

WHITMAN

MAGAZINE



Time & Place

Mapping the past,
grappling with the present,
preserving the future

SPRING 2023

We are the champions!

With a boisterous crowd in their corner, the Whitman Blues—women's and men's basketball teams—hosted the Northwest Conference Tournament in February 2023, after both winning their respective regular seasons. The women's team went on to win the title and a bid to the Division III NCAA Tournament. Pictured: Elena McHargue '23 from Boise, Idaho. See more Whitman athletic news and wins on page 8.





Inside

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 Kim Smith '90 has been an educator and international sustainability expert for 30 years. She recognizes the fight against climate change can feel overwhelming but urges her students to stay hopeful and engaged.

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 Associate Professor of Art History Krista Gulbransen curates an exhibition on the history of mapping India using an extensive collection from Whitman alum and Georgetown professor Mark Giordano '88 and the help of student researchers.

30 **STUDYING A WAR IN REAL TIME**
 In the fall of 2022, Professor of Politics Shampa Biswas, guided her students through an evolving war in her special topics seminar: Global Politics of the War in Ukraine.

34 **THE NEXT GENERATION OF DOCTORS**
 Meet Whitman students who are gaining valuable health care experience — and providing care to those in need — at the Walla Walla area SOS Health Services Clinic.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 Whitman College is located on the traditional Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla homelands. We pay our respect to tribal elders both past and present and extend our respect to all Indigenous people today. We honor their stewardship of the land and ecosystem and commit to continuing that important work.

ON THE COVER Alexa Pilgrim '22 in Maxey Museum, see "Mapping India," page 24. Photo by Kim Fetrow '96 of Kim Fetrow Photography.

LEFT Photo courtesy of Whitman Athletics.



What a Year!

It's hard to believe my first year at Whitman is already coming to a close. Reflecting on it, I am deeply proud of the Whitman community and so excited for our future. This year, I have seen extraordinary work in every dimension of the college.

Our faculty have created new academic majors and programs in Ethics and Society, Neuroscience, Human-Centered Design, and Finance, and continue planning for additional new directions (see page 16). They are finalizing plans for the new General Studies curriculum and continuing their cutting-edge research across every field. Many students have been involved in research as well, and over 120 presented their work at the 25th annual Whitman Undergraduate Conference in April.

Student clubs and organizations are back in full swing, with packed houses in Reid Campus Center for everything from the Taste of Africa celebration to Renaissance Faire, and Outdoor Program events most weekends. Whitman teams are having a great year, with men's and women's basketball, men's swimming, men's golf and women's tennis all winning their conference championships, and Tanner Filion '23 setting two national swim records. Design for junior-senior housing is coming together, with a beautiful layout for apartments and welcoming communal spaces overlooking a reopened college creek.

The generosity of the Whitman community makes all this possible, and it has been an honor to meet alumni and families across the country. Those conversations have been wonderful opportunities for me to learn about the ways a Whitman education is powerful long after graduation, as alumni lead, serve and make a difference in every field of endeavor.

As we plan for Whitman's future, we will build on these strengths. Advancing academic excellence and distinction, investing in a vibrant, welcoming community that supports thriving and growth, expanding programs that prepare all students for a strong launch into life after college, connecting students to opportunities in our local community and around the world, and advancing access, affordability, diversity and inclusion, so that students from all walks of life across the country and around the world can come to Whitman, develop their tremendous talents and potential, and flourish.

I hope you enjoy this "Time and Place" edition of Whitman Magazine, including stories of scholarly endeavors, innovation, global importance and personal achievement.

My thanks go to all of you for your warm welcome and your dedication to our college, our students and the futures they will build. Wishing you a great summer!

Sarah Bolton
President

“I am deeply proud of the Whitman community and so excited for our future.”

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To notify us of a change of mailing address or to opt out of receiving this magazine, please email addrchg@whitman.edu.

CLASS NOTES

To submit, go online to whitman.edu/classnotes.

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NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Whitman College has a strong commitment to the principle of nondiscrimination in all its forms. In its admission, educational and employment practices, programs, and activities, Whitman College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), gender, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran's status, or any other basis prohibited by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and applicable federal, state or local laws.



GOVERNOR'S VISIT

Whitman Students Interview Governor Inslee on KWCW

WHILE CAMPUS WAS QUIET due to spring break, a few eager student leaders had the opportunity to interview Governor Jay Inslee on pressing matters surrounding the climate crisis, housing initiatives and other current issues that affect not only students but also residents in the Walla Walla Valley and beyond.

The interview was hosted by Whitman's student-run radio station KWCW 90.5 FM, with questions posed by four students across classes, majors and organizations: Politics-Environmental Studies major Elio Van Gorden '23, representing the Campus Climate Coalition; Biology-Environmental Studies major Fraser Moore '23, serving as Interim President of Associated Students of Whitman College; German Studies, Politics-Environmental Studies double major sophomore Parsa Keshavarzalamdari '25, student-manager of KWCW; and first-year Lindsey

Pasena-Littlesky, representing the Indigenous Peoples Education and Culture Club.

Inslee talked about current policy successes and encouraged the students to continue fueling their passions by being vocal about what matters to them, helping to further sustainability and affordable housing efforts, now and in the future.

"You're the most adept at understanding climate science, you're the most committed to doing something about climate change," said Inslee. "You're the most innovative generation in Washington state history. You four are really inspiring me to believe we're going to do some good work starting here at Whitman."



Coming to you from KWCW 90.5 FM. Governor Jay Inslee pictured from left with Parsa Keshavarzalamdari '25, Fraser Moore '23, Elio Van Gorden '23 and Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky '26.



Coming together. Working together. Community Fellow Devon Player '23 led a panel discussion at Together23, a trauma-informed recovery event on the Whitman campus on March 9, 2023. The event featured an educational panel, a large multimedia exhibition of visual artwork and spoken word poetry. Also pictured: Whitman graduate Tatiyanna Wells '22 and Patrick Spencer, the Grace F. Phillips Professor of Geology. Player's fellowship was with the Walla Walla Community Change Team, an organization supporting people living with substance use disorders.

Community Fellows Build Skills and Connections

Program celebrates 10-year anniversary of service in Walla Walla

THE WHITMAN COLLEGE COMMUNITY Fellow Program is celebrating 10 years of serving the Walla Walla community and helping students gain valuable professional and life experience.

Over the years, the program has brought together more than 100 students and 60 organizational partners, many of whom gathered on campus this spring for a reunion.

The Community Fellow Program was the first initiative of the Whitman Career and Community Engagement Center (CCEC), created in 2012 to connect students with out-of-the-classroom experiences that enhance their learning—formerly known as the Student Engagement Center.

Noah Leavitt, CCEC Director, says while Whitman students have always been active in Walla Walla-based internships and volunteer projects, community partners wanted to build longer-term and deeper connections that would give students more time to learn about the organizations' missions and see the results of their service in action.

It's truly a win-win for students, says Leavitt. Working on projects that went beyond a quarter or semester gives students more on-the-job experience and time to reflect.

"We wanted something where students could be metacognitive about what they're involved with," Leavitt says. "They can understand not only the

particulars of their project, but what it means for their own insights, their own growth, their own ability to have self-awareness when they're in different settings."

IT'S ABOUT WALLA WALLA'S NEEDS

The fellow program is community-driven—local nonprofits, schools and government organizations propose projects, and a CCEC committee selects up to 10 partner initiatives each year. All junior and senior Whitman students are invited to apply.

Students receive stipends to work with their community partners for a full academic year. The program is primarily funded by the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Internship Endowment, which was established in 2012 thanks to a grant from the Sherwood Trust.

The partners help students understand the depth and complexities in the Walla Walla community, says Abby Juhasz, who leads the program as the CCEC Director for Community Engagement.

"We see our community partners as really instrumental in helping that learning process happen," Juhasz says. "Having a year to develop that relationship deepens the connection that a student has with the community partner, but it also deepens the connection that a student has with Walla Walla."



Harvey Retires After 34 Years

At the end of this academic year, Peter Harvey '84 had his last day in his office in Memorial Building looking out onto Boyer Avenue and Lakum Duckum. Harvey served 25 years as Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO)—longer than anyone in that role in the history of the college. "More significant than the length of Harvey's tenure is the depth of his impact on the people of Whitman, the college's financial health and the development of the campus in support of students," says President Sarah Bolton.

A 1984 graduate of Whitman, Harvey was hired in December 1991 as Director of Administrative Services and appointed Treasurer and CFO in January 1998.

Harvey's 25 years as CFO were marked by constant care for the long-term financial strength of the college. His tenure brought a 300% growth in the college's endowment from \$227 million to its present \$700 million.

Among Harvey's significant achievements was leading an investment of \$125 million for new construction and renovation. These projects included Hunter Conservatory, Penrose Library, the Hall of Science, Reid Campus Center, Baker Ferguson Fitness Center, Sherwood Athletic Center, Baker Center, Cleveland Commons and Stanton Hall.

In the spring of 2020, Harvey faced one of the college's biggest challenges—leading Whitman's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Harvey worked tirelessly to keep the campus community safe by instituting testing and other protocols to limit the spread of illness and sustain teaching and learning.

Whitman Graduates Awarded Prestigious Watson Fellowships

WHITMAN COLLEGE SENIOR Katie Jose '23 and alum Annie Means '22 were each recently awarded the prestigious and highly competitive Thomas J. Watson Fellowship.

The Watson Fellowship offers college graduates a year of independent, purposeful exploration and travel outside of the United States to enhance their capacity for resourcefulness, imagination, openness and leadership, and to foster humane and effective participation in the global community. This year, 42 Watson

Fellows were selected from 155 finalists who were nominated by their respective institutions.

Katie Jose, a double major in Global Health and Hispanic Studies, will undertake a project titled "Understanding Traditional Medicine"



Katie Jose '23

that will take her to the Philippines, Hong Kong and Argentina.

"Developed over generations, traditional medicine, also known as indigenous or folk medicine, is used by over 80% of the world's population," says Jose. "Through the Watson, I hope to understand the complexities of these treatments and the potential that exists between traditional and Western medicine."

For more on Jose's work, see page 34.

Annie Means, who graduated in December with a double major in Environmental Humanities and Hispanic Studies, will undertake a project titled "Gender Inclusion in the Maritime Industry" that will take her to the United Kingdom, Iceland, Australia and Chile.

"Women make up a tiny percent of mariners, fishers and sailors," says Means. "Why are they such a small part of the global nautical community? Engaging with female boat-builders, commercial fisherwomen, professional sailors and the stories of historical female voyagers, I hope to learn how their experiences can inform the maritime sector's future."

Jess Hernandez, Director of Fellowships and Grants and member of the committee that

interviewed and selected finalists to represent Whitman College at the national level, is excited for the futures of these two new Watson Fellows.

"Katie urges us to imagine a more inclusive, holistic and empowering healthcare system in the United States that integrates traditional and Western medicine approaches," says Hernandez. "Annie directs our attention to the value of a more (gender-) inclusive maritime industry and community that centers, uplifts and supports women-identifying mariners. These are two changemakers you are going to want to keep your eyes on."

Whitman College is one of 41 institutions that partner with the Watson Foundation. All fellows remain outside of the United States pursuing their project goals for a full calendar year.




Annie Means '22

FACULTY RESEARCH

Biology Professor Kate Jackson Receives Lynwood W. Swanson Scientific Research Award

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust has awarded herpetologist and Professor of Biology Kate Jackson the Lynwood W. Swanson Scientific Research Award for 2022. "Receiving the Lynwood Swanson research award, it's so surprising—my colleagues and I do this kind of research with students and engage in scientific research without ever expecting that it will be formally recognized, so it's wonderful and surprising to have that happen," Jackson says.

 **Snake Byte.** A video showcasing Jackson's research and relationship with students, created by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. Visit whitman.edu/magazine.

"Meaningful engagement and research lets me push forward the frontiers of scientific knowledge, and to do it in collaboration with students makes me part of the link that's transmitting that (research) and keeping it going in the next generations."

—Biology Professor Kate Jackson



UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

One Day—Years of Student Success

OVER MORE THAN TWO decades, thousands of students have shared their scholarship and creativity as part of Whitman's Undergraduate Conference — an all-day, student-centered event, and a signature program of the college.

Presentations and a poster session that highlight student research and achievement are a key component of each conference. Participants represent every academic area of the college — sharing their original work, produced in their courses of study, senior theses, internships, fellowships, grants and study-abroad experiences.

Those who attended this year's conference on April 11, 2023, were also treated to musical interludes at various venues with performances by Whitman's Jazz and Chamber Music Ensembles.



25 Years 3K+ Students

SINCE 1999, THE UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE HAS FEATURED ROUGHLY:

500+ musicians **2,350+** presenters **950+** posters

Class of 2024 Chemistry Major Named Goldwater Scholar

WHITMAN COLLEGE JUNIOR Clare Hermanson has been selected as a 2023-2024 Goldwater Scholar by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Hermanson, a Chemistry major from San Diego, California, was one of only 413 who earned the scholarship — among more than 5,000 applicants. Historically, she joins the elite ranks of a dozen previous Whitman students who received the scholarship or an honorable mention since the early 1990s.

Established by Senator Barry Goldwater, the organization was founded in 1986 and began awarding scholarships in 1989. The Goldwater Scholarship Program is a national scholarship

for those studying natural sciences, engineering or mathematics. Goldwater seeks to identify, encourage and financially support sophomores and juniors who show promise as the next generation of science researchers.

Hermanson's research looks to the future. "My current research focuses on nanocrystal synthesis with an automated system. In the future, I hope to utilize automated chemistry to solve pressing environmental problems."

She's proud to represent Whitman College, she says.

"This award validates my scientific skills and motivates me to pursue a research career. I appreciate the opportunity at Whitman to

conduct meaningful chemistry research."

Hermanson also had help and a boost from her faculty advisor, Mark Hendricks, Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

"Working in Professor Hendricks's lab has been the highlight of my undergraduate education," says Hermanson. "I am grateful to Professor Hendricks for his invaluable mentorship and encouragement to apply for this scholarship."





Renowned Researcher Becomes Director of Penrose Library

AFTER AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH, Ping Fu has been named Director of the Penrose Library.

For more than a decade prior to coming to Whitman College, Fu was at Central Washington University, where he served as Head of Library Technology Services, tenured Professor, and Science and Data Management Librarian. Prior to that, he served as Systems Head at Singapore Management University and as Systems Librarian at Yale University. His experiences at diverse academic institutions have afforded him opportunities to engage in teaching and research, participate in professional organizations and publish numerous scholarly articles.

“I am overjoyed that Ping Fu will be our next Director of Penrose Library,” says Provost and Dean of the Faculty Alzada J. Tipton. “Ping brings extensive experience to the role.”

Fu’s experience as a researcher has shaped his approach to his work as a librarian in important ways. “Understanding the research process and methods has allowed me to better communicate with faculty and students and provide them with the support they need to enhance their research and learning experiences,” he says.

Fu replaces Dalia Cockrum, who had been at Whitman since 2005. She retired at the end of 2022 after seeing the college and the library through the learning challenges of the pandemic.

About Fu, whose personal interests include fishing, gardening, hiking, cooking and Tai Chi, Tipton says, “He is clearly bringing a spirit of enthusiasm and adventure to Whitman College.”



SPRING RECIPE

From Chef Jon’s Kitchen

A PARTNERSHIP between Whitman College and Blue Zones Project brought a cooking demonstration to Whitman’s market-style dining hall Cleveland Commons. Chef Jon Sodini of Bon Appétit taught a crowd of 20 people how to prepare a healthy and fresh local ingredient: radicchio. To see more of the delicious offerings Whitman students enjoy thanks to Chef Jon and his team, follow them on Instagram; @bonappetitwhitman.

Braised Radicchio

- 2 heads radicchio, quartered and core removed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic
- 2/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- sea salt & black pepper to taste
- 1 bunch basil

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Slice radicchio into desired thickness.
2. Thinly slice garlic lengthwise.
3. In a large pan, saute the radicchio and the olive oil, season with sea salt lightly as you go.
4. In the same pan, add garlic and saute until it becomes translucent, then deglaze with the balsamic. Reduce the balsamic to a quarter of its volume.
5. Remove the radicchio from the pan and add the Dijon and black pepper.
6. Drizzle the balsamic over the radicchio and top with more cracked pepper and torn basil.





ATHLETICS

Go Blues! Tournaments & Titles

DURING THE VARIOUS 2022-2023 sports seasons, our Blues had great success in the Northwest Conference (NWC)—and beyond. Let's roll the highlights reel! (Results at press time.)

WHITMAN STRONG!
Follow and support your favorite Blues teams at [athletics.whitman.edu](https://www.whitman.edu/athletics).

WHITMAN HOSTS NWC B-BALL TOURNAMENT—x2!

For the first time in NWC history, a college had the opportunity to host both men's and women's postseason basketball tournaments—on the same weekend. The Whitman Blues gained this home-court advantage by each being the regular season champions.

On Feb. 25, 2023, at Sherwood Center, the women's team also won the tournament championship against Pacific University, while the men fell to Whitworth University later that same day.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HEADS TO THE BIG DANCE

With their NWC tourney win, women's basketball earned a bid to the NCAA Tournament in Chicago. In their opening game, the Blues took down Wisconsin Eau-Claire in a thrilling triple overtime win. Later, they fell by only two points to the University of Chicago.

MEN'S SWIMMING TAKES THE NWC TITLE HOME AND CELEBRATES A NATIONAL CHAMPION

Men's swimming team took home their first Northwest Conference championship since 2017. The women also had a stellar year with a runner-up finish in the conference.

At nationals in Greensboro, North Carolina, senior Tanner Filion repeated as a national champion by placing first in the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke, setting NCAA D3 records in both races.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE IN INAUGURAL NWC TOURNEY

In the conference's first-ever postseason tournament, the Blues were the No. 2 seed after a stellar regular season. After a comeback to force overtime, the team lost 14-13 to Willamette in the semifinals.

MEN'S GOLFER WINS NWC CHAMPIONSHIP

While the Whitman men's golf team came up just short of the NWC title—by a single point—Tom Hoynes '23 won the individual championship title. It was his second conference trophy for the season after winning the NWC Spring Classic.

WOMEN'S TENNIS WINS NWC TITLE

Women's tennis team won the NWC regular season title and their first conference title since 2018, securing an automatic qualifier to the NCAA Tournament in May.

WORTH CELEBRATING

These Whitman Blues earned wins or conference honors:

Sophomore **Alex Knox** won the individual men's golf championship title in the NWC Fall Championship.

Junior **Julien Hernandez** named NWC Pitcher of the Year in men's baseball.

First-Year **Cindy Luo** named NWC Rookie of the Year in women's golf.

Junior **Madeleine Sherry** named NWC Offensive Player of the Year in women's lacrosse.

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

These five Whitman Blues received the highest conference honors, pictured above (from left):

Junior **Korin Baker** named NWC Women's Basketball Player of the Year.

Senior **Tanner Filion** named the NWC Men's Swimmer of the Year and the Swim Dive Swimmer of the Year. Additionally, the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America named Filion Swimmer of the Year and All-American.

Senior **Tom Hoynes** named the NWC Men's Golfer of the Year.

Senior **Angel Le** named the NWC Women's Tennis Player of the Year.

Junior **Xzavier Lino** named NWC Men's Basketball Player of the Year.

NWC COACHES OF THE YEAR

- Jenn Blomme (men's swimming)
- Michelle Ferez (women's basketball)
- John Hein (women's tennis)
- John Lamanna (men's basketball)



FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Professor of History **John Cotts** published a book, "On Warfare and the Threefold Path of the Jerusalem Pilgrimage" (Routledge). It provides the first English translation of Ralph Niger's late 1180s critical reflection on military pilgrimage, in response to the calling of the Third Crusade.

Patrick Frierson, the Paul Pigott and William M. Allen Professor of Philosophy, has published a book on Maria Montessori, "The Moral Philosophy of Maria Montessori: Agency and Ethical Life" (Bloomsbury).

Associate Professor of Politics **Jack Jackson** accepted an appointment as a contributing editor at the NLG Review, the law journal of the National Lawyers Guild.



Wally Herbranson, Professor of Psychology and the Herbert & Pearl Ladley Endowed Chair of Cognitive Science, along with three 2017 Whitman alums, Hunter Pluckebaum, Jaidyanne Podsobinski and Zachary Hartzell, won the American Psychological Association's 2022 Comparative Psychology Award for the best paper published in the Journal of Comparative Psychology. The paper: "Don't Let the Pigeon Chair the Search

Committee: Pigeons (*Columba livia*) Match Humans' (*Homo sapiens*) Suboptimal Approach to the Secretary Problem."

Michelle Janning, the Raymond and Elsie DeBurgh Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology, published a book "A Guide to Socially-Informed Research for Architects and Designers" (Routledge).



Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Writing and Public Discourse **Kaitlyn Patia** presented on the panel "Creating Curricula, Empowering Communities" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Patia spoke about incorporating community-based learning into a new Rhetoric course at Whitman, work that was funded by a grant from Project Pericles.

Assistant Professor of Politics **Andrea Sempértegui** published an essay in The New York Review of Books. The essay, titled "Ecuador's Historic Strike," explores how an Indigenous-led general strike wove together anti-neoliberal and anti-extractive demands, and articulated a broad grassroots coalition of Indigenous, rural and urban movements.

Michael Simon '02, Senior Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music, presented at the College Music Society Northwest Chapter Regional Conference at Boise



Jennifer Northam '91, Director of Alumni Relations, won the 2022 Pete & Hedda Reid Service to Walla Walla Award. Northam currently serves as Board President for the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, which presents more than 40 public performances annually in Walla Walla. (Pictured above with Steven Setchell, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations).

State University. The presentation, "Creating Intimacy at a Distance: Producing Compelling Remote Recordings During the Pandemic," highlighted the creative work Simon undertook to make an album of original music during the early stages of the COVID-19 lockdown. The EP, titled "Social Distancing: Four Songs of the Pandemic," is available on all major streaming services.

AN ESSAY: "BODIES OF HATRED AND WOMEN OF STRENGTH"

Patrick Henry is the Cushing Eells Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Literature. In 2005, Henry founded the Matthew Shepard Lecture Series at Whitman College. Read his essay, which shares the stories of brave women in the face of hate—find it at whitman.edu/magazine.

LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to **Adam Miller** and **Gina Zandy Ohnstad** who have been appointed as Vice Presidents of their respective departments, each having previously filled the role in an interim capacity. Whitman also welcomes incoming Vice President for Finance and Administration **Jeff Hamrick**.



Adam Miller, Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid



Gina Zandy Ohnstad, Vice President for Communications



Jeff Hamrick, Vice President for Finance and Administration



BY JARED SCOTT TESLER

Nurturing a Love of Research

IN HER LAB, BRIT MOSS CULTIVATES LEARNING AND THE WORLD'S NEXT SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS

EVER SINCE SHE WAS a child, Britney “Brit” Moss has been interested in astronomy, biology, chemistry and geology. In high school, a NASA summer internship spent conducting molecular biology research at the University of Wisconsin–Madison solidified her love of science.

The first in her family to pursue higher education, Moss dove in with vigor and curiosity. “When I went to college, I pursued a biochemistry degree, which enabled me to

take lots of biology and chemistry courses,” recalls Moss, who graduated from Montana State University in 2004, “and I worked on a variety of research projects.”

Today, as Associate Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology (BBMB) at Whitman, Moss continues to find her heart’s work in the classroom and lab, inspiring future generations of scientists and scholars along the way. Her formative experience as a first-generation,



KIM FEIROW '96 OF KIM FEIROW PHOTOGRAPHY



“Having a front-row seat to young people discovering and exploring their passion for science ... is the most rewarding aspect of my work.”

—BRIT MOSS

by her alma mater as a Research Assistant, tasked with completing the projects she started as an undergraduate student — from understanding mechanisms regulating tumor angiogenesis (the formation and growth of new blood vessels) to testing novel photodynamic, the science of using light-activated chemotherapy compounds, therapy agents to treat breast tumors.

Moss would go on to earn a Ph.D. in Molecular Cell Biology from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, where she contributed to the study of non-invasive imaging technologies to advance research on human health and disease under the tutelage of David Piwnicka-Worms, a leader in the field who is now at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

A DAY IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

Since joining the Whitman faculty in 2015, Moss has mentored nearly two dozen budding scientists in her research laboratory, aptly named the Moss Lab, including two former Beckman Scholars who are both graduates with BBMB degrees: Silas Miller '21, now a Ph.D. student in cellular and molecular biology and graduate research assistant at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and Austin Chiles '22, a Cancer Research Training Award Fellow at the National Cancer Institute.

“Having a front-row seat to young people discovering and exploring their passion for science, both in the classroom and in the lab, is the most rewarding aspect of my work,” Moss says. “Receiving the invitation to join the faculty at Whitman and providing so many young scientists with their very first research experience are among my greatest professional achievements.”

And at Whitman, students don’t have to wait until graduate school to have meaningful and real-world research experiences. Moss has created undergraduate research courses and experiences, including a synthetic cell biology class, in which students complete a


semester-long, inquiry-based research project related to a contemporary topic that is being investigated in the Moss Lab.

Currently, Moss and her research team are working to determine how various features are “programmed” into plants, what molecules carry out these programs, and how they may be tweaked to provide plants with new and useful traits. The primary focus of their research is on a class of plant hormones called auxins, which play a central role in the coordination of many growth, developmental and behavioral processes in plant life cycles.

“Ultimately, we hope that our research will inform the work of plant scientists aiming to breed and engineer crops to feed a growing population in the midst of a rapidly changing climate,” explains Moss, whose original contributions to her chosen field have been published in a wide range of scientific journals.

Moss’s students will certainly tell you that her passion and enthusiasm for science are always on display in her classroom and in her lab. For her part, Moss says she strives to create a “welcoming atmosphere of belonging and camaraderie among members of the research team ... pairing up students to work on distinct arms of one research project to give them experience as both collaborators working together toward a larger goal and individuals driving the progress of their own project.”

Moss says she continually receives positive feedback from former students, who share that their research experience in the Moss Lab — and the practice they had presenting their findings on campus, at conferences and in their senior theses — inspired them to go on to careers as research professors or scientists.

“One of the reasons I chose Whitman was that I could see how much the faculty in the Biology department and the BBMB program value hands-on research experiences for students, even having them built into the curriculum,” Moss says. “These research experiences are absolutely crucial for students pursuing careers in the life sciences.” 

working-class student still carries its fair share of distinct advantages, she says.

“It’s given me perseverance and the ability to forge ahead into new and challenging situations, and informs the ways in which I interact with students,” Moss says. “I remember what it was like trying to figure out college and career without necessarily having any close family members to provide those kinds of insights, and I strive to provide guidance to all of my students — whether encouraging them to attend office hours and really get to know their professors, helping them navigate the process of finding research internships and applying to Ph.D. programs, or normalizing the fact that college is hard and research is hard, and that it’s normal to struggle and seek out support.”

LOOKING DEEPLY INWARD

Before joining Whitman, Moss grew her research career in university labs — exploring potential scientific discoveries to take on a deadly threat that affects so many people and families: cancer.

Immediately after college, Moss was hired



A Winding Path to Whitman

FOR KANESHA JOHNSON '23, EARNING HER DEGREE WAS A PROFESSIONAL GOAL & PERSONAL MISSION

BY PAM MOORE

FOR KANESHA JOHNSON '23, Whitman College initially felt completely out of reach. After spending her teenage years in foster care, dropping out of college and taking community college classes while juggling multiple jobs and a family, she knew she needed her bachelor's degree but saw herself enrolling in an online program.

The 34-year-old Sociology major recalls thinking, "Whitman was 'too fancy' for someone like me." But as Johnson prepares to don a blue cap and gown, she's thankful to have learned about the social systems that have impacted her life and for the mentors who helped convince her that Whitman was, in fact, the right place for her.

After bouncing between Indiana and Minnesota for much of her childhood, Johnson's family landed in Washington state — and at age 12, she entered the foster care system. Her mom, who passed away in 2022, worked hard to reunite the family, to no avail. It would be years until Johnson, who stayed with her foster parents through high school graduation in 2007, understood

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAM MONTES '23

the social structures that were working against her mom.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation granted Johnson a full scholarship to Western Washington University, where she studied theater and dance. Having danced since the age of 13, her goal at the time was to become a professional dancer.

While the opportunity was amazing, the timing wasn't. "I wasn't ready for a four-year college at that time in my life," says Johnson. She dropped out and took community college courses while working in Bellingham, where she met her husband and step-daughter.

ALWAYS A HELPER

Eventually, the young couple moved to Walla Walla and had a son in 2012. In her new hometown, Johnson found fulfilling work as a caregiver at Wheatland Village, a senior living facility. While she loved her caregiving role, it wasn't a sustainable way to support her family.

"I just felt like I could do better," says Johnson. With a goal of earning her bachelor's degree by age 35, she enrolled in Walla Walla Community College's Human and Social Services program.

"Even as a child, I wanted to be in a helping role. I used to work with kids at summer camps and church."

"I am my mother's child, and I know a lot of my strength and ability to push through comes from her. This diploma is not only for me but for her as well."

—KANESHA JOHNSON

Earning a degree was a professional goal—and a personal mission. "My parents did the best they could with what they had but I wanted to break the cycle," Johnson says.

On top of her position at Wheatland, she held two other jobs—all while raising two kids and taking classes. For over a year, she balanced three jobs until she landed a full-time position as a rapid rehousing coordinator with Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) and quit her other jobs at the start of 2020.

Shortly after starting at BMAC, Johnson told her supervisor and mentor, Elizabeth Guerra, she was exploring an online program to complete her bachelor's degree. In response, Guerra suggested she look into Whitman. Johnson recalls replying, "I could never get in, and I can't afford it."

This was the same story she'd been telling herself for years. While working at Wheatland, another mentor had floated the idea, which Johnson promptly rejected. She vividly remembers the conversation—and picturing herself attending Whitman, like it was a dream. Still, she thought, "I wasn't made for that."

Unconvinced, Guerra ignored Johnson's misgivings and introduced her to Professor of Sociology Michelle Janning. That conversation was a life-changing catalyst. With Janning's encouragement, Johnson applied, barely making the deadline.

BELONGING AT WHITMAN


Carrying a full courseload while managing motherhood and full-time work has been challenging. Only once she's clocked out of her job and tucked her children into bed does Johnson start her homework. She's also had to reckon with the feeling of not belonging on a campus full of students whose backgrounds are largely unlike her own.

Johnson recalls Associate Professor of Sociology Alvaro Santana-Acuña, reminding her, "You're feeling impostor syndrome. You're here for a reason."

Being different has advantages, too, however. Johnson says her experiences allow her to contextualize her academic learning

in a way that no book or lecture ever could. Meanwhile, her coursework puts the challenges she's navigated and the issues facing her BMAC clients into sharper focus.

Although she won't be present to see Johnson accept her diploma, her mother remains an inspiration. "From where I stood, my mother was the strongest and bravest person in my life. I am my mother's child, and I know a lot of my strength and ability to push through comes from her. This diploma is not only for me but for her as well."

While she's not sure what her future holds, Johnson knows her success at Whitman is the foundation she needs to change her family's future. "I want my kids to have what they need," says Johnson. And that includes a mom with a college degree to show what's possible. 



CONFIDENCE BOOSTERS

Kanisha Henderson '23 shares her top tips for believing in yourself.

1. Lean on mentors.

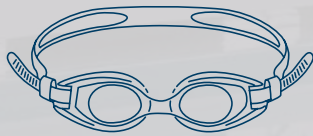
Sometimes you need others to believe in you before you can believe in yourself. Johnson wouldn't be where she is if it weren't for the support of the many mentors who encouraged her to explore Whitman. If it weren't for Professor of Sociology Michelle Janning, whom Johnson says "has made me feel totally welcome at Whitman," she might never have even applied.

2. Look beyond yourself.


While Johnson looks forward to opportunities for career advancement and financial stability, her commitment to her family's future keeps her motivated through the long days and sleepless nights.

3. Focus on your strengths.

Johnson occasionally feels envious of the high school curricula and family support that prepared many of her peers for the academic rigors of Whitman. But she chooses to focus on being grateful for the life experiences that allow her to better understand her academic learning and for coming to Whitman at a point in her life where she can truly appreciate the opportunity.



HARVEY POOL

WELCOME TO THE HOME of human aquatic activities on campus. (No ducks allowed!) Opened in 2006, Harvey Pool has been the scene of great success for Whitman's varsity swimming teams and includes an elevated area for spectators. In 2022-2023, the Blues excelled at Harvey and away (see page 8). The sparkling 30-meter pool draws students and others year-round to its light-filled space — for lap swimming, water polo, kayaking, swim lessons and more. Pool visitors might even see the Whitewater Rafting Club practicing their rolls. Located in Baker Ferguson Fitness Center, the pool facility is named after Louise and Paul Harvey. Mr. Harvey was Director of Food Service at Whitman from 1953 to 1977 and the family donated the funds that made the pool possible. 

KIM FERROW '96 OF KIM FERROW PHOTOGRAPHY



NEW FIELDS OF STUDY FOR TODAY'S STUDENTS

INNOVATING
THE CURRICULUM

Now more than ever, the world needs thinkers, leaders, innovators who can face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century — with knowledge and tools, vigor and ethics. That's why an ever-evolving strategic priority for Whitman College is a commitment to the liberal arts and to shaping a dynamic curriculum that can respond to these needs.

Whitman faculty have responded as innovators in their own right, creating new majors and programs. Here's a look at some of these new fields of study being introduced in Fall 2023.

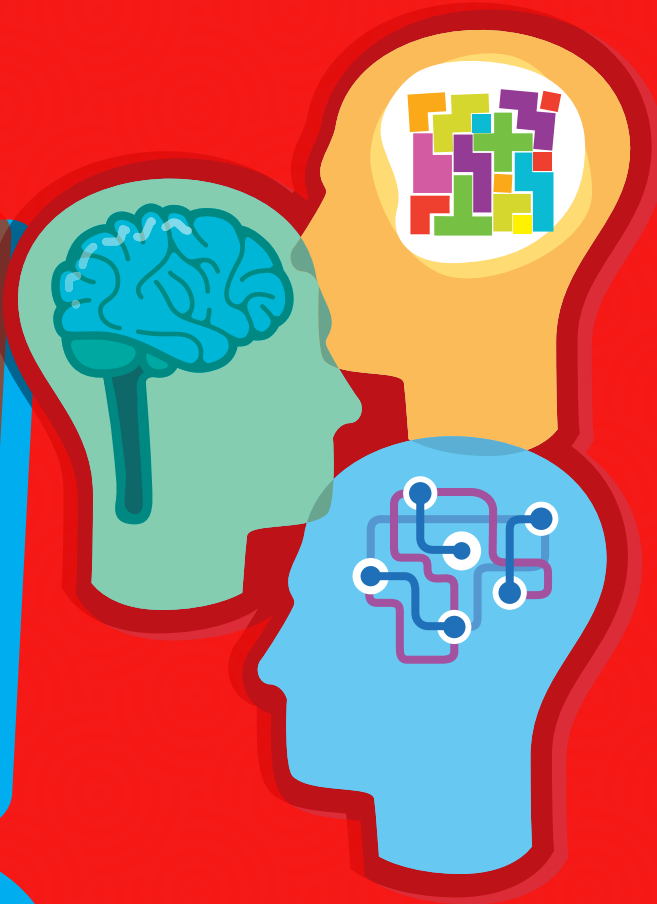
Brain, Behavior & Cognition

This new major integrates biology and psychology as they apply to neural science. Students majoring in Brain, Behavior and Cognition (BB&C) will explore the workings of the nervous system, in both human and animal models — and make connections between the science of the mind and the science of the brain.

“Bridging these departments will give students an opportunity to study each discipline as they work together in the brain rather than having to study both separately,” says Nancy Day ’05, Assistant Professor of Psychology. “Having a major that combines both Biology and Psychology is a major I wish I had when I went to school at Whitman.”

After Day joined Whitman in 2019, she worked closely with Ginger Withers, the Dr. Robert F. Welty Professor of Biology, to craft the new major. Day graduated with a double major in Psychology and Biology and is a former student of Withers.

And according to Withers, students aren’t limited to Psychology and Biology courses — they may take relevant classes in Philosophy, Rhetoric or Economics. “There are a lot of classes across our campus that fit into the new major,” says Withers. After Whitman, students can go in many different career paths because the major has a strong and practical anchor in the sciences, she says.



NEW MAJORS

Ethics & Society

Whitman’s Philosophy Department will introduce a new Ethics and Society major. Students who pursue this new major will consider philosophy through the lens of ethical and social issues, such as climate change ethics, criminal justice and punishment, biomedical ethics, animal rights, and racial and gender justice.

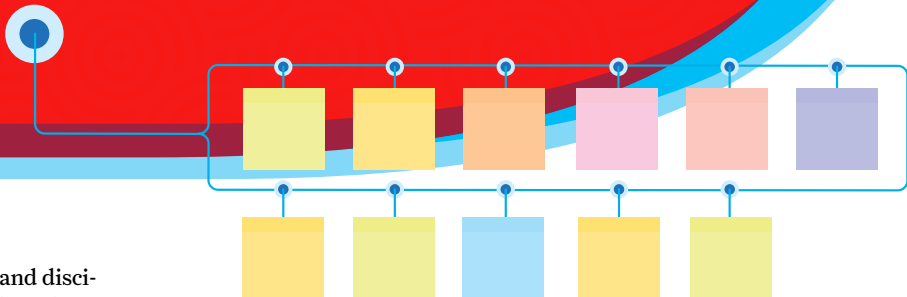
“Many of our students are keenly interested in questions of how we ought to act and interact with the people and world around us,” says Michelle Jenkins, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Chair.

For their senior capstone projects, Ethics and Society majors will be tasked with collaboratively undertaking a public-facing project that develops their abilities to understand, critically analyze and publicly communicate a complex moral question or issue.



NEW CONCENTRATION

Human-Centered Design



A working group of faculty from across campus and disciplines has brought this new concentration to the Whitman curriculum. The study of Human-Centered Design (HCD) encourages students to understand the deeper meaning of objects, spaces, systems and beyond — and how to evaluate people’s interaction with the designed world.

“HCD threads together multiple disciplines at Whitman in order to wrestle with challenging puzzles in today’s society, from climate change to accessibility and inclusivity in our digital and physical worlds,” says Michelle Janning, the Raymond and Elsie DeBurgh Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology.

“With Human-Centered Design, we’ve found a subject and lens that will bring many departments together,” says Janet Davis, Associate Professor and Microsoft Chair of Computer Science, and HCD Co-Director. “It’s a design process that takes people into account every step of the way.”

Janning, Davis and colleagues have seen interest in this type of work in both recent graduates and students.

“They’re moving in that direction and we want to help them in that,” says Associate Professor of Art Justin Lincoln, Co-Director of the new program with Davis.

The working group believes that Human-Centered Design also aligns with Whitman’s core values. It is guided by principles of belonging, inclusivity and empathy and works to help students respond to essential needs and problems that are embedded in unequal and unjust systems and structures.

One alum working in the field of design thinking, Katie Krummeck ’03, introduced the wider Whitman community to this specialty during her innovative and virtual Commencement speech in May 2020.

As an educational designer, Krummeck is an international leader in leveraging the power of design to drive change in K-12 education, with expertise in and a passion for creating learning experiences that develop students’ creative confidence, optimism and problem-solving skills.

More recently, Krummeck came to campus to present a workshop — Design Thinking: A Methodology for Teaching Creative Problem-Solving — in Janning’s Sociology 294 course, Designing Contemporary Childhoods.

Interested in learning more about Human-Centered Design? Visit whitman.edu/magazine for a curated reading and resource list from Krummeck and Whitman faculty.

A Practical & Powerful Process

Beginning in Spring 2024, students will be able to take HCD 101, where they’ll learn and experiment with the basics of Human-Centered Design, including these practices for design processes that can positively impact community, culture and the environment:

- Empathize → understand the need
- Frame → define the problem
- Brainstorm → generate possibilities
- Prototype → model solutions
- Evaluate → test and share/solicit feedback
- Iterate → revise and improve

Why a Concentration Versus a Major or Minor?

To the faculty working group, it became clear that HCD was a positive addition to any major. The concentration approach allows students to gain competency in HCD without limiting their choice in a major or minor. Students can choose HCD-related courses that fit their interests, different audiences and the kinds of problems they are trying to solve.

NEW COMBINED MAJORS

Major+French

Whitman students can now pair several majors with French in a new offering called Major+French. Majors in Biology, Geology, Psychology, Religion and Sociology can now enhance their major with an emphasis and coursework in French.

It is the equivalent of a minor but with more intention about how the subjects pair together, according to Sarah Hurlburt, Professor of French and Francophone Studies and Chair.

“The piece you have to look at is the integrated component. We aren’t going to teach special French psychology. We are working with the students so they can be intentional about incorporating language skills into their larger goals, for example by incorporating sources in French into their thesis project or presenting in French about their research,” Hurlburt says.

Studying and working abroad make this option valuable and practical. “More people outside of France speak French than in France,” Hurlburt says and cites Western Africa, Eastern Canada, Belgium and Luxembourg as places with high French-speaking populations.

When Major+French was first introduced, Geology was not an option. Owen Gaul ’25 worked with professors across disciplines to add it.

“I think it is really important to speak different languages and interact with people from different parts of the world,” Gaul says. The sophomore from Divide, Colorado, is proud that this idea and collaborative work now makes Geology+French available to other students.

“This is why I chose to come to a small liberal arts college.”

The Innovators

Brain, Behavior & Cognition

Biology: Ginger Withers and Christopher Wallace

Psychology: Nancy Day, Walter Herbranson and Matthew Prull

Ethics & Society (Philosophy)

Mitch Clearfield

Patrick Frierson

Rebecca Hanrahan

Julia Ireland

Michelle Jenkins

Human-Centered Design

Art: Justin Lincoln

Computer Science: Janet Davis and William Bares

English: Sharon Alker

French and Francophone Studies:

Sarah Hurlburt

Sociology: Michelle Janning

Theater: Daniel Schindler

Major+French

Sarah Hurlburt

Jack Iverson

NEW MINOR

Finance

In a global and ever-changing economy, an understanding of economics and finance can be valuable in many, if not most, career fields.

Whitman’s Economics offerings now include the option for Whitman students to add a minor in Finance to their major by taking certain courses, such as Financial Accounting, Corporate Finance, Money and Banking, and International Finance. Whitman’s faculty in Economics will work collectively to make this option available to current and future students and to continue to innovate their curriculum.

Where Can We Go From Here?

**Educator and
sustainability expert
Kim Smith '90 encourages
us to stay engaged
and resilient in the face
of climate change**

BY MARGIE REECE '93

Kim Smith '90 recalls the exact moment she envisioned her future as an environmental policy advocate. As a sociology major at Whitman College, she spotted a poster on the wall in Maxey Hall. It was for the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

"I told myself, 'That's my career.' I just knew it," Smith says. "It was a calling and I felt it very intuitively."

After earning her bachelor's in Sociology from Whitman, Smith did indeed go on to Indiana University (IU). It was guidance Smith received at Whitman that set her on her unique path, merging her interests in sociology and environmental affairs.

"Rather than getting a master's in environmental policy, my Sociology professor, Bill Bogard, encouraged me to go to Indiana University and get my Ph.D. in Sociology, a top program at the time, and minor in Environmental Policy," Smith says. "His advice made all the difference." At IU, Smith was able to receive full tuition and a graduate assistant position, while earning both a master's and doctorate in Sociology, with an emphasis in Environmental Sociology and Social Movements.

Smith's expertise in — and passion for — environmental sociology has made her an international leader in sustainability education, representing the U.S. in global efforts, while also bettering her own community in Portland, Oregon.

In addition to teaching sociology at Portland Community College (PCC), Smith co-founded the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN), which is acknowledged as a Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development by United Nations University. GPSEN aims to create and scale up solutions to address issues like climate change and other threats to our communities and planet through education, workforce training and public awareness.

A Motto is Born: Educate ~ Empower ~ Engage

Smith has taught sociology at PCC since 1996, but it was her involvement outside the classroom that changed both her outlook and teaching. "As a professor studying and teaching social problems, we would talk about heavy topics and my students and I were



“I told myself, ‘That’s my career.’ It was a calling and I felt it very intuitively.”

all struggling,” Smith says. “It is a horrible experience to see the light go out of students’ eyes — to have them become apathetic or cynical or to lose hope. We were exploring the problems, but we weren’t empowering students to figure out how they could make a difference. And at that time, we weren’t really establishing pathways to help students engage.”

What happened next in Smith’s career caused a major shift. She got involved with

community-based learning at PCC, as an instructor and program coordinator, and that powerless feeling faded. She began to see the possibilities of a better future where sustainability education and civic engagement could drive change.

As Smith felt more hopeful and energized, she shared that with her students and colleagues. It also inspired a new teaching motto for her: “Educate - Empower - Engage,”

which later became a vital part of GPSEN’s mission statement.

Picking Up a Torch for Global Change

Along with her teaching and administrative duties, Smith was active in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). In the months leading up to the United Nations Rio+20 Earth Summit, in

When Time Is of the Essence

After more than three decades of grappling with climate change, Kim Smith knows passing the torch through education and resilience matters now more than ever.

1988

Intergovernmental Panel on **Climate Change** (IPCC) is established.

1990

Kim Smith earns a B.A. in Sociology from Whitman College and goes on to graduate school at Indiana University (eventually earning her Master’s and Ph.D. in Environmental Sociology and Policy). **First IPCC report says the world has been warming and future warming seems likely.**

1992

1992 Conference in Rio de Janeiro produces the **U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change**, but U.S. blocks calls for serious action.

2012, Smith wondered if anyone from AASHE would be representing the United States — so she picked up the phone and asked.

“I said, ‘I’m on a National Science Foundation grant and have my Ph.D. in environmental sociology and policy, and I’d love to support you if I can.’”

Long story short, she landed the job and was off to Brazil. That was her first big foray into United Nations work, but not her last.

In 2014, she led the U.S. delegation to the UNESCO, or the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Japan. It was again her willingness to pick up the phone that got her the position. This time she called the U.S. State Department.

“I asked, ‘Who’s going?’ And they said, ‘We don’t have a U.S. team yet.’”

They encouraged her to put together a group of thought leaders who were doing sustainability education work in their fields. “We had seven people in our U.S. delegation — representing industry, nonprofits, the faith sector, K-12 education and higher education,” she says.

And there was important work to be done. In 2015, the member states of the United Nations adopted Agenda 2030, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve by 2030. These aspirational goals address five areas of critical importance: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

According to the United Nations, the SDGs are an urgent call for action by all countries—developed and developing—to engage in global partnerships. They recognize that ending poverty and other

deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

UNESCO focuses in particular on Goal 4—Quality Education—and education for sustainable development (ESD). They have recently adopted an international decade-long initiative which launched in 2020: ESD for 2030.

While the United States pulled out of UNESCO as an official member at the end of 2018, regional networks, like GPSEN, continue to advance sustainability efforts in their institutions and communities through the power of education and collective impact, Smith says.

Grateful for her Whitman Experience

Smith has seen the power in connecting people and causes for the greater good, and she’s not ready to give up. She also credits her alma mater for some of her bold tenacity.

“At Whitman, there are so many opportunities to be engaged and nurture leadership skills. I worked at the Student Health Center. I was a resident assistant and teaching assistant. I did volleyball stats. I ran a bunch of clubs and I was even a radio D.J.,” Smith says.

“Whitman was small enough that there wasn’t necessarily a fear of trying.”

Whitman even played a small role in the creation of the United Nations’ SDGs. A few years ago, during a visit to campus to speak to sociology students, Smith went to Penrose Library to work on the higher education

aspects of the education goal. She remembers it was a bit surreal.

“I was in the library, sitting in a beanbag chair, editing the international education goal ... thinking about how my life got here from that day in Maxey Hall.”

Leaning Into Hope & Resilience

In the fall of 2019, Smith came back to Whitman again to give a lecture: “Education for Sustainable Development: The Future Depends on Us!”

She spoke passionately about how sustainability education is the ultimate mechanism for saving the planet and humanity.

“We need to scale this up, to bring sustainability to our own campuses, organizations and communities,” says Smith. “We need system change, certainly, but we also need individuals to feel like what they do matters. Your vote matters. Your voice matters. Your actions matter.”

Of course, at the time, Smith had no idea that a global pandemic would soon disrupt education dramatically, create even deeper political chasms and thrust sustainability into the shadows as the world locked down with new realities and worries.

Now, in 2023, Smith recognizes the need for a shift in sustainability education to address the emotional state of both students and educators. Currently a faculty department chair at PCC, she and her colleagues have developed a series of workshops to help address eco-anxiety. In the spring of 2023, she led a session for her campus community called “Climate Grief: Strategies for Hope and Resilience.”

“In these daunting times, with ongoing news about social and ecological problems, it is important to develop skill sets that empower us to face challenges and build a sense of hope and resiliency,” Smith says.

What is eco-anxiety?

It’s the chronic fear of environmental doom. Though not a medical diagnosis, mental health experts recognize that some people are deeply affected by feelings of loss, helplessness and frustration due to their inability to feel like they are making a difference in stopping climate change.

2005

Hurricane Katrina and other destructive tropical storms spur debate over the impact of global warming on storm intensity.

2012

United Nations Rio+20 Earth Summit—Smith represents the U.S. as a member of AASHE. Agenda 2030 was created at the summit.



2014

Smith leads the U.S. delegation to the **UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

2015

The Paris Agreement, a binding international treaty, is established to reduce greenhouse gasses. Sustainable Development Goals were adopted, including a goal for climate action.

Fast 5 With a Youth Climate Activist

BY SYDNEY LONDON '23



KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

Bertine Lakjohn '23 is no stranger to climate change. Hailing from the Marshall Islands, where the effects of rising seas cannot be ignored, Lakjohn has been a climate activist well before arriving at Whitman.

The Sociology-Environmental Studies major has been featured in publications, including *Vogue*, for her work and led initiatives to bring other climate youth activist voices to campus. We were able to sit down and ask Lakjohn five questions about these efforts and what hope she has for her generation moving forward.

1 Who in your life inspired you to pursue climate action?

“Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner. She had a poem that shook the world by focusing on small islands that are actually sinking due to the climate crisis. She made a point of instead of viewing us as vulnerable, people should see us as resilient ... She’s definitely inspired me to take the untraditional road in life.”

2 Why should college students care about climate change?

“Elected officials tend to write off our concerns because they’ve been around for years and it’s never been a problem for them, but when they’re gone it’s going to be our problem. We are the generation that’s going to inherit the climate crisis, but we’re also the generation that can do something about it. That’s why we definitely should care.”

3 Where do you see the most change happening currently on campus?

“Whitman is making the effort to intersect academics more with the climate crisis, which I really appreciate. Relating the topic of climate action into classes, while also integrating our greater community within our own Whitman community, is where a lot of climate-related action is being taken. Next up would be getting a designated climate-action space to host consistently in.”

4 What things can college students do to promote climate activism on campus and in their communities?

“Take advantage of the fact that you’re a college student. Find internships. Speak to professors and others about environmental issues, because there are

“It’s no longer a rural person’s problem or an island girl’s problem. It’s everybody’s problem.” —Bertine Lakjohn '23

so many opportunities that they may point you toward. You don’t even have to be an Environmental Studies major to ask, you just have to be passionate and willing to give them your time. They’re not just going to teach you skills, they’re also going to give you perspective.”

5 How can people take action if they don’t know where to start?

“Everything that’s happening right now is related to the climate crisis. Think about where you’re from. Ask yourself, ‘What has changed since I was born and raised here?’ Climate change happens in every town, even in urban environments. It’s no longer a rural person’s problem or an island girl’s problem. It’s everybody’s problem.” **W**

2019

NOAA’s Arctic Report Card says **Greenland’s ice sheet—which contains enough stored water to raise sea level by more than 24 feet**—is losing billions of tons of ice each year.

2020

As other countries step up their efforts to avoid catastrophic planetary warming, **President Donald Trump withdraws the U.S. from the Paris Agreement.**

2021

On his first day in office, **U.S. President Joe Biden signs an executive order** to rejoin the Paris Agreement.

2023

Bertine Lakjohn earns a Sociology-Environmental Studies degree from Whitman College. Her thesis title: “Being Youth During the Climate Crisis.”

What’s next?

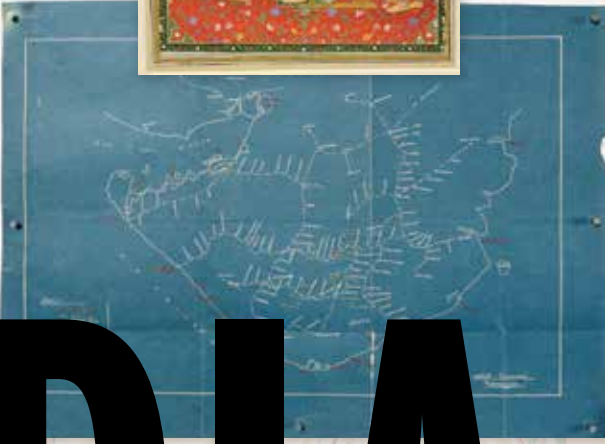
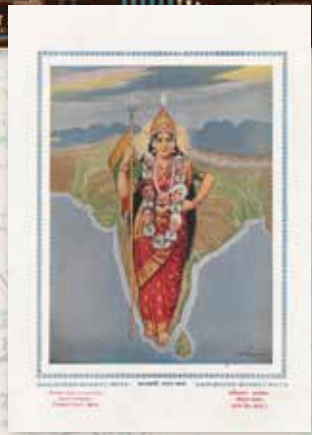
Visit whitman.edu/magazine for resources from Smith and her colleagues at Portland Community College.

MAPPING

HOW AN IDEA TO TELL THE STORY OF INDIA'S HISTORY IN A FEW MAPS GREW INTO AN EXHIBIT OF 100+ ARTIFACTS AND A SCHOLARLY JOURNEY

BY CASEY BROWN

INDIA





PARTITION (VERB): TO DIVIDE (A PLACE, SUCH AS A COUNTRY) INTO TWO OR MORE TERRITORIAL UNITS HAVING SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS.

In 1947, India was partitioned into India and Pakistan. An exhibition in the spring of 2023 at Whitman College's Maxey Museum maps out the historical, political, social and geographical factors and forces at play: "Mapping India: Colonialism, Nationalism, and the Partition of South Asia."

It was a coming together, not division, that culminated in this impressive showing of historical maps and other artifacts of the region.

Associate Professor of Art History Krista Gulbransen spearheaded what was a four-year scholarly effort, working closely with student researchers to help her vision go from an abundance of materials to telling a story of imperialism and independence in South Asia on the museum walls.

Where did these maps and objects originate? They're from a collection gathered from around the world by another scholar, Whitman alum Mark Giordano '88.

Giordano, who was an Economics major at Whitman, earned his Ph.D. in Geological Sciences in 2002 from Oregon State University. Giordano is currently a Professor of Geography and Vice Dean for Undergraduate Affairs at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Giordano recalls being encouraged



by his Whitman gallery connections to meet Gulbransen after she joined Whitman's faculty in 2014 as an art historian specializing in South Asian art and architecture. Their shared interest in the region's artifacts was the first spark for the India collaboration.

Over months and years, Gulbransen, along with her student researchers — Amira Jain '23, Alexa Pilgrim '22, Connor Rauch and Issabella Zito '23 — and one of Giordano's Georgetown students, Laetitia Haddad '23, combed through and studied the extensive collection, mostly through high-resolution images and scans. It included over 200 artifacts — with more than 100 ending up in the exhibition.

"I trained the students in how to think about and research maps, gave them background information about colonial Indian history, and shared with them the central vision and goals of the show," Gulbransen says.

In the work, she saw an opportunity to tell the complex story they were uncovering. The maps foreshadow and address the consequences of partition, among other topics.

"Drawing a line in the sand and saying 'OK, these are two countries now' brought mass migration and communal violence," says Gulbransen.

The revealing results of the project impressed even the collection owner, whose original aim was to gather objects that could help convey the history of the region — something he and Gulbransen agreed was missing from American academia.

"I had an idea that if you had about eight to ten maps it would tell this story," Giordano says.

In their research, Gulbransen and team delved deep into the history, culture and politics.

Giordano says, "There was a lot more that came out in the maps than the basic story."

Celebrating good work. Viewing a map from 1940s Germany, from left, Issabella Zito '23, Mark Giordano '88, Alexa Pilgrim '22, Associate Professor of Art History Krista Gulbransen and Amira Jain '23.

MUSEUM PHOTOS BY KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY AND HIGH-RESOLUTION MAP IMAGES BY GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Exploring the exhibit. Whitman students experience "Mapping India."

Learn more about the show and browse exhibits at whitmancollege.reclaim.hosting/mappingindia.

MEANINGFUL RESEARCH & LIFELONG SKILLS

For the students who helped Gulbransen research and curate the exhibit, the work was enlightening. And for one, it hit close to home: Jain was born in India. The Film and Media Studies major lived there until age 13, when she moved to California.

Jain says she got involved because she wanted to access art history in a new way—her previous experience was limited to studying paintings, sculptures and prints. As a native speaker who also reads and writes Hindi fluently, Jain was able to help with translation and the project provided an opportunity to talk with her own family more.

"If I didn't know something, I'd send a picture to my grandpa," she says.

Jain was also grateful to gain a deeper understanding of her birthplace.

"In India, I was taught the history of how the country was conceived in a very particular way. It was important for me to get an outside perspective about that and form my own unbiased opinion," she says.

"I learned so many research skills," Jain says. "It is one of those things that

now that I have all these tools in my arsenal, how can I not use them?"

She also can look ahead to see what her life after Whitman might look like.

"It is cool that Whitman keeps in contact with alums. Mark works at a completely different school and has a commitment here (Whitman) and loaned us his entire collection," Jain says.

Zito, an Art History major from Seattle, found the work compelling and says she has always been fascinated with maps.

"We wanted to convey that maps aren't an objective scientific tool," says Zito. "It isn't a common topic to talk about the intricacies of the maps and how subjective they are to their personal viewpoints.

"We had to figure out what the maps were saying, what they were about, research who made them, where they are coming from and, if possible, why they were made.

"We distilled pages and pages of research about maps into something."

THE EXHIBIT—THE JOURNEY

The collection features rare pieces, such as one of the first maps ever

printed on a printing press, one that orientates to the south rather than the north and a piece printed by the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) in World War II that showed potential locations for air raids.

As visitors walk toward the museum space, a massive map is displayed on the wall facing the exhibit. It shows the entire subcontinent without borders—while "the show is about how the borders came to be," Gulbransen says.

The exhibition itself is partitioned into four sections.

Section I. Traveling and Trading: European Merchants in India.

To begin, museum visitors see how travel and trade affected the continent. Maps in this section include the "upside down map" from 1564 or 1565, which focuses on water and maritime trade, and a 1798 map made by the British trying to guess the route Napoleon would take if he tried to conquer India.

There are military maps, merchant maps from England's East India Company, and pieces from the Dutch, Portuguese and French.

Section II. Seizing and Surveying: Territorial Expansion Under the British East India Company. This section explores land surveys

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAPS IN INDIA WAS A WAY TO CONTROL THE LAND."

—Associate Professor of Art History Krista Gulbransen

and seizures, largely by the East India Company. What was founded as a trading company became an imperial state exerting control over newly acquired territories, with maps used as a tool to seize the land.

"So many of the maps in this section were made by other nations as a way to conquer the land and its inhabitants for one reason or another," says Gulbransen.

Section III. Ruling and Resisting: The Independence Movement Under the British Raj.

The third section explores the rise of resistance during a time when Queen Victoria of England was declared as the Empress of India.

During this period, the map, originally a colonial tool for control, becomes an important nationalist image used by folks to imagine an independent nation, Gulbransen says.

Over time, nationalist images, such as Mother India, or Bharat Mata, from the 1930-40s, were defined by Indian people themselves, rather than what was prescribed to them from other cultures. Items in this section include pieces that showcase Mahatma Gandhi, the Buddha and Hindu reform leader Swami Vivekananda. Each piece is related to what is known as the Independence Movement.

Section IV. Defining and Dividing: Post-Colonial Borders in South Asia.

The final section of the exhibit helps explain what led up to the partition and how the borders being drawn would eventually divide India into Pakistan and India.

Nationalist protests continued to grow throughout the first decades of the 20th century, culminating in

1942 with the Quit India Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi that demanded freedom from British rule. With limited resources after World War II, British Raj officials began to consider when and how to dissolve the colonial state in India.

This fourth section includes two maps from 1909 that visually depict religious groups. The first, titled "Prevailing Religions," indicates the religious majority in each region, while the second, "Religions," shows the distribution of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain communities across the subcontinent. These maps were used to draw the partition line.

According to Gulbransen, this complicated South Asian history has current repercussions — and offers local insights, as well.

"Border disputes cannot only be understood by looking at the present moment," she says. "The politics today in India and Pakistan, there's no way you can understand them without understanding the history of partition and colonialism."

And while it is not the same story, the history of settler colonialism in and around Walla Walla has important thematic connections to her exhibition, Gulbransen says.

"I hope that the show raises some of these broader issues for people, encouraging them to think about the implications of drawing maps and labeling land." 🗺️



THE LECTURE SERIES

"Mapping India" was more than a curated show. It also included numerous campus events, including the following guest speakers:

Mark Giordano '88, Georgetown (Geography), "Imagining the Nation: The Role of Maps in Identity-Formation"

Ian Barrow, Middlebury (History), "The East India Company: From Merchant to Colonial State, 1600-1858"

Atreyee Gupta, UC Berkeley (Art History), "Abanindranath Tagore and the Interwar Cartographies of Imagination"

Lecture series funded by: O'Donnell Visiting Educator Fund, Whitman College Center for Global Studies, David Deal Fund, Whitman College, Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

EXHIBITION CREATED WITH SUPPORT FROM:

Libby Miller, Macey Museum;
Kynde Kiefel, Andrew Somosky
and Tara Graves, Sheehan Gallery

Teachers & scholars.
Associate Professor of Art History Krista Gulbransen and Whitman alum and Georgetown professor Mark Giordano '88 share a passion for South Asian art and history.

RE-IMAGINING MAXVILLE

**A PLACE ERASED FROM THE MAP:
LISTENING TO THE LAND
AND CREATING BRAVE SPACES**

BY PAM MOORE

Tatiana Villegas '23 was a junior when she received a text message from her friend and fellow Whittie, Hannah Paul '22, inviting her to participate in a project called Re-Imagining Maxville.

Villegas, a Sociology-Environmental Studies major from Seattle, had no idea that message contained a unique opportunity to apply the lessons she'd learned from her science classes to her studies of society and community. But she was intrigued, nonetheless.

The project is envisioning an environmentally and socially just future for the community of Maxville, a place known for both its natural beauty and its problematic past.

According to Whitman Associate Art History Professor Lisa Uddin,

who is spearheading this student-experience initiative, the intention is “to visualize the shape of and programming for an outdoor education center on 240 acres of newly acquired traditional Nez Perce homelands that includes the 94-acre historic site of the racially-segregated logging town of Maxville, Oregon.”

As a previous fieldwork site for both Whitman's Semester in the West and Land, Water, Justice course, Maxville shares a connection with Whitman. “Re-imagining Maxville is another iteration of that relationship, with an emphasis on what an outdoor education center can be when it's responsive to Black people, Indigenous people and immigrants of color,” says Uddin, whose areas of expertise include Black Studies, urbanism and environmental humanities.

Villegas was drawn to the project not just because it sounded interesting but because it was clear that her perspective as a student of color was crucial. Voices like hers were needed “to answer questions about how students of color would learn in the future space, given the complexities of its racist past,” says Villegas, who identifies as mixed-race and Indigenous.

So, for several days in June 2022, this group from Whitman—Villegas along with Uddin and fellow students

of color Paul and Nia Combs '22—visited the site to explore and engage with the land. Throughout her time on the site, Villegas kept coming back to the question of how Maxville's history impacts the present—and what a new future could look like.

MAXVILLE'S PAST

Just 44 miles southeast of Walla Walla as the crow flies, Maxville is about a two-hour drive from the Whitman campus. In the early 1920s, it was a burgeoning logging community. The Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company, which owned the town, recruited experienced African American loggers to relocate there. But at the time, Oregon's law prohibited “free Negroes” from moving to the state. While the logging crews included both Black and white employees, the community was divided, with Black employees and their families relegated to segregated housing and education.

The Great Depression brought a sharp decline in lumber demand, and in 1933, Bowman-Hicks ceased operations in Maxville. By the time the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center (MHIC) was established in 2008, Maxville had long been a ghost town.

Since acquiring the site in June 2022, the nonprofit's founder and executive

Below:
Maxville's
Segregated
School, c. 1926;
courtesy of
Maxville Heritage
Interpretive
Center



director, Gwen Trice, along with a diverse group of stakeholders and partners, including Whitman, has grappled with the challenge of bringing it back to life.

“Now the question is how to re-imagine Maxville and its timberlands. And how do we make it into this brave space where we can include students of all ages in the work that we’re doing there?” Trice says.

MAXVILLE’S FUTURE

Top priorities for the future space include creating an environment rich with learning opportunities, and one that treads lightly on the land while acknowledging the fraught experiences of those who lived there when it was a segregated logging town from 1923 through 1933.

Both controversial timber practices and racial injustices shaped Maxville, Trice says. “It’s about the healing of the land and the people and looking at the traumatic components of that.” Trice, whose ancestry includes Black members of the Maxville community, sees archaeological digging, the study of migratory species and native flora and fauna, creative writing, visual arts, and healing from trauma as just a few of the activities that will take place on the Maxville site.

MAXVILLE & WHITMAN

“It was an obvious love connection!” Uddin says of her initial impression of Trice. “Given my work on histories of Black space-making and Gwen’s work to transform 240 acres of Nez Perce homelands and the historic site of a segregated logging town into an outdoor education,” a collaboration was inevitable, Uddin says. Working with architectural historian Henry Kunowski, they landed on Re-Imagining Maxville, which Uddin calls “a short summer project that



would allow Whitman students of color to brainstorm possibilities for the Maxville site.”

According to Trice, Whitman students’ input has been invaluable to the initiative. “They bring their generational inspiration and a sense of wonder that gives us insight unique to their cultural background as to how to re-imagine this space.” Uddin agrees, the “pragmatism, tenderness and generosity” the students bring to the work is informed by their identities as “Black and Indigenous women and queers of color.”

Meanwhile, Villegas says the experience has only deepened her commitment to promoting diversity. Re-imagining Maxville reminded Villegas that “healthy communities can only flourish when they acknowledge multiple perspectives”—a lesson she’ll carry with her from Whitman and Maxville. 

“It’s about the healing of the land and the people and looking at the traumatic components of that.”

—Gwen Trice, Founder and Executive Director of the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center




Above: Maxville Logging Company photo, c. 1926; Delores Crow Smith Collection, courtesy of Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center

Left: Whitman students visit the Maxville site in the Wallows.



the
CONFLICT
COMES
to the
CLASSROOM

BY TARA ROBERTS



HOW do you TEACH a COURSE on WAR in REAL TIME?

Shampa Biswas' career at Whitman College has been devoted to encouraging students to be global thinkers. When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, she knew it was a historic moment in global politics — and she wanted to give students a space to learn, think and talk about it.

“Regardless of where our students end up in their careers, they live in a world which is interconnected,” says Biswas, the Judge and Mrs. Timothy A. Paul Chair of Political Science and Professor of Politics at Whitman. “It’s really important for our students to have a sense of the global, a sense of what’s happening far away even if they think that it doesn’t directly impact their lives, because it does.”

a COURSE RISES out of WAR

In the fall of 2022, Biswas taught a special topics seminar: Global Politics of the War in Ukraine. She followed a similar model as she did for a class during the Iraq War, developing and modifying the syllabus as issues arose.

The students began by delving into the debate among international relations scholars regarding the reasons Russia invaded. Then they explored broader issues, such as nuclear politics, war crimes, the efficacy of the United Nations and the role of independent media.

Biswas invited guest speakers to help her students think through the complicated questions, including an expert on war crime investigation who had worked in Rwanda and a former



director of the U.N. Security Council Affairs Division who had been in U.N. General Assembly discussions when the war began.

Students also shared their personal experiences. When they learned about different perspectives on the war around the world, students who had studied abroad in Europe explained what it was like to be in countries close to the conflict. Students with connections to other countries raised concerns about the lack of global attention to other wars and refugees.

“I had students in the class who were from the Global South, who did ask the question, which was a reasonable question to ask, about why all this attention on the war in Ukraine when there are conflicts raging all around the world,” Biswas says. “And that led to some animated discussions among students about what matters, and what does not matter. In international politics, who gets attention, who does not?”

OPINIONS and LIFE SKILLS

At the beginning of the semester, what students would learn and their professor would teach wasn't laid out neatly in a set syllabus.

“I invited my students into an uncertain journey,” Biswas says.

“Together, we learned and thought and analyzed and argued. As we collectively muddled through a constantly changing landscape, we added flesh to a skeletal syllabus.” The class read well-weathered international relations texts alongside new analyses that cropped up in real time. They explored emerging, different and shifting positions and debates about the war in Ukraine over the course of the fall.

Discussions in the classroom were sometimes heated, Biswas says, but that was part of the learning process.


“Cultivating those skills of listening well, engaging with somebody— and being willing to change your mind when somebody else convinces you — are absolutely critical

“If the class did nothing else, it forced my students, and me, to confront a far-away war as our war too. And this class, in tentative and somewhat ambivalent ways, invited us to imagine the possibilities of peace in a violent world.”

—Professor of Politics Shampa Biswas

skills, and skills we’re going to need even more in the polarized environment in which our students are living,” she says.

The students’ major assignments were designed to help them share the lessons they’d learned. Students wrote opinion pieces about the war and worked in small groups to produce podcasts. With funding from an internal grant, Biswas collaborated with Whitman staff members from Technology Services and the Office of Communications to help students with their projects.

“Part of the skills that I was teaching them was not just ‘think well, talk well,’ but also be able to reach others outside of the classroom in ways that are accessible.” 

Read Shampa Biswas’s *Seattle Times* opinion piece: “The Lesson of This Moment: Abolish Nuclear Weapons.” Find the link at whitman.edu/magazine.

in THEIR EDUCATED OPINIONS

Shampa Biswas wanted her students to struggle with the big questions of war and peace during her course on the conflict in Ukraine. She also wanted them to discover their political voices—and to reach others with their words.

Below is a sample of op-ed topics developed by students during the course. Read their work at whitman.edu/magazine.

Nate Vigdor '23

#SlavaUkraini: Bringing the War Home to Your Smartphone Screen

“Clips (from social media) represent the new way in which war is reported, and provide a platform for civilians and soldiers alike to broadcast their experiences to a very large audience.”

Arya Kukreja '23

Digital Nomads in a Time of War: A Critique on Diplomacy

“When the war began, thousands of students were forced to evacuate the country and change their academic plans to instead become refugees.”

Gerry Todd '23

America Welcomes More Than 100,000 Ukrainian Refugees. Let's Think Bigger.

“The kinds of emergencies that tend to create lots of refugees—war, famine, natural disasters—are hardly scheduled well in advance.”

the PODCASTS

Students created podcasts to examine how international relations can help understand war and its aftermath. To listen to the 15-minute episodes, visit whitman.edu/magazine.



Real-World Caring

WHITMAN STUDENTS SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AT LOCAL CLINIC

BY MÓNICA HERNÁNDEZ WILLIAMS
PHOTOS BY RIVER WOODRUFF '25 AND NOEMÍ REED

FROM A YOUNG AGE, Katie Jose '23 knew she wanted to practice medicine. And during her time at Whitman College, she has only grown more confident in that goal through her work with Walla Walla's SOS Health Services Clinic. The San Diego native (pictured at left) is double majoring in Hispanic Studies and Global Health with aspirations of becoming a pediatric oncologist in her hometown.

Only 3 miles from campus, the SOS Clinic provides health care services to individuals with inadequate health insurance in the Walla Walla Valley, regardless of citizenship status. The clinic gives Whitman students like Jose a firsthand look into the health care field while benefiting from a pool of volunteer students and interns eager to get career experience.

"Whitman students have been and continue to be bright young people with a deep desire to serve others and make the world a better place," says Paul L. McLain M.D., Medical Director of the clinic. "I am always astounded at how much energy they have and how they are willing to give to our mission of providing primary health care to local people who do not have adequate health insurance. We have

“Interning at the SOS Clinic solidified that I want to go into health care.”

—Victoria Frost '24



come to depend on these students and are never disappointed.”

“Their mission ... that is the kind of work that I want to do in the future,” says Jose. I want to have my own clinic for underinsured and uninsured patients in San Diego because the immigrant community is so big there.”

In her first year at Whitman, Jose joined the student-led SOS Club to become a volunteer and now serves as the club’s president. She is also president of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS)—which creates community among underrepresented students who are interested in medical professions and grows their knowledge of the specific needs of minority communities in health care settings.

‘A ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE’

SOS Club members help the clinic by recruiting volunteers, scheduling carpools, organizing fundraisers and hosting awareness campaigns about health disparities. SOS Club members shadow physicians, translate for staff, check in patients and provide clinic upkeep. Jose says volunteering was a great experience, but she took it one step further by interning through the Whitman Internship Grant, which pays students for what would otherwise be an unpaid internship.

“As an intern, I got to do things that the clinic coordinator is responsible for, like take inventory, purchase vaccines, start a vaccine clinic, administer COVID tests and keep

patient records,” Jose says. “At one point, the clinic coordinator was gone for two weeks so I was trained to run the clinic while she was gone. It is an opportunity that I am incredibly grateful for, and I know that I probably wouldn’t have had that anywhere else. It is a one-of-a-kind experience that I got because I came to Whitman.”

Jose’s classmate Erik Muro '24, who currently sits on the Board of Directors for the clinic, agrees. He initially heard about the SOS Clinic through Jose and has since volunteered and interned there too—with a focus on medical translation. He knows firsthand how challenging language barriers can be in a health care setting.

“I always think back to when I would go with my mom to the hospital when I was a kid and I would interpret for her. It was very difficult,” says Muro, a Hispanic Studies major who grew up in Walla Walla. “A child should never have to go through that. Plus, it can be embarrassing or uncomfortable for parents to let their kids know what is going on.”



Erik Muro '24

Now, Muro uses his language skills to build trust between the patient and the physician.


“I am able to be that bridge for someone,” he says. “I come in and can be a friendly face ... and they know that I can speak to them in their language.” Seeing the comfort and relief that provides patients is “really cool” and rewarding, Muro says.

In addition to making a positive impact for patients, Dr. McLain says students are also leaving an impact on clinic staff.

“Whitman students keep all of us who work in the clinic energized and help us better appreciate the value of the volunteering that we ourselves are doing,” he says. “They help us understand that we also have additional value in helping nurture their career interests and decisions.”

HELPING NOW & INFLUENCING LIFE AFTER WHITMAN

Victoria Frost '24, a Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology major from Anacortes, Washington, says interning at the clinic has given her clarity on the direction of her future.

“I wasn’t sure if I wanted to study medicine or computer science. Interning at the SOS Clinic solidified that I want to go into health care,” Frost says. 

POURING ON SUPPORT

Walla Walla winemaker and Whitman alum Ashley Trout '03 created Vital Wines in 2016 to ensure that vineyard and winery workers in the region are able to receive inclusive health care, including at the SOS Health Services Clinic. While 100% of the profits from Vital Wines go to helping workers, Trout’s mission reaches beyond fiscal support. For example, the award-winning, nonprofit winery also works to raise awareness of local health care disparities and texts workers in Spanish about services such as vaccine clinics. Learn more at vitalwinery.com.



KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

True Chemistry

AARON LEFOHN '97 CLIMBED HIS WAY
TO AN INNOVATIVE TECH CAREER AFTER
FIRST DISCOVERING COMPUTING AT WHITMAN

BY CASEY BROWN

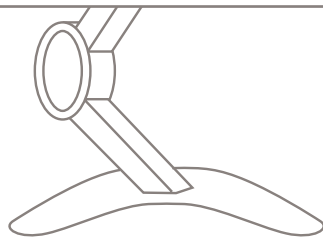
AARON LEFOHN '97 chose Whitman College because it was academically selective—and it had a vibe he liked. At the time, he had no idea how much that decision would affect his life and inventive career path.

“When I visited Whitman, the scene of people studying hard, playing Ultimate Frisbee on Ankeny, and enjoying Whitman’s outdoor rock climbing wall — it just seemed like a challenging and welcoming place for the next step in my life,” Lefohn says.

Today, Lefohn is Vice President of Graphics Research at NVIDIA, a technology company at the forefront of what he describes as accelerated computing. NVIDIA, founded 30 years ago, is a leader in 3D computer graphics, artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles and other fields and products that rely on innovative and accelerated computing.

AARON LEFOHN ON CLIMBING & LIFE

“Climbing taught me that solving hard problems requires a long-term commitment, grit and mental strength. When a climb seems impossible, you dig deep, you look inside yourself and discover you’ve got far more to give, and you just keep pushing through.”



A CHEMICAL REACTION

At Whitman, Lefohn earned his degree in Chemistry. After graduating, he went on to earn master’s degrees in chemistry and computer science from the University of Utah and a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of California, Davis.

Whitman gave Lefohn his first exposure to computing—and it was a chemical reaction of sorts—a bond that stayed with him. As an undergraduate, he encountered the emerging field of computational chemistry, which uses computer simulations to solve chemistry research problems.

During the summer before his senior year, he took the advice of then Professor of Chemistry Stephen Schvaneveldt and taught himself the programming language C++.

“Computer programming captured my interest like none of my academic classes had before.”

Then during his senior year, he worked with Professor Schvaneveldt. “For my senior thesis research, I built a Monte Carlo computer simulation of a noble gas. This was my first experience simulating physical processes with a computer, which is still an integral part of my current research at NVIDIA.”

As a doctoral student in chemistry at the University of Utah, Lefohn took every opportunity he could to pursue his growing interest in computer science.

“I discovered that as a graduate student, I could take classes in any department. I started signing up for computer science classes as a chemistry graduate student.”

It was in those side courses that he “finally figured out what I wanted to be when I grew up,” Lefohn says.

A scientist, yes—a computer scientist studying computer graphics. He left his graduate chemistry program with a master’s in chemistry and was accepted into University of Utah’s master’s program in computer science.

A FRAMEWORK FOR SUCCESS

At NVIDIA, where he works in the regional office in Redmond, Washington, Lefohn has found a company where his drive to explore new possibilities and technologies is both welcome and woven into the culture.

“It’s an incredible environment in which to be an inventor. The company has an insatiable appetite for new ideas, supports long-term research and has extraordinarily strong product teams eager to partner with researchers to bring new ideas to market,” he says.

Lefohn’s post-graduate education gave him the capabilities he needed to pursue a career in tech. Yet he attributes his success as an inventor—in an industry that requires research, critical thinking and innovation—to his Whitman education.

“One of the things I learned from Whitman was how to learn,” he says.

“I credit Professor Templeton for teaching me the foundations of the scientific process. Teaching us how to perform repeatable and accurate scientific experiments, teaching us how to thoroughly document our science, and overall being rigorous, careful and inquisitive scientists.”

Other early lessons at Whitman have stayed with and served Lefohn.

“I don’t know what life would have been

like without that broad liberal arts background. Out of the collection of things that I learned at Whitman, one of the most important is how to write,” he says. “I rely on those skills every day.”

KEEP CLIMBING

If Lefohn wasn’t studying or in the lab at Whitman, he would likely be at the climbing wall or on a mountain excursion with the Outdoor Program.

“The Whitman climbing community was like an unofficial sports team. We were at the climbing wall four days a week and traveling to climb outdoors on many weekends.”

Lefohn met his wife, Karen Gamache, at Whitman—thanks to climbing and calculus.

“We met in Professor Fontenot’s Calculus III class, and then she came on a rock climbing trip that friends and I were guiding to Smith Rock State Park in Oregon. She’d always wanted to learn how to climb. After that trip, she started tutoring me in calculus, and we started climbing together.”

Lefohn isn’t one who gives up on any challenge easily, whether it’s inventing or climbing.

“I spent over two years working on climbing one particular route at Smith Rock before I was able to finally climb it without falling,” he says.

That same intensity and persistence serve him today when it comes to facing difficult research problems.

“Climbing taught me that solving hard problems requires a long-term commitment, grit and mental strength. When a climb seems impossible, you dig deep, you look inside yourself and discover you’ve got far more to give, and you just keep pushing through.” **W**

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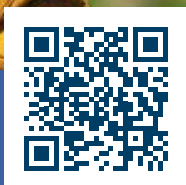
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Class Notes



Sacred symbols. Beadwork with the Chowtaw Nation sun design.

Alum's Beadwork to Appear on Marvel TV Show

The artwork of Whitman College alum Roger Amerman '80, enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, may soon be featured in one of the largest movie franchises in the world. The Marvel Cinematic Universe has earned \$25 billion worldwide since 2008 and has produced 40 movies and television shows in the last 15 years.

Coming to Disney+ later this year or early next year, "Echo" tells the tale of superhero Maya Lopez, a Choctaw woman, who can perfectly mimic any physical movement after only seeing it once, which makes her a great fighter and ballerina, among other abilities. She is played by Alaqua Cox, Menominee and Mohican, in her acting debut. Both Lopez and Cox are Native American and disabled, which is a form of representation both communities are celebrating.

FIRE AND SUN

Echo will likely be sporting a design based on the beadwork of Amerman who hand beaded designs using traditional Native American materials and techniques.

"It might not sound like much, but a teenager a year from now watching a superhero show will see Sun and Fire designs," Amerman says.

Marvel had their eye on the look and feel of certain cultures, and Amerman says they knew they wanted a Choctaw design for part of Echo's costume. They landed on a sun design and fire design, which happen to be the most "sacred and holiest designs," dating back 2,000–3,000 years, Amerman says.

"We and our cousin tribes are the only people who use it in North America ... My tribe has an extreme reverence for the sun. It supplies energy to all of Earth. That isn't hypothetical, that's real. The sun is holy," he says.

In the middle of Echo's utility belt, there could be a medallion designed by Amerman. He constructed the piece using a two-needle applique, contour technique, and Czech glass beads. The belt in the show may include beads or they may choose to use a computer-generated design based on Amerman's submission.

Working with Marvel was a unique experience for Amerman. He appreciates how they are invested in portraying Native American culture in an accurate way.

"Unlike old Hollywood, they want to get it authentic," he says.

CULTURE & COLLABORATION

Amerman received a call about the show because he was recommended by a tribal archeologist who happened to know that he has specialized knowledge about the Choctaw Nation. Marvel was interested in incorporating Choctaw history and customs in the show.

Several other people got the same call. Many people worked on Cox's costume and the show as a whole.

"Marvel is not just working with many Native Americans, they are working with Choctaw Nation individuals and departments of the Choctaw Nation to make something authentic and have true integrity as Choctaw ... Not just people who look stuff up and read books but actual people who know."

The beading process took about five months and entailed many, many packages mailed back and forth between Amerman and Marvel.

"Just like any beadwork project, much of it is putting a lot into design, materials and composition. I put a lot of time into that and Marvel does too, so we kept going back and forth."

Along the way, Amerman worked with other artists and costume designers. Ultimately, Marvel chose a design that is close to what Amerman submitted—but uses a more subdued color palette.

He hopes when the show debuts that viewers will ask questions like what is that design, how old is it and who uses it in modern times?

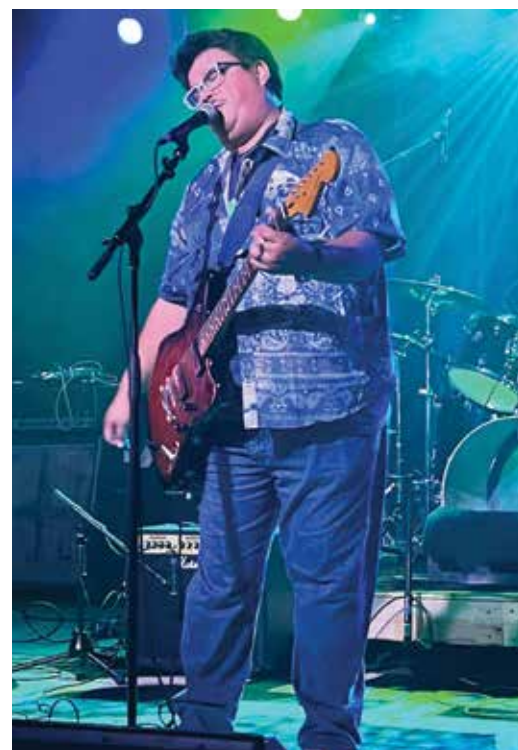
"I want to spark conversations about our culture."



Class Notes



Peggy Willis '67, Julie Gaisford '65 and Ted Willhite '65 met for lunch on the left bank in Paris, France. They talked politics for nearly three hours.



Andrew Hill '09 was promoted to Senior Instructor of French at Louisiana State University. Hill also performs with the band Mid-City Prowlers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and looks forward to releasing their first album in 2023. He thinks of Whitman fondly, "I want to give heartfelt thanks to the French, Theater and History faculty who shaped me."



Class of 2009 grads Lauren Wenzel Martenson, Gia Matzinger and Andrea Seymour Walker got together in November 2022 in Colorado to catch-up and meet Andrea's second child, Sam.

Junius Rochester '57 boarded a small cruise ship at Shilshole Bay, Seattle, in mid-October as the Ship's Historian. In Port Angeles, Washington, Rochester left the ship to enjoy dinner with Dick Thorson '55 and Bob Skotheim, former Whitman president, in the Skotheim home at the mouth of the Elwha River. You can read more from Junius at postalley.org/author/rochester.

Jeanne Grace Jackson '73 (she/her/hers) retired in 2018 after 40 years of service to the State of Colorado in information technology. Her focus during retirement is writing science fiction novels under the pen name "Sourdough Jackson." Jackson has published a trilogy, "Wurst Contact" (Auntie Aircraft Media), about an alternate Whitman College of the early 1970s, available on Amazon.

Michael Dean '80 writes "After 31-some years providing happiness and education in the form of strategy board games, I'm on the cusp of the third and final stage of life. Transition to retirement will be punctuated by a 3,000-mile bike trip along the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route from New

Mexico to Jasper, Alberta, Canada this summer. Anyone living along the route is welcome to contact me to share a beer. Next stop, a bright red rocking chair and wrap-around porch like in W2."

Sidney Knapp Pepple '86 is in her fifth year with the Northshore School District in Bothell, Washington. She says, "After years of working in Washington state politics, I was deflated by the partisanship and negativity, so I made a career change. My third graders are exhausting, but they teach me something new each day!"

Laura Senio Blair '92 was named one of the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) Mellon Academic Leadership Fellows. The fellowship provides leadership experiences to a diverse cohort of humanities faculty members at ACS colleges and beyond. Blair teaches Spanish and Latin American and Border Studies, with an interest in 20th- and 21st-century Spanish American narrative, drama and film at Southwestern University.

Michelle McClellan '94 has relocated to the Walla Walla Valley after more than 20 years

in Portland, Oregon. She lives with her boyfriend on their dream property on the south fork of the Walla Walla River in Milton Freewater, Oregon. McClellan splits her work time between career marketing consulting, helping out with her boyfriend's canoe business and serving wine one day a week at Mongata Estate Winery, just up the road. They love their new home in the foothills of the Blue Mountains and look forward to connecting with local alums and classmates who may be in town.

Jill Jarvis '01, Assistant Professor of French at Yale University, was awarded the Modern Language Association (MLA) of America's 13th annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies for her book "Decolonizing Memory: Algeria and the Politics of Testimony" (Duke University Press, 2021). The award recognizes outstanding scholarly work written by an MLA member.

Dylan Brady '06 was recently hired for a tenure-track position at the National University of Singapore, Department of Geography.



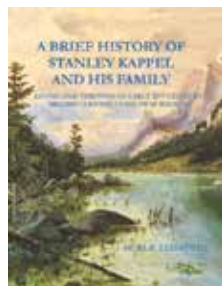
Kate Morrison '95 has been named Executive Director of Trilogy Recovery Community in Walla Walla. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from Whitman College. She has more than 20 years' experience working as a nonprofit and business consultant, grant writer, designer and web developer. She was Assistant Director of the YWCA of Walla Walla, Program Development Lead for Trilogy Recovery Community at its inception in 2008 and Executive Director for the Lower Nehalem Community Trust.

Her early work with Trilogy began in 2008 as a contractor to help build the first programs for the growing organization, working with a group of dedicated volunteers, she developed a small but effective recovery program for youth and their families coming out of drug and alcohol rehab—a gap in support in a growing community. She is pleased to be both in recovery and returning to Trilogy as Executive Director.

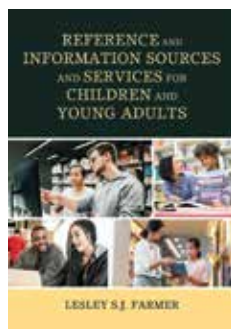
Pat Spencer, the Grace F. Phillips Professor of Geology at Whitman, was named Board President. Spencer received his doctorate in Geological Sciences from the University of Washington and has been teaching Geology at Whitman College since 1984. In his time at Whitman, Spencer has served as Chair of the Geology Department; Chair of the Science Division; Chair of the Faculty; and Provost and Dean of the Faculty. Spencer has been affiliated with Trilogy since its beginning, previously serving on the Board of Directors; he has been happily sober for more than 38 years.

Trilogy Recovery Community is committed to building a healthier community, one person at a time. They do this by employing an integrated approach, working with the whole person on their individual path to recovery from trauma, substance use, and/or mental health challenges. Their services are free to the community and rely on the generosity of donors.

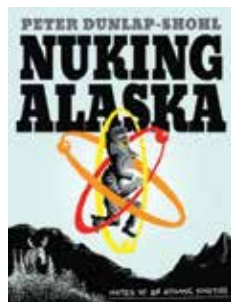
Whittie Authors



Murl Leibrecht '67 released his book "A Brief History of Stanley Kappel and His Family: Living and Thriving in Early 20th Century British Columbia's Shuswap Region" (Amazon Kindle Direct) in October 2022. The book details the life of Stanley Kappel, father of **Karen Kappel Leibrecht '67** and **Kerry Kappel Dearborn '72**, who died when his children were toddlers. Leibrecht's book is an attempt to bring Stanley Kappel "back to life."



Lesley Johnson Farmer '71 released her 36th publication "Reference and Information Sources and Services for Children and Young Adults" (Rowman & Littlefield) in September 2022. Available through rowman.com.



Peter Dunlap-Shohl '81 will see his second book-length comic, "Nuking Alaska, Notes of

an Atomic Fugitive" (Graphic Mundi), released in June 2023. Part memoir, part history, the book details various nuclear misadventures and near-misses suffered by the state of Alaska during the Cold War, when Anchorage—the state's largest city—became "the most dangerous place on Earth."



Matthew Spaur '85 released his book "Making a Small Fortune" (BookBaby) in August 2022. A memoir about his experiences as the co-owner and editor of The Local Planet Weekly newspaper in Spokane, Washington, the book delves into Spokane history, politics and media, journalism, small business, stepparenting, healthcare and rare diseases. Find out more at matthewspaur.com.



Barry Stoddard '85 announced the release of his book "Baikonur Man: Space, Science, American Ambition, and Soviet Chaos at the Cold War's End" (Koebler Books) in March 2023. The story spans 1988 to 1993, when Stoddard was involved in a project to place the first American commercial and scientific payloads onto the Russian space station MIR as the Soviet Union came to an end.



Royce Buckingham '89 has published his 13th fantasy novel, "Im Zweifel für das Monster" (Penguin/Random House, Germany, 2022), about a lawyer who wakes up to find his childhood monster sitting on his bed and in need of legal help. Buckingham is an author and attorney in Bellingham, Washington.



Zoe Ballering '12 won the 2022 Katherine Anne Porter Prize for "There Is Only Us" (University of North Texas, 2022), her debut collection of stories. Described by judge Polly Buckingham as "wholly original and wildly contemporary," the collection charts the strange, magical and often misguided ways people contend with their loneliness.

Happily Ever After



Ken Anderson '08 and **Kristen Coverdale '11** tied the knot Oct. 10, 2020, in a small ceremony that included **Greg Hansen '08**, **Ellie Klein '10**, **Kaston Griffin '09**, **Liz Gossard Coleman '11**, **Hannah Payne '11**, **Leah Wheeler Elstrott '11**, **Hanna Ory '11**, **Justin Liberman '08** and **Anu Sawkar '08**.



Ellery Nelson '20 and **Logan Schmidt '18** announced their engagement on Sept. 30, 2022, at Gleneden Beach, Oregon.



Daniel Straus '11 married Randall Oliver Nov. 24, 2022, in Corolla, North Carolina. Straus is an Associate General Counsel at Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., and Oliver is the Director for Canada at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. They live in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington, D.C., and would love to connect with Whitties.



Josh Berliner '09 married Aurora Kurland on Oct. 29, 2022, at Gardener Ranch in Carmel Valley, California. Whitties in attendance included (from left to right): **Miles Pengilly '09**, **Andrew Stokes '08**, **Garett Long '10**, **Scott Percival '09**, **Elliott Okantey '09**, **Josh Berliner '09**, **Graham Brewer '10**, **Gonpo Sokpo '09**, **Michael Regan-Anderson '09**, **Sasha Bobylev '07**, **Jay Davidson '08** and **Ross Eustis '11**.

Little Whitties



To **David Toomey '98** and Julie Phillips Brown, a daughter, Violet Elizabeth Toomey, born Sept. 21, 2021. Violet joins brother Aiden, 7.



To **Ken Anderson '08** and **Kristen Coverdale '11**, a son, Ari Galen Coverdale, born Dec. 18, 2021.



To **Alison Price '16** and Alex Dzinbal, a daughter, Ava Elizabeth Price, born Sept. 20, 2022.



To **Andrea Seymour Walker '09** and Colby Walker, a daughter, Samantha Leland Walker was born Oct. 10, 2022. Samantha joins brother Logan.

Tell Us About It!

Whether you're just starting your first job, embarking on a career change or preparing to retire after a fulfilling life's work, we want to help you share your news with your classmates. To submit your big news, visit whitman.edu/classnotes.



In Memoriam

1940s

George Rodkey '45 on Nov. 30, 2022, in Hayden, Idaho. While attending Whitman, Rodkey met and married his wife, **Dorothy Howard '45**. After graduating from Wayne State Medical School in Detroit, Michigan, Rodkey practiced medicine from 1949-1990. He first served as a director at hospitals in Arkansas and Spokane, Washington, before opening a private practice. Rodkey was "kind, gentle and genuine." He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and their six children; a sister; and several dozen grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Maryanne Timm Freeman '46 on Nov. 21, 2022, in Walla Walla. This Delta Delta Delta sister attended Whitman from 1942 until 1945. Freeman married **Robert Freeman '48** in 1948 and the couple had two children. She obtained her degree in Education from University of Washington and returned to her hometown to teach at various schools in the Walla Walla valley. Freeman enjoyed golfing, skiing, swimming and working in her flower garden. She was predeceased by her sister, **Betty Timm Watson '43**. Freeman is survived by her husband, Bob; their two children; her nephew **Robert Freeman '72**; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Lange '49 on Sept. 12, 2022, in Beaverton, Oregon. A Walla Walla native, Lange attended Whitman upon returning from his U.S. Air Force service after WWII. Lange pledged Phi Delta Theta and met his wife of 70 years, **Patricia Clarkson Lange '49**. They married in 1948 and Lange transferred to the University

of Minnesota to earn his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He worked four decades for Rexnord (Chain Belt) as a sales engineer, eventually serving as district manager in Portland, Oregon. Lange is predeceased by his wife, Pat, a brother and sister, **Beth Lange Kemmerer '43**. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, **Ned '56** and **Priscilla Alsip Lange '61**; three daughters, including **Sandee Lange Brogan '73**; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews and loving friends.

1950s

Gordon Jaynes '50 on Dec. 4, 2022, in Kentucky. After graduation, this Tau Kappa Epsilon brother earned his Bachelor of Laws from University of Washington and a postgraduate diploma in International Law from University College in London, England. His focus was on dispute resolution and he served on dispute boards throughout the world from his law office in London. Jaynes was passionate about many things, including sailing, Formula One racing and wine, and he held a deep love for books and written expression. Jaynes returned to the U.S. with his partner, Lyle Lawson, in October 2022, hoping to begin a new chapter of their lives in Kentucky. Jaynes is survived by his partner, Lyle, and his daughter, Janice.

Shirley Strand '51 on Oct. 2, 2022, in Bellevue, Washington. In her submission to the 50th Reunion Lookbook, Strand wrote, "For me the passing years resemble a river; sometimes flowing peacefully, sometimes a

rushing waterfall, and on occasions more like a whirlpool. From all this I have learned that I have strengths I never dreamed of." Strand married Norman Strand shortly after graduation. The couple had four children, and she stayed home with the family. After Norman's passing, Strand met and married Robert Marx. The couple were together 22 years — traveling the world and spending time with Whitman friends. Strand is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Charles "Bud" Dodge '52 on Sept. 8, 2022, in Boise, Idaho. During their freshman year at Whitman, football player Dodge met **Marion Riehl '52** and the two quickly became "inseparable." Dodge and Riehl married in 1951 during their junior year. Dodge was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping with his family. Survivors include his wife, Marion, six children, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his sister and one son.

Eugenia "Jean" Poehler Schlatter '53 on Dec. 6, 2022, in Melbourne, Florida. Schlatter graduated with a B.A. in Mathematics, one of only two female math majors at the time. After graduation, she returned to her home state of Montana where she met and married her husband Richard Schlatter. Schlatter taught mathematics in K-12 public schools for 30 years and retired as the head of the junior high math department in Kalispell, Montana. Schlatter is predeceased by her husband and is survived by their two sons and four grandchildren.

Judith "Judy" Clarkson Atkinson '54 on Oct. 6, 2022, in Kirkland, Washington. This Delta Delta Delta sister married her husband Earl Atkinson in 1952 and left the college to raise their family. She was an

active volunteer in her community, serving as President of the League of Women Voters for the Tucson, Arizona, chapter and President of the United Nations Association of Southern Arizona. Atkinson is predeceased by her husband. She is survived by four children, including **David Atkinson '77** and **Susan Atkinson '80**, and several grandchildren.

Maxine "Max" Hooper Smith Jacobsen '56 on Sept. 1, 2022, in Stockton, California. In December of her senior year, Delta Gamma sister Jacobsen married her college sweetheart, **Joe Smith '55**. After she graduated with honors, Jacobsen and Smith moved to California, where Jacobsen taught in the public schools. The couple divorced but remained amicable; Jacobsen remarried in 1996 to Dick Jacobsen. She is predeceased by both her husband and former husband. Survivors include two children, a brother, a sister, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Fred Shields, Jr. '56 on Nov. 1, 2022, in Richland, Washington. After graduation from Whitman, Phi Delta Theta brother Shields spent the next decade traveling the globe. He first enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and then spent time in Central America, the Middle East and South America with various corporations. While in Chile Shields met his wife, **Marinez Pla**. After the couple returned to the States, Shields worked in the family office products business for over 30 years. He was an active member of the Tri-Cities community, serving in several clubs and on boards. Shields is survived by his wife, **Marinez**; their three children, **Keith '89**, **Scott '91** and **Stephanie Shields**, and five grandchildren.

C. Lawrence "Larry" Lutchter '57 on Oct. 25, 2022, in Evans, Georgia. Lutchter matriculated at Washington

University School of Medicine, St. Louis after graduating from Whitman. He worked in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology for 30 years; retiring as Director of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) in 1997. Lutchter was recognized as MCG's "America's Top Doctors" five years running and was inducted into McLoughlin High School's Hall of Fame (Milton-Freewater, Oregon) in 2016. Lutchter is survived by his wife, Dr. Priscilla Gilman, his three children, five grandchildren, one great grandchild and his cousin **Janet Rubey Murray '58**.

H. Eugene "Gene" Blattman '58 on Nov. 14, 2022, in Carmel, California. Blattman enjoyed a long, satisfying business career spanning 41 years. During this time, he met and married Virginia "Ginnie" Blowers. Their blended family of nine relocated to Maryland, when Blattman took a job with McCormick, the international spice company. He retired as President and CEO of McCormick & Co. in 1996. In retirement, Blattman became active with Carmel Presbyterian Church and spent time on missions in Cuba. He is predeceased by his wife, Ginnie, and a son; he is survived by his wife, Carol; numerous children, step-children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and cousin **Connie Bosley '67**.

Charmaine Rivers Beck '59 on Oct. 10, 2022, in Walla Walla. Beck attended Whitman until her marriage to Klova Beck in 1956. She transferred to University of Idaho in 1957 and, together with her husband, pursued a degree in Elementary Education. The Becks returned to the Walla Walla Valley where both taught in the Milton-Freewater school district and raised their family. During her career, Beck received several honors, including being

Whitman Leaders



Patricia "Pat" Courtney Gold '61 on July 11, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. In her youth, Wasco Nation member Gold was taken off to a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school where her hair was cut and she was made to wear a standard-issue, oversized dress. She went on to earn her B.A. in Mathematics and Physics from Whitman. After college, Gold worked as a researcher in a hydraulics lab at Washington State

University; taught math at community colleges; and conducted research for state and federal environmental agencies.

In 1991, at the encouragement of her sister, Gold enrolled in the Oregon Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program to study and revive traditional Wasco weaving techniques. She learned to weave twined sally bags, which are root-digging bags that use a full-turn twining technique utilized by her community. "As I began focusing more on my weaving, I also became aware that the technical technique was only a small facet of what I was doing. The other component was that I was dealing with a whole ancestral heritage. I felt as though the ancestors were waiting for somebody like me to come forward and that all this energy was being focused and funneled through me," she said in an interview with the National Endowment

for the Arts (NEA) in 2007, when she was awarded NEA's Heritage Award.

Other accolades include the 2001 Oregon Governor's Arts Award; 2003 Community Spirit Award and 2004 Cultural Capital Fellowship from the First People's Fund; the prestigious 2009 Dobkin Native Arts Fellowship at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Whitman's 2018 Alumna of Merit. Gold's basketry and weaving work is world-renowned and displayed in museums both nationally and abroad, including works in the Peabody Museum at Harvard; British Museum in London, England; Hei Tiki Gallery in New Zealand; and the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Survivors include her husband, Phillip, and a sister, Bernyce.

PHOTO: ALAN GOVENAR; MASTERS OF TRADITIONAL ARTS



Terrence "Terry" Pancoast '65 on Oct. 25, 2022, in Lake Oswego, Oregon. "My time at Whitman kindled new lifelong interests, honed critical

thinking skills and developed a level of confidence, all of which have positively impacted and enriched my personal life and career," Pancoast wrote in 2015 for his 50th Reunion Lookbook. Pancoast was deeply involved with life on the Whitman campus, participating in Political Union and varsity track and field. He was honored with the 1965

Borleske Award for his "career athletic ability and accomplishments ... and contributions to the campus and community as a whole." After graduating with honors and a degree in Political Science, Phi Delta Theta brother Pancoast enrolled in Harvard Law School. He married his college sweetheart, **Diane Grove '66**, the summer following her graduation.

Pancoast graduated cum laude in 1968 from Harvard and returned to the Pacific Northwest, settling into a 50-year law practice, dedicating himself to a life of service. Pancoast focused on trusts/estate planning and nonprofit/charity law. His legal acumen earned recognition from "Best Lawyers" and he was named the Portland Nonprofit/Charity Law Lawyer of the Year three

times, Trust and Estates Lawyer of the Year once. He was also listed in "Oregon Super Lawyers" and "Best Lawyers in America." In 2020, he was presented the Age+ Ageless Award, given to individuals 75 years or older "who continue to make significant contributions to society." To that end, Pancoast worked with numerous trust and task forces and served on nonprofit boards, including Planned Parenthood (local and national chapters); the Oregon Symphony Association; "I Have a Dream" Foundation - Oregon; and the Whitman Board of Overseers for over a decade.

Pancoast is predeceased by his former wife, Diane, and his eldest son. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Erickson, three children, two grandchildren and his siblings.

David Frasco, Oct. 22, 2022, in Walla Walla. Frasco received his A.B. in Physical Science at Colorado State College (now University) in 1953 and then completed his M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry at Washington State College (now University) in 1958. He was hired by Whitman College as Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the fall of 1958 and, over the years, attained full professor rank in 1973-74. He was named a Garrett Fellow in 1971. At the end of his teaching career in 1996, he was awarded Emeritus Professor of Chemistry. During his teaching years, Frasco taught a wide range of chemistry courses and held a number of faculty offices. He mentored many

students and enjoyed their visits after graduation. Professionally, he spent two sabbatical leaves, first at the University of Washington and later at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, doing research. He had two National Science Foundation grants and did research in the summers at Battelle in Richland, Washington.

In retirement, Frasco began volunteering with the local AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program, starting as a tax advisor. Over the following 28 years, until 2019, he took on more responsibilities, and in 2016 he was named a Tax-Aide Fellow in recognition of his long and outstanding service to the Tax-Aide Program.

He met and married his wife, **Nancy Morrison '53**, at WSU. They had two sons, Michael and **Eric '82**. Nancy passed away in 1975. Mutual Whitman friends introduced Dave to his second wife, Gwyn Adams. Her two sons, Bradley and Barry, became part of the Frasco family. Survivors include his wife, sons, stepsons and three grandchildren.



named "Outstanding Young Woman of America" in 1966, Milton-Freewater Jaycees Educator in 2004 and several barrel racing championships. Beck is predeceased by her husband and siblings; she is survived by three daughters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Charles Moore '59 on July 10, 2022, in Shreveport, Louisiana. Tau Kappa Epsilon brother Moore enrolled in California State University after graduating from Whitman. He earned his M.A. in Fine Arts there in 1968 and a Ph.D. in Art History and Humanities from Syracuse University in 1972. Moore spent his career in academia, teaching art and art history at several universities and colleges. Survivors include his wife, Ruth Ann, a sister, two daughters and many nieces and nephews.

1960s

Marion Arnstao Chenaur '60 on June 29, 2022, in Normandy Park, Washington. Alpha Phi sister Chenaur left Whitman after her marriage to Clayton Chenaur in 1958 and transferred to the University of Washington. The young couple opened a mortgage company, Sound Mortgage, Inc., in 1963, where Chenaur worked as the bookkeeper and payroll coordinator until her husband fell ill in 2007. She is predeceased by her husband. Chenaur is survived by three children and many grandchildren.

Diane Minkler Edison '60 on April 26, 2022, in Tacoma, Washington. While at Whitman, Edison met her husband of 58 years, **Larry Edison '58**. They were married in the summer after her graduation. Edison lived an active lifestyle, held several jobs while raising the couple's four boys and involved herself in numerous

community organizations. Most recently, she rappelled down the side of Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Washington, in July 2021 as part of a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser. Edison is predeceased by her husband, Larry. She is survived by her four sons, including **Ransom "Randy" Edison '86**, and 11 grandchildren.

Leon Lysaght Jr. '62 on Dec. 2, 2022, in Glen Arbor, Michigan. Phi Delta Theta brother and varsity athlete Lysaght felt "deeply influenced" by his time at Whitman, especially under the tutelage of track coach Bill Marin. His philosophical studies at Whitman inspired an interest in the law. Lysaght earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and, eventually, a Ph.D. in Philosophy from University of Pennsylvania. He pursued a career in academia and expressed joy in engaging in scholarly debate with colleagues and students. Lysaght is survived by his wife, Pam, two children and several grandchildren.

Kathryn Jones Hogue '64 on Oct. 17, 2022. Kappa Alpha Theta sister Hogue graduated with a degree in Biology. While working as a Medical Technologist at Seattle Children's Hospital, Hogue reconnected with fellow Whitman alumnus, **Peter Hogue '65**. They were married in 1968. Hogue then earned her master's in Biology from California State University, Chico. She taught biology part time at local colleges while working as a clinical hematologist for 40 years. Hogue is survived by her husband Peter, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Ronald "Ron" McMullen '66 on July 28, 2022, in Shelton, Washington. McMullen matriculated to Whitman through the Class of 1966. He played

football, swam, was on staff at The Pioneer and pledged the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. McMullen left Whitman after his sophomore year and eventually earned his master's degree from the University of Washington. Survivors include his brother, several children and numerous grandchildren.

Charles "Charlie" Stookey '66 on Dec. 11, 2022, in Reno, Nevada. Phi Delta Theta brother Stookey was a tour de force at Whitman. He played a variety of varsity sports and worked on the college yearbook while maintaining a GPA which earned him honors. After Whitman, Stookey enrolled at the University of Nevada, Reno where he earned a second bachelor's and two master's, in Education (1972) and Psychology (1990). Stookey spent the latter part of his career as a substance abuse counselor and clinical supervisor. He is survived by his wife, Judith, and five children.

Evan Smith '67 on Nov. 18, 2022, in Shoreline, Washington. Tau Kappa Epsilon brother Smith majored in History and was a Northwest Conference All-Star in track & field and cross country multiple times. He still holds two Whitman records for the two-mile run and distance medley relay. After his graduation, Smith co-founded the Snohomish Track Club and continued to be involved in the sport his entire life. Smith earned his master's in Communications from the University of Oregon and his law degree from Case Western Reserve University. Smith taught journalism, history and law at various universities for three decades. In 1998, Smith was named Father of the Year by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Greater Washington Chapter. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Schechter, two children and two grandchildren. Donations in

his honor can be made to Evan Smith Fund for Cross Country and Track at Whitman College, give.whitman.edu/smith.

Charles "Charlie" Gates, Jr. '68 on Nov. 28, 2022, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. During winter break of his senior year at Whitman, Phi Delta Theta brother Gates married his college sweetheart, **Sarah Schnug Gates '70**. After he graduated from University of Iowa Medical School and completed his residency at the University of Utah, Gates and Sarah moved their family to North Idaho. Gates started North Idaho Urology in Coeur d'Alene, eventually expanding to Kellogg and Sandpoint. He practiced urology for 70 years. Gates is survived by his wife, Sarah; his brother, **Ken Gates '70**; three children, including **Benjamin Gates '93** and **Kimber Gates '96**; three grandchildren and a niece.

Paul Holder '69 on Oct. 28, 2022, in Corpus Christi, Texas. This Nu Sigma Chi brother earned his B.A. in Economics from Whitman and immediately enrolled in the U.S. Navy after graduation. He spent his entire career as a naval officer. Upon retiring from active duty after 24 years, Holder taught at the Corpus Christi Junior ROTC program. He fully retired from the service in 2007 and focused on his home-based brewing store. Survivors include his wife, Theresa Resendez, two children, five grandchildren and a brother.

1970s

Dixie Bingham Cross '71 on July 23, 2022, in Walla Walla. Cross was a non-traditional student who transferred from Walla Walla Community College in 1969. After graduating from Whitman with a degree in English, she enrolled in Walla Walla College and obtained her

Master's in Education. Cross taught English literature and composition at Walla Walla Community College for 24 years. She is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Wayne Holt '72 on Aug. 23, 2022, in Vashon, Washington. Tau Kappa Epsilon brother Holt credited his career trajectory to his time at Whitman—both as a student and Director of Computer Services for five years. Of his tenure on staff at Whitman, Holt said "Thanks to President Skotheim, I had a thriving consultancy by the time I left Whitman." He spent the next 45 years working in higher education, "focused on student success." Holt is survived by his wife, Phyllis, two daughters, including **Laura Holt Nichols '00**, and a grandchild.

Robert "Bob" Reisig '72 on April 18, 2022, in Rio Linda, California. This Phi Delta Theta brother was a dedicated scholar-athlete who lettered in three sports—baseball, football and track. His dedication to both athletics and his education earned him the 1972 Borleske Athletic Award, "Whitman College's highest sports-related honor," according to a Walla Walla Union-Bulletin article published at the time. After leaving Whitman, Reisig held several retail/sales managerial positions. He enrolled in the Business Management program at UC Davis in the late '90s, earning his MBA and California Realtor License in 2001. Throughout his life, Reisig remained active in the communities where he lived. He was serving as President of the Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District Board of Directors at the time of his passing. Survivors include three children, three grandchildren and four siblings.

Lisa Abrahams '76 on Nov. 21, 2022, in Fargo, North Dakota. Abrahams transferred to Whitman after her sophomore year at the University of San Diego. While pursuing her Bachelor's in Philosophy, Abrahams met a recent grad, **Andrew Niemyer '73**. The couple were married in the summer after Abrahams' graduation. After a stint in Spain for Niemyer's first Navy squadron assignment, Abrahams enrolled at the American University of the Caribbean. She received her medical degree from the institution in 1982. Abrahams became a commissioned Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and completed a residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Interventional Cardiology. After leaving the service in 1990, Abrahams continued practicing cardiology at a variety of institutions for the next two decades. She landed her "dream job" as the clinical cardiologist at the Fargo Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2021. Abrahams is survived by her husband, Andrew, and their two sons.

William "Bill" Reeve '76 on April 13, 2022, in Santa Clara, California. Varsity cross-country athlete Reeve graduated from Whitman with a double major in English and Geology. He worked as an engineer for Lockheed Martin for almost 30

years, retiring in 2013. Reeve then worked as a consultant for Google, training new employees in the corporation's engineering residency program. Survivors include his wife, Laura, and their three children.

1980s

Kurt Marquiss '81 on Sept. 26, 2022, in Newman Lake, Washington. Beta Theta Pi brother Marquiss, earned his B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Whitman. After graduation, he went to work in sales for Berlex Laboratories, Inc. and remained with the company for 13 years. Marquiss spent his career in medical device and pharmaceutical sales; he was working for ZOLL Medical Corporation at the time of his passing. Marquiss is survived by his two children, including **Nick Marquiss '13**, and many dear Whitman friends.

Pamela "Pam" Allen '82 on Nov. 24, 2022 in Seattle. Allen matriculated to Whitman with the Class of 1982. She pledged Delta Gamma sorority, played varsity soccer and joined the Nordic Ski team. After graduating with her degree in Art History, she earned her master's in Architecture from the Southern California Institute

of Architecture, Los Angeles. Allen worked for several architectural firms before opening her own in 2018. She was an avid outdoor enthusiast and enjoyed spending time hiking, backpacking, skiing, bicycling and spending time with family at their cabin. Survivors include her parents, **Darrell '53** and **Sada Kate Allen '55**; her son, **Xander Land '25**; a brother, **Tim Allen '88**; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rebecca Sather '82 on May 1, 2022, in Goldendale, Washington. Rebecca earned her B.A. in Sociology-Anthropology. A true Alaskan pioneer, dearly loved sister and friend to **Chris Sather '79**. She is survived by her mother Carol; sister Chris, a niece and three nephews.

Edward "Ed" Swan II '85 on Oct. 28, 2022, in Vashon, Washington. Swan obtained his B.A. in Political Science from Whitman. It was at Whitman where he also met his wife, **Linda Barnes '87**. After graduation, he held several jobs which allowed him to pursue his true passion — birding. Swan was a cornerstone of the avian community. As a master birder, he organized dozens of Christmas Bird Counts; conducted scientific surveys to document the biodiversity of birds; and wrote

"The Birds of Vashon Island: A Natural History of Habitat and Population Transformation." Swan is survived by his mother; his wife, Linda, two sons, including **Leander Swan '23**; and a sister.

1990s

Dustin "Dusty" Wiggs '96 on Sept. 8, 2022, in Phoenix, Arizona. Phi Delta Theta brother and History major Wiggs is survived by his parents, Larry and Trina Matel, and his wife, Christine.

2000s

Matthew "Matt" Butts '03 on Oct. 11, 2022, in Brookings, Oregon. Phi Beta Kappa brother and varsity soccer player Butts graduated magna cum laude with his B.A. in Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology. After Whitman, he earned his medical degree from Creighton Medical School and did a residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. In the years following, Butts worked as a Primary Care Physician at multiple clinics across the country, finally landing at Sacramento County Sexual Health Clinic, where he worked with HIV and AIDS

patients. Survivors include his parents, several siblings and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Leora Stein Werner '09 on Oct. 28, 2022, in Portland, Oregon. After graduation, Werner worked as a marketing and communications specialist for several grocery and environmental corporations. She was working for FLO Analytics as Marketing Director at the time of her passing. Werner remained passionate about environmental advocacy and food insecurity. She served as a board member for the Portland Fruit Tree Project and volunteered with Zenger Farm, in addition to gardening, cooking and building a nurturing home for her young family. Werner is survived by her husband, Ben; two children; a sister; and her parents, Shera Sinell and Randy Stein.

CLASS NOTES POLICY

Whitman College is happy to highlight the achievements and milestones of our alumni. To have your item appear in Class Notes, fill out the form at whitman.edu/classnotes, email alumni@whitman.edu or mail a note to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Class Note submissions are limited to 50 words and should include updates from the past calendar year. Class Note submissions may include career updates; publications; honors, awards or appointments; or other significant life

changes you would like to share with the Whitman community. Any photographic submissions for Class Notes, marriages/unions or births/adoptions should include the identities of all people pictured, as well as alumni relatives for births/adoptions. It is the responsibility of the submitter to obtain consent from others pictured or mentioned in the submission.

For In Memoriams, Whitman College runs the name of the deceased, their graduate year and major, and the date and place of death; when available, we will include career information,

survivors and other highlights of their life, including recorded service to the college or honors received from the college. Photographs for obituaries are run at the discretion of the Office of Alumni Relations for those designated "Whitman Leaders." The college makes a good faith effort to confirm the information submitted with the concerned parties. All submissions are subject to editing for style, content, length and clarity. Address questions to Jaimee Maurer, Class Notes editor, at maurerjl@whitman.edu or call **509-527-5052**.



“Dragonfly,” Linnea Nygren '23

ART 110

Animals & Art

M. LUX | 3 CREDITS

In this course

Students take on animal-centered creative projects that are based on readings, experiences and visual research.

During the most recent semester, students did a photographic essay project at the Walla Walla County Fair and built a collaborative life-sized carousel in the Fouts Center for the Visual Arts gallery space using papier-mâché.



SCHOLARS ARGUE THAT **ANIMALS HAVE BEEN AT THE HEART OF ARTISTIC PRACTICES** SINCE THE FIRST RECORDED MARKS ON CAVE WALLS. HOWEVER, IT'S **ONLY BEEN RECENTLY—THE PAST FEW DECADES—THAT WESTERN SCHOLARSHIP HAS TAKEN ANIMALS SERIOUSLY** AS A SUBJECT, BEYOND JUST AS A SYMBOL OR RAW MATERIAL.



“Float,” Maria Lux, 2015

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR

Associate Professor of Art Maria Lux earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Iowa State University in Graphic Design and Studio Art in 2006 and her Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Sculpture from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2012. Her own art practice is focused on animals, and considers topics like the spread of zoonotic diseases, failed domestication attempts, methods of combating invasive species, or de-extinction science.



KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

Your Gifts. Their Opportunities

Support Whitman Students With Internships

“The opportunity to work at the gallery has been very fulfilling as it exposed me to a whole new world of art and creativity in the PNW. I also felt like my skills as an interviewer and writer grew ... and I will be able to apply those skills to other aspects of life.”

Pavita Sidhu, a junior from British Columbia, Canada, worked as a writer and gallery assistant at Telander Gallery in Walla Walla.

» **Did you know?** You can direct your gift directly to internships when you give to The Whitman Fund. Or support The Whitman Fund designation that means the most to you. Give by June 30 to be counted for this year.



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It's Official! Our 15th President



KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY



Congratulations, President Bolton! On Friday, April 28, 2023, at Cordiner Hall, Dr. Sarah Bolton was officially installed as Whitman College's 15th President. Whitman leaders and higher education dignitaries from across the nation came to Walla Walla to celebrate the momentous event. See highlights at whitman.edu/magazine.

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