New editor, designer take the helm at Whitman Magazine

Whitman Magazine readers will notice changes in this issue. While longtime Whitman Editor Elaine Prentice is enjoying her well-deserved retirement, new editor Lana Brown and designer Chris Bishop ’79 are excited for the opportunity to tell Whitman’s story in the magazine.

The pair, under the supervision of new Communications Director Ruth Wardwell, plans no dramatic changes, but, by virtue of new hands and new minds, there likely will be differences apparent to our alert readers.

The editor will continue to work to inform you about the life of the college. The magazine will offer entertaining and enlightening glimpses into daily life on campus and into the lives of those who have gone on to fulfill careers and callings. It may also, at times, offer continuing education for the perpetual students among you.

Following in Prentice’s footsteps will be difficult without guidance and input from those who read the magazine. Please take a moment to fill out the Reader Survey card in this issue and return it or e-mail the editor at brownll@whitman.edu to offer your viewpoints and suggestions.

Brown, who grew up in Milton-Freewater, Ore., comes to Whitman with a journalism degree and 20-plus years of newspaper experience. Bishop, a lifetime resident of the Walla Walla Valley, graduated from Whitman with degrees in studio art and education. She has worked at Whitman since 1998.

Did you know?
Whitman Magazine is online.
Visit www.whitman.edu/communications

Intramural sport draws students ready for action on Ankeny

By Lana Brown

Who are we? The Hungry, Hungry Hippos, screamed the blue T-shirted team with yellow flags at their hips.

Ten seconds later, one of them sprinted down the sidelines into the orange-coned end zone on Ankeny Field.

Sophomore Jessie Runnoe ’08, a Hungry, Hungry Hippo, said flag football is the biggest and best of the intramural sports.

Flag football draws students of all interests and abilities, but some take the game more seriously than others. (Above) The Hungry, Hungry Hippos, in blue shirts, try to stop the Bad Touch team from scoring. (At left) The Anderson E team kicks off against the Jewett Kangaroos.

“We practice two days a week” from the start of school, she said. The student from Oakland, Calif., was in her second game of that Saturday, with a third scheduled for Sunday.

Whitman has 14 men’s or coed flag football teams and 13 women’s teams, with about 400 students involved in the action. That represents a large increase over the past few years, according to senior Kinley Campbell ’06, director of intramural sports at Whitman.

“The guys have two divisions,” Runnoe explained, for those who just want to have a good time, and those who are more competitive. For the women, it’s fun and competitive, with not quite enough players to make up two divisions.

The Hungry, Hungry Hippos are clearly having fun, but as touchdown after touchdown attests, they are a competitive bunch. “It’s a lot of fun,” Runnoe said, “but we want to do better than last year.” As freshmen, the group came in third place in the flag football playoffs in 2004.

Kate Stull ’09, a first-year student on the Polka Dot team, says she was surprised to find herself playing flag football. She wasn’t an athlete at her high school in Portland, Ore., and it’s not what she expected to be doing at Whitman. But other freshmen in “The Pit,” or basement of Jewett Hall, were joining the team, so she figured “why not?”

She quickly found flag football to be a perfect change of pace after hours of studying or sitting in class. “You get to run around and have fun.”

It’s also a draw for students who enjoy watching the weekend action. Four girls brought brunch with them from Prentiss Dining Hall so they could multitask — eat and watch friends on both teams. “I’m eating lunch and then going straight to the library,” one of the students said as she sat her plate on the picnic table at Ankeny.

Others who showed up to watch stood on the sidelines with the teams or lounged nearby in bathrobes. One student spectator, junior Sam Johnson ’07, arrived in a toga with a crown of grape leaves, having portrayed Bacchus, the god of wine, at the first Walla Walla Crusch 5K run hosted by the Whitman cycling team that morning.

The spectators were treated to lots of touchdowns, mostly of the Hungry Hippo variety. But any and all successful plays were greeted with shouts of “Did you see that? It was inspirational.” “That was so intense!”

Sophomore Eli Asch ’08, a member of the Intramural Sports Committee, describes flag football as the most popular intramural sport on campus. “It’s also the most intense,” he said. “Most of the sororities and frats take their teams pretty seriously.”

UM football has been a long-standing tradition at Whitman, Campbell says. The Intramural Committee has worked to make the sport safer by changing rules and instating harsher penalties for fouls, he says. Referees also get more training, although they are still casual and have fun, a fact aptly demonstrated by the referee as he jogged barefoot down the field during the action in this Saturday game.

Championship Results:

Women’s Division: Alpha Sigma Sigma bear Black Attack (mostly Anderson Hall team formed in 2002) in triple overtime.

Division I: Hogwarts’ School of Football (senior independents) over Hamburger Lurgers (Monstrosity off-campus house, former Anderson B team).

Division II: Anderson E over Jewett (Hall) Kangaroos.
College reaches out to new tribal school

Kay Fenimore-Smith, an assistant professor of education, spent her fall 2005 sabbatical working at the new tribal high school on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She was asked by the school’s governing board to observe the school and maintain a record of its development. Fenimore-Smith will share her findings with the Nixyaawii Community School and the nation in a 2006 research paper.

Fenimore-Smith’s work is possible through a $25,000 grant from Washington Mutual Bank given in honor of Benson Porter ’89, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of the bank. The grant includes a $10,000 scholarship to help a Nixyaawii graduate attend Whitman.

The college hopes to develop relationships with the students, families and teachers at the Nixyaawii School.

This spring, admission officers will meet with students, who will be invited for a visitors’ day.

Town-Gown Award honors Health Center nurse’s community service

Longtime Whitman College Health Center employee Kathy Ruggeri was among the outstanding and dedicated individuals recognized for their community service at the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Nov. 30.

Ruggeri, a registered nurse who has been a friendly face and compassionate caregiver to Whitman students for more than 20 years, has been an active volunteer in the Walla Walla community as well.

Whitman President George Bridges presented a tearful Ruggeri with the college’s Town-Gown Award, which has been given annually since 1961 to a Whitman faculty or staff member who has made substantial contributions of service to the Walla Walla area.

“I thank Kathy for making such important contributions to the Walla Walla community, and for representing Whitman so well,” said President Bridges. “I have learned in a short time that Whitman people take the Walla Walla community to heart, and I’m pleased to be part of a college that fosters this kind of caring and commitment.”

Ruggeri’s community involvement includes the Humane Society, where she serves on the board and volunteers her time. She is a docent for the Carnegie Art Center, giving talks about the arts to school children; and she has served as a volunteer for Hospice, Heart to Heart, Catholic Charities,YWCA and the YMCA. She is a member of Assumption Church and regularly supports its programs, including school fund-raisers, St. Patrick’s Day luncheons and the DeSales Hope dinners.

Focus on Philanthropy

Center for Visual Arts gets matching grant

Whitman’s new Center for Visual Arts got a potential $250,000 boost from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation with the award of a challenge grant. The grant will match the first $250,000 raised for the center after Oct. 1.

The new facility is expected to enhance the burgeoning Walla Walla arts community by providing an anchor for a proposed arts corridor. The center will be built on the site of the current Health Center at the edge of campus closest to downtown Walla Walla. The design is complete, and fund raising is well under way. The addition of the $13.5 million Center for Visual Arts will offer students and faculty much needed room to work, and local artists and the community access to exhibits, lectures and demonstrations.

The new center will add depth to Whitman’s already strong cultural contributions to the Walla Walla Valley.

Student to say Guten Tag to Germany with German grant to study there

Junior Cory Ulrich ’07 was awarded a scholarship to study in Germany for four months by the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst or The German Academic Exchange Service.

Ulrich, a dual German and sociology major from Spokane, Wash., will spend a semester studying through the IES (International Education of Students) Berlin program and Humboldt University Berlin. On the application, she had to explain how she will use what she learns in Germany to further her goals. With introspection, she discovered she would like to teach, and she hopes her time in Germany will yield an internship to work in a school.

She expects the scholarship will amount to about $4,000 for living, travel and other expenses.

Her adventure, which gets under way in February of 006, will open with two weeks of travel through Australia, Italy, Spain and France with a friend in the IES Berlin program.

“We’re thrilled that Cory got the scholarship from the DAAD to support her study abroad,” said Professor Robert Tobin. “There are not many outside sources of funding for junior year abroad programs, which is a shame because time spent in another country can be truly transformative,” he said.

While Ulrich awaits her trip to Germany, she is practicing the language as resident assistant in the German Interest House on campus, where she tries to encourage residents to speak German as often as possible.

She’s also juggling two majors, serves on the Campus Activities Board as the weekend programming chair, participates in the Coalition Against Homophobia and works in the campus post office.

For more information on this exchange program, visit www.daad.org/ or the New York Office at www.daad.org.

IN THE NEWS

The Walla Walla Union-Bulletin covers the installation of President Bridges.

The Library Journal spotlights Penrose Library and its 24/7 operation.

The Jewish Review features a Whitman student’s humanitarian effort.

$100,000 gift boosts Hearst endowment

A recent gift increased the Hearst Foundation Scholarship Endowment at Whitman to $490,000. The $16,000 in scholarships offered through the endowment in 2004-05 could grow to $35,000 in scholarships within five years. The foundation added to the endowment, which provides scholarships to students based on academic achievement, community service and financial need.
Campus News

The Art of Puppetry

Some actors in The Long Christmas Ride Home spent their time on stage under black hoods as they operated puppets. Amanda Kesler '08 is in the hood at left. Daniel Stoltenberg '06 is on stage under black hoods as they operated puppets. Amanda Some actors in 6 Whitman Magazine

By Lana Brown

A

ian puppets with a Western flair took the stage with their counterpart actors for Harper Joy Theatre’s November production of The Long Christmas Ride Home. Puppets at Harper Joy? “Nothing’s a departure from normal for Whitman,” longtime theater Director Nancy Simon says of the college’s theatre department. “We try to do as many different things as we can,” so students are exposed to a variety of theater arts.

The arrival this year of Adjunct Professor Mary McClung, whose background includes building puppets for Children’s Television Workshop and Disney, made it possible to explore the art of puppetry. McClung's background in building puppets to a variety of theater arts.

The play by Paula Vogel uses traditional Japanese puppetry elements in a Western-style storyline about a tragic and pivotal event in a family’s life. As Petit explains, when western actors and a western audience were added to the mix, the play and puppets were bound to be Americanized.

When complete, the puppets resembled the actors, who were clothed in black during the play. The actors controlled the heads and the right sides of the puppets, while other students, clothed in black and hooded, operated the left sides. In an interview before the production, Petit explained the “skills required for the play are new for all of us. We learn as we go. It’s challenging and educational,” he said. “Students are asked to do things that are contrary to what they know.” It took a bit of cheerleading on Petit’s part to keep the hooded students focused and to help them realize the importance of their role.

The students were also uncomfortable with the puppets at first, Petit said before the production was staged. “They were shy with the puppets until Mary came in and worked with them. Now I can’t get them to shut up. They’re backstage talking to each other with their puppets.”

To create the puppets, McClung collaborated with Petit about what movement characters might need, how the director wanted them manipulated and the layout of the set. She started building them with papier mâché at the start of school in late August. “The details of the puppets are important,” McClung said. They were painted with acrylic paints; some had real eyelashes. She used highlights and shadows to give the eyes depth. She also fashioned the mouths and facial expressions, so it could seem to the audience the puppets were talking. She felt lucky to find wigs and most of the clothes at the Blue Mountain Humane Society Thrift Store.

Students helped with the sewing and sculpting. “Hopefully some of them got interested,” she said. “It is a valid art form for them to experience.” European thinking is that puppets are a serious art form, she said, while “Americans immediately see puppets as being for kids and birthday parties.”

THE DIRECTOR: Christopher Petit comes to Whitman from a background in acting and directing and an M.F.A. from Columbia University. Although Walla Walla is “a big adjustment” from Brooklyn, N.Y., he and his wife, Johanna Stoderock, think this will be a good place to raise their children, Lucien and Mila. Stoderock is a fiction author.

THE ARTIST: Mary McClung worked at Animax Designs in Nashville, Tenn., after completing graduate studies at the University of West Virginia. She was the principal art director at Animax and taught at the University of Dallas. She moved to Walla Walla to be with her husband, Alan McEwen, who is Harper Joy’s technical director.

THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Nathan Shiu ’05 is the composer and one of two musicians for the play.

“Whitman has a reputation for attracting high-quality people. I like to work with well-rounded people. They bring something else to the table.”

– Christopher Petit, director

Season Recaps

Debaters dominate tourney at Pepperdine University

In late October, seven Whitman teams took a national debate tournament by storm, dominating the Pepperdine University stop on the circuit.

Two Whitman teams won in the senior division. Eric Sun ’06, a politics major from Kansas City, Mo., and Matt Schissler ’07, a politics and rhetoric/film studies major from Bellingham, Wash., were victorious in one of the senior division semifinals, beating a team from U.C., Berkeley. Two politics majors, Jeff Buntin ’06 of Monrovia, Colo., and Ben Meiches ’06 of Minnetonka, Minn., rolled undefeated through the tournament and edged a team from Harvard University in the other semifinal.

Three more Whitman teams advanced to the senior division octafinals, finishing in a tie for ninth place. Candace Kissing ’09 of Appleton, Wis., and Luke Sanford ’09 of Golden, Colo., won the junior division title.

For the latest debate news: www.whitman.edu

Star soccer defender named to All-District Team

Hillary Chisholm ’06, a senior defender on the women’s soccer team, was named to ESPN the Magazine’s Academic All-American Second Team and Academic All-District Team. Chisholm, of Cour d’Alene, Idaho, is majoring in art history and visual culture studies with a minor in chemistry. The Academic All-District Team represents all NCAA Div. II and Div. III schools in nine western states and British Columbia.

Chisholm received All-Northwest Conference honorable mention recognition for her play on the field. Three teammates earned All-NWC honors as well: Kristen Berndt ’08, Manson, Wash., First Team; forward Sammie Arthur ’07, Tilton, Calif., and defender Kim Umesha ’07, Issaquah, Wash., Second Team.

Andy Huntington ’08, Seattle, a forward, was named to the men’s All-NWC Second Team.

In volleyball, outside hitter Lydia Hayes ’08, Boise, Idaho, and middle blocker Rosa Trey ’09, Bozeman, Mont., received NWC honorable mention recognition.
Whitman Professor Timothy Kaufman-Osborn was elected to the American Political Science Association Executive Council in November. Kaufman-Osborn is the Baker Ferguson Chair of Politics and Leadership. The APSA is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves members in 80 countries. The Executive Council is its governing body. Kaufman-Osborn was elected in an APSA membership election, running on a three-pronged platform that included encouraging methodological pluralism within the discipline of political science; enhancing the APSA’s responsiveness to the concerns of faculty at non-Ph.D.-granting institutions, and urging the APSA to take action in response to current threats to academic freedom.

“It’s no surprise that Tim was elected by his colleagues in the APSA,” said Pat Keef, dean of faculty. “He has been a leader in his profession while also serving as a leader in our politics department, which contributes greatly to Whitman’s prominence as a national liberal arts college.”

Kaufman-Osborn, who earned his master’s and doctoral degrees at Princeton University, joined the faculty in 1982. From 2001 to 2003, he was the president of the Western Political Science Association.

WW Valley fertile ground for research

Geology Professor Kevin Pogue sees vast potential in the rocks and loess of the Walla Walla Valley. It is fertile ground for research, and he is interested in characterizing and mapping the terrain — the relationships between the geology, geography and climate, and the quality of wine grapes grown here.

“It’s obvious in the Walla Walla Valley that wine has different flavor and character depending on the geology and geography of where it’s grown,” Pogue says. Wine-grape growers are interested in what Pogue has to say, and he offers advice as an informal consultant. As he visits vineyards, he realizes how much work there is to do to determine which grape varieties are most suited to particular geologic conditions.

He thinks his students will be interested in the geological questions. Pogue’s spring geophysics class will use seismic refraction techniques to map the depth of bedrock beneath the soil cover in vineyards. The thickness of soil has a direct influence on irrigation requirements. The technique can also detect compact layers within the soil that impede water infiltration.

Pogue also sees the potential to team up with chemistry professors and students to research the relationship between the chemistry of wine and vineyard geology. Frank Dunivant, associate professor of chemistry, is seeking funding for a mass spectrometer that would facilitate this research. Pogue also plans to work with former student, Chris Oze ‘97, now an assistant professor at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Oze has studied the geochemistry of wine, and he hopes to eventually be able to identify the source vineyards of wines by their geochemical “fingerprint.”

IN MEMORIAM

Gary Esarey 1943-2005

Gary Esarey, director of Whitman’s Language Learning Center since 1990, died Aug. 24, 2005. Esarey earned his Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. He traveled throughout Asia, first as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, and later as an English lecturer at universities in Thailand and Singapore. He worked as the language training supervisor at the Department of Asian and African Languages at the Foreign Service Institute for the U.S. State Department from 1988 until he came to Whitman.

Over the years, he published an anthology of poems, How Croats Talk and Willows Walk, and several textbooks.

He is survived by his wife, Aidah; a daughter, Arini; and a son, Harris.
Dzens of former players returned to campus in October to celebrate 25 years of glorious Whitman men’s lacrosse history. The weekend’s highlight included a rousing lacrosse game and a merry banquet in which organizers unveiled the Charley Rosenberry Men’s Lacrosse Fund to solicit ongoing support for the club program.

Rosenberry ’81, the founding father of Whitman lacrosse, was on hand for the reunion, although organizers surprised him by naming the fund in his honor. Other celebrants included Peter Anderson ’82, the reunion mastermind who envisioned the weekend as a way to recognize Rosenberry while putting the men’s club on the road to a stronger financial future. Rosenberry shared the banquet podium with history Professor David Schmitz, who has coached the team since 1985. “We acknowledged his extraordinary contribution and commitment,” Rosenberry said. “Dave Schmitz has made our lacrosse program rock solid.”

Rosenberry, a Seattle-area attorney, first played lacrosse at a Denver elementary school, which at the time had the only youth program west of the Mississippi. He played in high school and brought his lacrosse sticks when he enrolled at Whitman in 1977. By his sophomore year, Rosenberry had sparked interest in a team. Treasurer Pete Reid found money for a dozen lacrosse sticks, more fund raising followed, and players shared helmets, gloves and pads. Former prison football jerseys even found their way to the team.

By the spring of 1980, Whitman had 18 players and was ready to play its first games. “It was really a smorgasbord of students from different walks of life,” he said. “We had two other players who had a little exposure to lacrosse, but the rest had zero experience. All players, though, shared a common zeal for learning lacrosse.”

That inaugural season was a learning experience. “Though we were soundly defeated in each game, our players began to quickly pick up all phases of the game,” Rosenberry said. His 1981 senior season saw Whitman lose close decisions to the University of Washington and Willamette but then split games with Lewis & Clark on Ankeny Field during Renaissance Fair weekend. “Quite a large crowd packed the sidelines to watch us play,” he recalled. “Those games and the excitement they generated really anchored lacrosse at Whitman.”

Scott Jennings ’82, now a physician in Colorado Springs, Colo., played goalie on the first three Whitman teams. “Taking on that position without any experience and surrounded by defenders who were also learning the game, Scott was either terribly crazy or terribly courageous, or some combination thereof,” Rosenberry said. Other players on the early teams included Dave Wright ’80, Dean Clark ’80, Clark Davenport ’81, Mike Eickerman ’81, Bill Award ’81, Bob Bean ’81, Marcus Amerman ’81, Bill Scribner ’81, Pat Harrison ’83, Nick Pascalis ’82, Peter Anderson ’82 and Steve Tidd ’82.

Whitman alumni have helped spread the gospel of lacrosse. Rosenberry coached at a Colorado junior high for two seasons before going to law school. In 1991, he helped start a high school program in Vashon Island, Wash., and last spring his son during a lacrosse reunion game.

Photos courtesy of Charley Rosenberry ’81.

Whitman has been blessed with excellent goalies. “Most of our games are against larger schools that have more talent and depth,” Schmitz said. “One thing we’ve always had, though, is great play from our goalies, which can keep you in a lot of lacrosse games.”

Neal Aronson ’89 was my first goalie. Then, there was David Wickwire ‘91, who was a starting defenseman for two seasons and our goalie for two more. Among the others were Rick Turcocy ’93, Duc Pham ’96, and Ernie Burgess ’99.”

Whitman fielded one of its most talented teams in the spring of 1991. A senior class led by Wickwire, Matt Havens, Scott Shields, Ben Lenhart and Tom Dunham rolled to a 12-0 record and a fourth league title. That four-year run produced 33 victories against just three defeats. In 1995, John Kern, Cyrus Weinberger and Brian Harvey were among the seniors winning a title. Seniors on the next two championship teams included Burgess, Bill Burkoth, Eugene Kang and Steve Preikschat in 1999, and C. J. Calvert, Ben Boynton, Matt Rarity and Josh Hoopes in 2001.

Eric Timmreck ’96, a defensive standout in his early days, made a special effort to attend the reunion. Now living in Ireland, Timmreck rearranged a business trip to Seattle to coincide with Whitman’s lacrosse weekend!

For Schmitz, who holds the Robert Allen Skotchtein Chair of History at Whitman, finding that lacrosse has never been easy. “It’s always a challenge to find the time,” he said. “The team captains have to run practices if there are conflicts.” In some instances, in fact, captains and recent graduates have coached at games as well as practices. “We’ve been lucky to have people like Turcocy, Guy Antilla ’97, and Peter Liewicki ’00 fill those kind of roles,” Schmitz said. “Rosenberry and Jeff Razwick ’88 ran the team one year while I was off campus.”

The team operates on a budget of about $4,200, although most that goes to dues and referees. Players buy their own uniforms and equipment. Schmitz is hopeful the Rosenberry Fund can at least eliminate travel expenses for players.

All in all, Schmitz sees a stable, successful future for Whitman lacrosse. The PNCLL schools are affiliated with the U.S. Lacrosse Intercollegiate Associates, which represents more than 300 colleges and universities. That’s nearly three times the number of schools that compete in NCAA varsity lacrosse, Schmitz said. “What’s happening is that Whitman and a lot of schools are running ‘virtual varsity’ teams,” Schmitz said. “We play by the same NCAA varsity rules and use the same eligibility standards, and the caliber of play in our association is very high.”

For details on the Rosenberry Fund, contact David Schmitz at schmitdf@whitman.edu.