
Paul Clee, ’64, has written a book for young adults titled Photography and the Making of the American West (Shoestring Press, 2003). Clee, retired from the faculty of Tacoma Community College, tutors English and Spanish at College of the Redwoods in Eureka, California. Email Paul at pvclee@hotmail.com.


Jack Greene, ’71, is coauthor of The Black Prince and the Sea Devils: The Story of Valerio Borghese and the Elite Unit of The Decima MAS (Da Capo Press, 2003). The Decima MAS was the first modern naval commando squad. Its covert tactics became a standard for special forces around the world. Greene is the author of four previous books, including Ironclads at War.

Kenneth Price, ’76, is the author of To Walt Whitman, America (University of North Carolina Press, 2004). Price analyzes Walt Whitman as “a quintessential American icon” and notes especially Whitman’s “legacies for an ethnically and sexually diverse America.” Price is Hillegass Professor of American Literature at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.


Andrew Scobell, ’92, is the author of China’s Use of Military Force: Beyond The Great Wall and the Long March (Cambridge University Press, 2003). Scobell is on the faculty of the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania, where his work involves research on political and military affairs in the Asia Pacific.

In response to a question from one of her students one day, high school teacher Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, ’97, looked on the Internet to find out how “astronauts use the bathroom in outer space.” She noticed that NASA’s position for astronaut educator had been posted. “I got so excited. It seemed so perfect.”

In April, Metcalf-Lindenburger, a teacher and cross-country coach at Hudson’s Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington, was selected as a member of NASA’s 2004 astronaut candidate class.

She is one of three teachers in the 11-member class, which begins training this summer at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Her class joins a current corps of more than 100 astronauts who now train there.

Metcalf-Lindenburger grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado. A geology major at Whitman, she was a scholar-athlete who captured the Northwest Conference of Independent Colleges (NCIC) track title in the 10,000 meter race. She also competed on Whitman’s women’s cross-country team.

In her new position as astronaut educator, Metcalf-Lindenburger said she sees herself as a teacher for all people now. “A lot of kids aren’t necessarily interested in science and math,” she said. “But they do get excited about things like the Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity. I want to continue to build more connections with the community to get them jazzed about studying science.

“People are doing great things with their lives to further science,” she added. “I hope to bring the community into what’s going on.”

Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, ’97

Senator confirms Robart for judgeship

On June 17 the U.S. Senate confirmed President Bush’s nomination of Jim Robart, ’69, to serve as a federal district judge for Western Washington. Robart, who has 30 years of broad civil trial experience, fills a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Thomas Zilly. The U.S. Court for the Western District of Washington is based in Seattle and also hears cases in Bellingham and Tacoma.

Until his appointment, Robart was the managing partner of the Seattle law firm of Lane Powell Spears Lubersky LLP. He has been associated with the firm since 1973 and formerly chaired its litigation department. He is respected for his knowledge of complex class-action lawsuits, commercial litigation, labor and employment issues, and intellectual property disputes.

Robart is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He serves on the Ninth Circuit’s advisory board and is a past member of the board of governors for the Federal Circuit Bar Association. A trustee of Whitman College, Robart earned his law degree at Georgetown University in 1973. He is a Seattle native.
Faculty Award for Service:
Pat Spencer
Professor of Geology Patrick Spencer is the 2004 recipient of the Alumni Association Faculty Award for Service. Spencer, a member of the faculty since 1984, received the award for “sharing his love of the land” through participation in alumni events. For more than a dozen years, Spencer has led alumni-sponsored trips to the Rogue River, Glacier National Park, the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, and Steens Mountain, teaching about each region’s geology. He also has captivated alumni from Reno to Boston with his geology and dinosaur lectures.

Gordon Scribner Award:
Robb Ball, ’64
The alumni association has honored Robert Ball, ’64, with the 2004 Gordon Scribner Award for Distinguished Service to the College. Ball has long given his time and expertise to Whitman College as a volunteer. Elected an overseer in 1988, he provided leadership as vice chair of the western Oregon region and chair of the academic affairs and the development committees. He was appointed to the board of trustees in 1992 and served as its chair from 2000-2002. As a trustee he led the presidential search committee that hired Tom Cronin. Ball also has twice served as reunion chair for his class, and he and his wife, Julie Sims Ball, ’64, have hosted many Whitman events.

Alumnus of Merit Award:
Craig Lesley, ’67
The Whitman College Alumni Association has honored novelist and teacher Craig Lesley, ’67, with the 2004 Alumnus of Merit Award. Lesley is the author of four novels, Winterkill (1984), River Song (1989), The Sky Fisherman (1995), and the autobiographical Storm Riders (2000). The books have won honors from the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association and the Western Writers of America, and The Sky Fisherman and Storm Riders both received Pulitzer Prize nominations. Lesley also edited two anthologies of short stories, Talking Leaves (1991), coedited with his wife, Kathy Stavrakis) and Dreamers and Desperados (1993).

Lesley earned a master’s degree in English at the University of Kansas and an M.F.A. at the University of Massachusetts. He taught at Clackamas Community College in the Portland area for 25 years. Since then, he has served as the Hallie Ford Professor of English and Writer in Residence at Willamette University, as visiting writer in residence at Lewis & Clark College, and recently as visiting professor of English at Whitman.

Lesley has remained in close contact with Whitman, attending reunions and giving writing workshops and literary readings for students and alumni.

Frankie Ladley Wakefield, Class of 1927
Frankie Ladley Wakefield still appreciates her 1927 Whitman degree, and she still appreciates the sacrifices her parents made so that she could attend the small yet excellent college east of the mountains. At the time, the family — Herbert Ladley, his wife, Pearl, and their four children — lived in Seattle, where Herbert worked for Occidental Life Insurance Company.

“They believed in education and wanted to give their children good educations. They sent me to Whitman, paid my tuition, and saw that I graduated with my economics degree.”

Wakefield went on from Whitman to Simmons College in Boston, where she earned a degree in retailing. She spent several years as a personnel manager and education director for Willmark Service System in New York; a company that did employee and service surveys for businesses.

Returning to the West Coast, she worked as personnel manager at Leisl’s Apparel in Seattle, and later she was vice president of Metropolitan Business College, where she trained employees for work in the war effort. Wakefield also worked for various local government agencies. After her marriage to Lowell Wakefield, president of Wakefield Fisheries in Alaska, she spent time in Alaska, always returning to her home in Bellevue, Washington, where she now has lived for more than 45 years. Through her community service, Wakefield has honored her parents’ desire to see her educated and successful. Pearl and Herbert Ladley knew that good educations would insure the security and success of their children, and they believed that an education at Whitman College would be the basis for their children’s professional careers. Wakefield’s siblings, Gerald, Herbert, and Esther also attended Whitman.

Frankie Wakefield recently has chosen to honor her parents and also her brother Gerald, whose career was in education, by generously establishing the Herbert and Pearl Ladley Endowed Chair of Sciences and the Gerald DeRoss Ladley Memorial Scholarship Endowment at Whitman College.

Pete Reid Award:
Dan Nguyen-Tan, ’96
Dan Nguyen-Tan, ’96, received the 2004 Alumni Association Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni. Nguyen-Tan earned a master’s degree in public policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government in 1998. Returning to his hometown of Chico, California, he co-founded Golden Capital Network, which assists technology companies in raising venture capital. He is also a member of the loan administration board for the Tri-County Economic Development Corporation. In 2000, he was elected to the Chico City Council and now serves as finance chair.

Meanwhile, Nguyen-Tan has kept one foot in academia, working as an instructor in public finance at Chico State University. In addition, he is co-founder of Youth Nex.us, a youth philanthropy board, and has served as president of Big Brothers Big Sisters and on the board of the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project. He co-founded North State Renewable Energy, a consortium of community leaders, and is a board member of the Northern California Regional Land Trust.

Giving to Whitman — An Alumni Tradition
Endowed Chair of Sciences and the Gerald DeRoss Ladley Memorial Scholarship Endowment at Whitman College.

For information about gift annuities and similar gift arrangements, contact Jamie Kennedy, ’96, director of planned giving, 509-527-5989, or visit the planned giving website at www.whitman.edu/giving/pg.htm.
50th Reunion of the Class of 1954


