

WHITMAN

MAGAZINE



Restoring a Legacy

A Whitman alum brings
Seattle's historic Nippon
Kan Theatre back to life

FALL 2024

Having a Blast!

Whitman students took their hands-on learning to the air performing bottle rocket experiments as part of their General Physics final project in May 2024. Pictured left to right in front of the Hall of Science: Chan Aung '26, Malaina Sidhu '27 and Beatrice Archer '26.





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CHAIN REACTION

Professor of Geology Kirsten Nicolaysen’s inspired mentorship has led a new generation of scientists to take up volcano research. Now they’re developing better ways to predict eruptions, protect people from the aftermath and gain insights toward a greener future.

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A HISTORIC THEATRE’S SECOND ACT

The Nippon Kan Theatre was once a vibrant part of daily life in Seattle’s Japantown, and if Eric Hayashi ’87 has anything to say about it, it will be again. With the recent restoration and reopening of the Nippon Kan, Hayashi is reviving more than just a building— he’s restoring a legacy.

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THE NEXT GENERATION

Meet the Class of 2024. The latest graduates to join the ranks of Whitman’s alumni, these impressive scholars made the most of their time at Whitman — and now they’re ready to make their mark on the world.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

ON THE COVER Eric Hayashi '87 in the restored Nippon Kan Theatre. See page 22. Photo by Rodrigo DeMedeiros.



Celebrating Passion & Commitment

IF YOU ENJOY A QUICK SKIM THROUGH THIS BEAUTIFUL ISSUE of the Whitman Magazine, you'll see it highlights something that has been true of our community throughout the school's history: Whitties are smart, driven people who enter diverse careers and pursue widely varied journeys, goals and hobbies. A deeper read, however, reveals one foundational commonality: Whitties channel their passions to benefit others and contribute positively to society. Within these pages, you will discover stories of people whose time at Whitman contributed to their development as engaged citizens who make a difference in their professions and communities.

The stories you'll read in this issue highlight how our faculty and alumni are making a significant impact in their fields. From mentoring students in geology to adapting political science curricula in order to address current events, our professors create an inclusive and dynamic educational environment. You'll also meet (or recognize from your time here!) committed and creative alumni who combine deep insight with entrepreneurial spirit to address the challenges and opportunities of our time.

As we welcome students back to campus, I couldn't be more excited to introduce our incoming Whitties to all this wonderful place has to offer, to meet with student leaders from across campus and to attend events, including cheering on our amazing student-athletes. In this issue, you'll see what an incredible year they had in their 2023-2024 seasons. In May 2024 — at the best event of the school year — we celebrated Whitman's newest alumni as they crossed the stage to receive their well-earned degrees. I hope you enjoy just a few of their stories and learn about the diverse paths our graduates are embarking on, from software engineering to international policy analysis to advanced academic studies. Their Whitman experiences and future plans illustrate the breadth of outcomes made possible by Whitman's superb liberal arts education.

We often say, "The world needs Whitties"—and I can think of no better way of demonstrating this than by sharing these remarkable stories of our faculty, alumni and students. Their passion, care and commitment to creating positive change in the world are a legacy of their Whitman education and an inspiration for current and future Whitties.

Thank you for all you do to make this extraordinary education possible for current and future students!

Sarah Bolton
President

“We often say, ‘The world needs Whitties’—and I can think of no better way of explaining why that is than through sharing these remarkable stories of our faculty, alumni and students.”

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CLASS NOTES

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

WHITMAN MAGAZINE

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NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

On Boyer Avenue

NEWS FROM CAMPUS



Whitman welcomes knowledge seekers. Šináata Scholars (from left) Anthony Crawford '28, Sky Smith '28 and Allen Zamudio '28 will join the Whitman community on campus this fall.

NATIVE OUTREACH

CTUIR Scholars Earn Full Scholarships

WHITMAN COLLEGE, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), is proud to announce that Anthony Crawford '28, Sky Smith '28 and Allen Zamudio '28 have been awarded the 2024 Šináata Scholarship. All three are graduates of Nixyáawii Community School, a public charter school located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton, Oregon.

"We are so pleased to have Allen, Anthony and Sky joining the Whitman College community as Šináata Scholars," says President Sarah Bolton. "Their academic achievements and leadership qualities are an honor to the families and the communities who have raised them."

The Šináata Scholarship is Whitman's most generous scholarship, covering the full cost of

attendance at Whitman. It builds on a number of educational initiatives developed under the framework of the Memorandum of Agreement that Whitman and the CTUIR signed in 2017 and renewed in 2022.

MEET THE ŠINÁATA SCHOLARS

Anthony Crawford regularly participates in cultural activities, such as powwows and seasonal ceremonies, including the Pendleton Round-Up, where he dances in the arena, the "Happy Canyon" night show and the parade. Crawford is also a dedicated volunteer for the local middle school's Outdoor School program and community cleanup projects.

Sky Smith is a three-sport varsity athlete who graduated as Nixyáawii's Class of 2024 Salutatorian. He was invited to play football at the California Indigenous

Bowl on the Soboba Reservation in December 2023. Smith is an advocate for his culture and heritage, going to powwows across the United States as well as working with the community back home in Oregon.

Allen Zamudio is a Nixyáawii honor roll student. He single-handedly ran the yearbook club and was active in his school's CommuniCare Charter. Zamudio is passionate about forestry and conservation and plans to enter Whitman's Forestry and Environmental Management program, which includes two years at Duke University and results in a master's degree.

ABOUT THE ŠINÁATA SCHOLARSHIP

The Šináata Scholarship ensures that the entire cost of attending

Whitman is covered for selected students who are enrolled CTUIR members. It may also be awarded to Native American students from other parts of the Pacific Northwest who have close ties to and have demonstrated active community involvement with the CTUIR.

The name Šináata [pronounced shin-AHH-tah] comes from the original Cayuse language and means "to seek."

The first Šináata Scholarships were awarded in 2022 to Lindsey Pasena-Littlesky '26 and Aiden Wolf '26. Since coming to Whitman, both scholars have played integral roles in Native American outreach on campus as members of the Pášxapa Advisory Council for CTUIR Collaboration and through leadership for events including the Pášxapa Powwow and the Salmon Film Festival.



Rendering of the future Stegner Hall at Whitman College.

VIBRANT CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Generous Gift Leads to Honorary Naming of Stegner Hall in New Village

A \$5 MILLION GIFT to the **Upward Together** campaign will provide philanthropic support for community building at Whitman College.

The gift will be recognized with the naming of Stegner Hall, in honor of John Stegner '77 and Laurie (Elgee) Stegner '80, in the college's new junior-senior residential village. The name of the donor, a Whitman alum, will remain private at this time, at the donor's request.

SECURING A PROMISING FUTURE

Upward Together Chair Nancy Serrurier (Parent '11) announced the Stegner Hall gift and the record-setting campaign at a Board of Trustees meeting in early May 2024.

"I am deeply grateful not only for this longtime contributor to the college, whose generosity will be recognized with the naming of Stegner Hall, but to all donors for making possible this record-level campaign," says Serrurier. "The good work of **Upward Together** continues as we have an ambitious \$200 million goal and many important strategic investments yet to make for students."

More than 14,000 alumni, families and organizations have made gifts to the **Upward Together** campaign.

"We are so fortunate to have such broad support from alumni and families to help support Whitman students and prepare them to be the leaders and thinkers that will make our communities and the world better," says President Sarah Bolton.

HONORING ALUMNI IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Stegner Hall is the third building named, following Harvey Hall and Robart Hall, in the new junior-senior village. Site work is underway for the new community that will transform how students live, learn and thrive on campus. Slated to open in August 2025, the apartment-style village will provide a home for 210 students in a parklike setting along a restored College Creek and Boyer Avenue near downtown Walla Walla.

Justice John R. Stegner has had a long career in public service. He served in the Idaho judiciary for more than 25 years. Most recently, he served

as a Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court until his retirement in the fall of 2023. Throughout his tenure on the bench, he earned a reputation for his thoughtful and fair approach to interpreting the law. Justice Stegner is a recipient of the George G. Granata Jr. Award given by the Idaho judiciary and the Distinguished Jurist Award presented by the Idaho State Bar.

Honoree Laurie Stegner has had a long career in education. She taught in public schools for 34 years in Washington and Idaho. In 2011, she was named Teacher of the Year by the Pullman, Washington, School District.

The Stegners are dedicated volunteers for Whitman, having served on the Alumni Board and as class representatives and reunion volunteers.

MOVING WHITMAN FORWARD. Learn more about supporting the historic **Upward Together** campaign at whitman.edu/upward-together.

WHAT A YEAR!

Let's celebrate the spectacular achievements of Whitman College Blues Athletics! The 2023–2024 season was filled with Northwest Conference (NWC) titles and impressive individual and team accomplishments.

These highlights are just a glimpse at the incredible dedication, talent and hard work of our student-athletes and coaches. Go Blues!

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

BASEBALL First NWC title since 1952.

Julien Hernandez '24: NWC Pitcher of the Year.

MEN'S BASKETBALL Second consecutive NWC regular season title. **Grant Hunt '25:** NWC Defensive Player of the Year.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING NWC Champs, sixth time in seven years. **Shaye Agnew '25:** NWC Swimmer of the Year—after winning three events at the championships.

WOMEN'S TENNIS NWC regular season and tournament titles—for the second consecutive year.

MEN'S GOLF First NWC title and NCAA tournament berth since 1986.

Mason Remington '27: NWC Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year. (See page 10.)

MORE REMARKABLE ROOKIES

Kiki Glorioso '27 (women's soccer): NWC Rookie of the Year, anchoring one of the league's best defenses. **Hanri Luo '27** (men's tennis): Won every set at the ITA Fall Northwest Regional Championship. **Renn Novak '27** (lacrosse): NWC Rookie of the Year.

SCHOLARS FIRST

161 Whitman student-athletes received NWC All-Academic Honors (3.5 cumulative GPA or higher).



ALL-STAR PERFORMER

Korin Baker '25 (women's basketball): NWC Player of the Year; played in the Division III National All-Star game.

LED BY THE BEST!

5 NWC Coach of the Year Awards

- John Hein (women's tennis): back-to-back honors
- Bill Howard (men's golf)
- Brian Kitamura (baseball)
- Jeff Northam (men's tennis): NWC record 11th time
- John Lamanna (men's basketball): back-to-back honors

NEW FABULOUS FACILITIES

Edwards-Moore Clubhouse (baseball)
James Hayner Field (lacrosse and soccer)

2024 Distinguished Faculty Awards



AARÓN AGUILAR-RAMÍREZ
Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies
Thomas D. Howells Award
for Distinguished Teaching in
Humanities and Arts

JONATHAN COLLINS
Associate Professor of Chemistry
A.E. Lange Award for
Distinguished Science Teaching



ARIELLE COOLEY
Associate Professor of Biology
and Garrett Fellow
Faculty Award for Service
to the Alumni Association



MARK HENDRICKS
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
G. Thomas Edwards Award
for Excellence in the Integration
of Teaching and Scholarship



ROSIE MUELLER
Assistant Professor of Economics
Robert Y. Fluno Award
for Distinguished Teaching
in Social Sciences



PAT SPENCER
Grace F. Phillips
Professor of Geology
George Ball Award
for Excellence in Advising



ZAHI ZALLOUA
Cushing Eells Professor of Philosophy
and Literature, Professor of Indigeneity,
Race, and Ethnicity Studies
The Suzanne L. Martin Award
for Excellence in Mentoring



Human-Centered Design Program Gets Major Boost

WHITMAN COLLEGE HAS RECEIVED nearly \$150,000 in grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support its Human-Centered Design (HCD) program. The award was part of \$26.2 million in NEH grant funding for 238 humanities projects nationwide.

“I am beyond excited that the NEH recognized the value of what we are doing at Whitman with the HCD program,” says Sharon Alker, the Mary A. Denny Professor of English and General Studies.

REIMAGINING THE WORLD AROUND US

Whitman’s Human-Centered Design program launched at the beginning of the 2023–2024 academic year and allows students to add a concentration in HCD to any major.

The new area of focus combines multiple disciplines and encourages students to consider how people interact with the designed world. Every system, sculpture, survey and sidewalk was made by someone and for someone. And that means they can be redesigned if they are not working.

“I’m particularly excited to collaborate with Whitman students from a wide variety of academic disciplines and local community partners,” says Michelle Janning, the Raymond and Elsie DeBurgh Chair of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology.

HCD students first take an introductory course (HCD 101), then take four “deepening” courses from a range of different departments, and finally take an upper-level capstone course (HCD 497) that synthesizes past coursework and results in a design portfolio.

HCD students are also required to complete a community-engaged Collaborative Practice Experience, such as collaborative research, an internship, participation in a design lab or a community placement.

FORGING NEW PATHS FORWARD

The NEH grant will provide two years of support for faculty to design, refine, enhance and implement three components of the program: the deepening and capstone courses, the Collaborative Practice Experience, and a visiting mentor program.

The NEH grant represents a collaboration across all three academic divisions at Whitman, with faculty contributions from Alker and Janning, as well as William Bares (Computer Science), Janet Davis (Computer Science), Sarah Hurlburt (French and Francophone Studies), Justin Lincoln (Art) and Daniel Schindler (Theater).

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

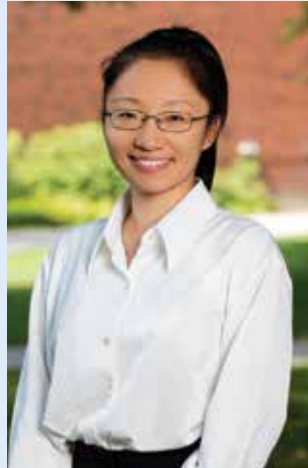
Associate Professor of Computer Science **William Bares** contributed a chapter titled "Graphics + Accessibility" to the community-sourced book "Teaching Accessible Computing," published by the Information School at the University of Washington.

Judge and Mrs. Timothy A. Paul Chair of Political Science and Professor of Politics **Shampa Biswas** joined a panel of experts in a webinar on gender and nuclear weapons for an educational program run by the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs.

Associate Professor of Sociology and Garrett Fellow **Alissa Corder** co-authored a paper in the American Journal of Public Health about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination proximity to carceral facilities. The paper provided the basis for an article in The Hill, and Corder was also interviewed for an article in High Country News.

Brian Dott, the Robert Allen Skotheim Chair of History, was interviewed for a National Geographic article titled "The

Surprising Story of How Chili Crisp Took Over the World." **Dott** is the author of "The Chile Pepper in China: A Cultural Biography."



Assistant Professor of Economics **Ruoning Han** published an article titled "Competition and Profit Orientation in Microfinance" in the Southern Economic Journal. The study examines how the loan contracts of for-profit and nonprofit microfinance lenders affect loan terms and borrower welfare.

Richele Heilbrun, Division I Assistant, received the 2024

Sally A. Hooker Award for Excellence in Staff Support for Teaching.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Mark Hendricks** co-presented at the 2024 international conference for the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening in Boston. The presentation was cited in a Charles River Laboratory article titled "Can Automated Science Replace the Human Loop?"



Associate Professor of Psychology **Erin Pahlke** published a paper in the journal Analyses of Social

Issues and Public Policy titled "Predictors of White Parents' Racial Socialization: Links to Attributions for Racial Inequalities and Views of White Privilege." Whitman alum Ella Nelson '22 co-authored the paper.

Associate Professor of Art History **Matthew Reynolds** published a book titled "Maya Lin, Public Art and the Confluence Project," which examines the Columbia River Confluence Project through the lens of environmental humanities and Indigenous studies.

Associate Professor of Sociology **Álvaro Santana-Acuña** published an article in the New York Times titled "Would It Really Be Better to Never See Gabriel García Márquez's Final Book?" (The book, "Until August," was released in March 2024 amid controversy.) Santana-Acuña, a García Márquez scholar, was also interviewed by the BBC, NPR and other international media on the topic.

David Schmitz, the Robert Allen Skotheim Chair of History, Emeritus, was featured in an article in The Nation titled "Far From a Kink, Donald Trump's Dictator Fetish Puts Him Squarely in the Mainstream."

Nadine Stecklein, Assistant Director for Internship Programs, received the Right Outlook Award for her service with multiple local nonprofit associations.

OUR AWARD-WINNING VIEWBOOK

Refer a high school student to get their own copy!

Whitman's new flagship viewbook—completed in late 2023—has won two prestigious national awards. "Your Official Guide to Whitman College" received the Award of Distinction in The Communicator Awards and a Gold in the CASE Circle of Excellence Awards.

Created by the Office of Communications, the 84-page book showcases what makes Whitman so special. Featuring both official and unofficial insights into college life, it's one of a kind—with a fun "flip-side."

Do you know a stellar high school student who may be a great fit for Whitman? If your star student accepts our invitation to receive information from the college, we'll make sure they receive their own award-winning guidebook. Refer a future Whittie at whitman.edu/refer-a-student.





Let's Talk About It

AMPLIFYING VOICES MAKES THIS
POLITICS PROFESSOR TICK AS
AN EDUCATOR AND HUMAN

BY DANNA LORCH

A HISTORIC presidential election. Complex issues. A concerned nation.

It may sound like 2024, but it was also true of the fall of 2008 — what was Associate Professor of Politics Susanne Beechey's first semester at Whitman College.

Beechey was teaching a course that closely followed the race between Barack Obama and John McCain, pivoting each class meeting's focus to respond to daily news and live debates.

In that historic season, she grasped how her classroom could serve as a stage for respectful discussions, as well as making mistakes, discovering and posing tough questions that the country is grappling with in real-time.

"From then on, I learned to be flexible and willing to shift each class where it needs to go," Beechey says. "I think of them as ongoing projects. A syllabus is never completed. I'm always adding new material."

THINKING DEEPLY & CLARIFYING PERSPECTIVES

In 2022, Beechey made another timely academic move in response to a landmark decision by the country's highest court. Beechey quickly received her department's approval to pilot a new class — POL 250: Reproduction and the State — when the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision was leaked in the press and it became evident that the Constitution would no longer safeguard the right to an abortion.

"The *Dobbs* decision marked a pivot point that would have many cascading effects. It was important for my students and me to carve out an academic space to think through all of it," Beechey says.

In that class and her other courses, Beechey consciously poses questions that challenge assumptions and helps her students clarify their own perspectives.

For example, in her POL 365: Political Economy of Care/Work course, students reflect on the dynamics of who raised them, the external pressures their caregivers faced and their own lived experiences as caregivers. Last semester's cohort included four working parents — Beechey, the mom of two school-age boys, was one of them.

“We intentionally thought through the way that power has worked in our lives, analyzed the idea of constrained choice in caregiving and imagined how public policy could open up higher quality choices,” she says.

Beechey consciously brings in stories about her own experiences—not to impose her political views on her students but to model for them how to analyze the world around them and their place in it.

“I identify as a queer person and have built a family through queer reproduction,” she says, nodding to the kids waiting nearby for their mom to take them to play tennis. “I need to be visible to my students, and I do that by talking about myself, my partner and his experience as a trans person, and our process of navigating the world.”

OFFERING Footholds TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

Beechey follows her students’ journeys and extends a standing invitation to stop by during office hours even if they aren’t enrolled in one of her courses.

“This is a place where you really get to know your students,” she says. “Whitman students passionately open up about issues

“Whitman students passionately open up about issues they care about and willingly engage with and learn from one another.”

—SUSANNE BEECHEY, Associate Professor of Politics

they care about and willingly engage with and learn from one another.” With support from the college’s Louis B. Perry Faculty-Student Summer Research Award, Beechey has included students in the research for her second book, a deep dive into federal sex education policy from the Clinton administration to the present. Her 2024 summer research associate was a rising junior from Seattle, Helena Salathe ’26.


Ultimately, Beechey’s goal isn’t for all her students to pursue careers in public policy, though many have certainly done so. Rather, she wants them to be thoughtful global citizens; to gain a set of critical concepts and tools to make sense of their lives and the

changing world—long after graduation.

“I’m offering them the footholds they need so they can leave here and begin to build a better world that they would like to live in both individually and collectively.”

NEW CONVERSATIONS AHEAD

This coming academic year, Beechey will take a partial step back from teaching to serve as the Chair of the Faculty.

“This is a time with many shifts in the institution of higher education,” Beechey says. “Important questions are being asked right now that will affect Whitman’s future. I’m eager to be a person that can amplify faculty voices,” she says. 

How Susanne Beechey Got to the Blues

Susanne Beechey’s first job out of college wasn’t a good fit—and she knew it almost immediately.

Intent on helping to end systemic poverty in the United States, she joined a nonprofit in Saint Paul, Minnesota, working with the local government to implement a new welfare reform policy. Without any work experience of her own, Beechey was tasked with helping unemployed mothers find jobs within a fractured and sometimes corrupt system.

“In school, I’d focused on studying theories about how race, class, gender, sexuality and age work together to influence people’s lives,” she says. “Suddenly, I was working in a place that was an active

example of that intersectionality. I saw how the theories played out in real people’s lives.”

Beechey realized that instead of implementing programs at the grassroots level, she was better suited to make a difference by becoming a graduate student of public policy. “I wanted to learn how the welfare system worked to better utilize it for affecting change.”

As part of her doctoral program, Beechey taught undergraduates, discovering her true calling lay in the classroom. She was recruited by Whitman’s Politics Department more than 15 years ago and has never looked back. “My colleagues and students are why I’m still at Whitman and will be here another 15 years too.”



A Rookie Sensation

MASON REMINGTON MAKES
HARD WORK & TEAM SPIRIT
PAR FOR THE COURSE

BY PAM MOORE

MASON REMINGTON '27 ISN'T JUST playing for trophies. For the Seattle native — who experienced an epic first-year season as a Blues golfer — the sport is a way of life, featuring commitment, friendship and fun.

Those core values have translated into an unstoppable golf game. In his first year at Whitman College, Remington led the men's golf team to the Northwest Conference (NWC) title — their first league title since 1986 — which qualified the Blues for the NCAA Division III Championships, where they placed 17th in a field of 43 teams.

Remarkably, Remington took titles at all three major NWC tournaments: the Fall Classic, Spring Classic, and the conference championship. He was named NWC Rookie and Player of the Year. His impressive performance also earned him All-Freshman, All-Region and All-America honors from the Golf Coaches Association of America.

THE FRONT NINE

According to Remington, it's love — for his family, the sport and his teammates — that motivates him, on and off the green.



Golf Is Life

There are valuable lessons to be gleaned from the green, says Mason Remington '27. "The mindset and habits I've learned from golf apply to every area of my life." Here are three that keep him on course:

1 Emotional regulation is key.

Remington's summer job at a golf course often finds him in customer service. Staying calm while facing frustrated customers in stressful situations doesn't faze him. "Golf has taught me how to manage my emotions to stay focused and get the job done."

2 Practice makes better, if not perfect.

While the Blues officially practice together 12 hours a week during the season, Remington and many of his teammates put in bonus rounds. He's typically golfing at least 40 hours a week. "To improve, you have to put in the time."

3 A little fun goes a long way.

Patience, practice and persistence are key components of success—but you need laughs too. According to Remington, the time he and his teammates spend in the van or enjoying a post-practice meal together at Taqueria Mi Pueblito ("Taq!") keep the sport fun—and that makes the hard work feel like less of a grind.

And it's a love that got an early start.

"I was 4 years old when I started playing with my dad and my grandfather. It was something that brought us together and still does," he says. Despite his impressive golf resume, the now sophomore still treasures the chance to tee off among family, which now includes one of his younger sisters too.

For years, golf meant having fun with friends and family and spending time outdoors. But after taking third in a prestigious regional junior golf tournament as a sophomore at Seattle Prep, Remington's approach began to change. "That was when I realized I had a lot of potential in the sport," he recalls.

When he started thinking about college, Remington, who plans to major in Economics, focused on schools where he could pursue both his academic and golf goals—and Whitman checked all his boxes.

As soon as he stepped foot on campus, he felt right at home. Having grown up in Seattle, Remington was ready to trade his urban surroundings for Walla Walla's mellow atmosphere and stunning scenery. He was also excited to take classes with the excellent professors Whitman is known for. "Plus, it was far enough from home that I wouldn't be back every weekend to do my laundry, but close enough that I could get home fairly easily," he says.

It was the golf team's warm, welcoming culture, however, that sealed the deal. "It felt like a close family," he says.

TEAM FIRST

The strong bonds Remington shares with his teammates have turbocharged his motivation. "In high school, I was just going out and playing. Now I'm trying to win for my team."

Between beloved coaches Skip Molitor and Bill Howard, who was named the 2024 NWC Men's Coach of the Year, and more experienced teammates who serve as mentors, there's no shortage of support.

While Remington feels a natural camaraderie with the entire team, he calls Alex Knox '25 "the big brother I never had." Generous with pep talks and constructive feedback, "Alex took me under his wing," Remington says.

Teammates like Knox make golf fun—and inspire Remington to elevate his game. "We love to joke around, but we're serious when we need to be," he says. If the team's unprecedented success is any indication, the laughter that fills the team van might be just as important as the hours the Blues put in on the links and in the gym.

"As much as golf is an individual sport, playing for a team is the most important thing," Remington says. "Of all my memories of this amazing season, what sticks out isn't any individual win but the celebratory atmosphere in

the van riding home from winning the conference championships in April."

THE SPECIAL SAUCE

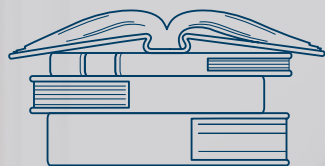
While many want to believe a magic pill can deliver peak performance, Remington says there are no shortcuts. His philosophy is simple: "The more time you put in, the better you get."

He's not worried about pretournament rituals, nor does he have any superstitions or lucky socks. Breakfast is "whatever they have at the hotel and one cup of black coffee."

While not glamorous, here's the strategy that is clearly working for him: Getting sleep (eight hours a night, especially before a tournament), showing up consistently and addressing weaknesses in his game. That means repetitive drills to work on his putting skills and often practicing on his own.

And Remington has no intention of coasting on his first-year glory. "It doesn't mean anything if it's just a one-year thing. It's just a kick in the butt to keep working," says Remington, who has big goals for the 2024–2025 golf season, including helping Whitman win all three conference events and a national championship.

The plan is simple: Keep showing up consistently, having fun and nailing the basics. "It worked last year. We'll see if it works again this year," he says. Something tells us it just might. **W**



ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

THE ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER (ARC) at Whitman College is dedicated to student learning and success—exclusively. But it’s the ARC’s inclusive and welcoming environment that truly helps students flourish academically.

Located on the third floor of Olin Hall, the ARC offers visitors a happy and helpful space, which was recently renovated with student needs in mind—including personal desks for concentration that are comfortable and accessible for students with testing accommodations. ARC services include academic coaching, tutoring, and disability support services—all designed to help students reduce barriers to learning, build confidence and make steady progress.

The goal of the ARC is not only to support students in achieving their immediate academic goals but also to equip them with tools for lifelong learning and professional success, says Richard Middleton-Kaplan, Whitman’s Director of Academic Support Services.



FLOW FOR





ING WARD

**Professor Kirsten Nicolaysen
inspires students to
explore the power and
possibility of volcanoes**

BY DEBBIE RITENOUR

Growing up on a sheep and cattle ranch in central Wyoming, Whitman College Professor of Geology Kirsten Nicolaysen spent all her time

outdoors. She developed an early interest in geology, but her passion for volcanoes didn't erupt until she studied the lava flows of Mount McLoughlin in Oregon as an undergraduate at Colorado College.

"I never looked back from that," says Nicolaysen, who later earned her Master of Science degree from the University of Wyoming and her doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Although I promised my parents that I would never work on active volcanoes, I've broken that promise repeatedly because of my fascination with them."

Throughout her career, Nicolaysen has participated in research expeditions to everywhere from the Aleutian Arc in Alaska to the Kerguelen Islands in the southern Indian Ocean. These experiences helped her develop a deeper understanding of volcanoes, their roles in generating resources

and hazards for people and ecosystems, and the joys of scientific collaboration. Today, she shares that understanding with the Whitman students she mentors through student-centered research projects.

"It's so inspiring to watch a student blossom through the process of gaining skills and developing their identities as scientists," Nicolaysen says. "We get to hear about their histories and dreams, and we get to watch them excel. When they complete their senior thesis, it leads to tremendous confidence and agency."

Through her example and mentorship, Nicolaysen has inspired a new generation of geoscientists to focus their scientific research and careers on the inner workings and outer impacts of volcanoes.

Read on to explore some of the unique journeys by Nicolaysen's students-turned-volcanologists.

INVESTIGATING THE HOW & THE WHY

Jessie Bersson '18 began studying magma storage conditions during a summer research project funded by the Keck Geology Consortium,



A model mentor. Professor of Geology Kirsten Nicolaysen at Mount Tongariro in New Zealand.

Previous spread: **Clearing the air.** Nicolaysen and Namy Barnett '23 studied an ocean-based, lava-derived process for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in Hawaii. Photo by Astrid Hylén.



"It's so inspiring to watch a student blossom through the process of gaining skills and developing their identities as scientists."

— KIRSTEN NICOLAYSEN



Measuring movement. Jessie Bersson '18 installs a time-lapse camera at Mount Rainier's Nisqually Glacier to capture changes to glacial mass balance related to climate change.

a collaboration of 13 liberal arts colleges that creates transformative research opportunities for undergraduates. As a rising senior at Whitman, Bersson conducted fieldwork at the Wotten Waven Caldera on the Caribbean island of Dominica.

"Some of the main questions I was investigating were what causes a volcano to change from being very explosive to being more effusive and what conditions within the magma reservoir control that change," says Bersson, who worked

with Nicolaysen to expand on her research for her honors thesis. "That has really important implications because you want to know when a volcano might erupt very explosively and produce dangerous hazards."

After graduating from Whitman, Bersson completed an internship with the Cascades Volcano Observatory before earning her doctorate in Geological Sciences from Arizona State University. Her graduate research focused on prerruption magmatic processes at Mount St. Helens and Glacier

Peak in the Cascades and silicic lava flow secondary explosions in the Valles Caldera in New Mexico. She currently is completing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution's Department of Mineral Sciences.

"I think about volcanic hazards in the fundamental sense of what causes magma to move from the crust to the surface or what causes eruptions to initiate in the first place," Bersson says. "There are still a lot of processes we don't understand."

“There’s a lot of excitement and wonder involved. When lava comes out, those rocks are just made. It’s so rare that you get to hold rocks that are one day old.”

– NAMY BARNETT '23





From the field to the lab. As a member of the Experimental Petrology and Igneous processes Center (EPIC) lab at Arizona State University, Jessie Bersson '18 investigates magma formation.



Danger zone. A lahar (volcanic mudflow) captured via drone by Gustavo Béjar López '20 on May 28, 2023, on the Barranca Ceniza ravine near Volcán de Fuego in Guatemala.

OBSERVING THE AFTERMATH

If Bersson thinks about the causes of volcanic eruptions, Gustavo Béjar López '20 thinks about their effects. A doctoral student in the Geology program at Michigan Tech University, Béjar López focuses on detecting and characterizing lahars—the devastating volcanic mudflows that can follow an eruption.

“Lahars can be really dangerous, even in the Seattle area, where Mount Rainier has the potential to create large lahars,” Béjar López says. “Forty years ago, lahars completely destroyed a city of 25,000 people in Colombia.”

Béjar López met Nicolaysen as a student at Yachay Tech University in his native Ecuador. Nicolaysen was teaching a volcanology course as a visiting professor during a sabbatical in 2016, and she suggested Béjar López consider transferring to Whitman. He did—and later received a Whitman Internship Grant that allowed him to work at the Colima Volcano Observatory in Mexico. While there, he collected lava samples at Volcán Ceboruco that he later studied for his honors thesis.

As a National Geographic Explorer grantee, Béjar López is studying lahars at Volcán de Fuego in Guatemala. Through geophysical detection methods and rainfall analysis, he hopes to better understand the generation and flow

behavior of lahars. Ultimately, his work could help scientists develop automated methods to predict and detect lahars.

“A lot of people live around volcanoes because they provide fertile soils and have significant cultural and tourism benefits,” says Béjar López. “We can’t just tell them to leave and go somewhere else. We have to provide the tools to help them be safe around them.”

OPENING NEW WAVES OF CLIMATE RESEARCH

Other Whitman alumni are focusing on the role volcanoes can play in shaping the future of the planet.

After developing an interest in how volcanoes can impact climate change, Nicolaysen began exploring the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through enhanced rock weathering. In collaboration with the public benefit corporation Vesta, Nicolaysen and Namy Barnett '23 studied the role of olivine—a mineral commonly found in lava—in an ocean-based process for carbon dioxide removal called coastal enhanced weathering.

“Basically, Vesta is interested in adding olivine sand to beaches or other coastal systems. The waves crashing on the beach would increase the rate of the weathering of the olivine sand and reduce ocean acidity to draw down carbon dioxide,” says Barnett.

Answers in the ashes. Gustavo Béjar López '20 services a sensor and monitors a rain gauge buried in ash after a 2022 eruption of Volcán de Fuego in Guatemala, where he studies lahars, dangerous mudflows that can follow a volcanic eruption.





On the brink of discovery. From the Hawaiian Islands (pictured) to the Aleutian Arc, Professor of Geology Kirsten Nicolaysen (right) and her students travel the world finding fascination and inspiration in volcanoes. Photo by Astrid Hylén.

“That brought us to Hawaii, where I was looking at the dissolution features of olivine grains on a naturally occurring green-sand beach and the implications they had for coastal enhanced weathering projects.”

For her research, Barnett won the Murdock Poster Prize for Environmental Science-Geology at the 2022 College Research Science Conference hosted by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. She recently completed an internship with the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, where she analyzed and characterized current eruption samples.

“There are a lot of human-impact reasons to study volcanoes, both in terms of their impact on humans and our impact on the Earth,” says Barnett. “But also, for me, there’s a lot of excitement and wonder involved. When lava comes out, those rocks are just made. It’s so rare that you get to hold rocks that are one day old.”

FINDING A GREEN FUTURE IN A VOLCANIC PAST

Recent graduate, Wamuchii Mwangi ’24 also studied the relationship between volcanoes and environmental sustainability

while at Whitman. After discussing several senior thesis topics with Nicolaysen, Mwangi decided to focus her research on rare earth elements. These elements are essential components of wind turbine magnets, some solar panels and electric vehicle batteries. These so-called “critical minerals” are concentrated in rocks that come from rare carbon-rich magmas known as carbonatites and are integral to the transition to green energy.

Mwangi studied older carbonatite magmas from the Mountain Pass Rare Earth Mine and Processing Facility, located in the Mojave



Prize-winning work. Namy Barnett '23 won the Murdock Poster Prize for Environmental Science-Geology for her research with Professor of Geology Kirsten Nicolayson in Hawaii. Photo by Astrid Hylén.



Mining the future. Wamuchii Mwangi '24 focused her thesis research on rare earth elements that come from magma and are critical to a green energy future.



Hands-on expertise. Dozens of students, including (left to right) Wamuchii Mwangi '24, Namy Barnett '23, and Mehrimo Bakhtalieva '25, have gained valuable experience through their fieldwork with Professor of Geology Kirsten Nicolayson.

Desert in southeastern California. Mountain Pass is the only rare earth mining and processing site in the United States.

"I studied these rocks to see which rare earth elements were there and their concentration," Mwangi says. "But it wasn't purely academic for me. It was something that I felt was in line with my thinking about the connection between mining and justice. It was my way of participating politically in the world."

Mwangi notes that traditional mining of fossil fuels like oil and gas has had devastating effects on both the planet and its people. She hopes that history won't repeat itself.

"Even while doing the science, I'm thinking of its intersection with society," Mwangi says. "If we do not learn and are not aware of the mistakes we made with oil and gas, we will make the same mistakes with green energy."

ROCKING AT MENTORSHIP

By the end of 2025, Nicolayson will have directly mentored 64 students and co-mentored

several more throughout her career at Whitman. Many of them have been women and members of other groups who are underrepresented in the geosciences.

"Good mentorship should develop confidence that allows you to step into new spaces with curiosity and eagerness," says Mwangi. "Because of the way Kirsten worked with me, I really feel empowered."

Barnett was working at a restaurant in Walla Walla when she met a Whitman alum who had majored in Geology. The alum encouraged Barnett to seek out Kirsten Nicolayson as an advisor. When Nicolayson later sent out an email asking if any students would be interested in helping her do some research over the summer, Barnett jumped at the chance.

"Working with Kirsten changed the entire course of my life," Barnett says. "Truly everything that I've ever wanted to do is because of her, and she has opened a thousand doors for me. I could not be more grateful for her mentorship and guidance." **W**



REIMAGINING A HISTORIC JAPANESE THEATER



ERIC HAYASHI'S ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AND CULTURAL ROOTS INSPIRED THE RESTORATION OF SEATTLE'S NIPPON KAN

BY TARA ROBERTS | PHOTOS BY RODRIGO DEMEDEIROS

SEATTLE'S
JAPANTOWN
NIHONMACHI
シアトル
ジャパントウン
日本町
Learn more
wingluke.org/japantown

NIPPON KAN
THEATRE

NIPPON KAN
THEATRE

NOTICE
ALL NOTICES
MONITORED
BY VIDEO
CAMERA



“I FELL IN LOVE WITH IT RIGHT AWAY. I LOVE THE CONNECTION AS THE CULTURAL HEART OF NIHONMACHI.”

—Eric Hayashi '87



FOR DECADES, THE NIPPON KAN THEATRE, BUILT IN 1909, was a community hub for immigrants living in Seattle’s Nihonmachi, or Japantown. Residents flocked to watch Kabuki theater, hear traditional music, discuss community issues, and share celebrations and cultural events. In the 1930s, it was home to the Seattle Symphony.

But when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which forcibly incarcerated people of Japanese descent, the Nippon Kan, like so many other beloved places, was boarded up.

The theater found a second life in 1981 when it was restored by Seattle Architect Edward M. Burke and returned to hosting events and performances. But it closed again in 2005 when the building was purchased by a company that used it for office space.

Now, the Nippon Kan is getting yet another chance at life as a theater, thanks to Whitman College alum Eric Hayashi '87.

Hayashi, a Seattle-based entrepreneur of Japanese ancestry, bought the building containing the theater in 2023 with plans to house one of his companies on the upper floors.

The previous tenant had updated the building with a hip, brick-and-beam feel, and the theater had been well cared for, Hayashi says. But the stage, main floor, and mezzanine looked like a generic office, covered with rows of cubicles.

Center bottom: **Curtain call.** Replicas of sections of the original Nippon Kan Theatre curtain that featured advertisements from Japanese American businesses in the early 1900s.

“Picture a place with carpet squares and fluorescent lights and the rest,” Hayashi says. “But you could see the bones of the building were tremendous: huge arched windows, 18-foot-tall ceilings. It’s a cool-looking space.”

Hayashi saw potential in those bones but initially planned to save restoration for after he retired. He figured he’d lease out the office space in the meantime, but the increased popularity of remote work dramatically reduced demand.

So Hayashi accelerated his plans to return the Nippon Kan to its roots. This spring, the oak-floored stage, framed by a historic proscenium arch, welcomed the next generation of audiences and community members.

AN ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY

Hayashi’s path to restoring the Nippon Kan began with his lifelong interest in business.

Hayashi’s parents were born in the United States but grew up in Japan before returning to western Washington. Hayashi’s father started one of the early import-export companies in Seattle — and his entrepreneurship inspired Hayashi at a young age.

When Hayashi began applying to colleges, his parents encouraged Ivy League or large universities, he says. But he was drawn to Whitman by the friendly people he met during a campus tour and a friend who also became a Whittie.

Hayashi’s life on campus revolved around building close social relationships. He was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, played on the lacrosse team, participated in intramural sports, raised money for philanthropies and started Whitman’s first Greek Week. Hayashi enjoys returning to Whitman often for reunions and fraternity get-togethers.

Though he was an Economics major, Hayashi enjoyed the diversity offered by a liberal arts education. His favorite classes included Sculpture and History. He also took the opportunity to connect more deeply with his culture, taking classes from Professor Akira Takemoto, including Japanese and Modern Japanese Literature.

While earning his Master of Business Administration at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Hayashi interned at a Seattle health care company. That summer, he wrote a business plan outlining a concept for professionalizing the system of research sites for testing new drugs.

At the time, it was a new idea. Now, it’s a booming and vitally important industry. Hayashi has launched several clinical trial companies and has served as President and CEO of four. He is now President and CEO of Rainier Clinical Research and Seattle Clinical Research.

“It’s remarkable, the pace of drug development and the impact drugs have had on human life,” Hayashi explains. “If you look back to the 1920s and ’30s, the average age of death was quite a bit younger than it is now. Most of the change is as a result of drugs and devices, and all of the drugs and devices, in order to be approved as safe and efficacious, go through these clinical trials. So it’s a massive impact on worldwide health that we have.”



N
E

NORIO

HATSUNE
KAI
1937

T. SAO
1929

Jack
Nakagawa

"Lizzie" Hiba
1929

H.N.
5'27"

GM
TAKEMOTO

ROD SUKE
Gokudo

Troop
47

"YOU COULD SEE THE BONES OF THE BUILDING WERE TREMENDOUS: HUGE ARCHED WINDOWS, 18-FOOT-TALL CEILINGS. IT'S A COOL-LOOKING SPACE."

—Eric Hayashi '87



His search for a new home for Seattle Clinical Research led him to the building containing the Nippon Kan. It was ideally located in the heart of Seattle, with space for Hayashi to grow his company.

“Honestly, I mean, this sounds corny, but I fell in love with it right away,” he says. “Just everything was perfect for me. Maybe not for everybody, but I liked that it was an old, classic building from 1909. I love the connection as the cultural heart of Nihonmachi.”

A REVITALIZING EFFORT

Owning and operating a theater space is a new venture for the healthcare business leader. Hayashi began by studying the community’s needs and found demand for more event space.

The multilevel theater, which can hold up to 463 people, doesn’t have permanent seating, making it a flexible space for fundraisers, weddings, and family and community celebrations, Hayashi says.

Other possibilities honor the Nippon Kan’s Japanese roots. Hayashi has talked with a local judo club about hosting a martial arts tournament. (Hayashi’s father was an instructor at the Seattle Dojo, the country’s oldest judo dojo, located just a few blocks away.) A friend contacted him about a potential Japanese puppet show performance. And Hayashi says he would love to rent some of the building’s remaining space to a business that makes or sells Japanese handicrafts, such as pottery or textiles.

Hayashi also hopes to attract theater productions and musical performances back to the Nippon Kan, especially those connected to Asian culture. He worked with the Seattle architectural and design firm Suyama Peterson Deguchi to revitalize the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, from the inside out: retrofitting it for earthquake safety, refinishing and replacing the theater’s oak floors, and repainting the exterior in black and red, which are culturally symbolic colors in Japan.

They preserved historical details, such as the flower-shaped original plaster light fixtures. The previous owner had commissioned an artist to re-create a screen from the theater that featured advertisements for Japanese-owned businesses. The original hangs in the Wing Luke museum, but the replica remains on display. He also worked with sound and lighting engineers to learn about the ideal setup for the stage — which is large enough to fit a full orchestra.

Hayashi says he wants to honor the energy Burke put into revitalizing the theater in the 1980s and continue the legacy of serving the community. “I’m hoping that I create some awesome memories for people.” **W**





A WALK AROUND NIHONMACHI

The **Nippon Kan Theatre** is in the northeast corner of Seattle's Chinatown-International District, close to Pioneer Square, First Hill and downtown Seattle. Historically, the neighborhood was known as **Nihonmachi, or Japantown**. The population fell dramatically due to the incarceration of Japanese people during World War II, but the area is still vibrant with Japanese history and culture.

Across the street from the Nippon Kan is **Kobe Terrace**, a park honoring one of Seattle's international sister cities.

A few blocks south, on the north side of Jackson Street between Sixth and Maynard, **Nihonmachi Alley** contains art commemorating people who were incarcerated and honoring those who returned to continue their businesses in Seattle.

Keep walking southeast, and you'll find the **Wing Luke Museum** on King Street between Seventh and Eighth. The museum features the culture, art and history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Meet Whitman's Newest Alums

**The World Needs
These Whitties**

BY MÓNICA HERNÁNDEZ WILLIAMS
AND ESMERALDA MARIN

These star scholars began their college education in one of the most challenging contexts a Whitman class has ever faced: a global pandemic. They forged ties online before coming to campus in person. They launched new student organizations to make campus more inclusive and helped create new curriculum to make it more

sustainable. They made an impact in the Walla Walla community and around the world. And this past spring, they joined the ranks of Whitman's alumni.

The Class of 2024 is full of future historians, musicians, scientists, humanitarians, policymakers, doctors, authors, data scientists, lawyers, environmentalists and

so much more. Each one of the more than 300 new alums has noteworthy educational, research and extracurricular achievements—and we firmly believe their best is yet to come.

Meet a few faces from one of the most resilient and accomplished classes in Whitman history: the Class of 2024.

Gaborone, Botswana // Economics

Angel Baikakedi '24

Angel Baikakedi's Whitman experience has been one of exploration and leadership. She came to Whitman from Botswana with a determination to push herself outside her comfort zone and explore new interests. She was a member of the Economics Club and Women of Color Voices Club—and took on diverse roles across campus as an opinion columnist for *The Whitman Wire*, a DJ for KWCW, an Economics tutor in the Academic Resource Center and the Senior Fund Chair for the Class of 2024.

She was also a driving force for building connections and fostering a sense of belonging on campus as President of the Whitman African Student Association, President of the Black Student Union and Budget Manager for Global Whitties.

Baikakedi earned multiple prestigious awards, including the Louis B. Perry Summer Research Award and the Abshire Research Award. As an American Economic Association scholar, she spent the summer of 2023 in Washington, D.C., where she took graduate-level economics courses and met renowned economists. This experience emphasized the need for minorities in the field and increased her desire to pursue policy.

Baikakedi is excited to return to Washington, D.C., and begin her post-graduate education at George Washington University, pursuing a Master of Arts in International Economic Policy. She plans to work in research institutes that focus on policymaking regarding African development and hopes to return home to continue her career as a policy analyst.

✦ **Nominated by Denise Hazlett, Hollon Parker Professor of Economics and Business.**



Austin, Texas // Computer Science

Andrew Kuhlken '24

Andrew Kuhlken found his niche at Whitman by immersing himself in the world of computer science. Despite having no background in the field, he grew to love computer science at Whitman and enjoyed the problem-solving processes. Originally intending to focus on Earth science, Kuhlken pivoted to major in Computer Science while minoring in Geology, blending his love for the outdoors with his newfound passion for coding.

He took part in groundbreaking research with Associate Professor of Computer Science John Stratton. Their research explored a new general-purpose algorithm for weighted random selection. Together, they co-authored a research paper and published their findings at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges last fall.

Kuhlken's capstone project for his honors degree expanded on this research as he worked to improve the code to increase performance and contribute to open performance libraries.

Kuhlken has begun his career in computer science—as a Software Engineer at MulticoreWare Inc., a leading global technology company headquartered in San Jose, California.

✦ **Nominated by Associate Professor of Computer Science John Stratton.**



Portland, Oregon // Psychology

Ruby Beard '24

Ruby Beard embraced opportunities on and off Whitman's campus, gaining real-world experience that shaped her career path.

As the Psychology Department assistant, she connected with Whitman Psychology alums and worked alongside professors in retrieving over 130 scholarly research articles. Beard also discovered her passion for singing and dancing at Whitman, where she performed with the Whitman Chorale.

Off campus, she worked with the Walla Walla community as an intern with the Community Resilience Initiative—a nonprofit organization that provides trauma-informed training and consultation to private and publicly funded businesses. She also supported elementary students as a YWCA Mariposa Leader, where she led an after-school program designed to build confidence and life skills for fifth-grade girls.

During her junior year, Beard studied abroad in Florence, Italy, and interned for a research and support center for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. There, she helped children ages 2-10 with homework and general life skills—and collected data for research.

Since graduation Beard has been living on Orcas Island, Washington, with her family and saving up to take part in a WorkAway cultural exchange program in New Zealand.

✦ Nominated by Professor of Psychology Matthew Prull.



Poulsbo, Washington // English and French and Francophone Studies

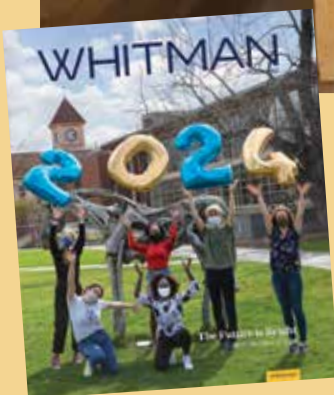
Merry Cockcroft '24

Merry Cockcroft has proven to be a true master of languages. Cockcroft has been a beacon of knowledge on campus, always ready to share her time with other Whitties as a fellow at the Intercultural Center, a classroom assistant in the Academic Resource Center, and a program leader for the Career and Community Engagement Center.

A leader with a passion for promoting diversity and belonging, Cockcroft spearheaded the 2022-2023 Power and Privilege Symposium, leading a team of students to put together a multiday event amplifying diverse voices. She also built community as the Resident Advisor of the French interest house, La Maison. Cockcroft also played the bass in Whitman's various music ensembles.

Cockcroft plans to pursue her doctorate in English Literature, building on the experience she gained writing two senior theses that explored themes from iconic films and novels in French and English.

✦ Nominated by Professor of French and Francophone Studies Sarah Hurlburt.



HOW IT STARTED. Three years ago, in the Spring 2021 issue of Whitman Magazine, we introduced you to Merry Cockcroft '24 and how she was finding her voice on campus in her first year as a volunteer with Whitman Teaches the Movement, a Peer Listener in the Counseling Center, and the Inclusion Fellow for Religious and Spiritual Life for the Intercultural Center.

Erie, Colorado // Biology and Biochemistry,
Biophysics and Molecular Biology

Courtney Hull '24 →

Courtney Hull focused on a pre-med track at Whitman. One of her favorite places was the lab. She gained invaluable experience as part of a research team that focused on organic synthesis and biocatalysts alongside Associate Professor of Chemistry Jonathan Collins.

Hull was involved in all things STEM while on campus, which fueled her passion for science and boosted her confidence in the field. In addition to being part of the Pre-Health Society, she also served as President of the American Chemical Society chapter, where she helped host events like the liquid nitrogen ice cream event, blending two of her favorite things: food and science.

Making time to share her love for science was also very important to Hull. She worked as a teaching assistant in the Organic Chemistry lab; worked as a peer tutor for Biology, Chemistry and Physics; and volunteered for Whitman's Science Outreach program, making science accessible and fun for children.

Hull has returned to her hometown in Colorado, where she is getting valuable work experience in a public health clinic and is earning her Emergency Medical Technician license, all while applying to medical school.

✦ **Nominated by Associate Professor of Biology, Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology Britt Moss.**



Seattle, Washington //
Geology-Environmental Studies

← Morgan Sharp '24

At Whitman, Morgan Sharp found opportunities to expand upon his passion for Earth sciences, with hands-on experiences and real-world applications.

In 2021, Sharp participated in the Semester in the West program — an immersive interdisciplinary field program focused on conserving the American West amid climate challenges. This was a formative part of his experience at Whitman, contributing to his love for environmental geology. As part of a prestigious Keck Geology Consortium project, Sharp explored fault damage zones in southwest Utah through a National Science Foundation grant. His findings were showcased at national and sectional meetings of the Geological Society of America.

Beyond his scholarly achievements, he was part of Schwa, a campus cappella group, since his first year. He also has impressive rock-climbing skills and worked at the climbing gym, teaching classes and setting routes.

Sharp is using his degree and field experience working for the Forest Service at the Methow Valley Ranger District near Winthrop, Washington.

✦ **Nominated by Associate Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies Lyman Persico.**





Fircrest, Washington // Anthropology

Hanna Lynch '24

When she first arrived on campus, Hanna Lynch anticipated majoring in Politics. After taking a few classes at Whitman, however, she was drawn toward Anthropology and carved out a unique career path as an aspiring mortician reimagining the start of the afterlife.

Lynch hopes to bring sustainability to her work as a mortician, exploring green burials and destigmatizing conversations surrounding death and decomposition. She hopes to bring comfort to loved ones while also treating the deceased with the attention they deserve. Although she may get a few surprised reactions, being a mortician and funeral director appeals to Lynch because it allows her to help people in every stage of life.

A Politics and Creative Writing double minor, Lynch was involved on campus as Head Copy Editor for Quarterlife, Whitman's literary magazine, and as a co-leader for both the Catholic Community on Campus and the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. She also worked as the Politics and Anthropology departments' research assistant for two years.

A star student-athlete, Lynch was captain of the women's soccer team for two years and received the President's Award at the Annual Athletics Banquet. This prestigious award is given to the senior athlete who has the highest cumulative grade point average and has competed in their sport all four years.

After graduation, Lynch moved to Kirkland, Washington, where she will study Funeral Service Education at the Lake Washington Institute of Technology.

✦ **Nominated by Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Studies Eunice Blavascunas.**

Winnetka, Illinois // Art-Environmental Studies

Adeshola "Shola" Mau '24

Shola Mau was selected by the senior class as the 2024 Class Speaker at commencement. The Toronto native was well-known for her impactful leadership while on campus.

"By being up here today, you are already showing that you can do difficult things and emerge with grace and beauty," Mau told the Class of 2024 in her commencement speech. "COVID shook things up, and I know for a lot of us, it kind of feels like it stole something from us, but getting to see the campus slowly return to life has been amazing."

Mau was deeply involved in sorority and fraternity life. She was on the executive committee of Kappa Alpha Theta—serving vice presidencies for Membership, Education, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion—and she represented sororities in the Greek Allies Program.

Beyond campus, Mau gave back to the Walla Walla community with Story Time in local schools and as a volunteer at the Blue Mountain Humane Society.

This fall, Mau moved to New York City to pursue her work in the arts.

✦ **Her classmates selected her to be the 2024 Class Speaker at Whitman's commencement ceremony.**





San Carlos, California // Philosophy and Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology

Shawn Vinogradsky '24

Shawn Vinogradsky is making a difference in the world of science and medicine thanks to the education he received at Whitman.

Working alongside Associate Professor of Chemistry Marion Gotz, Vinogradsky took part in meaningful research and gained hands-on experience working to understand the drug carfilzomib in an effort to enhance its potency and reduce side effects for cancer patients. Vinogradsky and his project partner, Andrew Harter '24, also received the 2023 Murdock Poster Prize in Organic Chemistry for their research on treatment for multiple myeloma—a blood cancer of the plasma cells.

Beyond the lab, Vinogradsky enjoyed rock climbing, taking advantage of Whitman's indoor climbing gym and climbing spots in the surrounding Walla Walla area.

Vinogradsky is now pursuing a doctorate in Pharmacological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine.

★ Nominated by Professor of German Studies and Philosophy Julia Ireland.

Parting Words

Whitman College's 138th Commencement Ceremony speakers sent graduates off with words of gratitude, encouragement and celebration.

"Together, you rebuilt the life of this college as the world gradually reopened ... Together, you made a new, stronger Whitman — one that has new student organizations, new ways of building community, new landscapes, new ways serving communities in Walla Walla and around the world."

—President Sarah Bolton

"Be bright lights of critical thinking in a sea of misinformation, champions of courage in the face of uncertainty, and ambassadors of love in a world hungering for connection and understanding."

—Cecilia Kang '94

"We are capable of hard things and we deserve to be up here. We earned it."

—Adeshola Mau '24



Celebrate the "comeback kids."

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Compounding Interest

THIS FUTURE MBA & WHITMAN GRAD
LEADS WITH HIS HEART & HEAD

BY ANDREW FAUGHT | PHOTO BY HANNAH COHEN

FEW THINGS MEAN AS MUCH as home to Matthias Argenyi '18.

His parents fled Soviet-occupied Hungary in 1979, gaining asylum in Germany, before relocating to the United States. His newfound security in the U.S.—Argenyi grew up in Woodinville, Washington, outside Seattle—gave him perspectives that would help shape his career ambitions.

“My mom has said that what I’ve always wanted to do, ever since I was 5 years old, was open a house for the homeless,” says Argenyi, an Economics-Mathematics major at Whitman College.

Argenyi’s compassion for others seeking a place to call home has remained steadfast through his rise in the world of finance.

Until June 2024, he was Associate Director at Social Finance, a Boston-based nonprofit group that develops creative financing for socially impactful projects around the country. For his part, Argenyi helped expand the operations of Home for Good, Alaska’s largest permanent supportive housing program designed to serve 150 people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that more than 650,000 Americans—2,600 of them in Alaska—were homeless in 2023, up 12% from 2020. (See “Progress Through Proof of Concept.”)

WHITMAN GROUNDED & HARVARD BOUND

While Argenyi is leaving his job at Social Finance—it's with the purpose of broadening his potential impact.

In the fall, he will be pursuing his MBA at Harvard Business School in Boston. Argenyi says this advanced schooling will help him expand his knowledge of creative financing opportunities that can generate further solutions to solve homelessness. The national homelessness crisis, he notes, is a multidisciplinary challenge that requires discussions around affordable housing, health care and criminal justice.

Argenyi's early years influenced his heart—but it was at Whitman that his intellect and curiosity grew around the possibility of a rewarding and meaningful career in finance.

"I knew that a place like Whitman would be where I could explore topics in a really nuanced and engaging manner," he says. "I arrived on campus, and it took probably five minutes before I called my mom and let her know that I made my decision. There was a rigorous focus on academics that resonated deeply."

He says his Encounters course (what's been replaced by the First Year Seminar program) expanded his understanding of economics as tool for good.

"I came into Whitman eager to explore several areas that I thought might align with my long-term interests," he says. "The first-year curriculum was pivotal in helping me recognize how economics underpins so many aspects of our world."

At Whitman, Argenyi also reinforced his budding business acumen by serving all four years on the Whitman Investment Company, for which he served as both CEO and Chief Financial Officer. Along with as many as 40 fellow students, he managed nearly \$1 million of the college's endowment.

INVESTING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Argenyi says he became interested in finance in the second grade, when he read a textbook highlighting the so-called penny challenge. The popular thought exercise asks people whether they would accept \$1 million upfront, or choose to receive a penny, and then double the amount daily for 30 days. It's a lesson in compound interest. On day 30, choosing the latter option would be a \$5.36 million payday—and nearly \$11 million total.

It was through Whitman's career development programs that Argenyi first learned specifically about impact investing, which generates financial returns by targeting areas with social and environmental benefits. It

includes what's known as "ESG integration," which incorporates environmental, social and governance voices in the analysis of investment risks and opportunities.

Argenyi gives his liberal arts education credit for his ability to look beyond the numbers and think about the bigger picture and how to influence others.

"Impact investing incorporates a wide range of stakeholders when considering financing mechanisms and how to move money where it's needed most."

While understanding financial markets is central to his success, so too is building strong relationships with others and understanding context and history around decision-making.

"My Whitman degree provides such a strong foundation of knowledge and context that has helped me really thrive in a finance role," Argenyi adds. "It's helped outpace the merely technical skills that I might have gotten from a finance-only degree."

"That ultimately sets you up to be a leader," Argenyi attests.

He hopes to spend his entire career leading on issues around affordable housing and homelessness.

"Hopefully, my legacy will be changing the way people think about homelessness and encouraging them to more empathetic," he says. "Housing really is a human right, and it's in all our best interests to take care of people. To provide security and stability to those who don't have it has always been central to me." **W**

Whitties Helping Whitties

Matthias Argenyi '18 expects to make valuable professional connections during his time at Harvard, a practice that he started in Walla Walla.

It was at a local coffee shop that Argenyi met Whitman College Trustee Marshal McReal '84, Co-Founder and Principal of Garde Capital Inc., a Seattle-based investment management firm. The pair initially bonded over their mutual love for English literature after discussing a recent film surrounding David Foster Wallace's postmodern classic novel "Infinite Jest."

It was McReal's professional guidance that led Argenyi to get an internship at Garde Capital through the Whitman Internship Grant, and then later an internship at Goldman Sachs.

Following Argenyi's Whitman graduation, he joined McReal at Garde Capital, where he worked in portfolio management for more than three years—gaining valuable training for his future in impact investing.

Progress Through Proof of Concept

It's called "pay for success" (PFS), and it's an innovative model to find solutions to tough, seemingly intractable, social problems.

From 2021–2023, Matthias Argenyi '18 collaborated with over 20 community organizations to manage Home for Good, a \$12.75 million PFS program to provide stable housing and physical and mental health services to 150 people in Anchorage, Alaska.

Investors cover the up-front costs of implementing a program, while governments, or other entities, enter a contract to pay for services—with tax dollars—only after tested interventions have proven successful. It's considered a judicious use of public dollars.

"We've been able to provide a permanent supportive housing program and build the city's capacity to address homelessness in a way that didn't exist before and across party lines by using innovative financing approaches," Argenyi says.

The results are palpable. For those enrolled in the program, shelter stays have dropped by 76%, according to Social Finance.

"We've been able to go in and demonstrate what we already knew to be true: It's cheaper to take care of people and keep them housed than it is to have them languish on the streets," Argenyi says.



Simply Outstanding— Through the Years!

THE 2024 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year, the Whitman College Alumni Association recognizes alumni who exemplify outstanding achievement in their careers, communities or service to Whitman. Honorees are selected by the Alumni Board of Directors at their spring meeting. Read the criteria for each award and use the nomination form at whitman.edu/award-criteria to tell us about an outstanding Whittie!

JUAN LUBROTH '79 **Alumni of Merit Award**

Recognizing alumni who have achieved distinction in their chosen field or rendered outstanding service to their community or to Whitman.

As Chief Veterinary Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations from 2009–2020, **Juan Lubroth '79** spearheaded vital initiatives at the



intersection of animal health, food systems, environmental protection and public health. His career has been defined by groundbreaking work in disease surveillance, biosecurity, wildlife and conservation of ecosystems, and addressing emerging zoonotic threats and endemic disease burdens.

Dr. Lubroth's decades of service spanned high-level roles with the United Nations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, World Health Organization and Yale School of Medicine. His contributions to bridging veterinary medicine with human health and public policy have had profound impacts on billions of lives worldwide.

ROBERT BRUNTON '57 Gordon Scribner Award for Distinguished Service

Given to an individual who possesses the ability to inspire and who has made a major contribution of volunteer time and effort to Whitman over an extended period.



For over 60 years, **Robert Brunton '57** has embodied the spirit of leadership and service to Whitman. His involvement began shortly after graduating, when he volunteered as a Class Representative. He was elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors in 1973 and the Board of Overseers in 1982. Brunton inspired alumni engagement as Chair for the Alumni Fund from 1987–1990 and a Co-Chair for his 50th Reunion.

The Bruntons have also generously endowed a named scholarship fund to open educational access at Whitman.

JANE CARMODY '14 Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni

Given to a graduate of the past 10 years who demonstrates youthful exuberance toward their career, community and Whitman.



Jane Carmody '14 is an environmental and natural resources attorney in Seattle. She also maintains an active pro bono practice partnering with the Transgender Law Center and volunteers as a

Board Member for the QLaw Foundation of Washington, which promotes the dignity and respect of 2SLGBTQIA+ Washingtonians within the legal system through advocacy, education, and legal assistance.

As an alumna, Carmody has given back to Whitman as a volunteer for the “Out in the Workforce” panel for LGBTQIA+ Student Services, a session host for Whitties Helping Whitties, a member of the Alumni Board, and Co-Chair of her Fifth and 10th Reunions.

HEATHER DAVIES MCCARTY '69 Sally Rodgers Award for Lifelong Achievement

Recognizing an individual who graduated from Whitman over 50 years ago and whose life exemplifies the qualities of a liberal arts education.



For over 20 years, **Heather Davies McCarty '69** has been a relentless voice for Alaska Native people and coastal communities. As a lobbyist and consultant, she has helped secure critical fishing rights and quotas and worked to protect small-boat community fisheries. Her work with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has been instrumental in promoting sustainable policies that preserve marine ecosystems and traditional livelihoods.

Throughout her multifaceted career, McCarty has stayed connected to Whitman, providing invaluable insights and volunteering her time. Her life's work exemplifies the transformative power of applying a liberal arts education toward positive change in the world.

BEN COLEMAN-FIRE '06 Trailblazer Diversity and Equity Award

Recognizing alumni whose work exemplifies inclusion, promotes equity, and values and reflects the diversity of our world. Selected in cooperation with the Division for Inclusive Excellence.

Ben Coleman-Fire '06 volunteers on the board of Growing Gardens Portland. Their programs provide healthy food access to low-income families while acknowledging the trauma and systemic racism that disproportionately impact communities of color.

With a mission “to undo racism and shift power” toward real solutions, Growing Gardens is at the forefront of the racial equity movement. Coleman-Fire's belief that no family should have to worry about their next meal, combined with a commitment to undoing systemic racism, drives his dedication to this cause. Through thoughtful dialogue and action, he exemplifies using one's privilege for positive change.



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Class Notes

1950s

Junius Rochester '57

continues to write for Post Alley. Rochester's blog explores the history and historical figures of Washington state. Recent writings include a brief about Washington state's long journey for women's suffrage, Black pioneers' contributions to Seattle's Central District and more. Read more at postalley.org/author/rochester.

1960s

Kyra Dodge MacIlveen '61

writes that the year 2023

was certainly eventful. She continued hiking, tackling some of the more challenging routes in the Cascades. MacIlveen also took on trash cleanup with SOLVE Oregon and Adopt One Block. Walking every day has connected her to people in her neighborhood, who take turns hosting monthly gatherings to bring the neighbors closer together. MacIlveen has also set up a scholarship for Whitman students from former Soviet satellite states. Support her scholarship at give.whitman.edu/macilveen.



Whitman Memories

Virginia Valentine Hailey '40 remembers life at Whitman College in the 1930s. About half of her class were Whitman Scholars, who worked on campus in exchange for a \$200 federal scholarship. Her parents sent her \$37 each month, and she supplemented that by babysitting for young Army mothers from Fort Walla Walla. She joined the Delta Delta Delta sorority and majored in English. She fondly remembers attending football games, pep rallies, dances and classes for the two years she spent at Whitman before transferring to Central and embarking on a career as a middle school teacher.



Joe Selak '55 celebrated his 90th birthday on April 6, 2024, at Palisade restaurant in Seattle. Vigorous volleyball practice followed. Whitties in attendance (from left): **Paulette Edes Waggoner '55**, **Dick Thorson '55**, **Yvonne Prialux Werttemberger '55**, Selak and **Frank Metheny '57**.



1990s

Tony Cabasco '90 was hired as Vice President of Enrollment at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. He assumed his new role on July 1, 2024. Cabasco worked in the Whitman College Office of Admission for 26 years, serving as Dean of Admission

CABASCO PHOTO COURTESY COLORADO COLLEGE

Amy Cloud '80 (left) writes that 47 years after they checked into Jewett Hall as first-year roommates, two Whitman alumnae are again sharing the same building. **Holly Woll-Salkeld '81** (right) and Cloud both joined the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (DEM) in 2023. Woll-Salkeld, a volunteer firefighter and EMT for over 40 years—and DEM Interim Deputy Director—was among the first cohorts at Western Washington University to become a certified Emergency Manager. Cloud began a career in communications writing for magazines before transitioning to TV news, public relations and crisis communications. She is the county's first DEM Public Information Officer.



and Financial Aid for 13 years before his departure in 2017.

Robert Simison '95 was re-elected for a second term as mayor of Meridian, Idaho. As mayor, he has focused on keeping a safe community built around families by addressing public safety needs, making quality-of-life investments and focusing on challenges by using commonsense policy solutions to address the needs of the growing city.

Lena Pace '02 was named Superintendent of Arches and Canyonlands national parks in Utah. She began her assignment on April 7, 2024. Pace will also supervise the superintendent at Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments. She's spent 21 years as a commissioned National Park Service law enforcement ranger.



Richard Johnson '02 joined the law firm Helsell Fetterman in April 2024. Johnson is a part of the firm's Taxation practice group, representing businesses and individuals in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service and the Washington State Department of Revenue. In addition, Johnson teaches a course in federal tax procedure at the University of Washington Foster School of Business.

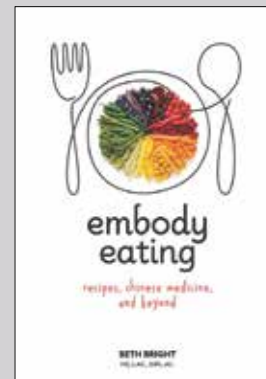
2010s

Autumn Knutson Campbell '13 opened a fully virtual financial planning firm, Styled Wealth (styledwealth.com), providing comprehensive financial planning to impact-driven people. This is fueled by her zest for lifelong partnership and learning fostered during her time at Whitman and through Teach For America; her service as the national Financial Planning Association's NexGen President; and her experience as an Investopedia Top 100 Advisor for the past five years.

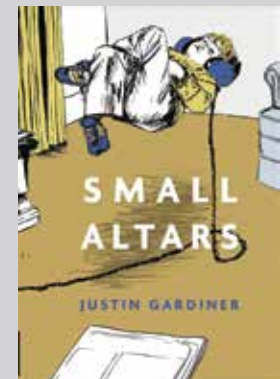
2020s

Sydney London '23 was named one of The Walla Walla Union-Bulletin's "39 Under 39" in the spring of 2024 for her marketing work as the Campaign Communications Fellow for Whitman's **Upward Together** fundraising campaign. London is now working as the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, focusing on affinity-based alumni networks and reunion planning.

Whittie Authors



Beth Bright '83 has released a new book "Embody Eating: Recipes, Chinese Medicine, and Beyond" (independently published, 2024). Bright's book explores the intersection of cuisine, holistic health and energy through the lens of traditional Chinese medicine. From balancing yin and yang to harnessing the five elements, each recipe is thoughtfully crafted to harmonize the body's energy systems to promote well-being.



Justin Gardiner '99's new book "Small Altars" (Tupelo Press, 2024), a Faulkner-Wisdom Nonfiction Book Award winner, delves into the world of comic books and superheroes as a means for coming to terms with the struggles of his brother's life and untimely death. It is a lyric and honest portrayal of the tolls of mental illness, the redemptive powers of art and familial love, and the complex workings of grief.

2000s

Judge Dean Chuang '02 was appointed by Washington Governor Jay Inslee to the newly created 13th Department of the Spokane County Superior Court and took the bench on Jan. 8, 2024. His wife, **Laura Salmon Chuang '02;** **Rich Johnson '02;** **Preston Frederickson '02;** **Judge Jenny Zappone '05;** and **Beverly Baldwin Anderson '81** were in attendance for the investiture.

Happily Ever After



Jane Lutken '10 to Jeff Bismayer on Nov. 12, 2021, in a small ceremony at her home in St. Joseph, Louisiana. Whitties and their families in attendance included (from left) Will Brewer, **Marie Westover '10**, **Gabrielle Boisrame '10**, Alan Siders, **Kirt Siders '10**, **Lani Rosenthal '10**, Lutken, Bismayer, **Jeremy Balch '10**, **Julianne Graper '10** and Chris Boveroux.



Zoey Kapusinski '17 to Calyssa Erb on April 20, 2024, in a small, private ceremony in downtown Toronto.



Daphne Gallegos '19 to Lael Klinefelter on Oct. 7, 2023, in Walla Walla.

Tell Us About It!

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



Little Whitties



Keegan Lawley (3) adopted by **Scott Lawley '77** and his wife, Rachel, on Valentine's Day 2024 (pictured here at the adoption ceremony). Keegan joins two older twin sisters (19) who are thrilled to welcome him to the family.



Sofia Garcia Williams, born Nov. 1, 2022, to **Andrea Miller Williams '09** and Marcus Williams. Sofia joins older sibling Fredi (3).



Thomasine Annette Lutken Bismayer, born May 7, 2023, to **Jane Lutken '10** and Jeff Bismayer.



Kendrick Campbell, born Jan. 1, 2023, to **Autumn Knutson Campbell '13** and Mikeale Campbell. Kendrik joins older sibling Aaliya (3).



David Samuel Biers-Flores, born Jan. 8, 2024, to **Michelle Flores '14** and **Yonah Biers-Ariel '15**.

CLASS NOTES POLICY

Whitman College is happy to highlight the achievements and milestones of our alumni. To have your item appear in Class Notes, fill out the form at whitman.edu/classnotes, email alumni@whitman.edu or mail a note to Whitman College, Office of Alumni Relations, 345 Boyer Ave., Walla Walla, WA 99362. Class Note submissions are limited to 50 words and should include updates from the past calendar year. Class Note submissions may include career updates; publications; honors, awards or appointments; or other significant life changes you would like to share with the Whitman community. Any photographic submissions for Class Notes, marriages/unions or births/adoptions should include the identities of all people pictured, as well as alumni relatives for births/adoptions. It is the responsibility of the submitter to obtain consent from others pictured or mentioned in the submission.

For In Memoriams, Whitman College runs the name of the deceased, their graduate year and major, and the date and place of death; when available, we will include career information, survivors and other highlights of their life, including recorded service to the college or honors received from the college. Photographs for obituaries are run at the discretion of the Office of Alumni Relations for those designated "Whitman Leaders." The college makes a good-faith effort to confirm the information submitted with the concerned parties. All submissions are subject to editing for style, content, length and clarity. Address questions to Jaimee Maurer, Class Notes Editor, at maurerjl@whitman.edu or call 509-527-5052.

In Memoriam

1940s

Mary Boice Capps '46 on Sept. 3, 2023, in Bandon, Oregon. After Whitman, Capps returned to her hometown of Langlois, Oregon, where she taught high school for two years before her marriage to Edgar Capps. She returned to teaching after their three children were grown, and she retired in 1986 after 20 years as an educator. Capps was recognized as a Woman of Achievement in 1994 by Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Southwest Oregon. In retirement, Capps and her husband volunteered for Bandon Historical Society and served on the Bandon Centennial Committee. She was predeceased by her husband and her 11 siblings. Capps is survived by her three children, three grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews and great-grandchildren.

1950s

Jerome "Jerry" Husted '51 on Jan. 1, 2024, in Anacortes, Washington. After the graduation of his Whitman sweetheart, **Vie Hopkins '52**, the couple married and had two children. In 1973, Husted became a partner in a boat-manufacturing company. Shortly after Vie's passing in 1977, Husted began work on designing a strong, fuel-efficient tugboat. He founded Nordic Tugs in 1979 and unveiled his first model in 1980. Since 1980, the company has produced over 1,000 sport-, cruise- and work-model tugboats. In an article celebrating his retirement in 2007 (and 80th birthday), Sea Magazine called Husted "the Father of the Modern

Tug." Husted reconnected with **Nancy Lovett '52** in 2006, and they remained together until her passing in 2023. He is survived by his two children, eight step-children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Kenneth "Ken" Peterson Jr. '53 on Oct. 3, 2023, in Fort Myers, Florida. Shortly after receiving his Master of Business Administration from Harvard in 1957, Peterson married Barbara Hayes. The couple moved to Long Island, New York, where Peterson began work as a financial analyst. He spent the last half of his career as a manager of mutual funds for Scudder, Stevens & Clark. Peterson maintained his connection to his classmates from Whitman as an Associate Class Representative for almost a decade, as well as serving on his 50th Reunion Committee. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Susan "Sue" Bird Hunt '54 on March 16, 2024, in Shoreline, Washington. Hunt attended Whitman for two years before transferring to Washington State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Biology. After returning to Washington from a yearlong Medical Technologist course at Boston Memorial Hospital, she reunited with fellow Whittie, **J. Harry "Bud" Hunt '52**. They were married in 1956 and had three children. In 2006, the Hunts celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a bicycle tour of Sicily. She was predeceased by one son. She is survived by her husband, two children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



WHITMAN LEADER | Richard "Dick" Yancey '49 on Feb. 9, 2024, in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from Whitman, Yancey enrolled at Harvard University where he earned his Master of Business Administration in 1952. He took a job with the investment banking firm Dillon, Read & Co. While living in New York, he met fellow Whittie, **Mary Anne Shaffer '54**. They were married in 1956 and settled in Brooklyn Heights, where they raised their three children. During his 40-year career, Yancey served as a Senior Officer

and Managing Director of the Corporate Finance Department at Dillon, Read & Co.

During this time, Yancey served on the Whitman Board of Overseers for 30 years. He was instrumental in organizing the Senior Alumni College. In 2019, the Yanceys endowed the Richard C. and Mary Anne Shaffer Yancey Scholarship to aid students studying Theater and Economics.

Yancey was predeceased by his parents, **Ruth Yenney Yancey '21** and **George Yancey '21**; his wife; and his brother, **Robert Yancey '53**. He is survived by his three children and several grandchildren, including **Connor Young '21**.



WHITMAN LEADER | Martha "Martie" Philips Schilling '50 on March 31, 2024, in Walla Walla. After graduation, Schilling accepted a job with the State Department in Washington, D.C., where she worked for two years before returning to Washington state. At a Whitman Homecoming party, Schilling met her future husband, **Kenneth Schilling**, then Professor of Music and Director of the Conservatory of Music. They were married in 1954 and built a house on Bonnie Brae Street, where they lived with their three children. After

spending a sabbatical year in Salzburg, Austria, Schilling taught German and English for several years at DeSales Catholic High School and Walla Walla Public Schools.

Schilling was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and was active with the local alumnae chapter for over 60 years. The Schillings established the Kenneth E. Schilling and Martha Philips Schilling Vocal Scholarship in 1996.

Schilling was predeceased by her husband and her brother. She is survived by her daughters, **Janet Schilling Mowery '77** and **Nancy Schilling '80**; her stepson **Steven Schilling '65**; and two nephews, including **Peter Philips '84**.



WHITMAN LEADER | Nancy Bell Evans '54 on Jan. 26, 2024, in Seattle. After Whitman, she became a music teacher and librarian in the Shoreline School District. She met Dan Evans, who had by then been elected to the Washington State House of Representatives and the couple married in 1959. Just five years later, her husband was elected Governor of Washington state.

As first lady, Evans helped oversee the restoration of the Governor's Mansion and the creation of the Governor's Mansion Foundation.

Evans invested more than 30 years of service to Whitman, beginning with her work as an Overseer from 1973 to 1988, an Overseer Emeritus until 1994 and a Trustee until 2008, when she was named Trustee Emeritus. She served as a Class Representative and was a member of her 50th Reunion Committee. In 2009, she was the recipient of the Gordon Scribner Award for Distinguished Service. The Evans family established the Nancy Bell Evans Distinguished Lecturer in Music Endowment and the Liliith J. Bell and Nancy Bell Evans Music Scholarship Endowment.

Evans is survived by her husband; three sons, including **Dan Evans Jr. '83**; and nine grandchildren.

Gifts in memory of Evans may be made to the Liliith J. Bell and Nancy Bell Evans Music Scholarship Endowment online at give.whitman.edu.



WHITMAN LEADER

John Alsip III '59 on March 4, 2024, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. At Whitman, Alsip was co-captain of the football team, an active member of Phi Delta Theta, and an early member of the Outing Program. Shortly

after graduation, he received a plot of land near Nampa, Idaho, that he and his father grew into the Hat Butte Land Company. In 1965, Alsip married Catherine "Kay" Lemasters and they had two children. Much of his career included work as a grain trader for General Mills, Senior Vice President for Northrup-King Seed Co., and President and CEO of Rahr Malting Co.

Alsip was a member of Whitman's Board of Overseers from 1977 to 1992. After his retirement, Alsip found his passion for creating art from recycled material. Alsip was predeceased by his parents, including his father, **John Alsip Jr. '32**. He is survived by his wife; a brother; his sister, **Priscilla Alsip Lange '61**, his two children, including **Gretchen Alsip Vollbrecht '89**, and three grandchildren, including **Lucy Alsip Vollbrecht '15**.

Paulette Edes Waggoner '55 on April 23, 2024, in Poulsbo, Washington. While attending Whitman, Waggoner met her soulmate, **Ross Waggoner '55**, and the couple were married in the summer following graduation. While raising their three boys, Waggoner volunteered as a teacher's aide in the local schools. When her children were older, she returned to school to earn her Teaching Certificate from Seattle Pacific University in 1976. Waggoner taught for the North Kitsap School District for two decades. She was predeceased by her husband. She is survived by her three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Ruth Grant Baumgartner '56 on April 21, 2024, in Shoreline, Washington. After graduation, Baumgartner moved to Shoreline and began work as an educator at North City Elementary. While living in Seattle, she met her husband, Dale. They were married in 1961 and had two children. Baumgartner spent her time supporting her children in school and sporting events and keeping the household running

smoothly. She was predeceased by her husband and survived by her two sons, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Spencer "Spence" McConnell '56 on March 30, 2024, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. McConnell discovered a love for aviation during his time with the Navy. After leaving the service, McConnell spent the remainder of his career as a pilot and captain for several commercial airlines, including Eastern and American Airlines. He enjoyed spending his time fixing up and racing boats, and pursuing his other hobbies as a photographer, ham radio operator, computer programmer, and small-business owner. McConnell is survived by his wife, M.J.; their three children; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Arla Daniel Mock '56 on Feb. 16, 2024, in Richland, Washington. While at Whitman, Mock met **Dean Mock '57**; they were married the summer following his graduation and moved to Seattle. After her husband completed dental school, their young family

moved to Richland, where he opened a dental practice. Mock handled the business of the small practice while raising their children. She adored her family and enjoyed traveling in the RV to visit their grandchildren. She found "plenty of time to love life" and made it to most of her Whitman reunions, including her 65th in 2022. Mock was predeceased by her parents; a daughter; and her brothers, including **Leland Daniel '46**. She is survived by her husband, four children, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

F. Lawrence "Larry" Clare '57 on Feb. 24, 2024, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Following Whitman, Clare graduated from the University of Oregon Medical School in 1962 and earned his Master of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley. He spent his career in the public health sector, retiring in 2001 from his position as Senior Policy Advisor in the Bureau of Health Professions at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Clare established the F. Lawrence Clare Scholarship Endowment at Whitman in 2018. He was predeceased by his parents and a brother.

Joan Fegan Coulson '57 on Feb. 9, 2024, in Seattle. After Whitman, Coulson was hired by the State Department and was assigned to the American Embassy for NATO in Paris. She met her husband on Christmas Day while skiing on the Zugspitze in Germany. After their children were grown, Coulson returned to work and spent 20 years in the computer industry, traveling around the U.S. and internationally. The Coulsons retired to Vashon Island, Washington, where she managed five acres of property and served on the Health Services Center Board of Directors. Coulson was predeceased by her husband and her sister,

Sally Fegan Nyman '59. She is survived by four children and five grandchildren.

Glinda Coombs Mason '57 on March 6, 2024, in Baker, Oregon. Not long after graduation, she married her Whitman beau, **Nick Mason '58**. Mason taught in Walla Walla, Harrah, and Wapato, Washington, before she earned her master's degree and became a librarian for the Wapato School District. One of her greatest passions was weaving. Mason owned several looms and was an active member of the Sheep to Shuttle weaving guild. Mason was predeceased by her husband and is survived by her two children.

Nellie "Rdee" Hummel '58 on April 23, 2023, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Hummel spent two years at Whitman studying Art and Education before she transferred to Montana State College to earn her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She worked as an educator for over 30 years and was recognized as Onslow County's "Teacher of the Year" in 1995. In her correspondence with the college, Hummel often referred to her Whitman days as a highlight of her life. Hummel is survived by her three children, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Patricia "Pat" Eckart '59 on Feb. 23, 2024, in Bishop, California. Eckart worked as a schoolteacher after graduating from Whitman. Work, while a financial necessity, she said, took a backseat to her passions for world travel, local politics and downhill ski racing. Eckart said her life was "a balancing act between observing human actions and finding serenity in nature." She embraced a vibrant life, filled with adventure. Eckart was predeceased by her parents, including **Clark Eckart '28**, and her sister, **Claire Eckart Brouillard '62**.

She is survived by her sister, **Marlene Eckart Gloege '57**; a niece; and two nephews.

William "Bill" Knorp '59 on March 20, 2024, in Auburn, California. Shortly after graduation, Knorp took a job with an insurance agency in San Francisco. In 1965, he married and moved his young family to Auburn, where he worked for an independent insurance agency until his retirement in 1996. Knorp and his wife, Judy, split their time between winters in Auburn and summers in their cottage beside Lake Michigan. Knorp is predeceased by his wife. He is survived by his two children and one grandchild.

1960s

Harold Dodge '60 on Feb. 26, 2024, in Mill Creek, Washington. Dodge went into the insurance industry after completing a short stint in the Army. He had two children before his 1984 marriage to **Marilyn Matzen '64**. Dodge spent his career as an insurance adjuster, retiring as a Claims Manager from PEMCO Insurance in the 1990s. Dodge is survived by his wife, two children and two step-children.

Janice "Hilary" Eden '60 on March 6, 2024, in San Jose, California. After Whitman, Eden married and had four children. When the children were little, she worked as a social worker for the Santa Clara County Welfare Department. She owned and operated a small flower shop, Eden's Garden, for a decade before taking a position as a Purchasing Manager for Intevac, Inc. She retired in 2010. Eden is survived by her four children.

Richard "Dick" Million '60 on Dec. 18, 2023, in Albany, Oregon. Million completed his 3/2 program at Columbia University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical

**WHITMAN LEADER**

Gordon Tobin, M.D., '65 on Jan. 29, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky. After Whitman, Tobin graduated from the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine in 1969, then completed residen-

cies at the University of Arizona in general and plastic surgery. Shortly thereafter, Tobin took a position at the University of Louisville Department of Surgery, where he remained as Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Director of the university's Residency Program. In 1991, Tobin co-founded the Vietnam Burn Care Mission with his wife, Elisabeth, a microbiologist.

Throughout his career, Tobin provided many breakthroughs in reconstructive surgery for cancer, burns and trauma, and hand and face transplantation. Beyond his work with organizations such as Operation Smile and Supplies Overseas, Tobin was instrumental in efforts to bring children with birth defects to Louisville for free surgical treatment.

Tobin was the recipient of the University of Louisville's 2002 Fitzbutler Prize for Humanitarianism in Medicine, the 2008 Whitman Alumnus of Merit Award, and the 2017 Ephraim McDowell Physician of the Year Award.

Tobin is survived by his wife of 55 years, their two children and four grandchildren.

**WHITMAN LEADER**

George Osborne '66 on Oct. 3, 2023, in Redmond, Washington. After graduation, Osborne served as a naval officer during the Vietnam War until 1970. After active duty, he founded Osborne

Construction Company in 1987, focusing on public works projects in the western U.S. and Alaska.

Throughout his life, Osborne remained deeply connected to Whitman College, especially Whitman Athletics. Along with **Jock Edwards '66**, **Jim Moore '66** and **Charlie Stookey '66**, Osborne founded the W Club in 2008.

Osborne was a long-term member of the W Club Board and served as its President from 2010–2012. He was one of four awarded the Whitman Alumni Association's 2016 Gordon Scribner Award for Distinguished Service.

Beyond athletics, Osborne chaired his 35th Reunion Committee and served on the Whitman Board of Overseers for nine years. Additionally, his financial contributions were instrumental in the restoration of the Baker Center building in 2013 and, posthumously, for fraternity chapter facilities upgrades in 2024.

Osborne is survived by two brothers and a sister, **Barbara Osborne '69**; two children, including his son, **Matt Osborne '93**; and three grandchildren.

Engineering. He worked at the Boeing Company in Seattle as a Data Systems Engineer and briefly for Washington State University. Million eventually took a job at the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute. He retired as a Senior Systems Analyst after almost two decades with the university. Million is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary, and their three children, including **Rebecca Million Gilbert '88**.

John Amos '61 on Jan. 13, 2024, in Shelton, Washington. Amos left Whitman to enlist in the Navy. After his service ended, he went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in History from California State University, Hayward. Amos made a career in electronics as a Quality Control Engineer working in Silicon Valley. He remained in the industry for 40 years. During this time, Amos volunteered for community theater and emergency preparedness organizations. He completed the firefighter curriculum with Mission College in 2007. Amos was predeceased by his alumni parents, **Adelaide Amos '27** and **Arnet Amos '33**, as well as his sister. He is survived by his former wife and their daughter.

James "Jim" Stovall '63 on Aug. 24, 2023, in Lincoln City, Oregon. Stovall moved to Portland, Oregon, after graduation and worked in radio broadcasting for a few years. Stovall married in 1965 and started his career with the Farmers Insurance Group shortly after. During his 32 years in the industry, Stovall accepted several relocations as his career progressed, and he became a Vice President of Farmers Group, Inc. in 1987. He retired from the industry in 1998, but took on a part-time position at a music retail store. Stovall is survived by his wife, Carroll "Suzi," and their children.

Roy Kawamura '64 on Feb. 25, 2024, in Aiea, Hawaii. After leaving Whitman, Kawamura returned to his home state where he worked for the Hawaii State Department of Education, teaching physics and biology at Radford High School. He is survived by his wife, Arlene.

Melvin "Mel" Litzenberger '64 on March 28, 2024, in Gilbert, Arizona. Litzenberger graduated *summa cum laude* from Whitman with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. He worked as a manager in manufacturing operations his entire career. Litzenberger married Sandy Felthaus in 1976, and they had two children. Litzenberger's work took the family from Washington to Texas to Michigan and around the globe, but they finally settled in Phoenix. In his retirement, Litzenberger enjoyed reading and spending time with family and friends. He is survived by his wife, their two children and two grandchildren.

Phillip "Phil" Rolfe '64 on Feb. 14, 2024, in Walla Walla. Rolfe married his Whitman sweetheart, **Janice Hough '64**, in the summer following their graduation. The couple settled in Walla Walla, where Rolfe took a job with the school district. He worked for 28 years at Garrison Middle School as a teacher, coach, vice principal and principal. Rolfe retired from education in 1991, but began a second career managing the AmeriCorps program at Blue Mountain Action Council. He served in that capacity for 11 years. After his final retirement, Rolfe enjoyed cooking, reading and volunteering with the Blue Mountain Humane Society. He is survived by his wife; two children, including **Heidi Rolfe Cohan '94**; and five grandchildren.

Douglas "Doug" Graham '65 on March 24, 2024, in Issaquah, Washington. After

Whitman, Graham attended the University of Michigan, where he earned his law degree. He practiced law for about 25 years in Seattle and Everett, Washington. Graham returned to school in the 1990s for a master's in Applied Behavioral Sciences from Bastyr University. He worked 20 years as a licensed mental health counselor. Graham was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed skiing, boating and long-distance cycling. He was predeceased by his parents, including **Robert Graham '36**. Graham is survived by his four siblings, including **Priscilla Graham Wyckoff '67** and **Scott Graham '77**; a daughter; a son, **Mackenzie Graham '04**; and four grandchildren.

Charlene Chambers Baldwin '67 on March 27, 2024, in Langley, Washington. Baldwin married her Whitman beau, **R. Owen Baldwin '67**, in their senior year. After Whitman, the Baldwins served with the Peace Corps in Saipan and eventually moved to Whidbey Island, Washington. Baldwin became active in the House of Prayer Church as an educator while her husband took on a pastoral role. They served the church for 20 years before spending eight years in Ethiopia, where Baldwin taught English, mentored church leaders and led Bible studies, and volunteered at an orphanage. She was predeceased by her husband and a brother. Baldwin is survived by two sisters, three children and seven grandchildren.

Charles "Charlie" Shank '68 on April 13, 2024, in Port Orchard, Washington. After Whitman, Shank worked as a surveyor and resource manager before taking a position with the Washington State Department of Transportation. He served Kitsap County as a traffic

engineer for 24 years. Shank was a tinkerer, inventor and storyteller. He loved politics, science fiction, mythology and cooking. Shank is survived by his partner, **Karen Carr Lindner '66**, and two children from a previous marriage.

Pamela "Pam" Wong '69 on May 9, 2023, in Oakland, California. Wong worked several administrative positions before she began work as a computer consultant, first for Interactive Development Environment and then as a private consultant. Wong trained people on basic computer skills and the use of specific software programs. She owned and operated Pam Wong Macintosh Consulting Services for almost 20 years before closing the business in 2007.

1970s

Robert "Bob" Bell '70 on Jan. 23, 2024, in Palm Springs, California. Immediately after graduating from Whitman, Bell enrolled in the Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre in New York City. He worked for several years as an actor with the Enchanted Theatre Company of Seattle. In the 1980s, Bell began work with the Microsoft Corporation as a Technical Writer while remaining active in the Seattle Men's Choir. Bell retired in 2005 from Microsoft as a Technical Editor. He often attended Whitman reunions, faculty lectures, social gatherings and trips. Bell was one of the Co-Chairs for the combined 50th Reunion of the classes of 1970 and 1971 in the summer of 2022.

Timothy "Tim" Donohue '70 on Jan. 26, 2024, in Dayton, Washington. Donohue remained in the Walla Walla Valley after graduation. He owned and operated Donohue farms for a while and then was Vice President of Robinette

Ranches, Inc. Donohue was one of the Co-Chairs for the combined 50th Reunion of the classes of 1970 and 1971 in the summer of 2022. He was predeceased by his daughter and is survived by his son.

Curt Blamey '74 on April 10, 2024, in La Habra, California. Blamey transferred to Whitman College as a junior in 1972. He remained in Walla Walla for a while after graduation, working the summer harvests and painting houses with other Whitman graduates. Blamey subsequently returned to Southern California to obtain his Master of Business Administration at Pepperdine Graziadio Business School in 1992 and established a career as a software support engineer for various health care software companies. Blamey is survived by his brothers, Rob Blamey and **Rick Blamey '75**.

Harald Brekke '74 on Oct. 16, 2023, in Tucson, Arizona. Brekke traveled after college and pursued his Master of Business Administration in Geneva, Switzerland, before he began work there with the United Nations. A promotion to Finance Director with the UN Environment Programme took him to Nairobi, Kenya, where he met his husband, Adil. After Brekke's retirement from the UN, the couple returned to the United States and settled in Tucson. Brekke's husband survived him for a month before he too passed on. Brekke is survived by one brother.

John Toews '74 on April 24, 2024, in Pitt Meadows, British Columbia. After Whitman, Toews obtained his teaching certificate from the University of British Columbia in 1975. It was during his first teaching assignment at Caledonia High School that Toews met his wife, Lynn. The couple was

married in 1977. Together they raised three children and spent time canoeing, hiking, cycling and camping as a family. Toews taught physics and computer science for the majority of his career, retiring in 2008. He is survived by his brother, **Jim Toews '78**; his wife, Lynn; their three children; and four grandchildren.

Wilhelmina "Willy" Van Krieken '74 on April 11, 2024, in College Place, Washington. Van Krieken traveled abroad for several years following graduation, working in schools in Austria and Ireland, before returning to Whitman to work as Resident Director in Prentiss Hall for four years. She spent her career as a linguist, Biblical scripture translator and educator, with administrative posts around the world. In retirement, Van Krieken returned to Walla Walla to volunteer for a variety of community services as a tutor and teaching assistant, fundraiser and administrator. She was a frequent fixture at Whitman events. Van Krieken is survived by her three siblings and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Morgan '75 on April 1, 2024, in Jenks, Oklahoma. While at Whitman, Morgan met **Sheri Coleman '77**. They were married during the semester break of her senior year. After Whitman, Morgan went on to Willamette University in Oregon and earned his Master of Business Administration. His 40-year career was spent in the forest products industry, where he worked in the finance and accounting departments for many Pacific Northwest industry leaders. Morgan loved to support his community and volunteered for thousands of hours as a teacher, church elder, church board member and treasurer. Morgan is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

1980s

Lance Norris '85 on Dec. 10, 2023, in East Falmouth, Massachusetts. A writer, actor, musician and performer, Norris worked for over 20 years in the Boston radio industry. He wrote for several talk radio shows, including P.I. with Bill Maher. Norris damaged his knee doing stunt work on the set of *The Mouse* in the late 1990s. It was during his time in recovery that he met his wife, Amy, and embraced life as a "country gentleman" of the Boston South Shore. He is survived by his parents, including **Ron Norris '62**; his sister, **Valerie Norris '79**; his wife; six children; and two grandchildren.

Joelle Denney '89 on July 22, 2023, in Renton, Washington. After Whitman, Denney married her high school sweetheart, while in graduate school. She graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Seattle University in 1995. Denney worked her entire career with the Boeing Company and was eventually appointed as the Boeing Commercial Airplanes Vice President of Human Resources. She attended several Whitman career events over the last two decades to share her expertise and experience with students. Denney is survived by a grandmother; her parents and sister; her husband of 30 years, Greg; and two daughters, including **Erin Denney '19**.

1990s

Kyong Yang '93 on Oct. 25, 2023, in Seattle, Washington. After Whitman, Yang went on to have a successful career in public relations and marketing. She worked for several companies, including Microsoft and Getty Images. However, employment was a means to an end for Yang, who combined her love

of travel and being outdoors. She took a 100-mile journey around Mont Blanc, hiked Machu Picchu, and summited Mount St. Helens in 2022. Yang remained connected with Whitman, attending most of her class reunions and several Seattle social events. She is survived by her parents, brother, niece and nephew.

2000s

Caitlin McDermott Follstad '05 on April 9, 2024, in Anacortes, Washington. Follstad served for a year with AmeriCorps as a reading assistant, before enrolling in the Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt University. She earned her Master of Education and National Board Certification in 2009. Follstad taught in Kula, Hawaii, for a couple of years before returning to her hometown of Anacortes. She was teaching fifth grade at Island View Elementary in Anacortes at the time of her passing. Follstad is predeceased by her mother. She is survived by her three children, aunts, cousins and loved ones across the country.

2010s

Alecia Kaer Lindsay '14 on Feb. 8, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska. Lindsay majored in Art and participated in several productions with the Drama Club while she was at Whitman. She worked for a time as a photographer and had several pieces published in *Vogue Italia*. She had a passion for fashion photography, marketing and design work. Lindsay was known for her amazing creativity and kind and empathetic nature. She is survived by her parents and sister.

FAST 5 WITH Sarah Williams

A QUICK CONVERSATION WITH WHITMAN'S SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

By **driving sustainability initiatives** at Whitman College, Sarah Williams is focused on caring for the Earth and its people. She joined Whitman as its Sustainability Manager in December 2022, and after a busy first year and a half, we caught up with her to ask about her efforts to support environmentalism on campus and in the Walla Walla Valley. —BY HEIDI PITTS '01



PHOTO BY LIA BEATTY '21

1 *When did your passion for the environment start?*

I started college aiming to be an environmental engineer. A lecture on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch made me realize I wanted to dedicate my career to caring for our planet—and I changed my major to Sustainability that day.



an immediate impact on campus. Whitman's close-knit community allows us to see the effects of our actions more clearly than at larger schools where I previously worked.

2 *What's meaningful about working in sustainability at Whitman?*

A liberal arts education and sustainability go hand in hand, emphasizing critical thinking and problem-solving. **Passionate students** can make

3 *Where do you see your work having a long-term impact?*

We aim to eliminate campus carbon emissions by 2040, which requires both daily activities like recycling and composting and

major infrastructure changes, such as adding solar panels. And it gives me a chance to utilize my background in math and engineering to help calculate kilowatt production and evaluate solar panel placements!



4 *What do you do outside of work?*

I love spending time at Bennington Lake with my wife and son, walking the trails and observing wildlife. We also enjoy Walla Walla's vibrant downtown with its music, wineries and community atmosphere. We've made many friends, so much of our time is just spent picking a place to sit outside and enjoy each other's company!

5 *What excites you about the future?*

Whitman's efforts are designed to benefit the entire Walla Walla Valley. The city government is developing a climate action plan, and we're sharing knowledge we gained from creating our sustainability plan in 2023–2024. We're exploring ways to partner with them and local businesses to integrate our environmental activities for greater impact.

“Whitman's efforts are designed to benefit the entire Walla Walla Valley.”

Support sustainability progress at Whitman. Through a gift to The Whitman Fund at give.whitman.edu, you can designate your money to go directly to these priorities.

Your Gifts

Their Opportunities



Did you know?

- » Whitties **graduate with 42% less debt** than students at similar colleges.
- » We're committed to **keeping our students' debt low**—helping Whitman graduates pursue their future aspirations.
- » Through gifts from alumni, families and friends, we have **increased scholarship and student aid by 50%** in just six years.

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▶ Whittie Wisdom: ‘My Lesson Is: Be Human’



KIM FETROW '96 OF KIM FETROW PHOTOGRAPHY

COMPELLING AND COMPASSIONATE. Whitman College alum and National Correspondent at The New York Times Cecilia Kang '94 delivered a moving speech at Whitman's 138th Commencement Ceremony—30 years after her own graduation. Kang reports on the intersection of technology and public policy, and she offered the graduates three ways to lean into their humanity in the evolving world of artificial intelligence. Watch Kang's full speech at whitman.edu/magazine.



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