Two members of class of 1997 named to alumni board

A Foreign Service officer and an attorney — both politics majors who graduated from Whitman in 1997 — are the newest members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Danielle Garbe ’97 has been a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State since 2001. Her most recent assignment was as special assistant to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. While serving in the State Department’s 24/7 crisis management office, she responded to the terrorist attacks on the London Underground and two major natural disasters, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the earthquake in Pakistan in 2004.

Garbe stayed at Whitman for two years after graduation to work as an admission officer. She completed her master’s in public administration in 2001 as a Woodrow Wilson Foreign Affairs Fellow at Columbia University. She has served as a Whitman admission representative and associate class representative, and she received the Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni in 2006.

It’s not surprising that Garbe enjoys travel. She also tries to make time for scuba diving, photography and tennis.

Andrew Noble ’97, of San Francisco, Calif., is an attorney at the Oakland firm of Erickson, Beasley & Hewitt, where he represents public agencies in property, environmental and civil rights litigation. After graduating from University of Washington School of Law, he worked in political campaigns in the state. He also has remained actively involved with Whitman, recently completing three years as a class representative. In his spare time, Noble likes to surf, ski and backpack.

Lesley Johnson Farmer ’71 received the California State University Long Beach Distinguished Scholarly and Academic Achievement Award. She coordinates the librarianship program there and spent this summer in Kyoto and Taipei researching the experiences of beginning and expert school librarians. Her 21st book, “The Human Side of Reference and Information Services in Academic Libraries,” was published this spring. (Chandos Publishing, 2007)

In the course of promoting her latest children’s book, “Reality Leak,” Joni Sensel ’84 ran into two long-lost high school pals, traded a book for a potted pansy, spent two hours in a hallway with an untuned middle school band and had her book donation rejected by fund-raising auction organizers in favor of a giant plastic hammer. “It’s a life of glamour,” she laughs.

The book describes the efforts of an 11-year-old boy to investigate his small town’s suspicious new factory, which seems to be sending mail through his toaster. Booklist said, “This utterly silly but entertaining story clearly has a lot of madcap influences.” Sensel says one of her personal “madcap influences” was her crew experience in Harper Joy Theatre’s “Pippin” her freshman year. Signed copies of the book are available at www.jonisensel.com. (Henry Holt and Company, April 2007)

Books by alumni are often available by calling the Whitman Bookstore at (509) 527-5274.
Eighty alumni, parents and friends traveled to Norway in July 2007 with Professor of Geology Bob Carson. One day the group disembarked to visit Ny Alesund, the northernmost fully functioning settlement in the world, located above the Arctic Circle on Svalbard Island. Kathy Nunn Young ’67 was stopped by a woman from another cruise ship who noticed her Whitman College ear muff. The woman is the parent of a Whitman graduate from the class of 1997. Unfortunately, she didn’t give her name so a mystery remains.

While traveling in South America with her twin sister and best friend, Mo FitzMaurice ’05 ran into Damon Leichman ’02 and Scott MacGowan ’00 on Isla del Sol on Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. They later met in Argentina to travel together, drink good wine and gamble.

Ben Thomason ’06 spent the past school year teaching English at Shatoujiao Middle School in Shenzhen, China. During the Chinese Spring Festival holiday he traveled the country, including Shanghai. “One evening I noticed this guy suspiciously following me, and lo and behold, it was a fellow Whittie, Colin Malloy ’08. We had studied Chinese together at Whitman. Colin was traveling on the mainland before heading to his spring study abroad semester in Taipei, Taiwan. It was quite shocking to run into each other so randomly in such an enormous and populous city! We ended up eating dinner together and continued to walk down the Bund (Shanghai’s famous waterfront) together, as seen in the picture. Ridiculous, the connections we all have.”

A Whitman luggage tag brought Mary Nelson Daughters ’65 into contact with Kenny Tam ’69 in Beijing, China. In November 2006, she traveled to Beijing and Shanghai with members of the Bellingham (Wash.) Chamber of Commerce. At the first meal in China, a man sat next to her and asked if she had attended Whitman. “I was totally perplexed,” she said. “First of all, you don’t ask someone where or even if they went to college. Second, I was in Beijing, China! Then I thought of the luggage tag. He had seen it as we gathered our luggage.” Tam, also of Bellingham, was visiting his uncle in China.
Ski with the President  Jan. 25-27, 2008

Enjoy a weekend of Sun Valley days, cozy Whitman nights, and group meals and activities with President George Bridges. Reserve rooms at the Sun Valley Lodge in the Whitman block at (800) 786-8259; call the Alumni Office for meal reservations. Release date for rooms and dinner reservations is Nov. 30, 2007. Geology Professor Kevin Pogue will speak to the group Saturday night.

$200 per person for Whitman activities; rooms, lift tickets and transportation to Sun Valley on your own.

Aug. 17-22, 2008
Canoe the wild and scenic upper Missouri River with Don Snow, senior lecturer of environmental humanities

As you paddle from Fort Benton through the White Cliffs and Badlands of Montana, enjoy luxury camping, Voyageur canoes and 108 river miles in six spectacular days and star-filled nights with Whitman’s expert on Montana politics, history, native culture and the natural world.

$1,375 per person, includes guided float trip, equipment and meals. Shuttle from the Great Falls airport is available at an additional cost.

Nov. 23-30, 2008
Sea kayaking Costa Rica with Paul Yancey, professor of biology

After an exhilarating day rafting a Costa Rican jungle river, spend a morning at La Selva Biological Station, one of the most important rainforest research areas in the world. The days will feature views of coastal wildlife from a kayak as you relax and enjoy the clear emerald-green sea. The evenings will find you stargazing and crab hunting. Professor Yancey will share his expertise on the flora and fauna of the area.

$2,575 per person, double occupancy, single $3,325. Includes four lodge and hotel nights, three nights camping, equipment, guides and most meals.

For details and reservations for alumni trips, call Margaret Hoglund in the Alumni Office at (509) 527-5167 or (800) 835-9448, ext. 1, or e-mail hoglund@whitman.edu.