Ryan Crocker, ’71, takes post as U.S. ambassador to Pakistan

Ryan C. Crocker, ’71, arrived in Islamabad on November 7 as the new U.S. ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

A career member of the senior foreign service, Crocker has extensive experience and knowledge of Middle Eastern cultures, history, and languages. His first foreign service assignment in 1971 was at the American consulate in Khorramshahr, Iran. He served at other posts throughout the Middle East, and in 1990 he was named ambassador to Lebanon. He also has been the ambassador to Kuwait and Syria.

Crocker’s most recent assignment was as the international affairs adviser at the National War College in Washington, D.C. Previously he was director of governance for the Coalition Provisional Authority, and prior to that he served as a deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

Crocker is a recipient of a Presidential Distinguished Service Award and a Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service. In 2000, he received Whitman’s Alumnus of Merit Award.

Alumni Board Nominations Due by March 15

All alumni are invited to participate in nominating new members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. The procedure requires 12 or more alumni to sign a petition on behalf of someone they wish to nominate.

Nominating petitions should be sent by March 15, 2005, to Polly Schmitz, ’83, director of alumni relations, Whitman College, 219 Marcus Street, Walla Walla, WA 99362 or by email to schmitpc@whitman.edu.

Members of the board serve three-year terms beginning July 1, except the young alumni representative, who serves a one-year term. The board should be representative of the diversity of the alumni association with members who have demonstrated volunteer service to Whitman and represent various class years, geographical areas, and interests.

For further information call 800-835-9448, ext. 1.

Marshal McReal, ’84, visits with Arafat before the Palestinian president’s death

Marshall McReal, ’84, was a member of a delegation of the worldwide Anglican Church which spent several hours with Yassir Arafat just a few weeks before the Palestinian leader’s death.

The delegation represented the Compass Rose Society, a fund raising and grant making organization of the Anglican Communion. McReal serves on the board of directors of the society, which seeks to fund special needs including, for

Aaron Perrine, ’99, returns from Pakistan, prepares for Baghdad

Aaron Perrine, ’99, visited Whitman last April after finishing a State Department tour of duty in Peshawar, Pakistan, and just before going on to an assignment at the American Consulate in Baghdad.

Perrine describes life in a global hot spot in terms of pragmatic challenges: “Security is a major issue in Peshawar, and it affects everything,” he says. He remembers spending much time solving a series of problems: “How are we going to get these

continued on page 22
McReal: Arafat speaks of the need for peace

continued from page 21

example, famine relief in Tanzania and AIDS work in South Africa. As part of a fact-finding mission to Israel in October, the group visited parts of the West Bank, Gaza, and the occupied territories, McReal said.

“We sat down with Yassir Arafat to hear his perspec-
tive on the peace process, relations with Israel, violence, and the second Intifada. “The meeting itself was fascinating, as we met him in his bombed out compound in Ramallah. It was evening, and
he was ill with what he thought was the flu. He talked
at length about Rabin, the Wye River accords, the failed
settlement talks with Bharak and Clinton as well as the
continuing cycle of violence and Israeli occupation.”

Reflecting on the experi-
ce, McReal realizes he may
have been one of the last
people other than Arafat’s
closest advisers to see him
alive. “We now know that was
the beginning of the end of his
life, and he was airlifted to
Paris about two weeks later.”

McReal was a privileged
witness, he says, to what
Arafat “was thinking about
close to the time of his death
— the current situation and
the need for peace in
the region.”

Perrine: “missions like Pakistan . . . are operating with minimal staffing”

continued from page 21

creates off of the courier flight
and back to the consulate with
out having them out of our
sight; how are we going to
replace this generator
without tearing apart
the office building; and even
how do I explain to my
guard, without offending
him, that I would prefer he
not feed rotten mutton bones
to my dog?

“People work hard at
these posts, especially in
missions like Pakistan that
are already on drawdown and
are operating with minimal
staffing. It was usually a six-
or seven-day-a-week opera-
tion. But you also develop very
strong bonds with co-workers, and
you rely on that little
community for support and
for fun. There’s a real pre-
mium at State on being able to
get along with people and
work closely with them,”
Perrine says.

He believes he was well pre-
pared for these challenges by
his first foreign service
experience, an internship he
held while on an undergradu-
ate study abroad program in
Buenos Aires. Perrine interned
with the Foreign Commercial
Service at the U.S. Embassy.

He was struck by “the extent
to which relatively junior
officers had immense respon-
sibility,” he says.

He began to consider a
career with the State Depart-
ment and returned to his
politics major at Whitman. He
credits the oral defense of his
thesis with helping him
prepare for the oral portion of
the foreign service exam.

It took the State Depart-
ment almost three years to
assign Perrine travel orders
after he took the exam, during
which time he earned a law
degree at the University of
Washington and worked for a
Seattle law firm. “I assumed I
would be an attorney,” Perrine
remembers, thinking he would
never get an assignment.

“After a while you have to
make other plans and hope
for the best.”

Eventually, Perrine found
himself bidding, and winning,
the post in Peshawar, Pakistan.
He served there from Septem-
ber 2003 to August 2004 as a
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25th Reunion of the Class of 1979


15th Reunion of the Class of 1989

15th Reunion of the Class of 1988
ROW 1: Sally Novasquist, Maggie Fleet, Karen Keck Hougan, Mikayla Hougan, David Hougan with Alex, Beate Schimko, Brian Murphy, Kirsten Murphy, Emily Paternam Swanen with Branden, Keith Swanen.
ROW 2: Jennifer Clark, Jeff Clark, Beth Scharcz-Santos with Angelo, Karla Smith Olson with Helen, Dana Blumfort Keze, Amy Maddenon Day (white shirt), Michael Wilcox, Sarah Heath.
ROW 3: Tom Stidham, Kimberly Haymos-Peterston with Ross, Jennifer Harrold, McCandless, Lynn Greer McKeeny, Laura Todd, Cliff Day, Todd Adams, Jeff Strock, Ben Strock, Katie Streck.
ROW 4: David O’Neal, Jenn Wheeler O’Neal, ‘89, Kim Thomas.
ROW 7: David Hackett, Lamon Walker Hackett with Megan, Mark Girdons, Sebastian Ecksman, Gretchen Brack, Shawn Collins, Kevin Orth.

10th Reunion of the Class of 1994
ROW 1: Erin Burke Bell with Stegner and Connor, Molly Hansmaker-Teals, ‘95, with Emma, Ransom Bailey with Finn, Wendy Hall with Evan White, Belin White with Avery, Pati Pearson-Diller with Nora, Kinley Pearson-Diller, Christina Olson, Chuck Hamaker-Teals with Grace, Murline Schilling Vendetland with Nicholas, Amy Munson Hallmon, ‘93, Nora Hallmon, Jennifer Hall Hallmon.
ROW 3: Jonathan Angell, Jason Arp, Frank Metting, Scott Fletcher with Akilia, Steve Thorpe, Richard Mettock, Nora Mahal, Allison Hawley, Katy Moqik, Shannon Nagle, Kathryn Supinski, Cara Hanley, Mary McCordison with Charlie, Dan McCordison, Peter DeKay.
ROW 4: Andrew Larsen, Eric Blanding, Elizabeth Thomas Copeland, ‘95, with Delia, Debbie Groff, Tom Ledus, Candace Barlow, Elrey Mama, Sonja Stevens, Robert Stevens, Matt Kahak, Chris Lane, John Milanovich, Feather Alexander Ammerson, Eric Blau, Susan Montgomery, Kirsten Burns Fritz, Judy DeKay.
ROW 5: Jason Copeland, Clayton Cobell (island Jason), Karen Bouchier (in front of Clayton), Michelle McClellan, David Bach-y-Blue, Stella Mambo, Jennifer McChure, Katie Rahnker, Bridget Brown Boots (island Kati), Georgeous Hamaker, Susan Brown with (island G), Patrick McFride, Bill Nashem, Heath Fox, Shawn Murphy.
ROW 6: Dan Zuiches, Christi Hirtom Jones, Melissa Cheseb Hill, Laura Tartiglato Bissel, Jane Dulle, Mara Benedict, Victoria Bramell, Katherine Mohan, Kelsey Gowem Chappelle, Jenny Peterson Dallol, Alexandra Sands, Derek Porter (in front of Alexandra), Teresa Moller, Jason Lathrop.
ROW 7: Andrew Giddings, Carrie Sherman Giddings, Hannah McCarthy, Cecillie Kang Ussall, Sara Munson Komak, Amy Cohen, Maira Orchard Maki, Jason Maki, Scott Alperin, Chris Greenlund.
ROW 8: Andrea Jones, Susan Carter Starman, David Ledgerwood, Katrina Ledgerwood.
ROW 9: Diana MacDonald, Joel Webster Dumont.
First, an admission: I am not a major donor to Whitman.

Eight years as the president of a university builds a unique and intimate relationship with that institution and, therefore, Clarkson is my primary philanthropic commitment. Nevertheless, I contribute consistently to Whitman and wanted to share some of my reasons. I offer these comments especially to alumni who have been, for whatever reason, never or seldom donors, or those who have other primary philanthropic interests.

◆ All of us were “subsidized” as students, as are today’s students. This is true even if we received no financial aid from Whitman. The College’s endowment, its fund-raising success, the generosity of foundations, etc., all supported our education well beyond the tuition that we paid. Only the larger donors among us can truly “pay the college back” for helping us in this way. But all of us can thank the institution for providing such a good education and, in so doing, support today’s students.

◆ The College can leverage our contributions. Even modest donors like me really do help the institution achieve bigger goals. This is especially true regarding Whitman’s relationship with major philanthropic foundations. A key parameter that those foundations monitor is the percent of alumni who are donors. For that key indicator, all of our gifts are of equal importance. So if we don’t bother to contribute because we think that our modest donation can’t make a difference, we are mistaken.

Sincerely,

“Denny is right,” says Whitman Fund director Barbara Saxe Stubblefield, ’66. “Your gift shows that you appreciate your education, and that encourages foundations to select Whitman as a recipient of their support. Please remember what a difference you can make to the students of Whitman College.”
Whitman inducts former athletes and coaches into Hall of Fame

Nine former Whitman College athletes and coaches have been named to the Whitman College Athletics Hall of Fame. The inaugural class was elected in August 2003, and additional distinguished athletes and coaches were chosen in May 2004. The Whitman College Hall of Fame celebrates the following individuals.

Raymond Vincent Borleske, ’10 (deceased): Running back, fierce defender, and kicker in football; catcher and first baseman in baseball. Returned to Whitman in 1915 to coach for more than three decades, leading his alma mater to a total of 17 conference championships in football, baseball, and basketball.


Bill Martin, ’41 (deceased): Whitman athlete, then Notre Dame sprinter famed as the “world’s fastest human” in 1911; set a world record in the 100-yard dash. All-American football player and baseball player. Head football coach at the University of Pennsylvania; head track coach at Penn State and at Harvard. Head coach at Whitman from 1934 to 1969.

Robert “Bob” Burgess: Professor of physical education emeritus. Came to Whitman in 1949. Coached men’s tennis for 32 seasons, winning six consecutive conference titles. Also coached men’s basketball (winning a conference crown in 1954) and men’s swimming. Athletic director for 17 years and the primary planner for construction of Sherwood Center.

Jerry Hillis, ’61: Recipient of a host of regional and national honors in football for his skill playing both defense (as a linebacker) and offense (as an end). Named by the Associated Press to the All-West Coast Small College First Team in 1960. Also lettered twice in track and field.

Stephen Ronfeldt, ’64: Led men’s tennis to four conference championships and three NAIA district titles, sparking Whitman to victories in 25 of 26 dual matches during one span. Won 22 of 24 singles matches as a senior, advancing to the national quarterfinals. Also lettered four years in basketball.

Lynn Greer McKelvey, ’88: Most successful woman in history of Whitman tennis, winning singles, doubles, and team titles in conference and district play during her senior season. Defeated her No. 1 counterparts at Washington State and the universities of Washington and Oregon, losing only at the national semi-finals.

Susan Hubbard Sakimoto, ’89: Led teams to conference championships and set Whitman records in basketball and volleyball. Competed in NCAA national championships in track and field. Whitman record holder in the 100-meter hurdles.

A full story about each individual may be read online at www.whitman.edu/athletics/hof-nom.html.