT IS MEZCAL? Mezcal is a traditional Mexican distilled beverage produced from the fermented juices of the cooked agave plant core. One of the main characteristics of mezcal is its artisanal production process, which has been passed down from generations of families.

"When you drink mezcal you're connecting to this history, you're connecting to the land that provided these complex agaves, and you're also connecting with the people around you."

— Rosalinda Mendoza '06, pictured below in Michoacán, Mexico



3 Lessons Learned

Rosalinda Mendoza shares insights she's gained as a Whittie and an entrepreneur.

1. Seize opportunity.

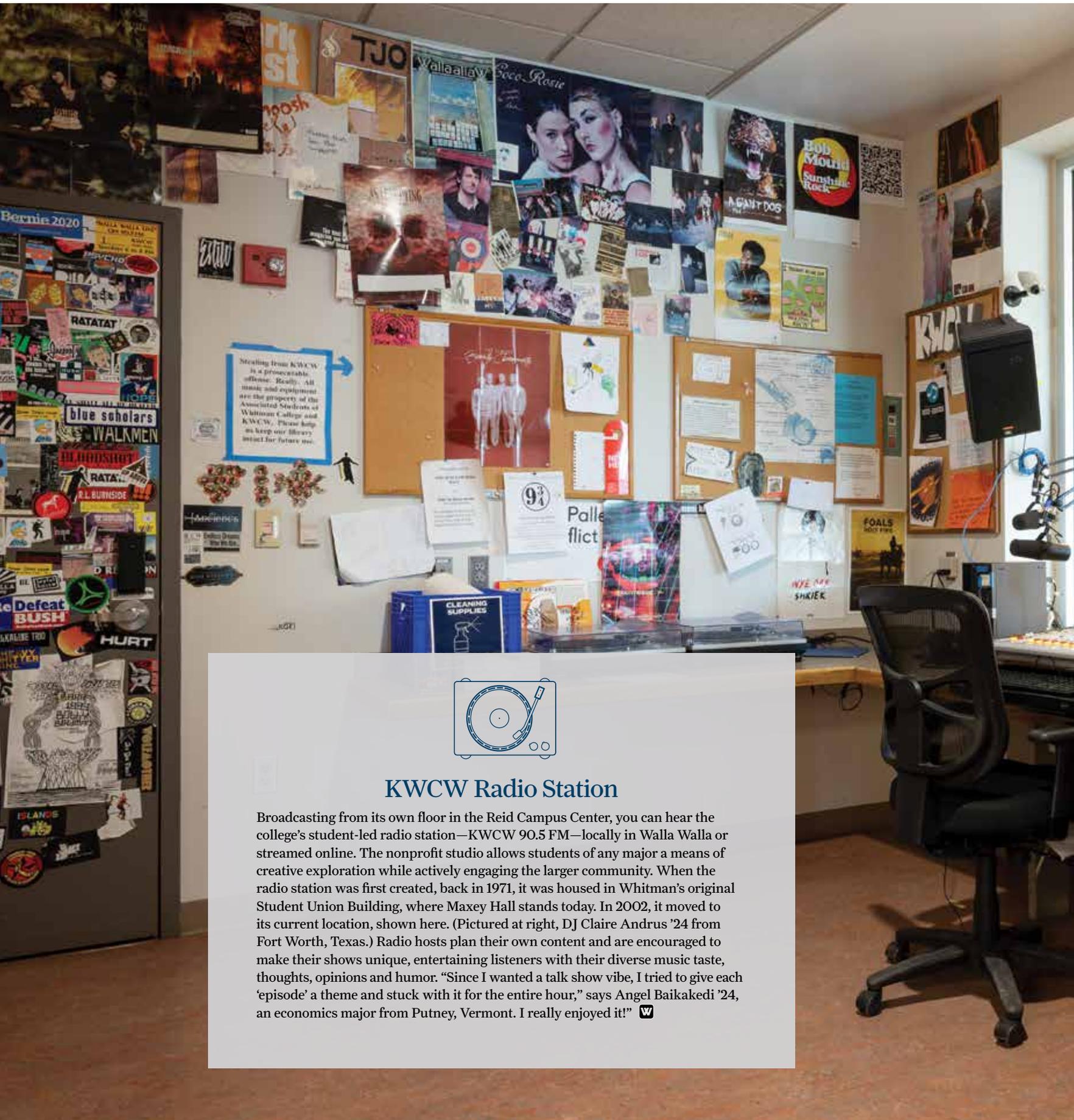
"No one in my family went to college. My grandparents didn't know how to read and write. And my mom only had an eighth-grade education, but, still, my family understood education could unlock opportunities," says Mendoza. Growing up, her parents instilled in her the idea that a college education was the path to better economic opportunities. Whitman offered her that, and so much more, including the chance to study abroad, and take leadership positions.

2. Learn & leverage.

With a dream of someday starting a business, Mendoza majored in economics. "My economics courses provided me a foundational understanding of how markets work which I later translated into an M.B.A. As an entrepreneur, having this in-depth understanding has allowed me to manage investor relations, financial projections and assumptions"

3. Live your passions.

Mendoza learned important lessons about business outside Whitman's classrooms too. She started the Cumbia/Merengue Dance Group with a small group of friends. Soon, they were performing at events on campus and in the community. "Through this experience, I learned that when you love what you are doing, whether it is dancing or starting a mezcal business, you attract incredible people around you because they feel and see your passion and positive energy."



KWCW Radio Station

Broadcasting from its own floor in the Reid Campus Center, you can hear the college's student-led radio station—KWCW 90.5 FM—locally in Walla Walla or streamed online. The nonprofit studio allows students of any major a means of creative exploration while actively engaging the larger community. When the radio station was first created, back in 1971, it was housed in Whitman's original Student Union Building, where Maxey Hall stands today. In 2002, it moved to its current location, shown here. (Pictured at right, DJ Claire Andrus '24 from Fort Worth, Texas.) Radio hosts plan their own content and are encouraged to make their shows unique, entertaining listeners with their diverse music taste, thoughts, opinions and humor. "Since I wanted a talk show vibe, I tried to give each 'episode' a theme and stuck with it for the entire hour," says Angel Baikakedi '24, an economics major from Putney, Vermont. I really enjoyed it!" 



Heart of a Champion

NATIONAL CHAMP TANNER FILION '23 SAYS HIS TEAMMATES AND COACHES MAKE HIM STRONGER, FASTER ... AND HAPPIER

BY PAM MOORE

ON MARCH 19, 2022, Tanner Filion, '23 won the NCAA Division III National Championships in the 200 backstroke in a record-breaking performance he never saw coming. The junior's time of 1:41.49 not only smashed the previous record by two seconds, it was a hairsbreadth from the qualifying time for Division I Nationals. Filion also made Whitman history as one of only two Blues to win a national championship in any sport.

After eating eggs for breakfast for eight consecutive days, on the morning of the 200 backstroke the psychology (pre-med) major opted for a bagel. The extra carbs might have played a role in supercharging his swimming that day, but Filion attributes his solo win that day to another thing that fuels him—his teammates' and coaches' unwavering encouragement and support.

It was, in fact, the swim team's culture that drew the swim star to Whitman in the first place. He describes it as the same culture he'd embraced on the team he'd competed with through high school but didn't think he'd find again. Of both his youth swim team and Whitman, he says, "There's an emphasis on loving the sport," adding, "We have fun, but when it's time to compete we know how to work hard too."

Fun with his teammates, support from his coaches and intermittent breaks from the pool have actually made him a stronger swimmer. (Growing five inches to his full height of 6 feet, 3 inches since graduating high school certainly didn't hurt.)

TEAM FIRST

From the outset, Filion knew his teammates had his back. He recalls meeting the entire team during his recruiting trip—and one person who stood out. He encountered future teammate and mentor Easton Powell '20 when Powell

was sitting down. "I was like, 'He's kind of big for that desk,'" recalls Filion. Almost immediately, two things became clear: At 6 feet, 8 inches Powell had a commanding presence—and a big heart to match. Filion describes Powell as "the nicest, happiest dude I've ever met," adding, "He always took good care of me."

Other teammates have been generous with their support too. After qualifying for Nationals at the Northwest Conference regional meet, while most of his teammates were enjoying their offseason, Filion had to power through a month of solo training. But thanks to his friends, he rarely swam alone—they took turns pacing him through his workouts. "I was really fried on swimming and [my teammates] came every day and helped me a ton," he says.

The coaching staff also played a huge role in Filion's prowess in the pool. During his first year, Kevin Ewing, an assistant coach at the time, pulled him aside. Filion remembers him saying, "You have a lot of potential. If you start hitting the gym and putting on some muscle, you can do a lot." He feels the strength training routine he adopted at Whitman propelled him to his recent victory and podium finishes in multiple events at Nationals.

Then there's Coach Jenn, whom Filion refers to as the GOAT (greatest of all time). Filion says Head Coach Jennifer Blomme, whose many accolades include 11 Northwest Conference Swim Coach of the Year titles, has a knack for giving every swimmer what they need to be successful in the pool and beyond.

BEYOND THE POOL

According to Filion, the Whitman swim team's high-fun, low-pressure environment has not only supercharged his swimming, it's also allowed him to



Having his back. Head Swimming Coach Jenn Blomme congratulates Tanner Filion on his record-breaking swim at the Division III National Championships in Indianapolis.

excel in academics and a variety of other extracurricular. Filion's Whitman experience includes playing the tuba with the concert band, kayaking and rafting with the Outdoor Program, skiing at nearby Bluewood, taking a leadership role in the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, serving as vice president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, and playing for Whitman's ultimate frisbee team. "I could have gone to some small Division I school, but I wouldn't have been able to do all that," he says.

And while swimming practice takes a significant chunk of time out of Filion's schedule, it gives him plenty in return. Besides providing community, friendship and an outlet for stress, the structure it provides helps him academically. "I've never skipped a workout to do my homework," he says. "I've actually found that during the offseason it's harder to get work done because I don't have that time crunch." **W**

PHOTO: SAMUEL MONTES '23

MINDSET MATTERS

Tanner Filion shares the mental strategies behind his success.

Cultivating gratitude. Filion says he's grateful for his coaches and teammates and credits them for his swimming success. He's also grateful for small pleasures, like "just waking up and hearing the birds chirping." He starts every day by making a mental gratitude list.

Keeping perspective. While Filion has always felt fun was more important than results, his mom's untimely death in November 2020 sharpened his sense of what truly matters even further. Although he still heeds her advice to always try his best, he says, "A test isn't a big deal anymore. Of course I want to get a good grade, but it's just a test."

Sticking to a ritual. Filion has a pre-race ritual that puts him in the mental space for peak performance. Just before a competition, he holds a three-leaf clover pin originally from his grandfather that his mom gave him, listens to music and briefly drops into a deep relaxation state bordering on sleep.



Biting Off a Dire & Dangerous Crisis

WHITMAN BIOLOGY STUDENTS PARTNER WITH CANADIAN STUDENT PEERS ON SNAKEBITE EDUCATION

BY JODIE NICOTRA

SNAKES WILL BE SNAKES. Like all living critters, they'll defend themselves from perceived threats. As human populations expand and encroach into snake habitat, human-snake encounters increase. This can spell tragedy for people living in those areas.

"The people and the snakes are victims of the same global forces, and both suffer as ecosystems are degraded," says Kate Jackson, a herpetologist and professor of biology at Whitman College.

Southeastern Washington might seem like an unlikely locale for tropical snakebite treatment and prevention. But Jackson and a small group of Whitman students and alumni have been working to help mitigate this serious issue.

A TOPICAL & TROPICAL HEALTH ISSUE

Whitman alum Jordan Benjamin '14 says, "Snakebite is the most neglected of the neglected tropical diseases — the

worst public health crisis you've never heard of."

Benjamin, a former student of Jackson's, is the founder of the Walla Walla-based Asclepius Snakebite Foundation, an international group of doctors, paramedics and scientists that aims to prevent, treat and educate about snakebites.

The World Health Organization estimates that up to 3 million people are sickened annually by snakebites, resulting in up to 138,000 fatalities and many more permanent disabilities. However, as Benjamin will tell you, it doesn't have to be this way.

Consider this: In the U.S., around 10,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes each year, but only five to 10 die from the bites. By contrast, Asclepius has estimated that in the West African country of Guinea, there are 24,000 snakebites yearly and around 3,000 deaths.

Why the startling difference in fatalities between the two countries? The main cause of the public health crisis is not snakebite itself, but lack of access to adequate care. In the case of a snakebite, this means antivenom treatment.

In West Africa, most snakebites happen in rural areas, where medical facilities are rare. Facilities that do exist often have expired antivenom, or the wrong kind. However, improving outcomes doesn't just mean more medical facilities and antivenom. It also means better communication and education in areas affected by snakebite.

TEAMING UP ON LIFESAVING WORK

Currently, there's a "huge gap" when it comes to snakebite education and communication, Benjamin says. Most doctors, even in the United States, learn next to nothing about treating snakebite. And people who live and work in subtropical areas need to know things like how to identify venomous snakes and snake-proof their living areas — and what to do in case of a snakebite.

Asclepius's multidisciplinary team of scientists and clinicians creates and collects scientific materials. But they need to make those resources accessible to people who need them.

Scientists write, but these resources aren't always accessible to those who



Saving lives a continent away. Students from Whitman and Canada used their collective talents to create materials to help prevent deaths from snakebites in West Africa. **Opposite:** Foreground: Kate Jackson, professor of biology, with her students, left to right: Yizhen Zhao, Lauren O'Rourke and Lucy Davis.

need it most, Benjamin says. "Learning to communicate high-level information to the people who really need it is one of the most impactful things you can do."

That's where students in Jackson's course — Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles — come in.

Jackson serves as the director of herpetology for Asclepius, and literally wrote the book on "Snakes of Central and Western Africa" (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019).

In BIOL 327, Jackson typically has students research a topic in herpetology, then produce some deliverable — anything but a research essay. So when Tuhin Giri, a longtime friend of Jackson's, approached her with an idea for a cross-institutional student collaboration to produce materials for Asclepius, Jackson was on board right away.

In the spring of 2022, three of Jackson's students worked on separate teams with Giri's students from Humber College in Toronto. The students negotiated different time zones and skill sets to produce educational materials for Asclepius.

Lauren O'Rourke '24 was on a team that produced a handbook countering bad information about treating snakebite in the field. Yizhen "Sunny" Zhao '24

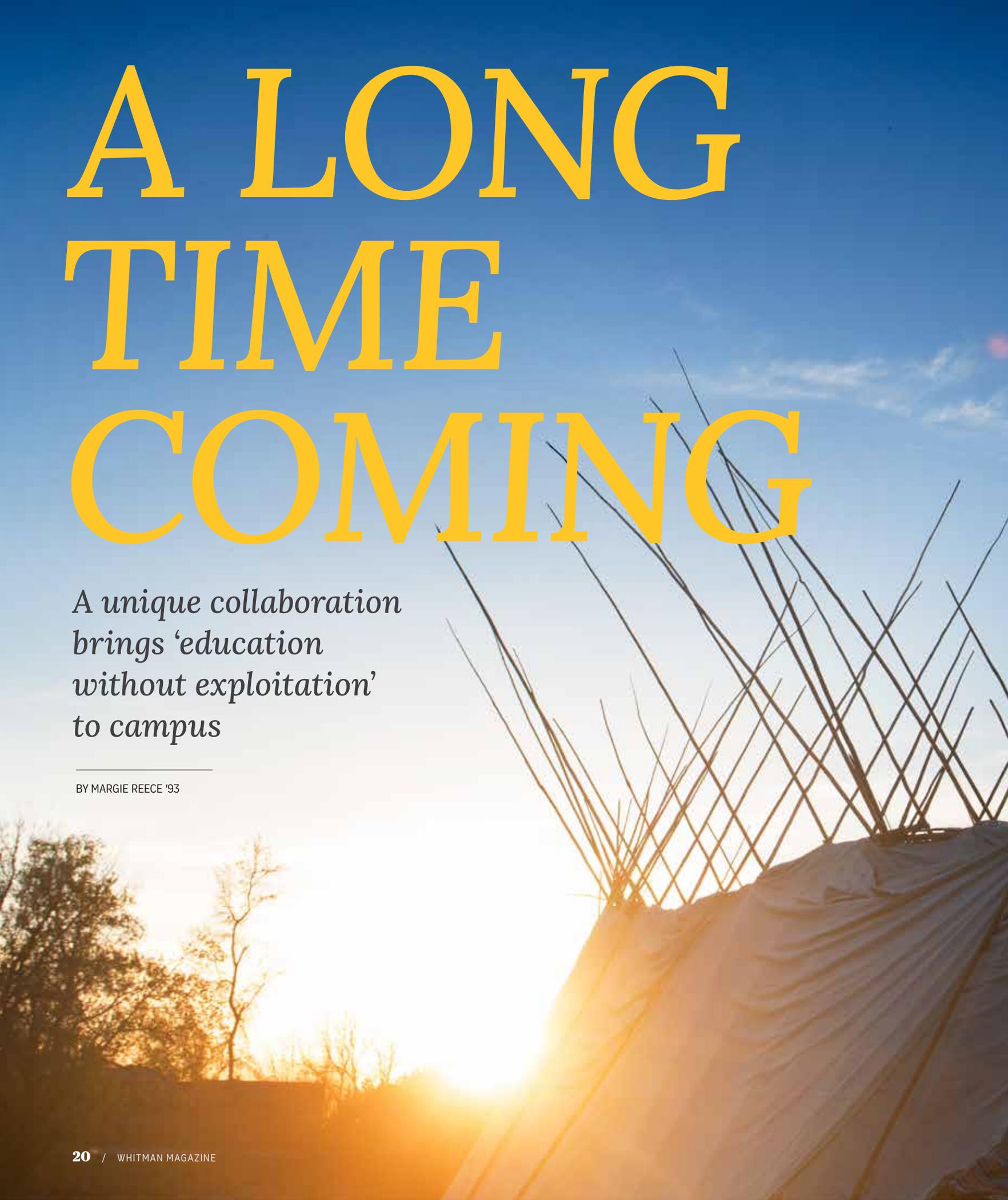
and Lucy Davis '23 helped create educational infographics about snakebite.

"What we didn't expect was some of the brilliant ideas these students came up with," Giri says. The initial six-week project developed into a 14-week summer Fellowship. The students received funding from the Career and Community Engagement Center's Whitman Internship Grant. "They created incredibly professional materials, a lot of which are ready for immediate use."

The project has been empowering for the students. For one thing, they've learned to work with people who have very different skills — and to translate scientific literature for their non-scientist team members. Students also learned to grapple with issues of audience and accessibility. Davis's team had to design with those who were colorblind in mind. And O'Rourke noted that many of her team's design challenges came from trying to make information accessible to someone in the midst of a medical emergency.

Benjamin stresses the importance of the project — not just for the students, but for the communities these materials hope to educate. "The work these students are doing is absolutely going to be lifesaving." 

A LONG TIME COMING



*A unique collaboration
brings 'education
without exploitation'
to campus*

BY MARGIE REECE '93



The April snow was unexpected.

To some, it was a seasonal novelty, to others an annoyance.

For Roger Amerman '80, it was a sign. The Native gods, and their hallowed sky and land, offered a blessing of sorts. It was a “purifying blanket” for the day when a Long Tent would begin to take shape on the campus of Whitman College — on land where for centuries, Indigenous peoples cherished their home among the woodlands and waters in the shadow of the Blue Mountains.

That day, April 16, 2022, Amerman was on Ankeny Field outside of Maxey Hall, in the freshly falling snow, with a small team that would help him bring to life and show respect for a deeply meaningful and iconic element of Southern Plateau Tribal heritage.

Spirits were high as the group relished the physical work — after months of planning — and the significance of what they were doing. In a matter of hours and days, an impressive structure — an authentic plateau Long Tent — rose up.

For a week of listening and learning, April 18–24, Native American dignitaries and hosts greeted visitors to the Long Tent just a few yards away from Treaty Rock. The location was meaningful and powerful — and with a story of its own, Amerman told those who attended the session “Long Tent 101.”

The granite landmark, near Whitman’s outdoor amphitheater, acknowledges the Treaty Council of 1855 held in Walla Walla. Amerman described how many upper Columbia and Snake River Indian tribes gathered just south of campus for the council, which resulted in the signing of three treaties establishing the Yakama, Nez Perce, and Umatilla Indian Reservations, and the ceding of all remaining tribal lands to the United States.

The Stories We Tell

It was another visit to Whitman that sparked what became a multi-institution, multitribe effort to bring the Long Tent to Whitman — the first such structure to grace a modern college campus.

In the fall of 2021, Amerman, a renowned bead tapestry artist, was at the college for

“Miles before I even get to the Long Tent location, in my mind’s eye I can remember the beauty, majesty and uniqueness of this anciently designed structure silhouetted like a perfectly shaped linear plateau in the evening sky, with its extensive framework of numerous, very long tipi poles rhythmically pointing in several directions toward an infinite array of stars in the night sky.” —ROGER AMERMAN IN “RETURNING HOME”



“You Are Here,” an exhibition of contemporary Indigenous artists at the Sheehan Gallery. During his visit, he encountered “The Whitman Legend,” a 1957 mural by Danish artist Kay Nielsen, which hangs in Maxey West. The highly contested piece illustrates a mythologized version of the story of the Whitman Mission — minimizing Indigenous presence, justifying settler claims to the land and celebrating Manifest Destiny.

Amerman, who is also a former park ranger at Whitman Mission, expressed a viscerally negative reaction to the painting, noting it was part of the larger problem of the historical erasure of Native presence on Whitman’s campus. His proposed an antidote: Build a Long Tent here and create programming to highlight the continued presence of Indigenous peoples, making that presence felt and heard at Whitman and in Walla Walla.

Lonnie Sammaripa served with Amerman as a tribal leader and educator on “kwalk ineet: The Long Tent” working group (see page 25). He says he was drawn to the project by the opportunity to “bring

truths into light ... and educate tribal knowledge without exploiting their sensitive knowledge to the public, as some things are meant only for the tribe(s).”

For Whitman senior Jaden McGinty, an anthropology-environmental studies major from Boise, Idaho, the Long Tent “marked a distinct turning point for the way we as a community and institution interact with our Native neighbors,” he says. “It displayed a commitment to tribal sovereignty and learning from people who have often been pushed to the side by academics. It also makes clear how much more work Whitman has to do to right the wrongs of our past and build a deeper relationship with the Native communities — but the Long Tent shows we’re on the right path.”

Friendship & Fellowship

The Long Tent Opening Ceremonies, held Monday, April 18, 2022, drew a crowd of Whitman and Walla Walla community members. Whitman welcomed elders and dignitaries from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)



An historic rising. Top: Roger Amerman welcomes visitors to the Long Tent and shares the cultural significance of the monumental structure. Bottom: Stan Thayne, Whitman senior lecturer of environmental studies, was on the team that built the Long Tent, the first on a modern college campus.



0.54 INDIAN DINING ROOM
Plateau Indians feasting in Long Tent interior. Photograph postcard courtesy of Roger Amerman.



Colorized photographic postcard of the Long Tent in a large tipi encampment on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in the early 1900s. Taylor and Ruby Family Photograph.



Chief Homelis ceremony inside the Long Tent. Photograph postcard courtesy of Roger Amerman.



Edward Latham photo of regular canvas tipi family dwelling. Print from negative held at the University of Washington. Whitman College and Northwest Archives.



In the Walla Walla Sahaptin language, the Long Tent is known as “kwalk ineet” and is distinct to Native American tribes of the Columbia Plateau.

Lee Moorhouse photo of Rosa Paul (Walla Walla Tribe) in front of tule mat tipi. Whitman College and Northwest Archives.

About kwalk ineet

The Long Tent has a 1,000-year history and legacy, evolving over time. This modern long tent community structure is a cotton canvas-covered version of the original tule mat lodge or longhouse, which was constructed using mats made of tule (a type of reed) that was abundant along rivers and marshes in the Plateau Region of North America and Canada. The tribes who lived in the different tule mat lodge-style houses included the Yakama, Walla Walla, Spokane, Palouse, Nez Perce, Modoc, Klamath, Coeur d’Alene and Cayuse people.

Over time, the Long Tent evolved to meet the needs of the hardworking plateau people. They needed to be able to build the structure and take it down quickly and efficiently as they moved through diverse landscapes to harvest foods and secure resources seasonally. The tent also became a community gathering place—growing to its very long pyramidal shape, like the Long Tent that sat on Whitman College’s Ankeny Field in the spring of 2022.

During the active seasons of the year, the Long Tent offered a place where the tribes could pool their energy and resources and care for their extended families. In the winter months, the focus in the tent turned more to teaching skills, sharing history and cultural wisdom through oral storytelling, and nurturing the mind, body and spirit of the individual and community.

“I got to help build the Long Tent, which was a really special experience for me. Being a part of the construction meant I got to bond with the workers and Roger, in a special way. It was probably the greatest learning experience I had this year.” —JADEN MCGINTY '23



The Long Tent Opening Ceremonies, March 18, 2022. From left: Lonnie Sammaripa (Yakama and Nez Perce); Samuel Penney (Nez Perce); Modesta Minthorn (CTUIR); E. Thomas Morning Owl (CTUIR); Lindsey Watchman (CTUIR); Fred Hill Sr. (CTUIR); Joe Davis '80, chair of the Whitman College Board of Trustees; Roger Amerman '80 (Choctaw); Boots Pond (CTUIR); Kathy Murray, former Whitman president; Alzada Tipton, provost; President Sarah Bolton and Don Sampson, executive director of the CTUIR.

and neighboring tribes—including honored guest Don Sampson, the hereditary Chief of the Walúlapam (“Walla Walla people”) and executive director of the CTUIR.

“No other college has ever been honored with the raising of a Long Tent,” said then Whitman President Kathy Murray at the ceremony. “As I stand before the Long Tent today, I am filled with a sense of wonder and thankfulness.” Incoming Whitman president Sarah Bolton was also a special guest that day, when she was able to witness the unique event and meet Native leaders from the area—and share her interest in continuing to strengthen ties between the communities.

Guests took part in authentic Native ceremonial activities and enjoyed a buffet of local first foods. Learn more about the menu at whitman.edu/magazine.

“The Opening Ceremony was unlike anything I’ve experienced in my nearly 18 years as part of the college,” says Noah Leavitt, director of the Career and Community Engagement Center and one of the

organizers. “It was energizing, instructive, dramatic, insightful and unforgettable.”

For one newly hired Whitman staff member, it was a “pleasant surprise” to learn the Long Tent would be on campus—like her worlds colliding. Jeanine Gordon is an enrolled Tribal member who grew up on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Gordon joined Whitman as the printing and mailing manager in the Office of Communications at the end of March 2022. The campus was already abuzz with talk of the pending arrival of the tent, and Gordon was particularly pleased to see many familiar faces during one of her first weeks on campus.

“It was like a family reunion for me, getting to see and visit with the featured speakers and Tribal government officials who participated that week in the different events,” she says. Not long after, Gordon accepted a spot on the Whitman College Advisory Council for CTUIR Collaboration.



Welcomed guests. Roger Amerman speaks to the crowd at the Opening Ceremonies for the Long Tent on Ankeny Field with Don Sampson (at left), executive director of the CTUIR.



Tribal experts from across the Pacific Northwest visited campus to share their wisdom with the Whitman and greater community. From left: Lonnie Sammaripa (Yakama and Nez Perce) and Fred Hill Sr. (CTUIR).



Learning in the Long Tent

Over the course of the week, nearly 200 students from more than a dozen classes had time — learning from Native elders and experts — in the Long Tent.

“It became a memorable, stripped-down classroom, that thoroughly brought out the best of the bright minds at Whitman,” Sammaripa says. “It demonstrated not all that can be taught is found in text or online, but can be brought to the attention in an intimate space. It’s how our elders taught us, and it’s something I wanted to provide for students and their higher education teachers.”

Here are a few of the courses that had class time under the poles and canvas tarps:

Intro To Environmental Studies with Susanne Altermann, senior lecturer of biology. Guest speaker Stella Sammaripa shared her plans for restoration of Indian dogbane hemp.

Consuming Divinity: Food & Religion with Xiabo Yuan, assistant professor of anthropology. Guest speaker Lonnie Sammaripa helped the class better understand how Native people approach foraging, hunting and food ceremonies in relation to the land and seasons.

First Year Seminar with Jack Iverson, professor of French and francophone studies. Guest speakers Roger Amerman and E. Thomas Morning Owl provided a brief overview of the Long Tent’s role in Sahaptin and Salish/Shuswap life, and discussed the impact of the removal and relocation of Native peoples.

Intro U.S. Politics & Policymaking: Treaty of 1855 with Susanne Beechey, associate professor of politics. Guest speaker Lonnie Sammaripa explored government practices from the Treaty of 1855 to Manifest Destiny to the more

Making It Happen

The Long Tent Working Group included Whitman College and regional Native community members.

- » **Roger Amerman '80** (Choctaw)
- » **Cheysen Cabuyadao-Sipe '23**
- » **Tony Ichsan**, director of facilities
- » **Kynde Kiefel**, Sheehan Gallery director
- » **Helen Kim**, associate dean for faculty development and professor of sociology
- » **Noah Leavitt**, director of the Career and Community Engagement Center
- » **Lonnie Sammaripa** (Yakama and Nez Perce)
- » **Stan Thayne**, senior lecturer of environmental studies
- » **Alzada Tipton**, provost and dean of faculty

“Thanks go to many across campus and in the Tribal communities for the overall planning, execution and success of this epic event,” says Noah Leavitt.

Partners

The Long Tent was made possible through collaboration with the following partners:

- » Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- » Tamástslikt Cultural Institute
- » Nixya’awii Community School
- » Whitman Mission National Historic Site

Financial investment was provided by Whitman’s Office of the Provost and Dean of the Faculty.

recent government practice of Indian Self-Determination.

Climate Change with Kirsten Nicolaysen, professor of geology. Guest speaker Lonnie Sammaripa discussed the ways that the Native community relies on music, poetry and the written word to build faith, share their beliefs and peacefully fight against environmental injustices.

Planting Seeds of Hope

“It was an exceptionally powerful week of conversation, learning, respect-building and relationship-strengthening,” Amerman says.

Sammaripa believes those special days in April were also the start of something that will continue to grow.

“We as teachers plant a seed by sharing our wisdom, to see that the students will grow with humility, humanity and compassion, and apply those to their work to make a positive and influential change. ... The more seeds you plant to make that vibrant change, the more likeminded that positive fruition will have toward our society, Sammaripa says. “That was something that my elders taught to secure a hope for a better future.” **W**

SEE THE BUILD! Go to whitman.edu/magazine to watch the Long Tent take shape and see more photos from this epic week of learning.



An ongoing agreement. CTUIR leaders Lindsey Watchman and Boots Pond sign the 2022 Memorandum of Agreement.

Honoring Native Voices

As part of the Long Tent experience, Lonnie Sammaripa encouraged the college to bring in native voices and indigenous perspectives based on expertise. “To educate on traditional knowledge takes the right leaders, teachers, public speakers from the tribal perspectives, so as NOT to exploit the more sensitive information,” he says.

Talks and invited speakers included:

The Long Tent as Ceremonial Space with Fred Hill Sr. (CTUIR)

Living in Two Worlds: Following Tamalwit and Contemporary World with Marjorie Waheneka (Cayuse, Palouse, Umatilla and Warm Springs descent)

Place Names with E. Thomas Morning Owl (CTUIR) and Nakia Williamson (Nez Perce)

Food, Health, Lifeways with Mildred Quaempts (CTUIR) and Linda Sampson (CTUIR)

The Long Tent: Reclamation of Indian Dogbane Hemp, Traveling Corridors of Inland Northwest and Palouse History with Josiah Pinkham (Nez Perce), Tony Washines (Yakama) and Stella Sammaripa (Nez Perce)

The Whitman Legend: A Candid Cultural Conversation with Michael Holloman (Colville)

Practices of Kinship and Sovereignty— Fishing, Wagering and Community on the Indigenous Columbia Plateau with Laurie Arnold (Colville) and Emily Washines (Yakama)

Riparian Restoration and First Foods—booth presentations from a variety of community organizations, including:

- » Wenix Red Elk, First Foods (CTUIR Department of Natural Resources)
- » Ethan Green and Kris Fischer, River Vision-Flood Plain Restoration (CTUIR Fisheries)
- » Kate Kunkel-Patterson '13, Whitman Mission (National Park Service, Whitman Mission)

The Long Tent Closing Ceremony with Wilson Wewa (Warm Springs)

A New Agreement

2017 Whitman College and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on May 19.

2022 Whitman College and CTUIR sign a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which renews and builds on the previous document. The agreement was signed moments before the April 18, 2022, Long Tent Opening Ceremonies. From the 2022 MOA: “This Agreement is intended to facilitate collaboration on the development of curriculum with a focus on Native American Studies, and Native American education, recruitment, and retention efforts at Whitman which will mutually benefit the signing parties.”

Read the 2022 MOA at whitman.edu/magazine.

WHAT REMAINS

Important work at the Maxey Museum helps return Native remains

BY JODIE NICOTRA

Iowa, 1971.

Construction workers unearth the skeletal remains of 26 white settlers and one Native American woman and her baby. The remains of the 26 settlers are buried in a local cemetery. The remains of the Native woman and her child are sent to the state archaeologist for study.

This was far from the first time the remains of Native people had been treated disrespectfully in the U.S. But it was the catalyst for the most important legislation concerning Native American cultural identity since the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act and the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

The 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act—otherwise known as NAGPRA—states any museum or institution receiving federal funds must return human remains and other objects to their original communities. These include direct descendants, culturally related tribes and Native Hawaiian groups.

Libby Miller, director of the Maxey Museum and Whitman NAGPRA coordinator, believes this work, while challenging, can also be reparative. Museums, including the Maxey Museum, never had a right to Native ancestral remains and other cultural objects in the first place. Returning them so they can be reburied according to cultural customs is a step toward healing centuries of injustice toward Native communities.

NAGPRA and Whitman's Maxey Museum

Miller, whose doctorate in art history focused on modern Egyptian art, has long been interested in decolonial museum practices. "Museum spaces can be the ways we engage thoughtfully and respectfully with the past," she says. "They can become sites for reparative justice and storytelling about who we are and how we connect to each other and build community in the present."

When NAGPRA passed, the Maxey Museum had been underfunded, underutilized and mostly ignored. In fact, its nearly 4,000 artifacts weren't even cataloged—and, as Miller points out, "You can't repatriate anything if you don't know what you have."

In the 1990s, Whitman hired a museum registrar to catalog its artifacts. Jennifer Karson Engum, a cultural anthropologist and NAGPRA coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), has also served as a consultant for NAGPRA work. In 2008, Engum oversaw on Whitman's behalf a large repatriation to the CTUIR of ancestral remains and associated funerary objects. Most of these had been excavated along the Columbia River in the 1940s prior to the construction of the McNary Dam.

When Miller became director of the museum in 2017, she focused on showing how the museum could be pedagogically relevant, also taking over as NAGPRA coordinator.

That same year, her NAGPRA work took on a greater importance with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Whitman and the CTUIR to formalize an ongoing partnership.

The Need for Repatriation

More than 30 years after NAGPRA passed, U.S. museums still have by some estimates hundreds of thousands of remains in need of repatriation.

Repatriation involves a certain level of detective work due to poor record-keeping. As a result, museum curators rely on a combination of archival research and calling around to find the provenance of remains. In more contentious cases, DNA testing is sometimes used, although tribes and museum curators agree that remains should be disturbed as little as possible.

Miller has been working to repatriate a human cranium that was in the museum's collections. In the accession records, it was listed simply as "Skull, human. Arizona." Without further information, Miller and the previous NAGPRA consultant assumed it was Native.

Miller first looked in the Whitman College archives for files pertaining to the donor in the hopes that she would find clues. That was unsuccessful. Miller then contacted the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona, partly on what proved to be erroneous information that their Tribal Historic Preservation Office had carried out repatriations where there was no clear cultural affiliation. They agreed to consult with Miller despite the unclear provenance of the artifact.

The Gila River Cultural Resource Specialist asked Miller to do a consultation with an osteologist, who came to Whitman to visually examine the skull. Based on teeth wear patterns, dental work and facial structure, the osteologist determined the cranium was not Native.



Libby Miller, director of the Maxey Museum and Whitman NAGPRA coordinator

The work has been humbling. "You get things wrong a lot," Miller says. For instance, the Maxey Museum catalog, which dates back to the 1990s, referred to human remains in ways that, while standard at the time, are now considered culturally insensitive. One repatriation specialist Miller worked with called out the catalog's frequent use of "skeleton" and "skull," which evoke spooky Halloween imagery more than the reality of their humanity.

"It's stuff like that where you just have to be able to say, 'Yup, you're right. I will try to do better,'" Miller says. She has been talking to the Whitman archivist about how to amend the catalogs so they are both more accessible and more respectful.

A Basis for Reparation

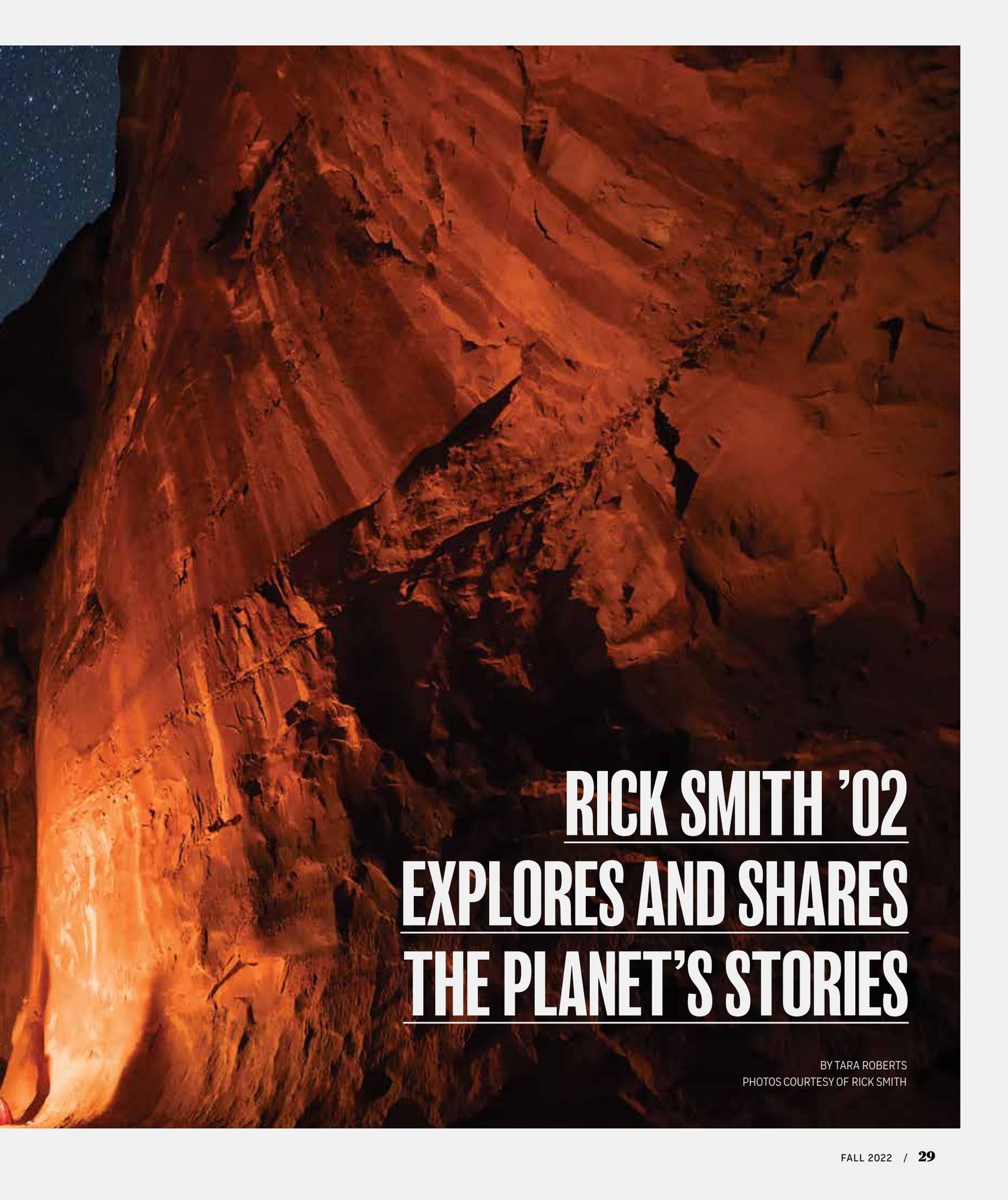
Repatriation can't right the historical wrongs or restore what was lost. Yet the respectful reburial of stolen ancestral remains is necessary to begin the work of cultural and spiritual reparation.

For Miller, the work of NAGPRA is important not only for the tribes whose ancestors and culture has been damaged by colonial practices, but also for the colonizers.

"I think there's an ethical obligation to where you can let NAGPRA be a foundation upon which to build new relationships," she says. "That requires not just applying NAGPRA to the letter of the law, but having an ethical commitment to repatriation. And I think that's better for the spiritual health for not only your tribal partners, but also for institutions like Whitman." 



GOING DEEP



RICK SMITH '02
EXPLORES AND SHARES
THE PLANET'S STORIES

BY TARA ROBERTS
PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK SMITH



WHETHER STAKED OUT on a well-worn bear trail on a wild island off the coast of Alaska or standing in the corner of a room filled with community leaders in Ghana, Rick Smith's job is to watch and wait.

As a director of photography for documentaries, Smith doesn't make the action happen. But with patience and diligence, he's there to capture the moment it does.

"When you make compelling images, it's a very satisfying process. Even outside of the finished film, you are able to create something that has either an aesthetic beauty to it, or you're trying to capture moments of humanity," Smith says. "Documentary work, when done right, there's an intimacy."

Smith graduated from Whitman College

in 2002 with a degree in biology. He didn't realize his education was setting him up for his award-winning career, but he had a sense he could try anything.

"At Whitman, you start to get excited about the world," he says. "Whitman instilled in me a type of intellectual curiosity and confidence that helped me feel like I truly could pick any career path—no matter how improbable it seemed at the time."

AN UNEXPECTED ADVENTURE

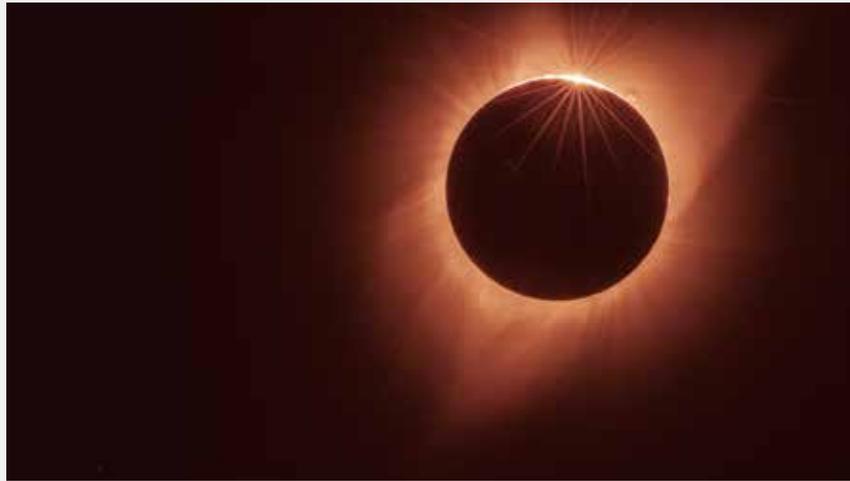
As a kid, Smith was fascinated by the type of stories he'd eventually help tell. He loved Mr. Wizard, Bill Nye the Science Guy, Jacques Cousteau's adventure documentaries—any program about science and nature.

In action.

Above: Rick Smith hikes through the jungle in search of brown spider monkeys (*Ateles hybridus*), Magdalena River Valley, Colombia. Photo by Danny Schmidt.

Previous spread: Canyon in Southern Utah.

**“DOCUMENTARY WORK,
WHEN DONE RIGHT,
THERE’S AN INTIMACY.”**



Black to back.

Above: Solar eclipse—the diamond ring effect emerges moments after totality. Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming.

Mackenzie Range.

Left: Northwest Territories, Canada, where Smith was in search of Dall sheep in the backcountry.



Behind the scenes. Filming primate researchers in the Magdalena River Valley, Colombia; photo by Danny Schmidt.

“It just makes the world a bigger place,” he says. “It shows the complexity of the world; it shows that people are passionate about things that you might never have heard about.”

At Whitman, he enjoyed learning about science communication and the history of science. He studied abroad in Costa Rica his junior year, and the rigorous tropical ecology program convinced him he needed to make adventure a permanent part of his life.

“You’re cruising around incredible, diverse landscapes, and it just felt sort of magical.”

Smith returned to Costa Rica after graduation to be a teaching assistant in the program and remained convinced he’d continue toward being a biologist. He worked a few research jobs and started applying to graduate schools. In a bold leap, he chose the Master of Fine Arts program in science and natural history filmmaking at Montana State University in Bozeman.

The shift to the humanities was tricky. Science had trained Smith to look at the world in an analytical, often dispassionate way. Filmmaking and film studies required a different level of emotion and personal voice.

Smith made it through with time and desire. His innate understanding of technical systems helped him learn the equipment, and his determination landed him freelance jobs where he could practice his skills.

Breaking into the documentary business wasn’t a linear path.

“You can work on a great project and then it can be another year before you

have another chance to prove yourself or get another paying gig,” he says. “It can be tough. I know a lot of people that are in that same position, and the advice I give them is, the sooner you make it your 100% focus, the quicker it’ll happen. ... It’s really about being able to say ‘yes’ as often as possible.”

Smith’s big breaks came through his connections with classmates and from being at the right place at the right time. First, a colleague invited him to work on a National Geographic series. Then, Zero Point Zero—the production company behind shows like “Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown”—started filming a series called “MeatEater” based out of Bozeman.

They needed camera people who could run around the mountains packing a ton of gear. Smith was ready.

SHARING THE WORLD

As a director of photography, Smith ensures he and his crew capture the imagery that meets a story’s needs, guided by the film or show’s director. He also serves as an interface between the filmmaker’s creative vision and the technical realities of filming.

About a third of Smith’s work is “blue-chip” wildlife shots that show animals in nature, with no sign of human interference. Filming those moments takes a small crew and a huge amount of time—maybe fifteen hours a day for weeks to film an event that happens in less than a minute.

“So you’re trying to film a grizzly bear predate an elk calf. You know it happens a certain time of year, roughly in a certain area,” he says. “Your whole purpose is to





Zanzibar, Tanzania.

A fisherman burns algae off his traditional wooden catamaran.

HIGHLIGHTS

REEL

Rick Smith's work varies from people-centered stories to nature shots without evidence of human interference. Here's a small sampling of projects—to view clips from these projects and more, visit ricksmithmedia.com.

"Epic Yellowstone,"

an Emmy award-winning four-part Smithsonian Channel documentary packed with blue-chip wildlife shots (principal camera)

"The Last Artifact,"

a PBS documentary about the science of metrology and the global effort to redefine the kilogram (director of photography)

"Connected,"

a Netflix science show hosted by science journalist and RadioLab co-host Latif Nasser (series director of photography)

"Rewind,"

an Emmy-nominated social documentary that chronicles a young man's use of home video footage from the 1990s to explore the cyclical nature of child sexual abuse (cinematographer)

"Finding Traction,"

a PBS documentary about ultramarathoner Nikki Kimball running the 273-mile Long Trail in Vermont (camera and producer)

“YOUR WHOLE PURPOSE IS TO CAPTURE A MOMENT WHEN THEY DO SOMETHING THAT THEY USUALLY DON’T DO.”

capture a moment when they do something they usually don’t do.”

The rest of Smith’s work is hosted programming, where a person is in front of the camera telling the story, often at a dramatic or remote location.

“You get to see how people from all over the world exist. That’s what makes the travel exciting.”

While Smith feels privileged to have such incredible opportunities, he approaches his work with humility and a deep appreciation for the other people behind the cameras, in front of the cameras and, ultimately, watching the final film.

“I am always inspired by the generosity and kindness of the subjects I work with — they let me into their lives and allow me to do my job of documenting them and the world they live in. You hope that you’re creating content that will help people understand places they would otherwise never think of, never go,” he says. “You’re trying to give depth to the world.” 

Following the rains.

Right: Wildebeests stream across the horizon as they search for green grass. Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.

A walk in the park.

Below: A large bull bison stands among the sage brush of Blacktail Plateau in Yellowstone National Park.





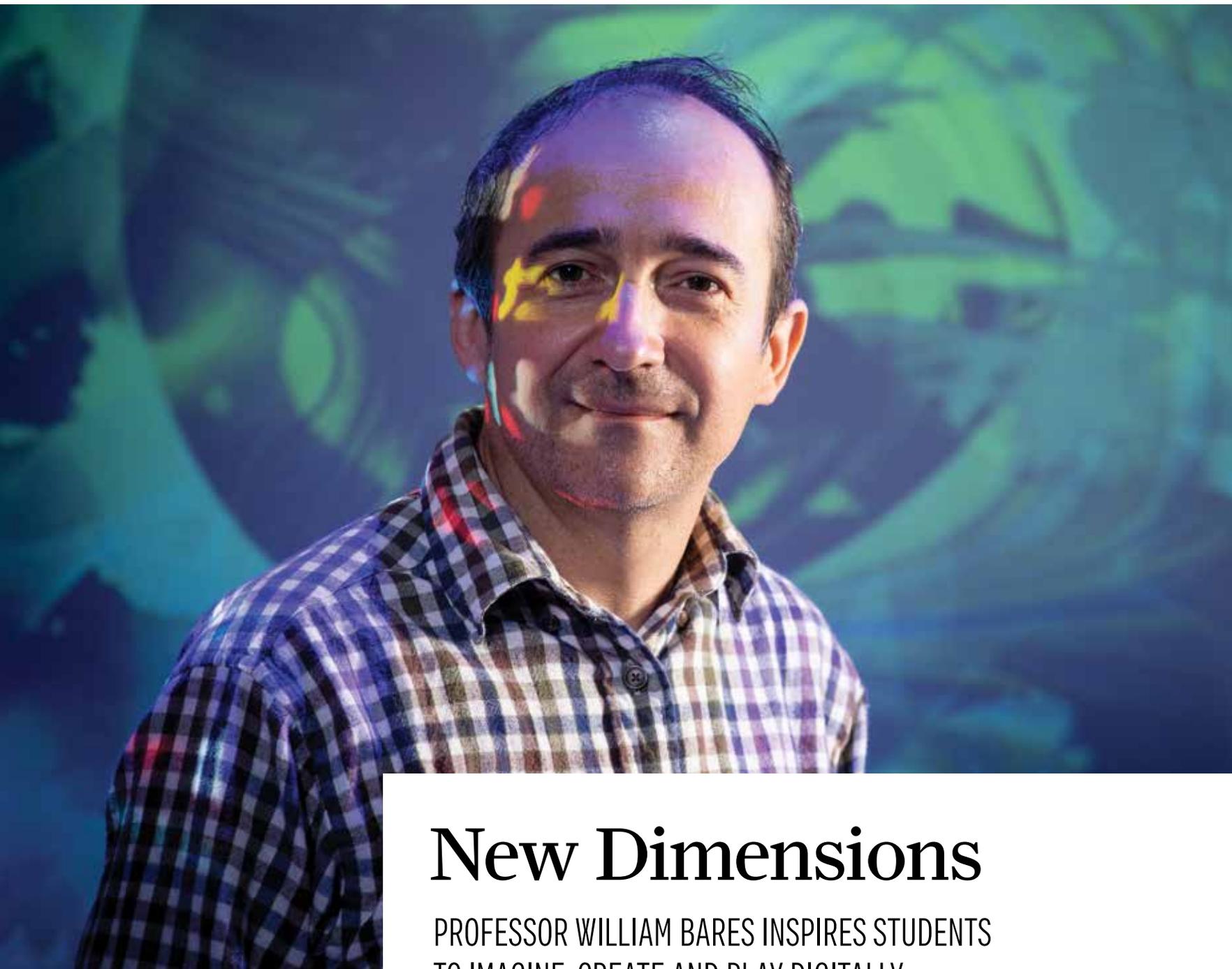
NEW ADVENTURES

Rick Smith's projects take him to incredible places on the planet, where he meets incredible people. Here are some recent and upcoming projects:

"Nomad with Carlton McCoy," a CNN show where a chef/sommelier searches the world for fascinating food, music, art and culture, premiered in May 2022. Smith followed McCoy from Washington, D.C., to Toronto, Seoul and Ghana.

In the spring of 2022, Smith headed to **Gorongosa National Park** in Mozambique to explore the efforts of conservationists to create a sustainable coffee-growing industry on Mount Gorongosa.

In June 2022, Smith was in the Arctic to shoot a six-part PBS series called **"Human Footprint,"** which tells the stories of how humans interact with the world.



New Dimensions

PROFESSOR WILLIAM BARES INSPIRES STUDENTS TO IMAGINE, CREATE AND PLAY DIGITALLY

BY TARA ROBERTS

WHEN WILLIAM BARES WAS young, he loved video arcades. He played a few games, but he mostly studied them — sketching their graphics, examining how they worked, noticing their stories.

At home, he used his Atari computer to practice making graphics. Soon, he was programming his own games.

Flash forward, and Bares' career isn't so different from his fascination at age 12. As an associate professor of computer science at Whitman College, Bares uses computer programming and

advanced equipment to create surprising, accessible, story-rich digital experiences.

Through his Immersive Stories Lab, he gives students an opportunity to discover the same thrill he felt in the arcade.

"I hope they become inspired to create the amazing," he says. "We can do amazing things here at Whitman. You may think of Hollywood and movie special effects and these interactive, immersive experiences being the stuff you have to be at Pixar or Disney to do. We can do this here too."



KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

“We can do amazing things here at Whitman. You may think of Hollywood and movie special effects and these interactive, immersive experiences ... at Pixar or Disney. We can do this here too.”

—WILLIAM BARES, associate professor of computer science

designs with an eye-tracking device and a Kinect full-body motion sensor. With a grant from the nonprofit Teach Access, Bares turned the results of their research into a module with open-source software, example programs and instructions for other teachers to use.

In 2021, he put the module to work in his own classroom. Students in Bares’ Intelligent User Interfaces course used the Immersive Stories Lab to design accessibility-focused projects.

For example, one team built an adaptive version of the classic video game Pong. The game is projected on the floor, and players move the paddles using their bodies. But there’s not a set way to move — the game calibrates to the range of motion and speed of each player.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

Bares is excited not only to introduce more students to the Immersive Stories Lab, but also to extend its capabilities across campus and the community. For example, during the pandemic, he and his students worked with the theater department to create a tool to allow performers to rehearse remotely. He’s eager to find collaborators in more disciplines.

“The stuff I do with technology is helping people tell stories,” he says. “Being at a smaller college like Whitman makes it much easier to make these connections with people who have creative stories to tell — from whatever discipline that they they’re coming from, whether it’s arts, theater, biology, chemistry.”

He’s also working with community partners to develop outreach programs for younger minds. By introducing kids to computer programming, he hopes to help them realize, as he did, that they don’t just have to play games or watch movies — they can create through tech.

“That’s the big message that I teach,” he says. “You can make this too.” 

DIGITAL WORLDS ... AND DUCKS!

Bares arrived at Whitman in the fall of 2020 and got to work on the Immersive Stories Lab, setting up computers, projectors and screens in the basement of his faculty rental house.

One of his early projects was a game to show prospective students over Zoom. He was inspired by a campus landmark: Lakum Duckum.

He programmed a virtual pond, projecting it on the lab’s floor, and coded digital ducks to follow a human player walking across the pond’s surface. The more ducks that follow you, the louder the flock quacks.

The lab — now located in Olin Hall — is designed for students to create their own digital worlds, whether through immersive displays like the duck pond, motion capture, or virtual or augmented reality.

In the summer of 2021, Bares worked with now Whitman senior Abdelrahman “Awadly” Elawadly, a computer science and mathematics major, to explore ways to create accessible

IMMERSIVE WORLDS COME TO LIFE

William Bares encourages his students to go beyond the familiar.

“I want students to experiment with more diverse forms of interactivity, more diverse stories, more inclusive stories that will further enrich experiences that everyone has through storytelling,” he says.

One recent Whitman graduate, anthropology major Eva Coulon ’22, embraced this challenge.

Her senior thesis was about GPT-3, a language prediction model that produces remarkably human-like text. Coulon is interested in how people and GPT-3 both use collage, taking pieces of ideas and putting them together in new ways.

After taking Bares’ Intelligent User Interfaces course in the fall, Coulon spent the spring learning digital design tools in a class on new genre art.

For her final project, she decided to create an immersive, interactive collage using skills from all these areas.

Inspired by her mother, she fed GPT-3 the classic children’s book “Harold and the Purple Crayon,” letting the program rewrite passages. She asked family and friends to read the story aloud, making an audio stream that visitors hear when they enter her project.

Coulon programmed the walls of the project to be a digital canvas. As visitors move their bodies, purple drawings appear.

“What I think I want to come across, and what ‘Harold and the Purple Crayon’ is kind of all about, is this world-building and adding on and making new,” she says. “Creating your own reality.”

REUNION



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Class Notes



A Far-flung & Fascinating International Treasure Hunt

In March 2022, a group of enthusiastic travelers, all with Whitman College in common, took in the treasures of Morocco and Andalusia, Spain, on a multiweek adventure, organized by the Office of Alumni Relations.

Some of the cohort—of alumni, guests and Whitman staff—had waited years to have this expedition become a reality. Like many travel plans in the spring of 2020, the trip was originally postponed because of the global pandemic. The 2022 group began their journey by exploring areas of Morocco. For the second part of the odyssey, the group bid farewell to the North African country and traveled to the southern Spain province of Andalusia, where they spent time in two awe-provoking cities, Granada and Seville.

As is the tradition with Whitman-organized alumni trips, the group also included an expert faculty member, in this case, Associate Professor of Religion Lauren Osborne.

"It was such a joy to travel with intellectually curious and adventurous Whitman alums," Osborne says. "The group was

eager to learn and check out what was to be found around the corner in every Morocco medina (old town quarter) from Marrakech to Tangier, and across the water to Andalusia in Spain. The group loved exploring the shared religious histories of the intersection of North Africa and Europe."

A Few Highlights of Many

- Meknes, a 17th-century rival to Versailles, with its grand buildings, intricate gates and narrow streets
- The archaeological site of Volubilis, one of the best-preserved Roman towns in North Africa
- A stay in the imperial city of Fes at the luxurious Palais Faraj, with its stunning architectural details and views
- Granada's Alhambra—the gardens, courtyards, fountains and exquisite interiors
- La Mezquita in Córdoba, with its iconic red-and-white arches
- Alcázar of Seville, a palace built for King Peter of Castile

Out and about. Top: The travelers were treated to a private tour of the Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies, a museum and cultural center dedicated to the study of Morocco and Morocco–United States relations. Inset, pictured left-to right: Hicham El Alioui (Morocco tour guide), Tom Whittaker '66, Kit Whittaker '66, Sarah Michelson '82, Lauren Riker (Whitman College trip coordinator), Jan Jecha, Larry Stone '77, Associate Professor of Religion Lauren Osborne, Annika Michelson, Ruth Swanson, Jim Casebolt '83, Linda Friedman, Greg "Pepper" Martin '75, Carolyn Martin '77, Casey Mickelson '75, Lynn Mickelson '75, Bob Coleman '77, Jennifer Coleman '78, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Steve Setchell.

Interested in the Alumni Association Travel program? The Office of Alumni Relations is working to select our next destination. Head to whitman.edu/alumnitravel for the most up-to-date information.



Bob Freeman '48 is a Navy veteran, retired psychologist, education director and Washington State Penitentiary education director and associate superintendent, published author, and classic car enthusiast. He's also an artist: For the past 70 years he has explored mixed media and found object sculpture, ranging from realistic interpretations to fantastic and abstract creations. A Walla Walla resident, he gives occasional presentations to area service clubs.



A Whittie tradition: The Washington State Society Potlatch Charity Gala in Washington D.C., has brought alumni together for 20 years. Attending the May 2002 event were (back row, left to right) Bob Zillig, **Connie Walsh Zillig '82**, **Scott Baker '02**, **Greg Steigerwald '18**, **Kieta Mall Skoglund '89** (table host). Front row, left to right: **Alexander Shaw '18**, **Charlotte Bibb Hammond '79**, **Stephen Hammond '79** (see page 10), **Alecia Walter O'Sullivan '97**.



Rob Lesser '67 was named one of the 100 Great Explorers of the Last 100 Years by explorersweb.com. He was celebrated for expedition whitewater kayaking, paving the way for lifestyle adventure kayakers. In addition to impressive U.S. descents, Lesser was one of the first kayakers to widely travel the world, recording descents in Chile, New Zealand, Mexico, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Norway. He eventually pioneered some of the earliest whitewater festivals in the United States and spearheaded river conservation efforts.

1950s

Junius Rochester '57 shared a five-minute video recalling the Seattle World's Fair of 1962 on the 60th anniversary of the celebration. View the video at whitman.edu/magazine. Rochester continues to write for PostAlley.org, a Seattle-based writers' collective aimed at helping fill gaps in local journalism and exploring new ways of delivering quality reporting and commentary. His pieces on regional history may be found at postalley.org/author/rochester.

1970s

David Grimes '73 was very pleasantly surprised on a recent vacation in Pasadena, California to find that the Whitman Blues Baseball team was playing against Caltech. Grimes, who lives in New Orleans, reported, "It was a great game and fun to be a Whittie once again."

in West Bend at an awards ceremony in February 2022. Her sculptural wall pieces, incorporating bird nests and other remnants of a collaborative research project on bird behavior at the Carroll University field station, were among over 1,000 works submitted and 52 accepted for the show. Cropper is a professor of art at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

1980s

Amy Cropper '85 earned the first-place award at the 2022 Wisconsin Artists Biennial at the Museum of Wisconsin Artists

Dave Mastin '88 is serving his first year as vice president of government affairs at the Association of Washington



Scott Lawley '77, center, met up with **John Wiseley '99**, right, and **Joe Cohen '12**, left, at a Seattle Seawolves rugby game. Lawley says, "It was a blast to talk rugby with other Whitman ruggers."

Business, where he acts as the association's chief lobbyist and directs its legislative and regulatory programs.

Kirby Mason '86 has been named a 2022 Georgia Super Lawyer. Attorneys are selected based upon peer review, professional achievements and independent research and have achieved distinction in their respective practices of law. Mason practices medical malpractice law for HunterMaclean in Savannah.

1990s

Jeff Grimm '92 began a four-year term as director of the behavioral neuroscience program at Western Washington University (WWU) in September. He and wife **Stephanie Davis Grimm '91** recently celebrated their 20th year at WWU and 27 years of marriage.

Jason Brown '93 has been named senior vice president, portfolio management director for Morgan Stanley. Brown began his career with Morgan Stanley in 1995. He lives in San Gabriel, California, with his wife and three children.

Steve MacLean '93 started a new job as managing director of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) U.S. Arctic Program in Anchorage, Alaska, working to reduce pressures on Arctic wildlife.

Jesse Smith '97 recently filed as a Democratic candidate for Oregon State Representative for Oregon House District 18 in the mid-Willamette Valley. He will be challenging a two-term Republican incumbent in November 2022.

2000s

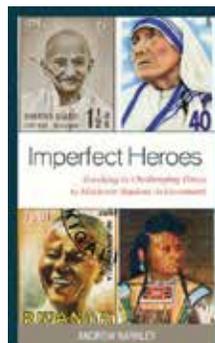
Liz Smith '02 received her second regional Emmy Award as a producer/writer with the PBS TV series, "Changing Seas." She also co-produced the feature documentary "YOUTH v GOV," following 21 youth taking on the U.S. government in a ground-breaking lawsuit over their constitutional right to a healthy climate. The documentary is available to watch on Netflix.

Laura Sanchez '07, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at UC Santa Cruz, has been chosen by

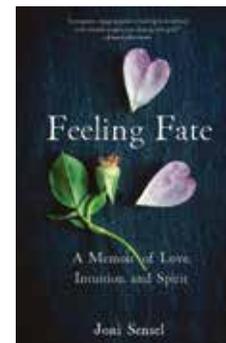
the American Society of Pharmacognosy as the 2022 winner of the Matt Suffness Young Investigator Award. The award is given in recognition of the research contributions of early career natural product scientists engaged in multidisciplinary research. Sanchez studies the chemistry by which cells and microbes communicate with one another or with their surroundings to coordinate biological functions in complex backgrounds. Sanchez earned her Ph.D. in chemistry and biochemistry at UC Santa Cruz. She was an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago before joining the UCSC faculty in 2021.

Rand Biersdorff Cutter '09 shared that husband **Brian Cutter '09** was awarded tenure at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where he teaches philosophy. She writes, "We are so grateful for the intellectual foundation we received at Whitman which paved the path to achieving this milestone." The news arrived three days after the birth of their fourth child, Miriam Grace, who joins siblings Leona, Anselm, and Penelope.

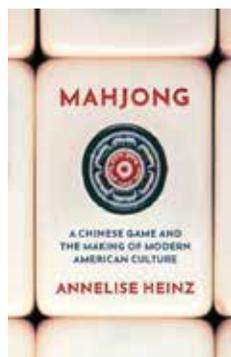
Alumni Authors



Andrew Barkley '84 has published "Imperfect Heroes: Teaching in Challenging Times to Motivate Student Achievement" (Rowman and Littlefield, 2022). Included are the inspiring and motivational stories of 12 "Teaching Heroes."



Joni Sensel '84 published "Feeling Fate: A Memoir of Love, Intuition, and Spirit" (She Writes Press, 2022). A grief memoir with a paranormal twist, the story explores how a dark intuition magnified her love and gratitude. A full-time writer, Sensel lives in Enumclaw, Washington.



Annelise Heinz '03 published "Mahjong: A Chinese Game and the Making of Modern American Culture" (Oxford University Press, 2021) illustrating how the spaces between tiles and the moments between games have fostered distinct social cultures in the U.S. The book was selected as a finalist for the Oregon Book Awards in nonfiction, and The Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association named the book their Pacific Coast Branch Book Award for "the outstanding first book on any historical subject." Heinz is an assistant professor of history at the University of Oregon and lives in Portland.



Mary Adam Thomas '85 has released her latest book exploring and celebrating the Living Building Challenge, the world's most stringent green building standard. "The PAE Living Building: Developer-Led, Nature-Inspired" (Ecotone Publishing, 2022) blends technical details with first-person accounts from the engineers, designers, builders and others who helped bring the PAE Living Building to Portland, Oregon. This is her third contribution to the Living Building Challenge Series.



In March 2022, these Whitman friends got together in Brazil — pictured on the world-famous "Selaron Steps" in Rio de Janeiro. Left to right: **Henry Gales '13**, **Kyle Bloomster '14** and **Máíkor Azuaje '14**.

Little Whitties



To **Ryan Smith '12** and **Heather Ferguson '11**, a son, Owen David Smith, born Jan. 26, 2022.



To **Gaea Campe '12** and **Peter Qualtere-Burcher '12**, a son, James Michael Qualtere, born Feb. 9, 2022.

Tell Us About It!

Whether you're just starting your first job, embarking on a career change, or preparing to retire after a fulfilling life's work, we want to help you share your news with your classmates. To submit your big news, visit whitman.edu/classnotes.



In Memoriam

1940s

Marjorie Bresko Michael '40, Feb. 22, 2022, in Ridgecrest, California. She married Chester "Chet" Michael in 1946 and the couple settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she began her long career with United Airlines, specializing in HR and industrial relations. Following her husband's death in 1988, she lived independently until age 100. Survivors include several nephews and extended family.

Louis Mackie '43, June 21, 2021, in Seattle. After Whitman, he married **Jean Terrill '43**. Mackie served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific, then started a career in the insurance business. He became president of United Pacific/Reliance Insurance Company in Tacoma, Washington. Predeceased by his wife, Mackie's survivors include two children; four grandchildren, including **Stacy Mackie Ricklefs '98**; and 10 great grandchildren.

Priscilla Winget Dauble '45, Jan. 30, 2022, in Walla Walla. She left Whitman and married Kenneth Dauble in 1943 before he deployed to England. After a brief posting in Washington, D.C., they returned to the Pacific Northwest and settled in Weston, Oregon, to raise five children. In the early 1960s, Dauble returned to Whitman to complete her degree and taught elementary school in Athena and Weston. In retirement, the couple operated a bed-and-breakfast in Milton-Freewater. Predeceased by her husband and a son, survivors include four children, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Roberta Gowen Montgomery '45, June 18, 2021, in Tacoma, Washington. A member of Delta Gamma while at Whitman, she married **Charles Montgomery '48** in 1942 and they raised three children. Montgomery was predeceased by her husband.

Barbara Jones Temple '46, Jan. 19, 2022, in Redmond, Washington. She spent seven years in London as a secretary for the U.S. Air Force (USAF), where she met and married USAF officer Walter French. As a military family they were frequently reassigned, living near Washington, D.C., twice and in Hawaii twice. While in D.C., she worked as a secretary to Senator Warren G. Magnuson of Washington. In Hawaii, she worked again as a secretary with the USAF. In retirement, the couple settled in the Seattle area. They enjoyed 25 years together until his death in 1980. In 1987, she married Robert Temple; they were together for over 15 years, until his death in 2001. Survivors include a son, three stepchildren, two grandchildren and multiple step-grandchildren.

Jean Allyn Thomas '48, Feb. 8, 2022, in Friday Harbor, Washington. She married Lyman Thomas, Jr. in 1949 and they raised four children together. The couple owned and operated businesses in Seattle and Santa Barbara, California, then published the Friday Harbor

Journal upon their return to the Pacific Northwest. Thomas also wrote a column for the Oak Harbor News on Whidbey Island. She earned her pilot's license and was a member of the San Juan Island Pilots Association and The Ninety-Nines, Inc., International Organization of Women Pilots. Thomas was predeceased by her husband and a son. Survivors include two daughters, a son and four grandchildren.

Jean Latourette Packo Medina '49, Dec. 23, 2021, in Bellevue, Washington. She married **John Packo '51** in 1952 and they raised three sons. They were together for 25 years until his death in 1977. She married Ronald Medina in 1989. Medina served with distinction on the staff of Congressman Joel Pritchard and Senator Dan Evans for many years. She volunteered for Ryther, an organization dedicated to providing mental health and substance use services to youth, serving as board president. Predeceased by her husband and a son, survivors include two sons and three grandchildren.

1950s

Richard Lake '50, Sept. 2, 2021, in Seattle. He had a career in business and insurance and was a regular attendee at Whitman reunions and college trips to the Sun Valley Jazz Festival. Survivors include a brother, **Bill Lake '47** and a niece, **Sheila Lake Hair '76**.

Elizabeth Lindsay '50, Feb. 4, 2022, in Wenatchee, Washington. After graduation, she married **Roy Nilson '50** and they had four children. They later divorced. The family settled in Benton City, Washington, where Lindsay was recognized for family and community service with the local 1968 Woman of Achievement Award. As her children began to move on to their own lives, she returned to school and began a 24-year career with the federal government, first working with the Atomic Energy Commission in Richland, Washington, and later as a security escort at a nuclear reactor. Starting in 1986, Lindsay served as a civilian management analyst for the U.S. Army 1st Signal Brigade in Seoul, Korea. Returning to the

U.S., she continued working for the Army, retiring in 2000. Her survivors include two daughters; two sons, including **Stephen Nilson '73**; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Carol Bruce Salzer '51, Nov. 13, 2021, in Grapeview, Washington. After Whitman she married **Allen Salzer '51** and together they raised four children. They were married for 65 years, until Allen's death in 2016. The family lived in Idaho as well as Spokane and Des Moines, Washington. Salzer taught secondary English in the West Valley, Auburn and Federal Way school districts before retiring to Mason Lake in Grapeview. Salzer's survivors include four children, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Nancy Wigginton Forristel '52, Oct. 23, 2021, in San Jose, California. She married Francis "Jack" Forristel in 1956. They raised four children and Forristel was a substitute junior high school teacher and special education aide. Predeceased by her husband and a son, her survivors include three children.

Patrick Mansfield '52, Sept. 1, 2021, in Auburn, Washington. After Whitman, he completed his B.A. at Washington State University in Pullman. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Berlin, Germany. Mansfield married Donna Johnston in 1965 and spent a career in aerospace working for Boeing, retiring in 1992. Predeceased by a daughter, he is survived by his wife, two children and five grandchildren.

Sarah "Sally" McMillan Bunnell '53, March 23, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. She met **Roderick Bunnell '52** at Whitman and they were married in 1955, later settling in Portland to raise two sons. An early advocate for special-needs students, Bunnell served on various local school committees

and the Beaverton School District Board of Directors. In 1990, she ran successfully for the Washington County Education Service District (ESD) board. She served as a docent for the Oregon Historical Society, then briefly as its Education Director, and later on the board of the Washington County Historical Society (now Five Oaks Museum). Bunnell was a loyal Whitman supporter, and traveled with the college to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival a remarkable 23 years. Predeceased by her husband, she is survived by a sister, **Mary McMillan Brandt '55**; sons David and **John '83**; and two grandchildren.

Diane Gilbertson Clark '53, Feb. 26, 2022, in San Bruno, California. She was an education major and member of Phi Mu at Whitman. After Whitman she married Donald Clark.

Christine Hasbrouck Cottrell '53, Jan. 15, 2022, in Grayland, Washington. In 1954, she married **Walter Cottrell '46** and they settled on the family cranberry farm in Grayland. Cottrell worked as a medical technologist at Grays Harbor Community Hospital while helping Walter on the farm as well as raising their three children. She was active in Grayland Community Church, South Beach United Presbyterian Church, the Willapa Harbor Grange, and volunteered at the South Beach Food Bank. Cottrell was predeceased by her husband and her sister, **Mary Ellen Hasbrouck '51**. She is survived by her children **David '81**, **Francis '84** and **Anne Cottrell Spencer '87**; and by her grandson Quinn.

William Eastman '54, March 17, 2022, in Albany, New York. After Whitman, Eastman attended Stanford Law School. He served in the U.S. Navy and then became among the

country's first smokejumpers for the United States Forest Service in Oregon and Washington. He had a later career in academic publishing, first as an editor at The Macmillan Company and at Harper & Row Publishers. In 1979, Eastman became the director of SUNY Press in Albany, a position he held until his retirement. He was an active member of the Siddha Yoga Foundation and the Universal Shaiva Foundation and was dedicated to his spiritual life until his passing. Eastman is survived by his longtime companion, Ellen Sadowski; two daughters; and four grandchildren.

David LaRose '54, Jan. 29, 2022, in Bellevue, Washington. After Whitman, LaRose earned his J.D. at the University of Chicago. He married Jerene Kay Hughbanks in 1961 and they raised two children together. LaRose retired as Chief Administrative Law Judge for the State of Washington. As a lawyer he argued jury trials and negotiated contracts for Boeing. He was predeceased by his wife of 52 years and a brother, **Gary '58**. Survivors include his son, **Steven '85**; his daughter, **Linda '88**; two grandchildren; and niece **Ann LaRose Christianson '83**.

Edwin Casebeer, Jr. '55, Jan. 17, 2022, in Birmingham, Alabama. After Whitman, he earned a master's degree at the University of Montana in Missoula and a Ph.D. in English at the University of Washington. In 1964, Casebeer started as an assistant professor at Purdue University—Indianapolis. Over the course of his career, he managed the Writing Program, earned the rank of full professor, chaired the English department and retired emeritus status. In 1984, Casebeer met his wife, Linda Gallmeier at a local poetry reading. Survivors include his wife, his son, and four stepdaughters.

Harold "Hal" Parrott '55, Nov. 27, 2021, in Phoenix, Arizona. Parrott served as a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army for 22 years. He earned his M.A. in education administration from Western Washington University in Bellingham and was an administrator for the Marysville and Mount Vernon School Districts in Washington. He later relocated to Phoenix, Arizona, and spent time instructing and training new instructors for the AARP Driver Safety Program. Survivors include his wife of nearly 50 years, Enid Wold Parrott.

Caryl Evans Strance '55, Feb. 24, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. She earned her master's in nursing from the University of Washington and worked as a school nurse for Oregon City School District for more than 20 years. She was elected Oregon's School Nurse of the year in 1991. She was predeceased by her husband of nearly 50 years, **William Strance '53**. Survivors include four children.

Susan Chase Corker '57, Jan. 8, 2022, in Carbondale, Illinois. After graduation, she married **John Corker '55** and together they raised four children. The family lived in New Mexico, Michigan, Illinois and Massachusetts before settling in Carbondale. In 1980, Corker returned to school to complete her B.S. and earned her M.S. in audiology at Southern Illinois University. She worked as an audiologist at the State Hospital in nearby Anna. Predeceased by her husband, survivors include her four children and two grandchildren.

Dorothy Long '57, Oct. 9, 2021, in Portland, Oregon. Following graduation, she worked at the Portland office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). She worked for the FBI for the next 34 years, retiring in 1992. During that time, she also worked at

the Ottawa, Canada, office for several years. Throughout her employment she received outstanding service awards and promotions. Upon her retirement she was praised for her dedication to duty; she "epitomized the highest and best tradition of career FBI employees." Survivors include her cousins and their children.

Donald "Ted" Murray '57, Sept. 6, 2021, in Eugene, Oregon. Originally in the class of 1952, he returned to Whitman in 1955 after spending nearly three years in the U.S. Army, marrying Kathryn Showalter and starting a family. Murray earned his master's in education from Central Washington University in 1962, which led to a position as school superintendent in Umatilla County, Oregon. He served on the board of control of the Oregon School Activities Association, the executive committee of the Oregon School Executives Association, and the advisory board of Oregon Total Info System (OTIS), a pioneer in providing data processing services for Oregon schools. After more than 20 years in school administration, Murray moved to Eugene and joined OTIS, retiring as managing director in 1994. Predeceased by his wife, survivors include four children and many grandchildren.

Linda Buren Gustafson '59, Jan. 17, 2022, in Spokane, Washington. She married **Larry Gustafson '59** in 1957 and started their family. They raised four children together, settling in Spokane. Predeceased by her husband, her survivors include two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and her brother, **Neil Buren '61**.

Philip Stoller '59, Dec. 26, 2021, in Seattle. After one year at Whitman, Stoller attended Humboldt State University in

Alumni of Merit

Shirley Ruble '57, Jan. 3, 2022, in Walla Walla. Ruble was a lifelong student, earning her M.A. in English from the University of Washington in 1961, her Ph.D. in medieval literature from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1971, her M.B.A. from City University in 1991, and her L.L.D. from the University of London in 1995. She served as confidential secretary for Seattle University's administration and worked in the City of Seattle law department as a senior paralegal and litigation manager. Ruble wrote extensively, publishing six books, numerous articles, poems and a textbook. She received the Pacific Northwest Writers Conference Nonfiction Award and the Alpha Sigma Nu National Book Award. Ruble was an advocate for Whitman, serving as a class representative for Annual Giving and a reunion chair for Alumni Relations. In 2001, she was named Alumna of Merit in recognition of her "unquenchable curiosity." Ruble was most recently in the news for spearheading the restoration of the Wedding Fountain in Walla Walla's Pioneer Park. Ruble is survived by a brother and a large extended family.



Richard "Ric" Odegard '62, Feb. 12, 2022, in Spokane, Washington. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy. After returning to civilian life, he pursued a career in banking that took him all over the state of Washington. Odegard ultimately settled in Spokane and retired from Seafirst Bank after 29 years. He served as president and chairman of the Spokane Area Chamber of Commerce and chaired campaigns promoting bond levies for Spokane Public Schools. A member of Whitman's Board of Overseers, he also served as a volunteer for Whitman in the Admissions Office. He was named Overseer Emeritus

in 1996. In 1997, Odegard was named Alumnus of Merit for "merging the worlds of business, banking and community service with skill and caring." Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Kay, and their sons: **Cory '92**, **Mark '95** and **Robert '99**.

Arcata, California, and served in the U.S. Navy. He married Susan Backus in 1971 and they had a son. Stoller and his wife were board members of the Lucky Seven Foundation, a family foundation supporting worthwhile projects in the Puget Sound Basin.

1960s

Lucy Latham Houser '60, Jan. 16, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. She married Doug Houser in 1961 and they raised three children together. A lifetime Episcopalian, she was the first girl acolyte in her church and

later the first woman vestry member and first woman senior warden. Houser was ordained as a Deacon in 1989. A trip to South Africa with the first Black woman Episcopal bishop to meet Bishop Desmond Tutu was a lifetime highlight. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, three children and five grandchildren.

Gretchen Briegleb Williams '60, Feb. 11, 2022, in Boulder, Colorado. After Whitman, she earned a master's degree in experimental psychology with a specialization in human learning and social psychology from Tulane University. She worked in the field of pain

management and biofeedback therapy. She participated in several international expeditions as a volunteer for the Christian Peacemaker Teams. Survivors include a son, two stepchildren and two grandchildren.

Page Winfree Kuhn Gorud '61, Feb. 25, 2022, in Edmonds, Washington. Following graduation, she married **Clay Kuhn '61** and they raised two daughters together. He passed away in 1987. She married Roy Gorud in 2001 and they settled in Edmonds. Gorud remained close to her Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority sisters. Survivors include her

husband, two daughters, two stepdaughters and seven grandchildren.

Gail Watterson Tastula '61, Dec. 23, 2021, in College Place, Washington. After Whitman, she earned her teaching certificate at the University of Washington. Tastula taught elementary school in Bellevue and Renton for more than 30 years. She later earned her M.A. in psychology from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and worked as a counselor. She married John Tastula in 1980. Survivors include her husband, her son and a sister, **Jean Watterson Johnson '51**.

Barbara Brunner Roach '63, Jan. 17, 2022, in St. Charles, Minnesota. She married Don Roach in 1966 and they had two children. Roach taught junior and senior high school science and was noted for her originality and creativity. She earned her M.A. in education from Lindenwood College in St. Charles in 1986, and volunteered for the American Association of University Women and for Kappa Kappa Gamma. Predeceased by her husband, survivors include a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Jon Burpee '64, Feb. 15, 2022, in Edmonds, Washington. He met **Jean Louise Davis '64** at Whitman; they were married in 1964 and raised three children together. Burpee earned his M.D. at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, and spent his early career in Denver, Colorado, and Stuttgart, Germany, while serving as a U.S. Army surgeon. He moved with his family to Roseburg, Oregon, where he built his ophthalmology practice. Burpee served as hospital chief of staff and president of the Medical Society. He served as co-chair for his 20th and 45th reunions at Whitman and was a member of the 60th reunion committee. Burpee is survived by his wife of 57 years; his children,

John '89, **Mark '92** and **Heather Burpee Brine '99**; and eight grandchildren.

Jill Burton-Dascher '64, Nov. 18, 2021, in Stanwood, Washington. After two years at Whitman, she earned her B.A. in English at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. She worked as an English teacher, an insurance underwriter and then at Boeing where she met Aurthur Dascher. They were married in 1967 and had two daughters. They settled on Mercer Island, where Burtson-Dascher wrote a humor column for the Mercer Island Reporter. In the early '80s she began work for the Greater Seattle Intergroup AA, retiring in 2005. Predeceased by her husband, survivors include her two daughters and five grandchildren.

1970s

Douglas Bartholomew '72, March 12, 2022, in Bellevue, Washington. After graduation, he earned an M.S. in psychology at Western Washington University. Bartholomew worked as a mental health therapist for more than 45 years, first at community mental health centers, then in private practice. Along with a small group of colleagues, he pioneered Bellevue's first domestic-violence mental health program at the Mental Health Center in Bellevue. He was instrumental in forming the domestic violence laws written in the state. Survivors include his wife of 21 years, Kathy Benardout-Bartholomew; two sons; a stepson; and a stepdaughter.

Christopher Helton '72, Feb. 6, 2022, in Fall City, Washington. After Whitman, he earned his M.B.A. at Columbia University in New York City. He had a career in financial services, including leadership positions in institutional security analysis with Bank of America and Security

Pacific Bank and as an institutional newsletter analyst of market securities for a Seattle-based private equity firm, retiring in 2015. At Whitman, he earned special recognition in his football career as a team co-captain and was a first-team All-Northwest Conference selection on both offense and defense. In 2021, he was elected to the **Whitman Hall of Fame**. Survivors include his wife, Sheri Brown; two children; and three siblings, including **Paul, Jr. '69**.

Sharon Hanford-Beach '73, March 11, 2022, in Salem, Oregon. She earned her M.A. in art history from the University of California, Davis in 1976, and worked at the de Young Museum in San Francisco and as curator for the Salem Art Association Bush House. She married Dale Beach and earned her J.D. from Willamette University in Salem. Following the birth of her daughter, Hanford-Beach worked for Marion County's Support Enforcement team and finished her professional career there. Survivors include her daughter, a sister and a brother.

1980s

Amanda Dunham '84, April 22, 2021, in Wyandanch, New York. After Whitman, she finished her B.A. in art history at the

University of California, Davis, and worked as a commute program manager at NASA.

Lance Henderson '86, March 6, 2022, in Walla Walla. He spent his life immersed in politics, working as a public relations and political consultant on a wide variety of individual local and national campaigns and on voter programs for the Republican National Committee.

1990s

Kelly Ellison '91, Jan. 15, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. After Whitman, she earned her B.A. in nursing from the University of New Mexico and began her professional career as a nurse, working at Desert Samaritan and the Mayo Clinic in Arizona before moving to Portland to work at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland. She married Graham Pugh in 2005 and moved to Maryland to work for Adventist Health Care and Montgomery Hospice. Ellison earned her M.S. in nursing education from the University of Maryland, Baltimore in 2009, and taught for the school and in the Washington, D.C., area. The family returned to Portland and she worked at OHSU as a research nurse for the Knight Cancer Institute and later as a nurse educator. Survivors

include her husband; a daughter Mara; and a son, **Alan Pugh '14**.

Roger Steiner '91, March 16, 2022, in Seattle. After Whitman, he spent time in his hometown of Ketchum, Idaho, teaching drama at the Community School, and later Boise. Steiner moved to Seattle in 2000 and met his husband, Joel Williams. They became domestic partners in 2007 and were legally married in 2014. Steiner built a successful West Seattle real estate business. He is survived by his husband and an extended circle of friends.

Thomas White '93, Jan. 29, 2022, in Hailey, Idaho. Following graduation, he served as a river guide and a ski instructor before enrolling in the fire academy in the fall of 1995. White volunteered as an engineer/EMT for the Ketchum Fire Department from 1996 to 1998, before being hired as a full-time firefighter with Wood River Fire Rescue. In 2002, he completed his paramedic training and was later promoted to captain. He joined the Sun Valley Ski Patrol in 2003 and served with distinction in both roles until his death. More recently, he earned an associate degree in fire science from the College of Southern Idaho. White is survived by his wife of nine years, Kelly Winnovich, and three children.

Matt Gillett '97, April 1, 2022, in Bend, Oregon. At Whitman he met **Jennifer "Jenni" Rohr '97**, and they moved to Atlanta for medical school at Emory University. There, he was a lead architect for Emory's first M.D./M.B.A. program and was one of the program's first graduates. He also founded Helping Emory Rescue Others (HERO), a blood donation coordination organization that helped survivors of the 9/11 Twin Towers attacks. In addition, he co-founded the Atlanta Biotech Network, a nonprofit student-run organization that connected students interested in biotechnology with regional biotech and health care firms. Gillett and Rohr were married in 1999, and together completed medical school and their residencies, then had two children. Gillett took a nontraditional path through medicine and business, starting his Pathology Residency at Emory and transitioning into biotech investment banking at CIBC and Merrill Lynch in Palo Alto, California. He eventually went back to residency in internal medicine at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco. He worked as a hospitalist at a number of facilities in the Bay Area, still keeping a hand in biotech business and investing. The summer prior to his death, the family moved from California back to Oregon. Predeceased by

his father, Gillett is survived by his wife; his children, Jackson and Charlie; his mother and extended family. *The family requests gifts in his memory be designated to Whitman's Outdoor Program Fund or Scholarship & Student Aid. To make your gift, visit give.whitman.edu, call 509-527-5189 or return the envelope found in this magazine.*

Kevin Novack '98, Jan. 3, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. After graduation, he moved to the United Kingdom and accepted a position working as a ship manager with Acomarit PLC in Glasgow, Scotland. He later earned a master's degree in shipping, trade and finance from the Cass (now Bayes) Business School at the City University of London. Novack returned to the U.S., first to New York to utilize his shipping and logistics training, ultimately returned to the Pacific Northwest to take advantage of his education and his love of the wine industry. Starting in Seattle and then moving to Portland, Kevin built a successful wine distribution business known as D'Vine Wine which he operated for many years, then sold. Survivors include his parents and a son.

Class Notes Policy

Whitman College is happy to highlight the achievements and milestones of our alumni. To have your item appear in Class Notes, fill out the form at whitman.edu/classnotes, email alumni@whitman.edu or mail a note to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Class Note submissions are limited to 50 words and should include updates from the past calendar year. Class Note submissions may include career updates; publications; honors, awards or appointments; or other significant life

changes you would like to share with the Whitman community. Any photographic submissions for Class Notes, marriages/unions or births/adoptions should include the identities of all people pictured, as well as alumni relatives for births/adoptions. It is the responsibility of the submitter to obtain consent from others pictured or mentioned in the submission.

For In Memoriams, Whitman College runs the name of the deceased, their graduate year and major, and the date and place of death; when available,

we will include career information, survivors and other highlights of their life, including recorded service to the college or honors received from the college. Photographs for obituaries are run at the discretion of the Office of Alumni Relations for those designated "Whitman Leaders." The college makes a good faith effort to confirm the information submitted with the concerned parties. All submissions are subject to editing for style, content, length and clarity. Address questions to Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91, Class Notes editor, at northajl@whitman.edu or call 509-526-4794.

Celebrating Good Work: Our 2022 Alumni Award Winners

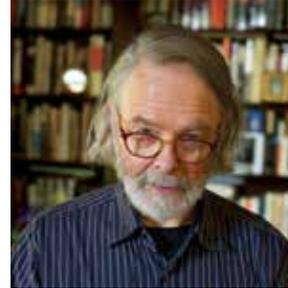


PETE REID AWARD FOR YOUNG ALUMNI

The 2022 Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni goes to **Alyssa Fairbanks '12**. Inspired by her time volunteering with Whitman Teaches the Movement during her senior year, Fairbanks has pursued a career in law with a focus on educational law and

policy. Her connection to Whitman remains strong. During the summer of 2015, Fairbanks returned to Whitman for an internship focused on Higher Education Law, Title VII and Title IX. She worked with Juli Dunn, associate dean of students, and presented her findings to the president and dean of students. She served on the Seattle area Whitman Young Alumni Advisory Council and supported fundraising efforts and local events as a part of this work. Fairbanks is active with the Kappa Alpha Theta alumnae chapter in Seattle and serves as a career mentor to current Thetas in the Seattle area.

Outside of her Whitman service, Fairbanks has been involved with the Public Interest Law Association at the University of Washington, planning and running their annual gala fundraiser. After earning her J.D. from the University of Washington Law School in 2017, she now works at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the special education department, serving as the team lead for the special education dispute resolution team.



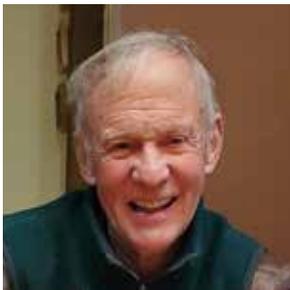
GORDON SCRIBNER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

For his willingness to share his considerable photography and videography expertise with the college over decades, together with his sustained efforts to keep the Class of 1971 engaged and connected virtually while COVID-19 delayed their 50th Reunion, the

2022 Gordon Scribner Award goes to **David "Davey" Current '71**.

The first visual presentation used by traveling college admissions officers was a slide carousel of images taken by Current. When the college wanted to share the stories of student excellence with alumni and friends, they called on Current and the Current Rutledge team. When the fundraising team wanted to show the impact of campaign giving, they called Current. From slides to VHS to digital, he has adopted cutting-edge technology each step of the way—using every possible tool to tell the world about Whitman.

Current was a member of the Class of 1971 50th Reunion, planning committee, and when COVID shut everything down the committee moved their activities online. In a throwback to his days as a student activist, Current shared a photo series of Seattle protests from his neighborhood in the wake of the George Floyd murder and the surge of the Black Lives Matter movement. He also coordinated three foreign policy panels and created a digital art show, curated by Jack Rasmussen '71, with submissions from the classes of 1970 and 1971.



SALLY RODGERS AWARD FOR LIFELONG ACHIEVEMENT

Robert "Robbie" Scott '67 is the winner of the 2022 Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement. He is recognized for his work for justice and in service, beginning with the decision to fight the discriminatory policies of the Sigma Chi national organization, continuing with a career in law, including pro bono work, and in retirement, extensive volunteer efforts around the world.

Scott led the Sigma Chi house in challenging the racist policies of the National Sigma Chi fraternity. Whitman was among the first colleges in the country to confront these policies and Scott was the point person, traveling with a group to national headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, to discuss the issue. The answer was a threat to expel the house and its members from the national organization. As president of the fraternity in the fall of 1967, he worked to coordinate the many views within the house and develop a consolidated position in favor of accepting members of all races and creeds. This process ultimately led to the expulsion of the local chapter from the national fraternity and

the creation of Whitman's unique local fraternity, Nu Sigma Chi, in 1968.

Scott went on to earn his J.D. from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He spent the last part of his law career in a public interest law firm, focused on representing victims of domestic violence in child custody cases and developing migrant farmworker housing. He served on the board of Columbia Valley Community Health, an organization that provides medical, dental and behavioral health care to low-income individuals in the Wenatchee Valley. Scott served as an associate class representative for the Annual Giving Office and as a committee member for his 35th and 50th reunions. He has volunteered in Chile, rehabilitating a former cattle and sheep ranch into a national park; in Peru, building a preschool; and in India, working with an AIDS/HIV advocacy NGO.



TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The winner of the 2022 Trailblazer Award for Diversity and Inclusion is **Jyotica Barrio '15**, a champion for diversity and inclusion at her

workplace. She has volunteered her time to support her colleagues, has held space for difficult conversations with leadership and has advocated successfully for change within her company. Her efforts to promote diversity and inclusion at her workplace ranged from forming a DE&I coalition, to creating and facilitating a training program for the executive leadership team, to creating and leading implicit bias workshops. Barrio's work was integral to her workplace, Audro, being ranked the sixth most equitable workplace in Washington state by the Puget Sound Business Journal. Barrio recently became the DEI Program Manager for Cascade Public Media in Seattle.



FACULTY AWARD FOR SERVICE

Professor **Kurt Hoffman** has been sharing his time and scholarship with Whitman College alumni for more than 15 years. Showcasing student research and engaging in meaningful

conversations both on campus and on the road, his genuine curiosity and his warm, welcoming, Midwest charm have made him a favorite among alumni. From demonstrating acoustics in grand indoor and ancient outdoor spaces in Europe to 3D printing and tuning whistles, he has gone above and beyond to share lifelong learning opportunities with the Alumni Association. Always willing to assist in any way, this year Professor Hoffman worked closely with the Alumni Relations office, seeking alumni working in the climate change arena to include as presenters for the Academic Theme: Climate Reckonings, Climate Justice. His enthusiastic support of the Alumni Association, as well as his efforts to lift up alumni working in the field of climate change, has earned him the 2022 Faculty Award for Service to the Alumni Association.



ALUMNA OF MERIT

Michele Perrin Roberts '98 is the assistant secretary of the Prevention and Community Health Division at the Washington State Department of Health, a role she has held since June 2020. Roberts provides leadership for the department's community-facing programs, including WIC, immunization, maternal and child health, chronic disease prevention, reproductive and sexual health, and injury and violence prevention. She also plays a critical role in Washington State's COVID-19 pandemic response as the executive leader for the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Roberts was nominated for this honor by two alumni. "Roberts' skills and leadership were called to the forefront when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Washington state," noted Jim Dow '71. And classmate Heather Fogle Browne '98 wrote, "Michele has bravely navigated the political landscape, working closely with our governor and assuming the personal risk that comes with being the head of a very public and controversial campaign. Roberts's personal sacrifice, grace under pressure and dedication to public safety exemplifies what remains good in this world and what Whitman hopes to instill in its students."

Previously she served for seven years as the department's immunization director, ensuring all kids have access to life-saving routine childhood immunizations, earning a Governor's Leadership in Management award from Governor Jay Inslee. As a master certified health education specialist, Roberts is passionate about supporting communities in improving health infrastructure, implementing community-driven solutions to improve health, and humbly working to ensure pro-equity and anti-racist programs and policies. Roberts has her M.P.H. degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

PHYS 103

Sound and Music

K. HOFFMAN | 3 CREDITS

In this course

Students explore conceptual, quantitative and laboratory-based analysis of musical instruments and sound.

Students develop an understanding of important physical concepts including sound waves, harmonic oscillators, energy, standing waves, resonance and more.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MUSICIAN TO TAKE THE CLASS, BUT HOFFMAN HOPES IT WILL HELP STUDENTS WHO DO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT COME AWAY WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THEIR INSTRUMENTS WORK.



For a final project, students are encouraged to build a basic musical instrument. Impressive projects from the past include: **a four-pitch pipe organ, a hurdy-gurdy and a duct tape bagpipe.**

PROFESSOR BIO

Professor of Physics Kurt Hoffman

earned his bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College and his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Georgia. He began his career at Whitman College 30 years ago, in 1992.



"My goal is that students come out of the class more interested in music and science, and with the ability to understand how science accesses a subject that maybe they haven't thought about in a scientific way before." —Kurt Hoffman



Stronger Together

The World Needs Whitties

Gifts to The Whitman Fund—no matter the size—add up and create amazing and meaningful academic experiences for all our talented students, in and out of the classroom.

When you give, you participate in something powerful.

“I’m so grateful for my Whitman Internship Grant. I know I will bring so many things I’m learning back to Whitman and will apply them in ways I can’t even imagine right now.”

—Morgan Sherwood, sophomore, environmental studies-biology major. Sherwood spent the summer of 2022 interning at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Gothic, Colorado.



9^{out of} 10

Whitman students receive financial aid **made possible** in part by generous gifts.

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▶ Whitman Stories



Sacrifice and success. Whitman College 2022 Commencement Class Speaker Fadia Chehadeh gave an emotional speech about lessons from her mother, a woman who never finished fourth grade. "The most intellectual person in my life is my mother. She taught me how to make an impact in this world through resilience and perseverance." Chehadeh grew up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon, before attending a United World Colleges school in the U.K. and then Whitman College, where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in biology. She's currently studying epidemiology at the University of Colorado Denver.

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