Construction of Fouts Center for Visual Arts is under way

The Board of Trustees has honored the late Elizabeth Fouts van Oppen ’40, the matriarch of a three-generation Whitman family and an alumna with a lifelong devotion to the arts and education, by naming the newest campus building in her memory. The 38,000-square-foot Fouts Center for Visual Arts, currently under construction south of Reid Campus Center, will provide space for the college’s burgeoning visual arts program with dedicated areas for painting, sculpture, drawing, digital arts, welding, instruction, and exhibits.

“A strong Whitman connection and a commitment to visual arts inspired Elizabeth van Oppen’s life,” said President George Bridges.

“She had a profound influence on the people she loved,” Bridges said. “Her friends and family named their daughter ‘Betty’ in her honor. Her mother, Frits, settled in the Los Angeles area where they raised three children. She pursued a master’s in education from Boise, Idaho, and graduated from Whitman with degrees in music and English. After WWII, van Oppen and her husband, Frits, settled in the Los Angeles area where they raised three children. She pursued a master’s in education, taught for 16 years, was designated a California State English Teacher Specialist and was a board member and state officer of the California Association of Teachers of English.

In 1980, while directing the choir at Hillcrest Congregational Church in La Habra, Calif., van Oppen envisioned and founded the Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts. She was director during its first four years, and it lives on today. Betty’s grandchildren came from Nebraska, and her family was the first in the state to send five kids to university,” Frits van Oppen said. “They were an education-oriented family.”

He is delighted the building will be named after his wife’s family. “If she knew this was happening, she would be astonished,” he said.

The van Oppens relocated to Mercer Island in 1969, and Elizabeth passed away in August 2000.

President appoints college’s new provost/dean of faculty

A nationally recognized advocate of undergraduate research and creative activity, Lori Bettison-Varga has been appointed provost and dean of the faculty, effective July 1, 2007.

The provost/dean is the chief academic officer of the college and the second in command to the president. The expectations of this position include forging a vision for academic excellence, providing academic leadership and enhanced professional support for faculty, and generating new interdisciplinary initiatives.

Bettison-Varga is currently president of the Council on Undergraduate Research, director of the Keck Geology Consortium, and professor of geology and associate dean for research and grants at The College of Wooster, Ohio.

“Dr. Bettison-Varga has extensive experience in and understanding of the unique role that liberal arts colleges play in American higher education. She will bring to Whitman a keen awareness of national debates on undergraduate learning and agility in addressing the academic challenges that Whitman faces,” President George Bridges said.

“Not only did our intensive, national search yield a wonderful leader, teacher and administrator, but also reaffirmed that this college is held in very high regard throughout the nation,” President Bridges said. “I can’t imagine a better fit for me, and I am honored to join Whitman’s distinguished community,” said Bettison-Varga.

“Whitman devotes itself with extraordinary focus and commitment to the success of faculty as teacher-scholars, and students in developing their intellectual and personal self-confidence in a technologically, changing, multicultural world. I embrace that pure focus and the transformative power of Whitman’s liberal arts education.”

Bettison-Varga earned her bachelor’s degree in geology with honors from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and her master’s and Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis.

Her husband, Robert Varga, is Shoshoyo Chair of Natural Resources, associate professor of geology and chair of the geology department at The College of Wooster. They have three children.

Trustees honor memory of Whitman matriarch

In the same week that Earthjustice international attorney Martin Wagner ’83 returned to Whitman, Kennedy spoke to a full house at Corliner Hall about themes in his book, “Crimes Against Nature.”

As a backdrop to both events, “The Canary Project,” a Shenan Gallery photo exhibition documenting the effects of global warming, amplified Wagner’s and Kennedy’s warnings.

In the same breath that he celebrated nature as “the infrastructure of our community,” Kennedy saluted “the strong sense of community” at Whitman. “(This college) has a high commitment to environmental advocacy,” he said, “and advocacy and activism are what it’s all about.”

The Associated Students of Whitman College Public Speakers Series, chaired by Cory Ulrich ’07, brought Kennedy to campus.

“When we destroy nature, we diminish ourselves and impoverish our children,” he told a crowd of 1,121 Whitman students, faculty, staff and Walla Walla residents. “This is not just the destruction of the environment. It’s the subversion of democracy.”

Bob Carson, Grace Farnsworth Phillips professor of geology and environmental studies at Whitman, said Kennedy’s speech was “outstanding for our students” and “important for the larger community to hear.”

Kennedy, a master falconer, avid whitewater rafter and president of Waterkeeper Alliance, declared that he was a strong advocate of free-market capitalism in solving environmental problems. The idea captured the attention of many students in the audience.

“I thought the view he presented using free-market solutions was very interesting,” said Matt Stenovec ’08, an environmental humanities major.

“It’s challenging to think about deregulation in terms of environmental protection.”
Students publish journal, showcase economic research

Once a week, in a scene vaguely reminiscent of “Wall Street Week With Louis Rukeyser,” Karl Storchmann, associate professor of economics, and a quartet of Whitman students gather in a second-floor lounge at Maxey Hall to talk economics.

Their purpose is larger than forecasting the ebb and flow of the Dow or deconstructing the merits of Keynesian theory. With Storchmann’s guidance, Eden Essick ‘08, Peter Griffin ‘09, Ben Keefer ‘08 and Stacy Miller ‘07 are busy editing and publishing the “Whitman College Economics Department Working Papers,” a vehicle for student and faculty research.

Storchmann initiated the project, but he allows that Essick, Griffin, Keefer and Miller “run the show.”

“I was the instigator, but now I keep a low profile,” he said. “I just advise them.”

The journal was launched last fall with Working Paper No. 1, a 22-page analysis by Whitman alumnus Brian Ritchie ‘06 on the relationship between gasoline prices and the depreciation rate of used automobiles. On its heels came a study by Michael Wert ‘06, using Germany as his model, of the political economy behind the subsidization of cultural institutions.

“The papers provide a venue for students and professors to get involved in the publishing process,” Keefer said.

“Students who submit pieces gain experience working with a peer-reviewed journal, and as editors learn about how the whole process works.”

Working Paper No. 3 was published in January. No. 4, a report by Storchmann titled “Global Warming and Wine: a Simultaneous Model for Alasce from 1525-1875,” is in the works.

Storchmann and his students designed the journal collectively. The publication boasts an International Standard Serial Number and, as a result, occupies a place in the archives of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

“We are aiming for 10 to 12 issues per year,” Storchmann said. “We print about 300 copies (each between 30 and 55 pages).”

For Keefer and other students whose academic goals stretch beyond undergraduate study, the working papers are an engine for top-flight research.

“If students are aware that an exceptional term paper or thesis may be published in our series, they may be inspired to produce exceptional work,” he said.

— Keith Raether

Honor roll spotlights value of community service

Dr. Seuss Day on campus, the Story Time Project at the Walla Walla library, after-school mentoring at Walla Walla elementary schools, and fund-raisers that netted about $5,000 for Hurricane Katrina Relief.

These annual programs and need-based efforts, and many more like them, earned Whitman a spot on the national President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for 2005-06.

The national honor roll program was created to recognize colleges and universities for outstanding work in their communities and the broader global community.

“It’s an honor to receive national recognition for community service as it speaks to the ideals that Whitman values,” said Tony Cabacino ’90, dean of admission and financial aid.

Students turn stats into exhibit on personal stories of HIV/AIDS

For Caitlin Chapman ’07, the epiphany began as gossipings at Whitman so often do, with a single course: an ethnographic fieldwork methods class. It resulted in a series of stories and images that became a full-blown exhibition and the foundation of her senior thesis.

The class that transformed Chapman was co-taught by Suzanne Morrissey, lecturer of anthropology and gender studies, and Jason Pribilsky, assistant professor of anthropology. Through it Chapman discovered — and experienced firsthand — a world she had to share: the lives and life histories of local residents afflicted by AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

“The story of these lives is so much more than a statistical analysis will ever reveal,” she said. “The project I created seemed a more intimate way of presenting data from the field.”

“The beauty of teaching at Whitman is seeing how a student’s work so often grows into something much larger. Something that embraces relationships in the world.”

— Suzanne Morrissey, lecturer of anthropology, gender studies

Chapman’s work was displayed in December in the lower-level lounge of Reid Campus Center. She titled the exhibit “Positive.”

“A rhetoric of risk” about AIDS has emerged in the United States, Chapman believes. The speculating “has served to delineate between those who are ‘at risk’ and those who are not — ‘us versus them.’

“Because of this, those who are infected are often seen as being to blame for their illness due to associated ‘moral failings’ like intravenous drug use, sex work and homosexuality,” she said. “Such a categorical and formulated conceptualization of the illness has led to the pernicious mentality that ‘AIDS can’t happen to me.’

“The human toll of AIDS is staggering. The disease has claimed more than 25 million lives since it was first recognized in 1981. Nearly 40 million others worldwide are living with the disease.

“These individuals are your neighbors, friends, sisters, brothers, husbands, fathers, wives, and/or lovers,” said Chapman. “They are not the ‘other,’ though they certainly know what it feels like to be told that they are.”

Chapman gathered the content for her project over a four-month period. She conducted in-depth interviews with each participant and often had access to personal effects such as letters and drawings. She also provided disposable cameras and asked participants to document aspects of their lives that made them “unique.”

“The beauty of teaching at Whitman is seeing how a student’s work so often grows into something much larger,” said Morrissey. “Something that embraces relationships in the world.”

— Keith Raether

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Jan. 5 printed an opinion piece by David Schmitz, professor of history noting the parallels between the Iraq and Vietnam wars. Schmitz was also quoted on this subject in The New York Times and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The Sprague Institute’s launch of a new online magazine, Ivory Tower America. Kate Greenberg,..
**CAMPUS NEWS**

**Campus Climate Challenge heats up interest in renewable energy on campus**

For Karlis Rokpelnis ’09, the Whitman chapter of the Campus Climate Challenge has opened her eyes to the importance of environmental studies.

"I began to see my education in the context of larger issues that have to do with the future of democracy, international peace and economic justice," she says. "It is something that has steered her "life, teaching and scholarship ever since."

"The experiences Rokpelnis has gathered, from the farmlands of Mazsalaca in northeastern Latvia and the wheat fields of Walla Walla, illustrate Morefield's commitment to increase the amount of energy produced on campus through renewable resources, she says."

"It is an integral part of the UWC move - it covers all expenses for American students enrolled in UWC programs, and, through its Davis Scholars Program, also provides scholarships for UWC graduates to attend U.S. undergraduate institutions. Of the 10 UWC scholars at Whitman, eight are Davis scholars.

"Involvement in the local community is the only way you can effect change," he says. "That is at the heart of my UWC education."

"I learned how it is important to be vocal in the community in which you live," says Maria 'Belu' Seara '07. "Seara, who sits on the UWC Advisory Committee for Argentina, enrolled at Whitman after graduating from UWC-Pearson in Canada."

"Seara was involved in the creation of a group at Whitman to address issues of discrimination and class awareness. "I wanted to accelerate the ongoing efforts to raise awareness against hate and bias issues. Whitman as an institution is a good partner for such aspirations. Recognition that values taught by

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— Karlis Rokpelnis ’09

Whitman's United World College Scholars exemplify the value of being good citizens of the world. (Left to right) Jason Macwan ’07, India; Celani Diamini ’10, Swaziland; Neda Ansari ’10, India; Karlis Rokpelnis ’09, Latvia; and Aakanksha Veenapani ’09, India.

"Programs are the same as ones championed by Whitman brought together the UWC alumni at Whitman and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to shape a common strategy. Global awareness, local participation and emphasis on diversity at Whitman will be well served, members of the UWC Advisory Committee feel, by recruiting more Davis scholars. "UWC students tend to extend this excitement about community service and social justice to whatever college or university they eventually attend," says Morefield.

— Pravin Adhikari ’06

**EFTS ON CAMPUS EARN NATIONAL ATTENTION**

- In September, 2006, efforts by Juliaana Williams '07 to increase the college's renewable energy earnings earned her the national Sierra Club's Joseph Barboza Earth Fund Award, which recognizes a club member under the age of 30.
- The Whitman Campus Climate Greens began raising awareness on campus for campus climate change and its impact on the college environment.
- In May, 2007, Whitman was honored by the college's Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Partner.
- Gifts as “enormous,” especially in tandem with a full seminar of classes. But the hours spent e-mailing professors and attending meetings with college staff paid off as Smith, a gender studies major, and students in her group raised more than 54,300 to purchase the wind-powered electricity for Whitman. They sent letters about the program to faculty, staff, and the college's use of renewable energy earned their the national Sierra Club's Joseph Barboza Earth Fund Award, which recognizes a club member under the age of 30. The Whitman chapter set goals and in one hectic semester met many of them. The Whitman chapter set goals and in one hectic semester met many of them.

**WHITMAN CAMPUS CLIMATE CHALLENGE GOALS**

- Revise college's environmental principles: Drafted revisions to be more proactive in promoting environmental responsibility on all levels at the college. Revisions under review.
- Educate nearly 200 faculty and staff on the University of Washington State Initiative 937, which requires all major utilities to get at least 15 percent of their electric power from renewable sources by 2020. Initiative passed.
- Develop Alternative Energy Gift Fund. Raised $1,370 for renewable energy at Whitman so far, and the project continues. To help Whitman purchase renewable energy, go to www.whitman.edu, click on Giving, then Make an Online Gift. Specify Campus Climate Challenge Alternative Energy Donations.
- Educate Whitman community about global warming. Gave presentations in classrooms, town hall and some student groups and with speakers and film screenings of “An Inconvenient Truth,” featuring former Vice President Al Gore.

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— Pravin Adhikari ’06
Art is in the hands of the beholder

For this Missionary, it could be a 3-point shot or a landscape painting

In what may have been a “first” for a Whitman basketball player, Aaron Hazel ’07 held his own art show in conjunction with two home games in February. Hazel, a 6-foot-6 center and studio art major from Boise, Idaho, placed several paintings on display in the Seacrest Room, adjacent to the mezzanine that surrounds the Sherwood Center basketball floor.

The show and the games were a noted success. Hazel was a key contributor to two Whitman victories, and fans were treated to a firsthand look at the multidented nature of Missionary student-athletes.

Hazel has been sketching and drawing for years, but his serious interest in painting developed at Whitman. After taking his first painting class, “I felt like I had found my groove, and I’ve loved it ever since.”

He likes traditional landscapes and portraiture, and has found his painting has wandered into the abstract realm of depicting contemporary pop culture.

“I enjoy exploring shapes and colors, and how they interact with one another, as well as focusing on the surface and texture of the painting,” he says.

Philip Miner, a visiting assistant professor of art at Whitman, sees an athletic side to Hazel’s paintings.

“Aaron manages to leverage his talents on the basketball court into the field of visual art,” Miner says. “His athleticism is evident in the physicality of his painting technique. He uses squeegees, trowels, blades and large brushes to scrape, drag and spread paint across the surface of his paintings.”

Hazel draws on both sides of his family gene pool for his athletic and artistic talents. His father Michael played basketball at Boise State University, where he met Aaron’s mother Becky. His mom’s brother, Dan Barness, is “extremely gifted at painting realistic portraits,” Hazel says. “I have always wanted to have the same artistic ability.”

A basketball co-captain, Hazel missed his season-opening game in November when he traveled to New York City as part of Whitman’s annual excursion of art majors. In his first game back, he scored 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and he continued to play well until a broken left hand temporarily sidelined him in mid-December. A lefty, Hazel says, the broken hand was a “very humbling time for me. I still had all of my fingers, so I was able to paint in my abstract fashion, but getting back to basketball was a little more difficult.”

After graduating in May, Hazel plans to put his artistic talent to work for an advertising firm. He’s also working on plans for two Internet-based companies and a reality TV show.

“There are a lot of things I’d like to do,” he says with a chuckle.

— Dave Holden

Student to study global policy at Princeton for summer

Remember Annelle Mendez ’08 from the December 2006 Whitman Magazine story on students who learned how to make biodiesel and taught others in Central America how to make it? This summer, Mendez will spend six weeks at the Public Policy and International Affairs Program at Princeton University.

The PPA Summer Institute seeks to increase leadership opportunities for future global policy leaders in both public and nonprofit sectors.

Mendez, a chemistry-environmental studies major with a minor in French, grew up in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. As a teenager traveling through rural Honduras, Mendez saw close ties between environmental deterioration and public welfare. She believes it is “crucial to integrate environmental principles into poverty reduction strategies that are currently part of the agenda of organizations such as the United Nations Development Program and the World Health Organization.” This is an agenda she hopes to “champion and execute through Latin America.”

Senior to explore democracy as intern in German parliament

As an intern to a parliamentary in the German Bundestag, Kyrstin Floodoe deen ’07 will be “working right in the heart of the government of one of the major powers in Europe.”

“This is the first time that a Whitman student has received one of these internships,” said Robert Tobin, professor of foreign languages and literatures (German).

The program, Internationales Parlamente-Praktikum, “provides experience with democracy firsthand, as well as insight into current political, economic and cultural interests in Germany,” says Floodoe deen, of Sammamish, Wash.

A total of 20 central European countries and the United States participate. Floodoe deen is one of 10 American students in a five-month long program that begins this month. She will live with one other participant in housing arranged by the program. She will receive living expenses and the opportunity to attend Humboldt University in Berlin.

Interning in the German parliament, “she’ll need to speak politically and culturally sophisticated German,” Tobin said. “Kyrsti will be able linguistically to communicate and without requiring a great deal of language help. Very few Americans are in that position.”

Floodoe deen’s duties for a German parliamentarian will range from helping in the office to visiting the representative’s constituency outside Berlin. “It seems to be a lot of work that will be policy research, as well as paper work or even fielding incoming phone calls,” she said.

The German history double major recognizes the merits of this opportunity.

“I think we will all be playing a sort of ambassador-type role for our countries.” — Pravin Adhikari ’06

WWW

For more information about the program, visit http://bundestag.de/jugend/ausprog/opp/kompakt/usa.html.

Campus News

Whitman Men’s Lacrosse coach and team scoop up national sportsmanship award

Whitman men’s lacrosse team and its coach, David Schmitz, Robert Allen Skotheim chair of history, received the 2006 James “Ace” Adams Sportsmanship Award from the U.S. Lacrosse Men’s Division Collegiate Officials Committee.

Schmitz has been the volunteer coach of the men’s lacrosse team since he came to Whitman in 1985. In that span, the team has won seven league championships and finished second five times in the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League.

“The officials who work in your district voted your team and fans as those who exhibited the best sportsmanship of all the schools in your district throughout the 2006 season,” Collegiate Officials Committee Chair John Hill said in a letter.

David Schmitz

Schmitz was the first president of the league and currently serves as treasurer.

“The award is a great honor because it recognizes what we strive to accomplish on the team — to put academics and principles first, uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship and win within this framework,” he said.

“ar that acknowledged by the offi- cials and our national organization says that Whitman lacrosse has earned the respect of its competitors and lacrosse fans.”

Recent achievements by Whitman scholar-athletes:

SOCCER

Kristen Bernsodd ’08 (Mesan, Wash.)
Dick’s Kids First Team All-American, NCCAA All-Region First Team, ALLYNF First Team, NWC Player of Week (twice)

Sammie Arthur ’07 (Tauron, Calif.)
Dick’s Kids Second Team All-American, NCCAA All-Region Third Team, ALLYNF Second Team

Erin Frame ’07 (Issaquah, Wash.)
Dick’s Kids Third Team All-American, AllNW Honor Mention Player

Corina Gabbett ’10 (Portland, Ore.)
NCCAA All-Region Third Team, All-NWC Second Team

CROSS COUNTRY

Sam Clark ’07 (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
All-NWC, NCCAA DIII All-Region

Sara McConnell ’08 (Cotulla, Ore.)
All-NWC, NCCAA DIII All-Region

Yasmeen Celis ’10 (Walla Walla)
NCCAA DIII All-Region

VOLLEYBALL

Kate Borsato ’07 (White Rock, B.C.)
All-NWC First Team, NWC Player of Week (twice), SCHOOL RECORD 159 career assists

Rosa Brey ’09 (Toronto, Ont.)
NWC All-Region Second Team, ALLYNF Second Team, NWC Player of Week (twice)

Leslie Compasen ’08 (Everest, Wash.)
All-NWC, NCCAA DIII All-Region

BASKETBALL

Kyle Born ’07 (Shoreline, Wash.)
ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Second Team, ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American Second Team, NWC Player of Week (twice), SCHOOL RECORD 33 points, single game, 300 REB in career, single game

Chris Faidley ’08 (Kirkland, Wash.)
All-NWC Honorable Mention, NWC Player of Week (twice)

Kesley Krumdieck ’08 (San Diego, Calif.)
All-NWC, NCCAA DIII All-Region

Katie Patneaude ’07 (Seattle)
All-NWC Second Team, freshmen career with 117 points (nine at-time at Whitman)

MEN’S TENNIS

Phalukh Mam ’07 (Salem, Ore.)
ITA NW Region Singles Champion, NCCAA DIII National Tournament, NWC Player of Week

Matt Solomon ’07 (Los Gatos, Calif.)
NWC All-Region Singles, NWC Player of Week

Nadeem Kassam ’10 (Vancouver, B.C.)
ITA NW Region Doubles Title

DANISH SKIING

Kyrstin Floodoe deen ’07

DKicks.com First Team All-American, Erin Frame ’07 (Walla Walla)
All-NWC, NCAA DIII All-Region

All-NWC Honorable Mention

All-NWC Second Team

DKicks.com Third Team All-American, Sara McConnell ’08 (Cotulla, Ore.)
NWC All-Region Second Team, ALLYNF Second Team

Corina Gabbett ’10 (Portland, Ore.)
NCCAA All-Region Third Team, All-NWC Second Team

http://bundestag.de/jugend/ausprog/opp/kompakt/usa.html

WWW

For more information about the program, visit http://bundestag.de/jugend/ausprog/opp/kompakt/usa.html.
CAMPUS NEWS

Researchers honored for mentoring young scientists

“Science today requires teamwork by experts from many different fields, some as distant as physics is to psychology or economics is to poetry,” says Susan Weiler, a research associate in biology at Whitman since 1981. It is this philosophy and the boundless enthusiasm she has devoted toward generating this kind of teamwork that earned Weiler the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Limnology and Oceanography at the organization’s annual conference in Santa Fe, N.M., in February.

The award was presented to her for “outstanding leadership in the professional development and mentoring of the next generation of aquatic scientists.”

Weiler is known among her peers for this mentorship and for working to reduce barriers that limit interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research. She established the first Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Limnology and Oceanography Symposium in 1994 for the purpose of reducing such barriers. In that first symposium and the six since then, Weiler has provided training and resources for scientists preparing for an interdisciplinary research career. Perhaps more important, she says, “I provide a place where a cohort of scientists who are all at the same stage in their career stages can meet, share their ideas, their successes and failures, and develop a lasting collegial network that will strengthen and grow through their professional lifetimes.”

On a daily basis, Weiler has mentored researchers through a database she coordinates on ASLO’s Web site that now includes more than 1,500 Ph.D. dissertation abstracts.

“This award is very special to me because I am being honored for service to others,” Weiler says. “The challenges before us cannot await. We need to catalyze the progress. The best way that I can do this is to seed the new generation with hope and the tools they need to get the job done.”

To view Weiler’s weekly aquatic sciences electronic newsletter, visit http://aslo.org/bld.html. For resources, visit http://marcus.whitman.edu/~weiler/resources/

ONE-ACT WONDERS

Now in its 18th year, Whitman’s renowned One-Act Play Contest continues to draw aspiring playwrights and interested audiences to Harper Joy Theatre. Of the 15 playwrights who entered, three were selected for productions in February. (Above) Sarah Hathaway ’09 played Muse in “Anticipating Life” by playwright Katrina Phillips ’08.

Books explore French reincarnation and spiritism, African culture

“Culture and Customs of the Central African Republic”

Jacqueline Woodfork’s first semester at Whitman coincided with the publication of her book, “Culture and Customs of the Central African Republic.” The volume is part of a series on the culture and customs of Africa published by Greenwood Press. More important, it is the first book to provide a comprehensive cultural overview of the former French colony. “The Central African Republic is one of the most obscure countries in the world,” the assistant professor of history said. “There’s very little literature about it in French or English. The civil unrest in Chad, the Congos and Sudan has commanded most of the attention in the region.”

Borders by Chad to the north, Sudan on the east, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the south, and Cameroon on the west, the Central African Republic is also one of the poorest countries in the world. But Woodfork’s book captures a country diverse in ethnic groups and subgroups, and rich in customs and traditions: trading, farming, cuisine, dress, art, architecture, music and dance.

“The people of the Central African Republic have great vocabularies for food and drink,” she noted. Woodfork taught at Loyola University in New Orleans for five years before coming to Whitman in 2006 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. If she is pleased with her new post at the college, she is happier still to have survived the hurricane. Woodfork lived in New Orleans, between Louisiana and Kentucky streets, at a higher elevation than most of the city. For her next book Woodfork plans to turn her attention to Senegal—specifically, the Senegalese soldiers of World War II.

“Secular Spirituality: Reincarnation and Spiritism in Nineteenth-Century France”

Lynn Sharp credits her father for her interest in French history. “When my dad returned from World War II, he brought a lot of French drinking songs with him. After I heard them, I wanted to know all about France.” Sharp, associate professor of history, has long since magnified her search by a high power. Last fall she published “Secular Spirituality: Reincarnation and Spiritism in Nineteenth-Century France” (Lexington Books, 270 pages), a book that challenges the conventional notion of separation between reason and religion during the Enlightenment.

“I was inspired by spiritual explorations we might think of as abormal or crazy that normal people, nonetheless, were driven by during that time,” she said.

Sharp’s study tracks the search by the French, beginning with the romantic socialists, for a new secular spirituality, a pursuit that viewed reincarnation as an essential path to progress. “In the book, I look at ways that spiritism circles around faith and science, and how the material relates to the mundane. Spiritism wasn’t an irreverent thing. People of that time and place were creating an urban faith,” Sharp says. Sharp is in her eighth year at Whitman after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine. She enjoys the life of the mind that the college affords every bit as much as she enjoyed the stir of the spirit when she first heard her father’s French drinking songs.

“Whitman is intellectually alive,” she said. “The people here are stimulating. They’re interesting and interested. They’re curious. It’s a community that reflects the essence of learning.”

Awards

Elaine Downing, employee and personnel officer for more than three decades, dies

Elaine Downing, who began in the stenographic service on campus in April of 1967 and finished her career as the personnel officer in July 1990, died Jan. 15, 2007, in Walla Walla. She was 74.

Downing began her career as an assistant in the Central Stenographic Service on campus, then became an assistant in the Office of the Provost, a job she held for a decade. In July of 1978, she was named assistant to the provost and assistant personnel officer.

From July 1980 to May 1986, she served as personnel officer and assistant to the provost. In 1986, she took on the sole duties of personnel officer, a job she held until her retirement in July 1990.

She also served on the Walla Walla City Civil Service Commission and chaired the Blue Mountain Chapter of the American Society for Personnel Administration. She is survived by her husband, Duane Downing, at their Walla Walla home, and two daughters and a son-in-law.

Visit whitman.edu/bookstore/ for her next book Woodfolk plans to turn her attention to Senegal—specifically, the Senegalese soldiers of World War II.
Among the highlights of The State of the State 2006 are the following:

- **K-12 Education:** While it is of deep concern that fewer than 50 percent of students graduate from high school, educational programs have improved, and efforts to promote high academic achievement are promising. Alternative public schools across the state show markedly greater gains in racial and ethnic equality in their student graduating populations in comparison to traditional high schools. High achievement, in turn, depends on programs that connect parents to their children's school and to adult learning opportunities.

- **Early Childhood Education:** Effective preschool programs for Latino children are rare and fragmented, with bilingual community health worker programs and bilingual home culture and language, and also provide health and social services. Migrant Head Start has accomplished many things that merit strong support. Washington's Building Bridges preschool teacher training program also offers a model approach to enhancing the capacity of teachers to provide culturally appropriate early childhood education.

- **High School:** The large disparities disproportionately feel the effects of college tuition fee increases that are outstanding incomes as well as the shift in college aid from grants to loans. While structural efforts to address this racial inequality are necessary, special programs such as TRiO-Educational Talent Search enhance the "cultural capital" enabling Latinos to access existing college aid resources.

- **Juvenile Delinquency:** Latino youth are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system and become further disadvantaged as they move through the system, as extralegal factors such as socioeconomic programs on homelessness impact case processing. In several jurisdictions, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative has led to successful responses to these problems including culturally competent detention alternatives and race-neutral screening criteria.

- **Health Care:** Latinos in general and Latino immigrants in particular, especially the undocumented, access health care at lower rates than the population at large. The State should insure more children through the Children's Health Plan for children accessing health community health worker programs through research and funding. Culturally knowledgeable outreach by promoters also promotes the prevention of HIV, which disproportionately affects Latinos, by diminishing the inhibitory factors to HIV testing such as fears of social stigma.

- **Farmworker Housing:** Lead poisoning, respiratory illness and pesticide exposure are disturbingly common health issues stemming from the standard housing where farmworker families often live. Along with residential instability and the geographical isolation of these dwellings, these factors adversely affect children's ability to attend and succeed in school. New public investment to improve and develop farm worker housing is urgently needed.

- **Homeownership:** Latino homeownership rates lag behind those of the population at large, and income disparities and immigration-related problems help generate this situation. Community-based housing assistance agencies should offer Latino-specific programs on homeownership including bilingual workshops on debt and income management.

- **Domestic Violence:** The factors that lead to disproportionately high rates of domestic violence among Latinos gain force with post-immigrant generations born in the United States. While domestic violence interventions typically offer after the fact services, successful prevention programs are both needed and possible: programs that focus on youth, are based on collaboration among schools, community organizations, and families, and build on cultural strengths inhibiting domestic violence.

- **Voting Rights:** Political jurisdictions abound in Washington where there is a stark mismatch between the Latino population and the proportion of Latino political representatives. Statistical evidence in this report shows the existence of structural barriers to Latino representation, suggesting the need for court-ordered remedies under the federal Voting Rights Act. As a result of this report, the U.S. Justice Department is looking into whether the city elections in Sunnydale, Wash., violate the Voting Rights Act.

- **Political Mobilization:** Latino youth surveyed both highly value and keenly desire greater political participation but are uncertain about what steps to take. The secretary of state's initiative to inspire youth voter mobilization should be expanded to include bilingual civics education and education in the history of minority voting rights.

César Chávez once said, “We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our communities. ... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.”

For more information on the report, visit www.walatinos.org.
Editor's note: The U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Ryan Crocker as ambassador to Iraq on March 6, 2007, the day this issue went to press. When he was interviewed, prior to his confirmation, Crocker felt it would be inappropriate to answer questions on Iraq policy.

(L-to-R) U.S. Rear Admiral Mike LeFever, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan Crocker '71 and USAID Disaster Assistance Response leader Bill Berger held a press conference in Pakistan on Oct. 20, 2005, detailing the U.S. relief effort following the earthquake that killed more than 70,000 people earlier that month.

Q & A

with Ryan Crocker '71
U.S. Ambassador to Iraq

Over the past two months, Ambassador Ryan Crocker '71 has traveled back and forth from Islamabad, Pakistan, to Washington, D.C., for briefings and confirmation hearings, preparing for his new role as ambassador to Iraq while still working in the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan. He also has made time for Whitman, meeting with President George Bridges in D.C., and agreeing to share with fellow alumni, via e-mail, the following insights about his career.

Q How has your career prepared you for this momentous role in Iraq?

A Most of my career has been in the Middle East, including an earlier tour in Iraq. I was in Iraq after the overthrow of Saddam in 2003, and undertook several missions to the Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Iraq in 2001 and 2002. I know many of the current leaders and speak Arabic. Now we’ll find out just how well prepared I am.

Continued on Page 16
Q What parts of your liberal arts education at Whitman remain with you and inform your key role as an ambassador and diplomat?

A As an English major under the legendary Tom Howells, I learned to appreciate complexity and subtlety, to discern the figure in the carpet (the title of the Henry James story I analyzed for my senior oral). It was invaluable training in how to think about complex foreign societies. From history professor Fred Breit I learned discipline and mental toughness.

The Whitman experience continues to produce great talent for the State Department. Danielle Garbe ’97 is a special assistant to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Erik Olson ’05 is a watch officer in the department’s Operations Center. Mark Lanning ’02 is in Guangzhou, China. Hillary Rajter Johnson ’92 works in the Office of Congressman Peter DeFazio. Of my generation, Sally Mathiasen Light ’88 directs senior Foreign Service assignments. Cliff Brown ’72 is a senior officer with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). I hope that some of Whitman’s current students will consider the Foreign Service. They will definitely have the skills to succeed.

Q Our perceptions of ambassadors often come from characters we see on TV or in films hosting elaborate state dinners. The reality, of course, is much different, especially in the extreme trouble spots of the world. What has your job entailed in Pakistan?

A Pakistan is a close ally in the war on terror and has lost more than 700 of its soldiers in the struggle with a common enemy since Sept. 11, 2001. We are engaged in a near light and a long fight. The near light is against al-Qaida and Taliban that have found a foothold in Pakistan’s remote tribal areas and inside Afghan refugee camps. In late January, the Pakistani Army carried out a successful attack on an al-Qaida training camp it identified in the hills of South Waziristan, using U.S.-supplied Cobra helicopters. The long fight aims at helping Pakistan extend governance, economic development and rule of law throughout the country so that Pakistani territory can never again be used by an enemy. This requires all the instruments of our national power — economic, informational, political as well as military. A dozen different U.S. agencies are represented at the Embassy. My job is to ensure that their efforts are coordinated and resourced to support these main goals.

And we have to carry out our mission in a critical-threat environment — that training camp was a little over 100 miles from the Embassy. A car bomb attack on our Consulate General in Karachi nine months ago killed an American officer.

Q What has been the most rewarding experience of your career?

A There have been many over the years. One of the more recent was coordinating the successful U.S. relief effort in the aftermath of the Oct. 8, 2005, earthquake that killed more than 70,000 Pakistanis in a few minutes. The U.S. needed to respond to a close friend and ally, and within 48 hours, U.S. military helicopters were on the ground in Pakistan and the first air shipment of U.S. relief supplies had arrived. A massive U.S. relief effort developed (lasting six months) that at its peak had more than 1,400 U.S. personnel deployed and included two military field hospitals in remote parts of the earthquake zone. The helicopter relief operation became the longest sustained humanitarian mission since the Berlin airlift. The entire relief operation was coordinated by the Embassy, whose staff worked seven days a week. It was a great example of unity of effort. The U.S. military and civilian agencies led by USAID saved thousands of lives.

Q Have changing administrations, and changes within administrations, impacted your work?

A Each administration has its own priorities and style. The job of the career Foreign Service officer is to offer his best advice as policy is formulated and then to implement that policy. Our elected leaders need to have the confidence that we will carry out policies to the best of our ability.

Q What would you like to share with us about your family?

A I met my wife, Christine, in Baghdad in 1979. She was also a member of the Foreign Service. Our first assignment together was Beirut in 1981 at the height of the Lebanese civil war. It was clear then that the choice was a family or the Service. We have been together ever since and look forward to going back to Baghdad.

Q How did your passion for running begin? Do the “critical-threat” environments you work in slow you down?

A I ran track in high school and didn’t like it. I didn’t run at Whitman but got interested again during the mid-’70s and have been a committed runner since 1975. I try to get in an hour a day, normally in the early morning — I find I have few schedule conflicts at 5 a.m. I have managed to run everywhere I’ve been — Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan. Sometimes security conditions dictate a pretty short course — around and around the Embassy in Kabul, for example — but I have always managed.

Q You were on the verge of retiring when you agreed instead to accept the appointment to Iraq. What was the driving force behind your decision?

A It is still our intention to eventually retire to the Spokane Valley in Washington State, which is where I am from. I have been in the Foreign Service for 35 years. Before that, I grew up with a father who was a career Air Force officer. I learned early that when you are called to serve, you do not say no.

UP CLOSE

Born: June 19, 1949, in Spokane, Wash.

Attended schools: Morocco, Turkey, Canada and the United States.

Education: B.A. in English (1971) and honorary Doctor of Laws degree (2001), both from Whitman.

Foreign Service career: Since joining in 1971, Crocker has had assignments in Iran, Qatar, Iraq, Egypt and Washington, D.C., in addition to serving as ambassador in Lebanon (1990-93), Kuwait (1994-97), Syria (1998-2001) and Pakistan (2004-present). Other key posts include Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs (August 2001 to May 2003); first Director of Governance for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad (May-August 2003); International Affairs Adviser at the National War College (2003-2004).

Moments in Time: Crocker was assigned to the American Embassy in Beirut during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. On April 18, 1983, he and his wife were in their offices in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut when it was hit in the first suicide bombing by Islamic extremists against a U.S. target. The bomb killed 64. Crocker commented: “I came around the corner and there was the American Embassy cut in half like a doll’s house, bodies hanging out of it, smoke belching, and the first person I saw staggering around in the ruins was Ryan, his sleeves rolled up, looking in the rubble.”

Honors: Presidential Distinguished Service Award, 1994; Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, 1997; Presidential Meritorious Service Award, 1999, 2003; State Department Distinguished Honor Award; Award for Valor; three Superior Honor Awards; American Foreign Service Association Rivkin Award. In January 2002, Crocker was sent to Afghanistan to reopen the American Embassy in Kabul and subsequently received the Robert C. Frasure Memorial Award for “exceptional courage and leadership” in Afghanistan. In September 2004, President George W. Bush conferred on him the personal rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the Foreign Service.
Shea butter is the oil from the nuts of shea production hand for are shea nuts that involve a complicated process briefly outlined here. The Alaffia Sustainable Skin Care Company extracts its shea butter and other indigenous oils and butters using traditional methods that involve a complicated process briefly outlined here.

The Alaffia Sustainable Skin Care Company has a history as rich as the pure, unrefined shea butter it sells. The fledgling multinational company, brainchild of Prairie Rose Hyde '95 and her husband, Olowo-n-dija Tchala, also provides fair prices and wages to the farmers and the members of the Ashange Karite Cooperative in Togo, West Africa. The company's story begins in 1991, when Hyde arrived at Whitman from Oroville, Wash. She came armed with a scholarship, a desire to be involved in everything that Whitman had to offer, and the knowledge that some day she wanted to join the Peace Corps and travel to other parts of the world. At Whitman, she says, she was further inspired by a study abroad semester in Australia and by Professor Heidi Dobson's Plants and Peoples biology class.

"Her class really made me think about the relationship between humans and plants and how we rely on them for our survival without really thinking about it." After graduating with honors in 1995 with a degree in biology, Hyde joined the Peace Corps, where she used her background in biology and agriculture as a sustainable agriculture/agroforestry volunteer in Africa. She also met her future husband and business partner, Tchala, in Kaboli, Togo, West Africa. If anyone asks how they forged their dynamic union, Hyde will smile, and Tchala will tell you that he "was very persistent." Their joint persistence eventually led them back to the United States and UC Davis, where Tchala earned a degree in organizational theory and Hyde a double master's in ecology and international agricultural development.

"The Peace Corps opened my eyes to my own misconceptions of 'development' and made me realize how little I knew about the logistics of world trade, sustainable life choices and the importance of preserving cultures while the world becomes more and more homogenous," says Hyde. "Even so, I think the quality of education at Whitman was over and beyond what many of my Peace Corps and graduate school colleagues received at their undergraduate institutions. It was something I noted again and again."

Tchala, who grew up in the poverty of West Africa, used his studies to develop "a sense of what makes some countries poor, and others not. "Always on his mind, he told an audience at Whitman last fall, was the thought, 'I can't just leave my country and its poverty.'"

Together for the couple when they finished their degrees at UC Davis and looked for jobs. "During our studies, we had come to the conclusion that working for someone else meant answering to someone else and their values," says Hyde. "This pushed us to think of an alternative — one that would provide for us and our family and serve our larger community in Togo and now in the United States as well."

Since Tchala's family and community in Togo had been making and trading shea butter for generations, this seemed like a natural base for a company. When a friend gave them a jar of refined, white shea butter, the potential for marketing the "real" shea butter — rich, unrefined and natural — seemed possible. With a small loan, a lot of hard work and determination, it became possible," says Hyde. "We always knew it would take time, but I didn’t know it would happen so fast!"

In three years the couple has built the Alaffia business, affiliated with a cooperative located in the village of Sokodé, Togo. The women of the co-op do the same backbreaking, time-consuming work that women have always done in Togo to create shea butter. The difference is they make a livable wage with which they can support their families. There are no middlemen in the Alaffia business. Shea butter is made in Sokodé (see the process in inset box) and shipped to the "factory" in Olympia, Wash. At Whitman last fall, she taught students how to make the lotions in a biology lab.

The oil is stirred as it cools and crystallizes into creamy pure and unrefined shea butter. The shea paste is then whipped with fresh, clean potable water until the oils separate and rise to the top.

Beauty of natural skin-care product reaches far beyond healthy glow

Shea butter has been used for centuries in West Africa for skin care, cooking and medicinal purposes, and it has been exported for almost that long, but many of the products that make it to the United States have been "refined" to take all color, texture and smell from the shea nut. In the process, says Hyde, many of the nutrients (such as Vitamin A) are lost and sometimes chemicals are added. And the skills and hard work of the women who traditionally gather the nuts and make the butter have been underpaid and marginalized.

Hyde and Tchala’s enterprise, in the past three years, has added about a half million dollars to the Togo economy. Tchala and Hyde earmark 10 percent of the Alaffia sales for community projects in Togo such as school roofs, supplies and scholarships, bicycles for students to use as transportation; and community projects in Togo such as school roofs, supplies and scholarships, bicycles for students to use as transportation; and

"Be sure to recycle the containers," Tchala urged the Whitman audience as he passed out orange sample bottles of Alaffia Lavender Mint Handcrafted Shea Butter. — Lenel Parish

www.empowermentalliance.org
Robert Walls’ “43 has written two volumes of “We All Have a Story To Tell: Memories of Another Time.” Bob writes, “Fascinated as I am with the stories people can tell about their lives and careers, I found myself taping the stories of family and later of friends. Other family members and friends also shared written memories with me. These stories seemed worthy of sharing as they reflected the personal reminiscences of people living in a century of great change.” Book 1: 1909-1941. Book 2: Events That Surround World War II. (Authorhouse, 2006.)

David Allard ’51 is the author of “Uncle Clayton: A Soldier’s Life in Letters.” U.S. Army Pvt. Clayton Allard of upstate New York was killed in action in the Philippines on Dec. 26, 1901. His family wasn’t notified of his death until months later, and his body was never returned to the United States for burial. More than a hundred years later, Allard, Clayton’s great-nephew, transcribed and published the young soldier’s war letters in this book. “I feel like in some ways, my great uncle has finally come home,” said Allard, a retired federal administrative law judge living in Evans, Ga. (RoseDog Books, 2006.) Also available on amazon.com.

Adiel McMillian ’55 authored “College Union Pioneers: A Collection of Oral History Interviews.” It is part of a larger collection of interviews conducted while she was on sabbatical from the University of Oregon in 1979. McMillian is the director emeritus of the Erb Memorial Union at U of O. She previously authored “A Common Ground: The Ebd Memorial Union, University of Oregon from 1950 to 2000” and co-edited and co-authored “College Unions—Seventy-five Years,” published by the Association of College Unions-International. (Xlibris, 2006.)

Walla Walla author Sam McLeod (a.k.a. Steve Johnson) has penned three books about life in Walla Walla. All three book covers “Walla Walla,” “Bottled Walla,” and “Blue Walla,” feature the artwork of Jeff Ellis “9K.” Ellis’ art also graces the walls of many wineries in Walla Walla, as well as wine labels. The style of his art has earned him the moniker “Vineyard Van Gogh.” The books about Walla Walla are available at amazon.com and the Whitman Bookstore, (509) 527-5274 or www.whitman.edu/bookstore. Johnson is the author of Abby Johnson ’55.


**Alumni Association honors...**

**...the chief engineer for NASA’s Mars Exploration Program**

Rob Manning ’80, chief engineer with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, is quick to credit Whitman with helping him develop the self-discipline and study skills that put him where he is today—building the space probes he read and dreamed about as a child.

Manning spent his childhood living a “Huckleberry Finn existence” in rural northwestern Washington. “I didn’t believe that I could really become an engineer until I got to Whitman,” says Manning. But the possibility of completing the Whitman-Caltech 3+2 program (which enabled him to earn a bachelor of arts degree from Whitman and a bachelor of science degree from Caltech in five years) inspired him. “That, and fear, he says.”

“I literally lived in the college library under a portrait of the great Indian Chief Joseph. He was very stern and seemed to encourage me not to lose sight of my goals. I didn’t.”

The rest is history. In 1981 (while still a student at Caltech), Manning was offered a part-time position as an electronics draftsman for the Galileo mission at JPL. He worked on NASA’s spacecraft computer systems until the Mars Pathfinder project took over his life in 1993. There he served as chief engineer and also led the Entry, Descent and Landing team.

Pathfinder and little Sojourner Rover successfully bounced into Mars history on July 4, 1997. Later Manning led the development of the Mars Sample Return Lander until the failure of two Mars probes in 1999 indefinitely postponed the development of Mars Sample Return. In an attempt to regain NASA’s Mars exploration stature, Manning and a team at JPL conceived and proposed the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission based on the Mars Pathfinder design in April 2000. Rob became the MER System Engineering Manager and later, Entry, Descent and Landing Manager.

He supervised his second and third human-rating robotic Mars landings when almost unbelievably a quarter century I have found myself a solid fixture in the world of robotics and space exploration. My comfort to ask questions, to express enthusiasm and wonder at our natural world as well as the never-ending depth of human creativity comes squarely from the examples the Whitman community laid before me. “Whitman is an amazing place, and I am proud to have experienced it.”

**Nancy Simon**

**ALUMNUS OF MERIT**

Stephanie Van Dyke ’99 works with villagers in Diddigaya, Uganda, last summer as they prepare the foundation for a new clinic.

**...a woman who built a medical clinic for people in rural Uganda**

Stephanie Van Dyke ’99 is embarking on the spring break of a lifetime. A second-year medical student at Albany Medical College, she is heading up a mission in late March that will take two doctors, a trauma nurse and 10 medical students to a village in Uganda that has never had medical care.

Awaiting the group is a new medical clinic and two small dormitories (to house volunteers) that Van Dyke built last summer with the help of a small inheritance from her grandmother, and the hard work of her parents, volunteers and 50 villagers from Diddigaya, Uganda.

The idea for the Engeye Health Clinic was born the year after Van Dyke graduated from Whitman. Armed with a psychology degree but unsure about her next step, Van Dyke let her passion for travel and volunteer work propel her around the world. Her first stop was Uganda, where she taught English to the children of Katoke but soon discovered that what they needed more was basic medical care. This epiphany inspired her to choose a career in medicine with the goal of building sustainable medical clinics in Uganda and other underserved areas around the world that work in collaboration with the United States but are not dependent on outside resources.

Van Dyke says that even as a teenager she “yearned to help those who were disadvan-
taged.” But her experiences in Uganda, and later Pretoria and Thailand, she says, created a focus that had not existed for her before her travels.

“After graduation (from medical school), I definitely envision myself living in Uganda at least half the year making sure the clinics run well,” she says.

**ALUMNAS OF MERIT**

Stephanie Van Dyke ’99 was cited for her work in Uganda as the recipient of the Engeye Health Clinic Award.

**PETE REID AWARD FOR YOUNG ALUMNI**

Mary Jane Corliss Shea ’71 has served Whitman as an overseer and regional vice chair, a member of Whitman’s Development Committee and Career Counseling Network, and a class representative. What she loves most, however, is serving as an advocate for Whitman when she can recommend a potential student to the college.

“That is the best legacy I can imagine,” she says.

In one of many letters she wrote to her classmates she noted, “I feel that Whitman College and the people I met there and equipped me to change and grow.” Shea has lived a life true to the liberal arts education Whitman provides, and her career and volunteer list are all about helping others.

A retired educator and Child Life Specialist at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Shea spent her career “helping children and their families with the stress of hospitalization through education, play and emotional support.” In 1995 she was the recipient of Sacred Heart’s Patient Teaching Excellence Award.

Her volunteer activities include serving as chair of the annual Children’s Hospital Fair at Sacred Heart and as a trustee of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society (now the Museum of Arts and Culture or The MAC). She is an active member of the Spokane Symphony Associates, has served on the board of the Spokane Guild’s School for Neurologically Handicapped Children, and volunteers at The Barton School, where she teaches English as a second language.

In addition, Shea’s family sponsored Whitman Night at the Spokane Symphony in 1993, 1996 and 1997, and she organized the 1982 Spokane “Theater on the Road,” which involved securing theater space for a Harper Joy Theatre production for alumni and prospective students in the area.

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