

WHITMAN COLLEGE



Presidential Installation
of Dr. Sarah R. Bolton

April 28, 2023



WHITMAN
COLLEGE

THE INSTALLATION

OF

DR. SARAH R. BOLTON

FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT

OF

WHITMAN COLLEGE

APRIL 28, 2023



SARAH R. BOLTON, PH.D.

Sarah R. Bolton became the 15th president of Whitman College in July 2022. Prior to her arrival at Whitman, she was the president of The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

A physicist, professor and administrator with a distinguished career in higher education, Bolton has a long-standing commitment to inclusive excellence and the liberal arts. She is Whitman's first president in many decades to come from an academic career in the sciences. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Biophysics from Brown University, followed by a Master of Arts and a Doctorate in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Bolton began her career as a faculty member in the department of Physics at Williams College in 1995. After fifteen years in teaching and research, she moved into the role of Dean of the College.

In 2016, Bolton became the President of The College of Wooster. Under her leadership, the college advanced inclusive excellence, becoming one of the most diverse and international liberal arts colleges in the country, adding five new majors while significantly increasing faculty diversity, and introducing minors and experiential pathways in emerging fields. Bolton also led work to strengthen student life, including through a major renovation of the student center and dining hall, while guiding the college through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bolton has served on the boards of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, the Annapolis Group, the Five Colleges of Ohio, Great Lakes College Association, and Culture of Respect.

Since her arrival at Whitman, Bolton has immersed herself in campus life, engaging with students, faculty, staff and alumni to hear many perspectives on the college. Bolton has launched a collaborative strategic planning process with input from hundreds of campus constituents and alumni focusing on key priorities, including academic excellence, student life, diversity, equity and inclusion, sustainability and preparation for life and work after Whitman.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT BOLTON



Sean Decatur, Ph.D.

Sean M. Decatur began service as the President of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in April 2023 after serving for more than nine years as the president of Kenyon College. Prior to assuming the Kenyon presidency, Decatur served as a professor of chemistry and biochemistry and as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Oberlin College from 2008 to 2013. From 1995 to 2008, he was a professor of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College, where he led a research program in biophysical chemistry (with funding from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health).

Decatur's writing has appeared online in the Washington Post, the Chronicle of Higher Education and the New York Times Room for Debate commentary forum. He has twice appeared at SXSWedu and been a guest on the Ezra Klein Show on Vox. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and has received a number of national awards for his scholarship. Decatur was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2017 and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

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Danielle Garbe Reser '97, Member, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Members

Salma Anguiano '22

Elissa Brown, Former Campus Sustainability Coordinator

Joseph Davis '80, Chair, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Brian Dott, Professor of History and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Claire Evans '96, Reunion Giving Officer

Kirsten (Adams) Gable '01, Chair, President's Advisory Board

Stephen Hammond '79, Member Emeritus, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Rebecca Hanrahan, Associate Professor of Philosophy

Kurt Hoffman, Professor of Physics

Peter Lewis '81, Member, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Lauren Osborne, Associate Professor of Religion and South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Aaron Perrine '99, Member, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Former Chair, President's Advisory Board

Akshay Shetty '99, Member, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Jonathan Sposato '89, Member, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Julie Taylor, Member, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Christian Wallace-Bailey '22, Former Student Representative, Whitman College Board of Trustees

Helen Kim, Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean for Faculty Development

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Rebecca Hanrahan, Chair of the Faculty

Peter Harvey, Chief Financial Officer

John Johnson, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

Kazi Joshua, Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

Adam Miller, Vice President for Admissions and Financial Aid

Gina Zandy Ohnstad, Vice President for Communications

Steve J. Setchell, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

Alzada Tipton, Provost and Dean of Faculty

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WHITMAN COLLEGE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Fraser Moore '23, Interim President
Nicole Huh '23, Communications Chair
Gigi Peterson '25, Diversity and Inclusion Chair
Angela Eliacy '25, Finance Chair
Tayva Anderson '25, Nominations and Appointments Chair
Buddy Moench '23, Finance Chair
Owen Jakel '25, Sustainability Chair
Ken Fritzell '23, Student Development Chair

PRESIDENTS OF WHITMAN COLLEGE

Alexander Jay Anderson, Ph.D. 1882-1891
James Francis Eaton, D.D. 1891-1894
Stephen Beasley Linnard Penrose, D.D., Litt.D., LL.D. 1894-1934
Rudolf Alexander Clemen, Ph.D. 1934-1936
Walter Andrew Bratton, Sc.D., LL.D. 1936-1942
Winslow Samuel Anderson, Sc.D., LL.D. 1942-1948
Chester Collins Maxey, Ph.D., LL.D., L.H.D. 1948-1959
Louis Barnes Perry, Ph.D., LL.D., L.H.D. 1959-1967
Donald Henry Sheehan, Ph.D., Litt.D. 1968-1974
Robert Allen Skotheim, Ph.D., Litt.D. 1975-1988
David Evans Maxwell, Ph.D. 1989-1993
Thomas E. Cronin, Ph.D., LL.D., LL.D. 1993-2005
George S. Bridges, Ph.D. 2005-2015
Kathleen M. Murray, Mus.D. 2015-2022
Sarah R. Bolton, Ph.D. 2022-present

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

ORGAN PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL

Kraig Scott, Studio Music Instructor

WELCOME REMARKS AND INSTALLATION

Joseph C. Davis '80, Chair, Board of Trustees

GREETINGS

Lindsey X. Watchman, General Council Chairman,
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

E. Thomas Morning Owl, General Council Interpreter,
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Wade Smith, Superintendent, Walla Walla Public Schools

Kirsten Adams Gable, Chair, Whitman College President's Advisory Board

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Waltz from Sleeping Beauty - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) (arr. Sergei Rachmaninoff)

Irene Tsai '24, piano

Ella Yuen '25, piano

Students of Dr. Tom Hicks Visiting Assistant Professor of Music,
Director of Collaborative Piano and Piano Studies

GREETINGS

Fraser Moore, Interim President, Associated Students of Whitman College

Cassandre Beccai, Director of Equity and Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Rebecca Hanrahan, Chair of the Faculty and Professor of Psychology

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Love Has Broken Down the Wall” - Mark Miller (b.1967)

Whitman College Chorale (see page 10 for members)

Mo Dow '23, tenor

Christie Zhou '24, soprano

Carissa Cox, collaborative pianist

Joseph Kemper, conductor and Visiting Assistant Professor of Music

INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT SARAH R. BOLTON

Dr. Sean Decatur, American Museum of Natural History

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Sarah R. Bolton, 15th President of Whitman College

CLOSING REMARKS

Joseph C. Davis '80

RECESSIONAL

Kraig Scott, Studio Music Instructor

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.

WHITMAN COLLEGE TRUSTEES AND PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY BOARD

Trustees

Joe C. Davis '80, chair, Miami, Florida

Dana M. Reid '89, vice-chair, North Bend,
Washington

Barbara Sommer Feigin '59, New York, New York

Danielle Garbe Reser, '97, Walla Walla, Washington

Mark Kajita, Walla Walla, Washington

Gordon H. Keane Jr. '68, Portland, Oregon

Peter Lewis '81, Santa Barbara, California

Leigh Ann Lucero, '91, Seattle, Washington

Marshal McReal, '84, Seattle, Washington

Nathaniel Miles, Newcastle, Washington

Tricia Putnam Montgomery '90,
Bellevue, Washington

James R. Moore '66, Salt Lake City, Utah

William R. Neff '67, Greenwood Village, Colorado

Charles Nelson, '83, Anacortes, Washington

Aaron Perrine, '99, Seattle, Washington

Charley Rosenberry '81, Cle Elum, Washington

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Jonathan N. Sposato '89, Seattle, Washington

Denise Garvey Tabbutt '87, Seattle, Washington

Julie Taylor, Kirkland, Washington

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Ann Watson, '83, Seattle, Washington

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Robert Spencer Ball '64, Portland, Oregon

Megan Ferguson Clubb '79, Walla Walla, Washington

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Christina Marie Dawson, Piedmont, California

James H. De Meules '67, Los Angeles, California

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Jock Edwards '66, Walla Walla, Washington

Nancy Bell Evans '54, Seattle, Washington

Richard William Fade, Medina, Washington

Karen E. Glover '72, Lake Forest Park, Washington

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James K. Hayner, Walla Walla, Washington

Jerome L. Hillis '61, Seattle, Washington

Valerie Logan Hood '60, Seattle, Washington

Richard E. Hunter '65, Mukilteo, Washington

Max G. Johnson '59, Yarrow Point, Washington

Thomas H. McCracken '63, Fox Island, Washington

Bradley Mark McMurchie '84, Walla Walla,
Washington

Michael C. Murr, Greenwich, Connecticut

Dean Allen Nichols '70, Woodway, Washington

James L. Robart '69, Seattle, Washington

Akshay Anand Shetty '99, Greenwich, Connecticut

John W. Stanton '77, Medina, Washington

Lawrence B. Stone '77, Spokane, Washington

Peter van Oppen '74, Bellevue, Washington

William G. Way '80, Paradise Valley, Arizona

Colleen Willoughby '55, Seattle, Washington

David W. Wyckoff '67, Prosser, Washington

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Washington

Andrew G. Shoals '05, vice chair, Seattle, Washington

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Andrew T. Braff '00, North Bend, Washington

Marissa Sprank Braff '00, North Bend, Washington

Linda King Brewer '66, San Francisco, California

John E. Burpee '89, Clinton, Washington

Susan E. Buxton '85, Boise, Idaho

Sonya Christianson Campion '83, Seattle,
Washington

Norman P. Cheuk '91, Seattle, Washington

Jennifer Brown Coleman '78, Lewiston, Idaho

Robert S. Coleman '77, Lewiston, Idaho

Jason L. Copeland '94, Mountain View, California

Robert A. Cugini '80, Bellevue, Washington

James E. Dow '71, Bainbridge Island, Washington

James M. Edmunds '78, Seattle, Washington

Megin Flaherty Edwards '91, Seattle, Washington

Limei Fan (parent '23), Seattle, Washington

Michael P. Flannery '76, Spokane, Washington

Jeremy T. Floberg '95, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Carrie C. Gage '03, Seattle, Washington

Ashifi Gogo '05, Woburn, Massachusetts

Thomas W. Henderson IV '83, alumni board
representative, Centennial, Colorado

Judson R. Heugel '02, Seattle, Washington

Tim H. Hevly '88, Seattle, Washington

Kevin B. Hight '90, Bee Cave, Texas

Kay Tai Hodge '69, Boston, Massachusetts

Alexis Stipe Hoopes '01, Santa Monica, California

Eric W. Jacks '03, Brooklyn, New York

Brady A. Jensen '84, Wilsonville, Oregon

Lisa L. Johnsen '86, Seattle, Washington

Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg '01, Nairobi, Kenya

Neil G. Kornze '00, Seattle, Washington

David S. Logan '80, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Michael J. Mahoney '82, Hillsborough, California

Michelle A. Mathieu '92, Seattle, Washington

James McCarthy '63, Walla Walla, Washington

Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger '97, Lake Forest Park,
Washington

Kottayam V. Natarajan Jr. '89, Liberty Lake,
Washington

Simeon J. Osborn '80, Kirkland, Washington

Cathryn D. Posey '05, Brooklyn, New York

Valbona S. Qerimi '01, Bethesda, Maryland

Victoria A. Romero '86, La Verne, California

Sara B. Sakamoto '98, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Beth Long Salaguinto '88, Bothell, Washington

Nancy Sanchez '04, Spring Lake, North Carolina

Jed W. Schwendiman '92, Riverside, California

Lorraine A. Smiley '81, Seattle, Washington

Jason P. Smith '97, Marysville, Washington

Debra Aucutt Toews '76, Walla Walla, Washington

Cecilia Kang Unsal '94, Bethesda, Maryland

Oltac B. Unsal '95, Bethesda, Maryland

Peter L. Viehl '87, Altadena, California

Geoffrey P. Wood '86, Seattle, Washington

INSTITUTIONS SENDING DELEGATES

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
Reservation, Jeanine Gordon, Member

Dartmouth College, 1769, Dr. Scott Brown, Dean of
the College

Williams College, 1793, Dr. Ivonne M. García,
Assistant Vice President, Office of Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion

Bowdoin College, 1794, Jonathan Walters, Alum

Colby College, 1813, Thomas C. Marlitt, Alum

Allegheny College, 1815, Jonathan A. Collins, Alum

Kenyon College, 1824, Sean M. Decatur,
President Emeritu

Wabash College, Adam Kirtley, 1832, Alum

DePauw University, 1837, Steven J. Setchell, Alum

Grinnell College, 1846, Margaret Ehrig Dunn, Alum

Pacific University, 1849, Sarah Phillips, Ph.D.,
Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management
and Student Affairs

The College of Wooster, 1863, Jennifer R. Bowen,
Dean for Curriculum & Academic Engagement

The College of Wooster, 1866, Wayne P. Webster,
Interim President

Lewis & Clark College, 1867, Robin Holmes-Sullivan,
Ph.D., President

St. Olaf College, 1874, Dr. Michelle Y. Janning, Alum

Bryn Mawr College, 1885, Dr. Nina Lerman, Alum

Gonzaga University, 1887, Bart Gallant, Alum

University of Puget Sound, 1888, Sarah Comstock,
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of
Students

Boise State University, 1932, Angie Bos, Dean of the
School of Public Service

Claremont McKenna College, 1946, Cheryl Miller, Alum

Independent Colleges of Washington, 1953, Terri
Standish-Kuon, President & Chief
Executive Officer

FACULTY MARSHAL

Barry Balof, Professor of Mathematics

CHORALE MEMBERS

Eleanor Amer '23
Wendy Angus
Isabel Arcaris '26
Millie Atack '26
Kimberly Auran '25
Gillian Mackay Brown '23
Jackson Burkhalter '23
Kiana Ching '23
Stella Coomes '25
Joshua Cox '25
Ariana Cribari '26
Catia De Oliveira '25
Nara Deller '25
Finn Dills '25
Charlotte Dimitri '26
Mo Dow '23
Heather Dygert
AJ Ferris '25

Reya Fore '23
Cade Gordon '25
Carson Hammer '25
Anna Hammett '26
Richelle Heilbrun
Kurt Hoffman
Isabella Hunter '24
Maura Kelly '26
David Kretz '25
Serena Li '26
Tane Macko '26
Michelle Mason
Shola Mau '24
Pearl McCulloch '26
Kaydence Meikle '26
Corinne Menaker '26
Michaela Murdock
Cyri Nemecek '23

Liam O'Shea '26
Mina Olson '25
Diana Plenefisch '24
Natalie Ritter '23
RJ Schetter '24
Madeline Senter '25
Alder Sigal '25
Carmel Stephan '25
Morgan Stone '23
Jiayu Tang '25
Noelle Texidor '25
Lilli Thompson '26
Natalie Traw '23
Carsten Wallace-Bailey '25
Nash Wong '26
Knytt Yang '24
Clarisse Yee '24
Christie Zhou '24

BRIEF HISTORY OF WHITMAN COLLEGE

In December 1859, the Washington Territorial Legislature granted a charter to Whitman Seminary. College courses were first offered at Whitman in 1882 and in November 1883, the Legislature issued a new charter, changing the seminary into a four-year, degree-granting institution.

Throughout its history, Whitman has remained small to facilitate the close faculty-student interaction that is essential to exceptional higher education. In 1914, Whitman became the first college or university in the nation to require undergraduate students to complete comprehensive examinations in their major fields. The installation of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter in 1919, the first for any Northwest college, marked Whitman's growing reputation for academic excellence.

Today, Whitman remains a beacon of teaching and learning in the residential liberal arts tradition. Whitman is a place where curious and passionate students learn from accomplished faculty who structure courses and class time in ways that encourage students to push boundaries and explore new directions and perspectives.

A Whitman education requires both breadth and depth, as demonstrated by rigorous major requirements along with a recently updated general education framework. Students can choose from more than 60 majors, including interdisciplinary majors, or create an independently planned major. In all areas of study, Whitman students learn to read carefully, think critically and communicate effectively.

The college is committed to inclusive excellence—to creating a welcoming and equitable learning and working environment where all students, faculty and staff can thrive. This work includes collaboration with the the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). In 2017, the college signed a memorandum of agreement with CTUIR to facilitate cooperation between the college and the tribes on the development of curriculum with a focus on Native American Studies, and Native American education, recruitment and retention efforts at Whitman.

Whitman College is located in Walla Walla, Washington, a city of approximately 34,000, on the traditional Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla homelands. Whitman's location fosters important environmental questions and unique learning opportunities that help link our students' learning in the classroom to the land. The town's setting among golden wheat fields, shadowed by the Blue Mountains, and the access to the greater region's mountains, rivers and wilderness provides an ideal jumping off point for a variety of outdoor pursuits and draws many students, faculty and staff to Whitman.

The Walla Walla region is a robust agricultural center for wheat, grapes, apples, alfalfa seed and related agricultural industries, including international agricultural manufacturing facilities. Walla Walla is known throughout the state, and increasingly nationally and globally, for its thriving wine industry and is home to more than 120 wineries, some of which were started by Whitman alumni. In addition to the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onions, the city is known for its vibrant and historic Main Street, Chamber Music Festival, Walla Walla Symphony, world-class restaurants, arts and theater scene, farmers market and annual hot air balloon festival. Residents and student volunteers give time to dozens of local nonprofits to help create a vibrant, thriving community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Situated within the rich and complex landscape and history of the Walla Walla Valley, Whitman College provides a rigorous liberal arts education of the highest quality to passionate and engaged students from diverse backgrounds. Whitman students develop their intellectual and creative capacities in a supportive scholarly community that prioritizes student learning within and beyond our classrooms. We help each student translate their deep local, regional, and global experiences into ethical and meaningful lives of purpose.





WHITMAN COLLEGE