

Whitties in the Wild

For 50 years, Whitman College's Outdoor Program has been giving students a taste for adventure

On Top of the World

H

WHITMAN

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14

Whitman College senior Natalie Lundberg, from Grass Valley, California, celebrates a championship win with the home fans. Whitman's women's basketball team capped a 26-1 season with a hard-fought win over George Fox University to take the Northwest Conference title. The Blues advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III Championships.



Inside

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WOW! 50 YEARS OF ADVENTURE

When Andy Dappen '76 pitched a school-funded Outdoor Program to college leadership in 1975, he created a lasting legacy. For 50 years now, the Outdoor Program has been sparking amazing adventures, lifelong friendships and a love for the natural world in generations of Whitties.

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FROM SOFTWARE TO STREET TREES

When the pandemic hit, Taha Ebrahimi 'O1 knew she needed a project — a break from her day job in data visualization and a reason to get outdoors. Her quest to learn about her city's trees became a Northwest bestseller, "Street Trees of Seattle," and Ebrahimi became one of Seattle's most unique tree experts.

WELCOME TO THE BRAIN TRUST

Discover the origin story of Whitman's new Brain, Behavior and Cognition major — which explores the intersection between psychology and biology — as its first class of graduates steps across the stage this year.

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FAST 5: WITH KIM CHANDLER

ONLINE EXTRA Follow senior Zoe Perkins '25 into the clock tower on her quest to fulfill her Whitman bucket list before graduation. Find that story and more at **whitman.edu/magazine**.

PHOTO BY YAHIR TZEC '25

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 Students hike through Robbers Roost in southern Utah during an Outdoor Leadership course. See page 14.



From the foothills of the Blues to the far corners of the globe, Whitties continue to pursue bold ideas and new experiences that prepare them for lives of service and impact."

It's an Honor to Travel Together

SINCE MOVING TO WALLA WALLA three years ago, I have been frequently awed during my trips into the Blue Mountains and around our beautiful region. Something always surprises me -a view, an elk in the distance or an idea that pops up in the quiet of the wilderness.

It no longer surprises me, however, to encounter Whitties out adventuring. Whether we are together for an official "Hike with the President" or just happen to be snowshoeing the same trail at Horseshoe Prairie, enjoying the outdoors in the company of students is a particular joy for me.

For many Whitties, college is a time to experience the outdoors in new ways, and much of this learning is supported through Whitman's excellent Outdoor Program. As we celebrate its 50th birthday (page 14), I am so thankful for all the people who have made it possible for students to engage with the wilderness — many of them for the first time.

Exploration takes place on campus, too, with innovations to the curriculum opening new pathways of intellectual adventure. One of these is the Brain, Behavior and Cognition major (page 28), which has quickly attracted a large cohort of neuroscience-minded students.

This issue of Whitman Magazine also features alumni who continue to lead curiosity-driven lives, such as Taha Ebrahimi 'O1, who transformed her pandemic walks into a bestselling book about Seattle's trees (page 22) and Zach S.O. Lough 'O8, whose three-year stint sailing the Pacific Ocean led to adventures in entrepreneurship (page 36).

From the foothills of the Blues to the far corners of the globe, Whitties continue to pursue bold ideas and new experiences that prepare them for lives of service and impact. It is an honor to travel alongside them during their time on campus!

Sarah Pot

Sarah Bolton President



Happy trails. Students stop for a rest break and photo op with President Bolton during a "Hike With the President" Outdoor Program trip to Harris Park in Fall 2024.

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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.

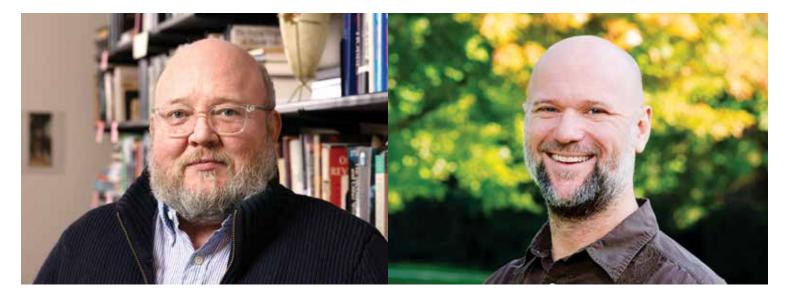
WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Whitman College is deeply committed to the principle of nondiscrimination in all its forms. In its admission, educational, and employment practices, programs, and activities, the college does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, national origin, shared ancestry, disability, veteran 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 other applicable federal, state, or local laws.

On Boyer Avenue



ACADEMICS

Cross-Examining the Law WHITMAN INTRODUCES INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN LAW, CULTURE AND THE HUMANITIES

BEGINNING IN FALL 2025, Whitman College will offer students the opportunity to explore the intricate interplay of legal systems, cultural practices and humanistic thought through a new interdisciplinary minor: Law, Culture and the Humanities. This program, co-directed by Jack Jackson, Associate Professor and Chair of Politics, and Patrick Frierson, the Paul Pigott and William M. Allen Professor of Ethics and Philosophy and Chair of Philosophy, builds upon Whitman's history of legal studies while providing students with a unique approach to law.

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY Perspective

The Law, Culture and the Humanities minor will engage students in exploring law beyond traditional pre-professional frameworks. With courses spanning topics like constitutional law, gender and law, Indigenous politics, copyright law, and philosophies of punishment, students will discover how law shapes—and is shaped by—society and culture.

"The long history of excellent teaching and scholarship by the faculty of Whitman in the field of law helped inspire the creation of this new minor," says Jackson. "The process of establishing the new minor has already facilitated both new intellectual collaborations across departments at the college and the creation of new courses in the departments of Anthropology, Sociology, and Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse."

The minor will also integrate Whitman's vibrant intellectual life outside the classroom, requiring students to attend approved guest lectures and campus events, such as the annual lecture honoring the legacy of Whitman alum and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

A MINOR FOR ALL MAJORS

While the minor may naturally attract students with aspirations of attending law school, it is intentionally broad in its appeal. As Ellie Edwards '26, a Politics major who plans to pursue this minor, says, "The courses I've taken that fall under this minor were some of the most engaging and inspiring of my college experience. They deepened my passion for the theory of law and its cultural implications."

Future generations of students will benefit from the minor, developing intellectual tools to address pressing societal questions and translate their learning into ethical and meaningful lives of purpose. Unlocking the law. Whitman's new Law, Culture and the Humanities minor will be co-directed by (from left) Jack Jackson, Associate Professor of Politics, and Patrick Frierson, Professor of Ethics and Philosophy.

MORE NEW PROGRAMS

Whitman is innovating its academic offerings with new programs that will inspire students and connect them to the future. Other recent additions include:

Architectural History (minor)

Brain, Behavior & Cognition (major) Ethics & Society (major) Finance (minor) Human-Centered Design (concentration) Social Justice (concentration)

Read more on page 28!

STUDENT LEADERS

Building Bridges

ADAM SIMON '26 AWARDED NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOWSHIP

WHITMAN COLLEGE JUNIOR Adam Simon loves people. It's a clear thread throughout his college life, from the work he began as a first-year student volunteering with adults who have intellectual or developmental disabilities — to his chosen major of Psychology and his interest in a social work career.

Simon is this year's recipient of the Newman Civic Fellowship from Campus Compact, a national nonprofit organization that aims to support civic and community engagement in higher education. The yearlong program recognizes students who are dedicated to addressing problems within their communities.

INSPIRED ACTION

Simon was nominated for his work as last year's Buddy Program Leader. In partnership with the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network, the Buddy Program aims to support people with intellectual and developmental



Leading from the heart. Junior Adam Simon '26 is already finding ways to impact communities beyond Whitman College.

disabilities by combating isolation and breaking down social barriers. Whitman students meet once a month with their community buddies for activities such as dances, movie nights, crafts and bowling.

Simon was drawn to the Buddy Program in his first year at Whitman. He was intrigued by the opportunity to meet new people and felt instantly connected to the work.

"The way he shows up to events with energy and enthusiasm sets the tone and fosters true community building," wrote President Sarah Bolton in Simon's nomination letter.

SUPPORTING Social Change

As a junior, Simon has continued his volunteer work as the Community Engagement Leader for Nonprofit and Community Partnerships, supporting other student leaders of community programs at Whitman. He also continues to volunteer for the Buddy Program and other social impact programs, including mentoring an elementary school student through Whitman Friends.

"I love being able to engage in so many different areas and know that the Newman Fellowship supports me as a leader in all the work that I do," he says.

"Adam asks important questions about the root causes behind social injustices that he encounters, and he seeks opportunities to address these injustices in positive ways," President Bolton wrote. "He has internalized the importance of community and the collective responsibility we all have to support one another."

Among the fellows.

Read more about Adam Simon's experience at the convening of this year's Newman Civic Fellows in Chicago at whitman.edu/magazine.

Library Receives National Award for Accessibility & Diversity

Penrose Library at Whitman College has been honored with the 2025 Library Excellence in Accessibility and Diversity (LEAD) Award from Insight Into Diversity magazine, the oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education. The prestigious award recognizes academic libraries that exemplify inclusive excellence through innovative programs and initiatives, with a focus on supporting diversity, equity and belonging.

"This award underscores our mission to provide equitable access to knowledge and foster a welcoming environment for growth," says Ping Fu, Director of Penrose Library. "Together





perspectives are celebrated, paving the way for meaningful dialogue and transformative learning."

The LEAD Award follows Whitman's receipt of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award in 2024, underscoring the institution's ongoing commitment to inclusive excellence, a core strategic priority.

Read more about the LEAD Award at whitman.edu/magazine

A Tribute to Two Whitman Legends

NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LONGTIME WHITMAN ADVOCATES JOHN BOGLEY '85 & SHAUNA LILLY BOGLEY '83

WHEN JIM DOW '71 and Natalie Meacham invited John Bogley '85 to meet them for coffee on the Whitman College campus, John figured they just wanted to catch up with an old friend. After all, he and Jim had worked together to recruit students to Whitman for three decades — alongside John's wife, Shauna Lilly Bogley '83, for four of those years—when John directed the Office of Admission and Jim was an Alumni Admission Volunteer.

Instead, Jim and Natalie surprised John by announcing that they were establishing the John and Shauna Lilly Bogley Scholarship Endowment to honor the impact of the Bogleys' many years of service to Whitman.

"I was stunned and deeply appreciative," John says. "Jim and Natalie have been such tremendous philanthropists at Whitman, and to have a scholarship with our names on it that is trying to increase access to the life-shaping experience that Whitman provides is such a thrill."

CHAMPIONS FOR WHITMAN

John, who majored in History, and Shauna, a Theater major, have nothing but fond memories of their time at Whitman.

"The rigor of your classes and living in Walla Walla combine to make for an intense experience," Shauna says. "Walla Walla itself is such a special place, and everybody creates a life for themselves here. You form really strong bonds with the faculty and students."

Both Shauna and John spent much of their professional careers working for Whitman. Shauna joined the Admission team in 1984. A year later, she opened an Admission office in Seattle, where she focused on recruiting students in the region. She served in that role for four years before starting a career in theater.

John worked for the Office of Admission for three years after graduating. He briefly left before returning in 1994. He was named Dean of Admission and Financial Aid in 1996 and Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations in 2003, serving in that role until 2019.

"John always had the big picture in mind," Jim says. "One of his many talents was he could show you where in the picture your gift fit in and, with a little adjustment, how it could contribute even more."

CHANGING LIVES

The Bogley Scholarship will go toward merit awards that can enhance incoming students' financial aid offers and open the door to a Whitman education.

John says he graduated from Whitman with "the intellectual self-confidence to believe that [he] could do good things." He hopes the scholarship named in his and Shauna's honor will help other students feel the same.

"I want people to come out of Whitman with the tools to be good at their work, great at their family and differencemakers in their community," he says. "I hope this scholarship makes it possible for people to change the world."

"I want people to come out of Whitman with the tools to be good at their work, great at their family and difference-makers in their community."

-JOHN BOGLEY '85

The world needs Whitties. To support the John and Shauna Lilly Bogley Scholarship Endowment, go to **give.whitman.edu**.

'Deeply appreciative.' The John and Shauna Lilly Bogley Endowment recognizes the legacy of longtime Whitman community members John Bogley '85 and Shauna Lilly Bogley '83.



Global Whitman

Whitman College prepares students to step on to a global stage—and lead lives of widespread impact. Whitties learn alongside peers from around the globe, engage with global issues in the classroom, learn from faculty with international interests and expertise, and take what they learn to countries all over the world.

Take a look at how our students and alumni are connecting Whitman and the world.

GLOBAL STUDENTS

14%

200+ international students (including 24 international student-athletes) from

90+ countries and sovereign nations

Top countries China, South Korea, India, Japan, Zambia and Uganda

GLOBAL ALUMS

480+

alums living and working abroad in

80+

Top countries

Canada, Germany, China, United Kingdom, Japan and Australia

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

5 language-focused interest houses + Multicultural House

80+ partner programs for off-campus studies in 40+ countries

43% of juniors studied abroad at least one semester this academic year

Whitman-funded international internships in 2024–2025

Furthest away

Students and alums: Lesotho (10,307 miles)

Did You Know?

Lesotho is a mountainous, landlocked country in Southern Africa. One of the largest dinosaur footprints in the world was discovered here.



LESOTHO

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Associate Professor of Physics **Andrés**

Aragoneses co-authored an article with Whitman College students Eli Main '26 and John Bannon '27. "Analysis of the Spiking Dynamics of a Diode Laser With Dual Optical Feedback" was published in the journal Scientific Reports.

Associate Professor of Sociology and Paul Garrett Fellow **Alissa Cordner** published a paper in the International Journal of Wildland Fire, based on her multi-year participant observation research with firefighters in Oregon. The paper looks at changes in wildland firefighter safety policies and practices.

Assistant Professor of Politics **Denise Fernandes** published an op-ed in the Indian Express, a major daily newspaper in India, discussing the annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Fernandes is a research observer to the UNFCCC. Kate Jackson, Professor of Biology, was elected to the Board of Governors Class of 2029 for the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, a nonprofit organization that advances the scientific study of fish, amphibians and reptiles.

Professor of English Christopher Leise

published an article in the journal Christianity and Literature about W.E.B. Du Bois' literary efforts to protect Black Americans' voting rights at the turn of the 20th century. Aliyah Fard '22 provided critical research support and insights—made possible by the generous support of the Whitman College Parents' Fund via the Louis B. Perry Summer Research Award.

Assistant Professor of Religion **Ralph H. Craig III** was named the 2025– 2026 Numata Visiting Scholar at Princeton University. The Numata Visiting Scholar Program supports the continued development of scholarship in Buddhist Studies.

2024–2025 FACULTY PROMOTIONS





PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR

Jakobina "Bina" K. Arch (History)

Arielle Marie Cooley (Biology) Moira I. Gresham (Physics) Gilbert Felipe Mireles Jr. (Sociology)



GRANTED TENURE William H. Bares, Associate Professor of Computer Science



GRANTED TENURE & PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Aarón G. Aguilar-Ramírez (Hispanic Studies)

Mark P. Hendricks (Chemistry)



NAMED TO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Kate Shea, Louis Francis Anderson Professor of Classical Literature and Archeology (Environmental Humanities and Classics)



Pete & Hedda Reid Award Recognizes Champion of Local Youth

The annual Pete and Hedda Reid Award recognizes a Whitman College faculty or staff member for their exceptional volunteer work within the community. The 2024 award went to Development Officer **Susan Prudente**.

Prudente has demonstrated a deep commitment to uplifting and empowering local youth. In 2007, she co-founded YoungLives, an outreach program designed to support teen mothers and their children. She has served as a longtime Walla Walla Public School Volunteer. In 2018, she co-chaired the Walla Walla Citizens for Schools Bond Committee, which resulted in a historic \$65.6 million bond measure for school renovations. She has also worked with the Walla Walla Public Schools Graduate of Distinction Selection Committee, participated in career panels aimed at inspiring young students, and served as an emergency substitute teacher.

This year's award was given in memory of Professor of Astronomy Katherine Bracher, who taught at Whitman for 31 years.



Upward

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WHITMAN COLLEGE

Aiming High & Finishing Strong!

YEAR 1

A Bold Vision & Unprecedented Giving YEAR 2 Increasing Momentum & Transformational Impact

YEAR 3

What's Ahead? Seizing New Opportunities & Pursuing Our Highest Peak Yet!

The **Upward Together** campaign is elevating and enhancing a Whitman College education for generations of students—tomorrow's thinkers, leaders and changemakers. Join us for the final year of the campaign as we move Whitman forward and go upward, together.

Follow along and see the great success so far:





Portrait of a Creative Leader

A WHITMAN EXPERIENCE DEFINED BY GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY

BY MÓNICA HERNÁNDEZ WILLIAMS

COMMUNITY. That's what Asya Johnson '26 found at Whitman College. As a first-year, she quickly joined student groups, like the Black Student Union and Women of Color Voices. In her sophomore year, she pictured a new group—one that would bring others together around a shared creative interest.

"My parents gifted me my first camera when I was in high school, and I thought that there would be other people on campus who might also like photography," she says.

With guidance from staff in the Student Activities Office, Johnson started a student-led Photography Club in the spring of 2023 that has now grown to 20 members.

"I was a bit nervous because I hadn't started a club before. Now, here I am the President of the Photography Club," Johnson says. "I like a challenge because that means that I'm learning. Looking back, I'm glad I kept pushing and am thankful that I had the support of my friends and staff members to keep going."

She also enrolled in a Beginning Digital Photography class to further develop her skills.

"I didn't have much experience using the different manual settings of a camera because I was self-taught. Robin's class has taught me even more," she says, referring to Whitman's Faculty Fellow Robin North, who specializes in photography and digital media.

"Now I can teach club members how to work the camera, instead of letting the camera work them," she says.

North also supported Johnson in organizing a club photo exhibition in Whitman's Fouts Center for Visual Arts this fall.

"I didn't even know that we could do that," she says. "It has been my favorite thing we've done as a club so far because different people across campus came just to see our work!"

COMING TO WHITMAN

From the moment Johnson first stepped foot on the Whitman College campus, it felt like home.

The Chicago native was initially introduced to Whitman through her high school guidance counselor and coordinated a campus visit.

"Seeing the campus with my dad ... It was very beautiful. That is what made me fall in love with Whitman," says Johnson, who had always planned to major in Art and minor in Art History. "I loved seeing that there are art pieces literally all across campus. I remember thinking how beautiful Whitman's landscape was and how friendly everyone was to us."

She knew what she wanted in a college — a strong Art program in a supportive community where she could explore and grow. To get a clear picture of what Whitman could offer her, she spoke to current students, professors and staff in several resource offices across campus.

"Whitman was hitting all the marks," Johnson says. "It all just sounded right to me."

But she wanted to base her decision on more than just a feeling, so she asked her parents for advice. Her dad believed she'd thrive at Whitman, but her mom was worried about the cost.

"I knew I would have a bright future if I came here. So I talked to the Office of Financial Aid and they were willing to work with me and my family's situation," she says.

That conversation led Johnson to choose to spend the next four years at Whitman.

EXPERIENCING A NEW DIVERSITY

Moving across the country was nervewracking for Johnson, but the butterflies soon settled once she was on campus.

She signed up for Whitman's Summer Fly-In – a weeklong pre-orientation program designed for first-generation or



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASYA JOHNSON '26

working-class students to connect with campus resources and with one another.

"I got to experience the strong campus community Whitman has," Johnson says. "I made my first college friends through the Summer Fly-in and am still friends with them to this day."

She noticed that cultural differences were celebrated on campus.

"Chicago is very diverse, but I mainly grew up in the African American community. Coming to Whitman and being able to experience diversity for myself, learn about other cultures, and build my own community around them was pretty cool," she says.

Johnson wanted to help future generations of Whitties experience that same feeling of support and belonging. So during her sophomore year, she became a Fly-In Leader and, soon after, an Orientation Week Leader (OWL).

"I thought it'd be pretty cool to see the same incoming students from my Fly-In group again and be a friendly and familiar face to them," says Johnson.

Her goal was to support these students far beyond the first week of classes.

"I know I can still go to my OWL to ask for help, and she'd be happy to do so, even though I'm a junior now," Johnson says. "So if someone helped me get through a door, why not help others go through those same doors?"

ENVISIONING A CREATIVE FUTURE

As she prepares for her senior year, Johnson looks forward to interweaving all her learnings from across campus into her senior thesis.

But what she is most excited about is life after Whitman.

"I am going to open up my own gallery with a studio in the back—to be able to showcase my work and the work of other artists," she says."



A VISUAL LEARNER: Meet Asya's mentor

In the spring of 2024, Asya Johnson '26 was nominated to serve on the hiring committee for a new Art Faculty Fellow. It was there that she first met visual artist Robin North.

'Rule of Thirds.' Asya

light and composition

in this photograph

taken from a unique

vantage point in front

of La Casa Hispana on

See more of Johnson's

work at whitman.edu/

magazine.

Whitman's campus.

Johnson '26 plays with

In his courses, North encourages students to consider voices and perspectives often left out of mainstream visual culture. Students explore how language and terminology in photography—such as *shoot*, *capture*, *headshot*, *take*, and *master/slave* carry connotations that reflect and reinforce colonial and hierarchical structures.

Johnson has been particularly engaged in those discussions and says she feels she can go to North for academic and personal guidance.

"Robin understands me in certain situations ... because he is an African American man," says Johnson. "And he is a professional, so it gives me hope for what I can do in my future."

Learn more about North and Whitman's other Faculty Fellows at whitman.edu/magazine.



THE CLOCK TOWER is easily the most recognizable landmark on Whitman's campus. For the past 125 years, the tower has watched over generations of Whitman students from atop Memorial Building, its bell tolling in constant companionship.

Located at the heart of campus, the Clock Tower is many people's first impression of the college although few ever get the opportunity to venture into the structure itself. Atop a staircase on the building's third floor sits a lone door that provides access to the tower's interior.

In the bell room, the original bell from the late 1890s now operates automatically, continuing to ring across the Walla Walla Valley as it did more than a century ago—180 times a day, 5,400 times a month, 65,700 times a year.

A ladder in the corner leads to a room with clock faces on each of the four walls. Once turned by mechanical clockworks that had to be wound every eight days, an electric-powered machine now turns the hands, marking each of the precious minutes we spend at Whitman College.

Find more clock tower fun facts, stories and behind-the-scenes photos — past and present — at whitman.edu/magazine.



Since 1975, the Outdoor Program (OP) has given generations of Whitman College students the opportunity to explore and fall in love with the outdoors

Salmon River, Idaho



Robbers Roost, Utah

t was spring break 2012 when Whitman College Director of Outdoor Programs Brien Sheedy's Glacier Mountaineering class set out for Mount Hood, about 50 miles east of Portland, Oregon. They planned to summit the peak, the highest in Oregon, but when a freak snowstorm rolled in, the group was forced to switch gears. Their lives depended on it.

Neither Sheedy nor his co-leader, Craig VanHoy—both expert alpinists who have guided mountain expeditions all over the globe—expected to experience that kind of squall with a group of relatively inexperienced college students. "That was as bad as any storm we'd ever seen anywhere in the world," Sheedy recalls.

"The snow was falling at a rate of an inch per hour, but the wind pattern caused a 10-foot snowdrift to build on top of our camp," he says. "We stayed up all night shoveling just to keep our tent from collapsing. Then we dug in to create a snow shelter."

By the time the storm passed, everyone was thoroughly exhausted, and the avalanche risk was high, so the group abandoned their attempt at the summit — but Sheedy remembers the trip as an unequivocal success.

"We turned what could have been a life-or-death situation into this very real, exhilarating challenge for these students to overcome. And I am so proud of how they handled it and what they learned in the process," he says.

More than 10 years later, the memory is etched in Sheedy's mind like it was yesterday. The same goes for the students, he says. "The first-years talked about it for all of their four years on campus. And to this day, when I interact with students who were on that trip, they still bring it up."

Such memorable experiences are not unusual for the Outdoor Program, which creates opportunities for Whitman students to explore more than just outdoor recreation — to build teamwork, leadership skills, outdoor skills and lifelong friendships.

An Idea Comes to Life

Fittingly, a program that is now a hub of student life on Whitman's campus was the brainchild of a Whitman student.

When Andy Dappen '76 arrived at Whitman in the fall of 1972, the school had what he calls a "not very active" Outing Club that took one or two trips per year.

"People thought Walla Walla was boring," says Dappen. But for people who love the outdoors, the small town in the foothills of the Blue Mountains, south of the rolling Palouse hills, and nearby the Columbia River is "nicely situated," he says.

By his junior year, with much of the club leadership having graduated, Dappen saw an opportunity.







"It was a wonderful way to pause and appreciate





If he could create a college-supported Outdoor Program with activities that were accessible to a range of skill and experience levels, he was confident it would enhance the Whitman experience on multiple levels. "I also thought, maybe I could create a job for myself," he recalls.

'A Springboard for Personal Growth'

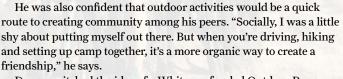
Dappen was inspired to give his peers access to the kinds of outdoor experiences that had taught him valuable lessons in leadership, communication and resilience.

"My brother [Alan Dappen '74] and I grew up in the days when your parents kicked you out the door and you didn't come home until dark," he says. Between childhood experiences exploring the lakes and rivers he grew up around and exposure to sports like hiking, mountaineering and cross-country skiing in high school, he developed a passion for the wilderness.

"For me, being in the outdoors fires on so many cylinders," he says. "There's beauty ... and danger. There's self-reliance and the need to rely on the people you're with. Outdoor experiences were a springboard for my personal growth, and I felt other people would find value in them if they got involved."

Weeping Wall, Washington





Dappen pitched the idea of a Whitman-funded Outdoor Program to the then-administration, including Student Center Director Vern Solbach and President Robert Skotheim, and in the summer of 1975, the college hired Dappen to establish the program.

An Instant Success

True to his vision of offering a broad selection of activities, early Outdoor Program offerings included everything from berry picking to volcano climbs to hikes of various difficulty levels. The response was excellent, with students quickly signing up for every type of trip, says Dappen.

A year later, after Dappen graduated with an Economics degree, a prestigious Watson Fellowship allowed him to study European approaches to outdoor leadership training programs in Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain. "I came back with a much broader sense of how the outdoors could be used" to teach a variety of skills, he says.

He was able to put those insights into action in 1979 when he was hired as the full-time Student Activities Director at Whitman, where one of his main responsibilities was managing the Outdoor Program. He stayed for three and a half years before leaving to pursue other outdoor industry opportunities, first as a product developer, then as an outdoor journalist whose work appeared in Outside, National Geographic Adventure and Backpacker magazines.

Thinking back to that time, Dappen feels grateful for the Whitman experiences that influenced his career trajectory. He's also impressed by how much the program has evolved over the years. "It's truly remarkable how it's grown," he says, crediting Patty Picha, who took the position after he left, and Brien Sheedy, for all they did to expand it.



The 70 Project: Defying Age

Andy Dappen '76 turned 70 in the summer of 2024—and his ambitious celebration took 12 months.

"At a time in life when most people find their worlds contracting, I wanted to pursue goals that keep my life expanding," Dappen says.

As a lifelong outdoorsman who shows little sign of slowing down, Dappen designed what he calls "The 70 Project," an endeavor that spanned his entire 70th year and included goals such as:

- Climbing 70 peaks
- Mountain biking 70 days
- Skiing 70 times
- Pursuing outings with 70 different people
- Taking 70 outings with his wife
- Logging 280,000 vertical feet (70K × 4)
- Traveling 1,400 nonmotorized miles (70 × 20)
- Reading 35 books (70 ÷ 2)
- Playing Ultimate Frisbee for 70 evenings

The pursuit wasn't just about broadening his own range of experiences. Dappen hoped his stretch goals would inspire his peers to embark on ambitious, passionfueled projects of their own. "Aging is inevitable," he says, "but acting old is a choice." North Cascades National Park, Washington



PHOTO BY BEN JONES

Insights From the Top of the World

Brien Sheedy's impressive mountaineering resume includes climbing the Seven Summits the highest peaks on every continent—and guiding ski expeditions to the North and South Poles.

But it's the people he meets in his travels—not the technical and mental challenges that come with tackling the world's most challenging terrains—that keep him coming back for more.

"Before you begin to climb Mount Everest, you spend a lot of time going up and down the mountain to acclimatize alongside Sherpas and other Nepalis working with your expedition. You really get to know those people and learn about their culture," Sheedy says.

"So the mountaineering objective is almost an excuse to go off the beaten path into a different part of the world and then experience that country and its people while exploring that unique mountain ecosystem at the same time."

The Outdoor Program Today

The Outdoor Program has grown exponentially over the past 50 years and become a vital campus resource — now under the direction of Sheedy and Assistant Director of Outdoor Programs Stuart Chapin.

Today, it features a state-of-the-art Climbing Center; a schedule bursting with weekend trips; and over 20 Sports Studies, Recreation and Athletics (SSRA) courses per semester — with three full-time staff members and dozens of students taking leadership roles in courses, trips and the Climbing Center. The program is also home to a rental shop managed by Lish Gutierrez, which is open to the Whitman and Walla Walla communities, including dedicated bike and ski shops. And the program coordinates visiting speakers, instructional seminars, film festivals and other special events on campus.

While the initial goal of creating opportunities to engage with the outdoors remains intact, "We have more diverse offerings than we did 50, or even 20 years ago," says Sheedy, who joined the staff in 2001 as the Director of Outdoor Programs and Senior Adjunct Lecturer of Sport Studies. While the Outdoor Program now offers outings including sea kayaking and mountain biking, climbing and wilderness first responder certifications, and courses in winter and glacier mountaineering, there are also adaptive activities and equipment for students with disabilities and options for those who don't run on adrenaline, including stargazing, birding, and plant identification, to name a few, says Sheedy.

And students are responsible for nearly every aspect of the program, he says. Each semester, the Climbing Center employs up to 40 students. Meanwhile, there are roughly 25 student trip leaders per semester, the rental shop employs up to 12 students per semester, and there are 24 student instructors responsible for SSRA courses.

Opening Up the Outdoors

Thanks to the Bob Carson Outdoor Fund (BCOF), all Whitman students now have the chance to experience the outdoors and become empowered leaders and advocates for adventure. The BCOF, established in 2012 and named in honor of longtime trip leader and Professor Emeritus of Geology and Environmental Studies Bob Carson, was designed to give every Whittie the chance to engage with the wilderness, regardless of trip costs.

Unlike Dappen's peers, many of whom yearned for the bustle of a bigger city, the current increasingly diverse student body "arrives on campus with intrigue about the location," says Sheedy. "And because



of the BCOF, they can try a lot of things that wouldn't normally be available to them."

To that end, the program gives each student a \$150 credit each academic year to put toward an Outdoor Program trip and associated equipment (all of which is available for rent at reasonable prices in the rental shop). "We've been working hard to remove barriers for students, so they can also use their trip credit toward any extras they might need," says Sheedy. "Whether that's fleece pants, a rain jacket or a sleeping bag, they can apply their trip credit toward those rentals too."

The Transformative Power of Nature

"Whitties might sign up for a trip because it sounds fun and cool," says Sheedy. "But they end up getting a lot more out of it than they expected." As Dappen envisioned decades ago, getting out of their comfort zones and into the outdoors gives students the unique chance to learn important lessons about themselves, teamwork and resilience.

And what students learn from the outdoors — whether that's effective communication, the importance of preparation or how to break an imposing challenge into manageable chunks — serves them in every aspect of life. "I like to say, I teach and coach life skills through the lens of outdoor activities," says Sheedy.

The epic Mount Hood trip was a perfect example of his credo. "We don't want that kind of thing all the time," he says. But on that long, freezing night, "The students tested tolerance for adversity, they didn't give up, and they supported each other," says Sheedy. "In nature, we don't have to contrive these learning experiences. They're real and they're inevitable."



Help Keep the **Legacy** Alive

You can give more Whitties the chance to participate in Outdoor Program experiences, where they'll make memories and develop lifelong skills. To make a gift to the Bob Carson Outdoor Fund, visit give.whitman.edu or email development@whitman.edu to explore more options.



Semester in the West Explores New Directions

New faculty leaders share their vision for building on the program's *rich traditions*

BY TARA ROBERTS

Thacker Pass, Nevada



The trip was part of Semester in the West, Whitman's signature interdisciplinary field program where students spend 14 weeks over the fall semester on the road learning about the interior American West.

The program — founded and led for 20 years by Professor of Politics Phil Brick—has entered a new era since Brick's retirement.

A team of faculty co-directors will now rotate responsibilities for planning and leading the trip. The Fall 2024 program, the first under the new model, was co-led by Lyman Persico (Associate Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies) and Stan Thayne (Senior Lecturer of Anthropology, Environmental Studies and Religion) with Aaron Strain (Baker Ferguson Chair of Politics and Leadership) as the Environmental Humanities field-intensive faculty.

The moment on the Snake exemplified the program's 2024 theme, "Water in the West," and illustrated the layers of experience and education students gain when they become Westies as well as Whitties.

"The students really loved it, in part because it was a day out on the river and they were able to see this beautiful space and experience it in their bodies but also because of the people we were with," Thayne says. "The Nez Perce storytellers and leaders who were sharing helped students see the river not just as a recreational space, but as the Nez Perce homeland."

After an epic semester of academic adventure, filled

with experiences like that meaningful day on the Snake, Persico and Thayne are excited to continue building on Brick's legacy while guiding Semester in the West's evolution.

A **Pivotal** Moment

Persico heard about Semester in the West shortly after arriving at Whitman in 2015.

"It was clear immediately how transformative an experience it was," he says.

In the years leading up to Brick's retirement, Persico knew the program would be at a crossroads and wanted to be involved in the transition.

Thayne, who came to Whitman in 2016, loved the idea of a field trip that immerses students in "the rhythms of outdoor life" and started imagining the possibilities too.

The two joined forces with Strain, Eunice Blavascunas (Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Studies) and M Acuff (Professor of Art), and the team received a Whitman Pedagogical Inquiry Grant to reimagine Semester in the West.

The new multi-instructor model is designed to be more equitable for faculty. Instead of one person leading the entire program, two faculty members spend roughly half the semester each in the field. A third faculty member takes on a lighter load while learning the program's inner workings.

Because the faculty will rotate every year, students will experience a wider diversity of perspectives.

"We're going to depend on the faculty to lean into their expertise," Persico says. "We'll have different themes depending on who's running the course."

The model also doubles the program's capacity. Traditionally, Semester in the West happened every two years. The faculty team plans to expand it to every fall, beginning with a test run in 2024 and 2025.



"It was cool for the students to be in these landscapes, not just seeing a map in the classroom."

Lyman Persico, Associate
 Professor of Geology and
 Environmental Studies
 and Co-Director of
 Semester in the West

Trusted leaders lean in to one epic field trip. Semester in the West co-directors (from left) Stan Thayne and Lyman Persico are part of a faculty team reimagining the next evolution of Whitman's landmark field program.

Testing the Waters

This fall's cohort spent about half of the semester revisiting sites from years past, maintaining relationships Brick had fostered over two decades at the helm. The other half built on Thayne's and Persico's interests and connections.

Thayne led the program's northern leg, drawing on his knowledge of fishery resources and Indigenous politics. Students visited sites such as the Colville Tribe's Chief Joseph Fish Hatchery near Washington's Grand Coulee Dam and the Klamath River Basin in Oregon and California, home to the largest damremoval project in North American history.

Persico, whose areas of expertise include hydrology and western water issues, led the southern leg. Students traveled through the Upper Colorado River Basin to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where hundreds of thousands of people outside the basin rely on its water. They then traveled through the lower Colorado River Basin and camped between the dwindling Salton Sea and lush fields of irrigated alfalfa in Southern California's Imperial Valley.

"It was cool for the students to be *in* these

landscapes, not just seeing a map in the classroom," Persico says.

Throughout the program, students build a strong sense of community while gaining deeper knowledge of public lands conservation and rural life. For their final projects, they created and presented written, audio and multimedia stories about their journey. In 2024, Strain led two weeklong writing workshops in the field to help students develop their work.

"They learned all these skills and also have a much better mental geography of the spaces we moved through the issues that people are facing or waking up every day and working on or dealing with in these spaces," Thayne says.

Forging *Forward*

Persico and Blavascunas will lead the 2025 program, with Acuff in the lighter role. The theme, "Forests and Deserts," will explore the interplay of geography and climate, the environmental problems faced in different regions, and topics such as green energy and mining.

As they look to the future, the co-directors hope to continue Semester in the West's tradition of changing students' lives through their experiences across the landscape and with the people they meet along the way. "That's what a place like Whitman can do," Persico says. "My long-term goal is to make sure that Whitman can provide this opportunity to the next 20 or 30 years of students."



Sifting the past. Students participated in an active dig site at the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center, a historic logging community in eastern Oregon.



Dive Deeper: Western Reflections

Westies capture their reflections on the road through multimedia storytelling. Their photos, blogs, essays and more are available at **semesterinthewest.org**. Check out:

Carlie Johnson '27, "A Rock and a Hard Place" Johnson discusses how the loss of traditional salmon runs has affected the Upper Columbia United Tribes.

Jackson Schroeder '26, "Meet our Guests: Helena Cappon"

Schroeder profiles Cappon, who opened a mom-and-pop pizza and ice cream shop in rural Walsenburg, Colorado.

Ayano Yoshikawa '27, "Landscape and Stories"

While camping under the night sky on the Nez Perce reservation, Yoshikawa reflects on living in a starless city, Tokyo.

Owen Schott '25,
"Terrorists and Angels,
Water Caches in the
American Southwest"
Schott argues for the heroism of
Tohono O'odham activist Mike
Wilson, who has faced opposition
for leaving water caches for
migrants in the Arizona desert.



Whitman trees with Taha.

In this issue, we asked Seattle's street tree expert to illustrate some of the spectacular trees here on Whitman's campus—and share some facts about them. Here's what she found.

CAMPUS TREE: WYCH ELM

Estimated to be the oldest tree on campus, this wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) was likely planted when Hunter Conservatory (originally called the Music Conservatory) was completed in 1910 as part of a broader vision to expand the college's reputation as an exceptional institution of higher learning or "The Yale of the West." Not native anywhere near Washington state, an elm street tree at that time would have directly invoked New Haven, Connecticut (where Yale is located), which was nicknamed "Elm City" for its famously elm-lined streets. In the 1930s, after this elm was planted, a fungal infection—Dutch elm disease—decimated most elms on the East Coast, leaving this rare centenarian in Walla Walla as a reflection of what East Coast college towns used to look like. This is the only wych elm out of a handful of American and English elms that remain on or near campus, including two on the front lawn of Memorial Building.

~



STREET TREE

noun: a tree that grows on a planting strip between a sidewalk and the street; a tree growing in the public right-of-way less than 10 feet from the curb

ROOTED IN PLACE

How a pandemic project turned Taha Ebrahimi '01 into one of Seattle's most unique tree experts

BY MELISSA WELLING '99 TREE ILLUSTRATIONS AND CAPTIONS BY TAHA EBRAHIMI '01

aha Ebrahimi 'O1 has always been fascinated by people who knew about trees. "It feels like they know more about a place or like they belong to a place," she says.

As a first-generation Seattleite and an experienced world traveler, having a sense of place is important to Ebrahimi. It's how she found her footing at Whitman College as a transfer student. It shaped her Watson Fellowship travels after Whitman. And it's one of the motivating forces behind her Pacific Northwest bestseller, "Street Trees of Seattle: An Illustrated Walking Guide" (Sasquatch Books, 2024).

In many ways, the story of Seattle's street trees is the story of the city itself. "Seattle has one of the most diverse street tree collections in the entire United States"—the majority of which are not native species, Ebrahimi says. "I used to take that for granted growing up. I didn't know it was weird to have a palm tree, a Douglas fir, a maple and an elm as street trees all on the same block."

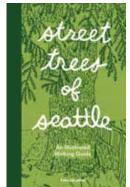
That diversity makes the city one of the best places to learn about trees, she says, "because there are so many that you can see in person." And that's exactly what she hopes readers of her book will do. The robust walking guide combines history, illustrations, maps and identification tips for notable trees in over 30 of Seattle's neighborhoods.

"There's something magical about knowing the name of something that forms this relationship that grounds you and transforms your sense of place," she says.



"AT WHITMAN, I LEARNED HOW TO THINK FOR MYSELF AND BE CURIOUS."

— Taha Ebrahimi '01



WALKING IN WONDER

Ebrahimi's fascination with Seattle's street trees began when daily life was uprooted across the globe — with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like many people during lockdown, she worked from home. Being on screens all day, "you forget about your body," she says. "At the end of the day, the thing that I wanted to do the very most was just to get outside and be present and have some kind of physical relationship with where I was."

To make her walks in the city more interesting, she decided to teach herself about the trees she saw around her. She began with two books: "Sibley's Guide to Trees" by David Allen Sibley and "Trees of Seattle" by Arthur Lee Jacobsen. Sibley's book showed her how to identify a tree's species and Jacobsen's gave her the addresses of specific Seattle trees she could seek out in person. But there was still a piece missing.

That's when she happened on a public data set of street trees maintained by the city. It was a serendipitous discovery for Ebrahimi, who, while writing the book, worked as Director of Tableau Public, a free online data visualization tool.

The data set gave a focus to her walks—finding and identifying specific street trees—as well as a challenge: how to combine the information from all three tools into something portable.

Instead of toting an armload of reference books on her walks, she began to draw simple maps she could carry with her. At first, "I was drawing the least amount with the right detail that I needed in order to be able to just glance at it and find what I was looking for," she says. "Is it an oval leaf? A lobed leaf? A leaf with many little leaflets on it?"

Over time, she began sketching the trees and their surroundings as well. As her stockpile of street tree maps grew, she shared them on social media, which drew the attention of a publisher and started her on the path to writing "Street Trees of Seattle."

Looking back, she says the project saved her during the pandemic. "There's something about looking for these specific details and being in the present, in that moment, that just makes you feel better."

FUELED BY CURIOSITY

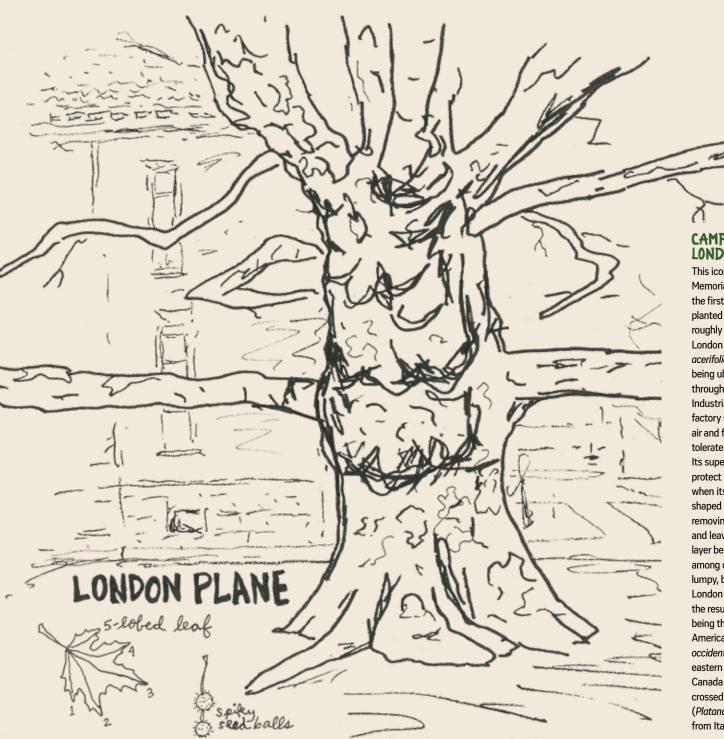
The curiosity that powered Ebrahimi's book project has been a hallmark of her life. It was what drew her to Whitman as a transfer student from Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

"It just felt like there was a real community at Whitman, and there were people who were interested in all different kinds of topics. It had the most diversity in thinking," she says. "At Whitman, I learned how to think for myself and be curious."

Changing schools in her sophomore year came with challenges, but getting involved on campus helped her find her footing.

"I joined the newspaper as an editor. I got involved with the literary magazine," she says. And she lived in the Writing House with other budding wordsmiths. "Once you find your people, it works."

After graduating from Whitman in 2001 with her Bachelor of Arts in English, she traveled around the world—thanks to earning a prestigious postgraduate fellowship. As a



CAMPUS TREE: LONDON PLANE

This iconic tree next to Memorial Building was the first plane tree to be planted on or near campus roughly 100 years ago. The London plane (Platanus × acerifolia) got its name from being ubiquitously planted throughout London during the Industrial Revolution when factory smoke polluted the air and few other trees could tolerate the grim conditions. Its superpower is its ability to protect itself via exfoliation when its distinctive puzzleshaped bark flakes off, removing harmful pollutants and leaving a new, healthy layer behind. Easily identified among other plane trees by its lumpy, burly appearance, the London plane's resilience is the result of genetic diversity, being the offspring of an American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) native to the eastern and central U.S., Canada and parts of Mexico, crossed with an oriental plane (Platanus orientalis) native from Italy to Iran.

DATA & THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

ata can be a powerful communication tool, says Taha Ebrahimi '01. As she takes people on

tree walks around Seattle, she often uses data to highlight notable trees, like the widest elm street tree in the city.

"People are interested in seeing that tree once you make it special," she says. But she's the first to point out that a datadriven approach has its limitations. The most complete field in the city's data set, for instance, is trunk diameter.

"But when I went out on walks to look at trees ranked as having the widest diameter, they weren't necessarily the most

special trees on the block," she says. "There'd be some other aspect of a tree that was really important. But if I was just at home behind my desk only looking at the data, I never would have noticed those trees."

In her research, she found that 22% of the city's data was incorrect. "That's why it's so important to know your data personally and recognize it's only a starting point," she says. "Numbers give people the false sense of representing the totality of a picture. And the truth is they only depict what can be measured, which is by nature only the superficial. The most meaningful things can't be measured."

Continued from page 24

Watson Fellow, Ebrahimi interviewed women in Sufi spiritual communities in Cote d'Ivoire, England, the Netherlands, Turkey and Australia.

Later she went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts at the University of Pittsburgh and had a successful career in finance marketing in New York City. But in 2018, she felt her hometown calling again.

Wanting to be closer to family, she moved back to Washington state, where she found a role at the software company Tableau, leading their free data visualization platform, Tableau Public. As a Tableau user in her previous job, she knew the value of being able to visually present complex data stories and insights.

"I'm passionate about democratizing access to data skills," she says.

As Director of Tableau Public, she guided strategy and marketing for the platform and helped build its community of users from 800,000 to over 5 million.

The free tool also jump-started her book project, providing an easy way to spacially visualize the city's publicly available street tree data.

FEET ON THE GROUND

In her book, Ebrahimi notes that "street trees live shorter, tougher lives than their wild counterparts." It's a key part of her fascination with them.

"I think they're great metaphors for humans," she says. "People who live in urban areas are survivors. Street trees are definitely living despite the odds."

Like the people around them, their individual stories are complex—and provide a tangible link to the history of the places where they grow. "They're like physical calendars of time past," Ebrahimi says.

"I hope people actually go out visit the trees from my book," she adds. "Making contact with the urban forest opens portals that one can only understand in person."

A WALK IN WALLA WALLA

We asked Taha Ebrahimi '01 to turn her unique eye to the trees on and around Whitman's campus. With hundreds of possibilities, she highlights a few trees of special interest:

1 Weeping Cherry (Prunus pendula Maximowicz) Estimated to be 85 years old, this is the widest weeping cherry tree in Washington state. It is the harbinger of "sakura" flowering season, blooming pinkish-white in late March.

2 Wych Elm (Ulmus glabra). See page 22.

3 Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera). This is the only street tree in a sidewalk planting strip near campus that is originally native to Washington state. Named for its white, peeling bark, paper birches are often one of the first tree species to establish on land that has been recently disturbed by events like fire or avalanche.

4 Norway Spruce (Picea abies). These Norway spruces are the only evergreen street trees in sidewalk planting strips near campus (19% of total trees on campus are evergreen). Norway spruce wood has been used to build instruments from violins to pianos.

5 Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). This rare deciduous conifer is believed to have been propagated over 70 years ago from the original dawn redwood specimen first brought from China in the late 1940s. Once thought to be extinct, it is considered a "living fossil."

6 Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). This 100-year old common hackberry has the widest trunk diameter of its species in the state of Washington. It's such an overlooked tree in this region that it is often called the "Unknown Tree." Look for its small berries that sometimes persist through winter or its gray, corky bark pocked by warty growth.

7 Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*). This tree has the widest crown of any golden rain tree in Washington. Seeds were brought from China to France by Jesuits in the 1700s and later sent to Thomas Jefferson, who planted the first one in the U.S. in 1809. Spikes of yellow flowers appear in August, followed in fall by orange pods.

8 London Plane (Platanus × acerifolia)—See page 25.

9 Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum). This silver maple is the widest tree on campus (by trunk diameter) although it is relatively young at 65 years old. Often planted because they grow very fast, silver maples can be identified by their deeply furrowed, shaggy bark, and the silvery undersides of their five-lobed leaves.

10) Giant Sequoia

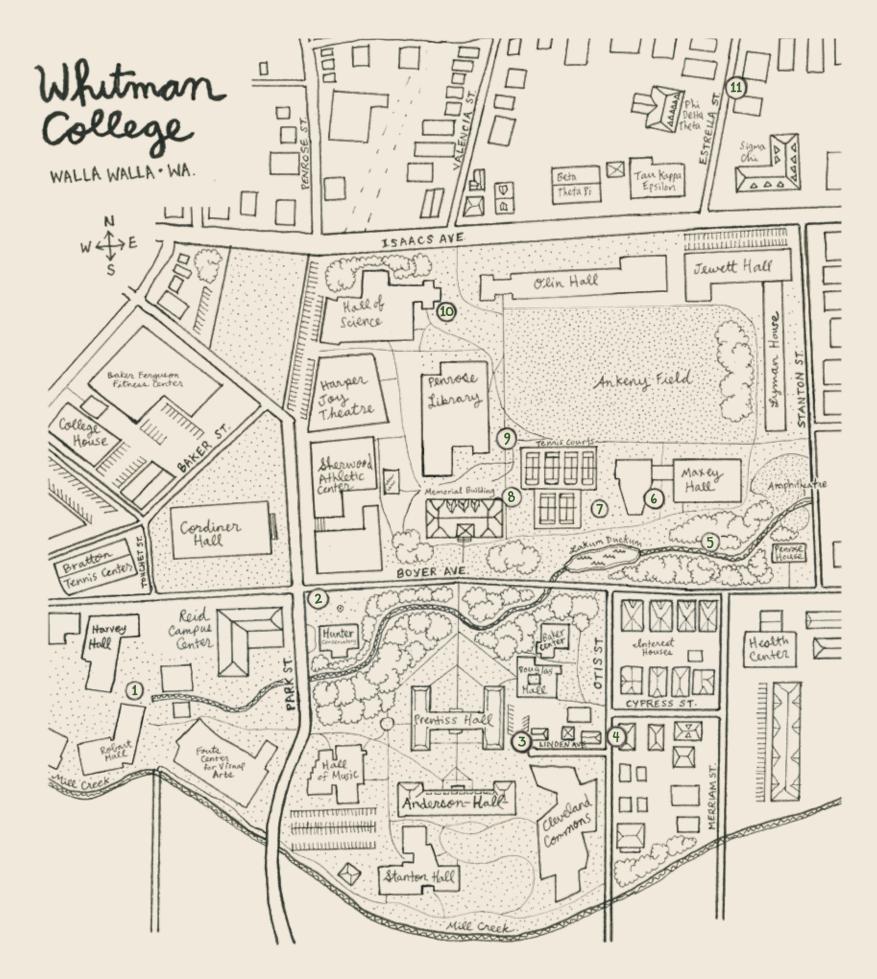
(Sequoiadendron giganteum). These three giant sequoias are only around 20 years old, but are able to grow an inch in diameter each year. This endangered species is native to only one place on Earth: the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, where fewer than 80,000 remain in the wild.

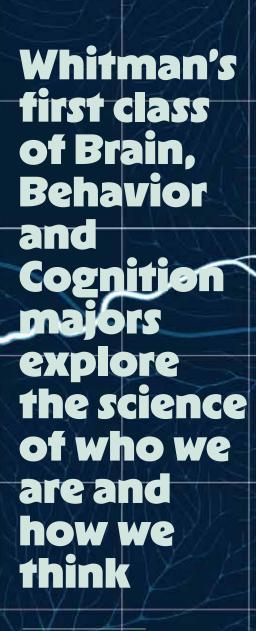
(11) Northern Catalpa (Catalpa speciosa). This street tree near the Phi Delta Theta fraternity blooms in June, bearing bell-shaped white flowers with purple and yellow markings that attract bee pollinators during the day, while its fragrance attracts moth pollinators at night. Northern catalpa are originally native to the Midwestern U.S., including Ohio—where the Phi Delta Theta fraternity was founded.



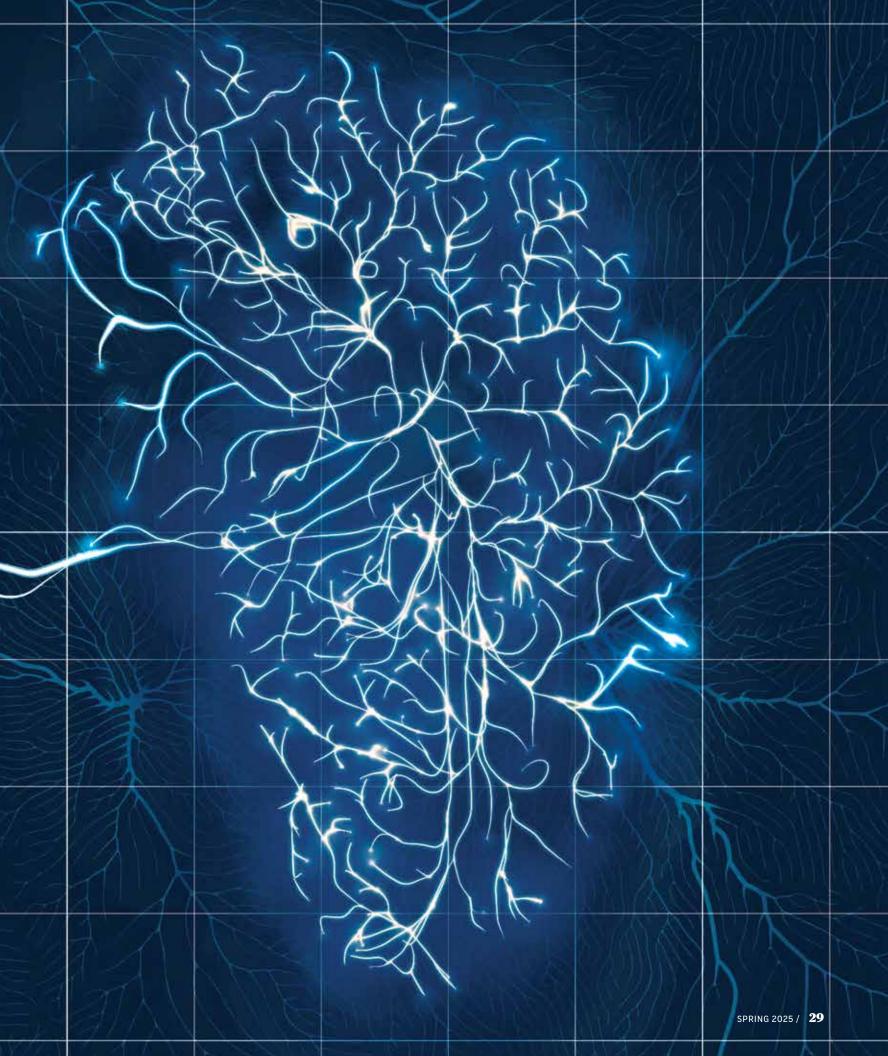
WHITMAN **W**S TREES

Whitman College has earned Tree Campus USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation, which honors colleges and universities that promote healthy trees and engage students, staff and faculty in the spirit of conservation. Who takes care of those trees? Meet Whitman College arborist and alum Kirk Huffey '95 at **whitman.edu/magazine**.





BY DEBBIE RITENOUR





ONE

of Whitman College's newest majors is quickly becoming one of its most sought-after. Now in its second year, the Brain, Behavior and Cognition (BB&C) program already has 50 declared majors — the first of whom are receiving their degrees this year.

Assistant Professor of Psychology Nancy Day '05 is not surprised by the major's quick success. After all, it's a program she wishes had existed when she was a student here.

"Biology and Psychology are already two of the most popular majors on campus, so when you provide an opportunity to merge them very deliberately and intentionally, many students are going to gravitate toward that synergy," she says.

A better way to study the brain

Day was a driving force behind the creation of the BB&C program. When she first arrived at Whitman as a student in 2001, she planned to major in Biology.

Paving new pathways. When Nancy Day '05 was a student, she double-majored in Biology and Psychology. Returning as an Assistant Professor of Psychology, she knew there was a better way.

But a sophomore-year Psychology class changed her plans.

"I was still very committed to the Biology path," Day says, "but by taking Psychology, I realized there was so much that biology could explain about behavior. I really wanted to explore that intersection between biology and psychology."

Day considered her options, from minoring in Psychology to building her own major. Ultimately, she decided to double-major in both Biology and Psychology.

"While I think that was a good decision, it's not a decision I would make again," she says. "It's a lot of work. I had to take all the classes for Biology and all the classes for Psychology. I had to do two thesis projects, two sets of oral exams and written exams. My senior year was not a ton of fun."

Day went on to earn her doctorate in Neuroscience from the University of Minnesota. And when a faculty position opened at Whitman in 2019, she was eager to return to help train the scientists of tomorrow—and even better, to create a new path for them to study neuroscience as undergrads.

"I made it a mission," says Day. "I didn't want students to have to double-major. I knew there was another way to do this." "Biology and Psychology are already two of the most popular majors on campus ... many students are going to gravitate toward that synergy."

-Nancy Day '05, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Beyond Neuroscience: Origins of a Name

While Brain, Behavior and Cognition (BB&C), like neuroscience, focuses on the intersection between psychology and biology, the decision not to call the new major neuroscience was a deliberate one.

Neuroscience programs are often rigidly focused on preparing students for graduate school. Whitman's faculty wanted its BB&C program to offer students a broader foundation and more freedom when it comes to course selection and career paths.

"There's more to the BB&C major than pure neuroscience," says Ginger Withers, who co-directs the program with Assistant Professor of Psychology Nancy Day. "Because we wanted it to serve students broadly, we designed the major to be as simple and flexible as possible in addressing their interests and their needs."



Independent researchers.

In their Senior Seminar, BB&C majors, including Ava Northrop '25 (left) and Peter Manolis '25 (center), present the results of their capstone project to other students and faculty, including Professor of Biology Ginger Withers (right).

Focused but flexible

Like Day in her time as a student at Whitman, other Whitties had long been interested in studying neuroscience, and their professors in the Psychology and Biology departments had explored and developed ways to meet this need. Professor of Psychology Matthew Prull, for instance, who arrived at Whitman in 1999, developed courses that applied neurobiological and psychological perspectives to the study of human memory.

When Day returned to campus, she partnered with her former professor Ginger Withers, the Dr. Robert F. Welty Professor of Biology, to bring an integrated approach to fruition. In collaboration with both departments, Day and Withers developed a new multidisciplinary major, which they now co-direct.

The BB&C program, launched in Fall 2023, integrates courses

in Psychology and Biology to make connections between the science of the mind and the science of the brain. Students explore how interactions with the world shape the brain and how this understanding can address social issues related to public and mental health.

The program takes advantage of a unique wealth of expertise on Whitman's faculty. Of the six permanent Psychology and Biology faculty members who contribute regularly to the program, four have a doctorate in Neuroscience and others bring expertise in cognition, learning, hormones and behavior.

"With the exception of our new Senior Seminar, all of the courses in the program were already offered in the Psychology and Biology departments," Withers says. "We gathered the most relevant brain-related courses from each program and collected them in a way that's more efficient and focused for students interested in neuroscience. This leaves students time to do the things that we want them to do at a liberal arts college, like take courses from many different disciplines."

This interdisciplinary component also allows students to customize their coursework to meet their areas of interest. For example, students interested in neuronal modeling or artificial intelligence can take Computer Science courses, while students interested in bioethics can choose relevant courses in Philosophy and Rhetoric, Writing, and Public Discourse.

The course requirements for a single major also leave students with time to pursue off-campus studies, athletics, clubs and other interests.

"One of the great things about this major is that it actually frees up more space in a student's schedule," Day says. "When I double-majored, I didn't have **"The BB&C** program's firm grounding in the liberal arts, emphasis on writing and focus on scientific training means students will be prepared for whatever the future holds."

—Ginger Withers, the Dr. Robert F. Welty Professor of Biology



Opening minds. BB&C majors Abed Jomaa '25 (left) and Noelle Mattingley '25 (center) discuss their senior thesis research with Assistant Professor of Psychology Nancy Day (right).

much wiggle room for taking other classes. The program allows for flexibility both within and beyond the major."

Hands-on learning

One of the big draws of the BB&C program is the opportunity to participate in a wide range of research activities alongside active neuroscientists, says Christopher Wallace, the Dr. Robert F. Welty Professor of Biology.

"We develop lab activities that

reflect the kind of analytical work that students would do in the field," Wallace says. "We don't do cookbook labs, where you take a classic experiment and rerun it. Our labs make students deal with the mess of real data."

That data comes from a variety of research experiments involving both humans and animals. For example, students in Associate Professor of Biology Thomas Knight's lab have worked with student-athletes to study bioassays that can predict the extent of concussions. And students in Professor of Psychology Walter Herbranson's lab have trained rats to play basketball and studied decision-making in pigeons.

Students aren't just learning how to do research; they're also learning how to use the tools they may encounter later in the real world. In addition to traditional lab equipment, Whitman students have access to cutting-edge instruments such as a confocal microscope,



Whitties working in brain, behavior & cognition



Michael Chang '22 Pediatric Mental Health Specialist, Seattle Children's



Mary Kampa '19 Chiropractic graduate student, University of Western States

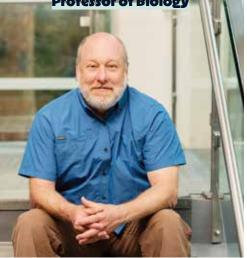


Al-Rahim Merali '13 Staff UX Researcher, Google

"A lot of a career in science is collaborating on experiments, presenting your data and ideas, writing grants, and gathering feedback about them. Whitman prepared me well for science, including going beyond just the bench-work aspect of doing experiments."

"We are active neuroscientists as we design and teach those labs, so we develop lab activities that reflect the kind of analytical work that students would do in the field."

-Christopher Wallace, the Dr. Robert F. Welty Professor of Biology



which undergraduate students at most other colleges are not allowed to touch.

"I can't tell you how many students we've had get hired into research associate positions because they had experience with that kind of microscopy," Withers says. "It's tremendously valuable."

From student to scientist

BB&C students also have the opportunity to conduct their own independent research for their capstone project. They begin exploring ideas as sophomores and collect and analyze data during the summer between their junior and senior years. They then write their thesis in the fall of their senior year and present their research during a Senior Seminar course in the spring.

"Students emerge as independent scientists during their capstone projects," Wallace says. "They have to be able to articulate and defend their experimental design, present and interpret their data, and relate that data to a question that would be of relevance to a broad scientific audience."

The capstone project, Wallace notes, is so much more than a graduation requirement.

"There's a direct link between the hands-on work that students do in our labs and capstone projects and the skills that they need to gain entrance into real-world opportunities in the broader field," he says. "The capstone can be a springboard to wherever they want to go next."

Students can conduct their capstone research alongside faculty at Whitman or during internships at outside organizations or labs.

"About half of the students who are graduating this year did off-campus internships over the summer to collect their thesis research," Day says. "Some students applied for funding through the Whitman Internship Grant, which provides stipends for students to do research outside of Whitman at a location of their choosing or in a more specific area of their choosing."

Withers hopes the Senior Seminar will eventually expand to offer opportunities for students from all years to learn about the research process.

"We are looking forward to bringing in outside speakers and to discussing the latest advancements in neuroscience," she says. "We will also model how to give talks and put together research posters for professional meetings. The more practice students have in communicating science, the better."

Launching meaningful careers

The flexibility of the BB&C program means students are prepared for a wide range of careers as they begin life after Whitman.

"Many of our students are pre-health, so they're interested in medical school, nursing school or veterinary school," Day says. "Some are more interested in research and want to go to graduate school in neuroscience and related fields."

BB&C majors are wellpositioned to pursue a variety of career paths beyond medicine and research. They might help the pharmaceutical industry explore new ways to treat Alzheimer's disease, work for a nonprofit that supports brain research, or go into public policy to address mental health issues. They can become educators, science writers or community health organizers. As the field evolves and new opportunities arise, their options will only expand, says Withers.

"There's a growing awareness of the importance of brain health and how our interactions in the world can affect it," she says. "These emerging careers will demand technical literacy and interdisciplinary thinking skills. The BB&C program's firm grounding in the liberal arts, emphasis on writing, and focus on scientific training means students will be prepared for whatever the future holds."

Going Upward Together.

Whitman is seeking an endowed professorship in Brain, Behavior and Cognition. Investing in this evolving program can help distinguish Whitman as a leader in a liberal arts approach to neuroscience. To learn how to support this and other priorities, visit whitman.edu/campaign.



Peter Osseward '12 Postdoctoral Fellow, Salk Institute for Biological Studies



Julia Schroeder '09 Distinguished Data Scientist, Walmart



Emily Dennis '08 -Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of Utah

 "My first summer opportunity actually came from a connection Professor Prull had, and when I saw my first brain MRIs, I was hooked.
 With support from the Whitman Internship Grant, I came back the following summer and then got a full-time job after college in another neuroimaging lab."



Matt Carter '00 Professor of Biology, Williams College



Strength in Numbers

MARINA PTUKHINA CHALLENGES WHITMAN STUDENTS TO BECOME THOUGHTFUL ANALYSTS OF INFORMATION For other surveys, Ptukhina spent hours collecting data about corner grocery store consumers, counting how many people came in at a certain time of night to buy cleaning products or how long they spent eyeing different jars of mayonnaise before making their selection.

"Even though I was working in the marketing sector then, I wanted to know what happened to all the data I was collecting," she says.

That question was still on her mind when her brother was accepted into a master's program in Illinois, which inspired Ptukhina to calculate her own next challenge: graduate work in applied mathematics and statistics.

PLOTTING HER OWN PATH

"I never knew that it was possible for someone like me, without money or personal connections, to be able to go to the U.S. to study," she says. "My brother opened my mind and became my example.

Ptukhina grew up in Kharkiv, Ukraine,

BY DANNA LORCH

under the Soviet system. She was 11 years old when Ukraine declared independence.

"The transition was hard financially for everyone I knew," Ptukhina explains. "My mom worked in a factory, and especially that first year, sometimes she didn't get paid or would get paid [with] clothing or other goods instead of cash."

However, public education and university were free, and the required math coursework in high school was extremely technical. Everyone took two years of higher mathematics.

That made for high scores on Ptukhina's U.S. graduate school entrance exams and helped her land an offer of admission to a master's program in mathematics at Texas Tech University. Best of all, it involved funding and an invitation to work as a teaching assistant.

When Ptukhina arrived in Lubbock, Texas, she discovered Walmart, Texas twangs, and an unexpected passion for teaching undergraduate statistics. She also began to envision a meaningful career as an academic.

'THEY CAN DO IT, SO I CAN TOO'

After earning her Master of Science, Ptukhina started a doctoral program in Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Despite the fact that tenured women in the field are far outnumbered by men, the program had such a strong reputation for producing powerhouse female academics that The Washington Post did a feature on it, interviewing Ptukhina and others.

"There are so many females, you never feel like you're alone in a man's world," she told the reporter in 2014. "You see other women and think, 'Oh, they can do it, so I can too."

Nebraska's training program for teaching assistants helped Ptukhina hone her teaching style in a formative way. "They wanted us to become even better educators," she says. "We were each assigned a mentor who pushed us to find our own unique approaches in the sections and write our own exams."

Though Ptukhina had never lived in the Pacific Northwest, when she set foot on Whitman's campus for her interview in 2016, it felt like coming home. "From the beginning, I felt like my colleagues in the Math Department were incredibly welcoming and collaborative," she says.

As one of the first statisticians in Whitman's Mathematics and Statistics Department, Ptukhina carved out a role teaching cornerstone courses, including Introduction to Statistics, Statistical Modeling, and Design and Analysis of Research Studies.

With the support of her colleagues, she

helped establish a minor in Data Science within the Math and Statistics Department in 2019. Then in 2022, the department rolled out a combined Mathematics and Statistics major.

"Role models have always played a huge role in my life," Ptukhina says. So she's proud that the first three students to graduate from the combined major are all women.

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

Today, Ptukhina's focus is on how people interact with data in an increasingly datadriven world. "In all of my classes, my goal is for my students to become thoughtful consumers of information," she says.

"The way we collect data is crucial, both ethically and in relation to any research question. If students hear about a study on the news or engage with research in their future professional roles, I want them to be able to question whether the researchers carried out the right steps to justify the final conclusion."

To reach this goal takes a lot of day-to-day practice in class, running simulations, mastering software, and learning how to analyze data and spot its limitations.

Ptukhina emphasizes that understanding the design of a study is a crucial component for developing and analyzing plausible models.

In 2024, she and Julie Garai, a peer from her doctoral cohort, co-authored the second edition of "Generalized Linear Mixed Models: Modern Concepts, Methods and Applications" with Walter Stroup (Nebraska Emeritus Professor and former advisor to both Ptukhina and Garai). Building on the first edition written by Stroup in 2012, they expanded the content and increased its accessibility to a broader audience.

The first edition targeted upper-level graduate students and advanced users of statistics. Recognizing the value of the methods, Ptukhina and Garai adapted them to be accessible to all users, including undergraduates.

The science of statistics. Associate Professor of Statistics Marina Ptukhina teaches students to think critically about how studies are designed and analyzed.

Later this year, they will showcase their innovative approaches in an interactive workshop at the United States Conference on Teaching Statistics at Iowa State University. The concept is to give students the tools needed to not simply master isolated concepts but to go beyond and learn to design studies and nimbly develop clear plans for analyzing models.

"The most rewarding thing is to see students develop independent thinking that allows them to effectively apply the tools they learned in my classes to their areas of interest, whether that's analyzing data trends, conducting research projects or tackling real-world issues in their fields," Ptukhina says.

A Heart for Ukraine

In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Two weeks earlier, Ptukhina's father had survived a stroke, only to pass away unexpectedly that November. It was extremely painful, she says, to conclude that the fighting made it too dangerous to travel home for the funeral. As she taught that semester, Ptukhina often paused to look out the classroom windows of Olin Hall and admire the blossoming chestnut trees, which are the official tree of Kyiv and continue to grow during the war. She sees them as a symbol of national strength and her own resilience too.

"I'm constantly checking in, worrying about how my family and friends are doing. Ukraine is always on my mind," she says. Her colleagues have been a big support, and her research has continued to give her purpose.



The Seas of Success

A TRIP ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN LED ZACHARY S.O. LOUGH '08 TO AN UNEXPECTED CAREER AS A CIDERMAKER

BY DEBBIE RITENOUR

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE that Zachary S.O. Lough '08 named the cidery he co-founded — Channel Marker Cider — after a navigational aid that guides boaters safely through a waterway. After all, he discovered his passion for cidermaking during a threeyear sailing adventure navigating across the Pacific Ocean.

Lough worked at wineries in New Zealand during the cyclone season, when it was too dangerous to sail. He was living next to an apple orchard one season when he read "The Botany of Desire" by Michael Pollan, which explores humanity's relationship with plants. The book includes a lengthy chapter on apples and how Johnny Appleseed helped bring cider to the American frontier.

"Naturally, I tried making my own cider using apples from next door and asking some friends who worked in the winery lab for help," Lough says. "The result was a cyser [apple-based mead] that everyone loved — and that same recipe is now one of our flagship products at Channel Marker Cider."

Lough's journey from a Rhetoric and Film Studies major at Whitman College to a cidermaker and entrepreneur in Seattle has been full of circuitous routes and occasional choppy waters. He wouldn't have it any other way.

"Life can unfold in surprising and fulfilling ways," he says. "Success comes in many forms, and it's important to always lean into the hard work, dedication and grit that drives all Whitman students."

LEARNING TO WORK HARD

A Seattle native, Lough was drawn to Whitman's small size and flexibility.

"I wanted a place where I could really know my classmates and they could know me," he says. "Also, I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, and the range of classes meant I wouldn't be pigeonholed into a single track."

Lough jumped into the college experience, joining Sigma Chi and the swimming team as a first-year student. He also briefly played water polo and rugby, and he was involved with several theater productions.

"At Whitman, juggling classes, sports, friends and fun is basically like having five jobs," he says. "It teaches you how to work hard. I'm not the smartest person in any room I enter, but I know how to work hard thanks to my time at Whitman." Perhaps the most impactful experience of his college career was studying abroad. Lough spent a semester exploring the Caribbean aboard a 135-foot tall ship, learning nautical science and navigating by the stars.

"That was a pivotal moment because it opened my eyes to the ocean's vastness — and its accessibility," he says. "That experience definitely planted the seed for my future in sailing and my experience in the wine industry half a world away."

Lough knew he wanted to travel before committing to a career, so he worked several jobs simultaneously following graduation to save up money and come up with a plan. He decided to explore the South Pacific, and after buying a 30-foot sloop named Panache, he set sail in October 2011.

"With sailing, you get a lot of confidence from small victories, like your first anchorage," says Lough, who sailed 10,000 nautical miles and visited 13 countries during his trip. "There are always going to be hiccups along the way, but being able to overcome them and finding a way to move forward is extremely valuable, especially on the entrepreneurial front."

LIVING THE DREAM

After returning to the United States and settling in Seattle, Lough had his heart set on opening a cidery. He got a job bartending at Schilling Cider House, where he became friends with fellow cider enthusiast Chris Irish and reconnected with Nicole Medina, whom he'd met on his sailing trip. The three shared a passion for cider and boating, and together they opened Channel Marker in 2016.

The business originally operated out of Medina's detached one-car garage. Lough



"Success comes in many forms, and it's important to always lean into the hard work, dedication and grit that drives all Whitman students."

-ZACHARY S.O. LOUGH '08

Charting his own course. At Whitman, Zachary S.O. Lough '08 gained versatile skills and a sense of adventure that helped him launch his business.

returned to school the following year to study graphic design. He put his new skills to good use, creating the cidery's marketing and branding materials. In 2024, Channel Marker opened a taproom and production facility in Seattle's brewery district in Ballard.

"It's amazing to finally serve our own cider directly to the customers who used to find it elsewhere," says Lough. "The taproom in Ballard isn't just a place to grab a pint — it's become a true hub for our community. It's a spot where people come together to share good times, discuss the next big idea, or simply unwind after a busy day. We love how cider acts as a connector, bringing people from all walks of life together under one roof."

Lough dreams of expanding the business beyond the city as well.

"I'd love to plant an apple orchard of

cider-specific varieties to support the cider house," he says. "We currently make very New World ciders, but my original love for cider comes from the more traditional bottles you find in England and France. I have about 40 trees in pots, grafted with all sorts of apple varieties, waiting for a good piece of land. Once that happens, Channel Marker can start producing those traditional favorites."

Lough says Whitman instilled in him a sense of curiosity and love for lifelong learning that prepared him for his future success.

"Whitman's wide array of classes and unique location push students to be resourceful and ready to seize opportunities," he says. "As a Whittie, you learn to dive headfirst into problems, and that translates perfectly to entrepreneurship."



The Science of Cider

Zachary S.O. Lough '08 says making cider isn't terribly complicated—but "the pitfalls are many and wide."

"It's literally juice and yeast," he says. "Cider is essentially a white-fruit wine. Like all wines, you balance sugar, acid and tannins. We use dessert apples, which are easier to come by than cider-specific varieties, but they lack some of the tannins, so we carefully blend fruit to hit our desired sugar and acid levels. From there, we often co-ferment with more tannic fruits or botanicals to achieve the right balance."

That process has resulted in some unusual—but tasty—flavor combinations. One of Channel Marker's most popular ciders is its Habanero Lime cider, which brings together crisp apples, spicy habanero peppers and zesty lime. Other choices include Blueberry Lemon, Rosemary Cran Ginger and Lavender Bergamot, Lough's personal favorite. He's currently trying to perfect a dill pickle cider.

"We try to create our own path, and that has served us really well," Lough says. "We've seen other cider companies copy us, and that's the biggest form of flattery you can get."

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Iceland & Greenland Arctic Adventure Aboard Exploris One

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On Aug. 12, 2026, witness a rare total solar eclipse from one of Earth's most exceptional vantage points - Greenland's vast Scoresby Sound fjord system. Join Whitman College and Gerard van Belle '90, Director of Science at Lowell Observatory, on an 11-day Arctic adventure aboard the custom-designed polar vessel Exploris One round-trip from Reykjavík.

Along the way, board Zodiacs up close to massive icebergs and glaciers with expert naturalists; learn about local life in Inuit communities; and watch polar bears, puffins and other wildlife in their natural habitats.





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Art & Fashion Come Full Circle at Sheehan

With their show at the Sheehan Gallery, Erik ReeL '75 and Rhonda P. Hill find meaning in the past and hope for the future

In the early 1970s, Whitman College President Donald H. Sheehan envisioned a campus gallery, where Walla Wallans could enjoy the arts alongside the Whitman community. Visual artist Erik ReeL '75 left Whitman shortly before the Sheehan Gallery opened its doors, but he remembers Sheehan's passion for the project.

Earlier this year, ReeL returned to campus to experience Sheehan's dream come to life — this time as an exhibiting artist, alongside his collaborator and wife, fashion curator Rhonda P. Hill.

Their show, "FACT: fashion + art construct tomorrow," which was featured in the gallery from late January to early April, paired ReeL's nonobjective paintings with fashions curated by Hill from up-and-coming designers Palani Bearghost, Alena Kalana and Fabiola Soavelo.

A SHOW IS BORN

The seeds of ReeL and Hill's show were planted in 2020, shortly after they'd moved to Portland, Oregon. When the pandemic shut down so much of the world, they wanted to still reach out to the arts community. So they began conversations with Kynde Kiefel, who was soon to become the Director of the Sheehan Gallery. Those conversations led to ReeL giving a virtual talk to Whitman students and faculty during lockdown — and deepening their bond with the arts community at Whitman.

When the couple checked in with Kiefel in 2021, she proposed a collaboration: ReeL's paintings and Hill's curated fashions on display together in the gallery.

According to ReeL, most commercial galleries don't show fashion because it can't be sold the same way as other artworks — and many museums don't treat fashion as art. "So what Kynde was proposing was very innovative, very exciting," he says.

Hill's platform, E D G E fashion intelligence, exposes the work of emerging designers. "When I look at Erik's work, it's colorful, it's complex, and it's emotionally stimulating," she says. "So I had to look at designers that met the caliber of his creativity — and at the same time, I wanted to find enough context, texture, color, shapes and form that would compliment his work."

The gallery's location at Whitman added an educational component that made the project even more interesting. Hill saw an opportunity to showcase designers practicing circular fashion: a system where apparel, footwear and accessories are designed for re-entry after use, rather than ending up in landfills. "The industry needs a wake-up call, and we do as consumers," Hill says.

That message resonates very much with ReeL, who says he also strives for a "be light on the earth" approach to his art.

'BEAUTIFUL INTIMACY'

Their experience with Sheehan Gallery couldn't have been better, ReeL and Hill agree.

"The Sheehan Gallery group, their ability for installation and their own creativity is far beyond what we've experienced in other museums," ReeL says.

In February, ReeL and Hill spent a week on campus as part of the show. ReeL delivered an artist talk. The couple also participated in a panel discussion alongside Bearghost and Kiefel and met with senior Art majors to share feedback on thesis projects.

"It was such a strong collaboration, and the whole experience over these two years has been just wonderful," Hill says. "I feel like there's this beautiful intimacy here at Whitman that provides collaboration and support for each other."

To see photos from the show and read more about the artists' work, visit **whitman.edu/magazine.**

Class Notes



1950s

Junius Rochester '57

continues to write for Post Alley. Rochester's blog explores the history and historical figures of Washington state. He is an award-winning Northwest historian whose recent posts include "Columbia River Country Through the Eyes of Lewis and Clark" and an exploration of some of the nation's largest trees on the Washington coast. Read more at postalley.org/author/rochester.

1960s

Kyra Dodge MacIlveen '61 said the year 2024 sped by. In September, she took a cruise of the Danube beginning in Romania, her favorite country along the river. The trip ended in a rainy Vienna. MacIlveen said "Luckily we departed on the day it was supposed to rain 8 inches! Flooding ensued."

Nancy Sanford Hughes '64 and classmate Richard Mates '64 were elected to the board of the newly formed ProMusica Foundation. The foundation's mission is to enrich lives through the power of music and the beauty of the arts. Read more at promusicafoundation.org.

Evans Van Buren '70 received

the 2024 Oregon State Bar's Presidential Public Service Award. Van Buren volunteered for Legal Aid's Senior Law Project for 46 years, working with several older clients every month. Though he has retired from active practice, Van Buren continues as a pro bono attorney in Portland, Oregon. Van Buren is an active member of the W Club, a frequent Reunion volunteer and a former member of the Whitman Alumni Association Board.

Ryan Crocker '71 was

nominated to the Afghanistan War Commission by the U.S. Congress in summer 2024 to examine U.S involvement in Afghanistan. He is also a Distinguished Chair in Diplomacy and Security at RAND Corporation and a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Crocker is a former Whitman Trustee and a previous member of the Board of Overseers.

Patrick Means '68 enjoys his second career as a private practice addictions therapist in Seattle. "I've gotten back into running and recently completed my first half-marathon in 30 years, placing third in my age group. Now my daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and I plan to run a half-marathon together in 2025 in Germany, where they live."



From left: **Rick Colwell '77**, Jim Todd (Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus) and **Mark Colwell '79**—all members of the Wallula Gap Chapter of the Roo Rat Society—gathered at the Celebration of Life for **Kerry Lamus '76**.



Mary Deming Barber '78 was appointed to the Office of the Mayor for the City of Gig Harbor, Washington, by unanimous council vote in November 2024; she will hold office until the 2025 general election. Barber has served as a council member since 2023 and as a Gig Harbor Parks Commissioner from 2020–2022. She is a longtime Whitman volunteer and has served as a Class Representative, Associate Class Representative, and former President of the Alumni Association Board. From left: Thomas Barber '15, Mary Deming Barber '78 and Alan Barber at the mayoral swearing-in ceremony.



Phi Delta Theta brothers gathered after the memorial service for Diane Valach '84 in Seattle, November 2024. Pictured from left: Alistair Nash '86, Ken Cooper '84, Ross McFadden '81, David Buhler '82, Alex Perel '85, Paul Landon '85, Matthew Willkens '84, Crayton Berner '84, David Hayes '87, Ron Gubelman '84 and Nick Walker '81.



Whitman, Lauren Hoover-Gordon Schwartz '08, Katie Innes '06 and Amy Strauss '09 sing together in "Musae," a San Francisco-based treble ensemble. They congratulate their former artistic director, Laney Armstrong, on her appointment as Whitman's new Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies.

Fifteen vears after

1980s

Kirby Gould Mason '86 has been named in "The Best Lawyers in

America 2025." "Best Lawyers" is an annual publication that recognizes attorneys for exemplary achievements in their areas of practice. Mason practices medical malpractice law for HunterMaclean in Savannah, Georgia.

Ross Lemire '87 was named one of the "Men of Chandler" by Chandler City Lifestyle Magazine and the Chandler, Arizona, Chamber of Commerce in June 2024. Lemire was recognized for 20 years of community service with the Boy Scouts of America and as a member of the Chandler YMCA Board.

Steve McDuffie '87 moved to Vienna, Austria, in August 2024 to work as a senior nuclear safety officer with the International Atomic Energy Agency. McDuffie will work in Austria for at least two years before returning to retire in Pullman, Washington.

Dave Mastin '88 was selected as a member of governor-elect Bob Ferguson's gubernatorial transition team alongside 52 other influential Washingtonians. Mastin currently serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Association of Washington Business.

1990s

Gerard van Belle '90 was appointed the new Director of Science at Lowell Observatory. Van Belle has been an astronomer at the observatory since 2011 and served as the interim Director of Science. In 2026, Van Belle will join Whitman alumni on an 11-day Arctic adventure to witness a rare total solar eclipse from Greeland's Scoresby Sound fjord system. Read more on page 38.



in Walla Walla" series, hosted by the Career and Community **Engagement Center in**

Garbe

November 2024. She spoke with Whitman students and staff regarding her work as the Chief Executive Officer of Blue Mountain Action Council and her previous appointment with the Sherwood Trust. Reser has served in numerous volunteer capacities for Whitman and is a current member of the Board of Trustees.

Jordan Royal '97 accepted a new position as a Clinical Supervisor/Lead Therapist at the University of Washington Center for Novel Therapeutics in Addiction Psychiatry. The center received funding to study the use of psilocybin to treat veterans and first-responders who have PTSD and alcohol use disorder. This study will help inform policy decisions regarding safety, effectiveness and access to therapeutic psilocybin for Washington residents.

Jesse Kiehl '98 won re-election for a new four-year term in the Alaska State Senate.

2000s

Preston Frederickson '02 was hired as the new

Deputy City Manager of Walla Walla in November 2024. His new responsibilities include supervising the Support Services Department and serving as City Treasurer as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act Title VI Coordinator. He has served as Director of the Development Services Department since 2020 and will continue to do so. Frederickson was a longtime Associate Class Representative and a former member of the Whitman Alumni Association Board, where he served as President for two years.

Betsy Miller Vixie '02

was appointed to serve as the General Manager of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, where she will focus on integrating endangered species conservation with the district's long-term stewardship of the local aquifer. She is the first female General Manager in the agency's 92-year history.

Amy Kunkel-Patterson Ly '06

spoke with Whitman students and staff to discuss her work as the Project Manager for the Horizons initiative with



First-year roommates **Caitlin Smith** Frevert '06 (left) and Sara Suffis Kuethe '06 recently reconnected in Lake Garda, Italy, while on separate family vacations. Frevert lives in Berlin with her four children and husband. She is the Head of Sustainability and D&I Engagement at Zalando. Kuethe lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington, with her two kids and husband. She is the Head of Strategy and **Operations for Security** Marketing at Google.



From left: **Ian Smith '24**, **Nik Hagen '13**, **Jackie Wong '04**, **McKenna Milici '11** and **Nina Trotto '11** in front of the mostly completed set for the musical "Camelot." All five Whitties are working in various departments at Village Theatre in Issaquah, Washington. Hagen appeared onstage as Mordred and Squire Dap in the fall 2024 production of "Camelot."

Claire Maurer '21 was hired by Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) as a new Data Fellow in November 2024. The Justice Fellowship is a career development program designed to introduce early-career professionals to the field of community and entrepreneurship development. The fellowship consists of a one-year, full-time position at CEI, working on projects to build a more just and equitable economy in Maine and other rural areas. The 2024–2025 CEI Justice Fellows, from left: Dolly Yin, **Claire Maurer '21** and Iris Kwafo-Mensah outside of CEI's Brunswick headquarters.



United Way of the Blue Mountains. Ly appeared in September 2024 as part of the "Our Place in Walla Walla" series, hosted by the Career and Community Engagement Center.

Sandy Flores Garcia '08 spoke with Whitman students and staff about her career as a lawyer and the importance of making connections with partners in the region. She appeared in September 2024 as part of the "Our Place in Walla Walla" series, hosted by the Career and Community Engagement Center.

Andrea Miller Williams 'O9 assumed the role of President of the Oregon Food Bank in December 2024. She had co-led the organization as Vice President for the previous three years.

2010s

Drew Trogstad-Isaacson '11, Interim Director of the Water & Environmental Center at Walla Walla Community College, discussed environmental education, social capital and exploring the natural treasures of the Walla Walla Valley with Whitman students and staff. Trogstad-Isaacson appeared in October 2024 as part of the "Our Place in Walla Walla" series, hosted by the Career and Community Engagement Center.

Anna Dawson '13 opened Saint Scout Design in 2024, where she focuses on websites and branding for small to mid-sized U.S. businesses. Dawson says she loves the new challenges that come with running her own venture. She currently lives in Madrid, Spain. Read more at saintscout.design.

Matthew Morriss '13 and his research on rock glaciers with the Utah Geological Survey were recently featured on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and "Short Wave" programs. Listen to the "Short Wave" broadcast at npr.org/ 2024/10/11/1210938391/ water-rock-glaciers-lake-utah. **River Sterne '17** joined the firm Landye Bennett Blumstein in Anchorage, Alaska, as an Associate Attorney. His practice focuses on Alaska Native law, subsistence and natural resources law, transactions, and litigation.

Christy Carley '18 published the article "All Over the Map" in the fall 2024 issue of PNW Bainbridge magazine. The article chronicles fellow Bainbridge islander and Whittie **Jim Dow '71**'s 20-years-long project to map every road and house on Bainbridge Island, saving first responders precious time when responding to emergencies.

Ryan Garrett '18 currently serves as Education Director for the Mono Lake Committee. Garrett had an opportunity to collaborate with Stan Thayne, Senior Lecturer of Environmental Studies, for Whitman's Semester in the West program. In October 2024, Garrett spent two days with Semester in the West students, educating them about Mono Lake through a series of field trips in the region.

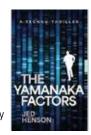
Whittie Authors



John "Larry" Rector '65 re-released the second edition of his book "The History of Chile" in the

Greenwood Histories of Modern Nations series (2019).

Jed Henson '91 has published his second thriller "The Yamanaka Factors" (independently published,



2024). An elderly homeless man, Mickey Cooper, receives a crazy proposition from a rogue biotech company to try a new, reverse-aging drug. He agrees, and everything immediately goes sideways.



Rebecca Sher Wellington '97 released her historical memoir "Who Is a Worthy Mother? An Intimate History of Adoption"

(University of Oklahoma Press, 2024). The book explores U.S. adoption practices through personal memoir and historical narrative. Wellington reckons with unanswered questions of her own experience as she explores broader issues surrounding adoption in the U.S. Wellington teaches at the University of Puget Sound.

Happily Ever After



Brianna Booth '05 to Cory Muscara on Oct. 14, 2023, on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Whitties in attendance included (from left) Nolan Brewer '03, Jeremy Cohen '05, Zack Steel '06, Lyndsay Buckingham Brewer '05, Ryan Choi '05, Sarah Hardee Peterson '05, Claudia Ramer '05, Anna Stephenson Steel '05, Brianna Booth '05, Cory Muscara, Alison Brown '05, Zoe Selzer McKinley '05, Mike Peterson '05, and Jesse Ramer '05. Not pictured: Vincent Booth '07.



Marianne Kellogg '17 to Austin Shaff '17 on July 26, 2024, at Sadie Lake in Arlington, Washington. Spencer Mueller '17 officiated the wedding. Whitties in attendance included (from left) Spencer Mueller '17, Emma Altman '16, Austin Shaff '17, Marianne Kellogg '17, Michelle Christy '17, Hunter Pluckebaum '17 and Matt Sousa '17.



Taylor Berntson '17 to Alexandre Vesselle '17 on Sept. 8, 2024, at Fox Hollow Farm in Issaquah, Washington. Many Whitties were in both the bridal and groom parties.



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.



Michael Brock '18 to Olivia Knox '18 in July 2023. Pictured (from left): Signe Lindquist '18, Simren Rai '21, Rachel Brock '16, Kaia Knutsen '18, Alison Tilsen, Grace Hashiguchi, Pia Basu, Olivia Knox '18, Michael Brock '18, Daniel Brock '20, Henry Knox '21, Dylan Garner, Gregory Steigerwald '18, John Sandbo, Griffin Cronk '19 and Nishaant Limaye '19. Other Whitties in attendance (not pictured) included Charles Ralston '18, Harper Howard '18, Max Hanson '18, Thomas Douglas '18, Riley Worthington '18, Jeanette Schwensen '18, Elizabeth Phillips '18, Kevin O'Leary '15, Rajul Chikkalingaiah '20 and Nick Robinson '18.

Jadon Bachtold '20 to Whitney Rich '20 on July 27, 2024, in Pacific City, Oregon. Pictured (from left), front row: David Chavarin '20, Erik Nielsen '20, Jimmy Jacobson '20, Jadon Bachtold '20, Whitney Rich Bachtold '20, Mika Nevo '20, Sean Thomas '20, Becca Hoffman '20, Isaac Fournier; back row: Scott Macdonald '23, Maamoon Saleh '21, Miranda Fischer, Alex Cooper '20, Sofia Ellington '20, Joe Wally '20, Owen Davis-Bower '20, Isabel La Plain '19, Maisie Thomas '20, Kristen Wanke '20, Bryn Carlson '20, Jonathan Williams '20 and Eli Fournier '20.



Little Whitties



Faye Owens, born July 22, 2024, to **Lydia Hayes Owens '08** and Chad Owens. Faye joins big brothers Beau (7), Conrad (5) and Hartery (2).



Lena Clarette Fairfortune, born Nov. 7, 2023, to **Alex Kearns Fairfortune '11** and **Tessa Carlson Fairfortune '11.** Lena's middle name is a nod to Clarette's Diner in Walla Walla.

In Memoriam

1940s

Ada Lou Wheeler '47 on Sept. 12, 2023, in Seattle. Wheeler enrolled in secretarial school after graduating from Whitman. Her first role as an Executive Secretary in a public relations department led her down the career path of public relations and communications. After losing her job with an ad agency in the 1960s, Wheeler began her own public relations firm in downtown Seattle. She was one of the first female agency owners in Seattle, finally retiring in 2003. She volunteered frequently for Whitman in the 1990s, meeting with students to discuss her life after Whitman. Wheeler is predeceased by her brother, John Wheeler '50.

1950s

Edith "Edie" Lewis '50 on May 21, 2024, in Yakima, Washington. Lewis moved to Arlington, Virginia, where

she taught elementary school for almost 30 years. After retirement, she returned to the family homestead in Naches, Washington, where she spent her time playing competitive bridge, learning to

she spent her time playing competitive bridge, learning to play golf and enjoying a good book. Lewis is predeceased by her three brothers. She is survived by many extended family members.

Paul Ostyn '50 on

Dec. 9, 2023, in Twin Falls, Idaho. Ostyn spent his career in education, first as a teacher and coach in the Twin Falls public school district. After he earned his master's in Education from the University of Nevada, Reno, Ostyn returned to Idaho and continued his work as an educator. He worked as an Athletic Director, Vice Principal, and finally as Director of Public Relations with the College of Southern Idaho. Ostyn is predeceased by his wife, Joyce, and a daughter. He is survived by three children and several grandchildren.

Janice "Jan" Fehlberg

Eyestone '54 on Nov. 9, 2024, in Walla Walla. Eyestone was a lifelong educator, beginning her career immediately after graduation as an elementary school teacher. She earned her master's in Education from Washington State University in 1978 and continued her career as an educator. Eyestone worked for the Walla Walla School District as a teacher, administrator and principal. After retiring from the school district, she worked part-time as a Lecturer of Education for Whitman. Eyestone is survived by her husband, Wilson "Bill," their two children and four arandchildren.

Henry "Hank" Struck '55 on

May 15, 2024, in Wenatchee, Washington. Struck married his Whitman sweetheart, **Roberta Coon '57**, the year following his graduation. He was self-employed as a general contractor for about a decade. Struck then worked as a Comptroller at the Fairwood Village Retirement Center. He is predeceased by his wife and survived by their daughter, **Myra Struck McKitrick '79**.

Carol Rometch Pelo '57 on Sept. 13, 2024, in Spokane, Washington. Pelo earned her master's in English from the University of Montana, Missoula. She returned to Spokane where she worked as a reporter for the Spokane Chronicle for 12 years and taught at Fort Wright College. The majority of her career was spent as a Pastoral Assistant for Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral where she retired in 2006 after 30 years. Pelo was a proud gardener and loved cooking and canning. She is survived by her husband, Ken; their three children, including Ann Pelo '87 and John Pelo '89; two grandchildren; and a sister.

Margaret Iversen

Johnson '58 on Nov. 16, 2024, in Bellevue, Washington. After marrying her Whitman beau in 1959, Johnson worked at Pomona College while her husband pursued his master's. The couple moved to Bellevue in 1961, where Johnson raised their children. She enjoyed entertaining and volunteering — and was a proud Daughter of Norway and an active member of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Johnson is survived by her husband, **Max** Johnson '59; their children, including Laurie Johnson '83; a grandchild; and a brother.

Donald Brandt '59 on

July 18, 2024, in Nampa, Idaho. Brandt spent his career in real estate, specializing in farm management and residential and commercial development. He volunteered in numerous capacities throughout his time in the Boise, Idaho, area, including serving on the boards for United Way and the Salvation Army; as President of the Idaho Association of Realtors; and on many of his church committees, missions and festivals. Brandt enjoyed fishing "when there's time" and giving away produce from his garden.





WHITMAN LEADER | George Holifield '59

on Aug. 7, 2024, in Kenmore, Washington. After Whitman, Holifield went on to American Law School in Washington, D.C., where he earned his law degree in 1967. Holifield spent his career in public service, beginning with an appointment in a senator's office, and was eventually appointed as a Municipal Court Judge for Seattle in 1980. He served in that role with honor and distinction until his retirement in 2010 after 30 years on the bench. During this time, Holifield also served on the Whitman Board of Overseers, from 1988–2003.

Outside of public service, Holifield's two great passions were University of Washington Husky football and flying. He held a private pilot license and was an avid flyer. He was a lifelong Husky fan and regularly attended games, from

sneaking into the stadium in the 1940s to his last Apple Cup in 2023. Holifield is survived by his wife; two sons, including **Jeff Holifield '89**; three grandchildren; and a brother.

1960s

Edward Paget '61 on May 21, 2024, in Needles, California. Paget earned his medical degree from the University of Oregon in 1965. After completing a surgical residency at Mayo Clinic, he served as a doctor with the U.S. Air Force for a decade. Paget moved to Needles and worked as a General Surgeon at the community hospital for over 20 years. He was elected Mayor of Needles in 2010 and served for eight years. Paget is survived by his wife, Janice, and their nine children, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lee Peterson '61 on

Nov. 19, 2024, in Portland, Oregon. Peterson transferred to the University of Oregon after his sophomore year at Whitman. He earned his medical degree at Tulane University in New Orleans and served as a U.S. Air Force doctor for two years. Peterson then moved his family to Portland, where he founded the Hillsboro Eye Clinic and practiced for 30 years. In retirement, he enjoyed skiing, swimming, scuba diving, fly-fishing and boating with his wife. Peterson is survived by his wife, Adrianne; their two children; and four grandchildren, including **Madelyn Peterson '13**.

Randy Beaumont '63 on

Nov. 10, 2024, in Flagstaff, Arizona. Beaumont earned his doctorate in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Idaho in 1967. During this time, he married his Whitman belle, Janetta Hermon '65. The couple moved to Alma, Michigan, where they raised their family while Beaumont taught Chemistry at Alma College. He retired in 1984, and the Beaumonts moved to Flagstaff, Arizona. In retirement Beaumont sang for his church choir and the Flagstaff Musical Theatre, for which he was a President, board member, actor and set builder. He is survived by his wife, their three children and five grandchildren.

Raleigh Curtis '63

on Aug. 19, 2024, in Seattle. Curtis was drafted after graduation and entered the Army after completing Officer Candidate School. His term of service expired in May 1966, two months before his infantry division was scheduled to deploy to Vietnam. Curtis married fellow Whittie **Carol Hurley '66** in 1968 before enrolling in dental school at the University of Washington. He practiced dentistry in Seattle for over 30 years. In retirement, he enjoyed fly-fishing, music and home improvement projects with his adult children. Curtis is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren.

Evan Thomas Jr. '63 on

Feb. 2, 2024, in Annapolis, Maryland, After Whitman, Thomas enrolled in Officer Candidate School before marrying his Whitman sweetheart, Lloyd-Ellen Meade '64, the summer after her graduation. He spent two decades as a Cryptologic Specialist with the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1984 as a Lieutenant Commander. The family moved to Annapolis, where Thomas worked as a logistics engineer for defense contractors for another 20 years. It was during this time Thomas became an avid runner, qualifying for the Boston Marathon in 1993 as a member of the Annapolis Striders running club. Thomas is survived by his wife; his

sons; and his brother, **John Thomas '60**.

Russ Dondero '64 on Nov. 14, 2024, in Portland, Oregon. Dondero met his wife, Ann Furukawa '66, while they were students at Whitman. They were wed the summer following her graduation. After Whitman, Dondero earned both his master's degree and doctorate in Political Science from the University of Minnesota. He taught Political Science for over four decades at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Dondero was an avid golfer; loved model trains; and had a passion for peace, social justice and helping others. He is survived by his wife; their two children, including Anthony "Tony" Dondero '95; and one grandchild.

Robert "Bob" Whitacre '64

on Aug. 8, 2024, in Seattle. Whitacre earned his master's in Biological Sciences from Oregon State University in 1967. After teaching briefly at a community college, he entered dental school at the University of Washington (UW), graduating in 1974. While teaching at the UW dental school, he opened a publishing company for self-instructional dentistry textbooks. Whitacre also started a company to manufacture and distribute a dental device he invented to prevent needle-sticks. He is predeceased by his parents, Frances Toner Whitacre '37 and Horace Whitacre '39. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; two children, including Jamie Whitacre '98; a brother; and several nieces and a nephew.

Howard Drummond '67

on Nov. 7, 2024, in Portland, Oregon. After Whitman, Drummond attended the University of Montana and earned his master's in Biochemistry. He worked in cancer research for five years before going into hospital administration. Drummond was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hiking, mountain climbing, kayaking and biking. He spent his quiet time reading and painting. Drummond is survived by his wife, Lindsay; their two children; two grandchildren; and his sisters.

Robert "Bob" Bennett '68

on Aug. 7, 2024, in Walla Walla. Bennett's first venture after Whitman was a printing company, where he selfpublished books on Walla Walla history. He briefly ran several other area businesses before he purchased Clarette's in 1995. fulfilling his dream of owning a family-style restaurant. Bennett sold the business in 2023 after 25 years. He had a never-ending love of history, enjoyed playing golf, and loved meeting for coffee with a dedicated group of friends. Bennet is survived by his wife, Carol; their daughters; and several grandchildren.

1970s

William "Bill" Hansen '71 on July 17, 2024, in Lafayette, California. After he earned his master's in Finance from Golden Gate University, Hansen joined Kaiser Permanente's Treasury Department in Oakland, where he worked for 27 years. In his retirement, Hansen volunteered as a delivery driver, taking donated groceries to food banks and service organizations around Oakland. He was often found with his nose in a book and especially enjoyed nonfiction, reading articles or attending lectures on viticulture. Hansen is survived by his wife, Diane; their two children; two grandchildren; a sister; and a nephew.

Mary Patton '71 on

July 26, 2024, in Bend, Oregon. Patton attended Washington State College (now Washington State University) where she met her husband, Richard. They were married in 1950 and eventually moved their family to Walla Walla. Patton enrolled at Whitman in 1968 and earned her teaching certificate. She taught Early Childhood Education and Parent Education at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) for 21 years. In 1993, she received the Outstanding Faculty Member Award from WWCC. Patton continued to volunteer in the Walla Walla community in her retirement. She is predeceased by her husband, one son and a brother. Patton is survived by a daughter and son, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Marc Wells '74 on

Oct. 25, 2024, in Portland, Oregon. A former Whitman KWCW disc jockey, Wells spent his career in communications technology as a Software and Systems Engineer. He was active in science fiction groups, including the Portland Science Fiction Society and the OryCon Portland SciFi convention. It was through these activities that Wells met his wife, Patty. They were married in 1984 and had three children. Wells is survived by his wife and children, as well as his brother **Roger Wells '71**.

Kerry Lamus '76 on

Oct. 23, 2024, in Seattle, Washington. Lamus spent his 40-year professional career devoted to high school students. He taught math, coached soccer and chess, and worked football games. He believed his greatest achievement was the number of his students who continued their education, many of whom became educators themselves. Lamus had a big personality and an even larger heart. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; two stepchildren; three sisters, including Tammie Lamus Colwell '81; his brother-in-law Mark Colwell '79: and five nieces and nephews.

Cathy Hyden '78 on

Oct. 21, 2024, in Monument, Colorado. Hyden began her career in western Washington in product and partner marketing for technology companies. As technology evolved, her talents and business acumen were in great demand. Hyden relocated to Colorado with her family in the 1990s, though she maintained close relationships with her Washington friends. She enjoyed biking the highways of Washington, hiking the trails of Colorado and racing to the playground with the grandchildren. Hyden is predeceased by her parents and three brothers. She is survived by her husband, Lloyd; their two children; a sister; and three grandchildren.

1980s

Nancy Townend '81 on Aug. 16, 2024, in Vancouver, Washington. Townend completed her legal assistant certification at Portland Community College in 1983 and spent 18 years as a Paralegal, before retiring to raise her family. Townend was an active volunteer in the Portland community and was honored with Volunteer of the Year by the Junior League of Portland award in 2002 and the Golden Acorn Award in 2017 for her involvement with Vancouver Public Schools. Townend is predeceased by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Phil, and their three children.

1990s

Jason Postlewait '96 on

Sept. 22, 2024, in Walla Walla. A Walla Walla local, Postlewait stayed in the area after graduation, teaching fourth grade at Blue Mountain Christian School in Dayton, Washington. He eventually went on to teach at Walla Walla High School. Postlewait loved coaching as much as teaching. Beyond his presence in the classroom, he spent plenty of time on the field coaching football, baseball, softball and bowling in many of the school districts in the Walla Walla Valley. Postlewait is survived by his wife, Mindy; their two sons; his parents and siblings; and many nieces, nephews, students, players and friends.

2000s

Jess Chubb '02 on Jan. 30, 2024, in Oakland, California, due to complications

after cancer treatment. Chubb earned their master's degree in Family Practice Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, in 2017. They worked for Planned Parenthood Northern California before their passing. Chubb had recently moved into a new home with their partner, Lucid Dawn, where the couple celebrated six years together. Loved ones describe Chubb as "a creature of service; a compassionate, empathic, brilliant, creative, musical, playful, deep, big-love being." They are survived by their parents, brother and partner.

2010s

Shane Young '13 on Aug. 3, 2024, in Portland, Oregon, after a sudden illness. After graduating with honors from Whitman, Young earned his law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. He was a member of the Oregon State Bar from 2017–2024 and practiced pro bono work and legal research for firms and professors across the country. Young is survived by his parents, five siblings, numerous nieces and nephews, and his dear friend Rebecca Helgeson '13.

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 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 **Kim Chandler**

A QUICK CONVERSATION WITH WHITMAN'S DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

As a coach, teacher and administrator, Kim Chandler has spent over 30 years supporting college athletics—and her six years at Whitman have been a highlight. Between attending games, teaching a Women and Sport class, overseeing dozens of varsity and club sports teams, and raising a 2-yearold, she's a busy person. But she jumped at the chance to chat with us about Whitman's amazing student-athletes. —BY MELISSA WELLING '99



1 What drew you to Whitman?

After I ended my coaching career, I wanted to be part of an institution where they really valued academic rigor. But in the very same conversation, we could talk about athletic success, we could talk about winning and about competing, and that **one didn't challenge the other.**

2 What inspires you about Whitman's student-athletes?

l've never seen students

work as hard as they work here. And I mean that in the classroom and also in terms of athletics. It's: "What do I need to do? How can I do this better?"

3 What's your best coaching advice?

Every teacher that you had since kindergarten and **every coach impacts you in some way.** So I think the big thing is to be the kind of person who empowers and believes and supports and pumps sunshine into young people.

What was your college sports experience like?

Basketball has been a huge part

of my life for many, many, many years. I had a chance to have a really phenomenal academic

experience [at Ohio Northern University]. Because I hurt my knee, I went on a fifth year in terms of a medical redshirt. So I picked up along the way three bachelor's degrees, a teaching certification and a coaching certification.



Who's been your biggest influence?

Both my dad and my mom were huge in terms of advocating and putting me into a number of things, even as a small kid. I did tap and art. I painted. I played piano. I did tumbling. I was even in etiquette school, believe it or not. They did so many things to provide opportunities. So I really credit them—their expectations, their motivation to someday go to college and to do things that make you happy. **66** Be the kind of person who... pumps **SUNSHINE** into young people.

99

We're headed to overtime! For more of our interview with Kim Chandler, go to whitman.edu/magazine.

Make Dreams Come True

The Whitman Fund helps ensure that students have access to Whitmanfunded career experiences—so that they can explore possibilities and find their future.

Give today—and unlock opportunities for Whitman students.



Your Gifts at Work

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

-Rocio Josephine Lybarger-Yanes '25

Rocio interned with MA Jacobson Law in Seattle as a paralegal/legal assistant, supported by a Whitman Internship Grant.

Gifts to **The Whitman Fund** of \$4,000 can support a summer student internship like Rocio's. All gifts add up! Hi Mom! Guess what?? What's up? How are you? Igot a Whitman batos batos batos Nour dream internship!! Autor of you!

.....

4:15

l can't wait!

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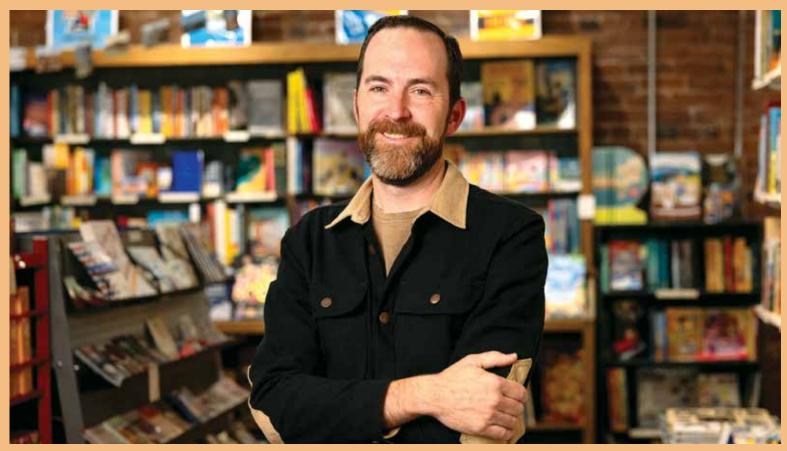


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Global Whitman: The World Is an Open Book



TICKET TO READ. "Postcard Bookshop is a bookstore for travelers—in the broadest sense possible," says Patrick Leonard '06, who opened the unique bookstore in Portland, Oregon. It caters to readers with a love for travel and a deep curiosity about the world—featuring travel guides, novels, children's books, cookbooks and more from around the globe. Step inside the shop and hear how his time at Whitman College shaped Leonard's passion for global exploration, creativity and the value of a liberal arts education at **whitman.edu/magazine**.



