

WHITMAN

MAGAZINE

At the Art of the Matter

Curation & Representation
Rise at Whitman

WINTER 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Moving Forward With Care

AS I WRITE THIS letter in mid-January, Whitman students are joining us on campus for the first time since last March. I'll admit I am a bit choked up seeing the "Welcome to Whitman" banners strung across Boyer Avenue, masked students moving around campus and lights on in residence halls that have been dark for far too long.

All students are making their first stop Cordiner Hall, where a well-drilled team guides them through a self-administered COVID-19 test. Showing off their "I've been tested" stickers, eager students are moving into their residence hall rooms, with no more than one family member or friend assisting.



Spring Semester 2021 will start like no other before it. On-campus students will spend the next two weeks quarantining in their rooms, leaving only to use the restroom, grab to-go meals from Cleveland Commons or Jewett Cafe, pick up their mail, or to get some exercise or fresh air outdoors — always wearing a mask and practicing physical distancing. A "quarientation" team has planned many virtual or outdoor events to make the most of this time, build community and set students up for a successful semester. Students who live off-campus are also required to follow quarantine protocols. After seven days, the entire Whitman community (students, faculty and staff) will have COVID-19 testing again, and then classes will begin, with the first week entirely online while the 14-day quarantine continues.

Arriving at this moment has involved an extraordinary team effort, led by our Chief Financial Officer Peter Harvey and the Vice President for Enrollment and Communications Josh Jensen. They have been assisted by faculty and staff too numerous to name — but it's absolutely true that it took a village to get us to this point. We know that same village, including our students, will have to work collaboratively to keep all of us healthy and safe for the duration of the semester.

Many people have asked why we decided to reopen at a point when viral rates were higher than they were at the end of July when we moved the fall semester entirely online. The primary difference is our access to robust testing. The lack of any national plan for testing genuinely hurt us in the fall. Our team had to identify our own source of testing at significant cost. We did it because we knew how important it was to bring students back to campus for as much in-person learning and social engagement as possible during a pandemic.

Now we look forward to widespread availability of vaccines so that we can take the next steps toward whatever our new normal will look like. We are beginning to imagine what will be possible once that day arrives. In the meantime, we continue to count on every member of our community to take responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others by wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing, washing their hands and avoiding large gatherings.

We're all in this together.

As you take care of yourself and others, I hope you'll spend some quiet downtime with the inspiring Whitman stories in this edition of our magazine. I think you'll find it a particularly beautiful issue with all the marvelous and diverse pieces from the Whitman College Art Collection. Even in tough times, there is solace in the beauty, resilience and creative spirit of our fellow humans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen M. Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kathleen M. Murray
President

WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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CLASS NOTES

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

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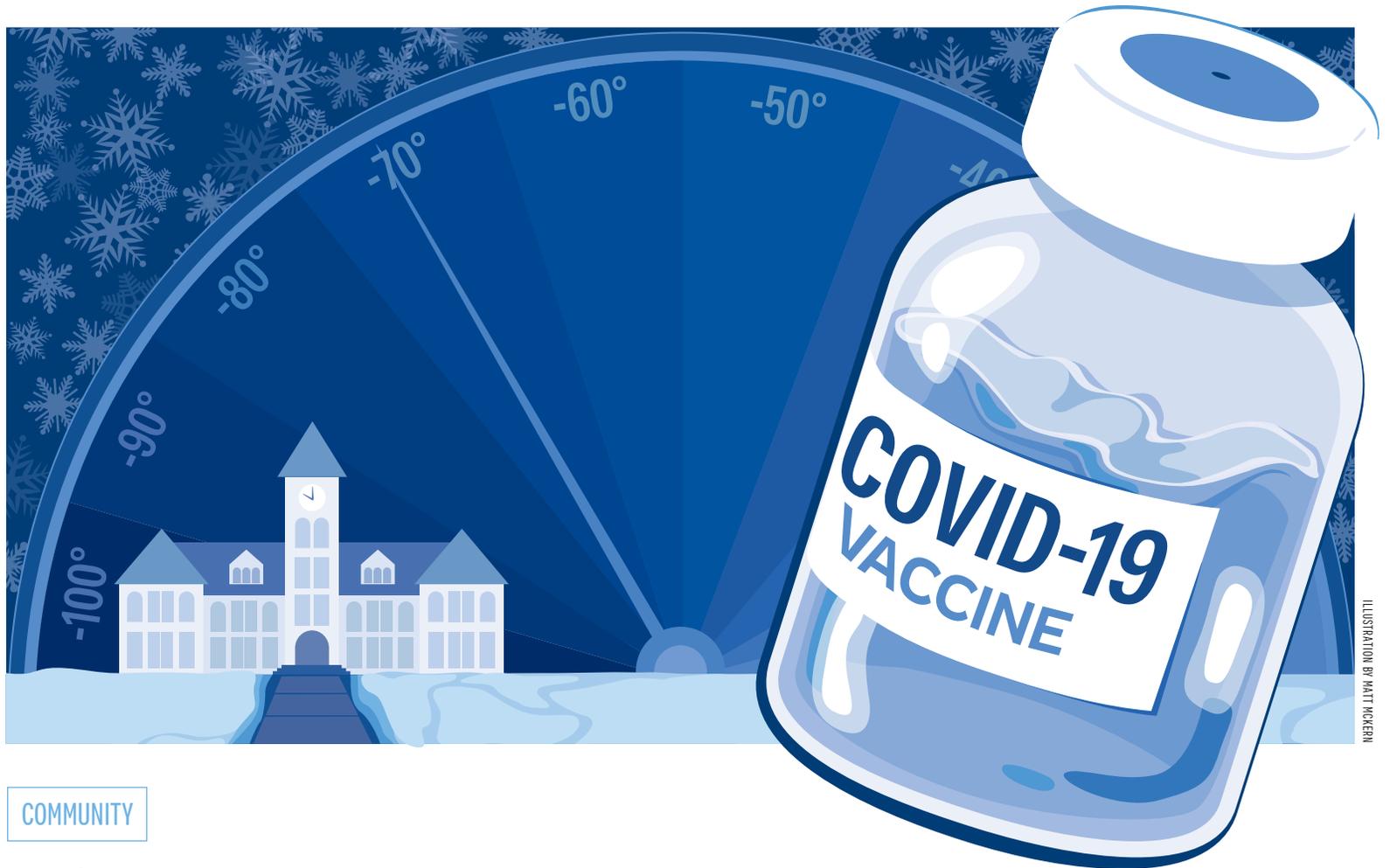
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ABOVE "Confrontation at the Bridge," silkscreen print by Jacob Lawrence. Created in 1975, it depicts the March 7, 1965, civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, that ended with the nonviolent protesters being attacked by law enforcement. See page 18 for more on the efforts to diversify Whitman's art collection.

ON THE COVER "Evening Song," lithograph print by Marwin Begaye in collaboration with Crow's Shadow Institute and Master Printer Judith Baumann, 2018.

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.



COMMUNITY

What's Ours is Yours

Whitman Lends Deep Freezer to Local Vaccination Efforts

IN THE FALL OF 2020, when it seemed promising that Pfizer would gain approval for their COVID-19 vaccine, two biology professors from Whitman were already thinking about local logistics.

Jim Russo, associate professor of biology and biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology (BBMB), and Brit Moss, assistant professor of biology and BBMB, knew the vaccine would need to be stored at an ultra-cold temperature — they'd studied its development as part of their class



Jim Russo

discussions with students. They also wondered if one of Whitman's five low-temp freezers (minus 80 degrees Celsius), used for research samples, could be freed up to help support vaccine efforts in the Walla Walla area.

In December, when plans for a national rollout got moving, Whitman made that offer to Walla Walla County. And a local need was there — on the front lines. Providence St. Mary Medical Center would be the site for vaccinating health care workers, but Providence's own



Brit Moss

ultra-cold freezer wouldn't arrive until late January or early February 2021. Nancy Day, assistant professor of psychology, offered the unit she was using for her research. And in a matter of days, faculty and staff members worked together to clear out the freezer and the unit was moved to the hospital site.

"Public health requires the buy-in of all individuals and institutions within a community," Russo says. "It is critical during this time of pandemic that Whitman College take every possible step to suppress viral transmission via our actions of masking and distancing, and to facilitate immunization via vaccination."



Zooming in on issues. In the fall of 2020, Sociology Professor Michelle Janning's students connected with Walla Walla organizations to understand the effects of COVID-19 and presented their findings in the virtual classroom.

OUTREACH

Bridging the Distance

Whitman Students Continue the Tradition of Serving

AMID A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, Whitman — which draws students from around the world — felt a particular responsibility to protect not only the campus, but the wider Walla Walla community. That's a big part of why the college made the difficult decision to shift the fall semester to remote learning.

Yet that didn't stop the spirit of cooperation between the college and community. From writing letters to pen pals at Washington Odd Fellows Home through the Adopt-A-Grandparent program to recording children's books in Spanish through the Storytime Project to mentoring elementary students virtually, Whitties continued the tradition of community engagement despite distance learning.

CONNECTING TO THE HERE AND NOW

A new sociology course — COVID-19 in Walla Walla 2020: Community, Place and Organizations — even made it into the fall curriculum. Through conversations with community partners, students learned about important local issues such as health, business, faith, housing, food security and more.

"The students got to see Whitman and Walla Walla as a set of interrelated

communities, including how they may see themselves engaging in these communities either virtually or in person," says course professor Michelle Janning.

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PERSIST

Internship experiences also needed to adapt in a COVID working world, but the essentials remained the same: Students bring passion and fresh perspectives in exchange for the chance to learn from dedicated professionals.

In the fall, Whitman's Community Fellows Program placed students in virtual roles with Walla Walla organizations, including the City of Walla Walla, Pioneer United Methodist Church and Blue Mountain Land Trust. Whitties also interned remotely at places ranging from the Walla Walla County Prosecutor's Office to the Blue Mountain Humane Society.

"I am truly amazed and have so much gratitude for the relationships with our community partners," says Mitzy Rodriguez Camiro, assistant director for internship programs in Whitman's Student Engagement Center. "Their willingness to invite, support and celebrate our students goes beyond what I can say."

A Promise for In-State Students

IN SEPTEMBER 2020, WHITMAN COLLEGE announced the Whitman Tuition Commitment.

"We want to help make a Whitman education a reality for hardworking students — regardless of family income," says Director of Admission Adam Miller. "That's not new. But what is new is we're stepping up in challenging times to give extra financial support to students who live in Washington state."

What is the Whitman Tuition Commitment? It means if an applicant's family earns less than \$80,000 a year, Whitman will guarantee their full tuition will be covered by scholarships and grants if they're admitted.

"We know paying for college can be a major strain on families, and we're happy to provide our talented students with generous financial aid awards, based on their unique needs," Miller says.



INNOVATING FINANCIAL AID

Making financial aid both more transparent and accessible has helped Whitman stand out nationally among colleges and universities.

In September 2020, a New York Times article featured the college's unique approach to early looks at financial aid awards. **Whitman's Early Financial Aid Guarantee** allows high school seniors to see how much money in scholarships and aid they'll be awarded from Whitman—even before they apply. "We've been historically opaque, and we wanted to change that," says Vice President for Enrollment and Communications Josh Jensen. Read the New York Times feature at whitman.edu/magazine.



PHOTO BY GREG LEHMAN

SUSTAINABILITY

Whitman College Commits to Being ‘All In’ on Climate Action

The future is theirs! Whitman students are actively engaged with climate change, sustainability and environmentalism.

IN LATE 2020, as the Paris Agreement entered its fifth year, myriad U.S. communities, businesses and institutions joined together to reaffirm their promise to address climate change.

President Kathleen Murray signed the America Is All In statement, assuring Whitman’s commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change and pledging to partner with the Biden-Harris administration to tackle the climate crisis.

The Paris Agreement, a legally-binding international treaty on climate change, aims to limit global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2017, in response to the pending withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, the We Are Still In initiative was launched. Whitman College was one of the 410 colleges and universities that signed the We Are Still In declaration.

Whitman has adopted a conscientious commitment to sustainability and

climate action, says Campus Sustainability Coordinator Elissa Brown. “Whitman’s dedication to advancing sustainability, particularly in recent years, is producing measurable and meaningful results.”

The 2020 reaffirmation statement has over 1,500 signatories including cities, states, tribal nations, businesses, universities, colleges, faith communities, health care organizations and more.

A YOUTHFUL MOVEMENT

Whitman students are actively engaged with climate change, sustainability and environmentalism. On campus, groups and organizations such as the Campus Climate Coalition (CCC), the Glean Team, the Organic Garden and the Environmental Studies Interest House or “Outhouse” are all focused on sustainable practices and green thinking. The Associated Students

of Whitman College (ASWC) has a sustainability committee that works to advocate on behalf of students in regard to sustainability programs, policies and initiatives on campus.

In the local community, Whitman CCC members lead the Cool the Schools Initiative that promotes climate change education in classrooms. Many students are active with Sunrise Walla Walla, a local chapter of a national organization, the Sunrise Movement, which promotes the Green New Deal with an emphasis on youth-led climate activism.

GREEN IS THE COLOR OF THE YEAR



The Princeton Review placed Whitman at No. 9 on its list of the 2021 Top 50 Green Colleges.

Whitman ranked highest among schools from the Pacific Northwest. This ranking acknowledges the college’s efforts to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility on and off campus.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

Tom Armstrong, associate professor of psychology, published an article in the journal *Emotion* reporting on two experiments, conducted at different sites, that established an eye-tracking measure of disgust. Armstrong was assisted by researchers Mira Engel '18 and Siri Danielson '21.

Alissa Cordner, associate professor of sociology, co-authored "Producing Ignorance Through Regulatory Structure" in the journal *Sociological Perspectives*. It examines how ignorance can be produced by regulatory systems and how "chemical regulatory pathways" lead to distinct types of ignorance and knowledge accumulating in different institutional spheres, generally to the detriment of widespread knowledge about risk.

Tony Ichsán, director of facilities, received the 2020 President's Award from APPA Leadership in Educational Facilities. With more than 30 years of higher education experience in Washington, Oregon and California, Ichsán continues to expand his knowledge by engaging with other educational facilities professionals and pays it forward by supporting the development of future facilities leaders.

Michelle Janning, professor of sociology, wrote a book chapter, "Positioning Children's Agency in Everyday Home Spaces and Objects: Linking Theory and Research," in a special volume of *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*. She was also featured by NBC News and in a syndicated column about how young adults experiencing college and work in parents' homes during COVID-19 may be changing the definition of childhood and adulthood.

Adam Kirtley, interfaith chaplain, participated in a roundtable discussion with the Biden-Harris transition team. Those invited represented leading voices in interfaith work from all segments of society, including higher education. Kirtley currently serves as the President of the National Association of College and University Chaplains.

Ben Murphy, archivist and head of digital services, and **Roger Stelk, lead of collection management**, brought newspapers from the Washington State Penitentiary to the attention of the Reveal Digital Project, which aims to increase access to primary source collections—especially those that document diverse points of view. When completed, Reveal Digital Project's "American Prison Newspapers 1800-2019: Voices from the Inside" will include newspapers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Kevin Pogue, professor of geology, wrote a successful petition resulting in the approval of Candy Mountain as the state of Washington's newest American Viticultural Area.

Jason Ralston, assistant professor of economics, published "Innovate Versus Imitate: Theory and Experimental Evidence" in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

Albert Schueller, professor of mathematics and statistics, was featured in the *Union-Bulletin* article "Advocating for children during a pandemic," written by Ella Nelson '22. Schueller has volunteered with Walla Walla Child Advocates, an advocacy program for kids who are in foster care, for seven years.

IN MEMORIAM

John Desmond, Emeritus Professor of English at Whitman College, died Dec. 16, 2020.

Desmond was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1939. He earned his undergraduate degree (Ph.B.) at the University of Detroit in 1960 and went on to earn his M.A. (1965) and Ph.D. (1971) at the University of Oklahoma. He came to Whitman College as an assistant professor in 1975, earning tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor in 1978 and promotion to the rank of professor in 1987. In 1999, he was named Mary A. Denny Professor of English. A winner of the Thomas G. Edwards Award for Distinguished Scholarship and Teaching Excellence, Desmond taught 20th-century American and Irish literature.

Desmond led a summer excursion to Ireland sponsored by the Whitman Alumni Association, giving those who traveled with him the opportunity to study Irish literature, culture and drama. In February 1999, Desmond helped bring the Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet Seamus Heaney to campus for a Walt Whitman Lecture—an endowed lecture series that brought world-renowned poets to Whitman.

After retiring from teaching in 2004, Desmond served as a volunteer at Helpline of Walla Walla, Catholic Senior Services and Providence St. Mary Medical Center. He also taught classes in the Quest program at Walla Walla Community College.

Desmond is survived by his wife Linda Atkins Desmond, his son Sean Matthew Desmond, his daughter Monica Leigh Desmond, and five grandchildren.

—From a letter to faculty by Theresa DiPasquale, Gregory M. Cowan Professor in English Language & Literature



A Catalyst for Connection

PROFESSOR GINGER WITHERS
ENVISIONS A PLACE OF STUDY,
SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY

BY WHITNEY RICH '20

WHITMAN'S HALL OF SCIENCE is full of life — and not just because of the many rodents, fish, reptiles and other species that call it home. It's also full of student life.

Pre-pandemic, you'd find students studying, attending classes and working on research throughout the building at many hours of the day. Yet faculty recognized a disconnect between individual students, the many departments, lab spaces, study areas and campus resources.

Ginger Withers, the Dr. Robert F. Welty Professor of Biology, was particularly concerned by the number of students she saw working in isolation or not seeking help. She says she feels a personal connection and responsibility to make sure every student has access to the support and resources they need.

SEEING THE POSSIBILITIES

Withers grew up in a rural community and was the first person in her family to attend college. She would never have even considered a career in science, doing research or being a college professor if her own professors hadn't asked her questions like: "Have you thought about doing this?" or "I have a project that I need help with; would you be interested?"

"For undergraduates at Whitman, there are so many opportunities, but if you don't know about them, they can be missed," Withers says.

What was missing, Withers thought, was a central location in the building that was visible and upfront for students — magnifying the opportunities, collaboration and support.

During faculty discussions, excitement grew about creating such a gathering place. Withers helped form a faculty team that

“We’re trying to build a culture that reinforces growth mindsets and gets rid of the notion that successful STEM majors are just born with it.”

GINGER WITHERS, professor of biology



ARCHIVE IMAGE

Location, location, location. Intentionally placed in the atrium of the Hall of Science, the STEM Hub is a natural crossroads for interaction. Here, nearly 70 Whitman STEM majors shared their research, in collaboration with Whitman faculty, in a poster session.

went on to develop just that kind of space. In the fall of 2019, Whitman's "STEM Hub" officially opened to the campus community.

A LIVELY HUB OF LEARNING

STEM stands for four closely connected areas of study: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Withers hopes that, through the STEM Hub, students can connect with professors, graduate programs, careers and one another. "The more available we can make these kinds of opportunities, the easier it is for students to break through barriers and find their path."

The location has been crucial to the space's success, Withers says. Located on the first floor of the Hall of Science's modern and airy atrium, the STEM Hub has two large entrances and many windows. Students passing by can check a large display screen for upcoming events like study sessions, poster presentations and guest speakers. Faculty and student tutors make themselves available to students for questions or assistance. The space, spilling out into the atrium, often hosts student-faculty research presentations, pre-major advising information sessions and other STEM-related events.

In the evenings, when most faculty and staff have gone home, the STEM Hub comes alive with study group meetings, open tutoring hours and more.

"It was really rewarding to walk by, at any hour the building was open, and see as many as 10 or 15 students working collaboratively, or colleagues holding open office hours and review sessions," Withers says.

In response to COVID-19 and the sudden shift to online learning, the space went virtual. A STEM Hub webpage now

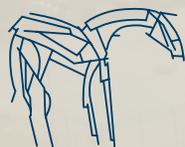
showcases resources, connects students to tutors and study groups, and has hosted virtual events to highlight opportunities for students to join research teams led by Whitman faculty.

AN EARLY AND LASTING EFFECT

It's especially important to break down barriers for new students or those who don't see science as easy or welcoming, Withers says. "We know that students — especially if they are first-gen (first generation college student) or from underrepresented groups — are more likely to succeed if they feel like they belong. If you're shy or new to campus, even walking through an open door can feel intimidating. We're trying to build a culture that reinforces growth mindsets and gets rid of the notion that successful STEM majors are just born with it."

Since she joined Whitman in 2002, Withers has watched the science curriculum strengthen and grow. "The opportunities that I've had to collaborate with my colleagues and to share the amazing things they're doing; they've helped me feel more invested and better connected. The Hub is a creative commons, and faculty research amplifies student engagement in STEM."

She can't help but describe it in scientific terms. "In science, we think a lot about catalysts. A catalyst is a chemical agent that doesn't get used up in a reaction, but helps other reactions occur and go faster. I feel like the work we've invested in our programs and in the STEM Hub acts like a catalyst, ensuring that the work we are doing won't go away. We're really building things that will be lasting in terms of contributions to pedagogy and to student success." **W**



Ankeny Field

For more than a century, Ankeny Field has been at the center of campus life at Whitman College. Some things don't change ... the first warm spring day brings sun-starved students out of their residence halls to spread out comfortably, soak up rays, and toss around a football or Frisbee. Diehard studiers question their decision and location as they look on from the windows of Penrose Library.

In the fall, Whitties experience the changing of leaves and classes as they hustle from the buildings surrounding Ankeny. If they're lucky, on a particularly glorious day, their professor will move class to the green grass of the field. Then in winter, a bright white blanket will offer its own appeal, particularly to students who come from snowless origins and marvel at the fresh wonder of it all.

Ankeny bares seasonal gifts and began with a gift. In 1902, college trustee and U.S. Senator Levi Ankeny donated money for a top-notch athletic field—what became a baseball diamond, football gridiron and quarter-mile track in those early years. Thankfully times have changed. Originally, only men could use Ankeny Field; women had to exercise and play games elsewhere on campus. During World War I, the field was used for military drills by student soldiers. Visit whitman.edu/magazine to see shots from the early Ankeny days to more current footage. 





PHOTO COURTESY OF TEJASHREE JADHAV

“The fact that I got this opportunity to write, perform and surround myself with poetry is incredible.”

— TEJASHREE JADHAV

A Poetic Journey

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AND POET CONNECTS AND COMPETES FROM A WORLD AWAY

BY WHITNEY RICH '20

WHEN TEJASHREE JADHAV, A first-year Whitman College student from Pune, India, entered America’s Best College Poet Competition, she had not yet even been to the United States.

While she may have entered on a whim, the experience introduced her to a community of students and poets in Walla Walla and across the nation.

“It’s hard to feel a connection when you are so far away, but this poetry competition let me develop more connections with people and made me feel like I really am a part of this community,” Jadhav says. “It didn’t feel so far away anymore.”

BRAVELY TAKING A STANZA

Jadhav generally likes to write short poems, small musings on her thoughts and feelings. “I would only write for my own sake, because it would make me feel better.”

In the first round of the competition, hosted virtually by the Whitman Events Board, Jadhav read a longer poem that she had written about privilege. “I was worried and nervous, but when I spoke my poem, I became more and more confident.”

She placed second in the Whitman competition. At the time, it was thought that only the first-place poet moved on to the semifinals to compete against poets from other colleges.

“I was very happy and very sad at the same time. I was happy with placing second, but the fact that I was not going ahead in the competition affected me a lot,” says Jadhav. Weeks later, late in the evening, Jadhav received an email notifying her that there had been a misunderstanding and that the top three from Whitman would move on to the semifinals. “I was so happy! I thought ‘This is my chance to go ahead in this competition!’”

Before the next round of the competition, Jadhav knew she’d have more time to prepare her poetry and performances.

A BUDDING CRAFT AND PASSION

Since she was a young girl, Jadhav has dabbled in poetry. One of her early poems for school was about a well-respected 17th century king from her home state of Maharashtra.

“My poetry has changed a lot since then,” Jadhav says. In middle school, after writing a poem, Jadhav would perform it at her school for her classmates and friends. Her poems, written in Hindi, English and Marathi, three of the many languages in her region, are performed differently. The language in which she writes influences her expression and performance of the poem.

It was in high school that Jadhav began to use her writing as an emotional outlet.

“Poetry became a way to feel, to cope with a lot of things, to cope with anxiety and stress at times. I think poetry was the form that kept me sane.”

Jadhav is thankful for her ability to express her emotions, and share observations and life experiences, in written word. “Writing poetry allows me to put anything that I can’t keep in my head on pages, and I think that’s why most of my high school poetry was a way out. Now, the poems I write are more about my identity, and the

Why I Write (An excerpt)

By Tejashree Jadhav

I have to let out these feelings of self-doubt,

Let out how this guy speaks over me in class,

And I am not sure if the things I have to say
are intelligent enough.

I want to let out how sometimes upper-class
Indians look at me with a gaze so scornful,

It reaches my soul and shrinks it, reminds me
how I will always be less than them.

I want to let out how sometimes my accent
embarrasses me,

How I know three and a half languages and yet
fall short of words to explain how I feel,

I feel less, kami, kam, menos,

less than the people I am asked to compete
with, study with, live with.

Read more of Tejashree Jadhav's poetry at whitman.edu/magazine.

problems and influences that shape me and influence my world.”

Jadhav’s family has been instrumental in her poetic journey, offering feedback and support.

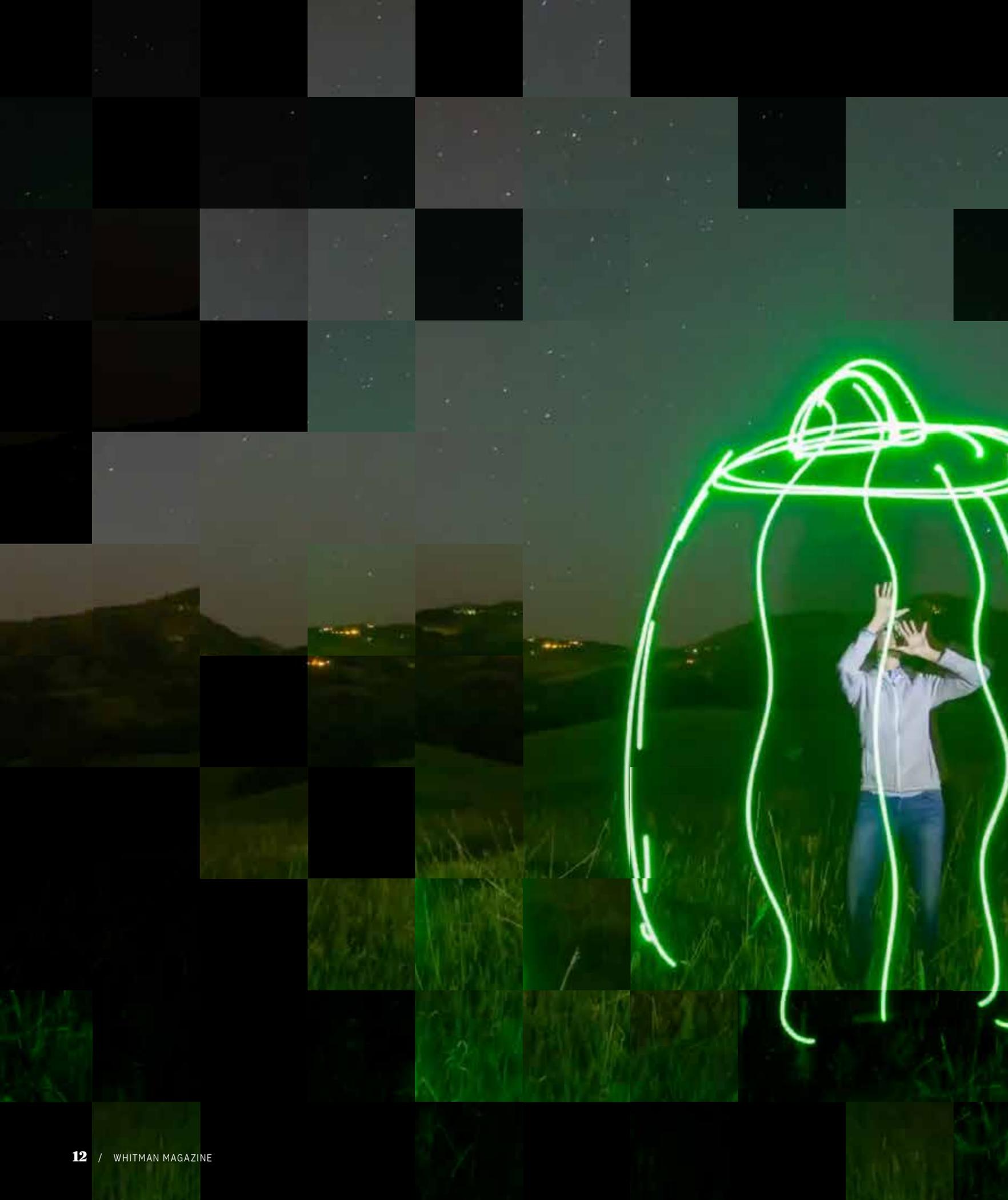
“My family always gives me encouragement, no matter what I am participating in. They say, ‘You can do this, you will do this!’ Even if I fail, it is a very positive environment they’ve created and I really cherish it.”

But fail she did not. Jadhav progressed through the rounds of the competition — which were judged by professional touring poets as well as audience vote — and tied for second place in the final round.

Following the excitement of the contest in late October, Jadhav yearned for the day when she’d arrive on campus. “I’m day-dreaming about it all of the time, because it is a dream come true, going to Whitman.” 



From Around the Globe From 2016 to 2020, international students increased from 5.1% of the Whitman student body to 10.1%.
Source: *Whitman College Factbook 2020-2021*





ALIENS, BIGFOOT AND THE PODCASTER

Exploring the Wild Side
of History and Science

BY WHITNEY RICH '20

Whitman alum Laura Krantz's career has taken a few turns, but the wildest of them all is the one that got her researching Bigfoot and aliens. In the fall of 2020, she released the second season of her hit podcast "Wild Thing."

How exactly does a history major and daily news journalist become involved in producing a podcast that tells the stories of questionable beings such as sasquatch and aliens? Krantz, who graduated from Whitman in 2000, says it all started with a shared last name.

In 2006, Krantz was reading the Washington Post and found a peculiarly interesting article about a Washington State University professor of anthropology named Grover Krantz. The professor had donated his bones (as well as his dogs' bones) to be part of a forensic anthropology display at The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. The article mentioned that the late Professor Krantz, considered the country's preeminent academic expert on Bigfoot, spent much of his free time driving around the Pacific Northwest with a spotlight and a rifle, searching for sasquatch.

"So, here is this guy that is related to me, who is clearly a scientist but also thinks that Bigfoot is out there," Krantz says.

Krantz was intrigued and often told people about Grover at parties. But it was about a decade before she started her own pursuit of the story. She began to piece together interviews, news clips, events

and places. Before she knew it, she was traipsing through the Mt. Hood National Forest with experts, attending research conferences, analyzing Bigfoot DNA with molecular primatologists and interviewing people who have made sasquatch into their own brand or "cashsquatch," as Krantz calls it.

It dawned on her that a podcast would be the perfect way to tell the story of not only Professor Grover Krantz, who turned out to be a distant cousin, but the world of Bigfoot — and what better name to give it than "Wild Thing"?

"The first season was really about a personal connection and sort of a general inquiry into this topic, which was something that I hadn't spent a lot of time thinking about — but was clearly something that a lot of other people were fascinated by even if they didn't necessarily believe."

WHAT TO EXPLORE NEXT?

Krantz's Bigfoot podcast was extremely successful and garnered attention from The Atlantic, which named it one of the



Wild Thing!
The second season of Krantz's podcast explores stories of aliens and more.

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF LAURA KRANTZ



"Journalist Laura Krantz tracked Bigfoot in the first season ... so looking for life in outer space isn't a giant leap for her." —The Atlantic, naming the second season of "Wild Thing" one of the best 50 podcasts of 2020

“I was just sitting there clenching the steering wheel and thinking to myself, ‘Am I really doing this?’”

best podcasts of 2018. The first season had over 2.5 million downloads. After the momentum and popularity of the first season, Krantz decided to “look skyward” and explore another one of America’s obsessions: aliens. She recalled how, in 2017, an interstellar object that passed through our solar system gave rise to a debate about whether it was an extraterrestrial spacecraft. With that as her starting point, Krantz traveled to Roswell, New Mexico, for the annual UFO Festival. In addition to interviewing scientists, researchers, politicians and other sources, she visited movie special effects labs and Area 51, the classified U.S. Air Force facility in Nevada believed by many to house proof of unidentified flying objects and extraterrestrial life.

When asked if there were any unexpected turns during the research process for season two, she laughs and recalls her 2019 visit to Area 51. Prior to her trip, a Facebook event called “Storm Area 51” called for a raid on the facility. More than two million Facebook users responded that they would attend, and the event garnered worldwide media coverage.

By the time Krantz arrived — two weeks before the event — residents of the area were so weary of the media attention that she couldn’t find anyone willing to be interviewed for the podcast. Still, the trip wasn’t without its stranger moments.

“I drove up to the back gate of Area 51 and was immediately freaked out because I was there by myself. As I was driving in, there was a white government-issued pickup truck coming from the other direction. There is only one road to the back gate and one place it could have been coming from. It came toward me in a cloud

of dust, saw me, stopped and then turned around, right back on up to the gate at top speed. I was just sitting there clenching the steering wheel and thinking to myself, ‘Am I really doing this?’”

Krantz has had her fair share of quirky adventures during her podcast reporting trips. But “Wild Thing” is more than a podcast about kitschy obsessions and weird fascinations. “The second season pulls on similar threads to the first: this desire to believe, this insatiable curiosity, searching for something that we may not ever get answers to,” Krantz explains.

LEARNING ON HER LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION

What do a liberal arts education and a podcast about Bigfoot and aliens have in common? More than you would think, Krantz says. The way a podcast can combine philosophy, economics, culture, art and religion is similar to the multidimensional approach of a liberal arts education.

“Whitman gave me the ability to think about a topic from a lot of different angles and to see how all of those things pull together. The podcast pulls all these threads from different fields and if that’s not a liberal arts education, I don’t know what is.” 

Krantz’s podcasts can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher and many other platforms, as well as on her website wildthingpodcast.com. Find her on Instagram and Facebook @wildthingpod.





Where have you been hiding?
 Laura Krantz sought out the seekers of one of the Pacific Northwest's most notable legends.



Research and curiosity run in the family. The bones of Grover Krantz and his favorite dog, Clyde, on display at the Smithsonian.



On the pursuit of interesting. Krantz follows her curiosity and uses her journalism training to find and tell stories that both inform and entertain.



WHAT'S LAURA LISTENING TO?

Laura Krantz's Whitman education encouraged a lifelong love of learning. She pursues both complex questions and quality content to feed her mind. Here are some of her personal favorite podcasts to inspire your listening.

"In The Dark" (Season Two)

It explores the legal tribulations of Curtis Flowers, a Black man from Mississippi, who was tried six times for the same crime. It's about history, crime, racism, justice and humanity in general, Krantz says. "The journalism is second-to-none and the story will break your heart."

"Running from Cops" by Dan Taberski

"I'd never thought much about the TV show COPS. I don't think I'd ever even watched an episode," Krantz says. "But this podcast uses humor and excellent research to explore all the ways in which COPS is problematic."

"Bundyville" by Leah Sottile

Krantz calls it "smart and eye-opening." Delving deeply into the anti-government movement in the U.S., it frames some of what we're seeing politically in this country in a much more nuanced context, she says. "Two Minutes Past Nine," another Sottile podcast with similar themes, also makes Krantz's favorites list.

"Slow Burn" (Season Two)

It's about President Clinton's impeachment and the Monica Lewinski scandal. "This was happening while I was at Whitman and it's fascinating to review it 20 years later with a different perspective and a lot more life experience," Krantz says.

Wind of Change

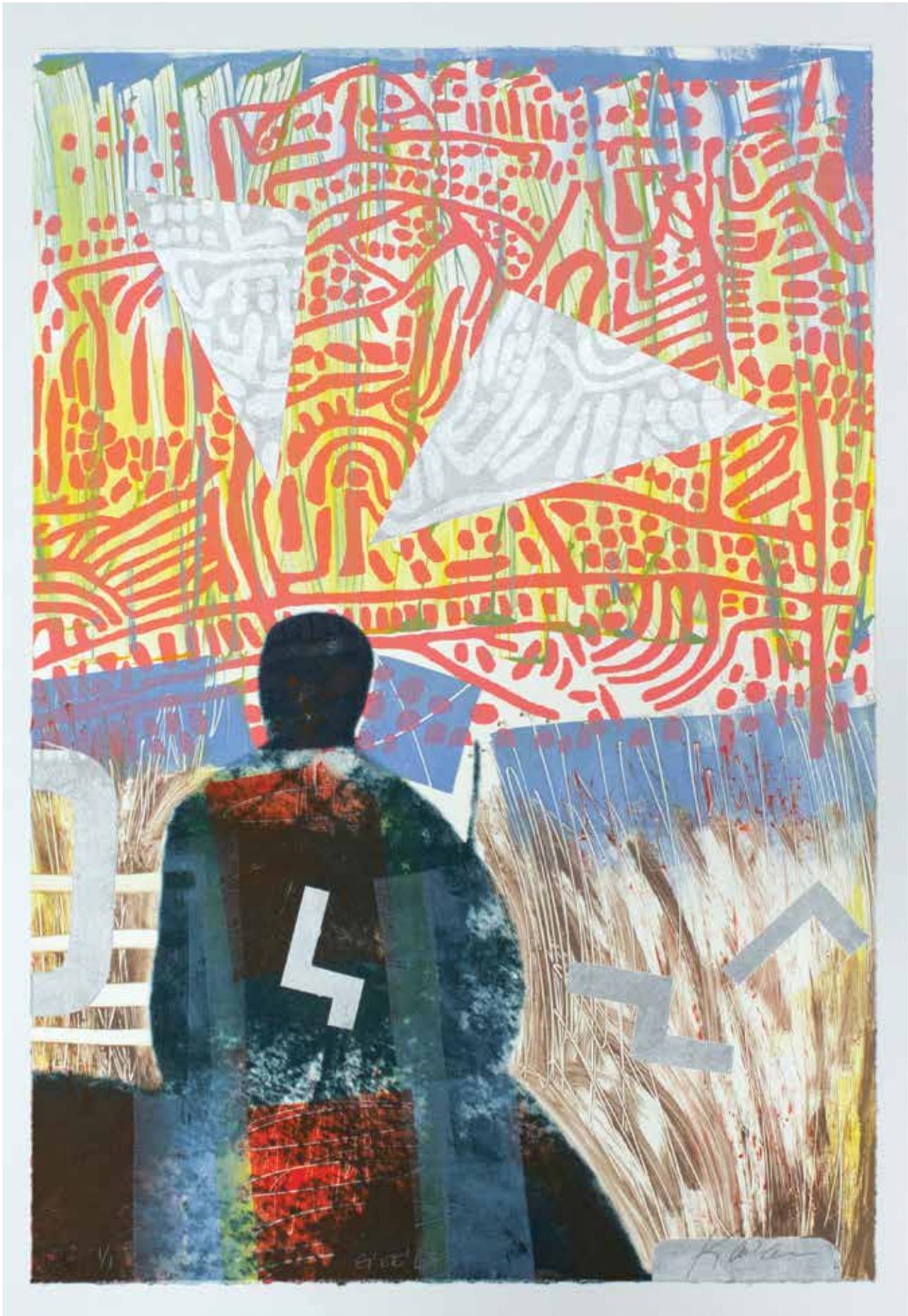
There's a legend that the 1989 song "Wind of Change" by German rock band Scorpions was actually written by the CIA as Cold War propaganda. Krantz says it's a fun listen that hits all the high notes with her: great music and Cold War espionage. "I was a history major, focused on post-W/WII America, so it was doubly appealing."

FROM GALLERY WALLS TO HALLWAYS TO CLASSROOMS, WHITMAN'S ART COLLECTION EXPANDS ITS DIVERSITY IN MEANINGFUL AND BEAUTIFUL WAYS

AT THE
ART
OF THE
MATTER

BY ANDREW FAUGHT





C

ast in bronze and patinated to a deep burnt umber except for its burnished and polished tips, artist Wangechi Mutu's

Underground Hornship at first glance resembles a juvenile deer's shed antlers emerging from a tree stump torn from the ground.

But a closer look at the internationally renowned creator's work, acquired by Whitman College in the fall of 2019, reveals ineffable depth, says Lisa Uddin, associate professor of art history and visual cultural studies — what she calls “an uneasy entanglement of organic and inorganic forms.”

Mutu, a Kenyan-American artist, is known for her deeply personal sculptures and collages that fuse the likeness of female figures — typically Black women — with animal, plant and machine elements. Her Underground Hornship is “part bird, part antler shed, part tree stump, part insect, part spaceship, part space traveler,” Uddin says.

It's also part of Whitman's ongoing efforts to boost the number of underrepresented artists in the Whitman College Art Collection. Since 2014, the gallery has secured scores of new pieces — from cast glass and bronze, to prints and ceramics — to better reflect artistic diversity in the Walla Walla Valley and beyond.

“There are shifts all over the country right now in terms of collections and museums looking to reevaluate the narrative they're putting forward and looking at whose voices have been represented,” says Daniel Forbes '93, Sheehan's co-director since 2007. “These are things that we in the gallery want to be a part of. At Whitman, we have increasingly put a focus on the importance of equity, inclusivity and diversity.”

Page 18
Underground
Hornship
Wangechi Mutu
2018, Bronze
casting,
23.5" x 32 x 8"

Page 19
"G' EE' LA"
Ka'ila Farrell-Smith
In collaboration with Master Printer
Judith Baumann 2018, Monoprint,
paper & image, 22" x 15"
Crow's Shadow Institute



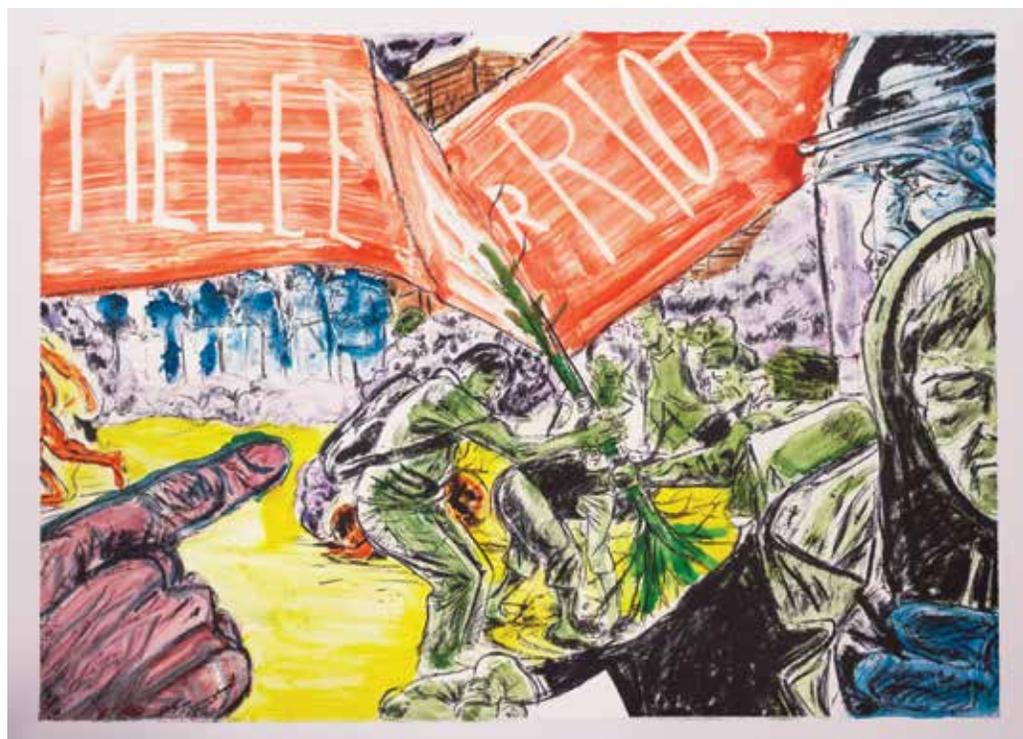


Page 20, top:
"St. Andrews Paradise"
Marwin Begaye
In collaboration with Master Printer
Judith Baumann 2018, Monoprint,
22.5" x 15"
Crow's Shadow Institute

Page 20, bottom:
"Leisure Labor (cloud)" lo Palmer
2012, Mixed media, including bobby
pins on wood-backed canvas panels,
204" x 84" x 27"

Page 21, top:
"Crow's Shadow 1"
Modou Dieng
In collaboration with Master Printer
Frank Janzen 2017,
Three-color lithograph, 22.5" x 22.5"
Crow's Shadow Institute

Page 21, bottom:
"Uprising I" _
Daniel Duford Monoprint
In collaboration with Master Printer
Frank Janzen 2015,
22" x 30"
Crow's Shadow Institute



It wasn't until 2013 that the gallery acquired and displayed its first work by a Black artist, Io Palmer's "Leisure Labor (cloud)" (page 20). Palmer uses fabric, steel, sound and wood to make not-so-subtle commentaries on racial politics.

Since that acquisition, Forbes and gallery co-director Kynde Kiefel have worked with faculty, alumni and art communities to elevate the art conversation at Whitman by intentionally bringing new works and voices to campus. Nationally, social movements such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo are giving new urgency to efforts like Whitman's, according to Forbes.

CURATING FOR THE CLASSROOM

"The number of different stories that are being represented by our collection has really expanded significantly," Forbes says. "We've been moving, in terms of our programming, toward experiential learning. We're working closely with specific faculty to find out what their interests are. It's been exciting to be able to support them and their classes that way."

For example, faculty from different disciplines across campus have expressed interest in exploring some recently acquired prints by Iranian artist Hamid Rahmanian in their lessons, from art history to studio art to Middle Eastern history. The college acquired nine prints from Rahmanian's "Shahnameh" project, works based on the 10th-century Persian epic poem.

Some recent additions to the Whitman College Art Collection include more than 30 prints from the Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts in Pendleton, Oregon. The institute is home to the only printmaking studio in the country that supports emerging and established Native American artists. Also new to the collection are contemporary works by women artists of color, including Shahzia Sikander, Ebony G. Patterson, Xaviera Simmons, Favianna Rodriguez and Kara Walker.

Professors are using the various artists' works to reinforce and broaden their lessons through the liberal arts lens. Uddin plans to use the Mutu sculpture in her course on modernism, as well as in her "Blackness in Art" class. Art history classes take a particular interest in the piece due to the role of bronze in the Western European artistic tradition, Uddin notes.

Procuring the Mutu piece is "quite a coup," Forbes says. The New York Times describes her work "as dark as it is dazzling."

Currently based in New York and Nairobi, Mutu has spent time in the Walla Walla Valley. She worked on a

Continued on page 24





A LIVING LABORATORY FOR APPRECIATING THE ARTS

The Whitman College Art Collection is a critical linchpin in learning, says Whitman art history professor Lisa Uddin

"It's a crucial resource—a lab of sorts—for honing students' sensory and analytical powers," Associate Professor of Art History and Visual Culture Studies Lisa Uddin (pictured at left) says of the college's art collection and the Sheehan Gallery. "I cannot recall how many times I have started a class with a PowerPoint, and then walked over to the gallery with students to interrogate, enact or otherwise deepen our inquiry. I cannot imagine students learning without it."

It's an opportunity to challenge students' ways of thinking through all manner of complex questions, Uddin says. *How and why do people interact with art? What does it mean to put something into an exhibition space and call it art? What are the histories of that practice? What objects, and which people, belong in an art gallery?*

"Whitman's collection is a teaching collection," Uddin says. "Its greatest strength is its ability to connect students to many different questions, problems and worlds. I'm thinking of the worlds that have either been historically outside of students' fields of vision, or so close to them that they might not have the critical space to examine them anew. Our collections afford them that vision and space. And the more we are able to diversify our holdings, the better we are at fulfilling that liberal arts education."

Page 22, top:

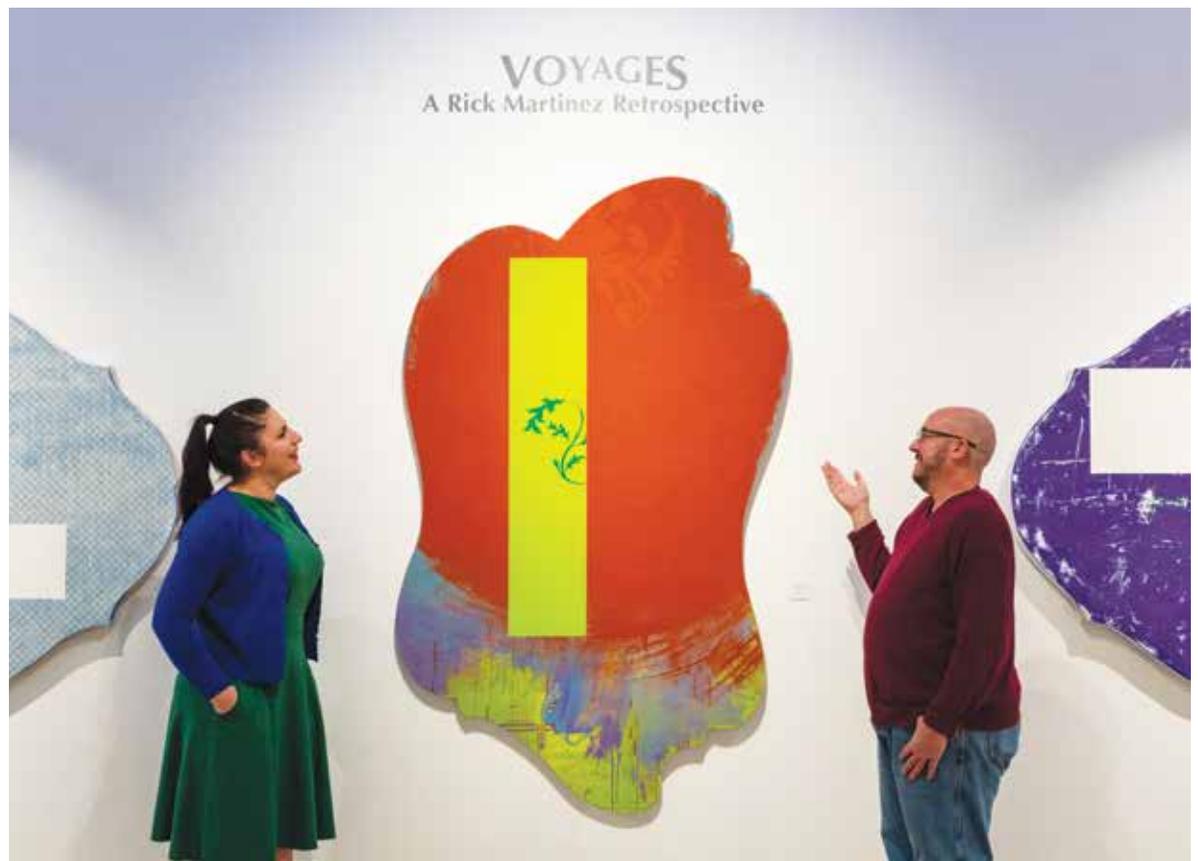
"Naga"
Shahzia Sikander
2007, Photogravure
with gold leaf,
29 5/8" x 22 7/8"

Page 22, bottom:

"Untitled (Yellow) #2"
Xaviera Simmons
2014, Archival inkjet print
on Paper, 12" x 14.5"

Page 23, right:

Sheehan Gallery
co-directors Kynde Kiefel
and Daniel Forbes admire
the work of Rick Martinez,
a Whitman art professor
who passed away in
January 2020. Between
them is Martinez's "Stop
Motion," a 2004 oil and
alkyd on canvas.



commission for the New York Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art at the Walla Walla Foundry, which was founded by the late Whitman alumnus Mark Anderson '78. *Underground Hornship*, for its part, was cast in 2018 at the Modern Art Foundry in Queens, New York. The sculpture is nearly two feet high and 32 inches wide and will be placed on permanent exhibition on campus in the spring.

Many of the new works have been purchased through the Gaiser Art Endowment and with financial support from alumni.

PRESERVING, PROCURING AND PROGRESSING

The Sheehan Gallery was named after Donald H. Sheehan, Whitman's ninth president. It opened in 1973 to support the liberal arts curriculum, while also collecting, preserving and exhibiting historical and contemporary art.

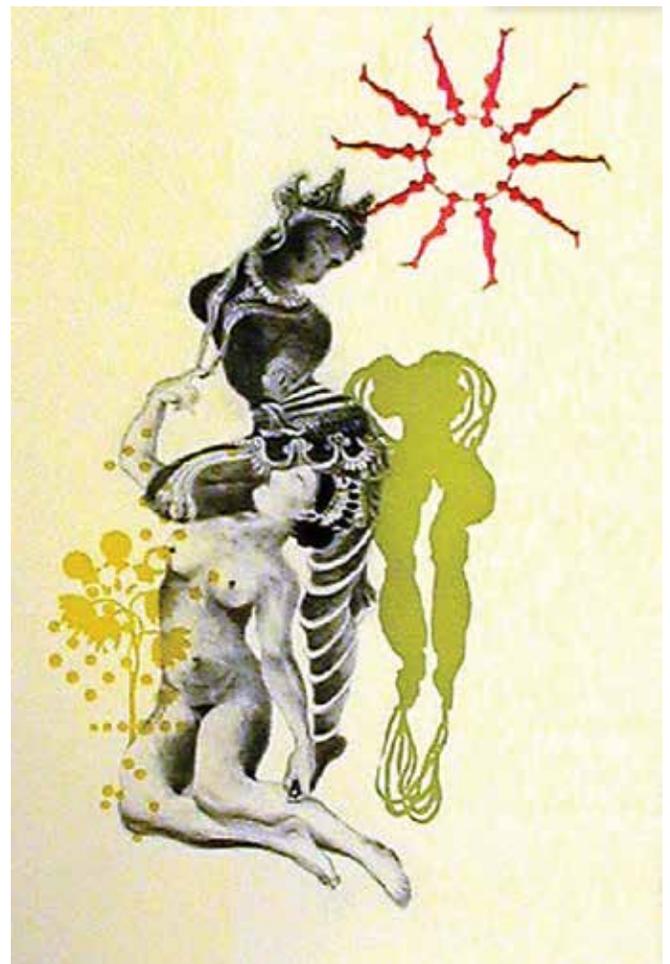
More than half of the college's permanent collection is displayed throughout campus. "Not only does this bring vibrancy to these spaces, but it also provides great access to students and faculty when these works are used in courses," Forbes says. "It's wonderful to be able to say, 'You want to see Jacob Lawrence prints? Well, head over to this building and you'll find them in this hallway.'"

Forbes' Sheehan experience predates his director role. As a studio art major at Whitman, he exhibited his thesis — life-size, mixed-media sculptures, "The Four Horses of the Apocalypse," at the gallery. And Whitman community members are likely familiar with a distinct piece of work by Forbes — the wall of ceramic fish, *Upward Mobility* — on the first floor of Reid Campus Center.

Kiefel's other art pursuits include drawing comics and graphic novels, and teaching cartooning techniques to elementary and middle-school students in Walla Walla.

And she shares Forbes' passion for evolving the college's holdings. "It's about getting to the core of things, getting to all truths," Kiefel says. "In reality, we're surrounded by a variety of people and experiences, so our visual landscape should reflect that complexity and that every-ness. It gives us all permission to thrive and to continue to create in our own voices, instead of someone else's.

"I hope that Whitman students are surprised, intrigued, inspired, challenged and propelled by the recent acquisitions to the collection. I also hope that these works give viewers permission to grow here." 



**“PEOPLE MAKE ART BECAUSE THEY’RE
LOOKING FOR A CONTAINER TO HOLD
THEIR EXPERIENCE. YOU’RE JOINING A
CONVERSATION, A CONVERSATION THAT’S
BEEN HAPPENING FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.”**

—DANIEL FORBES, CO-DIRECTOR OF THE SHEEHAN GALLERY



Page 24, top:
“Black Snake”
Ric Gendron 2017,
Monotype,
22 1/4" x 29 3/4"

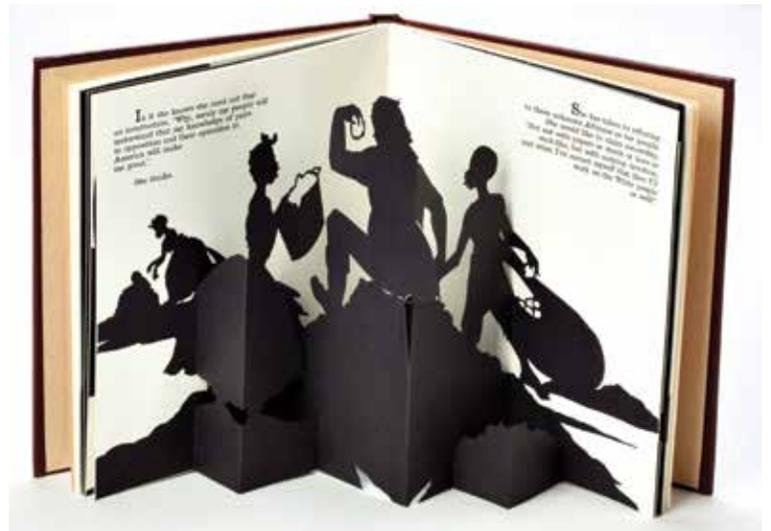
Page 24, bottom:
“Maligned Monsters II”
Shahzia Sikander 2000,
Aquatint with sugar lift, spit bite, dry-point
and chine collé on Somerset textured paper.

Page 25, left:
“Summer”
James Lavadour 2019,
22" x 30"
Crow’s Shadow Institute

Page 25, right:
“The Plural of Nexus”
Brenda Mallory in collaboration with Master Printer
Frank Janzen 2015, Lithograph, 30" x 22 3/8"
Crow’s Shadow Institute



Top left:
 "Untitled" Ric
 Gendron 2015,
 Acrylic on paper,
 22 1/8" x 30 1/4"



Top right:
 "Freedom, a Fable: A Curious Interpretation of the Wit
 of a Negress in Troubled Times," with illustrations by
 Kara Walker 1997, Bound volume of lithographs and
 laser-cut, pop-up silhouettes, 9 1/4" x 8 1/4"



Bottom left:
 "Simorgh Takes Zaul to Her Nest"
 Hamid Rahmanian 2019, Archival
 color print on metallic paper,
 19" x 13"

Bottom right:
 "Dark Matter (Universal Body #4)"
 Samantha Wall 2016,
 22 3/4" x 30"
 Crow's Shadow Institute



THIS PAGE PHOTOS BY REBECCA DEBERNAUX

UPSTAIRS AT PENROSE: WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT

Top:
"We The People Series"
Shepard Fairey
2018, Screen prints

Bottom:
Images from Penrose
Library's "Wall of
U.S. Presidents"

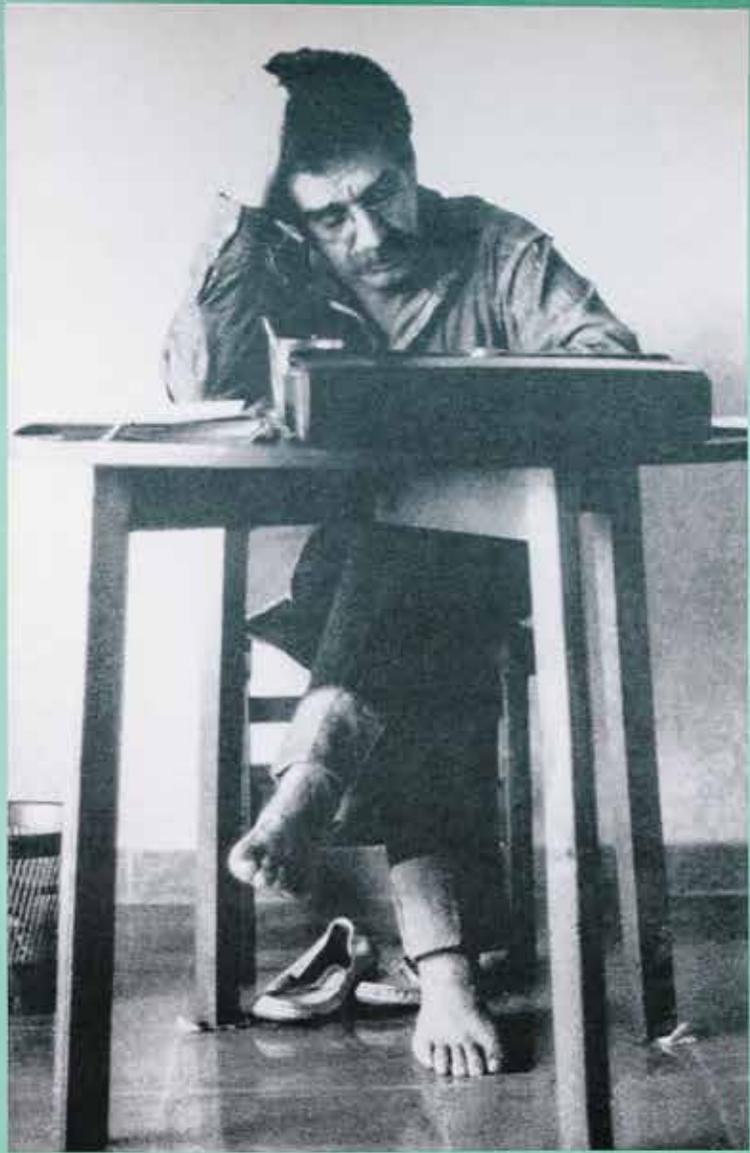
Strong images can inspire us, move us, teach us. When Whitman College students ascend the central staircase at Penrose Library, a place of great learning, they come face-to-face with three such powerful images. A trio of signed lithographs by contemporary political artist Shepard Fairey—from his "We the People" series—are displayed on the third floor of Penrose, near the library's "Wall of U.S. Presidents."

Fairey, a street artist with a degree in fine arts from the Rhode Island School of Design, now exhibits his work globally. Purchased in 2018 with funds from the Gaiser Art Endowment, the trio of Fairey works in the library nod to topics often found in his work, including self-empowerment, inclusivity, antiracism and gender equality, says Daniel Forbes, co-director of Whitman's Sheehan Gallery.

It was actually a student who first suggested counterbalancing the U.S. President collection, what they called the "wall of white men," says Dalia Corkrum, director of Penrose Library, who likes to point out this intentional juxtaposition to visitors of the space. "I like to think the messages on Fairey's pieces are American values we can all stand behind and ones that represent the true seat of a democracy, with the people."

Lithograph messages (left to right): We the people defend dignity. We the people are greater than fear. We the people protect each other.







TOUCHED BEYOND WORDS

Professor Álvaro
Santana-Acuña
explores the creation
and power of a
literary classic

BY TARA ROBERTS



On a rainy day in 2007, when Álvaro Santana-Acuña was studying for his doctorate in sociology at Harvard University, he carried his umbrella through the streets of Cambridge and thought, “it rains here like it does in Macondo.”

Macondo is the fictional Colombian town at the center of Gabriel García Márquez’s novel “One Hundred Years of Solitude.” But Santana-Acuña had never been to Latin America and hadn’t read the novel in years. Why did he make that connection?

He held onto that mystifying and meaningful moment for another year, when he began working on an article exploring “this idea that classics are classics because they have the power to enter our lives in the most unexpected ways, and to relate to our life experiences.”

More than a decade later, Santana-Acuña — now an assistant professor of sociology at Whitman College — has turned a fleeting thought during a storm into sweeping and award-winning interdisciplinary scholarship.

Pages 28-29 and above: Exhibitgoers explore the life work of Gabriel García Márquez at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas. Page 31: Curator Álvaro Santana-Acuña, assistant professor of sociology.

In August 2020, Columbia University Press published his book, “Ascent to Glory: How ‘One Hundred Years of Solitude’ Was Written and Became a Global Classic.”

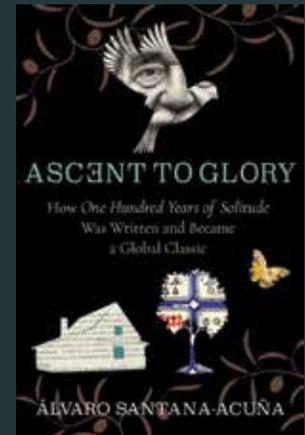
From Scholar to Curator

Santana-Acuña’s academic fascination with García Márquez’s work led to his book — and simultaneously to another ambitious endeavor. Over the last couple of years, he’s worked with the University of Texas at Austin’s (UT Austin) Harry Ransom Center to curate an exhibit, “Gabriel García Márquez: The Making of a Global Writer.”

In 2015, the Ransom Center acquired García Márquez’s personal archive of manuscripts, letters, photo albums and scrapbooks — even his typewriters and computers. Santana-Acuña received a fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to be one of the first researchers to work with this collection.

Before Santana-Acuña arrived at UT Austin in 2017, his research focused on “the consecration of ‘One Hundred Years of Solitude’” — the processes by which this novel gained global recognition. He was happy to have the opportunity to learn more about how García Márquez imagined and wrote it.

He’d been relying on secondary sources, but they were

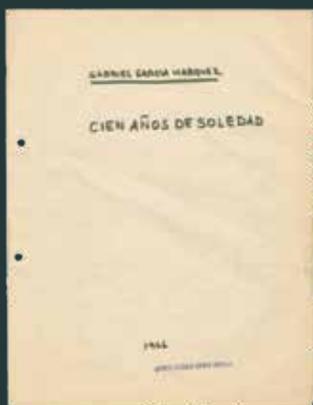


Solitude & Gratitude

In his letters, García Márquez repeatedly thanked family and friends for their support. Like his subject, Álvaro Santana-Acuña expresses his own gratefulness.

Sociology offers the capacity to ask big questions, and Whitman has offered him the capacity to dig into the answers, he says. In fact, when he arrived at Whitman in 2015, he'd only written the initial article about the Colombian writer. He spent the next four years transforming his research into the final manuscript. He often discussed his progress with colleagues in other departments, including Hispanic studies, anthropology and history, and asked his students to comment on drafts and weigh in on cover options for the book.

"I would only have been able to write a book like this at a place like Whitman." "Whitman has given me the space, time and freedom to embark on a project that I knew I couldn't finish in one year or two."



‘One Hundred Years’ in One Minute

Gabriel García Márquez’s “One Hundred Years of Solitude” (“Cien años de soledad”), published in 1967 and set in Macondo, follows seven generations of the Buendía family through a century of upheaval. A four-year rainstorm, a lover followed by yellow butterflies, a plague of insomnia and other strange occurrences mark the novel as a seminal work of magical realism.

What took García Márquez 15 years to write has been translated into more than 45 languages, making it the most translated literary work in Spanish after “Don Quixote.” It is among the top 30 bestselling novels of all time, with an estimated 50 million copies sold—and likely more on the horizon, as Netflix prepares to release a limited series based on the novel. García Márquez’s sons are the executive producers.

The book was also a turning point for García Márquez, who went on to win a Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982.

“This novel cut his life into two parts,” Santana-Acuña says. “Before it he was a writer unknown beyond small literary circles in Mexico and Colombia, and after that novel he became a global celebrity.”



“Readers around the world believe that in ‘One Hundred Years of Solitude,’ we can understand something deep about human nature, something that would be lived collectively, that would be universal.”

—Álvaro Santana-Acuña, assistant professor of sociology

prone to legends. The Ransom Center allowed him to peer into García Márquez’s writing techniques through the eyes of the author.

Santana-Acuña spent a month gathering information for his book in the archives, where he was able to debunk myths and offer new details about how García Márquez created his masterpiece. He also used this research to write articles for *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Time Magazine*, *El País* and more. His work on the García Márquez Collection led to Ransom Center Director Steve Enniss offering Santana-Acuña the chance to curate the first major exhibition of the writer’s archives.

Santana-Acuña was honored and a bit overwhelmed. He considers himself an “avid consumer of exhibitions” and grew up familiar with gallery spaces thanks to his father, a painter, but he had no curatorial experience.

He dove into the challenge, encouraged by Whitman’s spirit of transcending academia and reaching broad audiences outside the classroom. “I took the exhibition as an opportunity for teaching and doing research by other means,” Santana-Acuña says.

José Montelongo, a former librarian at UT Austin who is now the Latin American Books curator at the John Carter Brown Library, says Santana-Acuña’s work on the book and exhibition attest to his effort to demonstrate that a literary classic is not formed by a solitary genius, but instead by a “complex network of readers, editors, agents, collaborators and friends, plus a little bit of luck and a whole lot of talent.”

“Álvaro’s work is like the moment when the single dove made of origami paper is opened and displayed and it turns out to be an entire flock of birds, all of them mysteriously flying in one direction—literary fame, glory, and all the good and

bad that comes with it,” Montelongo says.

Building the exhibit was a joy for Santana-Acuña. He spent two weeks in mid-2019 selecting from a dozen Ransom Center collections, including manuscripts by authors who influenced García Márquez such as Ernest Hemingway, Jorge Luis Borges, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce and William Faulkner.

García Márquez’s life shapes the exhibit, beginning with his childhood in Colombia and tracing his path to becoming an advocate for political independence in Latin America and a beloved author around the world.

“In the book I ask how ‘One Hundred Years of Solitude’ came into being, and how it became a global novel,” Santana-Acuña says. “The exhibit is trying to answer a similar question about the author—how García Márquez became García Márquez, and how he rose to the status of a global literary icon.”

A Classic for the Times

The exhibition opened in February 2020, bringing in almost 7,000 visitors in the five weeks before COVID-19 forced the Ransom Center to close temporarily.

Though it disrupted the exhibit, the pandemic added another layer of relevance to Santana-Acuña’s book. He was finishing his final edits as the health crisis unfolded—quite a coincidence, considering the third chapter of “One Hundred Years of Solitude” involves Macondo locking down during a plague of insomnia.

This unexpected chapter in life has led people to read or re-read this novel during the pandemic, Santana-Acuña explains in his book and in the *New York Times* Op-Ed “The Pandemic of Solitude”—affirming his theories about what makes a classic work of art.

“Readers around the world believe that in ‘One Hundred Years of Solitude,’ we can understand something deep about human nature, something that would be lived collectively, that would be universal. In the novel we find characters or events that have a resonance, are meaningful to interpret our own lives. Classics have such power over us.” 

The man, the work, the history. Page 32, Top left: Manuscript of “One Hundred Years of Solitude,” finished in 1966. Bottom right: A photograph of García Márquez with his wife, Mercedes, and their sons, Gonzalo and Rodrigo. From the Gabriel García Márquez Papers, Harry Ransom Center.





BRYAN B. BELL

Googling Success

AL-RAHIM MERALI '13 USES ALL HE LEARNED AT WHITMAN IN A JOB HE DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED AT THE TIME

BY SAVANNAH TRANCHELL

WHEN YOU GO to high school in certain neighborhoods in Bellevue, Washington, you get a particular idea of what “success” looks like.

For Al-Rahim Merali '13, success meant a future in engineering, health or computer science. As a high school senior and first-generation college student, he applied exclusively to engineering and computer science programs. Then his high school counselor told him to apply to Whitman College—immediately.

“She told me the deadline was approaching, and I should apply, and that we’d talk about it later,” Merali says. So, he did, even though he thought Whitman was a “reach” school for him.

He got in to what he considered his dream school—an engineering program in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. But he also got in to Whitman, and was a candidate for the Paul Garrett Scholarship, the college’s most prestigious award, given to applicants who show exceptional academic and leadership achievements. Whitman flew Merali to Walla Walla, where he got to stay with a current student and learn more about the school and campus life.

“That visit completely altered my perspective,” Merali says. “I eventually turned down my dream school and decided to come to Whitman. I’m a big believer that things happen for a reason and wouldn’t trade my Whitman experience for any other.”

FINDING HIS OWN WAY

While Merali initially planned to pursue an engineering degree via Whitman’s 3-2 Engineering program, he eventually shifted his pursuit to economics, then biology, and finally psychology.

It was in a Whitman classroom that he found what “felt right” for him. “I was going through a transformation where I was so focused on being practical, but I also started feeling increasingly emotionally aware and empathetic,” he says. “I took a psychology class, and I loved it. It was all about how to understand people and their motivations, what drives them.”

Merali graduated from Whitman in 2013 with a degree in psychology and a minor in biology. Today, he’s a user experience (UX) researcher at Google, where he uses research methods to understand the needs, behaviors and experiences of people using Google tools and products. He turns these insights into recommendations to direct design and engineering teams on how to improve products.

GOING ALL IN AT WHITMAN

Merali works in an ever-evolving, future-focused industry, but looking back he sees how his college experience still shapes the person and employee he is today. The opportunities he had—to be a student



leader, engage in his community and give back—continue to add meaning, he says. “The Whitman experience is more than just pursuing a major. It’s more than just

advisor, intern for the Admission Office, DJ for the student radio station and involved in numerous community activities through the Student

Asian Students Association) and participated in Whitman’s dance and intramural programs.

Merali is grateful to have learned effective and empathetic communication skills, critical thinking and problem-solving at Whitman. He sees their influence in his work and everyday life. Other skills and values that he attributes to his time at Whitman include leadership, adaptability, curiosity, teamwork and collaboration, and the ability to critically observe his environment.

“The job I have now, I didn’t know existed when I was at Whitman,” he says. “Whitman gave me the confidence to pursue opportunities that I felt underqualified for because I knew I would be challenged and have the runway to learn and grow.” 

“The Whitman experience is more than just pursuing a major. ... It’s about learning, growing and creating experiences that positively impact others.”

AL-RAHIM MERALI '13, UX Researcher at Google

a means to a career. It’s about learning, growing and creating experiences that positively impact others.”

As a student, Merali was uber-involved on and off campus. He was a resident assistant, student academic

Engagement Center. Those included Adopt a Grandparent, Storytime (reading to local school children) and Best Buddies (a friendship program with adults with development disabilities). He also helped lead the SASA (South

🔍 Ask Merali 

WHAT’S SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON’T KNOW ABOUT GOOGLE?

“Google applies the same level of rigor to understanding their employees as they do to their products and services.

Prior to my current UX role, I was a member of Google’s People Innovation Lab (PiLab), a team dedicated to using social science methods to understand the full experiences of Google employees (Googlers) and how to make Google a great place to work. The PiLab conducted research and experiments on topics ranging from what makes a great manager and an effective team to studying where and how to display sugary drinks and sweets in office micro kitchens (nudging Googlers to make healthier food and beverage choices).

While on the PiLab, I conducted research on distributed work—how to work together when we’re not together. That’s been particularly relevant given the current work-from-home reality. I also worked on Google’s longitudinal study on work, gDNA, the findings from which continue to provide insight on how COVID-19 has impacted Googlers’ work experience, productivity, well-being and more.” —Al-Rahim Merali '13



Trailblazer Diversity & Inclusion Award

Recognizing alumni striving to light a path for others to follow

Selected jointly by the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and the Alumni Association, this award recognizes alumni whose work exemplifies inclusion, promotes equity and values and reflects the diversity of our world.

Nominate a Whittie for an Alumni Association Recognition Award!

We're seeking the unsung heroes, the behind-the-scenes orchestrators, the motivational and the inspirational! Do you know: • A Whittie making the world a better place? • A classmate who has given countless volunteer hours to a cause? • A friend who has made outstanding achievements in their career?

In addition to the new Trailblazer Award, there are categories for young alumni, for distinguished service, for lifetime achievement and for alumna or alumnus of merit—the highest honor the Alumni Association gives.

Learn more at whitman.edu/alumni-awards
and tell us about an outstanding Whittie!

Nominations are due by Monday, March 29.



WHITMAN COLLEGE



Team Treinen. World Series winner Blake Treinen in October 2020, pictured with his wife Kati and their two children, son Krue and daughter Addison. The Treinens call Walla Walla, Washington, home.

Finding Home

WORLD SERIES WINNER MENTORS BLUES ATHLETES AND THROWS HIMSELF INTO LIFE IN WALLA WALLA

BY MARGIE REECE '93

IN THE 2020 WORLD Series, All-Star pitcher Blake Treinen had an opportunity that many athletes dream about — what he calls “the biggest stage, the biggest game of my career.”

In the ninth inning of Game 5, Treinen came in to pitch for the Los Angeles Dodgers against the Tampa Bay Rays. With his signature blazing fast pitches, the 32-year-old right-hander closed out the game in dramatic fashion, securing a crucial win for his team. The Dodgers went on to take home the coveted trophy in Game 6 of the series.

Scattered across the country and watching the World Series that same October evening, Whitman College athletes celebrated one of

their own — a coach and friend. Treinen had encouraged and guided these teammates and alumni, and they will tell you it’s the character of the man that makes him a true champion.

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

In baseball, home base is the ultimate destination. As a pro player since 2011, Treinen has made an impressive career of pursuing the plate’s corners and sweet spots with an arsenal of wicked pitches, including his sinker, cutter, slider and fastball.

Still, it’s the home and contentment that he’s found with his wife and young children in Walla Walla that he’s most grateful for. And according to Treinen, they may not have made the move to Washington at all if it weren’t for his off-season gig with Whitman College’s baseball program. (See “Joining the Blues.”) Treinen, who grew up in Kansas and previously played for the Oakland Athletics and Washington Nationals, joined the Blues coaching staff in the fall of 2015.

“Having Blake on our staff has been tremendous,” says Head Coach Brian Kitamura ’10. “First and foremost, he’s a great person with an incredible family. His willingness to give his time to our program and to our

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS

student-athletes is something that we are really thankful for, especially with his schedule as a professional athlete.”

No sports achievement, even a World Series win, could ever compare to the rich rewards he gets from his family, deep faith and relationships, Treinen says. He recalls how that struck him following the 2020 World Series.

“I’m asking myself, ‘Look, you just had the biggest accomplishment of your lifetime potentially and do you feel satisfied?’ And I’m thinking, ‘No, I don’t. Nothing will fill the void in your heart meant for Jesus.’ So, what do you do? Chase another one and have the same feeling or realize that your life is worth more than just a game?”

HELPING OUT ANY WAY THAT HE CAN

According to Treinen, any positive influence he can bring to the Blues is immensely gratifying to him. “Most of my interactions are in the weight room with the players. So, when they walk in, I tell them, ‘Hey, when I’m here, ask me as many questions as you want. Because I’d love to help you out in any way that I can.’”

But he says the real credit for the quality of the program goes to Kitamura and his staff. “They do all the work really. That

baseball program is successful because of what they do,” Treinen says. “The cool thing about BK [Kitamura] and the guys who are there is they’re all about coaching up quality humans, not just baseball players. And there are so many things in life that are more important than baseball.”

When asked about the kind of student-athletes Whitman recruits, Treinen chooses the word “cerebral.”

“They want to think like the Xs and Os and how things work. To me, that’s a great asset. What separates minor leaguers from big leaguers is your mental side. I’ve seen a lot of guys at Whitman who are mentally strong and they have the ability to see the bigger picture.”

As far as Whitman baseball program’s big picture, Treinen certainly plays into their bright future. “The knowledge he’s able to share about strength training and pitching has really helped our players with their development.” Kitamura says. But it’s more than that. “It’s pretty special to have a guy like Blake here to mentor our student-athletes, which is an integral part of our mission to help each of our players become the best person they can be.” 

In January of 2021, the Los Angeles Dodgers signed Blake Treinen to a new two-year contract.



JOINING THE BLUES

It’s Blake Treinen’s wife, Kati Treinen, who first had ties to Walla Walla. An Idaho native and star athlete herself, Kati (Isham) played basketball for Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) from 2008-2010, setting impressive scoring records before going on to do the same at Boise State University. After she and Treinen married and settled in Boise, Idaho, she realized how much she missed Walla Walla, particularly their church community.

The couple decided to pursue a move to Walla Walla, where Kati had the opportunity to join her former coach Bobbi Hazeltine’s staff at WWCC. But there was a catch, so to speak. They could call anywhere home during Blake’s off-season, but they knew he would need a quality facility for his year-round pitching and training.

When Treinen first approached Whitman, it was purely with that goal in mind: a place to work out and throw. But the college administration came back with their own curveball, Treinen says. They’d welcome him into their facilities, but in return they wanted him to consider a role as an assistant coach—working out with the baseball team and offering his guidance and expertise when his scheduled allowed.

It’s a good faith deal that Treinen doesn’t regret making. “Whitman’s been everything that we’ve needed, and along the way we’ve made a lot of good friendships. I don’t know if you can have a better quality of people and coaching staff than what I’ve been fortunate enough to be around at the baseball program there.”

A Real Pro

“Coach Treinen is a consummate professional in every way. The opportunity to see how he carried himself and approached things was extremely valuable for us. Although we aren’t major leaguers, at least not yet, it’s been an example we have been able to follow in various professions.” —**Alec Rainsford, Whitman Blues (2015-2018)**



Humility & Kindness

“As a person, I learned from Blake to show humility and kindness no matter your level. Additionally, he always keeps his priorities first, reminding me to work on becoming better, and not only a better baseball player, but a better person.” —**Joseph Zimmer, Whitman Blues (2015-2018)**

Memories of a Lifetime

“Blake was a great influence to have around during the off-season. He was always willing to share his knowledge and time with us, and that formed memories and relationships that will last forever.” —**Anthony Lim, Whitman Blues (2015-2018)**



Class Notes



Kali Brewster

November 3 at 4:21 AM · 🌐

I'm a poll worker in Sheepshead Bay. We arrived at 5AM abs we have no coordinator. 200 people waiting to vote and we are not set up. Just elected a new coordinator amongst ourselves. Please someone send help I can't be on my phone. People are angry and cold and leaving. BO141 William E Grady High School.



106

37 Comments 26 Shares



Like



Share

Images courtesy of Kaliswa Brewster, at left, pictured with Graham Ashcraft.

'Hello, American! Come and Vote!'

Prior to the 2020 election, the U.S. faced not only a pandemic, but a shortage of poll workers, threatening people's access to a safe and fair election. More than 700,000 people stepped up to meet that challenge. One of those thousands was Whitman alum and actor Kaliswa Brewster '05.

An Election Day Drama Unfolds

On the big day, Brewster woke up at 3:30 a.m. to make sure she'd be on time for her poll station shift in Brooklyn, New York. Sporting her Whitman College face mask, she was surprised at what she found when she arrived.

"I got there at 5:01 a.m., panicking that I was late," Brewster says. "But when I showed up, there were a bunch of people sitting around. No one knew what was going on."

The polling site's coordinator was nowhere to be found. What Brewster and her fellow poll workers didn't know at that early hour was that the designated coordinator for their site had been in a car accident and wouldn't make it to open the building that day. As the line outside the polling station grew with no sign of opening, frustrated and cold voters began to leave. Brewster decided to make an urgent plea for help on social media.

"I tweeted. I put it on my Instagram. I posted on Facebook. I made calls ... But the fact is, we didn't know what we were doing or how to open the polls." By that time, Brewster estimated over 200 people were waiting outside in near-freezing temperatures.

It wasn't long before area churches and organizations showed up with hot coffee and donuts for those waiting to vote. And Brewster got to work doing everything she could to encourage people to continue waiting and not miss their opportunity to vote.

Taking care of people is one of Brewster's strong suits. While a student at Whitman, she was a campus tour guide. "I love making people feel welcome. It felt good to be like, 'Hello, American! Come and vote!'"

Eventually, the group was able to open the site with direction from the New York Board of Elections. It was 7:40 a.m. when the first voter entered the building. Brewster and the poll workers made it happen and it felt like democracy, she says. "We are the government. It's for the people, by the people."

Read more about Kaliswa Brewster's work with the nonpartisan organization Power the Polls—and see her fashion statement on voting day—at whitman.edu/magazine.

Now Streaming

Brewster appears in "Paint," a dark comedy film about recent art school graduates trying to find their way in the New York City art world. The film was released in December 2020 and is available on many video-on-demand platforms.

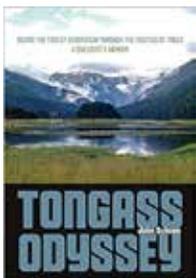


1950s

Yvonne Priaulx Werttemberger '55 has written a middle-grade children's book, "Sarah, Blake and Salt," an Adventure in the Desert (Sunacumen Press). She imagined, wrote and rewrote the story while recovering from a vehicle accident and proceeded to edit her manuscript during COVID-19 lockdown. Werttemberger lives with her husband, **Dick '55**, in Langley, Washington.

1960s

William "Bill" Dennis '67 is putting his history major to good use by writing articles for various publications. His article "A Comparison of American and German Artillery in World War II" appeared on the Historical Army Association's website. His articles have also appeared in The Infantry Bugler, and On Point: The Journal of Army History Museum. He lives in Longview, Washington.



John Schoen '69 has written a memoir of his career as a wildlife biologist titled "Tongass Odyssey" (University of Alaska

Press). Schoen worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska office of the National Audubon Society. He lives in Anchorage with his wife, **Mary Beth Lewis Schoen '71**.

1970s

Chuck Henager '75 retired from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington, after 40 years as a materials scientist, working in a variety of materials science areas with a concentration on radiation effects, mechanical properties and strength of materials, and computational materials science. He also retired from a position as an adjunct professor in materials sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle. Henager and his spouse, Pam, traveled to South Africa pre-pandemic and enjoyed a three-day safari near Kruger National Park. Their daughter, Sophie, was married in their backyard in a classic pandemic wedding in August. Three weeks after the wedding, the Henagers delivered presents to the newlywed's home in Montgomery, Alabama, stopping in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Mesa Verde National Park on their trip home. Henager has retired in Kennewick, Washington.

1980s

Laura Williams Helmer '81 is living in Dallesport, Washington, across the river from where she grew up in The Dalles, Oregon. Living a mostly-rural life is quite a welcome change after living away, and Helmer is reconnecting with old and dear friends and making new

ones. She is a Rotarian of 21 years, a member of PEO and volunteers for ShelterBox USA and the local history museum, The Discovery Center.

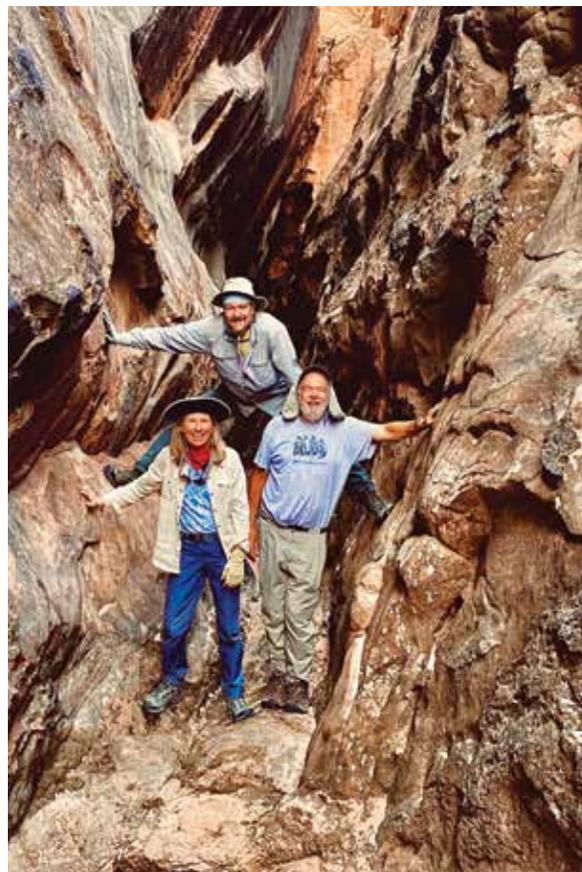
Mary Stickles '84 retired from the Foreign Service in 2019, but went back to work for the Department of State in February 2020, as export control and border security advisor for the Balkans. COVID delayed her move to the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, Serbia. She and her husband, Ed Schack, are now scheduled to relocate early this year.



David Tate '85 graduated from the Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship, a national program that prepares leaders to engage in the formulation, analysis and advocacy of policy that seeks to improve population health. Tate is executive director of the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation in Portland, Oregon.



David May '89 began his term as the interim president of Eastern Washington University on Aug. 4, 2020. Dr. May has served the EWU community since 1999, most recently as provost.



Bill Priedhorsky '73, along with **Duncan "Branch" McBranch '85** and **Molly McCurdy McBranch '84**, all from Los Alamos, New Mexico, went on a week-long llama-supported expedition in the Grand Staircase of the Escalante National Monument in Kanab, Utah. The Grand Staircase features bare rock carved into canyons, domes and pinnacles in the plateaus above the Escalante River. Pictured left to right: Molly, Duncan, Bill.



1990s

Annie Howell '90 co-wrote a film, Yellow Rose (Sony Pictures), now available for streaming. Winning 13 grand jury prizes on the festival circuit, it's a musical drama about an undocumented

Filipina teen from a small Texas town, fighting to pursue her dreams as a country music performer while having to decide between staying with her family or leaving the only home she has known. This film is Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes. Howell lives in New York with her husband, film theorist Michael B. Gillespie, and their two sons.

Josh Henretig '98 was appointed as vice president of global partnerships at Higg Co, a leader in sustainability data. Previously, Henretig worked in sustainability at Microsoft. He lives in Snoqualmie, Washington.



2000s

Katey Schultz '01, recently a featured speaker in the Virtual Whitman series, received two further major honors for her novel "Still Come Home": Book of the Year in Indie Fiction category from the Chicago Writers Association; and the Sir Walter Raleigh Award from the Historical Book Club of North Carolina. The latter award is presented in recognition of the most significant work of original fiction published in the past year by a North Carolina author.



Scott Skinner-Thompson '05 has published "Privacy at the Margins" (Cambridge University Press), a book highlighting why privacy is of acute importance for marginalized groups. Skinner-Thompson is an associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder Law School, where he researches constitutional law, civil rights and privacy law, with a particular focus on LGBTQ and HIV issues.

2010s

Andy Jobanek '10 was awarded the Excellence in Communications Award for the 2019 Cross Country Season, Division I, by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association. Jobanek is assistant media relations director at Portland State University.



Grace Toledo Finch '06 was promoted to the senior leadership team as director of development at Annie Wright Schools in Tacoma, Washington. She started as director of philanthropy in 2016. Finch is responsible for all aspects of the schools' fundraising programs.



David Heckendorn (parent of **John Henry Heckendorn '12**) was joined by **Sarah Beaujon Le '06** and **Aly Counsell '18** (daughter of **Ann Berner Counsell '82**) at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship orientation for new staff. Left to right: Le, Counsell, Heckendorn.

Marriages/Unions



Alec Sugar '08 to Daphne Zhang, Sept. 7, 2019, in Beijing, China. Pictured from left to right: Vicky Izquierdo Bermejo, **Eric Suni '06**, **Charlie Wittmann-Todd '08**, **Kento Ushikubo '08**, Sugar, Zhang, **Luke Hagel '08**, **Jackie Smith '09**, **Keith Cushner '08**, **Nicole Likarish '09** and Kanae Takamoto.



Roger Wells '71 to Mary Mutahi, Aug. 29, 2020, in Graham, Washington.



Scott Lawle '77 to Rachael Mayfield, June 6, 2020, in their backyard in Albany, Oregon. Family and friends, including **Art Stevens '78**, **Chris Coats '76** and **Bob Casey '77**, attended virtually.

Births/Adoptions

To Garrett and **Kelsey Maloney Allen '07**, a daughter, Stella Iris Maloney Allen, born Jan. 7, 2020. She joins brother Eliot, age 4.



To **Marisa McClellan '01** and Scott McNulty, twin sons, Samuel Reed McNulty and Declan Klein McNulty, born July 12, 2019.



To **Lisa Curtis '10** and Trenton Arthur, a daughter, Orion Curtis Arthur, born Sept. 19, 2020.



To **Russell '07** and **Betsy Russell Carroll '07**, a son, Jasper Ingersoll Carroll, born February 13, 2019, in the middle of a Walla Walla snowstorm.



To **Michael '08** and **Haley Revak Albertine '08**, a daughter, Acadia Grace Albertine, born Sept. 4, 2020. She joins brother Ames Theodore Albertine, age 2.

In Memoriam

1940s

Janet Kenyon Hickok '41, Aug. 3, 2020, in Bellingham, Washington. After Whitman, she attended business school and worked for the Whatcom County Credit Bureau. She married Clifford "Bud" Hickok in 1945 and the couple settled in Eureka, California. They returned to the Pacific Northwest and Hickok retired in 1961. She volunteered for the Republican Party and at the Shriner's Hospital in Portland. Predeceased by her husband, survivors include three godchildren.

Harley Michaelis '44, Oct. 12, 2020, in Walla Walla. He married Gwen Dunkin in 1942 and they had a daughter; they later divorced. In 1961, Michaelis married Patricia Light, who had children of her own. He had a long career in life insurance and annuities, retiring after 40 years. Predeceased by his wife, Michaelis is survived by two daughters and two stepchildren.

John Peterson '45, Sept. 19, 2020, in Seattle. In the midst of his time at Whitman, he joined the U.S. Air Force, serving as a pilot during WWII. Peterson married Suzanne Anderson in 1949; they were married for 64 years and raised three sons. He joined his father in running the family business, Pioneer Fruit Company, specializing in wholesale produce sales. Predeceased by his wife and eldest son, John, Jr., Peterson's survivors include two sons, six grandchildren and eight grand-grandchildren.

Lorraine Johnson Millar '47, Nov. 25, 2020, in North Branford, Connecticut. She

married Johnnie Millar in 1946 and had four children. She worked as a health claims processor from the mid-'60s through the late '80s. Upon her retirement, Millar began a new career in tax preparation for H&R Block. At Evergreen Woods retirement community, she was the treasurer of the general store and volunteered preparing tax returns at no cost. Predeceased by her husband and two children, her survivors include a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Janet Whitehead '47, Aug. 20, 2020, in Fairfield, California. After Whitman, she taught at the high school in Concrete, Washington, then earned a California teaching certificate at Stanford University. Whitehead taught English and biology at the high school and adult education levels. Predeceased by her partner, Alan Beck, she is survived by two daughters, a son and a grandson.

Norman "Ells" Bartlow '48, Oct. 29, 2020, in Pomeroy, Washington. Bartlow served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps during WWII. He married Eloise Dye in 1945 and together they raised five children. Until his retirement in 1988, Bartlow was the owner and manager of the farm implement business started by his father. Active in his church, he taught Sunday school for 35 years and served on the Board of Regents for Northwest Nazarene College for 24 years. Bartlow also served on the Pomeroy City Council and Garfield County Health Foundation. Predeceased by a son and daughter, his survivors include four children,

19 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Kenneth Bendure '48, July 11, 2020, in Sonora, California. He served in the U.S. Navy and, after attending Whitman's V-12 program, he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Washington in Seattle. Bendure married **Lorena Sanford '47** in 1947; they were married for 56 years until her death in 2004 and raised three children together. He married Jeanette Lillian in 2011. Bendure had a 39-year career with AT&T. Survivors include his wife, a son and two daughters.

Robert Davies '48, Oct. 10, 2020, in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He served in the 13th Armored Division of the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII. Davies married **Margaret McClellan '48** in 1948 and they raised two daughters. He became a CPA in 1965 and eventually ran his own firm until his retirement at age 85. His community service included his local Kiwanis, Key Club, Boy Scouts and the Klamath County Library board. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, his daughters, three granddaughters, and two great-grandsons.

Ruth Staats Engle '48, Oct. 11, 2020, on Mercer Island, Washington. She earned her master's in counseling from Syracuse University. She worked as assistant dean of women at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. She met her first husband, Daniel John Riviera, at Syracuse. They settled on Mercer Island and raised three children. They later divorced and she pursued her career in counseling, spending many years providing therapy at the Schick-Shadel Treatment Centers in Seattle. In 1996, she married Duane "Bud"

Engle; they moved to Covenant Shores and enjoyed an active life together there until his death in 2014. Predeceased by a son and her sister, **Jane Staats '43**, her survivors include her two children, two grandsons, two stepchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Virginia Pitts Malico '48, July 27, 2020, in University Place, Washington. After WWII, she worked as a recreation director for the U.S. Army Special Services in Austria. She met Carmine "C.J." Malico overseas; they were married in 1952 and raised four children. Malico worked and volunteered at the Spokane YWCA for many years and was actively involved in Camp Fire as a group leader and volunteer. Predeceased by a son, her survivors include her husband of 67 years, three daughters, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara Sawyer Scott '49, Mar. 17, 2020, in Edmonds, Washington. After Whitman, she finished her undergraduate degree and earned her nursing degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. She married Robert Scott in 1951, settling in Edmonds where they raised five children. When they moved to Oregon, Scott recertified her nursing credentials to be a nurse in the Portland School District. The couple retired in Edmonds. Predeceased by her husband, her survivors include her five children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

1950s

Calvin Burt '50, Sept. 20, 2020, in Wilsonville, Oregon. After Whitman, he married **Janice Oliver '51** and they

raised two sons. Burt began his first career as a math teacher in Kellogg, Idaho, and continued at the junior high school when the family moved to Lake Oswego, Oregon. He earned his master's in education from the University of Oregon in 1963. In 1974, he started his second career teaching at winter and desert survival schools around the country for 25 years. Burt was active in conservation efforts that culminated in the creation of Springbrook Park in Lake Oswego and Portland's Tryon Creek State Park. He personally mapped out and helped build most of the trails in Tryon Creek and was a popular native plants lecturer there for many years. Predeceased by his wife, survivors include his two sons.

Bruce Norton '50, Nov. 28, 2020, in Seneca, South Carolina. After Whitman, he earned his MBA from the University of Denver. Norton married Marilyn Clark in 1957 and they raised three children together. He was the general manager of Jantzen Southern's Seneca plant until his retirement in 1985. Norton was active in the Seneca Chamber of Commerce, the Seneca Community Club and the Area Commission for Tri-County Technical College. Survivors include his wife, two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Celia Rooney Gaiser-Hartley '51, Oct. 21, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona. She practiced as a Jungian psychologist in Seattle before moving to Port Townsend, where she sang with the Von Bingen Singers and was a member of the Science, Literature and Art Club. Preceded in death by her daughter and son, her survivors include a daughter-in-law, a sister-in-law and niece.

Clayton "Mac" Michaelis '51, Aug. 26, 2020, in Holladay, Utah. He served in the U.S. Army as a company clerk during WWII. Michaelis sold and wrote radio advertising in the Salt Lake City area for 44 years. He married the late Louar Hamilton and they had two children; he married Olive Hutchinson in 1986 and welcomed two more children to the family. Michaelis sang with a barbershop chorus and served as substitute teacher in the Granite School District. He is survived by his wife, two children, two step-children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Margaret "Midge" Sylvester Gilbert '51, July 2, 2020, in Bellevue, Washington. She met **Gordon "Skip" Gilbert '51** at Whitman and they were married in 1951; together they raised three children. Following her husband's military service in Oklahoma and Germany, the family ultimately settled in Bellevue. In addition to raising a busy family, Gilbert volunteered at Swedish Hospital and Children's Hospital. Predeceased by her daughter, she is survived by her husband of 69 years, two sons, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Leslie Snapp '51, Apr. 2, 2020, in Seattle. After Whitman, he attended the University of Washington. Snapp served in the U.S. Navy, touring the Pacific Ocean near the end of the Korean War. He married Joanne Gorin in 1950 and they raised three children together in Seattle. He had a long career in maritime insurance and played tennis at least twice a week until his 90th birthday. Predeceased by his wife, a son and his brother **Gerald '47**, his survivors include a son, a daughter, four grandchildren and brother, **Linton '50**.

Norma "Bean" Comrada '54, Oct. 16, 2020, in Eugene, Oregon. She married **Scott McFadden '54** in 1954 and they raised two sons, **Evan '79** and **Ross '81**. The couple later divorced. Comrada earned a master's in higher education from the University of Oregon and was an educator, creator and host of a television current events program and served as director of Affirmative Action and as assistant to the President at the University of Oregon. She earned acclaim for her work as a translator of Czech literature, focused on the work of Karel Capek. Comrada founded the Professional Women's Network of Oregon, played the cello in the Eugene Community Orchestra, and assisted in organizing and hosting Whitman alumni events in Eugene. Predeceased by her mother and father, **Benjamin Comrada '22**, she is survived by her sons and four grandchildren, including **Alex McFadden '16**.

Patricia Maring Conner '54, Nov. 12, 2020, in Bemidji, Minnesota. She married **Robert McGowan '54** in 1954 and they raised four children together until his passing in 1971. She earned her master's in English from California State University-Chico and taught at Bakersfield College for many years. She married Don Conner in 1990, and they moved from California to Minnesota. They traveled extensively in retirement, until his death in 2019. Conner is survived by her four children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sally Phillips Cummings '54, Oct. 21, 2020, in Renton, Washington. After Whitman, she married Roger Cummings and had two children; they later divorced. Cummings worked in the customer service field, first for The Boeing Company and later for IKEA. A 30-year

member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, she served as a liaison to community action through Renton's Ecumenical Association of Churches. Cummins was predeceased by her mother, **Helene Bower Phillips '23**; aunt, **Mary Bower Highberg '33**; and uncle, **Ivar Highberg '32**. Survivors include two sons, Phil and Kent; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; her brother, **Packard Phillips '61**; sisters-in-law **Liz Werle Phillips '59** and **Barby Gloyd Smith '61**; and extended family members **Mary Ann Highberg MacDonald '63**, **Diana MacDonald Peckam '93**, **Cathy Highberg Williams '70** and **Kelly Williams Katon '01**.

Roger "Bud" Evans '54, Sept. 24, 2020 in Oakland, California. He served in the U.S. Army before and while attending Whitman. In 1953, he married the late **Joanne Christie Lewis '54** and they had two sons. He worked at Proudfoot Consulting and IBM early in his career, and later at Safeway Stores as an industrial engineering manager, transferring to Denver and then Oakland. In 1980, he married Aileen Sumida. He is survived by his wife, two sons, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Patricia Smith Goetter '55, Aug. 17, 2020, in Spokane, Washington. She was writer and editor, working as the Women's Page editor for the Spokane Valley Herald for 22 years. For many years, she served on the board of the Greater Inland Northwest chapter of the American Red Cross and was a member of the choir at Opportunity Presbyterian Church, where she met William Goetter. They were married in 1975 until his death in 2018. Survivors include her stepson, William.

R. Scott McKean '56, Oct. 21, 2020, in Seattle. He married **Joan Strange '56** and had three children; they later divorced. McKean completed his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Washington and taught physics at small liberal arts colleges, including Whitman College, and later conducted research in wave theory at the Applied Physics Lab at the University of Washington. Predeceased by a daughter, survivors include his partner of 41 years, Lani Scheman; brother, **Thomas McKean '63**; a son and a daughter; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Margaret "Maggie" Savage '58, Aug. 22, 2020, in Prairie Village, Kansas. She earned her master's degree in social work from the University of Washington. Savage was a singer and songwriter, well-known in Pacific Northwest folk music circles and included in the University of Washington's Bob Nelson folk music archives. In addition to music, she was a guidance counselor at both Interlake High School in Bellevue, Washington, and the UW Law school. Savage recently moved from Washington to be closer to family in Kansas. Predeceased by three spouses, her survivors include three children and three grandchildren.

Dixianne Spaan Keltner '59, July 10, 2020, in Sequim, Washington. After Whitman, she completed training to be become a flight attendant with Northwest Orient airlines, later joining Western Airlines as a travel agent. Upon her retirement in 1985, she focused on training horses and therapy dogs.

Carol Sieverling Simcock '59, July 20, 2020, in Elk Grove, California. After Whitman, she earned her master's in

economics from the University of Oregon in Eugene. She married George Simcock and raised two children in Los Altos Hills, California. Simcock's first job at Stanford Research Institute in economic research eventually led to a career as a software engineer. Survivors include her children, two grandchildren, and nephew **Eric Sieverling '87**.

1960s

Sally Heimbigner Jacobsen '61, Oct. 16, 2020, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After graduation, she married **Gerald Jacobsen '61** and they had two children; they later divorced. She earned her Ph.D. in English literature from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, and taught at four colleges, including 20+ years at Northern Kentucky University, where she was tenured professor. Jacobsen published numerous papers, chaired discussions at the annual Modern Language Association conference and served several years as Margaret Atwood Society President. She retired in 2006 and settled in Albuquerque to be near family. Jacobsen is survived by her daughter, Claire; her son, **Hans '91**; and granddaughter, Danielle.

Lee McDonald McConnel '63, Sept. 1, 2020, in Lake Oswego, Oregon. She married **Stephen McConnel '63** in 1964 and they had three children. McConnel worked as a claims examiner and supervisor at the U.S. Veteran's Administration prior to the birth of her children. She volunteered in their classrooms and both Boy and Girl Scouts, and later for the Department of Justice Consumer Hotline for over a decade. Predeceased by a daughter, McConnel is

survived by her husband of 56 years, two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.

Joe McCray '64, Sept. 27, 2020, in Portland, Oregon. He married Delores "DeeDee" Ray in 1960 and they raised two children. He began his career with the National Labor Relations Board in San Francisco, and soon continued his commitment to labor rights with the International Longshore Workers Union. McCray earned his law degree from the University of San Francisco Law School in 1969. He opened his practice in 1971 and was a trial lawyer for more than 30 years. In high-profile litigation against General Motors, he joined with other trial attorneys nationwide to found the Attorney's Information Exchange Group, a national organization of plaintiffs' personal injury lawyers that worked to hold large corporations accountable for defective products. The McCrays retired to the Portland area and he wrote novels and short stories. McCray is survived by his wife of 60 years, two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Virginia "Ginny" Oakshott '64, Oct. 26, 2020, in Post Falls, Idaho. She taught

secondary school for many years in Hawaii and Japan. She retired to Colville, Washington.

Nancy Fowler Correia White '64, Oct. 3, 2020, in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. After Whitman, she earned a master's degree in telecommunication policy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She worked for the U.S. Coast Guard and later, the Department of Transportation until her retirement in 1992. She married Raymond Correia in 1966; they later divorced. She was married to James White from 1999 until his death in 2011. White volunteered for ministry charities and was an active hiker and traveler. Survivors include the daughters of her second husband and numerous cousins.

Doug Larson '66, April 3, 2020, in Belfair, Washington. He earned his D.D.S. from the University of Washington Dental School and founded Dental Health Associates, practicing dentistry in Lakewood, Washington, for over 30 years. Larson volunteered for the Clover Park Kiwanis, Hope Sparks and Habitat for Humanity. A lifelong traveler, he visited six of seven continents and made annual trips to Mexico. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Robin Todd Larson '67**, and their three children.

Diane Grove Pancoast '66, Sept. 8, 2020, in Wilsonville, Oregon. After Whitman, she married **Terry Pancoast '65** in 1966 and they had two sons. She earned her M.S.W. from Boston College and a Ph.D. in urban studies at Portland State University. Pancoast worked as a practicing social worker and member of the faculty at the Portland State University School of Social Work. She was an advocate for children, chairing a state task force on child abuse, and had a passion for social justice and reproductive freedom, serving on the boards of several social service and advocacy organizations. Following a medical crisis 25 years ago, oxygen deprivation left Pancoast profoundly changed. Predeceased by a son, her survivors include former husband, friend and caretaker, Terry; son, David; and two grandchildren.

Don Taylor '66, July 28, 2020, in Olympia, Washington. At Whitman, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, a lineman on the football team and played trombone in the symphony. A college highlight was the year he spent studying in Germany, which helped cement his lifelong interests in history and travel. After serving in the Peace Corps in Tunisia, North

Africa, and earning a master's in public administration from the University of Washington in Seattle, Taylor worked for 43 years as a revenue analyst at the Washington State Department of Revenue in the research division. He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Jean; their two children, Dan Taylor and **Jennifer Taylor Hennessey '98**; and four grandchildren.

Steven Streutker '69, Aug. 31, 2020, in Monroe, Washington. After Whitman, he earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering and master's degree in mechanical engineering, both from the University of Washington in Seattle. Streutker married Irene Jonas in 1969 and they raised two children together. He worked as a flight test engineer for the U.S. Army and spent several years in the nuclear industry and engineering. The Streutkers retired to Whidbey Island. Predeceased by his wife, survivors include his daughter, son, and three grandchildren.

1970s

Michael Gregory '71, Aug. 13, 2020, in Claremont, California. After Whitman, he earned his

master's degree and teaching credentials from Claremont College in 1976. He taught all grades throughout his career at Valencia Elementary School. Survivors include his wife, Susan.

Jeffrey Eutermoser '72, May 7, 2020, in Fayetteville, Georgia. He served his country in the U.S. Navy as a pilot and retired from Delta Air Lines. Eutermoser spent many hours coaching soccer for AFC Lightning in Fayetteville. Predeceased by a son, his survivors include his wife of 19 years, Martha; two sons; and six grandchildren.

1990s

Elsa Reyes Escalante '91, Nov. 24, 2020, in Walla Walla. She married Manuel Escalante in 1991 and together they raised two children. She served the Walla Walla community in various capacities, mostly working for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services as a social worker. Escalante also volunteered at the Walla Walla YWCA, eventually serving on the Board of Directors. Survivors include her husband and two daughters.

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 Jennifer Dilworth Northam '91, Class Notes editor, at northajl@whitman.edu or call 509-526-4794.

A Whitman Leader



Frits W. van Oppen, Nov. 24, 2020, in Mercer Island, Washington, at 101 years old. Van Oppen was the brother, spouse, parent, grandparent and uncle of numerous Whitman alumni and adopted the college as his own, becoming a 50-year supporter and lifetime benefactor. Van Oppen was born in Amsterdam and immigrated to the U.S. with his parents as a two-year-old. He grew up in Gardena, California, and lived in the Los Angeles Basin until moving to Mercer Island in 1989. He was an Army Air Force

Captain in World War II and ended the war managing the business side of B-17 and B-24 bomber squadrons being trained at Gowen Field near Boise, Idaho. It was in Boise that he met Whitman College graduate Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Fouts '40 during the fall of 1943. They were married on Valentine's Day in 1944, and raised three children: Catherine, Timothy and Peter.

After the war, van Oppen became a certified public accountant and ran the family accounting business, van Oppen & Co., with his father. The company prospered during the 1950s and 1960s, and Frits built long-term client relationships, one of which lasted more than 60 years. He was proud of being an early computer adopter in the mid-1960s and his love of technology persisted, later inspiring his support of Whitman's computer science program.

A Beautiful Dedication

In the fall of 2008, Frits van Oppen, along with sons Peter and Tim, both volunteer leaders at Whitman, made gifts and brought together extended family members to name and dedicate Whitman's newly constructed Fouts Center for Visual Arts in memory of his late wife and van Oppen family matriarch, Betty Fouts van Oppen. The Fouts Center for Visual Arts is a testament to the van Oppen family legacy of leadership and support at Whitman College.

Van Oppen was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, three younger siblings and a beloved namesake grandchild, and is survived by his three children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild — with a second on the way. His multiple generation Whitman College family includes wife **Elizabeth Fouts van Oppen '40**, brother **James W. van Oppen '49**, sons **Timothy Frits van Oppen '70** and **Peter H. van Oppen '74**, grandchildren **Derek E. Schulte '99**, **John W. van Oppen '05**, **Catherine Ann van Oppen '08** and **Brian W. van Oppen**, who attended before graduating from UC Berkeley, niece **Joanna van Oppen '83** and nephew **Frederik W. van Oppen '82**.



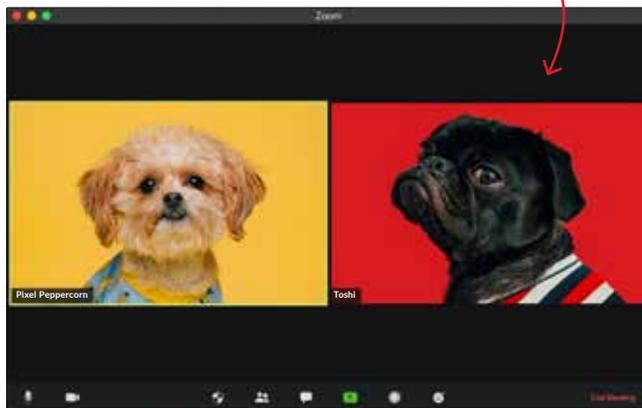
A family legacy. In 2008, Shannon and Peter van Oppen '74, Frits van Oppen and Tim van Oppen '70 attend the dedication of The Fouts Center for Visual Arts (above), which was named after Frits van Oppen's late wife and artist Betty Fouts.

CS 267

Human-Computer Interaction

4 CREDITS | DAVIS

For the Fall 2020 semester, **Davis kept it relevant.** Her students developed digital interfaces that would solve a problem posed by COVID-19 restrictions (such as extensions for video conferencing).



The Course: *How do people interact with computers? And how can we design computer systems that make people's lives better?* Students learn to critique, create and test user interfaces using principles based on psychological theories of perception, memory, attention, planning and learning.

KEY TERMS

Prototype A design hypothesis. Through prototyping and testing, you learn the ways in which your hypothesis is wrong and needs to be improved.

Paper prototyping A helpful early development tool to observe the HCI, where designers plot concepts on paper and have others simulate how they would interact with it. "It might sound surprising that computer scientists use paper as a tool, but paper is the most recommended medium for first interactive prototypes of a computing system," Davis says.

Digital wireframing A digital schematic or blueprint, useful for programmers and designers to think and communicate about the structure of what they are building.

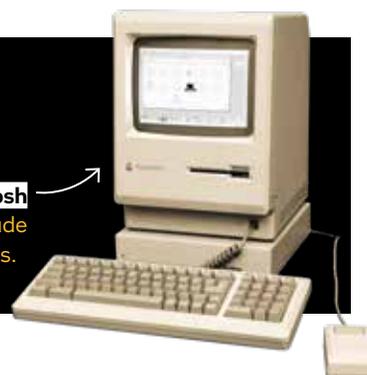


ABOUT THE PROFESSOR

Janet Davis is an associate professor and department chair of computer science (CS). HCI was the first course she taught when she arrived at Whitman in 2015. Davis hopes to inspire more women to join her in the field. In her article "Five Ways to Welcome Women to Computer Science," published in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Davis wrote, "many of our students don't see themselves as 'tech people.'"

"WE HAVE TO KINDLE THEIR INTEREST IN SOLVING PROBLEMS VIA TECHNOLOGY, AN INTEREST THAT WOMEN MIGHT NOT KNOW THEY HAVE."

WHAT IS HCI? Human-Computer Interaction studies center on the interaction between human users and computer technology in work and life. HCI first emerged in the 1980s—when personal computing machines like the IBM PC 5150 and the **Apple Macintosh** were debuting in offices and homes. It has since expanded to include web and mobile applications, smart appliances and voice assistants.



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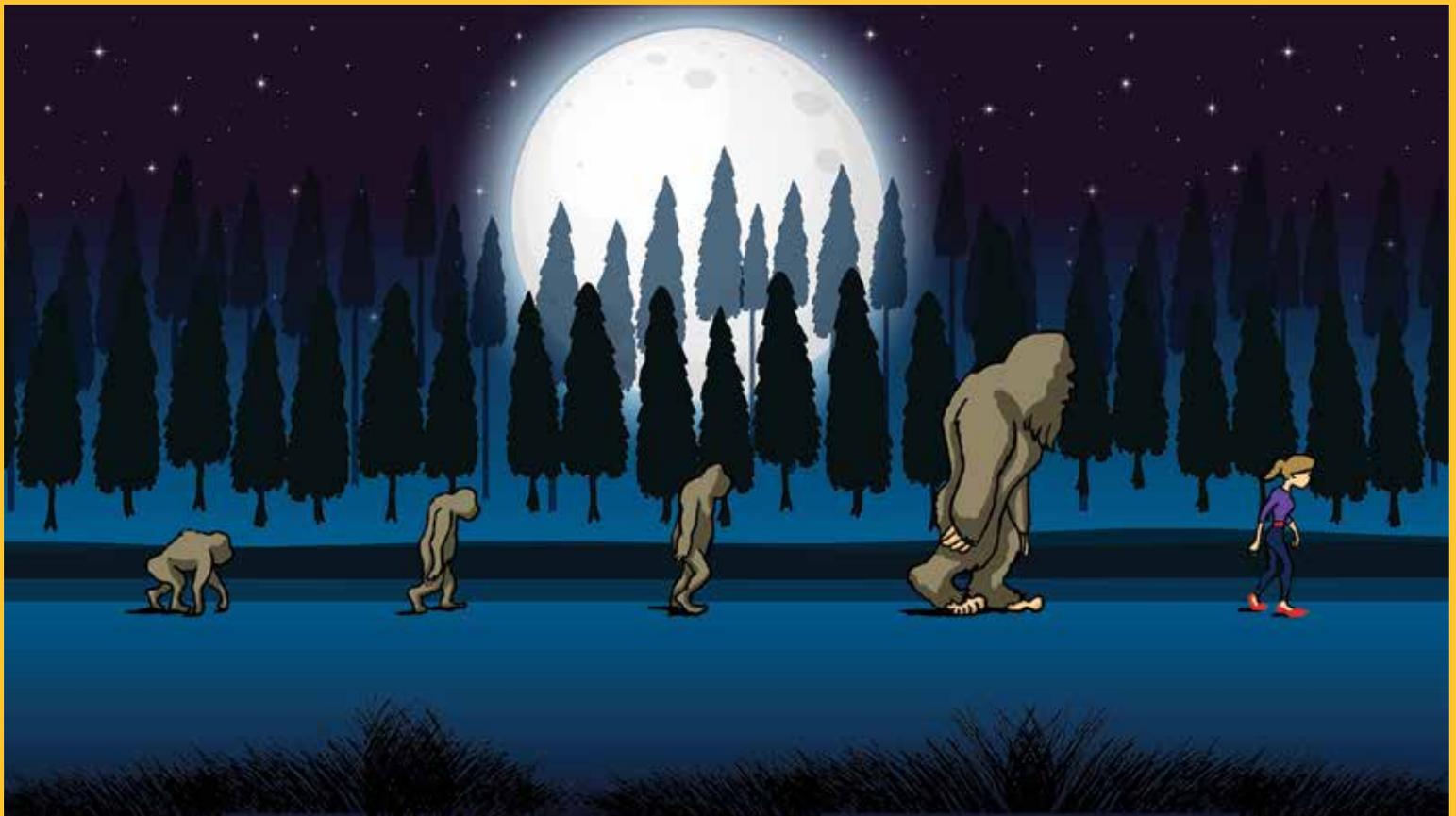
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Whitman Stories



PURSUING CREATURES, CURIOSITY AND CREATIVE CONTENT Laura Krantz, from Whitman's Class of 2000, is a freelance journalist in Colorado. Her podcast "Wild Thing" has received critical acclaim, including from The Atlantic, which named it one of the best podcasts of 2018 and 2020. Her second season launched in the fall of 2020. Read more about Krantz's pursuits on page 12 and watch a Whitman-produced video on her career journey at whitman.edu/magazine.