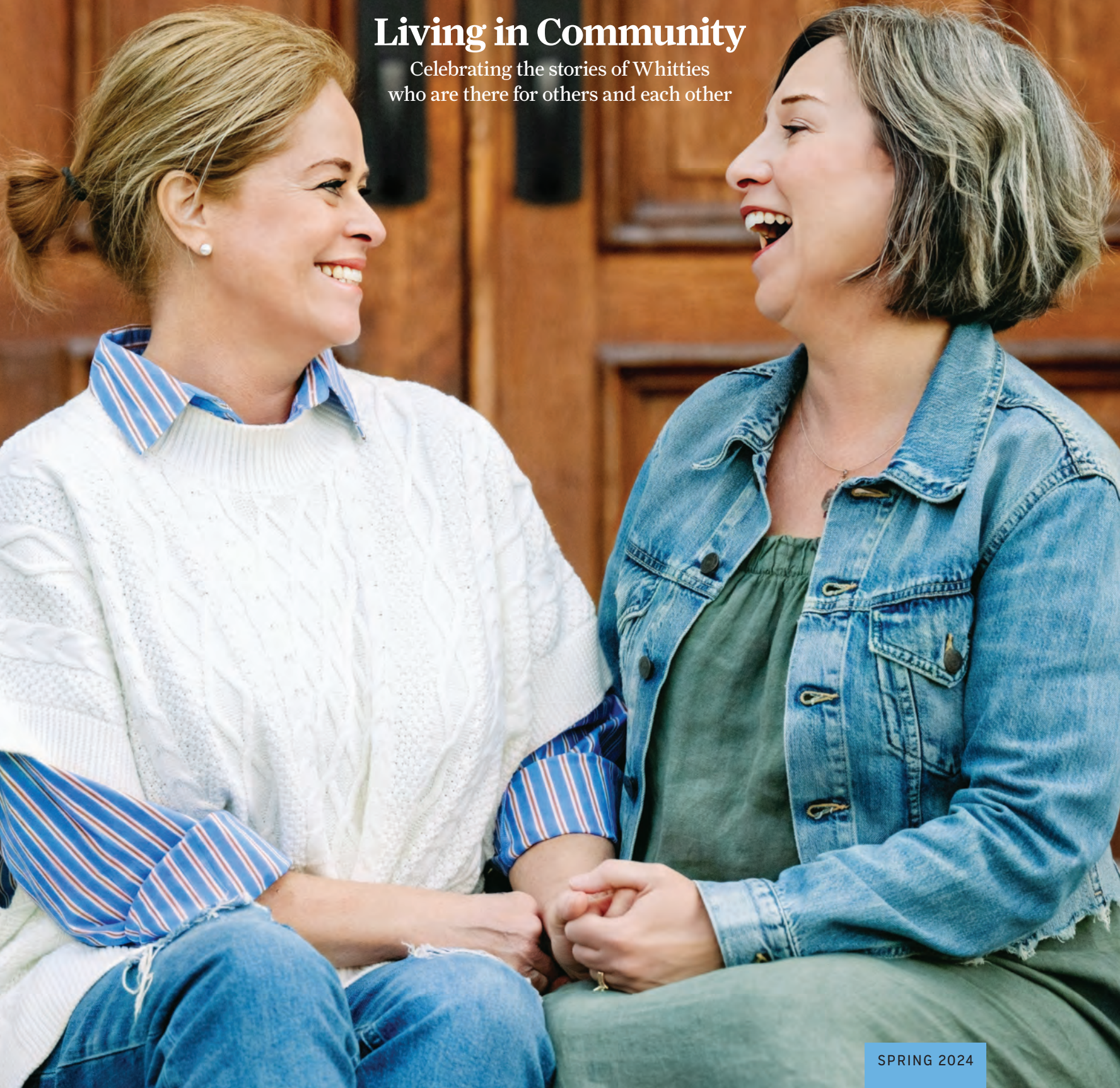


WHITMAN

MAGAZINE

Living in Community

Celebrating the stories of Whitties
who are there for others and each other



SPRING 2024

Lying in the Spanish Sun

Captured by Grant Didway '24, a Computer Science major from Oregon City, Oregon, while studying abroad in Granada, Spain.

Lying in the Spanish Sun

Captured by Grant Didway '24, a Computer Science major from Oregon City, Oregon, while studying abroad in Granada, Spain.

132

Lying in the Spanish Sun

Captured by Grant Didway '24, a Computer Science major from Oregon City, Oregon, while studying abroad in Granada, Spain.



Inside

10

MEET MWAMBA — A VISIONARY WHITTIE

Growing up in Zambia, Whitman junior Mwamba Muntanga dreamed of a college education in the United States. Today, he's the founder of Education24, a nonprofit that guides students from African countries through the college application process.

12

JULIA & JOANIE: A LIFE-CHANGING CONNECTION

In the fall of 2022, Professor Julia Ireland '90 was facing a health crisis that was overwhelming her body and mind. She found not only a supporter and friend in fellow Whitman colleague Joanie Lucarelli but the gift of a lifetime — and a new joy and lease on life.

18

COLORADO'S FIRST FEMALE AG COMMISSIONER

Kate Greenberg's path to becoming Colorado's Commissioner of Agriculture has been one of exploration and service. See how she thinks about her work — building trust in communities and meaningful agriculture policies — and how her Whitman experiences gave her a love for the West and the land.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
ON BOYER AVENUE	3
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: SHARON ALKER	8
CLASS NOTES	23
FAST 5: WITH FRANK DUNNIVANT	32

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 Julia Ireland '90 (left) and Joanie Lucarelli. See page 12. Photo by Kim Fetrow '96 of Kim Fetrow Photography



We're Better Together

THE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS is one of Whitman's most important strengths. Here, learning depends not just on what books students read, what labs they do and what classes they take. It also depends critically on who they do that reading, experimenting and studying with. At the foundation of residential liberal arts education is the deep conviction that making meaning together — whether of texts or scientific data or art or current events — creates the most profound opportunities for understanding and growth.

Students often connect to the Whitman community even before they arrive on campus, and once they are here, they experience the extraordinary richness that comes from living, leading and learning in a diverse student body, with classmates and teammates from across the United States and from more than 70 nations around the world. Every day, that wealth of cultures and perspectives shapes how students grow in the classroom and far beyond it — developing new ways to see the world, new approaches to serve the campus and local communities, as well as new opportunities to make a difference after graduation.

And the Whitman community is lasting. While it begins when students come to campus, it doesn't end there. Watching the enduring bonds among Whitties around the country and the ways that alumni extend a supportive hand to current students as they begin to explore their futures is inspiring. This year the Class of 1974 returns for their 50th Reunion, and I know their presence and advice will be a great encouragement to our new graduates as they begin the next step in their journeys.

Following the isolation of the pandemic, which was at its peak as the Class of 2024 began their college experience, we appreciate the value of community even more, and we are doubling down on it for current and future Whitman students. From the junior-senior village that's under construction to cross-campus inclusive excellence initiatives to alumni support for our student-athletes, efforts to help students build strong and lasting connections have a real impact. I am profoundly grateful to so many of you who are helping to make these endeavors possible!

Please enjoy this community-themed issue of the magazine — this truly is a place of deep caring and strong connections.

Sarah Bolton
President

“At the foundation of residential liberal arts education is the deep conviction that making meaning together ... creates the most profound opportunities for understanding and growth.”

PRESIDENT

Sarah R. Bolton

VICE PRESIDENT

FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Gina Zandy Ohnstad

VICE PRESIDENT FOR

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

Steven J. Setchell

DIRECTOR OF CONTENT

Margie McDevitt Reece '93

DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE

STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS

Ryan Miller Barnes

MANAGING EDITOR

Casey Brown

DESIGNERS

Kirsten Erwin

Matthew McKern

CLASS NOTES

Jaimee Maurer

CONTACT US

Send comments about this issue and story ideas for future editions of Whitman Magazine by email at magazine@whitman.edu.

To notify us of a change of mailing address or to opt out of receiving this magazine, please email addrchg@whitman.edu.

CLASS NOTES

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

WHITMAN MAGAZINE

Published four times a year by Whitman College, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Periodical postage paid at Walla Walla, WA, and additional mailing offices (USPS 968-620). ISSN: 0164-6990.

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.

On Boyer Avenue

NEWS FROM CAMPUS

A Living Laboratory

Landscape course encourages students to re-envision the Whitman campus

THE WHITMAN COLLEGE CAMPUS is known for its towering trees, lush lawns and winding waterways. While the overall aesthetic is undeniably beautiful, the landscaping does not purposely incorporate native plants or reflect the cultural heritage of the Indigenous peoples who have called the region home for thousands of years.

Biology major Quinn Miller '24 hopes to change that.

Working with Heidi Dobson, the Spencer F. Baird Professor of Biology, and Amy Molitor, Senior Lecturer of Environmental Studies, in an independent study, Miller designed a course that would allow students to not only learn about landscapes holistically, but also develop projects for specific locations on the Whitman campus. Dobson and Molitor co-taught the course that Miller designed, Campus Landscape: A Living Laboratory, in Spring 2024.

"I was excited to create a course that could change what our landscape looks like," says Miller, who's double majoring in Biology and Hispanic Studies and minoring in Chemistry. "I knew this was a class that I would want to take and my friends would want to take."

In addition to completing required readings and participating in class discussions, students met with Whitman alumni from the Walla Walla County Conservation District about vegetation restoration, spent extensive time with botanists from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and visited the CTUIR's native plant nursery.

The students also worked in pairs to conceptualize and plan landscaping projects that would help increase sustainability, inclusion, education and outreach on campus. Project ideas included creating a First Foods garden that would grow the traditional foods of the local tribes; establishing a rain garden in front of Penrose Library; and creating a meditation garden by the Counseling Center.

At the end of the semester, students presented their projects to the class. They also created posters that were hung in Maxey West to share with the wider campus community.

"I hope the students came away with a new approach to looking at their surroundings and thinking about how they interact with their surroundings," Miller says. "I also hope they feel like they have a voice in determining how this place that is their home for four years looks so that everyone feels welcomed."

Learn more about this course — and what native plants are being added to campus — at whitman.edu/magazine.



Digging change. Students in BIOL-171 working near Ankeny Field in April 2024.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Junior Whitties Earn Prestigious Fellowships

TWO WHITMAN COLLEGE JUNIORS were named 2024 Junior Summer Institute fellows by the Public Policy & International Affairs (PPIA) Program. Hosted at some of the top graduate policy schools in the country, these rigorous summer programs prepare students for advanced education and success in the field of public service.

Meron Semere '25, a first-generation college student who is pursuing a major in Economics and minors in Religion and Computer Science, was awarded a fellowship at Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University.

After graduate school, Semere hopes to pursue a career in the transportation industry, public policy within big tech or consulting in the public sector.

Kate Moe '25, who is majoring in Politics at Whitman, was awarded a fellowship at the

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

Moe hopes to pursue a career in refugee or disability policy and submitted her fellowship application while abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, where she studied International Refugee Law.

PPIA fellows are eligible to receive application fee waivers and additional fellowships when applying to public and international affairs programs in the PPIA Graduate School Consortium, which includes more than 50 participating graduate institutions across the nation.

Outstanding juniors. Top: Meron Semere '25 is an Economics major from Portland, Oregon.

Bottom: Kate Moe '25 is a Politics major from Minneapolis, Minnesota.



More Award-Winning Scholars Do Whitman Proud

Five Whitties have been awarded **Research Experiences for Undergraduates** from the **National Science Foundation**. **Henry Anderson '27** will study in the Ecohydrology of Tropical Montane Forests Program at Texas A&M University and conduct fieldwork in Costa Rica. **Emily De La Cruz Hofer '26** will study at the Blinks Marine Biology Program at the University of Washington. **Sebastian Wiedenhoef '27** will study in the Socially Relevant Computing and Analytics Program at North Carolina State University. **Noelle Mattingley '25** will attend the Center for Neurotechnology Program at the University of Washington. **Marleigh Anderson '24** will attend the Rhodes Information Initiative at Duke University to participate in the Data+ Summer Research Experience.

Eliza Daigle '25, a Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology (BBMB) major from Portland, Oregon, and **Kaleo Toguchi-Tani '25**, a Physics-Astronomy major from Kailua, Hawaii, are winners of the **Goldwater Scholarship**, which is one of the oldest

and most prestigious national scholarships in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics.

Sueli Gwiazdowski '24 has been named Whitman College's first **James C. Gaither Junior Fellow** of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She will dedicate her yearlong fellowship to the Carnegie Nuclear Policy Program, which aims to make the world safer by understanding urgent nuclear threats. Gwiazdowski is one of 16 fellows and the only one from the West Coast.

Maryanne Ndung'u '26, an Economics-Mathematics major from Nairobi, Kenya, is the latest **Projects for Peace** recipient. Projects for Peace is a global program that partners with educational institutions to identify and support young peacebuilders. Ndung'u's project will focus on empowering matriarchs from Kawangware Market, a vibrant yet economically challenged area in Nairobi.

Elle Palmer '25, a South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Politics double major from Sarasota Springs, New York, has been awarded the **Critical Language Scholarship (CLS)** to study Arabic in Nizwa, Oman. She joins 19 past recipients from Whitman. The U.S. Department of State sponsors the CLS Program, which provides immersive language learning in a host country. Palmer is currently studying abroad at the University of Oxford.

Katherine Swisher '20 has received a yearlong service fellowship that will take her to the Dominican Republic. **Princeton in Latin America** partners with NGOs and multilateral organizations and places highly qualified recent college graduates in yearlong service fellowships with nonprofit, public service, humanitarian, and government organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Award season! Read more about these and other honored Whitman students at whitman.edu/magazine.



Talia Lorincz '26 received the British Columbia Medal of Good Citizenship for her service to Ukrainian refugees

THE WORLD NEEDS WHITTIES

A Small Idea To Help Refugees Makes a Gold Medal Impact

WHEN TALIA LORINCZ, A sophomore Chemistry major at Whitman, received the British Columbia Medal of Good Citizenship for her service to Ukrainian refugees, she got emotional. "I thought it was a tremendous honor," she says.

The second highest award offered in the Canadian province, the medal recognizes generosity, service, acts of selflessness and contributions to community life. And Lorincz hopes it can, in a small way, bring some focus back to the war in Ukraine.

"Any publicity that I can bring to get people talking about what is still happening to the Ukrainian people is good."

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion, millions of Ukrainians have been displaced. Many left their homes with nothing more than one or two bags of belongings. By 2022, when Lorincz was 16, some 200,000 refugees had moved to Canada from Eastern Europe. And Lorincz wanted to help.

Her initial idea was small — gather donated raincoats for seven or so refugee families — but it soon grew into something much bigger.

"I just started reaching out to groups, churches, sports teams and schools around the neighborhood — and a lot of people from Facebook — to ask for donations," she says.

The help started flooding in — and didn't stop until Lorincz had much more on her hands than she'd expected.

"I would come home, and my entire porch would be just full of boxes and boxes," she says. "It grew from seven families to ... 10, 20, 30, 40 people coming a week."

That led Lorincz to her big idea: Why not open a free store in the basement of her Vancouver home, where people could "shop" for what they needed?

Help came from many other sources too. "We even had neighbors who were driving an hour out of the city to go in and pick up a family or two and then drive them back in so they could come visit the store, which was just so, so kind."

DRESSING FOR DIGNITY

Lorincz says she was grateful to help and moved by the little moments of joy that the free store brought to its customers.

"We wanted to support people's dignity and self-respect. It seems small but choosing your own clothes and feeling good about what you're wearing contributes to how you feel about yourself when so much of what is happening is beyond your control."



LEADERSHIP

New Provost To Join Whitman

Dr. Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak will become Whitman's next Provost and Dean of the Faculty.

Having previously served as Provost at Bucknell University, Mermann-Jozwiak will assume her new role on July 1, 2024. Her duties will encompass overseeing academic program development, faculty recruitment and support, and accreditation and assessment.

Announcing the news, President Sarah Bolton commended Mermann-Jozwiak's extensive background in academic leadership, teaching and scholarship, highlighting her contributions to program growth, faculty diversity and student success in previous roles.

With nearly 20 years of leadership experience, including at Bucknell and as a Dean at Gonzaga University, Mermann-Jozwiak brings a wealth of knowledge. She earned a master's from the University of Cologne and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has authored numerous scholarly works.

WHY WHITMAN?

The college's new Provost believes she's found a place that has a shared vision for a strong and better future.

"What spoke to me was Whitman's steadfast belief in the exceptional and necessary experiences that a liberal arts education offers for the 21st century," she says.

"I was also impressed by Whitman's commitment to inclusion which aligns so well with my values of ensuring that all students succeed in college, that faculty and staff are able to meet current students where they are at, and that all members of the community feel that they are welcomed and appreciated."

CAMPUS LIFE

A Place to Bloom

New residential village is a major boon to campus & community-building

A COUPLE OF SHORT BLOCKS from Walla Walla's downtown, the residential village that will house more than 200 students is under construction—and is one of Whitman's most ambitious building projects ever. Set to open in August 2025, the new apartment-style living community, including three new residence halls, is designed specifically for juniors and seniors to have a place to live and thrive on campus.

"The new village is transformative for our students and for our campus community," President Sarah Bolton says.

"It will deepen the connections among juniors and seniors and enable them to stay engaged on campus, providing

new opportunities for leadership and mentorship as well."

PRESERVING & PROGRESSING

While this west end area of campus will dramatically evolve in the coming months, some cherished staples will remain.

Perhaps most notably, Whitman's state champion weeping cherry tree will be preserved in its location, as well as other mature trees with healthy root systems. An arborist is monitoring the cherry tree during construction and will advise on removing invasive tree species from the site. More than 100 new deciduous and conifer trees will be

planted—further enhancing Whitman's Tree Campus USA status.

A revived College Creek is a central feature of the village. Factors in rehabilitating this local ecosystem include considering stream flows, ecology, and species habitats while keeping shrubs, perennials and mixed grasses that are native to the area along its banks.

On the construction side, builders will use green building practices — working toward LEED certification — to improve efficiency, lower carbon emissions and create healthier spaces. For example, the halls will have natural light, LED bulbs, electric vehicle charging stations and low-flow water fixtures.

GATHERING TOGETHER

The village will be a community for its residents and also bring students from across class years to gather in common areas. For a first-year student from San Francisco, the village will create something that's greatly needed. "I'm beyond excited for this new space to foster community," says Sebastian Vera Cuevas, who could be one of the village's first residents. "It will bridge the gap we see too often between juniors and seniors from the rest of the student body."

THE VISION FOR THE VILLAGE

Announced in the fall of 2023, this project to enhance residence life is a key priority of **Upward Together: The Campaign for Whitman College**.

These new residence halls will be in a parklike setting along College Creek with recreation and gathering areas for students to enjoy. Two of the three halls have already been named after notable Whitman alumni and leaders: the first, Harvey Hall, after longtime Chief Financial Officer Peter Havey '84 and the second, Robart Hall, after Judge James Robart '69. As building continues, donors will have the chance to be part of additional naming opportunities for student and community spaces.

Gifts from alumni, families and friends of Whitman are the reason the college can realize historic projects that will foster distinctive experiences for students. Learn more about **Upward Together** and check out an animated rendering of the junior-senior village at whitman.edu/magazine.



FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Assistant Director for Career Readiness and Employer Engagement **Nikki Brueggeman** is the 2023 recipient of the David Nord Award, which supports LGBTQIA+ projects at Whitman. Brueggeman will direct an oral history project about intergenerational learning and the impact of the AIDS epidemic in Walla Walla.

The annual Pete and Hedda Reid Award recognizes a Whitman faculty or staff member for their exceptional volunteer work within the community. This year's award was given to **Sarah Hurlburt '91**, Chair and Professor of French and Francophone Studies.

Associate Professor of Politics **Jack Jackson** accepted an invitation to be a Visiting Scholar at the Emory University School of Law this spring. He will be affiliated with the Feminism and Legal Theory Project and the Vulnerability and Human Condition Initiative.



An article co-authored by Professor of Biology **Tim Parker** is generating a lot of interest. "Same Data, Different Analysts: Variation in Effect Sizes Due to Analytical Decisions in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology" reports on a study in which analyst teams found substantially different answers to research questions using the same set of data. The article was downloaded more than 8,000 times in the first week and has since been reported on in *Nature* and *The Conversation*.



Michelle Ferenz won her 400th game as Head Coach of the Blues! Ferenz has led Whitman's women's basketball since 2001 and is the winningest women's basketball coach in Northwest Conference history.

Associate Professor of German Studies and Environmental Humanities **Emily Jones** was featured in *HIAS* magazine. The article, titled "Emily Jones, Environmental Humanities—How Language Turns Plants Into Unkraut," profiles the work Jones is doing on sabbatical at the Hamburg Institute for Advanced Study (HIAS).

Head Men's Basketball Coach and Senior Lecturer of Sports Studies **John Lamanna** was included on the 2023 Most Impactful Division III Head Coaches list by Silver Waves Media.

Academic Resource Center Coordinator **Colette Marie** published a poem titled "Sanctuary" in *The Healing Muse*, a not-for-profit journal of literary and visual art published by SUNY Upstate Medical University's Center for Bioethics and Humanities.

Associate Professor of Sociology **Álvaro Santana-Acuña** was featured in a reportage published in *El Mundo* on the power of tech oligarchs, the weakening of the nation-state and the rise of "neofeudalism."

Assistant Professor of Art **Emily Somoskey** exhibited a solo art show in The Blue Galleries at Boise State University. In "All Encompassing," Somoskey uses paint and collaged photographic imagery as a means to think through larger questions, curiosities and areas of subjectivity that make up our world.

Chief Information Officer **Dan Terrio** was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the NorthWest Academic Computing Consortium (NWACC). Terrio has been active with NWACC for many years, most recently leading efforts to organize the 2025 cohort for the NWACC Leadership Development Program.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Religion **Xiaobo Yuan** co-edited a special issue of the interdisciplinary journal *China Perspectives* and co-authored an introduction to the issue, titled "Interrogating Futurity in Contemporary China: Towards Plural Horizons of Political Imagination."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAN ALKER



Making Meaning Through Reading

ENGLISH PROFESSOR SHARON ALKER SHARES
HER LOVE OF LITERATURE WITH HER STUDENTS

BY DEBBIE RITENOUR

SHARON ALKER is not exaggerating when she says she can get absorbed in a book.

“When I was about 8 years old, I was sitting in the kitchen, reading a book in front of the fire,” she says. “At one point, my mother rushed in, saying, ‘Sharon! Sharon! The room is on fire!’ I looked up, and the room was almost full of smoke. A log had rolled out of the fireplace, and I had been so absorbed in my book, I hadn’t even noticed.”

Today, Alker is sharing her passion for reading and researching with Whitman College students as the Mary A. Denny Professor of English and General Studies. Whether she is teaching Introduction to Fiction or spending hours in the archives of

a library halfway around the globe, Alker is committed to exploring the power and pleasure of literature.

“To me, books feel more real than real life,” she says. “I feel more alive when I’m inside a book.”

A GRADUAL UNFOLDING

A native of Scotland, Alker moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, when she was 13. Despite her precocious reading habits — she learned to read at the age of 3 and was devouring Dickens by 10 — Alker didn’t consider herself particularly smart. In fact, the idea of going to college never crossed her mind. Instead, she got married and began a career in business before moving to Hong Kong with her husband and two daughters.

“I came back as a single mom in my early 30s. I was a little bit nervous about how I was going to support my children,” Alker says. “I decided I better get a degree, so I started with my bachelor’s and never stopped.”

Alker earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and Humanities and her Master of Arts in English from Simon Fraser University. She completed her doctorate in English at the University of British Columbia and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto before joining the Whitman faculty in 2004.

“I interviewed with a series of colleges and universities in both Canada and the United States. Whitman was my first of five on-campus interviews,” Alker says. “As soon as I came here, I knew I wanted to stay, mostly because of the students. They were so smart, so engaged and so intellectually energetic that I realized I could do graduate-level work with them.”

Alker particularly enjoys involving students in her research. Students have traveled with her to the National Library of Scotland and the British Library to work in the archives, and she has received several grants that support faculty-student research.

“Whitman has a really strong teacher-scholar model. They want you to be the best teacher possible, and they recognize that means you have to be doing active research with your students,” she says.

CONNECTIONS & REFLECTIONS

Alker feels a kinship with her favorite author, the 19th-century poet and novelist James Hogg. Both were born and raised

in Scotland; both spent hours upon hours reading; and both found their true calling later in life than most. Hogg was a shepherd in the Scottish border country when he decided to walk to Edinburgh in his early 40s to become a writer.


Alker’s academic interest in Hogg has led to many successful collaborations with her sister, Holly Faith Nelson, a Professor of English at Trinity Western University. Alker and Nelson first presented together at a 2000 meeting of the James Hogg Society, of which Alker currently serves as Chair. They have gone on to write, present and publish dozens of papers together, as well as their book “Besieged: Early Modern British Siege Literature, 1642–1722.”

“Our process is really interactive. I might write three pages and send them to Holly. She rewrites them and sends back six pages. I then rewrite those and send back nine pages,” Alker says. “When we give papers at conferences, we each give half.”

Currently, Alker and Nelson are working on a series of articles on the representation of convicts in Scottish literature. Alker was interested in researching the transportation of convicts from Scotland to Australia in the 18th and 19th centuries, and Nelson had discovered through her personal genealogy research that their great-great-great-grandfather had been convicted of burglary and was transported to what is now Tasmania. During a recent trip to the National Library of Australia, Alker asked a librarian for help reading the convict records and made an astounding discovery: The librarian also had an ancestor who had arrived on the same convict ship in the same year.

“For two minutes, we stood there and just looked at each other. Normally when I do scholarship, I’m in my scholarly brain, but my scholarly brain fell away,” Alker says. “It was me as a human facing her as a human whose ancestors had shared a difficult journey together. It was an incredibly powerful, intimate moment.”

Alker will be working with Chloe Hansen ’25 over the summer to organize all the material she brought back from Australia. She looks forward to mentoring Hansen and helping her develop her research skills.

“Whitman students are so excited about learning,” she says, “and I’m excited that I can involve undergraduates in my research in the way I would work with graduate students at a big research university.” 

Solving Wicked Problems ...

Whitman launched its Human-Centered Design concentration in Fall 2023. As an inaugural member of the faculty, Sharon Alker is helping develop and refine the program. She taught a course in Spring 2024 titled Solving Wicked Problems: Technology, Literature and the Brain.

Students read a variety of novels, including **Bram Stoker’s “Dracula,” Patricia Lockwood’s “No One Is Talking About This,”** and **Nnedi Okorafor’s “Lagoon.”**



“On Mondays and Wednesdays we did conventional literary analysis and talked in-depth about what kinds of problems were being configured in the books and how we could understand them deeply. On Fridays we held a lab in which we used design-thinking techniques to try to design something that could intervene and help ethically moderate the problem,” Alker says.

“That course demonstrated to students that an English degree is always deeply relevant to the world. By the end, it was more visible to students that the humanities are immensely important both for developing critical-thinking skills and for applying these skills productively to real-world problems.”



Breaking Barriers Across Borders

DRIVEN BY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, MWAMBA MUNTANGA '25 RELENTLESSLY ADVOCATES FOR ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION FOR ALL

BY MÓNICA HERNÁNDEZ WILLIAMS

KIM FETROW '36 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

MWAMBA MUNTANGA '25 came to Whitman College with one goal: to earn a degree that would get him a good job.

The youngest of five, Muntanga grew up in Lusaka, Zambia. He saw his parents and older siblings work in manual labor and hospitality. He knew he wanted more. So did his mother.

"My mom constantly told me that education is the only way to get out," says Muntanga. "She was very upfront. She would say, 'Yo, Mwamba, you're not good at manual labor. You're not suited for factory work. You need to get out of this. The only way is if you pay attention in school.' That was it for me."

After completing primary school, he landed a scholarship that allowed him to go to high school. It was there that his Whitman journey began.

CHALLENGES & CHANGES

Muntanga's high school prioritized giving back. Its mantra "whatever we invest in you, take it and invest it in someone else" stuck with him along with another core memory.

"In the 10th grade, I had a professor ask the class who wanted to go to university. I raised my hand and said I wanted to go to college in the United States, and the whole class laughed," Muntanga says. "I was so embarrassed, but I knew they laughed because it was unheard of. I am actually the first person from my high school to go to college in the U.S."

Soon after, he attended an information session at the U.S. Embassy to learn how the admission process works and began applying.

"I applied to a lot of colleges, and none of them accepted me. I was like 'Oh my God. What am I going to do now?'"

So he did research and sent emails to the colleges and universities he was interested in. Muntanga quickly learned he needed to stand out.

Realizing other students could also benefit from his newfound knowledge, he began sharing what he learned and even helped another Zambian land a scholarship and gain admission into a university in Rwanda.

SEIZING OPPORTUNITY

Through that process, Muntanga discovered his passion for helping others with similar dreams. He took a gap year and started the nonprofit Education24 — offering one-on-one mentorship that guides low-income students from sub-Saharan African countries through the college application process. Since he works alone, the students he advises must be high-achieving.

When the time came for him to, once again, submit his own college apps, Muntanga was accepted to more than one. It came down to Whitman and another school — an Ivy League — but after speaking with members of the campus community, Muntanga knew he'd thrive at Whitman.

"I spoke with Professor Álvaro Santana-Acuña in the Sociology Department. He told me I'd become a good sociologist no matter where I went,

but he encouraged me to consider Whitman, the support I'd get and the people here," he says.

"I thought about how everyone was really supportive. In each interaction I had, I could tell the staff, the students and the professors I spoke with ... they all really cared and wanted to see me succeed. That was the deciding factor."

Once on campus, Muntanga committed to majoring in Sociology with a focus in education. He's recently started taking courses in Whitman's new concentration, Human-Centered Design — learning about design thinking to solve real-world problems.

He joined student clubs and organizations like the Associated Students of Whitman College and the planning committee for Taste of Africa — making the most of opportunities that would get him closer to his next dream.

ADVOCATING FOR EDUCATION

Securing funding to enhance and expand Education24 remains at the top of Muntanga's list.

During his first year at Whitman, Muntanga's efforts secured more than \$2 million in student scholarships for his nonprofit by winning the prestigious Mwape Peer Education Excellence Award. This honor recognizes Africans worldwide who overcome odds and make a difference through their creativity, energy and unwavering determination.

As a sophomore, Muntanga was encouraged by the Career and Community Engagement Center to apply to the Clinton Foundation's Global Initiative University (CGIU). Fellow Whittie Ashifi Gogo '05 — and a CGIU alum — successfully guided him through the process.

"It felt amazing to be in a space filled with brilliant and solution-oriented minds from around the globe, all of whom are committed to bettering their communities and making the world better," Muntanga says.

While at the summit, he participated in the

CGIU Exchange Event, where he reaffirmed his commitment to make education accessible to underprivileged and underrepresented students in sub-Saharan Africa. He was also selected as one of 100 students worldwide to participate in the Fishbowl Challenge, which empowers young entrepreneurs to make a global social impact—and finished in the top 10.

FOR THE LOVE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS


Throughout his time at Whitman, Muntanga has continued to mentor students back in Africa — three of whom have joined him at Whitman.

"It's been hard because of the time difference so I'm up at 1 a.m. talking to students in Zambia, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Nigeria and Ghana about the college application process, reviewing their personal statements, and helping them pick the right schools," he says. "I do it all for free but encourage them to give back by doing what they can for the next person."

Since launching his nonprofit in 2020, Muntanga has successfully advised 15 students and counting to gain admission into a wide range of colleges in the United States and Africa. For him, this is only the beginning.

"In 50 years, I want to buy a big piece of land, build a campus, then bring in students and prepare them for college and give them leadership training so they are more equipped when the time comes to apply for university," he says.

After graduation, Muntanga hopes to get a job in Whitman's Office of Admission before attending grad school.

"My mom has passed, but I know she is really proud," he says. "I didn't have a figure to look up to growing up, but I told myself I would be that role model for my family. I want my nieces and nephews to think, 'Mwamba went to college. Not just any college, he went to one of the best liberal arts colleges in the United States. If he did it, we can too.'" 



Grateful for Muntanga's Lead

Meet three Whitties who came to Whitman thanks to Education24.



Anthony Kabongo '27
Lusaka, Zambia

"Pursuing my college education in the United States of America has always been a dream of mine. Education24 helped turn that dream into reality."



Anthony Maniko '26
Lusaka, Zambia

"The idea of attending university always seemed like an impossible dream. Mwamba was there with a supportive word and a belief in me that never wavered."



Levy Remesha Ngabo '26
Bujumbura, Burundi

"I am deeply appreciative of Mwamba's dedication. Education24 is not just about access to education. It's about fostering a community of deserving learners who are united in their pursuit of knowledge and success."

Julia & Joanie

A LIFE-CHANGING GIFT THAT WAS MEANT TO BE

BY PAM MOORE | PHOTOS BY KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY



Left: Joanie Lucarelli. Right: Julia Ireland.

“The fatigue was indescribable. I was so tired I couldn’t even locate myself in space ...”

IT WAS THE FALL of 2022, and Julia Ireland ’90, an internationally recognized Professor of German Studies and Philosophy, barely recognized herself.

Diagnosed with chronic kidney disease despite being otherwise healthy, she was fighting for her life — and running out of options.

A natural leader, Ireland’s declining health had forced her to step down as President of the Heidegger Association and Chairman of the Walla Walla Public Library Board. Robbed of the energy to write, publish or even have dinner with friends, “My life contracted to where all I could do was teach and walk my dog,” she says.

Facing a five-year wait for a cadaver kidney, Ireland began planning a medical leave to start kidney dialysis. While she braced herself for a life that looked nothing like the rich, vibrant one she’d spent decades building, a colleague across campus couldn’t shake the feeling she was meant to help.

A CALL TO ACTION

Although Ireland had known and liked Joanie Lucarelli, the Executive Assistant to the President, for more than 10 years, the two were not close

friends. So when they crossed paths on campus in August 2022 and Ireland revealed she was in dire need of a kidney transplant, they were both surprised by what happened next.

They remember hugging before parting ways — and the thoughts that popped into their minds at that moment. “I felt this tingling sensation and a connection with Julia,” says Lucarelli. At the same time, Ireland thought, “Could Joanie be my donor?”

As Lucarelli found herself pondering the remote possibility, she started with a doctor’s visit, wanting to make sure her own health was good. After that, she mentioned the idea to her husband, expecting him to respond with protective concern. “But he said, ‘You absolutely should do this.’ He was rock solid from day one,” says Lucarelli. Encouraged by her clean bill of health and husband’s support, she continued to consider the prospect.

As weeks turned into months, the feeling that she needed to help grew from a gentle whisper to a shout. At the beginning of 2023, Lucarelli made up her mind when her deceased father appeared in a dream. “He repeated his dying words to me: ‘When you have the chance to help someone, you need to do it.’ I knew then in my soul and my bones that I could do this,” she says.

In the meantime, several of Ireland’s close friends and family members had initiated the donor screening process — only to find out they weren’t a match. In January 2023, Ireland was feeling hopeless, having just found out her cousin had failed the donor screening, when Lucarelli called, wanting to know Ireland’s date of birth so that she could begin the donor matching evaluation. Ireland was touched by the gesture and excited about the possibility but tried not to get her hopes up.

A week later, in February 2023, just as Ireland was about to appeal to the Whitman community for a donor, Lucarelli passed the first donor screening.

“I remember crying and recalling that feeling I’d had about Joanie in August and thinking, ‘Maybe this is it,’” says Ireland.

THE WAITING GAME

To determine whether she was a match, Lucarelli faced a grueling series of physical and psychological evaluations.

The donor screening process, which stretched out over four months and included multiple trips to the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, was a race against the clock as Ireland’s already tenuous health plummeted. “It was absolutely debilitating,” says Ireland.

While her life literally depended on Lucarelli passing each round of testing, she was tasked with letting go and being patient. “My regular Walla Walla doctor said, ‘You just have to let it happen.’ I wanted

KIDNEY DONATION
BY THE NUMBERS

101,000

Americans waiting
for a kidney

17,000

Will receive
one this year

6,500

Will receive a kidney
from a live donor



Pretransplant meet up! Before heading to Seattle for their procedures, Joanie (left) and Julia got together in Walla Walla. Julia met Joanie's mother, who Julia now refers to as her mom too.



A smile that says it all. Julia just six days after the transplant—at the hospital for a follow-up medical appointment.

to clobber him, but it was true — relinquishing control released the stress,” Ireland says.

In June 2023, just as Ireland was feeling particularly down about her most recent lab results, Lucarelli got the call from the UW Medical Center. She was a match. The two met on Ankeny Field to revel in the news. “It was a very special time,” says Lucarelli.

With the transplant date set for July 2023, Ireland and Lucarelli marveled at their shared sense that from the very beginning, it was going to work out.

“Everything about it felt spiritually guided,” says Ireland. From the

sudden, powerful connection they experienced when Ireland revealed her desperate need for a kidney to the transplant surgery nearly a year later, and all the synchronicities along the way, they had no other explanation.

It turned out, they matched as well as if they were close family members. More than just a positive sign, their strong biological alignment drastically decreases Ireland’s need for lifelong immunosuppressant drugs—which will have tremendously positive effects on the transplant’s success and Ireland’s overall long-term health.

THE GIFT OF JOY

Before surgery, Ireland and Lucarelli named their “kidney baby” Joy, a moniker that immediately felt right to both. Their instinct was spot on. Since the successful transplant, which took place on July 19, 2023, the organ, weighing in at no more than half a pound, has brought tons of joy, not just to Ireland but to Lucarelli too.

For Ireland, who resumed teaching five weeks after surgery, “everything, including teaching, research, even ‘crappy’ writing days feel so fun” since the transplant. Meanwhile, she’s received multiple career opportunities, including invitations to give keynote addresses at

3-5 years

Typical wait time for a deceased kidney donor

10-15 years

How long a kidney from a deceased donor lasts

90 days

Typical wait time for a live donor

20-40 years

How long a kidney from a live donor lasts

international conferences, since receiving Joy.

Meanwhile, Lucarelli has been overwhelmed by what she's gained since losing a kidney. "We were wrapped in love and support from friends, family, the Whitman community and the transplant team at UW Medical Center," she says.

But the most meaningful reward was the opportunity to give Ireland the chance to continue using her talents to engage her students, serve as a leader in her community, and to share conversations both light and meaningful with her circle of friends and family. "It was a privilege to give Julia the energy to use her gifts for teaching and bringing out the best in people," Lucarelli says.

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Both Ireland and Lucarelli are adamant that the Whitman community was foundational to their transplant journey. The kindness and generosity they received from the administration, staff, faculty and students far exceeded their expectations.

As a workplace, Whitman offered all the schedule flexibility both women needed to travel to Seattle for multiple pretransplant appointments and to return to work gradually after the procedure. And back on campus, Lucarelli's colleagues generously covered her leave.

But perhaps more importantly, the Whitman community offered tremendous emotional support when they needed it most. From the very beginning, Dean of Students and double transplant recipient Kazi Joshua took on the role of mentor to Ireland. He was the one who encouraged her to write a letter appealing to the Whitman community for a kidney donor.

While Ireland was reluctant to be so vulnerable, her confidence was bolstered by small but meaningful acts of kindness from various people — from her students who created

"We were wrapped in love and support from friends, family, the Whitman community and the transplant team at UW Medical Center." —JOANIE LUCARELLI

original artwork to include in her appeal letter to the many colleagues who were moved by that letter to begin the donor screening process.

After the transplant, it was a former Whitman student, Flora Sheppard '16, who served as Ireland's caregiver when she returned home. And throughout the entire process, Whitties never stopped calling, texting and sending CaringBridge messages to express their support.

MIRACLE MAKING

Ireland isn't out of the woods yet. "I still have to decide carefully what responsibilities to take on because rejection is most likely to happen around the six-month mark," she says.


Even under ideal circumstances, she'll never return to her old life. "According to my nephrologist, my new life has to be about taking care of my new kidney, especially during the first year," she says. That means research projects and leadership roles can't interfere with the stress management, healthy eating and exercise that are crucial to her long-term health.

While Ireland is thrilled to step back into academia, her transplant has given her a deeper understanding of the texts she teaches, particularly in her seminar on German philosopher Hannah Arendt.

"According to Arendt, miracles don't come out of the plane of the normal sense of causality and human calculation, but out of a radically different place," says Ireland. "I think ethics, healing, freedom, reconciliation and nonviolence come from that place."

In service of those values, Ireland and Lucarelli hope to help improve outcomes for the thousands of people still waiting for a kidney. When Ireland's doctor told her that the greatest predictor of long-term success for transplant recipients wasn't physical health but access to healthcare, she and Lucarelli took notice.

"I have a Ph.D. in Philosophy, and still, navigating the medical system has been challenging for me. Everybody needs a guide," says Ireland. She and Lucarelli plan to work with the University of Washington to engage in kidney donation advocacy in underrepresented communities in rural Eastern Washington—once Ireland's doctor gives her the green light to take on additional responsibilities.

At the same time, they hope their story motivates people to consider joining the national kidney registry. "If you feel the nudge to be a kidney donor, get checked out and see if it's a possibility," says Lucarelli. If you're eligible, kidney donation is a rare opportunity to create what Ireland calls "a secular miracle." 



YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE

The need for live kidney donors is staggering—and you can make a difference.

Most donors spend about two nights in the hospital following surgery, resume normal activity within six weeks, and can live long, healthy lives.

Interested in becoming a donor? Visit the National Kidney Registry at kidneyregistry.org to learn more. If you have questions about the process, you can contact Julia Ireland or Joanie Lucarelli by emailing magazine@whitman.edu.

A Purpose Takes Root



*Colorado's First
Female Commissioner
of Agriculture Draws
Inspiration From the
Land & Its People*

BY CASEY BROWN AND MELISSA WELLING '99





Commissioner Greenberg visits with local producers working in partnership with Colorado Springs Water Utilities in the Lower Arkansas Basin just outside of Lamar, Colorado.

Minnesota-born Kate Greenberg '09 came to Whitman College with a romantic view of the West—and a thirst to explore it.

Her time here inspired a respect for the land—and the people who work with it—that has only grown over time. And now, as Colorado's first female Commissioner of Agriculture, she's deeply invested in creating socially and environmentally responsible ag policy for the 21st century.

Exploring Nature, Culture & Policy

In Whitman, Greenberg found an academic environment that encouraged her to explore her diverse interests and discover the world around her.

"When I first visited, I fell in love with the campus and with what Whitman had to offer," she says. "I wanted a solid liberal arts education that allowed me to think in big ways about how the world works."

She also wanted to connect with the outdoors. So in her sophomore year, she enrolled in Semester in the West, a field study program focusing on ecological, social and political issues in the American West. The experience was transformative and led her toward a major that combined many of her interests: Environmental Humanities, which explores the connection between nature and culture.

Throughout her time at Whitman and beyond, Greenberg chose work that put her at the nexus of land and people—from an internship at an organic farm in Vashon Island, Washington, to a stint as a Restoration Field Assistant on the Colorado River Delta in northern Mexico. She even returned to Whitman to work as a Field Manager for Semester in the West and Whitman in the Wallows.

It was meaningful work, and it opened her eyes to the necessity of good agricultural and natural resources policy. That was a turning point.

"It wasn't just planting trees and harvesting vegetables that was going to change things," she realized. "It was



PHOTO COURTESY OF DURANGO HERALD

Thriving out West. Whitman College fostered a love for the West in Kate Greenberg, Colorado's Commissioner of Agriculture. She serves her constituents across the state with a dedication to service and progress.

really policy decisions that got us to where we are.”

As she turned her attention to policy, she became the Western Program Director for the National Young Farmers Coalition, where she established and grew the organization's presence and membership across the West. And in 2018, she was appointed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis to be the state's Commissioner of Agriculture.

A Role Model for Next-Gen Ag

As Commissioner, Greenberg serves on the Governor's cabinet, manages

dozens of ag programs across the state, and supervises the approximately 320 employees of the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

“Agriculture is among the top drivers of our state's economy,” she says. It contributes \$47 billion to Colorado's economy each year, and the department's programs and policies have a direct impact on farmers and ranchers, the state's natural resources and the environment.

When Greenberg thinks about the impact she has as the first woman in her role, she speaks about the young people she meets throughout the state.

“When I'm speaking or at an event

“Just because there hasn't been a first yet, go after whatever it is you want.”

—Kate Greenberg '09



Whitties & Westies Reunion in Joseph, Oregon

In September 2023, Westies of the last 20 years—including Kate Greenberg '09—plus 24 current students and crew members, faculty and longtime collaborators gathered to celebrate the 20th year of Semester in the West and the retirement of program champion, founder and leader, Phil Brick, the Miles C. Moore Professor

of Politics. In a rustic barn on a sprawling ranch just outside of Joseph, Oregon, more than 150 members of the Whitman Semester in the West community camped out and celebrated with guest lectures, hikes, canoeing, a barn dance and a slideshow spanning two decades of this groundbreaking program.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH KOENIGSBERG '02



Hands-on and in the field. Commissioner Greenberg discusses the threat presented by the wheat stem sawfly with local farmers in Akron, Colorado.

and meeting high school students trying to figure out where they want to go in life, it makes a difference to see somebody who looks like you in a position,” she says. “It’s important for people to know what they’re capable of. I think it does help communicate to young women: This is possible for you.”

She hopes her work will be an inspiration to younger generations who are deciding what they want their future to look like.

“Just because there hasn’t been a first yet, go after whatever it is you want,” she says. “And if you work hard and do a good job and build great relationships, then you should have just as many opportunities.”

Looking to the Future

For Greenberg, the future of ag is rooted in people.

“This is a very public role, and each Commissioner does it a little differently, but I really believe in showing up in the communities we serve. A lot of my time is spent traveling, being at a kitchen table with a farm or ranch family or being in a community hall for their town hall,” Greenberg says. “Being out with

folks and learning what their life is like ... how do we translate that into good governance and good policy?”

She wants to make sure that Colorado’s Department of Agriculture is growing and shifting to be as relevant as possible to the 21st century — whether that’s through supporting STEM education for the next generation of farmers or investing in climate-smart agriculture.

“Just in the last four years, we’ve developed new programs and services in climate mitigation and resilience,” she says. “We actually didn’t have the word ‘climate’ in our statutes until three years ago, but we’ve now built a Soil Health Program that’s all farmer-led.”

Under Greenberg’s leadership, Colorado also has a new Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office that’s driving statewide policy with natural and working lands.

“We have a new focus on water, knowing we are entering drier and hotter times,” she says. “And how do we support a thriving future given that reality?”

As she looks ahead, Greenberg’s gaze is steadily on the important work to come: “We’re not done yet by any means.” **W**

4 Policies Greenberg is Passionate About

Kate Greenberg '09 believes her department’s work, at its root, is to build trust with the people they serve. “We are really trying to make sure we are listening and then responding to our community’s needs as they grow and shift,” she says. That has led her to focus on policies and programs that increase access and support, including four that are especially meaningful to her:

Ag worker outreach

The outreach program helps ag workers both know their rights and have access to services and resources to grow their careers, Greenberg says.

Crisis response

Ag communities are often on the front lines of natural disasters, Greenberg notes. So her department is working to build capacity for responding to crises like animal disease outbreaks, wildfires, drought, threats to biosecurity and food-supply contamination.

Rural mental health programs for ag workers

“The farmer suicide rate is about two-and-a half to three times higher than the average suicide rate,” Greenberg says. “We’re really working to destigmatize mental health and make sure that folks have not only access to resources, but they know it’s OK to ask for help.”

Community food access programs

“There’s a lot of families who are struggling to feed themselves, and we want to be able to connect local farmers, local retailers with food-insecure communities and help bridge that gap.”



REUNION

Eat, Drink & Be Whittie

Are you coming to Reunion Weekend?
Let us know that you plan to attend, then
spread the word with a text, post or call!

CLASSES ATTENDING

1959, 1964, 1969, 1979, 1984,
1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2014

September 26–29, 2024



whitman.edu/reunions



reunions@whitman.edu



509-527-5167

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR OUR ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

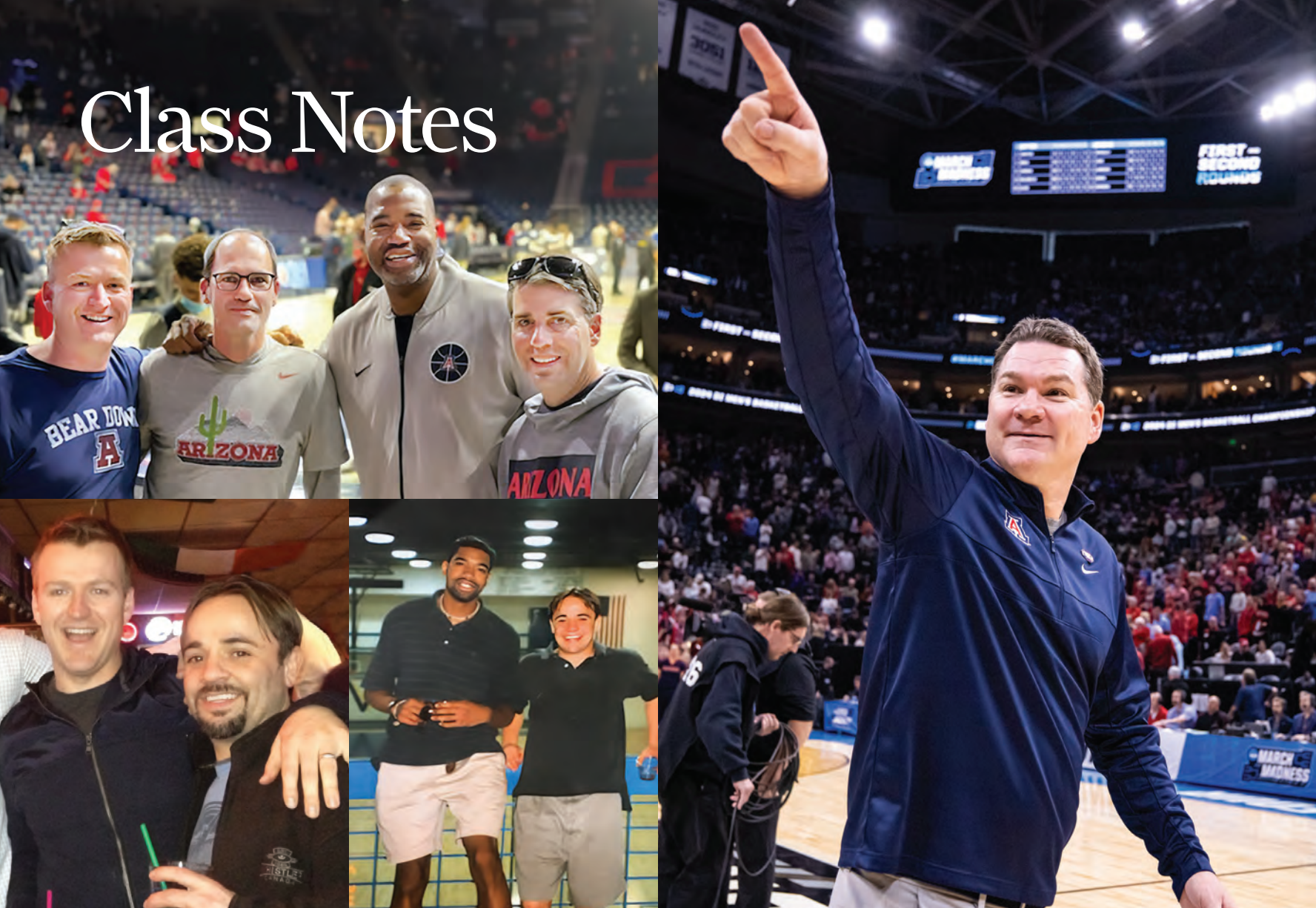
Whitman College Athletics Hall of Fame induction is the highest honor given to former Whitman student-athletes, coaches, administrators and contributors. The award is administered by the Athletics Department in cooperation with an Executive Board of the Hall of Fame and W Club.

There are four categories for consideration: Student-Athlete, Coach, Administrator or Contributor. Nominations are open until September 2024 for induction in spring of 2025.



MAKE YOUR NOMINATION AT WHITMAN.EDU/HOF

Class Notes



The buddy system. Top left: Andrew Reed '97, Dan Rough '98, Evan Jones '97 and Burke Johnson '97 at a University of Arizona basketball game to support Tommy Lloyd '98. Bottom left: Reed and Andrew Schillinger '97. Bottom center: Jones and Schillinger. Right: Coach Lloyd (photo credit: University of Arizona Athletics).

Loyal Friends Through It All

There are few friendships like the ones forged in college.

They were a quartet of Whitman pals, their connection cemented by a mutual love of basketball. Three of them—Tommy Lloyd '98, Evan Jones '97 and Andrew Schillinger '97—played for Whitman's varsity men's team. Andrew Reed '97 was the beach kid from San Diego—and his friends' most loyal booster.

Over the years, they stayed connected and in each other's lives. As Lloyd found success as a college basketball coach, first as an assistant at Gonzaga University for more than two decades and then as Head Coach of the University of Arizona men's basketball team, his Whitman pals cheered him on—from afar and when they could be there in person.

And then their beloved friend was gone. On Jan. 22, 2024, Reed died of brain cancer. Just a few months earlier, Jones, Schillinger and other Whitman alumni had

traveled to Reed's home in Walla Walla to watch Lloyd's No. 2-ranked Wildcats beat No. 4 Duke, 78-73. Lloyd dedicated the win to Reed.

At a news conference days after Reed's passing, Lloyd spoke of his friend. "Andrew passed away. I mean, it's real," he said. "It's crazy. My age. Forty-nine years old. College buddy ... and he had a family. It's hitting us all pretty hard."

For Jones, the loss reminded him of what makes the college special in the first place.

"Whitman grounds people in the community and supports you," he says. "We were guys from different backgrounds. Whitman brought us together."

Read more about Reed's life on page 31—and his friends say you can support his legacy through a donation to Coaches Versus Cancer at whitman.edu/magazine/cvc.

“Whitman grounds people in the community and supports you. We were guys from different backgrounds. Whitman brought us together.”

— Evan Jones '97

Class Notes

1950s

Junius Rochester '57

continues to write for Post Alley. Rochester's blog explores the history and historical figures of Washington state. Recent writings include a piece on the "father" of Western fiction, Owen Wister, and his journey through the state, including a stop in Walla Walla, which he described as "a town of dust and poplars."

1960s

Gretchen Christopher '62

celebrated the sweet 16 of her album "SWEET SIXTEEN (Suite 16)" being named one of the 2007 Billboard Critics' Picks for 10 Best Albums of that year.

1970s



Bryant Cleve Larson '71 was inducted into the inaugural Pacific Northwest Rugby Hall of Fame in November 2023. Larson was recognized for 50 years of service as a player, coach and builder of rugby teams.

Erik Reel '75 has resettled in Portland, Oregon, with his spouse, Rhonda Hill. Reel's paintings were exhibited at PLACE in September 2023, his first major exhibition in

Portland and his first in the Pacific Northwest in 36 years.

Mary Deming Barber '78 was reelected to the Gig Harbor City Council in November 2023. Barber looks forward to continuing to serve the Gig Harbor community over the next four years.

Whitman Trustee Emeritus **Steve Hammond '79** was recognized by the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society's 2023 National Awards in October 2023. Hammond was one of two recipients of the Paul Edward Sluby Sr./Jean Sampson-Scott Meritorious Achievement Award for a significant and measurable contribution to African American history and/or genealogy.

1980s



Francis Degnin '81 is currently serving as Chair of the Faculty for the University of Northern Iowa, where he continues work as a Philosopher and Clinical Ethicist for area hospitals. His current research is focused on developing case-based, ethical criteria to offer nonverbal patients greater agency over their medical decisions. Degnin is looking forward to continuing volunteer work, ballroom dancing, hiking, traveling, catching up with friends and playing more with his cats.

Scott Starratt '81 was elected a fellow of the Geological Society of America in May 2023. Starratt



Roger Whitlock '63 and his wife, Ellen, had a terrific time at the 2023 Reunion Weekend in September. Whitlock said they had a chance to drive out past the prison into the wheat fields to see the sunset. One of the photos he took that evening inspired this original painting.



Gek Lee Stevens '73 and her husband, **Scott Stevens '69**, spent a lovely five days in Citta di Castello, Italy, with Alvarao Tacchini in October 2023 after 40 years without contact. Gek Stevens and Tacchini met while attending Whitman as international students. From left: Tacchini's wife, Alba; his sister, Brunella Tacchini; Alvarao Tacchini; and Scott and Gek Stevens.



Julie Gaisford '65 (left) caught up with **Ben Kerkvliet '65** and his wife, Melinda, in December 2023, when they shared memories and political discussions. Kerkvliet taught for 20 years at the University of Hawaii, followed by 18 years at the Australian National University, where he is an Emeritus Professor.

is working on his 17th collection of papers on paleoenvironments and microfossils. After 23 years in the same location, he said his office moved 10 miles down Highway 101 from a parking lot view in Menlo Park to a runway view at Moffett Field.

Kirby Gould Mason '86 was included in the peer review guide "Best Lawyers in America

2024" for Medical Malpractice Law-Defendants. She was also recently recognized as a 2024 Georgia Super Lawyer and selected as one of four 2024 Rising Star attorneys by SuperLawyers.com. Mason is a partner in the litigation practice group at HunterMaclean and serves as the firm's general counsel in Savannah, Georgia.

1990s

Tim McCracken '91 starred in the movie "Publish or Perish" (2023), streaming on Amazon Prime, Apple TV and other services. "Publish or Perish" is a dark comedy about a college professor's pursuit of tenure gone horribly wrong.

Jeff Grimm '92 became Director of Western Washington University Behavioral Neuroscience in the fall of 2021. Both Grimm and wife, **Stephanie Davis Grimm '91**, celebrated 20 years of teaching at Western Washington University.

Charlotte Main '93 was elected to the 2024 Board of Directors for Littler Labor and Employment Law Solutions in January 2024.

Mike Rogoway '93 won a Silver award in the prestigious Barlett and Steele Awards for Investigative Journalism for his work on tax breaks and

water consumption by Big Tech data centers in Oregon (The Oregonian/OregonLive, September 2022). The award is sponsored by the Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Xander Maksik '95, novelist and screenwriter, co-wrote the screenplay for "Drift" which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2023. The film was featured at the 54th International Film Festival of India in November 2023, where it won the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal-Special Mention for Best Film. The screenplay is based on Maksik's second novel, "A Marker to Measure Drift."

Robert Simison '95 won reelection as Mayor of Meridian, Idaho. His second four-year term began January 2024.



Ian Lind '69 was awarded the American Judges Association's (AJA) 2023 Gavel Award for distinguished reporting about the judiciary in September 2023. Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice Sabrina McKenna nominated Lind for "bringing public attention to attacks on the independence of the judiciary as well as other issues critical to an independent judiciary." From left: Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, Hawaii Supreme Court; Yvette Alexander, AJA President and Chief Judge, Baton Rouge City Court; and Lind.

In Memory of Kyle Martz '07

Kyle Martz, a former first-generation/working-class Whitman College student, International Student Advisor at Whitman, member of the LGBTQIA+ community, fearless advocate for immigrant rights and many other causes, would have turned 40 this year. A group of dedicated alumni, faculty, staff and community members have worked together to honor his memory in meaningful ways.

You are invited to join them in support of the Kyle Martz International Student Scholarship Endowment (give.whitman.edu/martz) and "All the Rare Birds," a permanent art installation in his honor by multimedia artist and alumnus **Daniel Forbes '93** (give.whitman.edu/rarebirds).

Christopher Oze '97 was selected for Breakthrough Energy's Innovator 2023 Fellows program. Oze's research focuses on how magnesium-rich rocks are altered as they naturally capture CO₂. An XPRIZE film showcasing his work can be found on YouTube at whit.mn/oze97.

Beth Bartel '98 completed her doctorate in Geology at Michigan Tech. She started postdoctoral work with the U.S. Geological Survey Volcano Hazards Program at the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington. Bartel is excited to be back in the Pacific Northwest and looks forward to connecting with fellow classmates in the area.

2000s

Piper Foster Wilder '02 won the 2023 Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E) Entrepreneurship Award for outstanding leadership and accomplishments in clean energy. Foster Wilder is the Founder and CEO of 60Hertz Energy, which offers computerized maintenance management system software to facilitate maintenance on fleets of distributed energy resources.

Claire Willett '03 organized the "Star Trek" Snack Squad to provide snacks and water to picketers during the Writers Guild of America strikes in the summer of 2023. Willett is a playwright and novelist in Portland,

Oregon. **Kaliswa Brewster '05** wrote, "We are BLOWN AWAY by her generosity and the infrastructure that she set up."

2010s

Whitney Griggs '13 co-authored a paper in Nature Neuroscience on developing an ultrasound-based brain-machine interface using sound waves to read the brain and control a computer. Griggs gave a virtual talk on this topic at the Whitman Mathematical Sciences Foundry in April 2023.

Connor Hargus '17 developed and released Fretzl, an app with guided courses on guitar fundamentals, including notes, chords, scales, etc. More details at fretzl.com.

Brenna Two Bears '17 was one of the representatives from the Indigenous Environmental Network to attend the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in the winter of 2023.

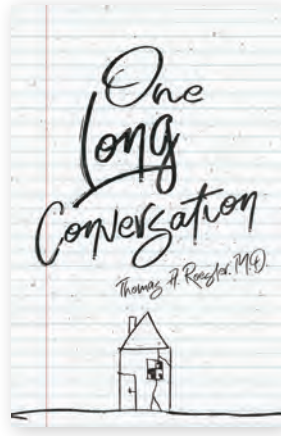


Mae Thorp '24, Will Wrigley '24, Paul Ferucci '92 and Tyler Dann '00 united in Girdwood to ski in the new year 2024. Dann and Wrigley became acquainted when Wrigley was a first-year, networking during COVID closures. Wrigley's parents later invited Dann out for a pint when Ferrucci, also a friend of the Wrigley family, biked by. Whitman connections strike again!

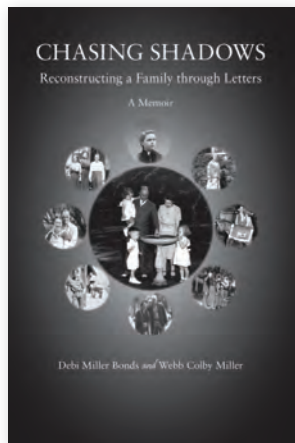
Whittie Authors



Ben Kerkvliet's '65 most recent book is "Speaking Out in Vietnam: Public Political Criticism in a Communist Party-Ruled Nation" (Cornell University Press, 2019). His wife, Melinda, is finishing a book on the housing struggle in 1970s–1980s Hawaii. The Kerkvliets live in Honolulu.



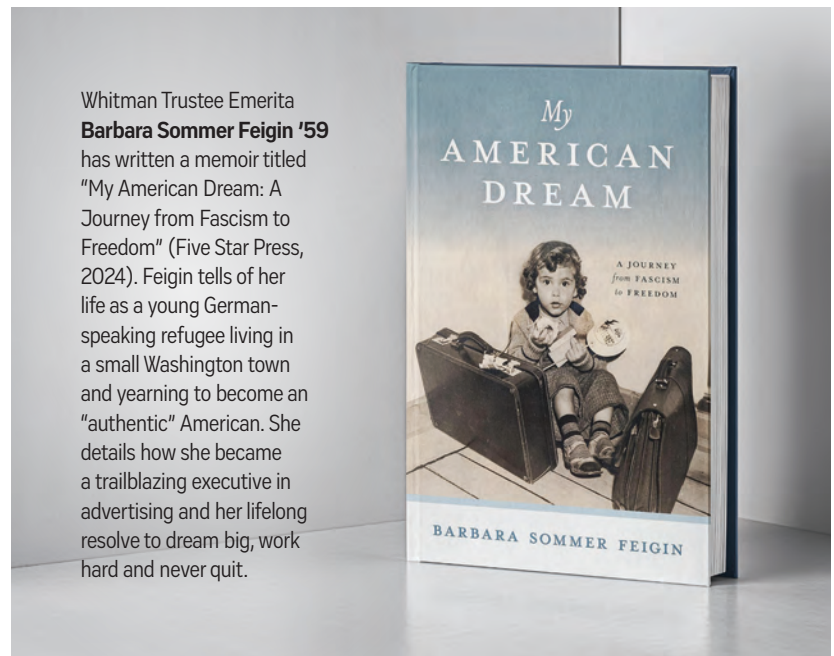
Tom Roesler '67 has written a novel, "One Long Conversation" (Atmosphere Press, 2024). His novel provides a compelling reflection of the challenges and growth inherent in the field of psychotherapy.



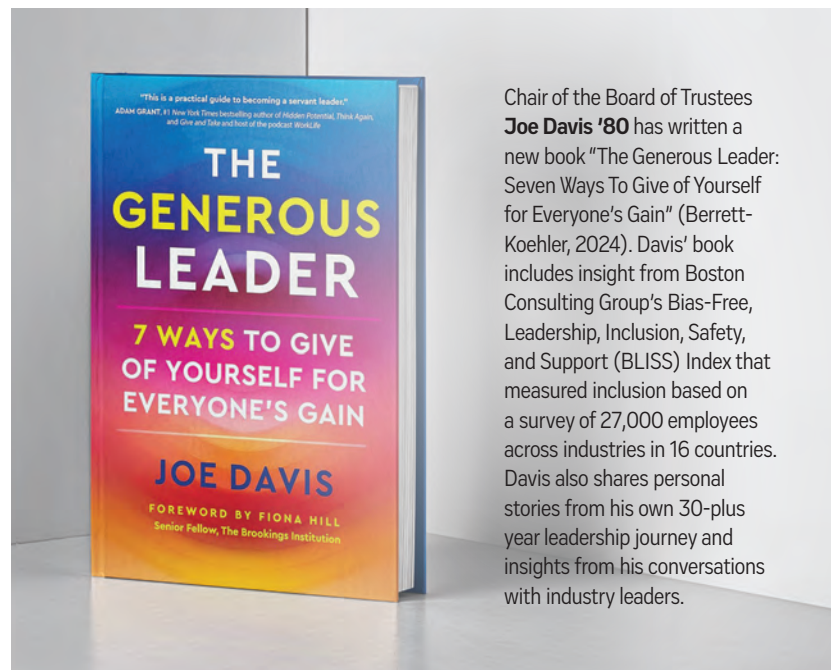
Webb Miller '66 and **Debi Bonds** have written a family-history memoir titled "Chasing Shadows: Reconstructing a Family Through Letters" (Kithara Press, 2023). The book includes extensive accounts of the lives of three Whitman graduates: **Walter Brattain '24**, Professor of Physics and co-winner of the 1956 Nobel Prize in Physics; **Emma Kirsch Brattain '38**, 1972 Alumna of Merit Award winner; and **Gretchen Miller Kafoury '63**, Oregon state legislator and politician.



Brian Pinaire '97 has published a children's novel, "The War of Independence Way" (Brandyane Publishers Inc., 2024). The novel is a retelling of the American Revolution set in contemporary times, with characters who represent the founding generation, such as George Washington, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin.



Whitman Trustee Emerita **Barbara Sommer Feigin '59** has written a memoir titled "My American Dream: A Journey from Fascism to Freedom" (Five Star Press, 2024). Feigin tells of her life as a young German-speaking refugee living in a small Washington town and yearning to become an "authentic" American. She details how she became a trailblazing executive in advertising and her lifelong resolve to dream big, work hard and never quit.



Chair of the Board of Trustees **Joe Davis '80** has written a new book "The Generous Leader: Seven Ways To Give of Yourself for Everyone's Gain" (Berrett-Koehler, 2024). Davis' book includes insight from Boston Consulting Group's Bias-Free, Leadership, Inclusion, Safety, and Support (BLISS) Index that measured inclusion based on a survey of 27,000 employees across industries in 16 countries. Davis also shares personal stories from his own 30-plus year leadership journey and insights from his conversations with industry leaders.

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.



Happily Ever After



Alice Bagley '08 to Dan Jones on Oct. 7, 2023, in Detroit. Pictured are Alice and Dan (in front) with Whitties in attendance (middle row, from left) **Sarah Stegner Purdy '08, Emily Mowrey '07, Katie Reeder Lewis '08, Ryan Lewis '08, Cate van Oppen '08,** (back row, from left) **Matt Purdy '08, Phil Lundquist '08 and Eric Schoettle '08.**



Stefanie Brown '12 to Jack Lapinski on May 28, 2023, in Chicago. Whitties in attendance: **Kendra Vandree '10, Laura Coulson '12, Katie Brouwer DeCramer '12, Ryan Nesbit Deane '13, Lauren Kutler '13 and Rick Lamb '13.**



Emily Robison Cornelius '12 to Junpei Tsuji '14 in July 2023. Whitties in attendance (from left): **Tom Motzer '15, Kelsey Peck '16, Riley Paul '15, Jed Jacobson '13, Hallie Swan '14, Reid Shaw '14, Junpei Tsuji '14, Emily Robison Cornelius '12, Ryan Smith '12, Liz Clagget, Amy Liechty Wheat '12, Stefan Wheat '12, Heather Ferguson '11, Jesse Mirman '14, Sarah Canepa '12, Julian Helmer '12, David Hancock '12, Jessi Whalen Jenkins '12 and Shannon Morrissey '12.**



Karin Tompkins-Takahashi '13 to Jun Takahashi on May 27, 2023, in Sebastopol, California. Whitties in attendance: **Joe Stover '13, Clare Spatola-Knoll '13, Ariel Carter-Rodriguez '13, Molly Blust '13 and Jessica Asmus '13.**



Clare Sobetski '13 to Joey Kern '13 on Sept. 3, 2023, at Kinhaven Winery in Walla Walla, attended by many Whitties.



Monica Boshart '12 to Edmund Ong on Oct. 15, 2023, in Banff, Alberta, Canada. At the reception were (from left) **Wing Lam '12**, **Emily Johnson '12**, Boshart and **Donna Phan '12**.

Little Whitties



Cloe Ursin, born in 2023, is the new granddaughter of **Beth Laun Ursin '83** and **Mark Ursin '81**. This future Class of 2044 grad shows off her vintage Whitman gear.



Pearl Aifeng Hu, born Aug. 29, 2023, to **Johnny Hu '07** and Diana Huang.



Jack Theodore McConnell, born Dec. 18, 2023, to **Sarah Beth Roberts '07** and Stakely McConnell. Jack joins four older brothers: Quinn (11), Colt (8), Andrew (7) and Liam (3).



Luciana Victoria Campos Hawkins, born May 18, 2023, to **Elizabeth Hawkins '05** and Eder Campos. Luciana joins older sibling Bianca (2).



Ezra Saperstein Martinez, born Dec. 29, 2022, to **Michelle Saperstein '10** and Ian Martinez.



Maximilian Siavash Motamedi-Frew, born Aug. 25, 2023, to **Gillian Frew '11** and **Alexandre Ponnaz '11**. Max joins older sibling Simon (3).

In Memoriam

1940s

Florence Koch Cameron '47

on Sept. 21, 2023, in Beaverton, Oregon. Cameron met her husband, **John Cameron '48**, at Whitman, and they were married in 1947. Cameron was an active volunteer for her church and in the local elementary schools. She is predeceased by her husband, John, and her twin sister, **Elizabeth Koch Vestal '47**. Cameron is survived by five children, 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Richard Johns '49

on Nov. 28, 2021, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Johns spent his life in service as an Anglican priest in churches across Canada and the U.S. After retirement, Johns and his wife, Yvonne, spent their days boating, enjoying their ocean views, seafood, and visits from friends, grown children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Johns was predeceased by his wife. He is survived by his four children and numerous children and grandchildren.

1950s

Frank Hagerty '50 on Nov. 7, 2023, in Green Valley, Arizona. Hagerty met his wife, **Elaine Hodge '51**, while they were students at Whitman. They married in 1951, following Elaine's graduation. Hagerty spent his career as an insurance broker. The Hagertys served as Reunion Co-Chairs and Class Representatives for several decades. Hagerty is predeceased by his wife. He is survived by four sons, including **Gary Hagerty '79**,

and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

William "Bill" Ross '50 on April 18, 2023, in Kennewick, Washington. After Whitman, Ross went to work for the Social Security Administration (SSA). He spent almost 40 years with the SSA before retiring in 1986. Ross moved to the Tri-Cities in 2014, where he enjoyed his retirement. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Arlene.

Barbara "Bobbie" Vianello Simons '51 on Sept. 16, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. After her graduation, Simons married her high school sweetheart, Walter, in 1953. She stayed home while their children were little and was active in PTA, Camp Fire Girls and 4-H. After a brief stint as a retail business owner, Simons went to work for the Portland Veterans Administration Medical Center. After retiring in 1995, Simons joined the University of Portland's community choir, as well as the Rose City Singers. She is predeceased by her husband and her sister. Simons is survived by her two children.

Marylou Oakland Wallerich '52 on Oct. 16, 2023, in Tacoma, Washington. Wallerich earned her degree in Elementary Education from the University of Washington in 1953 and married her husband, Peter, shortly after. The couple had four children. Wallerich taught elementary school for several years before opening a women's retail clothing store, Lulu, in the mid-1970s. Wallerich was active in local community organizations and served as a board member for St. Joseph's Hospital, the City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Symphony. She was also a

member of the Tacoma Garden Club. Wallerich is predeceased by her husband and survived by their four children.

Glen Maulden '54 on Oct. 1, 2023, in Ocean Park, Washington. Maulden went to work for Boeing immediately after graduation and retired as a company executive after 30 years. He was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Ocean Park Eagles Aerie N° 3602. He enjoyed sailing, cooking and a glass of robust red wine. Maulden is survived by his wife of 35 years, Marie; three sons; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

William "Bill" Henry '55 on Dec. 27, 2023, in Walla Walla. During his first year at Whitman, Henry enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and took leave for training from 1951–1952. After graduating from Whitman, Henry went on to earn his master's from the American Institute for Foreign Trade in 1958. He spent his career working as a civilian real estate appraiser for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, finally retiring in 1988. Henry is survived by his wife, Virginia; her two children; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Maxine Hooper Smith Jacobsen '56 on Sept. 1, 2022, in Stockton, California. The year of her graduation, Jacobsen received the Outstanding Female Grad award from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and a year's membership. She remained an active AAUW member throughout her life. Jacobsen taught elementary school, retiring from San Mateo-Foster City School District after 30 years. She and her second husband enjoyed sailing and kayaking together. Jacobsen is predeceased by her husbands, **Joe Smith '61** and Dick Jacobsen. She is survived by two children and one grandchild.

Edward "Ed" Ballengee '57 on Sept. 2, 2023, in King City, California. Ballengee met the love of his life, **Mary McKay '57**, when they performed the lead roles in Whitman's production of the romantic musical-comedy "South Pacific." They were married the summer following their graduation and remained together until her passing. Ballengee worked as a dentist for 60 years, retiring in 2018. The Ballengees love for each other was equally matched by their love of music; the couple was active in local choirs and had fond memories of participating in two European tours with their choir groups. Ballengee is predeceased by his wife, Mary. He is survived by two daughters, nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Mary McKay Ballengee '57 on Aug. 13, 2023, in King City, California. Following her nuptials in 1957, Ballengee completed her graduate studies in Music and Drama at the University of Washington. The Ballengees settled in King City, where Mary Ballengee stayed at home with their young children. She maintained the family ranch while volunteering in the local schools and art centers. Ballengee loved the outdoors almost as much as music and led countless nature hikes for young people in the community. She predeceased her husband of 66 years, **Ed Ballengee '57**, by less than a month. She is survived by two daughters, nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

William "Bill" Osborn '57 on July 18, 2023, in Ocean Pines, Maryland. Osborn's Whitman education was interrupted when he was called to serve in the U.S. Army for two years before he returned to complete his degree. He went on to earn a master's in Industrial Psychology at Purdue University. Osborn worked his entire career for the Human Resources Research Organization,

eventually becoming President of the nonprofit. Osborn is predeceased by his former wife, **JoAnne Garske Osborn '55**. He is survived by his wife, June Bray; his two children; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Verbeck Smith '57 on Sept. 30, 2023, in Spokane, Washington. Smith taught music to elementary and junior high students in Washington public schools. While teaching in Centralia, he met and married another teacher, Kathleen Lopp. After 34 years of musical education in the public schools, he took a job with Apple Computers as an education dealer until his retirement in 1994. Smith served the Class of 1957 for a time as an Associate Class Representative and on the 50th Reunion Fund Committee. He is predeceased by his wife and one son. Smith is survived by another son and his siblings.

Sharon Coleman Thomas '57 on Aug. 16, 2023, in Olympia, Washington. After earning her degree in Education from Whitman, Thomas married her husband, Kay, in a June ceremony. The couple went on to teach high school in Olympia. Thomas was voted Teacher of the Year 1980–1981 while at Timberline and the North Thurston Education Association Teacher of the Year in 1993–1994. She retired in 1994 after 30 years in education to enjoy "the simple things: a good book, a good meal, a good laugh." Thomas is predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her two children and three grandchildren.

Athol Cline '58 on Dec. 5, 2023, in Tucson, Arizona. Cline went on to earn his master's and doctorate in Biochemistry. He taught college-level chemistry briefly before taking a position at the American Analytical Labs (AAL), where he eventually became President and CEO. After retiring from AAL, Cline

volunteered as an Archivist for the Jewish History Museum in Tucson while working the occasional odd job. He is survived by his wife, Maria; three children; and three grandchildren.

Linda Staley Benson '59 on Aug. 20, 2023, in Moscow, Idaho. After Whitman, Benson attended Stanford University, obtaining her master's in Physical Therapy. She worked for a time at the University of Oregon School of Medicine before she married Stuart Benson in 1967. Benson stayed home with their children until they were in high school, then she returned to work as a Physical Therapist in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley. Benson is predeceased by her former husband. She is survived by her two children; four grandchildren; and three siblings, including **Robert "Buck" Staley '64**.

Theodora "Teddy" Cokinakis Geokezas '59 on Dec. 31, 2023, in Seattle. Geokezas worked as an assistant to Whitman's Dean of Education immediately following graduation. She then went to work as a statistician for Boeing. It was during this time that Geokezas met her husband, Meletios, at a church social. After the birth of their first child, she left the workforce. Geokezas was an active volunteer throughout her life, volunteering for a number of community and political organizations. She was also an active alumna, serving on Reunion fund committees as a Reunion chair and on the Alumni Association Board for a term. She was a frequent fixture at Whitman events. Geokezas is survived by her husband, two children and two grandchildren.

Elizabeth "Liz" Strandberg Johnson '59 on April 1, 2023, in Federal Way, Washington. During finals week her senior year at Whitman, Strandberg went on her first date with **Preston Johnson '59**. Two years later,

they were married. In 1967, Johnson became the director of the first Head Start Program in Federal Way while her husband completed his law degree. When he opened his own law practice, Johnson became her husband's legal secretary and office manager. They worked together for three decades and retired in 2004. Johnson is predeceased by her husband. She is survived by three children and two grandchildren.

1960s

George Scott '60 on Oct. 25, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia. Scott earned his degree in English from the University of Washington in 1967 after a four-year stint with the U.S. Coast Guard. While at UW, he met and married his wife of 54 years, Leslie. Scott found his career in investment and wealth management, becoming an expert in closed-end funds. He remained in the industry until his retirement in 2019 at 82 years of age. Scott is survived by his wife, three children, three grandchildren and three siblings.

Richard "Rick" West '60 on Feb. 19, 2023, in Medford, Oregon. West met and married his first wife, **Ellen May Cook '61**, while they were students at Whitman. Shortly after his graduation, the family of four moved to Hawaii, where West worked for the Bank of Hawaii. He stepped down as Regional Vice President after nearly 40 years with the bank. In retirement, West became involved with Whitman again, co-chairing his 50th Reunion and attending 50-Plus Reunions for as long as he was able. West is predeceased by one child. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Linda; three children; and several grandchildren.

Gordon Wilcox '60 on Nov. 7, 2023, in Post Falls, Idaho. After leaving Whitman, Wilcox graduated from Pacific Coast

Banking School at the University of Washington. Over the course of his 35-year career in banking, Wilcox had assignments in Spokane, Seattle and northern Idaho. Wilcox is survived by his wife of 39 years, Thea; his two sons; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Walter "Walt" Highberg '61 on Jan. 7, 2024, in Spokane, Washington. Highberg married his high school sweetheart, **Marilyn Chrisman '61**, the summer following their graduation. The couple moved to Spokane, where Highberg worked the family fruit farm while attending Gonzaga University, where he earned his master's in Mathematics. He spent his career as a software engineer and systems analyst, while also volunteering as a firefighter and EMT. Highberg's connection to Whitman remained strong. He served on his 50th Reunion committee and sent both his children to the college. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his son, **Erik Highberg '88**; his daughter, **Karin Highberg Collisson '95**; and five grandchildren.

Mary Anne Baggaley Owen '61 on Aug. 2, 2023, on Orcas Island, Washington. Owen transferred after her sophomore year to Washington State University, where she earned both a bachelor's and master's in English. She eventually landed a job designing processing systems for digital conversions of documents. This led to a career in litigation support, organizing evidence for corporate lawsuits. Owen was regarded as one of the primary investors of litigation support system methodology. She is predeceased by her husband, Chuck, and survived by her two sons, two stepchildren, and 10 grandchildren.

Ralph "Ed" Glatfelter '62 on Oct. 19, 2023, in Logan, Utah. After Whitman, Glatfelter attended graduate school at

Indiana University, where he met his wife, Marilynne. The couple moved to Utah when Glatfelter took a job with Utah State University (USU) teaching Chinese, European and Russian History. Over the span of his 42-year career with USU, Glatfelter established the international exchange and Asian Studies programs, served as the History Department chair and as Associate Dean of the College of Humanities. Glatfelter remained close with his Whitman classmates and served as Class Representative and on Reunion committees for his 40th and 50th Reunions. He is survived by his wife and two siblings.

Charles "Chuck" MacFarland '62 on Nov. 17, 2023, in Rainier, Washington. MacFarland worked briefly for Weyerhaeuser immediately after college. He eventually took on a position at XCEL Feeds Inc., where he retired in 2014. MacFarland loved to adventure in the great outdoors and enjoyed Alaska fishing trips, hikes and climbs to the famous peaks of Washington state mountains, road trips, and walks about the ranch with his family. He is predeceased by his wife, Linda, and one son. MacFarland is survived by his daughter, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Sandra "Sandy" Opie Bunker '63 on Dec. 21, 2022, in Olympia, Washington. After Whitman, Bunker worked for a time as a stewardess with West Coast Airlines. She married Gordon Bunker, and they had one daughter.

Laurelee "Laurie" Smith Fix '63 on Nov. 17, 2023, in Omaha, Nebraska. Fix married **James Fix '63** in the winter following their graduation. They had two children together before separating. An accomplished pianist, Fix often filled the home with classical music. She also briefly owned a Software City franchise in the Seattle area.

Fix is survived by her former husband, two children and four grandchildren.

Thomas "Tom" McKean '63 on Oct. 17, 2023, in Redmond, Oregon. After Whitman, McKean earned his doctorate in Physiology from Oregon Health & Science University and completed postdoctoral work at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He eventually accepted an offer from the University of Idaho, where he spent the remainder of his career. In retirement, McKean pursued his lifelong interest in music, recording three CDs of songs, including original pieces. He is predeceased by his siblings **Scott McKean '56** and **Anne McKean Ladley '59**. McKean is survived by his wife, Corinne; his two children; and four grandchildren.

Allan Osterud '64 on Oct. 15, 2023, in St. Paul, Minnesota. After Whitman, Osterud earned his Master of Business Administration in Transportation and Finance from the University of Washington. Shortly after, he married his Whitman sweetheart **Dru Gnagey '65** in a winter wedding. Osterud spent 25 years working for Northwest Airlines in roles ranging from regulatory proceedings to accounting and finance. He eventually took a job with a private company, retiring as Director of Finance in 2014. Besides family, Osterud's two great passions in life were Marx toy trains and Studebaker cars. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Karen Carstensen Click '65 on Jan. 14, 2023, in Palm Desert, California. Following graduation, Click married her first husband and stayed at home with their young children. Always an avid tennis player, she went to work for the Claremont Tennis Club for several years. Eventually, Click took a math teaching position at Claremont High School (CHS), where she also coached both boys' and girls' tennis teams.

It was while working at CHS that Click met and married her second husband, David, a fellow math teacher. Click is survived by her husband; her two children, including **Lysa Lucke Rieger '91**; and four grandchildren.

Roger Hull '66 on Oct. 5, 2023, in Salem, Oregon. After graduation, Hull attended Northwestern University, where he earned a master's degree and doctorate in Art History. In 1970, Hull moved to Salem, where he began a 40-year teaching career at Willamette University. He was named Oregon Professor of the Year in 1993 by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Hull helped establish the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette in 1998 and was awarded the 1999 Oregon Governor's Arts Award. Hull also received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Willamette in 2022. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie; their son; and two grandchildren.

Douglas "Doug" Polley '67 on Nov. 17, 2023, in Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Polley entered graduate school immediately after Whitman, earning his master's in both Economics and Math from the University of Minnesota. He worked as a marketing manager for NCR Comten for a decade before returning to the U of M to

complete his doctorate in Business Management. Polley taught at St. Cloud State University, retiring as a tenured Professor of Business in 2012. He is survived by his daughter.

Robert "Rob" Shallenberger '67 on March 15, 2023, in Kamuela, Hawaii. Shallenberger attended the University of California, Los Angeles to earn his master's and doctorate in Zoology. He spent 32 years with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Hawaii, focusing primarily on wildlife and land conservation. Shallenberger was a staunch advocate for the preservation of Hawaii's natural resources; he also served as Hawaii Island Conservation Director for Nature Conservancy. He is survived by his wife, Annabelle; his three children; and two grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Burns '68 on Aug. 28, 2023, in Fremont, California. Burns met his wife, **Sherry O'Donnell '68**, while they were both students at Whitman. They were married in the summer between their sophomore and junior years; their only child was born the following year. Burns worked for a variety of companies ranging from computing systems and information technology to fabricated product and semiconductor sales. He retired in 2017. Burns is predeceased by

his parents, **Bruce Burns '41** and **Patricia Murphy Burns '42**. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

1970s

Bert Osborn '72 on Aug. 14, 2022, in Payette, Idaho. Osborn pursued his law degree from the University of Idaho and graduated in 1975. He practiced law for almost 50 years. During his free time, Osborn enjoyed being outdoors; he especially enjoyed river rafting in his younger years. Osborn was also a pilot and earned his flight instrument rating shortly before his passing. Osborn is survived by his wife, Suzan; his sisters, including **Linda Osborn '69**; two daughters; and a grandson.

Carolanne "Kelly" Phelan Bartzokis '79 on Nov. 1, 2023, in Los Angeles. After Whitman, Bartzokis earned her medical degree at the University of Washington followed by a psychiatry residency and fellowship at UCLA, where she met her husband, George. She practiced child and adolescent psychiatry for more than 20 years. Bartzokis volunteered for the Whitman Parent Leadership Committee and the Student Life Committee while her daughter, **Katy Bartzokis '13**, attended

Whitman. Predeceased by her husband, she is survived by her two daughters and four siblings. Donations to the Bartzokis Scholarship Endowment in her honor can be made at give.whitman.edu/bartzokis.

1980s

D. Scott Lamb '85 on Jan. 12, 2024, in Media, Pennsylvania. Lamb spent his career in the insurance industry as an executive-level actuary and underwriter. Lamb adored his daughters and became a semi-professional dance photographer as he followed their dance passion. The Lambs hiked throughout Pennsylvania and loved being outdoors together. He was an avid sports fan and followed all the Philadelphia sports teams. Lamb is survived by his parents; three siblings; his wife, Rita Ann; and their two daughters.

Suzanne "Suzie" Rush '86 on May 8, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. Rush spent her 25-plus-year career as a counselor, working for a time with Multnomah County in Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services. She will be remembered fondly for her incredible vibrance, wit, intelligence and uncanny ability to be present and engaged in

the moment. Rush is survived by her father; her brother, **John Rush '91**; and his daughters.

1990s

Andrew Reed '97 on Jan. 22, 2024, in Walla Walla. Reed was an avid sports fan and supported Whitman athletics. He co-owned a Whitman fan favorite — the Green Lantern Tavern — with **Patrick Holtz '93**. Reed also owned several rental properties in Walla Walla, many of which were rented to Whitman students. He is remembered for connecting with people from different generations and communities, such as organizing the annual Walla Walla Wiffle tournament with **Jay Babbitt '02** and others for 16 years. He is survived by his father; a sister; his wife, **Amy Ash Reed '00**; and their three children.

2000s

Brian Ward '03 on Jan. 3, 2024, in Brighton, Massachusetts. A philosopher and a comic, Ward spent his career working IT at Boston College, where he was a beloved team member. Ward was a passionate cat father and a caring friend who was always there when needed. He is survived by his parents.

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 Jaimee Maurer, Class Notes Editor, at maurerjl@whitman.edu or call 509-527-5052.

FAST 5 WITH The Nomadic Scientist

Professor of Chemistry Frank Dunnivant has done many things over the years: studying heavy metals in the soil/groundwater systems at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, investigating hazardous waste landfills in Switzerland and testing the Snake River Plain Aquifer for radioactive pollutants that could impact Idaho farmers. Despite starting out as a nomadic scientist, returning to his first love—teaching—has kept Dunnivant at Whitman for the past 24 years. We recently sat down with him for five questions about what he's learned throughout his 44-year career. —BY HEIDI PITTS '01



1 *Why has your career focused on the environment?*

I was an environmentalist from birth! I was raised a farm boy and could see that there was an imbalance between people and how we steward the Earth's resources. At that time **people called environmentalism "just some hippie fad"** but I knew it would be a concern as long as people survive and given our ever-increasing population.

2 *How has your teaching style evolved?*

I started out using PowerPoint the wrong way in my lectures, and it wasn't pretty. So I've grown more interactive, sharing examples from my real-world experiences to help students understand what they are learning and how to apply it. My lectures include a lot of stories,

so much so that my students affectionately call my upper-level classes **"Story Time With Frank."**

3 *You've co-authored articles with 37 students. What do you appreciate about the student-faculty research process?*

First and foremost, it teaches students to be **independent and critical thinkers**, which is essential whether they go on to graduate school or into a job. They also get intensive training with laboratory

equipment. We have a phenomenal collection of instruments that students build proficiency in using.



faculty are like a family; we celebrate each other's successes, share meals and our kids play together. And I get to wear **Birkenstocks** and tie-dye to work!

4 *You have said you don't intend to retire from teaching and "will die with the chalk in my hand." Why?*

My work gives me a reason to get up in the morning—I love what I do, and I love the people I work with. The Chemistry Department

5 *What advice would you give to students preparing to start their careers?*

The world outside of academia is a dynamic place. Get a job, learn the most that you can from that job, and then move on to a new, fun challenge.

Always keep learning! 

I was RAISED A FARM BOY and could see that there was an IMBALANCE between people and how we steward the EARTH'S RESOURCES.

The Whitman Fund

is one of the core priorities
of our most ambitious
campaign yet—
Upward Together.

Give Today

Join thousands of
alumni and families
in making a collective
and immediate impact
for Whitman students.



Your Gifts at Work

“My internship was one of
the biggest, most rewarding
experiences I have had as a
Whitman student.”

Jose Silva '25, who interned for a Walla Walla agency,
Hernandez Immigration Law, supported by a Whitman
Internship Grant. **A gift to The Whitman Fund of \$4,000**
can support a summer student internship like Jose's.





WHITMAN COLLEGE

345 Boyer Avenue
Walla Walla WA 99362

Periodicals
Postage

PAID
USPS
968620

To notify us of an address change, email addrchg@whitman.edu.



Welcome to Our House



KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

NEW HOME OF BLUES BASEBALL. The new Edwards-Moore Clubhouse at Borleske Stadium opened to the Whitman College Blues and the Walla Walla Sweets in early April 2024. The clubhouse is made possible by gifts from alumni and families through the **Upward Together** campaign. Pictured: Jock Edwards '66 and Jim Moore '66, for whom the clubhouse is named. Read more about how the clubhouse came to be plus see photos of this exciting new home to Blues baseball at whitman.edu/magazine.



 youtube.com/whitmancollege

 facebook.com/whitmancollege

 x.com/whitmancollege

 instagram.com/whitmancollege