A New Era With Bold Aspirations

Celebrating the Installation of President Sarah R. Bolton
Just ducky

It was a spectacular spring on the Whitman College campus. The baby ducks and blooming trees did not disappoint, and our community celebrated the formal Installation ceremony of President Sarah Bolton. See highlights from that momentous event beginning on page 12.
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6 AMBER EBARB ’03 COMES BACK TO THE BLUES
Whitman alum Amber Ebarb, Staff Director of the Committee on Indian Affairs in the U.S. Senate, addressed the Class of 2023 at the 137th Whitman College Commencement Ceremony.

12 A NEW ERA: THE PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION
The official Installation Ceremony of Whitman College’s 15th president, Sarah Bolton, took place in late April 2023. Whitties from near and far gathered in Cordiner Hall for the formal ceremony and heard Bolton’s aspirations for Whitman and the students of the future.

20 FINANCE ACCELERATOR CONNECTS WHITTIES
A new program sponsored by the Career and Community Engagement Center connects current Whitman College Economics students with alumni who work in finance—to share knowledge, connections and actionable advice.

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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 Dr. Sarah Bolton, Whitman College’s 15th president, at the podium during her Presidential Installation ceremony. See page 12.
Making Good Things Happen

The end of this academic year was a time of many celebrations, culminating with the commencement of our Class of 2023. This class, most of whom started at Whitman in the fall of 2019, is a true inspiration. They bore the full weight of the pandemic, which struck in the middle of their first year on campus. These students lived through great disruption all the way through their sophomore and junior years, finally emerging into a more “typical” college experience as seniors. Getting to know them this year, I have been so impressed. They didn’t just make it through that difficult time — they made things happen. While navigating through classes that were in-person, remote and hybrid, they also created new ways to maintain community and connection and undertook research projects and engagement with the local community even when they couldn’t gather. As seniors, they re-created and led so many clubs, organizations and groups that had dwindled in the time of isolation. As leaders and innovators, they were able to bring back a vibrant campus life and build community in new ways — ways that will serve and benefit the generations of Whitties who will follow them. I am so proud of these students. This is clear: They will take their Whitman education out into the world and make a wonderful impact wherever their journeys may go.

While the last few years have been unprecedented, the story of the Class of 2023 is the enduring story of the Whitman College community. Even in difficult times, people here are dedicated to making good things happen — and pour themselves into realizing them with brilliance and creativity. Whitman faculty taught in brand new ways through the pandemic and have created five new academic programs across the college just this year. They are advancing new knowledge through excellent research across every field of study, often with students alongside them.

Whitman staff are constantly designing creative new ways to collaborate, to welcome and support students and to strengthen our campus. Whitman students are acting for the future every day. And Whitman alumni and families stand behind all we do, making it possible with their care and generosity. For a wonderful example of this Whitman spirit of collaboration and strength, see the story on page 20 that highlights a new Whitman program focused on careers in the finance industry.

As we prepare to welcome students back for this next academic year, I am filled with optimism for what we can do together. Whitman has long been a beacon of excellence. In these rapidly changing times, we have extraordinary strength to build on as we advance the education we offer — so that it will be transformative for generations of students to come, preparing them to meet their highest aspirations and to make a difference throughout their lives.

Sarah Bolton
President
NEW BASEBALL CLUBHOUSE COMING TO BORLESKE STADIUM

Alumni and parent gifts are helping make possible a clubhouse facility to serve the Whitman Blues baseball program beginning in its 2024 season.

Located behind the third base grandstand at Borleske Stadium, the $3.7 million, 3,300-square-foot clubhouse will include locker and training rooms and additional spaces for recruiting and multipurpose team meeting use.

“We are grateful for the generosity of alumni and families in helping us realize a baseball clubhouse facility at historic Borleske Stadium,” says Director of Athletics Kim Chandler. “This new facility provides a huge upgrade for our student-athlete experience.”

Donors to the project include John Stanton ’77 and Terry Gillespie (Parent ’18), Grover and Sue Shade, and other parents of current and former Blues: Dan and Lisa Adams (’25) and Keenan and Deborah Conder (’23).

The clubhouse is expected to be open in February 2024—in time for the Blues baseball season. Walla Walla Sweets Baseball will also use the facility at Borleske during their summer collegiate seasons.

“We could not be more thankful for the support of our program with this project,” says Head Baseball Coach Brian Kitamura ’10. “This clubhouse elevates our student-athlete experience to a whole new level and will be a place that players will be able to call home for generations to come.”

Following Kitamura’s appointment as head coach in 2015, the Blues baseball program has climbed the Northwest Conference (NWC) standings, winning the league championship in 2019 and also earning the program’s first-ever National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division III tournament berth. The Blues have competed in three of the last four NWC Championship tournaments.

“We could not be more thankful for the support of our program with this project.”
— BRIAN KITAMURA, HEAD BASEBALL COACH

HAYNER FIELD TO BE DEDICATED THIS FALL — AND READY FOR PLAY!

Whitman College soccer and lacrosse teams — varsity, club and intramural — will soon train and compete year-round on a new FieldTurf synthetic field. Fully funded by gifts of alumni and friends totaling $3.6 million, the facility will be named James Hayner Field in honor of the longtime Whitman College trustee and Walla Walla community leader.

Bringing the latest innovation to athletics facilities and competition at Whitman, Hayner Field features a multi-layered FieldTurf CORE fiber for greater stability, durability and safety.

Dedication of James Hayner Field. At the Whitman Sports Complex, north of campus, Hayner Field will be dedicated at Noon on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 — followed by Women’s and Men’s varsity soccer games.
Out of an applicant pool of 12,000, three Whitman College alums were awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) grants. Over a period of five years, recipients receive direct funding for three years of graduate research followed by a two-year teaching assistantship. The funding covers research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These highly competitive NSF grants are notable because they fund a researcher rather than a project or institution. The GRFP provides support for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant research achievements in STEM or STEM education. Since 2002, Whitman boasts 44 recipients and nearly 50 honorable mentions.

Skylar Grayson ’21 is pursuing her Ph.D. in Astrophysics at Arizona State University. “My work is focused on understanding the role supermassive black holes play in galaxy evolution,” says Grayson, who majored in Astronomy and Astrophysics at Whitman.

Andreas Guerrero ’20 is working toward a Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology at Oregon State University and will investigate fungal-endosymbiont interactions. He also plans to develop curricula for school children to learn about mycology. “By introducing children to mycology early, I hope to inspire them to continue to learn about fungi in college and beyond,” says Guerrero, who double-majored in BBMB (Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology) and Philosophy.

Noah Kaplan ’22 will pursue a Ph.D. in Computer Architecture at University of Michigan and explore research possibilities. “I’m still trying to find what subtopics interest me in the field of computer architecture, and I am looking forward to learning more about different research directions,” says Kaplan, who majored in Computer Science at Whitman.

Alex Feller ’22 Awarded Fulbright

A recent Whitman College graduate will soon travel to Spain — earning a grant from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Alex Feller ’22 will serve as an English Teaching Assistant for the 2023–2024 school year. She competed with more than 700 individuals who applied specifically for the program in Spain.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be participating as a Fulbright grantee for the 2023–2024 school year,” says Feller, who majored in Psychology at Whitman, graduating with honors. While a student at Whitman, Feller also worked as a Youth Advocacy Group Leader for the Mariposa Program of the Walla WallaYWCA.

“Some of the most remarkable moments of my life have come through being immersed in another culture and I am so grateful for this opportunity to live and teach abroad in Spain.”

Feller, who currently resides in Santa Barbara, California, was supported by Whitman’s Fellowships and Grants team — part of the Career and Community Engagement Center.

“Thank you to everyone who supported and guided me through the application process,” says Feller.

In the last 15 years, Whitman has had 55 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Awards go to students and graduates.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Program operates in over 160 countries worldwide.

Three Whitties Named NSF Fellows
Associate Director of Student Activities NiQo Bullock was recently profiled in this year’s “39 Under 39” list, published by the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin. In the article, Bullock talks about what drew him to Whitman and Walla Walla and about his passion for helping students to build connections and be more engaged on campus.

Professor and Microsoft Chair of Computer Science Janet Davis recently received the 2023 Alumni Impact Award from the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington. The award honors former students who have made significant contributions to the field of computing.

President Sarah Bolton recently appointed Jeanine Gordon to the inaugural role of Special Assistant to the President for Native American Outreach. This new position, which reports directly to the president, was created to support the ongoing relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Memorandum of Agreement between Whitman College and the CTUIR.

Associate Professor of Politics Jack Jackson delivered an invited lecture on U.S. constitutional law and politics to students at the University of Michigan. Jackson’s lecture situated the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision (overturning Roe v. Wade) within the broader context of a radicalized right-wing judicial politics that emerged after the defeat of Robert Bork’s nomination to the Supreme Court in 1987.

Associate Director of Residence Life and Housing Andrew Johnson recently returned from NCORE (National Conference on Race and Ethnicity), a 5,000+ attendee conference focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education. At the conference, Johnson co-presented a session titled “Affect-Informed D.E.I. Workshops That Promote Belonging: From Competencies to Connection” with Whitman alum Emma O’Rourke-Powell ’12. In total, 18 representatives from Whitman College attended this year’s NCORE conference.

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Emily Jones recently won a prestigious fellowship at the Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study to support work on her book project, tentatively titled “Weeds and Seeds: Plant Propagation and Vegetal Futures.” An intervention in the burgeoning field of critical plant studies, this new project engages material ecocritical theory, botany, environmental planning and policy, and economics.

At a Staff Recognition Breakfast in June 2023, President Bolton presented the annual Janice Abraham Award to Jennifer McNeil, Associate Registrar for Academic Credentials, and Phillip Schmatt, General Maintenance Technician. This annual award celebrates staff members who go above and beyond their job descriptions, bring forward creative and innovative ideas, promote a philosophy of customer service and contribute to the excellence found at Whitman College.

Lauren Osborne, Associate Professor of Religion and Director of the First Year Seminar Program, was recently awarded a prestigious fellowship for research and study in Morocco through the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA). She is one of eight U.S. scholars to receive a 2023 CASA fellowship. Osborne will study the Moroccan dialect of spoken Arabic.

Matthew Prull, Professor of Psychology, recently published a research paper in the journal Memory titled “Can Divided Attention at Retrieval Improve Memory? Effects of Target Detection During Recognition.” Several Whitman students who assisted on the project also received co-author credit.

Assistant Professor of Politics Andrea Sempértégui Barreiros recently published an essay titled “Weaving the Spiderweb: Mujeres Amazónicas and the Design of Anti-Extractive Politics in Ecuador” in Studies in Social Science. The article examines the strategic politics of an Indigenous network called las Mujeres Amazónicas (the Amazonian Women) that is resisting the expansion of extractive projects in Ecuador’s Amazon rainforest.

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On May 21, 2023, Whitman College alum Amber Ebarb '03 stood in front of the Class of 2023 and delivered the 137th Commencement address. It was 20 years, nearly to the day, after receiving her own Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology on the Memorial Building stage.

It was Ebarb's first time returning to campus—and in her years away she has been standing up for and supporting the interests of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and communities.

Following Whitman, Ebarb began her career with an advocacy group founded in 1944—the National Congress of American Indians in Washington D.C.—taking on more significant roles over the years. Ebarb, herself, is an Alaska Native and enrolled citizen of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes.

While working, she also earned her
Master’s in Public Policy with honors and a focus in public budgeting and finance from The George Washington University.

In 2019, Ebarb made the move to the U.S. Congress. She began as a legislative assistant on the Alaska Native and Rural Affairs portfolio for Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska). In January 2023, she was named the Minority Staff Director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs by Murkowski who is the vice chair of the committee.

“I never would have thought I’d have the honor of working in the Senate, helping staff the very committee that has jurisdiction over Indian Affairs,” Ebarb says.

Ebarb has worked on bills that responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, reduce violence in Indigenous communities and support Native language revitalization. The committee has introduced five bills on the topic of Native languages since 2011. Most recently, the Native American Language Resource Center Act of 2022 became law in early 2023.

“Righting Wrongs
In the past 20 years, Ebarb recognizes how Whitman has moved forward and changed as well. That includes in ways that are truly meaningful to her, such as an evolving curriculum that presents a more accurate Tribal history and invites collaboration with Native American students, leaders and teachers.

At Whitman, Ebarb was part of a small student club, the American Indian Association—which today is a prominent and active campus group known as the Indigenous Peoples Education and Culture Club (IPECC). The President of IPECC and an award-winning student leader, Cheysen Cabuyadao-Sipe ’23, himself a Native Hawaiian, introduced Ebarb to his fellow graduates and commencement audience.

When Ebarb took the podium, she introduced herself in her Native language and then in English. Her Tlingit name is Gin Du Tlaa. She is from the L’eeneidí Raven Dog Salmon Clan and the raven moiety. Ebarb is a child of the Wooshkeetaan (Eagle Shark clan).

In her work advocating for change, Ebarb says she leans on her Native culture, which includes values of reciprocation, balance and respect.

When things are out of balance, sickness ensues. The Tlingit peoples have a term for that imbalance and loss of reciprocity and respect, according to Ebarb.

“’Wooch yax’ urges you to fix what hurts you. And if something is wrong, you don’t let it go, you don’t ignore it.”

Twenty years later, Ebarb sees what was out of balance at Whitman shifting in positive ways.

“I’m so glad to see that the work and learning here on campus has been more than symbolic or the discussion of symbols. The work that I’ve seen here involves committing to new ways of interacting that are rooted in respect.”

See highlights from Whitman’s 2023 commencement at whitman.edu/magazine.

Words of Whittie Wisdom for the Class of 2027

In her commencement address, Amber Ebarb ’03 congratulated the graduates and marveled at the work they’ve done both in the classroom and beyond—and through a pandemic—at a place with a history she called both “rich and complex.”

“I’ve learned from talking to students and faculty that the Class of 2023—and Whitman as an institution—has embarked on the hard but vital work of understanding Whitman’s story in this region, in history and with its Indigenous neighbors. I sincerely commend you for this important work. Gunalcheesh. [“Thank you” in Tlingit.] A reappraisal of Whitman was long overdue.”

“The energy and focus Whitman College is investing today to learn about this place and the people who love this land is the path to avoiding future misunderstandings. It is something I hope each one of you takes with you as you settle in new communities with new neighbors—the responsibility we have to better know one another.”

“I am so inspired by your commitment to finding ways to make right what was wrong. I can’t wait to see the positive change you will pursue next as Whitman graduates.”
Giving Empathy a Leading Role

BORN IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, but raised in Egypt through the age of seven, Tarik Ahmed Elseewi first became interested in the idea of representation as a young boy. Depictions of the Arab experience in the cartoons, television series and films he watched during his formative years were a far cry from life as he knew it.

“I knew that something was wrong, demeaning, degrading about the representations. Whether it was murderous ‘genies’ on ‘The Bugs Bunny Show’ or a blonde genie from ‘the Orient’ on ‘I Dream of Jeannie,’” it became clear to me even before I could distinctly express it that Arabs and Egyptians were a plaything for the fiction writers of Hollywood and Broadway,” Elseewi says.

“An important TV show for me as a child was ‘Kung Fu,’ in which a half-Chinese kung fu fighter traveled through 19th-century California fighting off racists. That was the first time I realized that it wasn’t just Middle Easterners who were subject to racism and racial trauma.”

At Whitman, Elseewi, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies and Director of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, where he takes great pride and joy in introducing students to Middle Eastern film and media, which he studied intensively while pursuing his Master’s and doctorate at the Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas at Austin.

“It’s truly a wonder to watch students engage profoundly with cultural productions from a very different standpoint — politically, socially, formally and aesthetically — than what they grew up with,” Elseewi says. “Most students are transformed by the process at some level — not necessarily transformed into different people, but they grow from encountering difference.”

GOING THERE TOGETHER

As a professor, Elseewi is tasked with imparting knowledge. For the upcoming academic year, he will teach: Introduction to Television Studies, The Middle East in Media, Film and Media Studies Theory and Senior Seminar. But the single most important — and rewarding — aspect of his work, he says, is fostering empathy while engaging young people in intellectual conversations of great interest and importance, such as questions of identity, representation, race, and the intersection of media and politics.

“It’s often difficult. We have to talk about really difficult subjects, like
racism, homophobia and sexism, and not everyone always wants to go there,” Elseewi says. “But those difficulties hopefully keep my mind sharp and my classes relevant.”

No matter the conversation, he models empathy by listening to students and caring about what they have to say—valuing their thoughts, ideas and beliefs.

“It must be remembered that before I was a professor, I, too, was a student—and I still am. I know what it’s like to have ideas and to have someone I respect take those ideas seriously,” Elseewi says, citing his earlier work as a writer, an editor, a public affairs specialist, a barista and an administrative assistant.

“I teach media, not astrophysics, which means that my object of study is not something that requires a Ph.D. to encounter but is instead encountered by everyone every day. Students might not have my years of experience in theorizing media, but they have a whole lifetime of engaging with it, having ideas about it and being shaped by it. I ask them questions and have conversations with them as if they were — because they are — humans with interesting perspectives!”

In 2022, Elseewi was honored for his outstanding dedication to his students—from “nervous and quiet first-years” to “expressive and bold seniors” and everyone in between. He received the George Ball Award for Excellence in Advising, established in 1995 with gifts from the Whitman College Family Association.

“That award was a big deal to me. The most important part of my job, as far as I’m concerned, is working with students. The rest — committee work, publishing, acting intellectual — is important but only exists because of students,” he says.

“It feels wonderful to be recognized by students as someone who listens and someone who cares.”

Three Favorite Films

Tarik Ahmed Elseewi, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies and Director of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, shares three films he enjoys teaching most in his classes and why.

Blade Runner (1982)
Based on the 1968 dystopian science fiction novel “Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?” by Philip K. Dick, Elseewi teaches Blade Runner often, he says, because of its sense of style, its kinetic energy, and the way it motivates audiences to explore the question of what is human.

Taste of Cherry (1997)
Featuring 99 minutes of emotions and images and very little actual plot, Elseewi calls this Iranian minimalist drama “the anti-TikTok.” He asks students to sit with it, to give in to the initial frustration of engaging with something beautiful yet slow and ponderous.

Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)
What is it like being the child of an immigrant? Is there more to the world than meets the eye? The winner of seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, this film tackles these questions and more.
NARNIA

A place sometimes called Whitman Glen or Cordiner Glen — known better among students as Narnia — is nestled near College Creek and Penrose House on the far east side of the Whitman College campus. The bridge that takes Whitties from Maxey Hall to Narnia was Whitman’s first ever class gift.

The Class of 1908 bridge — that still stands more than a century later — was built in honor of the class’s 10-year reunion. In the 1960s, it was dedicated in honor of Gwyneth Lewis Cordiner, Class of 1923, by her husband Ralph Cordiner, Class of 1922, as part of a larger beautification project.

Today, in this nearly perfect place, folks can be seen with hammocks and textbooks, friends and laptops, under the trees and by the water. On social media, Narnia is consistently highlighted as a Whitman “happy place” and favorite study spot for students.
THE PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION
OF WHITMAN’S 15TH PRESIDENT, DR. SARAH R. BOLTON

“This is a Moment of High Stakes”

BY MARGIE MCDEVITT REECE ’93
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIM FETROW ’96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY
“This is a moment of high stakes and it is a moment where our actions matter. We are called on to ask how our college can make the most impact for good—both for our students and for the world that sorely needs them.”

—Sarah R. Bolton, Whitman College’s 15th President
a beautiful spring day in Walla Walla, the Whitman College community and guests, from near and far, came together to officially welcome Whitman’s 15th President, Dr. Sarah Bolton.

Bolton’s Presidential Installation was held in Cordiner Hall. In attendance, along with higher education dignitaries and guests of the President, were three former Whitman College presidents, Kathleen Murray (14th, 2015–2022), George Bridges, (13th, 2005–2015) and Robert Skotheim (10th, 1975–1988).

At the podium, Bolton was honored by representatives of the Whitman alumni, faculty, staff and students, as well as local leaders. The ceremony began with a special welcome from officials from the the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), General Council Chairman Lindsey X. Watchman and E. Thomas Morning Owl, CTUIR General Council Interpreter.

IN 10 SHORT YEARS ... 

As various speakers praised Bolton’s own energy and leadership, the President focused much of her address on students—current and those soon to choose Whitman.

“In 10 short years, Whitman will reach the 150th anniversary of its founding as a college,” Bolton said. “The class that graduates that year—in 2033—is already in 6th grade. Their world is changing fast, and has been dramatically altered by historic events within their brief lifetimes.”

Bolton asked the crowd to consider what it will mean to meet Whitman’s mission for these students.

“This historic moment calls on us to ask how our college can make the most impact for good—for our students and for the world that needs them. ... How will they view their futures? What can we do, as a college, to be part of preparing them to seize the opportunities and meet the needs in their changing world? We need to ask these questions honestly and urgently, being willing to be surprised at what we learn.”

BOLDLY, WISELY & WITH DEEP HUMANITY

With both resolve and urgency, Bolton shared aspirations for the future leaders Whitman must produce in a changing world—through the power of a liberal arts education.

“We will need collaborative leaders with a global perspective, people who hold a broad understanding of history and science, of human experience and artistic expression, of justice and injustice, and of research and discovery. We need those leaders in every field of work to innovate and find new solutions to big challenges—boldly, wisely and with deep humanity—to create strong and just schools, towns, businesses, cultural centers and faith communities, to dismantle racism, to strengthen access to health care, to create urgently needed science, to preserve and restore our environment.”

In these pages, you can experience more highlights from this celebratory and historic day for Whitman College.
Conferring the Presidential Medallion. As part of the official installation, the Chair of the Whitman College Board of Trustees Joe Davis ’80 and the Chair of the President’s Advisory Board Kirsten Gable ’01 presented Bolton with the Whitman College Charter and Presidential Medallion.

Among friends. General Council Chairman Lindsey X. Watchman (above) of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and E. Thomas Morning Owl, CTUIR General Council Interpreter (left). Watchman and Morning Owl both congratulated Bolton and expressed their hopes and plans for further partnership and progress between the two communities.
“HER ENTHUSIASM IS ON DISPLAY FOR ALL TO SEE. PART OF ME THINKS THERE MUST BE TWO SARAHS, FOR ALL SHE HAS done & accomplished IN JUST HER FIRST YEAR, BUT ANOTHER PART OF ME THINKS THAT SHE HAS MARSHALE THE DARK ARTS THAT IS PHYSICS TO BEND THE LAWS OF TIME AND SPACE TO BE EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE.”

—Rebecca Hanrahan, Chair of the Faculty and Associate Professor of Philosophy

‘The Walla Walla Way.’ Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith offered his congratulations—highlighting the long and valuable partnership between Whitman and local schools, calling it “The Walla Walla Way.”
Our actions really matter. Cassandre Beccai, Whitman’s Director of Equity and Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, spoke of President Bolton’s leadership style and commitment to equity and inclusion. “As we consider global events, it’s evident that there are challenges ahead,” Beccai said. “To quote Dr. Bolton herself, ‘In such a moment we might reasonably ask whether the actions of one small college community really matter. I say they absolutely do.’”

“A shared celebration. Following the Installation ceremony, the crowd and participants gathered in the foyer of Cordiner Hall for a brief reception.”

“President Bolton has shown genuine interest in getting to know people, organizations and student movements intimately.”

—Fraser Moore ’23

True to Whitman. Current and emeritus members of the Board of Trustees joined the celebration. From left, Ann Watson ’83, Marshal K. McReal ’84, John Stanton ’77, Denise Tabbutt ’87, Leigh Ann Lucero ’91 and Judge James Robart ’69.
“SHE WAS, AND STILL IS, THE ONLY COLLEGE PRESIDENT COLLEAGUE WHOSE NUMBER IS PROGRAMMED INTO THE SHORTCUTS ON MY PHONE. AND WHEN I’D ASK HER FOR HER THOUGHTS ON A DIFFICULT ISSUE I WAS FACING, SHE’D ALWAYS LISTEN CAREFULLY, RESPOND WITH EMPATHY AND GIVE CLEAR ADVICE.”

—Sean Decatur, former President of Kenyon College and President of the American Museum of Natural History

Our president. Current Whitman students attended and took the opportunity for a celebratory photo with President Bolton.

In community and camaraderie. Assistant Athletic Director Scott Shields (center) and Professor of Geology Pat Spencer (right) visit with former Whitman College President George S. Bridges.
Sarah Bolton earned a bachelor’s degree in Physics and Biophysics from Brown University in 1988, a master’s degree in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1991, and a doctorate in Physics, also from Berkeley, in 1995. She was on the faculty at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, for 15 years, including three as Physics Department Chair, and then served as Dean of the College at Williams for six years until becoming the President of Wooster College in 2016. Bolton was unanimously selected by the Whitman College Board of Trustees to be the college's 15th President and took office in July 2022.

“WHITMAN MUST BECOME A PLACE WHERE ALL CONTRIBUTE, KNOW THEY BELONG ... A PLACE WHERE HONEST CONVERSATION ABOUT COMPLEX ISSUES IS VALUED. A PLACE WHERE COLLABORATION ACROSS DIFFERENCE IS BUILT AND NURTURED.

We have to be bold

ABOUT THIS, BECAUSE IF WE ACCOMPLISH IT, WHITMAN CAN BE A PLACE THAT HELPS CREATE STRONGER DEMOCRACIES AND A MORE JUST WORLD.”

—Sarah R. Bolton

In full regalia.

Whitman faculty, staff and guests attended and represented their various institutions in the ceremony processional.

Thought leaders. On Saturday, following the Installation, more events were held, including a panel discussion, “Higher Education in a Changing World.” Panel members from left: Dr. Wayne Webster, Dr. Adam Falk, Dr. Shirley M. Collado, Dr. Ivonne García, Dr. Sean Decatur and Dr. Sarah Bolton, who moderated the discussion. View a recording and learn more about the panelists at whitman.edu/magazine.

About Sarah Bolton

Thought leaders. On Saturday, following the Installation, more events were held, including a panel discussion, “Higher Education in a Changing World.” Panel members from left: Dr. Wayne Webster, Dr. Adam Falk, Dr. Shirley M. Collado, Dr. Ivonne García, Dr. Sean Decatur and Dr. Sarah Bolton, who moderated the discussion. View a recording and learn more about the panelists at whitman.edu/magazine.
ACCELERATED
LEARNING
ACCELERATED
CAREERS

New program connects Whitman students to alumni working in finance

BY ANDREW FAUGHT
Walking the downtown Seattle corridors of Goldman Sachs in April 2023, Whitman College undergraduates came prepared with questions and more than a little curiosity. Each of them, after all, is considering a career in finance, and the investment banking giant could be their future workplace.

John Burpee ’89, who leads the company’s private wealth management business in the Pacific Northwest region, is an enthusiastic supporter of the college’s inaugural Finance Accelerator. The program is designed to — as advertised — “accelerate” students’ knowledge of financial careers.

Liberal arts graduates bring effective problem-solving skills to the world of finance — but there’s more to consider, Burpee says.

“What is sometimes missing is that first step from campus into the industry, and this program will help bridge the gap so that we can create a pipeline of talented Whitman undergraduates.”

20 WEEKS OF LEARNING

Over the course of three days, the students visited alumni and employees at Goldman Sachs, as well as Bellevue-based private equity firm Trilogy Search Partners, investment bank Chinook Capital and West Monroe, a business management consulting firm based in Seattle. The trip was a culmination of 20 weeks of learning in which the sophomores and juniors attended seminars and considered case studies in financial concepts and modeling/analysis, as well as met one-on-one or in small groups with alumni, during which they could ask questions and network.

Jack Dorsey ’25 learned about working in finance, but it was the people he met that made the biggest impression. “Our conversations were basically, ‘What brings you to this firm? What about this work interests you? What advice do you have for me?’” says Dorsey ’25, an Economics major from Silver Spring, Maryland. “At the end, we’d ask if we could add them to our LinkedIn network. They were genuinely happy to see us, and as Whitman alumni, we were all a tight-knit crew. The most valuable part I took away was the connections.”

Dorsey is now applying for internships and is eventually considering a government-related finance career or work in the private sector. Graduates with finance backgrounds have numerous options—they can work as accountants or auditors, credit analysts, brokers and traders, financial analysts, budget analysts or personal financial planners.

When it comes to helping mentor younger Whitties for success, alumni eagerly signed on for the accelerator experience, says Kim Rolfe, Co-Director of the college’s Career and Community Engagement Center. They readily shared their experiences, wisdom and time with the students.

“Whitman alumni are so dedicated to this institution, and they’re very interested in helping the next generation of students move into their professional arena,” Rolfe adds.

“We are able to have a two-way dialogue that provides heightened awareness and a foothold for students that previously didn’t formally exist,” says Burpee. “Our objective is to help provide hands-on knowledge of finance and relationship capital for Whitman students to leverage in their decision making, and in the early stages of their career paths.”

TRUSTED ADVISORS

In addition to networking and mentorship, Whitman finance alumni shared important information, such as resume tips and information on internship deadlines. Some internships involve a 15-month application process.

“If students don’t recognize that timeline, then they’re going to be too late,” says Rolfe, who created the accelerator with Marian Manic, then Associate Professor of Economics. “We thought, ‘How can we build something that supports students’ growth and professional development?’ We’re getting them the information that they need to be successful by giving them hands-on experiences earlier than if left to their own devices.”

While internships aren’t guaranteed as part of the accelerator, “students are building a great deal of understanding and preparedness to pursue internship opportunities,”
Rolfe says. And the accelerator is showing some early promise. “We have two students who were invited to interview at Goldman Sachs in Seattle, and that had not happened in the past.”

The accelerator is also helpful in other ways. “You’re going to build your understanding of what it means to successfully create relationships with people in business,” Rolfe says. “You’re also going to build your financial modeling skills to maybe move into a summer analyst role, which is a pretty common internship experience.”

Students aren’t the only accelerator beneficiaries. Alumni saw their participation as a way to reconnect with their alma mater and return the favors gained from their own top-notch liberal arts education.

“Mentoring Whitman students is not only a great way to give back to the college, but it’s also an energizing and rewarding professional experience,” says accelerator participant Jack Percival ’16, a Goldman Sachs asset and wealth manager. “The students who we worked with were bright, engaged and curious, and their questions pushed me to go deeper on the topics we were discussing.”

Trilogy analyst and accelerator participant Klaudia Kyjovska ’22 praised the event and commended the students’ ability to think beyond classroom theory and apply it to real-life circumstances.

“Students were eager to ask questions, learn from our day-to-day experiences, and let their financial and business curiosity drive their insights,” she says. “I think sometimes it can be challenging for students to balance the extent to which a project is an academic exercise versus a real-life investment case, but these students stepped up and produced some great work. They even made me appreciate new outside-the-box insights about the investment case they looked at.”

**BETTER PREPARED FOR WHAT COMES NEXT**

At West Monroe, consultant Reily Wilken ’21, who works in mergers and acquisitions, urged company executives to host accelerator students and share their tips for success.

“They are more than happy to provide educational opportunities to students who are interested in consulting and could become potential candidates,” he says.

“West Monroe has strong undergraduate pipelines across the country, but we are continuously trying to reach out to new schools and candidates that could contribute to the firm’s culture and success.”

Students committed to several weeks of learning and gave up part of their Spring Break to take part in the program. Rolfe is hoping to double student participation in the coming year, as well as involve a broader pool of alumni industry partners.

“This kind of additional support, paired with a really great liberal arts education, means that our students are even better prepared to be competitive in those environments,” says Rolfe, who joined Whitman in 2013 as Director of Business Engagement, after working for two decades as a product manager in the apparel industry.

“We felt the pilot ran as we expected,” she says. “We’re still waiting to see if students make it through the gauntlet of the internship application process. We’re not really modeling this program off of anything that exists, so we’re building it as we’re testing it.”

Whitman also added a Finance minor—beginning this academic year. This new minor will further support the career interests of Whitman students and can be paired with any major.

The Finance Accelerator is part of a larger effort to deepen student knowledge in various business capacities. During the 2022–2023 academic year, the Career and Community Engagement Center also launched the Whitman Startup Lab, which is open to all students interested in working in startups or building their own businesses. Last year, 25 students took part in activities, which included four “engagement talks” with entrepreneurs and start-up investors.

“We want to create great paths for students to connect with alumni and build skill sets that may not be coming directly out of their liberal arts education,” Kim Rolfe says. “These programs really are a great complement and allow for some of the applied learning that is not the primary focus of a liberal arts education.”

Students who are interested in finance careers are also encouraged to take part in the Whitman Investment Co. Started in 1998, students currently manage $1.4 million of Whitman College’s endowment, investing in companies across all sectors. The goal is to provide a strong financial education for students and strong returns for the college.
Celebrating the Whitman Experience

The world needs Whitties. Make your gift and provide Whitman students with academic opportunities and valuable experiences that prepare them to be future leaders and problem solvers. Gifts to The Whitman Fund contribute to transformative educational experiences for Whitties.

Where Community Matters
A BIPOC Hiking Club outing: Staff member Klu Mitchell (kneeling), students (left to right) Sol Walker ’25, Angela Eliacy ’25, Jara Moreno Arrostequi ’25 and Mehjime Bakhtalieva ’25.

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THE WHITMAN FUND
Class Notes

Virginia Valentine Hailey ‘40 writes, “I attended Whitman College ... during the years of 1936–1938. It was a great place to grow up.” Hailey moved to Ellensburg, Washington, married a cattle rancher and taught school. She concludes, “So now, I am 104 years old, living near my (two) daughters in Madera, California.”

Junius Rochester ‘57 continues to contribute to Post Alley. Rochester’s blogs explore the history and historical figures of Washington state. Recent writings include the origins of the names Puget Sound and Walla Walla Sweets, and the fishing traditions of the Wanapum River People.

Sharon Zlatnik Van Valin ‘62 writes “I was sorry to miss our last combined reunion, where I would have enjoyed seeing and chatting with so many friends from the mix of classes.” Van Valin continues to teach piano, theory and original composition; she said she recently taught the most talented music students. Two students performed original compositions in Vienna, Austria. One received a National Arts Award scholarship for Stanford, and all won national awards, including a 7-year-old.


Tim van Oppen ’70 was appointed to the Coast Guard Foundation Board of Trustees in February 2023.

Lesley Johnson Farmer ’71 was honored this spring with the MERLOT Distinguished Service award and Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire title. MERLOT is a user-centered, searchable library of peer-reviewed and selected learning resources. The Distinguished Service award is reserved as MERLOT’s highest honor. Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire recognizes individuals who complete fifteen or more peer reviews during a year.

Pat Fraley ’71 has created voices for more than 4,000 animated characters. His projects have garnered awards and nominations for Emmys, Annies, Cleos and Audies. His first job teaching was at Flinders University as a Vocal Dynamics Tutor. There, Fraley broke down the character voice to its elements, the first in the world to do so. Regarding his work, Joe Mantegna said, “In the world of teaching voice and vocal performance, Patrick Fraley is simply the best.”

Jeanne Jackson ’73 has built a new website: Auntie Aircraft Media (auntieaircraft.com) to publicize Jackson’s books and to give free, public access to Sourdough Jeanne’s Space Flight Log, a tabular compilation of every attempted orbital or deep space launch since Sputnik 1 in 1957.

Dr. Nick Paslidis ’82 was recently awarded a Mastership by the American College of Physicians. Masters are selected for “integrity, positions of honor, impact in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine.” Paslidis is an Associate Vice-President of Molina Healthcare Plan and was formerly a member of the Whitman Alumni Association Board.

Tim van Oppen

Tom Henderson ’83 was appointed as judge to the 18th Judicial District Court by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis in March 2023. Colorado’s 18th Judicial District includes Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties. Henderson is a member of Whitman’s President’s Advisory Board and recently completed his term on the Alumni Association Board.

Lisa Carloye ’84, Associate Professor in Biology, received the Washington State University Richard G. Law Excellence Award for Undergraduate Teaching for 2023. The award honors faculty who teach in the University Common Requirements (UCORE) curriculum and help undergraduates progress toward achieving their learning goals.

Kirby Gould Mason ’86 has been named a 2023 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, Georgia.

Theresa Carvey Corcoran ’87 received an MBA in Organizational Management from Eastern Pennsylvania University in Spring 2023. Corcoran’s thesis project included a business plan for a nonprofit “creative maker space” for those facing housing insecurity, where they can practice and store their instruments.

Manabu Takasawa ’87, Professor of Music at the University of Rhode Island, organized “Making of Music Behind Barbed Wires” in March 2023 to honor music from Japanese encampments during World War II. The event featured Japanese folk music performed by Takasawa and singer Yuriko Nonaka.

During a visit to Thailand, where he served in the Peace Corps 60 years ago, Mike MacLeod ’64, and his wife, Wilawan, spent an evening with the Doowa family in Bangkok, Thailand. Thida “Devika” ’16 and Nida “Rimmy” Doowa ’12 remember their Whitman experiences fondly. To learn about Rimmy’s extensive singing and acting career, google “Rimi Nique.” Devika’s latest endeavor is jewelry creation: define-collection.com. Pictured: Mike and Wilawan MacLeod with the Doowa family. (Devika ’16 in the foreground and Rimmy ’12 shown on her brother’s phone).
Dr. David May Named New President of Bellevue College

In March 2023, David May '90 was selected as Bellevue College's President. Bellevue College is the largest open-access college in the state of Washington with over 19,000 students enrolled annually. May holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and M.A. in Political Science from Washington State University and a B.A. in Political Science from Whitman College.

Jennifer Maben Warkentin '93 is enjoying living in Arizona with her husband and two teens. Warkentin recently started a job as copy editor for Freedom Learning Group. When not busy performing live theater for her two dogs, she can be found practicing her latest Prancersize moves for her wildly popular TikTok channel. Warkentin had the best spring visits from Rosa Peralta '93 and Jamey Wolverton '94.

Shawn Collins '88, executive director of Unity Shelter in Corvallis, partnered with students at Crescent Valley High School to build microshelters for people experiencing homelessness. Students built their first unit in spring 2021 and are currently working on a third microshelter.

Storr Nelson '88 won re-election to the Dundee, Oregon, City Council in November 2022. Nelson has served as a council member for twenty years, including as council president from 2004 to 2009.

Gerard van Belle '90 co-authored a study published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society that announced the discovery of six exoplanets and an additional 13 planet candidates. van Belle and his co-author, Catherine Clark, designed and built the instrument the study used for follow-up observations to confirm the exoplanets' existence.

Mary Fosse '05 was sworn into the Washington State Legislature on Jan. 9th, 2023. Rep. Fosse serves Washington's 38th District which includes Everett, Marysville, Tulalip and Hat Island. She believes her Whitman education was important in her path to becoming a community leader and state legislator.

Esther Ra '19 released her poetry book "A Glossary of Light and Shadow" (Diode Editions, 2023). The publication includes a section with 26 poems (for each letter of the alphabet) drawing from her experiences working with North Korean refugees in Seoul. Ra's poetry has received awards such as the Pushcart Prize, the 49th Parallel Award, the Vineyard Literary Award, and the Sweet Lit Poetry Award, among others.

Jennifer Maben Warkentin '93 is enjoying living in Arizona with her husband and two teens. Warkentin recently started a job as copy editor for Freedom Learning Group. When not busy performing live theater for her two dogs, she can be found practicing her latest Prancersize moves for her wildly popular TikTok channel. Warkentin had the best spring visits from Rosa Peralta '93 and Jamey Wolverton '94.
Anthea Shore Staffen ’07 to Adam Staffen, on May 21, 2022, at Harvey West Park in Santa Cruz, California. The Whittle in attendance was Shelby Blessing ’07.

Timothy Scudder ’97 and Bala Dodoye-Alali ’98 at The Vegas Shoot 2023. It is known as the largest and most prestigious indoor archery tournament in the world. The event brings together nearly 4,000 archers from around the globe ranging from beginner archers to Olympic champions.

Marine Lt. Col. Jason Smith ’97 (retired) gave a Veterans Day speech to approximately 250 members of a large senior community in Issaquah, Washington, in November 2022. Sally Mathiasen Light ’68 (right) was one of the community members in attendance. In his speech, Smith referenced how his experiences at Whitman and in Walla Walla influenced his perspective on service. The event was organized by Jacqueline “Jackie” Wong ’04 (left).

Happily Ever After

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.

Little Whitties

To Penelope Jane “PJ” Van Hulle Smith ’99 and Paul Smith, a son, Michael Aidan Smith, on May 3, 2022. Little Michael joins big brother Gabriel (5).

To Erica Wollenberg Hiatt ’06 and Jeffrey Hiatt, a daughter, Sophia Leone Hiatt, on Jan. 1, 2023. Sophia joins sister Eleanor (3).

To Stacy Takekawa ’07, a son, Kamakani Yoshiichi Takekawa, on Dec. 14, 2022.

To Rachel Alexander ’13 and Spencer Wharton ’13, a daughter, Lilith Quinn Xanderwhart, born Jan. 26, 2023, in Salem, Oregon.
In Memoriam

1940s

Patricia Doersh Hendryx ’48 on Dec. 15, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. After graduation Hendryx spent some time in San Francisco, Germany and New York City. Hendryx completed her Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California in 1963, and, in 1966, Hendryx and her former husband adopted a son, John. After a demanding career in child welfare, Hendryx returned to her hometown of Portland, Oregon where she lived until her passing. Hendryx is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, a grandson, and several nieces and nephews.

Betty Bassett ’49 on Feb. 9, 2023, in Walla Walla. Shortly after graduation, Bassett married another Whittie, Joseph Bassett ’48. The couple had two children: Joseph Jr. and Judy Bassett ’72. After her children were grown, Bassett returned to school and earned her teaching certification in library science. She taught elementary school, worked as a merchandiser for the Whitman College Bookstore and as a librarian at the Fort Walla Walla Museum. She served as a class representative and co-chaired several reunions. Bassett was predeceased by her husband Joe, and her children.

L. Thomas "Tom" Eckstrand ’49 on Dec. 23, 2022, in Bellevue, Washington. Eckstrand entered Whitman after serving in World War II with the Navy. He was one of the founding members of the Whitman chapter of Delta Tau Delta. In 1979, Eckstrand started a travel agency, The Four Company, Ltd., where he worked until retirement. At the age of 75, Eckstrand began to study Japanese, which led to a hobby of cursive calligraphy. He is survived by his four children.

1950s

Shirley Anderson Jennings ’50 on Dec. 26, 2022, in North Bridgton, Maine. While attending Whitman, Jennings was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and on the women’s varsity swim team. After graduation, she earned her Master’s degree from Tufts University in International Affairs. It was at Tufts where Jennings met her husband, Theodore. The couple married in 1956 and spent several years traveling the world working for the U.S. government and raising their family. The Jenningses eventually settled in Ridgewood, New Jersey, where Shirley served as an officer for several local organizations. She is survived by her husband, three children and four grandchildren.

Carmen Gleiser McCaw ’50 on April 10, 2023, in Walla Walla. After graduating with her degree in Economics, McCaw remained in Walla Walla, where she raised her family and taught Sunday school at the First Presbyterian Church. She was an avid reader, gardener, seamstress, cook and made her home a peaceful and welcoming place for all. McCaw is survived by her husband, Bruce, three children and several grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Windom ’50 on May 8, 2023, in Bothell, Washington. Windom pledged Beta Theta Pi before leaving Whitman due to the sudden death of his father. Although unable to complete his degree, Windom treasured the time he spent at Whitman. Upon returning to Renton, he obtained a broker’s license and established Windom Realty in Issaquah. Windom and his wife, Sally, embraced their passions for photography and writing in retirement. Together they traveled the state in their RV, frequenting art fairs and sharing their photographs and self-published books. Windom is predeceased by his wife; he is survived by two sons and one granddaughter.

Virginia "Ginny" Wilkes Berney ’51 on Dec. 4, 2022, in Olympia, Washington. Berney met her husband, William "Bill" Berney ’48, while attending Whitman. They were married in June 1951. Early in their marriage, Berney moved with her husband as he pursued a career in Methodist ministry around Washington state. She was an advocate for peace and justice, reaching out to those in need. Berney enjoyed sewing; authored articles, poems and hymns; and was a pianist, playing for church services. Berney is predeceased by her husband, Bill. She is survived by five children, including daughter Celia Berney Nightingale ’81.

Lola Mitchell Whitner ’51 on Feb. 28, 2023, in Seattle. Whitner and her husband, Robert, settled in Walla Walla, where she taught high school for more than 30 years. In 2000, Whitner relocated to the Seattle area to be closer to her family. She loved books, music, art and a good party, and brought creativity, exuberance and energy to everything that she did. Whitner is predeceased by her husband and survived by her three children — Karen Whitner ’65, Steve Whitner ’70 and Chris Whitner Swee ’72 — and a grandson.

A. Wesley "Wes" Hodge ’53 on April 3, 2023, in Kirkland, Washington. After graduating from Whitman with his degree in Economics, Hodge earned his advanced law degrees from the University of Washington. Hodge practiced environmental law for over 50 years. He chaired several community and environmental advisory committees and served on the board at the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club. Hodge is survived by three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

James "Jim" Chubb ’54 on Jan. 8, 2023, in Walla Walla. Chubb was teaching junior high school when he was drafted into the army in 1958. Upon his return, Chubb and his wife, Lucy Laverta, settled in Walla Walla, where he taught in the Walla Walla School District for 30 years. Chubb never fully "retired" and continued to support students as an advisor and administrator. Chubb is predeceased by his wife and survived by three children.

Gerald "Gerry" Fry ’54 on Dec. 7, 2022, in Thousand Oaks, California. Interested in radio broadcasting since childhood, Fry established a campus radio station and worked as an announcer at KUJ while at Whitman, in addition to serving as president for Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Fry’s love of radio led to a long career in radio and television broadcasting. He retired from the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service in 1996. In 2013, Fry was awarded the Whitman Alumni Association’s Sally Rogers Award for Lifelong Achievement for his "remarkable career in radio and television." Fry is survived by his wife, Marty Metzler, two daughters and several grandchildren.

Larry Wilson ’54 on Feb. 25, 2023 in Bellevue, Washington. Wilson moved to Seattle after graduation, where he began a long career in real estate. He helped launch one of Seattle’s first real estate investment trusts, Pacific West Realty Trust. Wilson also spent time renovating residential properties in Washington and Idaho. He is survived by his wife, Hellen; two sons, including Jim Wilson ’84; and several nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Frances "Fran" Barrett Yates ’54 on Jan. 31, 2023, in Gresham, Oregon. After earning her degree in French and Education at Whitman, Yates taught high school French and Latin. She earned her Master’s in Education and Counseling Psychology from Portland State University in 1975. Yates worked as a school guidance counselor until her retirement in the early 1990s. She is survived by her husband, two sons and four grandchildren.

John Eiland ’55 on March 4, 2023, in Tucson, Arizona. Eiland met and married his wife of 71 years in the spring of their freshman year. Following graduation, the Eilands attended the University of Washington where John earned his master’s in Comparative Literature and, later, his doctorate in Education. He was employed by the Highline School District in Seattle, as a teacher and then as Director of Curriculum. He is survived by his wife, Doris Biller Eiland ’55 and daughter, Mary.

Charles "Chuck" Huffman ’55 on Jan. 19, 2023, in Kenmore, Washington. Huffman was active in varsity and intramural sports while pursuing his bachelor’s degree in Education and Physics at Whitman. He went on to earn his master’s in Physics from the University of Washington in 1960 and worked his entire career in...
the Edmonds School District as an educator and principal. Huffman was happiest when fishing, beachcombing for agates and traveling. He is survived by his wife, Cathie; three children, including Eric Huffman ’84; and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Priscilla Titus Johnson ’55 on Jan. 7, 2023, in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. After graduation, Johnson embarked on a long career of public relations promoting performing arts. She was hired as the Performing Arts Coordinator at Longwood Gardens, where she remained until her retirement in 2009. During her long career, Johnson produced a record number of events using talent from around the world. Upon her retirement, Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell sent a letter of commendation praising her for creating “an ideal atmosphere for the display, performance and enjoyment of the arts.” Johnson is survived by her daughter, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister and a niece.

Ross Waggoner ’55 on April 8, 2023, in Poulsbo, Washington. Waggoner “met his lifelong love” while attending Whitman. He and Paulette Edes Waggoner ’55 married in the fall following graduation and moved to Palo Alto, California, where Waggoner pursued a Master’s in Business Administration. Waggoner worked for Boeing for a little over a decade before leaving the corporate world to start Port Townsend Lumber with his brother. Waggoner served as President until his retirement in 2002. Waggoner is survived by his wife, three sons, six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Shirley Quine Coffin ’56 on Nov. 1, 2022, in Cedar Mill, Oregon. The autumn following graduation from Whitman, Coffin entered graduate school at the University of Oregon. There, she earned her master’s degree in Biology and a teaching certificate. An enthusiastic naturalist, Coffin helped organize exhibits and classroom presentations about recycling, energy conservation and established recycling programs in Oregon. She served Washington County, Oregon for 18 years, guiding policies of garbage collection and curbside recycling. Coffin is survived by her husband, Bob, and four children, including Daniel Coffin ’80 and Laura Coffin Hardebeck ’85.

Jacqueline “Jackie” Bailey Kluksdahl ’56 on Feb. 25, 2023, in San Rafael, California. Kluksdahl worked as a merchantiser for several retail companies, retiring from Phonic Ear Co. in 1996. After retirement, Kluksdahl and her husband, Harris, spent time traveling and “enjoying grandchildren!” Kluksdahl remained passionate about music throughout her life and served as a volunteer with the Bay Area Marin Symphony. In 2015, she endowed a music scholarship at Whitman in memory of her friend, Mary Ann More Ringgold ’56. Kluksdahl is predeceased by her husband and one son. She is survived by four children, including Carolyn Jensen Dwyer ’82, and several grandchildren.

Eurgel “George” Martel ’56 on April 29, 2023, in Vancouver, Washington. Martel met and married his wife, Walla Walla native Marjorie Calabrese, while attending Whitman. In 1952, Martel entered the Army, and the newlyweds relocated to San Luis Obispo, California. Martel returned to Whitman in 1955 to complete his degree in Economics. After graduation, Martel accepted a position at Seagram Distillers, where he worked as a distribution manager until retirement. After retiring, Martel devoted himself to woodworking, fishing and gardening. Martel is predeceased by his wife. He is survived by four children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Patricia “Pat” Kelly White ’56 on March 9, 2023, in Salem, Oregon. White pledged Alpha Chi Omega, was active in student government and worked as a reporter for the student newspaper while attending Whitman. White spent her career in the Academic and Student Affairs department at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. In the early 1980s, White met and married her second husband, Evan White. The couple shared a mutual interest in camping and hiking, and spent their honey-moon tent camping at Yosemite National Park. White is survived by her husband, six children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Daryl Jonson ’57 on May 17, 2023, in Richland, Washington. Jonson married his high school sweetheart, Patricia “Pat” Acton Jonson ’59, just prior to beginning(4,6),(994,979)
education. She taught in Monterey and Salinas school districts for nearly 40 years. Burdick spent her summers attending summer schools around the world, including in Mexico, Spain and Hawaii. After 20 summers of studying English literature and history, she earned a master's degree in Medieval Studies from the University of York. Burdick continued her educational pursuits well into retirement and was active with the Monterey County Mensa. She is survived by her sister, Luanna "Lu" Burdick Bleavens '61, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Elizabeth "Betty" Tidwell '39 on Jan. 17, 2023, in Butte, Montana. Tidwell attended Whitman for two years, and later worked at the University of Montana. After her time at Whitman, she worked for several years in the insurance business. In 1961, she married her husband, Max, and they raised their three children, including Susan "Sue" Morris Harris '66.

Robert "Bob" Lorence '63 on Feb. 16, 2023, in University Place, Washington. During his time at Whitman, Anderson met Diana Yansen Wisen '61. After graduation, Anderson returned to the Tacoma area where he operated Hampton Lumber Co. and owned a contracting business. The couple married in 1962 and had two children, including David "Dave" Anderson '90. Anderson is survived by his sister, Ida Mae Anderson Salatino '56, his son, and his former wife.

Joan "J.J." Parker Shannon '60 on Sept. 3, 2022, in Tigard, Oregon. Shannon pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma while at Whitman. She spent her career as a high school counselor in the Tigard School District, retiring in 2013. Shannon enjoyed being a counselor, but enjoyed "even more in retirement being able to travel, to read books continually and learn more about the world." Shannon is predeceased by her husband, Larry, and sister Linda Lee Tjossem '63. She is survived by her three children, including Eva Shannon '87, and two grandchildren.

Jack Spencer '60 on Oct. 9, 2022, in Boerne, Texas. Spencer attended Whitman from 1957–1959. He played football and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He left school to serve in the United States Navy. Spencer is survived by a son who is his namesake.

Norman "Norm" Sherlock '61 on Nov. 16, 2022, in Arlington, Virginia. Sherlock was a member of Phi Delta Theta and played varsity football while he attended Whitman. Upon graduation, he became a lobbyist and trade association executive. Sherlock eventually joined the American Bus Association, where he was elected President and CEO in 1981. He retired 15 years later. Sherlock is predeceased by two daughters; he is survived by his sister, a son, five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In 2013, Shannon enjoyed being a counselor, but enjoyed "even more in retirement being able to travel, to read books continually and learn more about the world." Shannon is predeceased by her husband, Larry, and sister Linda Lee Tjossem '63. She is survived by her three children, including Eva Shannon '87, and two grandchildren.

William "Bill" Schulte '63 on Feb. 14, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. Schulte pursued a law degree at the Willamette University College of Law. He served as a deputy District Attorney in Multnomah County for four years before joining a private practice where he became a partner. Schulte retired in 2019, having received several honors, awards, and mentored many lawyers over the years. He was a voracious reader and enjoyed crossword puzzles, word games, gardening, biking, walking, golf and travel. Two trips he particularly enjoyed were with the Whitman Alumni Association, one to study the Civil War in the southern U.S. and another to Turkey. He is survived by his wife, Laurie; his sister, Judith Schulte Tanasse '67; his brother; two sons; two step-children; nine grandchildren; a great-granddaughter and his dog, Ellie.

David Welden '63 on June 9, 2022, in Montague, California. Welden was an educator all his adult life. After Whitman, he taught in several high schools in Alaska and Washington before serving as an elementary school principal in Polson, Montana. It was during that time, Welden earned his master's degree in Education from the University of Montana. He left public education after nearly two decades and retrained as a flight dispatcher, a job he held until his retirement in 2011. Welden is survived by his wife, Kristine, two children, two grandchildren, and 10 nieces and nephews.

Ward Mowry '64 on Nov. 2, 2022, in Osoyoos, British Columbia, Canada. Mowry spent 40 years in public education. After Whitman, he taught at several elementary schools before obtaining his teaching certificate from the University of British Columbia in 1968. Mowry taught high school English and history at Estevan Comprehensive School for over 30 years. "After several other schools, this was the one where I felt fit," he said.

William "Mick" Culham '65 on Jan. 12, 2023, in Pendleton, Oregon. Culham pledged Phi Delta Theta and played varsity baseball during his time at Whitman. He left Whitman to serve in the Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After his service, Culham attended the University of Montana and earned his bachelor's in History and Biology. He worked as a land and ranch real estate broker in Missoula, Montana and Portland, Oregon, before moving to Pendleton in 2021. Culham was an avid outdoorsman and skilled woodworker. He is predeceased by one son; he is survived by a brother and one son.

Robert McCormic '65 on Dec. 23, 2022, in Poulsbo, Washington. After graduation, McCormic moved to Berkeley, California, where he married Anina Tardif and his three children were born. In 1973, McCormic returned to Bainbridge Island where he was raised. He worked for over four decades in sales at National Computer Systems. McCormic is survived by his wife, Anina, one son, two daughters, three grandchildren and sister, Karen McCormic Beiler '61.

Susan "Sue" Morris Harris '66 on April 15, 2023, in Spokane, Washington. Shortly after obtaining her teaching certificate from Eastern Washington University, Harris married her husband Delmar. The couple settled in the Spokane area, where Harris taught elementary school for 45 years. "Even near the end," according to her tribute, "her spirit could not be dimmed and she knew that she was loved." Harris is survived by her husband, their two children and five grandchildren.

Susan Campbell Pratt '66 on Jan. 16, 2023, in Arizona. Pratt taught elementary school for four years, then decided to change her career path. She worked as a legal assistant for a time, before entering the University of Puget Sound and earning her law degree. Pratt spent the remainder of her career as Assistant Attorney General in the social and health services divisions for the State of Washington in Tacoma, where she lived. Pratt maintained a strong connection with Whitman. She volunteered as a class representative, co-chaired reunions and served as a member of the Alumni Association Board. She is survived by her husband, Greg, two children, four grandchildren and her sister, Cathryn Campbell Allen '68.

Gregory "Greg" Jones '67 on Feb. 2, 2023, in Walla Walla. Phi Delta Theta member and Walla Walla Walla local, Jones only left the area briefly, when he worked to obtain his Masters of Business Administration in International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management (now Thunderbird) in Phoenix, Arizona. Jones returned to Walla Walla to open his business, Greg Jones Travel. He was dedicated to his hometown and a member of the Rotary, Elks, Walla Walla Symphony and Little Theater of Walla Walla. Jones is survived by his siblings, including Gervyn Jones '59, four nephews and a niece.

Thomas "Tom" Hawkins '68 on Feb. 14, 2023, in Anchorage, Alaska. Hawkins was an avid outdoorsman. Hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, boating...
and exploring new territory were skills he brought with him when he and his wife, Susan Wakefield Hawkins ’68, drove their VW van from Seattle to Alaska in 1972. Hawkins earned his Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage and spent his career in land management. He worked for a variety of state, federal, and private planning and land management agencies. Hawkins is survived by his wife, two children and two grandchildren.

William "Bill" Storie ’69 on Sept. 28, 2022, in Pendleton, Oregon. Storie earned his jurisprudence degree from the University of Oregon in 1972. He spent his career practicing law, first in Pendleton, then in Bend, Oregon. He retired in 1997 and returned to Pendleton. Storie was an avid fisherman, hunter, trapshooter, golfer, cook and outdoorsman. He is survived by his wife, Jill, and one son.

1970s

Sara Wilson Peterson ’71 on March 30, 2022, in San Diego, California. Bay Area local, Peterson was pursuing a degree in English when she left the college. She worked as a broker. Peterson is survived by her husband, John.

Arthur "Art" Mitchell ’72 on April 27, 2023, in Southlake, Texas. A Philosophy major, Mitchell was named Pacific Northwest Conference All-Star Flanker in 1971 and was an outstanding Whitman football player. He was also a founding member of the Black Student Union on campus. While he held multiple jobs over several years, Mitchell was always active in his communities and volunteered for several boards, organizations and schools, including co-chairing Whitman’s 2008 Football Reunion and serving on the Alumni Association Board. Mitchell is survived by his wife, Natalie; three children and sisters; many devoted friends; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Timothy "Tim" Boutz ’74 on Jan. 10, 2023, in Walla Walla. Walla Walla local, Boutz met his wife of over 40 years, Susan, while they attended high school. They married in 1981. After Whitman, he earned his master’s degree in English from Northern Arizona University. Boutz returned to Walla Walla and took a job with Walla Walla Community College as an instructor at the Washington State Penitentiary, where he worked until retirement. He was a fierce supporter of inmate education and the many ways education could change lives. Additionally, Boutz coached Little League for over 40 years. Boutz is survived by his wife, two children and four grandchildren.

Kent Hoover ’76 on Jan. 23, 2023, in Kennewick, Washington. After completing his degree in Biology, varsity football player Hoover joined the Richland Police Department. He served honorably as corporal, sergeant, firearms instructor and canine handler; retiring in 2005. He bred and raised racing quarter horses for 30 years and dabbled in woodworking, knife making and gunsmithing. Hoover loved to travel, fish and camp. He is survived by his partner, Lillian, a son and his brothers, including Hal Hoover ’74.

1980s

Joseph "Joe" Dhaenens ’84 on March 14, 2023, in Las Vegas. Dhaenens graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in Geology. While at Whitman, he played varsity tennis and intramural basketball. He was also active in the Outdoor Program. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Dhaenens’ passion guided his career path. He worked as a geology instructor, land surveyor for construction contractors and opened his own surveying company. Dhaenens remained active in the hiking and climbing communities and was within reach of his life goal of summiting 777 peaks. He was climbing at Red Rocks before his passing. He is survived by his mother, Betty; six siblings and their families; his former wife, Rebecca Perrine ’83; and many dear friends.

Bryan Lubbers ’86 on Feb. 13, 2023, in Walla Walla. Lubbers earned his Bachelor of Science from Washington State University in 1988. He worked in Portland, Oregon, before returning to Walla Walla. Lubbers accepted a position with Whitman College Technology Services in 1997. In memory of Lubbers, Dan Terrio, Chief Information Officer, writes, “Bryan had a harried but much appreciated work life in Maxey Hall. Seemingly always on the run somewhere, his remarkably tolerant query ‘Have you tried rebooting it?’ solved many of life’s lesser problems, while his powerful analytic mind and laser-like focus took care of the rest.” Lubbers is survived by his wife, Becci, and a daughter.

Janai Powell Symons ’86 on April 21, 2023, in Bellingham, Washington. After Whitman, Symons earned her law degree from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. She worked as a clerk for the Washington Supreme Court and practiced law with a Seattle firm. Symons decided to change her career path and returned to school. She earned her Master of Library Science from the University of Washington. Symons worked for several library systems before accepting the role of Research Compliance Officer for Western Washington University (WWU). She remained with WWU until her retirement in 2022. Symons is survived by her husband, Larry, six children and two grandchildren.

Michael "Mike" Sullivan ’88 on Jan. 31, 2022, in Decatur, Georgia. After graduating from Whitman, Sullivan earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy at Vanderbilt University and a J.D. at Yale Law School. He was a member of the faculty at Emory University for 22 years as Associate Professor of Philosophy and Pre-Law Advisor. Sullivan’s research dealt with the philosophy of law, constitutional theory, the Supreme Court and its judicial decision making. Sullivan was the 1988 recipient of the William W. Soper Prize in Philosophy and the 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award for the Humanities from the Emory Center for Teaching and Curriculum. He is survived by his partner, Lei, his mother, Margaret, and many cousins.

1990s

MaryLou Whalen ’90 on Dec. 24, 2022, in Walla Walla. In memory of Whalen, retired Professor of Sociology Keith Farrington writes, "MaryLou was a nontraditional student in the truest sense of the term. What made MaryLou so unusual in the context of our student body at the time was she was a correctional officer at the penitentiary, who continued to work full-time during her years at Whitman. But I don’t remember her ever missing a day of classes. MaryLou was a force of nature—intelligent, intellectually curious, capable of (and willing to) engage in argumentation about virtually anything—and my admiration for her is boundless." Whalen is survived by her husband, John.
FAST 5 WITH

Jocelyn Awe

Joceyln Awe brings high energy and hard-won knowledge to Whitman’s student-athletes. After college—and a young life of athletics, including hockey, basketball and football (to name a few)—Awe gained experience working with Division I athletes at Northwestern University and the University of Minnesota before leading the strength and conditioning program for the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. Awe stepped into his role as Director of Sports Performance and the Baker Ferguson Fitness Center in June 2021. Whitman students inspire Awe daily—and he hopes to leave them with some inspiration as well. We had a chance to ask him five questions to find out what that looks like in the gym and beyond. —BY PAM MOORE

1
What inspired you to go into sports performance?
I remember gravitating to magazines like Muscle & Fitness from the time I was 5 years old. When I was in elementary school, after my dad picked me up from my sports practice, I’d help him coach my sister’s team. So I’ve always loved sports. But I think the real turning point was when my high school football coach showed me how to lift weights my freshman year. At the time, I was 5 foot 6 and 120 pounds. Because of his belief in me, I was on the starting lineup two seasons later.

2
What’s your coaching philosophy?
I’m training athletes not just to perform well while they’re at Whitman—but for life. I want them to learn how to plan a workout routine that’s sustainable for decades to come so that they can continue to be active over their entire life span. That means giving them the skills to know when it’s time to be flexible and creative when a particular workout isn’t going as planned—and when it’s time to come see me or another professional for help.

3
What do you find special about the Whitman community?
Whitman student-athletes are uniquely multifaceted. In addition to playing a sport, oftentimes they’re also balancing participation in other clubs, a full course load and studying for the MCAT, for example. I’m so impressed by how well they manage to pursue so many different interests and passions at once.

4
What role does mindset play in performance?
Mindset is huge. All other things being equal, athletes who train their minds are better equipped to maintain control in any given situation and more likely to push themselves beyond their comfort zone during training or competition—and achieve better results.

5
How do you help athletes adopt a more productive mindset?
I believe that the most powerful words are the ones we tell ourselves. You can influence the outcome of any given workout, competition or situation by simply believing it will go well—or that it won’t. Sometimes I’ll have athletes write down the highlight of their day just before a workout. It sounds like a small thing but it’s a powerful cue to keep focusing on what’s going well.
A Resolution to Rise for a Brilliant Future. We’ll Get There Together.

Whitman College is preparing to announce the launch of an ambitious campaign to empower talented students through our transformative liberal arts education.

Join us on an extraordinary journey for a brighter future. Together, we can build a stronger community and equip graduates to become influential leaders and innovative thinkers, driving positive change in a world that needs them.

We’re bringing the celebration to you!

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH EVENTS | FALL 2023

Whitman Campus: October 12–14
Los Angeles: October 17
Bay Area: October 18
Portland: October 26
Denver: November 2
Seattle: November 8

Learn more about an upcoming event close to you at whitman.edu/campaign.
One Happy Day in May!

PICTURE PERFECT. Whitman College’s Class of 2023 had so much to celebrate on Sunday, May 21, 2023—Whitman’s 137th Commencement Ceremony. The nearly 350 scholars majoring in disciplines from across academic divisions received their diplomas. Two decades after her own graduation, Amber Ebarb ’03 delivered the Commencement address. (For more on Ebarb, see page 6.) See Commencement highlights at whitman.edu/magazine.