Since 1977, Dr. Larry Pedegana ’63 has kept the Mariners healthy enough to play ball!

By Dave Holden

He never threw a pitch, caught a fly ball or swung a bat, but Dr. Larry Pedegana ’63 played a critical role in the success of the Seattle Mariners baseball team for nearly three decades. Pedegana, who still suffers a bum knee from his days as a Whitman football player, stepped down this spring as director of the Mariners medical staff, having served as the team’s physician since the club’s inception in 1977.

To mark his retirement, the Mariners honored the doctor during pre-game ceremonies on Opening Day of the 2006 season at Safeco Field in early April. A handful of senior team officials huddled around home plate, presenting the orthopedic surgeon and former Whitman football star with a “Silver Scalpel.”

In parting ways with professional baseball, Pedegana takes with him enough memories to stuff a locker room or fill a book. He hasn’t forgotten the sense of excitement that came with his first few years in the Major Leagues, and time has yet to diminish the thrills of Seattle’s first-ever surge into the playoffs in 1995. He still marvels at the tremendous natural athlete that was the young Ken Griffey, Jr., and at the impressive success of the Seattle Mariners baseball team. “I am ready with stories about the circumstances that first turned him to Whitman and later to the Mariners,” he says.

After graduating from Issaquah High School in 1959, he enrolled at Whitman at the somewhat blunt suggestion of a school administrator. Summoned one day to the principal’s office, he approached the meeting with a “lot of fear and trepidation as I did have an occasional beer while in high school,” he says. “I sat down in his office, and he said, ‘Larry, I have been watching you the past couple of years, and you’re going to Whitman College.’ He went on to tell me that the admission was taken care of and there would be some financial aid for me.”

Nearing graduation from Whitman and earning his medical degree at the University of Alberta, Pedegana spent two years in the Navy and completed his residency at the University in Washington in 1976. With his own health taking a momentary hit (surgery for a benign brain tumor), he was forced to decline a fellowship at a Los Angeles orthopedic clinic headed by sports medicine pioneers Dr. Robert Kerlan and Dr. Frank Jobe.

“Many were times when I felt I was as much an amateur psychologist as I was an orthopedic surgeon,” he says. “There is a lot of emotion involved when an athlete is injured. I know I was a basket case when I suffered a serious injury during my sophomore year at Whitman. That was a very bad time for me. I almost flunked out of school.”

All was well, however, during Pedegana’s freshman football season. He started every game as a 6’0” and 155 pound fullback, and the Missionaries won their first four games en route to a 5-3 record. A year later, Whitman got off to another good start before injuries sidelined Pedegana and other key players.

Pedegana’s injury was diagnosed early that season as “water on the knee.” I was pretty unsophisticated and knew (the team physician) was right because he kept taking ‘water off my knee (using a needle and syringe).” Pedegana kept playing until the knee was severely injured late in the season. An orthopedic surgeon at that game diagnosed torn medial and lateral menisci. The physician, Ernest Burgess, later became one of Pedegana’s partners at Orthopedics International.

After missing his junior season, Pedegana returned to play what he remembers as a “mediocre” senior season. “I had lost some quickness and never regained confidence in my knee.” Meanwhile, he majored in biology and remembers retired professor Arthur Rempel had encouraged him to continue his education and consider a career in medicine.

After graduating from Whitman, Pedegana was well equipped to empathize with the emotional trauma he later saw in the faces and psyches of seriously injured Mariners players.

“Many were times when I felt I was as much an amateur psychologist as I was an orthopedic surgeon,” he says. “There is a lot of emotion involved when an athlete is injured.”

Those fraternity ties remain as strong as ever. With the end of his pro baseball career, Pedegana is pleased to have more time for one of his favorite Whitman traditions. He and fraternity brothers Jerry Hillis ’61, Morrie Shore ’60, Pat Smith ’61 and Jerry Hillis ’61. These brothers call themselves the “Geckers,” and they meet once a year for a vacation. Shown on a recent summer excursion are, from left to right, Pedegana, Morrie Shore ’60, Pat Smith ’61 and Jerry Hillis ’61.

Pedegana and three of his Phi Delta Theta fraternity brothers call themselves the “Geckers,” and they meet once a year for a vacation. Shown on a recent summer excursion are, from left to right, Pedegana, Morrie Shore ’60, Pat Smith ’61 and Jerry Hillis ’61.

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— Dr. Larry Pedegana ’63
Eugene Nordstrom ’62 is the author of "The Honeymoon Car" (Xlibris, 2006), a love story about two couples, decades apart, drawn together in an extraordinary way. “Out of the mist of time, a pristine Packard Super 8 pulls up to a fashionable lakeside resort. How could curious onlookers know their young passengers have come from a wedding that occurred 53 years earlier?”


Debra Dean ’80 is the author of “The Madonnas of Leningrad” (Harper Collins), a historical thriller partly set in the smoldering ruins of World War II. Amazon.com: “Russian emigré Marina Baruakos, 82, is preparing for her granddaughter’s wedding near Seattle while fighting a losing battle against Alzheimer’s. Struggling to remember whom Katie is, Marina does remember her youth as a Hermitage Museum docent as the siege of Leningrad began; it is into these memories that she disappears.”

James Hagen ’92 is the author of “Community in the Balance: Morality and Social Change in an Indonesian Society” (Paradigm Publishers, 2006). The book “examines the conflicts and tensions that permeate day-to-day interactions of a people in a remote region of the Eastern Indonesian province of Maluku,” according to Amazon.com.

Seattle author and Whitman alumna Lyanda Lynn Haupt ’87 is the author of “Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent: The Importance of Everything and Other Lessons from Darwin’s Lost Notebooks” (Little, Brown and Company, March 2006). The book looks at Charles Darwin’s development as a naturalist and what we can learn from his studies about taking time to notice and appreciate the small things in life. Haupt is also author of "Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds," winner of the 2002 Washington State Book Award.

Jessica Singer ’94 is the author of “Stirring Up Justice: Writing and Reading to Change the World” (Heinemann Publishing, 2006). This book takes you through Singer’s language arts workshops to reveal the possibilities for improving critical awareness and “to prove what a potent and lasting effect social activism can have on students,” according to the book jacket.
Camp Whitman!
Aug. 18-20, 2006
Penrose Point State Park, Puget Sound
A fun outdoor weekend is planned at the summer-camp home of Stephen B.L. Penrose, Whitman president from 1894-1914. The weekend will be a mini-summer camp experience with beach walks and evening campfires, as well as a chance to make new friends. Fifteen adjacent campsites (a campground loop) are reserved for Aug 18 and 19. Cost is $45 per campsite for both nights and $10 per night for additional vehicles. Most sites will accommodate one tent and in addition to a trailer, motorhome or camper. Bring camping equipment and food. The group can share cooking and meals, but each person should bring supplies needed to prepare meals. Not a camper? Being a picnic lunch and visit for the day on Saturday. Penrose relatives will be there with pictures and stories of the era and to lead a walk through the woods to the site of the Penrose family camp. Sites are first-come, first served by calling the Alumni Office. Registration deadline Aug. 1.

REGISTER EARLY FOR TOURS:
For information, call (800) 835-9448, ext. 1, or (509) 527-5167; e-mail hoglund@whitman.edu; or visit www.whitman.edu/alumni/tripschedule.cfm

Alumni from 1955 earns honorary doctorate in 2006

Described in a recent news story as “an elegant gentleman with great vision,” Robert W. Young ’55 was recognized at Commencement May 21 with the honorary degree doctor of public service. He was unable to attend the ceremony due to health reasons, but is doing well at his San Francisco home now.

A successful businessman, engaged community leader and philanthropist, Young exemplifies the attributes defined by the honorary degree and represents some of Whitman’s most cherished ideals.

A business administration and economics major at Whitman, Young invested in property in the Tri-Cities after college. These investments formed the base for what is now the successful real estate development and management business, Robert Young & Associates. And while his fortunes have risen and fallen with the economy of that area, he has steadfastly remained a supporter and benefactor of the Tri-Cities. In fact, one week after Whitman bestowed the honorary degree on Young, he was lauded in the Tri-City Herald as “one of the most prominent and well-respected developers in the TriCities.” Describing Young as “an elegant gentleman,” Richland’s Deputy City Manager Bill King also said Young’s “long-term commitment and faith in the community has really made a difference in the Tri-Cities today.”

Although Young and his wife, Jacqueline, have lived in San Francisco for nearly four decades, he has remained as high profile on the Whitman campus as in the Tri-Cities. He served on the Board of Overseers from 1976 to 1991, and was a lead contributor for construction of the Reid Campus Center, where the Young Ballroom bears his family’s name. He chaired the fund-raising effort for his 50th Whitman Class Reunion, which raised $4 million to endow at least one professorship. The reunion gift, unprecedented in size, includes a $3.6 million contribution from the Youngs, the single largest personal reunion gift to the college.

Ski with the President!

President George Bridges and Dr. Kari Tupper invite alumni, parents and friends to join them for skiing and socializing in beautiful Sun Valley. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Sun Valley Lodge the week of Jan. 25-30. Stay the weekend or longer. The Alumni Association will arrange group dinners. Friday’s dinner will be at the lodge; on Sunday, guests will be transported by sleigh to a cozy cabin. Skiing, skating, swimming in the outdoor heated pool and many other activities will fill the days, and the warmth of Whitman friendships, the nights. Call the Alumni Office for details about lodging and to make reservations for group meals.
45th Reunion of the Class of 1960


45th Reunion of the Class of 1961

Alumni Association honors ... 

... the doctor who defined Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Dr. Bruce Beckwith ’55 received the 2006 Alumni of Merit Award for a “lifetime spent searching for answers to life and death questions.”

Beckwith’s career accomplishments include defining and naming Sudden Infant Death Syndrome in 1969 while teaching and conducting research at Children’s Hospital in Seattle.

Beckwith, who attended medical school at the University of Washington, has earned numerous awards, including an honorary degree from Whitman in 1980 and the Distinguished Pathologist Award from the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology in 2005.

The Alumni of Merit Award, the highest honor the Alumni Association bestows, is given to alumni who have achieved distinction in their chosen fields, rendered outstanding service to their communities, or rendered outstanding service to the college.

Nominated by Mary Shukam Dorn 50.

Danielle Garbe ’97, winner of the 2006 Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni, joined Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s staff May 22 as a special assistant. Garbe accepted the “once-in-a-career offer” in late April, just as she was gearing up for what she thought would be her next assignment as a human rights officer at the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai, China.

She will be one of two staffers responsible for liaison duties between the secretary’s office and the rest of the U.S. Department of State. “It will be an interesting combination of my previous work in the Asia Bureau and my current job in the Operations Center with an additional layer of work and complexity,” she said.

Garbe graduated with honors from Whitman before earning a master’s in public administration at Columbia University in 2001. She has lived her life in the eye of the storm since, joining the U.S. Department of State in September of that year as a Foreign Service officer.

Her work assisting American victims of the 2002 terrorist attack in Bali was recognized by the State Department with a Superior Honor Award.

On her subsequent assignment to the Washington Bureau for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, she helped coordinate the interagency response to the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and in 2005 she joined the State Department Operations Center. She was working at the Ops Center when Hurricane Katrina struck. She described the center’s role and her work at a symposium on the hurricane at Whitman on Sept. 8, 2005.

For Whitman, Garbe continues to be active as an admission and associate class representative and as a Garrett-Sherwood Interview Committee member.

At the award ceremony on Feb. 6, she was cited by the Alumni Association as “a true example of what a liberally educated person is all about.”

Jim McCarthy ’63 has contributed nearly six decades of effort to his alma mater when all his stints of service are added together. The extraordinary work earned him the Alumni Association’s 2006 Gordon Scribner Award for Distinguished Service.

McCarthy returned to his alma mater in 1979 to serve as planned giving officer in the Development Office during the initial phases of the successful $50 million Campaign for Whitman.

As a volunteer, he served 20 years as a class representative, 15 years on the investment committee, 12 years on the Board of Overseers and 10 years as a member of the Planned Giving Council.

McCarthy is also a leader in the community, having served as school board, community college foundation and United Way presidents. He coached youth sports, co-chaired a YWCA building campaign, and serves on the state Foundation for Early Learning.

His career includes two tours of Vietnam as an adviser to Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford, and serves on the Board of Overseers and 10 years on the investment committee, 12 years on the Board of Overseers and 10 years as a member of the Planned Giving Council.

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Alumnus thankful for coach’s lasting gift

Jim Whiting ’65

With a last name starting with W, I found packages for required PE about the size of Paris Hilton’s acting talent when I went through freshman registration at Whitman in the fall of 1963. Bowling was long gone. So was everything else I wanted. Then the woman working with me had an idea. “Have you played tennis?” she asked. I had. Twice, that I could remember. Both times my buddies and I drove to the courts at Tacoma’s Point Defiance Park and tomahawked balls around. Three times across the net was a good rally. At least we understood the somewhat arcane scoring system.

So one warm sunny day in early September I wandered onto the Whitman tennis courts. I wasn’t alone. Three fellow frosh also had played tennis. And played it very well. So well, in fact, that one of them would go on to become one of the most enduring gifts I have ever received. I have always been deeply grateful to Bob Burgess for what he did for me. He introduced me to the sport of tennis and showed me I did have enough ability to become good at it if I so chose. Perhaps I might have been good enough to fill one of the lower rungs on his ladder.

But I doubt very much that that was on his mind on that long-ago September day. I believe that Bob loved tennis with the same burning passion that I feel toward running. I believe that his only burning passion that I feel toward running became my primary athletic passion.

Which does nothing to lessen what Bob did for me. He introduced me to the sport of tennis and showed me I did have enough ability to become good at it if I so chose. Perhaps I might have been good enough to fill one of the lower rungs on his ladder.

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Alumni athletes tapped for sports Hall of Fame

Missionary sports stars from yesteryear, two from the sprawling Seattle area and two from tiny Touchet, Wash., have been inducted into the Whitman Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2006.

Lawrence “Scotty” Cummins ’38 and the late Max Seachris ’58, graduates of nearby Touchet High School, were welcomed into the Hall of Fame in May.

The new inductees also include Calvin “Cal” Boyes ’51 and Timothy J. Smith ’61, who came to Whitman from Seattle-area high schools.

Seachris, an all-conference baseball pitcher who also helped Whitman win the Northwest Conference title in 1952, was sidelined from sports and college by polio. He regained his health and finished his degree in 1958. He divided his teaching, coaching and administrative career between two local high schools and his college alma mater, retiring as Whitman athletic director emeritus in 1988. He died in 2002 at age 79.

Cummins, 90, who played for legendary Whitman coach R.V. Borleske in the 1930s, was an all-conference athlete in baseball and football.

He received football contract offers from the New York Giants, but after serving in World War II, he opened Walla Walla’s Scotty Cummins Athletic Supply, which he ran until his retirement in 1975. He still lives in Walla Walla.

Boyes, 76, an all-conference football quarterback and three-sport letterman at Whitman, graduated to a career as a coach, professor and administrator at California State University at Sacramento.

He and his wife, Eileen Golden Boyes ’52, are retired and divide their time between Donner Lake, Calif., and Hawaii.

Smith, 66, rejected professional baseball contract offers to enroll at Whitman, where he earned all-conference honors in baseball and football. He played baseball in the same Missionary infield with his brother Dave Smith ’59 and earned the nickname of “Touchdown Tim” in football.

A retired computer analyst, he lives in Renton, Wash.

For the Love of Whitman and the Liberal Arts

The late Dudley Dambacher ’41 and his wife, Lois, established a charitable trust with a gift of real estate in 1994 to provide them with income for their lives and ultimately create a scholarship at Whitman to help students.

Prior to his death, Dudley, a devoted alumnus, served as an overseer and Alumni Fund class representative. Lois carries on their love for the college with her gifts and participation in alumni events in the Seattle area and summer reunions in Walla Walla.

Recently, Lois made the generous decision to terminate their trust by relinquishing her income from the trust in order to accelerate the establishment of a scholarship endowment. While Lois could certainly continue receiving the income from the trust, she would rather help students pay their tuition.

Lois worked with the planned giving office and her CPA to evaluate the benefits for her and for Whitman. Terminating the trust early entitled Lois to a charitable deduction and allowed Whitman to begin using the funds that were in the trust to provide scholarships for Whitman students. Now, students with strong leadership and academic skills are eligible to receive scholarship support from the G. Dudley and Lois Dambacher Scholarship.

For more information or to discuss options that meet your estate planning needs, contact Jamie Kennedy ’96, director of planned giving, at (509) 527-3989. Visit www.whitman.edu/giving/pg.cfm.
On campus this fall

James Fallows
Sept. 14, 2006

James Fallows is The Atlantic Monthly’s national correspondent and has worked for the magazine for more than 20 years. His talk, “U.S. Foreign Policy in a Complex and Dangerous World,” will be part of the O’Donnell Visiting Educators Series. For information, call 527-5398.

Opening at HJT
Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2006

The 2006-07 season opens with “Mr. Marmalade,” under the direction of Christopher Petit, assistant professor of theatre. The script looks at the games people play as seen through the eyes of an extraordinary 4-year-old with an imaginary friend, “Mr. Marmalade.” Watch the Harper Joy Theatre Web site for ticket information: www.whitman.edu/theatre/

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Walla Walla, WA 99362