A Department of Note
Music program showcases its breadth, depth
Whitworth is in the midst of an awfully good year. In this ailing economy, we never could have imagined our vital signs would be so strong. Our mission lives in the hearts and minds of our students. We are grateful. Our most recent source of thanksgiving came when construction began on the new science building. We still need gift support to complete the funding plan, but we believe Whitworth’s many friends will step forward.

When I was in college, our basketball team headed off in a blizzard for an away game in Minnesota. None of us felt even modest surprise when our bus piled into a snow bank. The next day, the coach of a nationally ranked in-state rival observed that we must have had “potatoes for brains to leave the university.”

In September, I announced that this would be my last year as Whitworth’s president. In the midst of this great year, there are days when I hear that coach’s words about having “potatoes for brains to leave the university.” But I know this is the right thing to do. I don’t know how anyone could love a place more than Bonnie and I love Whitworth. I will always consider Whitworth my life’s work. This university embodies our most deeply held spiritual and professional values, but we believe that the time has come for me to step away.

In making this decision, I am fully convinced that Whitworth will benefit from the new ideas, skills, energies and passions of a new president. The university will be able to launch its 2010-15 strategic plan with new leadership and a great administrative team. I’m not sure exactly what my future holds, but I have agreed to be available on a part-time basis to work for the new president behind the scenes. At Manchester College, I followed a 30-year president. I learned great ways to support a new president without getting in the way.

I’ll write a little more about my departure in the spring issue of the magazine. I have a lot to do between now and June 30, so I need to stay focused. To do that, my plan is to postpone all the farewell stuff until the end of the academic year. We’re coiling for a pretty good party.

Just a brief glance at this issue of Whitworth Today should convince you that Whitworth continues to prepare its students for lives of service. We are on the move. For 120 years, God has blessed this place. This morning at Parents’ Weekend worship, I spoke from the text that tells the story about a synagogue leader named Jairus who asked Jesus to heal his daughter. The whole story turns when the servants come to Jairus and report that it is too late for a miracle. Jesus replies, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” These are always good words. Fear cripples us. Faith propels us. In times of challenge and in times of prosperity, our courage comes from our faith in Christ. At Whitworth, we believe.
Features

6 A Department of Note
Jazz legend Lee Konitz’s performance with the Whitworth jazz ensemble this fall demonstrates the prominent place the music program has carved in the region. With an expanded faculty, more student ensembles than ever before, and increasing recognition, Whitworth provides a topnotch education for musicians and a remarkable listening experience for aficionados of all kinds of music.

10 Go East, Young Man (and Woman)
East Residence Hall, Whitworth’s just-finished home-away-from-home for students, provides a sustainable environment in which residents from all four classes can live in comfort, build strong community, and contribute to a more livable planet.

12 ¡Vamos a Costa Rica!
Whitworth’s newest classroom building and student residence are located between an urban center and a tropical rainforest – in Costa Rica, where, by fall 2010, 30 students will be enjoying the many educational benefits of cross-cultural study.

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www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday
If Whitworth was once thought of as a bucolic little college in small-town America, it certainly doesn’t fit that description anymore. When I arrived in 1983, we might, indeed, have been characterized as a bit of a backwater. But things move fast these days. We’re bigger. Needed positions are created as others become obsolete, and we must adapt the way we spread the word about Whitworth to appeal to potential students who multitask 16 hours a day in a world that’s moving 900 miles an hour. Though the important stuff—the mission, the heart, the essence of Whitworth—remains the same, our methods, programs, and approaches evolve to serve our students and our constituency far beyond Spokane.

One of the goals of Whitworth Today is to keep you aware of both the immutable and the ever-changing elements of the Whitworth experience.

Bill Robinson has announced that this will be his last year as Whitworth’s president. We’re sad about that. He’s asked us to save our goodbyes for the spring, and that’s what we’ll do, but I’ll say now that we’ll really miss Bill. We’ve enjoyed telling people in the community, “I work at Whitworth,” and hearing them say, “Is that Robinson guy really as great as he seems?” Yes, folks, he really is.

We’ve also said a fond goodbye to Kristi Burns, our V.P. for institutional advancement, and welcomed Scott McQuilkin, ’84, her successor. Scott has moved over to L.A. from his previous home in the athletics department, where he’s been the go-to guy for 15 years. We’re glad Scott’s here, and we know that he’s going to—sports metaphor alert!—take the advancement ball and run with it.

Along with the ebb and flow of human resources, Whitworth is hopping with events, visitors, programs, innovations—and, of course, with students and the energy that only they can provide. Read in this issue’s news section about our new location downtown; check out the features on our thriving music program and our soon-to-be-dedicated satellite center in Costa Rica; see who’s been speaking and performing here; take a look at the photo essay on East Hall, our newest student residence. We have much good news to share.

Whitworth’s substance remains as it was when you alums were here. And the university will continue to make decisions about how best to embrace and uphold its mission and flourish in a fast-paced, evolving world. Change is constant, and sometimes disconcerting. But we’re ready to deal with the changes that life throws at us—because, as Bill Robinson has reminded us any number of times, we stand on rock-solid ground.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Whitworth Today.
Robert Huggins shares a portrait he’s just shot of Daniel, a church planter and pastor in northern Ghana.

**Whitworth Alum BlogWatch**

Robert Huggins, ’04

*Blog: Light: Faith, Photography, Culture*

light.roberthuggins.com/blog

As a Christian, an important question to me is, “What does the gospel seed look like when it’s been planted, watered and grown to maturity in the native soil of a non-Western land and culture?” Some of my most vivid memories – and images – have been made in the company of people whose worldly realities could not be farther from my own, yet with whom I share the strong, unseen bond of mutual Christian faith.

I have sat with African believers in mud huts far out of reach of electricity or running water as they experience newfound joy in Christ because of the witness of other Africans; I have engaged with Indians scratching out an existence in the slums of Delhi while setting up schools and micro-economic co-ops to elevate the lives of their neighbors; and I have wrestled in prayer with Indonesian Christians struggling to make sense of their trauma in the wake of a devastating tsunami, yet still trying to reach out to the 99.9 percent Muslim population around them that is going through the same trial. These are my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I try to tell their stories with my camera and blog.

I love how blogging allows me to share photos and the stories that go with them. Artists thrive on positive feedback, so it’s especially fulfilling when I hear from people who have seen my photos and read my stories and have been somehow touched by them. My hope is that visitors to my blog are blessed, as I have been, by these images and the lives they represent.

Robert Huggins is a graphic designer and multimedia communications coordinator for Partners International (www.partnersintl.org), a global ministry that works to create and grow communities of Christian witness in partnership with God’s people in the least Christian regions of the world. Huggins’ role with Partners International and other opportunities have allowed him to do photojournalism and documentary work in areas including the Himalayas in Nepal, the Aceh area of Indonesia, remote villages in West Africa, and the southernmost tip of India. He lives in Spokane with his wife, Megan (Blank) Huggins, ’05.

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**EVENTS calendar**

To view a calendar of all of Whitworth’s upcoming events, visit www.whitworth.edu/calendar.

Dec. 5-6 Whitworth Christmas Festival concerts. **Dec. 5**, First Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, 7 p.m.; **Dec. 6**, First Presbyterian Church, Seattle, 3 p.m. $18 admission; $15 seniors/students/children. Tickets can be purchased by calling 800.532.4668 or visiting www.whitworth.edu/musictickets.

Dec. 11-12 Whitworth Christmas Festival Concerts. **Dec. 11**, 8 p.m.; **Dec. 12**, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar St., Spokane. $18 admission; $15 seniors/students/children. Tickets can be purchased by calling 800.532.4668 or visiting www.whitworth.edu/musictickets.

Feb. 19-21 Leonard A. Oakland Film Festival. Robinson Teaching Theatre in Weyerhaeuser Hall; Friday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20 and 21, 2 p.m.


March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 Whitworth Theatre spring production, *Is He Dead?* – A NEW Comedy by Mark Twain. Cowles Auditorium, 8 p.m. March 5, 6, 12, 13; March 7, 2 p.m. matinee. General admission $7; students/seniors $5. Call 509.777.3707 for details.

April 9 Endowed English Reading with David Daniel. Robinson Teaching Theatre in Weyerhaeuser Hall, 7:30 p.m.

April 10 40th Annual Hawaiian Club Lu’au, featuring authentic Hawaiian food and entertainment. Fieldhouse, 6 p.m. Admission $20.

April 17 Whitworth Symphony Orchestra spring concert. Cowles Auditorium, 3 p.m. Admission $5; students/seniors free.

April 23 Nadine Chapman Endowed Reading featuring Jess Walter. Robinson Teaching Theatre in Weyerhaeuser Hall, 7 p.m.

April 25 Whitworth Wind Symphony spring concert. Cowles Auditorium, 3 p.m. Admission $5; students/seniors free.

May 2 Whitworth Women’s Choir spring concert. St. Augustine Church, 3 p.m.

May 9 Whitworth Choir spring concert. Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 7 p.m.

May 15 Graduate Commencement, Cowles Auditorium, 10 a.m.

May 16 Baccalaureate, Whitworth Fieldhouse, 10 a.m.

May 16 Undergraduate Commencement, Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, 3 p.m.
When alto saxophonist Lee Konitz took the stage at the beautifully restored Fox Theater in downtown Spokane this November, the jazz legend’s performance with Whitworth’s award-winning jazz ensemble not only blew the roof off the place, the concert also represented the culmination of two decades of work developing the jazz program into one that can attract a musician of Konitz’s caliber.

Konitz, winner of the 2009 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master Award – our nation’s highest award in jazz – is widely considered one of the world’s most important living jazz musicians. He greatly influenced the transition of jazz from swing to the modern era by helping to launch the “cool jazz” movement, which arose in the late 1940s and featured smooth, composed arrangements and improvisation. During the Whitworth concert, Konitz played expanded arrangements from the landmark jazz album Birth of the Cool, which he and a collective of artists recorded with Miles Davis and Gerry Mulligan in 1949-50.

The jazz studies program at Whitworth, bolstered by annual performances with renowned guest artists such as Konitz, has earned a respected place in the national jazz education scene, but it isn’t the only note the Whitworth Music Department plays. The choir, wind symphony, symphony orchestra, and women’s choir have gained prominence in the region, have toured both nationally and internationally, and have produced several albums. In addition, worship music plays an integral role in the university’s music scene. In recent years, Assistant Professor of Music Ben Brody, ’98, has been working to expand and deepen worship music’s presence on Whitworth’s campus and in its curriculum.

Konitz joins a list of jazz greats who have performed with the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble over the years. Other guest artists include Terence Blanchard, Bob Mintzer, Joe Lovano, Slide Hampton, Nicholas Payton, Kenny Garrett, Phil Woods and Gene Harris. Many of those artists also have conducted workshops with Whitworth music students, providing rare opportunities for students to interact with and learn from first-rate musicians.

“Attracting a musician of Konitz’s stature is a wonderful testimony to the 20 years of high-quality jazz education that has taken place on Whitworth’s campus,” says Dan Keberle, professor of music and director of jazz studies and the jazz ensemble. “It’s inspiring and motivating for students to be on stage performing with the top jazz musicians in the world. Years later, I often hear from former students who say the guest artist jazz concerts were a highlight of their Whitworth experiences.”

Keberle recently had the opportunity...
to reminisce with some of those past students. The Konitz concert was the highlight of a series of events celebrating the 20th anniversary of Whitworth’s jazz studies program.

The jazz alums had plenty of memories to share during the reunion. In the past 15 years, the ensemble has won first place in the college/university division of the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival seven times and has earned second place six times. The group also has been selected from colleges and universities across the Northwest to perform at seven All-Northwest and All-State Music Educators Conferences.

The 18-piece ensemble has produced eight CDs and performs several concerts each year on campus, as well as at jazz festivals, in public schools, at civic events, and on annual tours throughout the United States. The group also takes part in international performance residencies, performing with leading jazz artists in Italy, Brazil, Cuba, Germany and Australia. This January, the ensemble will embark on a performance tour of New York City and New Orleans.

Yet the ensemble is just one component of jazz studies at Whitworth. The jazz program has been listed in Jazz Times magazine as one of the top jazz education programs in the country. Students can participate in jazz ensemble II, six jazz combos, vocal jazz class, private jazz-improvisation lessons, and classes in jazz history and jazz arranging.

“Every year some of the most talented high school jazz students in the Northwest choose to come to Whitworth to develop their musical and jazz skills,” Keberle says. “For students who come here specifically to be a part of the jazz program, the university has been able to blend the small-college experience with a high-quality jazz program that typically can be found only at the larger universities in the country.”

In a wider sense, Keberle says, the jazz program has helped the entire student body gain an appreciation for the artistry and creativity of the American art form, thereby developing future generations of jazz fans.

The jazz program has grown to include eight faculty members. One of the professors is Brent Edstrom, who teaches jazz piano and coordinates the music theory and composition program. A jazz pianist, he also is active as a performer, composer and arranger.

Edstrom says he enjoys teaching traditional theory and ear training as well as jazz, and he looks for ways to intersperse those courses with jazz theory, since jazz can provide insights into the creative process in ways that benefit both jazz and classical music students. Edstrom finds it particularly rewarding to work with students in a performing ensemble and is planning to rearrange his schedule so he can teach a jazz combo.

“In terms of departmental goals, we want to continue to attract the best student musicians, so recruitment is a crucial consideration,” Edstrom says. “Last year Dan led a very successful regional mini-tour, and I look forward to traveling with the jazz band on future regional tours.”

MUSIC OFFERINGS

The future looks bright for the other music department ensembles as well. The Whitworth Choir, led by Marc A. Hafso, professor of music and director of choral activities, has established a
reputation as one of the premier choirs in the Pacific Northwest and leads an active performance, touring and recording schedule, including performances of major works with orchestra. In the popular Christmas Festival Concerts, which also feature the women’s choir, the choir performs each year to full houses in Spokane and the Seattle area. Last February, the choir performed by invitation at the 2009 Music Educators National Conference Northwest Division Convention, in Spokane.

In May 2009, the choir embarked on a tour of South America, its first international tour in more than 40 years. To view the choir’s travelogue of Argentina and Uruguay, visit whitworthchoirtour2009.blogspot.com.

Hafso says he chose South America for the choir’s first international tour because Argentina has a rich choral tradition, and it was a destination students might not choose to visit on their own. In the future, the Whitworth choral program plans to send students on an overseas tour every four years.

“Impediments are important in part for recruiting purposes and also because of the practical experience students gain by preparing for an extended period of important performances,” Hafso says. “We also want to connect our students to diverse musical communities and cultural experiences.”

The repertoire of the Whitworth Women’s Choir includes sacred and secular music from diverse eras and styles. In addition to performing in the Christmas Festival Concerts, the women’s choir, directed by Associate Professor and Chair of Music Debbie Hansen, presents concerts on campus and throughout Spokane, including St. Augustine Church, where it performs each spring.

In addition to Whitworth’s choral programs, student-musicians excel in the university’s symphonic groups, which are led by music faculty who are current or past members of the Spokane Symphony and are active as recitalists, soloists, and chamber musicians.

Associate Professor of Music Philip Baldwin leads the Whitworth Symphony Orchestra, which performs prominent symphonic and string literature. Through the symphony orchestra’s partnership with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, students learn from some of the area’s finest musicians who come to campus to lead master classes, section coaching, and clinics with principal players and conductors. The ensemble takes part in an annual concerto competition and local and regional performances. Every other year the group tours over Spring Break; its most recent tour was to Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area, in 2009.

The Whitworth Wind Symphony has been recognized as one of the outstanding college bands in the region. Directed by Professor of Music Richard Strauch, the wind symphony has appeared at five state and regional conferences in the past 10 years and has regularly toured the western United States and Hawaii. The group also has released four CDs.

The music department has added two more ensembles in recent years to expand performance opportunities available to students. The no-audition-required men’s chorus makes joint appearances with other ensembles and performs at athletics and service events.

The concert band, started by Strauch in fall 2006, is a no-audition-required group designed for students who want to play but don’t have the time to commit to the wind symphony. When the concert band launched, the number of students in the Whitworth band program nearly doubled. Kyla Fague, ’01, directs the band.

WORSHIP MUSIC

Six years ago, Brody returned to his alma mater to become director of music in campus worship, through which he coordinates and helps lead worship music during campus services. Brody works with worship intern and master’s in theology student Keith Petersen to recruit and help prepare nearly 30 students to lead worship in Tuesday chapel services as part of one of four chapel worship teams; he and
Peterson recruit musicians for Thursday chapels, as well.

Brody also works closely with the leaders of Hosanna, a student-led worship service, and Restore, which is a new Thursday-evening service that focuses on prayer and contemplation. In addition, he plans and works with students to lead worship for other services that take place during the year, such as the Parents’ Weekend service, the Christmas Candlelight service, the Senior Commissioning service, and the Baccalaureate service.

Brody donned another hat this year when he became director of worship for Whitworth’s master’s in theology program, which was launched in 2008. Brody leads worship services for students that draw on content covered in each course. For example, during the portion of Professor of Theology Jerry Sittser’s church history course that focuses on the medieval period, Brody’s service will feature medieval hymns, Gregorian chant and liturgical resources from that era.

Brody says his goal in overseeing campus worship is to ground the Whitworth community’s focus in worshiping God.

"Participation in worship gathers us as a community across roles, departments and other differences to remind us of our unity in Christ, and it uses our work as students, teachers, and staff members into perspective to remind us that our chief purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever," Brody says. “My hope is that more people will come to appreciate that worshipping together is a unique privilege and joy that we have the opportunity to participate in here.”

In addition to organizing worship services, Brody heads the certificate in church music program, which was added in 2003 as a track within the B.A. in music degree. Brody started the program to help prepare student musicians to serve churches in worship leadership. Along with the standard music requirements, students taking this track also complete courses in worship theology, church music techniques, music and theology electives, and a year-long internship.

This year, Brody also led the launch of a new summer diploma program through the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith & Learning. The diploma in worship, theology and the arts is a non-degree program designed particularly for practicing church musicians and others involved in worship leadership. It combines a core curriculum of theology courses with courses specifically designed to help those involved in church music leadership.

With their combined efforts, Brody and his colleagues in the music department, along with others involved in making and teaching music at Whitworth, are ensuring that opportunities continue to abound for students to create, perform, and appreciate music, in hopes that they will share their passions and talents with others long after they leave campus.

"It is always a poignant moment when our students receive their diplomas on graduation day," Edstrom says. “But that poignancy is tempered by the fact that these young musicians are taking their love of music to a larger community.”

What would college be without student bands? Whitworth’s residence halls have always proved a breeding ground for student musicians, and some acts have gone on to produce popular albums and tour the country after graduation. The university continues to be home to student groups that play in a variety of musical styles, ranging from rock and pop to reggae and folk and everywhere in between. Following are a few bands currently making the rounds on the coffeehouse circuit.

**Green Light Go**
**Members:** Nathan Webber, Bass Guitar; Tom Okura, Trombone; Jeff Johnson, Guitar; Matty Davenny, Sax/Lead Vocals; Rick Aiello, Trumpet/Back-up Vocals; Matt Cooper, Drums; Mike Seaver, Guitar

**Genre:** Ska-punk (a mix of reggae, jazz & rock)

**Hella Fitzgerald**
**Members:** Justin Catlett, Bass; Tyler Kruse, Baritone; Steven Cutter, Tenor; Tyler Freeman, Tenor; Kevin Johnson, Tenor

**Genre:** A cappella

**In the Company of Paranoia**
**Members:** Alex Moffitt, Bass Guitar; Jeff Podmayer, Drums; William Franz, Guitar/Vocals

**Genre:** Alternative Rock

**Paper Tigers**
**Members:** Spencer Dorway, Guitar/Slide/Vocals; Drew Peterson, Banjo/Guitar/Percussion; Scott Sims, Electric Guitar; Chris Trumbo, Guitar/Bass Guitar/Vocals

**Genre:** Folk

**Stockholm**
**Members:** Branden Cate, Lead Vocals/Keyboard/Guitar; Jackson Cate, Bass Guitar/Synthesizer/Vocals; Jordan Kamikawa, Drums

**Genre:** Pop/rock, reminiscent of UK Brit-pop/rock bands

**Hot Lava**
**Members:** Kris Mayhew, Lead Guitar; Steven Cutter, Drums/Background Vocals; Tyler Kruse, Lead Vocals; Justin Catlett, Synthesizer/Background Vocals; Nic Vargus, Rhythm Guitar; Sean Tyson, Bass

**Genre:** Popcore
Go East, Young Man (and Woman)

New hall houses students in eco-friendly style

East Hall, which opened this fall, is a 170-bed facility that houses all four class levels in single, double and triple rooms. The three-story residence features unique common spaces, large-group and small-group meeting areas, and study spaces.

- The hall has one residence director, eight resident assistants, one cultural diversity advocate, one senator, and two small-group coordinators. Residents hail from 13 states and three non-U.S. countries.
- The first residence hall on campus to use an “angled” footprint, East’s unique construction gives residents connectedness and privacy.
- East is the first residence hall to have an indoor balcony.
- Four outdoor patios provide areas for residents to study, hang out, and get a little fresh air. A large front patio is a first for Whitworth’s residence halls, moving residents from their rooms to the outdoor benches.
- The main staircase is open from the basement to the third floor, allowing a more cohesive feeling between the floors and the residents.
- Two walls of windows from the first floor through the third floor give an open feeling to the side stairwells.
- Heat tape on the roof is connected to two snow sensors that remove snow above entryways before it becomes a problem.
- Heated stairs on the exterior means that walks are less likely to be snow-covered or a slipping hazard.
- Wide hallways mean that residents are more likely to hang out in the halls than to treat them as a means to an end.
- Extra soundproofing materials and techniques are installed in the noisy areas of the building: elevator shaft, game room, vending machines, etc.
- The music practice room is located in the basement to reduce noise; it has five walls instead of a simple, four-wall shape, which helps deaden sound.
- Proximity-card building access affords students greater safety and flexibility than traditional keys.
- Instead of the usual “Whitworth white,” the interior of the building is painted in a palette of warm earthtones.
• Fresh air from the outside is brought in, filtered through allergy-reducing filters, and then pumped into each residence room.

• In East’s bathrooms, changing areas provide residents more private areas in which to dress and undress as well as to hang towels, robes and clothing.

• Due to its use of hundreds of best practices and new, creative designs and solutions, East Hall will be LEED-certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

• In-floor radiant heating gives residents individual control of their heating and a more efficient option over traditional forced-air heat.

• Dual-flush toilets waste less water than regular toilets and give residents more control of how efficient their building will be.

• Dimmable lights in the lounges allow for almost infinite lighting options at a reduced cost over installing multiple lighting systems.

• Low-VOC paint was used throughout the building, giving residents higher air quality than traditional paints.

• All of the fabric on the lounge furniture is made from 100 percent recycled material.

*East Hall info courtesy of Alan Jacob, associate director of housing*
Less than an hour’s bus ride out of Costa Rica’s bustling capital city of San José, up a scenic mountain road to the edge of a rainforest teeming with plants and animals lie Whitworth’s newest classroom building and residence hall.

With October’s unanimous approval of the board of trustees, Whitworth is set to establish its first international study center, in Costa Rica. Up to 30 students will begin taking classes there in the fall, advancing the university’s long-term goal of increasing cross-cultural learning opportunities for students while also adding affordable capacity for anticipated enrollment growth.

“After a long search, we believe we’ve found a site that is ideal for providing students the life-changing cross-cultural experience afforded by international study,” says Michael Le Roy, ’89, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. “Through our Costa Rica program, students will see first-hand that problems such as poverty and environmental degradation are inextricably linked to social context. These connections are much clearer when students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a culture and to cultivate a broader understanding of what it means to love one’s neighbor and follow Christ.”

The Costa Rica site includes two buildings that need some work but are structurally sound and are well-suited for the university’s needs. The 27-acre property also features broad lawns where one can easily imagine Whitworth students introducing Ultimate Frisbee to Central America; a spring-fed stream that spills into two ponds; and, along a perimeter edge, a second-generation rainforest.

The main building, formerly a French restaurant frequented by Latin American heads of state and celebrities, includes space for two or three classrooms, food service, student lounge and study areas, and an attached apartment for Whitworth’s on-site director. The adjacent hotel building can accommodate up to 30 students when they’re not in home stays with Costa Rican families or traveling to cloud forests, service-learning engagements and other off-site activities.
Across one of the two large ponds on Whitworth’s Costa Rica property lie the student residence (left), a classroom building (middle) and an attached apartment (right) for the center’s on-site director.

Just to the north of the property is Costa Rica’s renowned Braulio Carrillo National Park, with dense virgin cloudforest that is home to more than 500 bird species and 150 different mammals. The 9,534-foot inactive Barva Volcano is also nearby.

A short bus ride to the southwest is the city of Heredia, with a population of about 110,000 and the main campus of Costa Rica’s largest university. The university hosts hundreds of international exchange students from around the world every year; arrangements can be made for Whitworth students to take credit or non-credit courses on site.

Building on Whitworth’s 30-plus years of experience leading study programs in Central America, the Costa Rica center initially will offer courses that meet general education requirements, including Spanish language at various levels; Latin American history, politics or theology; ecology or environmental science and Core 350 – the capstone course in Whitworth’s worldview studies program, in which students explore how biblical virtues such as justice, mercy and equity are reflected in the ethics and politics of contemporary Western culture.

The site also will be used for a special Jan Term program offered to freshman students admitted with honors, for intensive language training for participants in the Central America Study Program, and for other major-specific programs still in the planning stages. Le Roy says that Whitworth’s long-term plans call for possible international centers in Africa, East Asia and Europe, with continued development of faculty expertise, on-the-ground experience, and student demand in those regions.

Regardless of the location or course of study, the educational benefits of international study are clear and profound, according to Associate Professor of Modern Languages Bendi Benson Schrambach, who has participated in faculty efforts to expand Whitworth’s international study programs. She recently published an article in the *Journal of Christianity and Foreign Language* that documents the positive outcomes of study abroad for undergraduate students.

The article notes that the 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement – including responses from 313,000 students at 610 colleges and universities nationwide, including Whitworth – offered “compelling evidence” that study abroad boosts student performance across a variety of desired educational outcomes. Moreover, Schrambach notes, the benefits of study abroad are long-lasting, according to a study by the Institute for the International Education of Students.

“Living and studying away from all that is familiar, all that has defined them – such as language, family and community – forces students, in a sense, to define themselves,” says Schrambach. “Their convictions and ideologies are challenged and refined. They return strengthened and humbled through the experience, better knowing themselves and what is important to them. I am thrilled that Whitworth is opening a center in Costa Rica. The fact that it will offer general education courses will encourage many Whitworth students who might not otherwise consider spending a semester abroad to do so.”
Robinson Readies for Transition

Search is under way for new Whitworth president

In mid-September, Whitworth President Bill Robinson dropped a bit of a bombshell. In an e-mail to the Whitworth community, Robinson wrote that “I have informed the board of trustees that I would like 2009-10 to be my final year as Whitworth University’s president.”

“After many prayers and careful assessments,” Robinson continued, “I’m convinced that leaving the presidency is best for Whitworth and best for Bonnie and me.”

Robinson mentioned the launching of Whitworth’s new strategic plan in 2010, and said that he anticipated great success for the university, with a new president and “a great cabinet” helming Whitworth in the upcoming years.

Robinson will serve Whitworth part time through academic year 2010-11 as president emeritus and consultant to the new chief exec. This one-year appointment will allow him to help with matters like fund-raising that require additional time to ensure a smooth transition. Chairman of the Whitworth Board of Trustees Walt Oliver, ’67, informed the community about the search process for Robinson’s successor. “We plan to conduct the same vigorous search process that brought Bill to Whitworth,” Oliver wrote, “and that will identify an individual who can build on the excellent work that has been accomplished during Bill’s tenure.” Two members of the board have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the presidential search committee. The committee also includes members from Whitworth faculty, staff, student body and alumni, and from the Spokane community.

“As for me,” Robinson wrote, “I just think it’s time to step back. This is my 17th year at Whitworth and my 24th as a college president. Bonnie and I have lived here where I work for two-thirds of our married life. We love it. And I love going out and campaigning for Whitworth, but I think maybe my adrenaline addiction is masking some fatigue. I’m not ready to retire, but I am ready to quiet myself and listen. We love Spokane and we have no plans to leave. I feel God’s hand in our future, and it feels good.”

For the latest information on Whitworth’s presidential search, go to www.whitworth.edu/presidentialsearch.

Whitworth Heads Downtown

Business degree, general education courses offered in Spokane's U-District

This fall, Whitworth answered the call from its students to offer classes downtown by opening a new facility in the University District, just east of Spokane’s hub.

“Whitworth has a longstanding relationship with the downtown business community, and we are thrilled to expand our services to the Spokane region by offering evening classes for adults who live or work downtown,” says Cheryl Vawter, ’94, Whitworth’s director of administrative services for graduate and continuing studies.

Classes at the new site are structured in the university’s accelerated format, which is geared toward non-traditional students who want to attend classes at night. Whitworth is currently offering one general education course and one organizational management course per session, with tentative plans to begin offering a third course, depending on demand.

“Offering courses in the University District gives working adults access to our student-centered, high-quality academic programs closer to their homes or workplaces,” says Terry Ratcliff, Whitworth’s dean of continuing studies. “Students can expect the same high-quality instruction and student support whether they attend courses on campus or downtown.”
Blue Like Jazz Author Issues Challenge to Revise Life Stories

Donald Miller's 2003 book, Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality, took a long, meandering route to becoming a New York Times bestseller. Miller told a full Cowles Auditorium audience that the book's slow-growing success was due to readers' word of mouth and, he confessed, to him slyly moving the book from obscure shelves to prominent display tables in bookstores.

Miller's humor and candor on a host of topics are winning readers and audiences nationwide. In Blue Like Jazz, Miller wrestles with questions about faith and doubt, and explores his disillusionment with churches that offer conditional love and community. He also ruminates on sin, guilt, loneliness, romantic relationships, materialism and money.

After Blue Like Jazz took off, Miller fell into a months-long "what next?" funk, during which he camped on his recliner, ate ice cream, and watched Oprah. He snapped out of it when two movie producers called and persuaded him to join them in writing a screenplay based on his spiritual memoir. Miller's experience working with the producers to translate his life into a structured narrative led to his latest book, A Million Miles in a Thousand Years: What I Learned While Editing My Life (Thomas Nelson, 2009), which depicts his efforts to craft a better life for himself and challenges others to revise their own life stories.

Miller also is the author of four other nonfiction books and is founder of The Mentoring Project, a nonprofit organization that works to recruit 10,000 mentors through 1,000 churches as an answer to the crisis of fatherlessness in America.

For more on Donald Miller, visit www.donaldmillerwords.com.

Whitworth Prepares for, Responds to Flu Season

Whitworth anticipated and prepared for seasonal flu and potential H1N1 flu outbreak by engaging in summer meetings and coordinating response plans with the Spokane Regional Health District, the County Department of Emergency Management, and other educational institutions in the Spokane region. These groups have continued to meet, to jointly monitor and coordinate information and response to the flu season. Since the start of fall semester, the Whitworth Health Center has treated about 100 students with flu-like illness.

The health center is strongly encouraging students to be vaccinated for both seasonal influenza and H1N1 influenza. The health center has dispensed 300 seasonal influenza vaccinations and is authorized by the Washington State Department of Health to be an H1N1 vaccine provider. Whitworth received the H1N1 vaccine in early November and is administering it to those who wish to receive it and who meet the CDC guidelines for vaccination.

For more information on CDC guidelines and Whitworth’s flu preparation, www.whitworth.edu/health&counselingcenter/flupreparation.htm.
Burns Ends Successful Tenure
McQuilkin takes over as V.P. for advancement

In August, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Kristi Burns announced her resignation from Whitworth. Burns, who is making a move to more hands-on work in helping people grow in their faith, came to Whitworth in 1997 after serving for a number of years at Washington State University. “This is a big loss for Whitworth,” said President Bill Robinson of Burns’ departure. “More than anyone, Kristi has built the advancement program we have today.” In order to keep the fund-raising arm of the university stable and healthy, Robinson appointed Athletics Director and Professor of Kinesiology Scott McQuilkin, ’84, to serve as acting vice president for institutional advancement. “It is imperative that this academic year be one in which we attract significant support for capital projects, particularly the new biology/chemistry building,” Robinson says. “Scott’s institutional knowledge, intelligence, drive and communication gifts are ideal for leading this effort. He has inspired confidence from our trustees and major donors. He loves and knows Whitworth, its mission and its people. He’s the best person to move into this position.”

Though McQuilkin’s new position includes the word “acting” in the title, Robinson believes that the new V.P. will forge ahead full steam to address Whitworth’s bold fund-raising agenda. Robinson says McQuilkin “will function as if the position is permanent; there will be nothing tentative in the way he goes about his work.” McQuilkin will have the option to return to his athletics role at the end of the two-year term and will make that decision in consultation with Whitworth’s new president.

Facebook + Frogurt = Freshman Friends

First, a few definitions of terms:
Facebook: A global social networking website
Viral: Information that rapidly propagates from person to person
Frogurt: Frozen yogurt

So there’s this new student, Lillie Berry, who met some awesome Whitworth freshmen on Facebook during the summer and just couldn’t wait until Orientation Weekend to meet them in person, so she sent them a Facebook invite to get together at Didier’s on Friday night, before move-in day, for conversation and frogurt, and the invitation went viral and Berry’s new friends invited their new Whitworth friends, and 40 eager, smiling frosh (plus a handful of parents) showed up.

“I got to meet a lot of great freshmen from other dorms and even my own dormmates and hallmates,” Berry says. “Spending some time together before all the craziness started was really beneficial and made us all a lot more excited – if that was even possible.”

After polishing off their frogurt, the gang took a self-led campus tour and made stops at each other’s dorms. “The RAs setting up for the next day were surprised to see so many freshmen walking around and checking everything out,” Berry says.

Berry may well have established a new Whitworth student-bonding tradition akin to Mock Rock and Birdie on a Perch. The wired freshmen, however, weren’t the only networking Whitworth contingent. As they established a new community, their tech-savvy parents posted cathartic status updates via Twitter. “We’re packing up our son to take him to Whitworth this weekend. He’ll be a freshman. Fun, but stressful....”

Whitworth delved into social media in spring 2008, when the communications office launched a fan page on Facebook where followers can learn about notable campus happenings, view videos, and take quizzes that are tied to upcoming events. The university’s dearly departed founder, George F. Whitworth, even has a profile page (www.facebook.com/george.f.whitworth). Other Whitworth-related Facebook pages have sprung up in recent months, including athletics, the MIT program, alumni, theatre, volleyball, and The Ten.

Want to get connected? Visit www.whitworth.edu/socialnetworks to become a Whitworth fan on Facebook; view our photos on Flickr; engage professionally on LinkedIn; follow us on Twitter; and watch our videos on YouTube.
In her second volume of poems, *Without Wings*, Laurie Lamon, ’78 (English), continues her exploration of the observable mysteries that surround us, but often go unnoticed. Lamon’s poems distill the essence of experience into polished gems that refract a kind of necessary light and venture to a world of things as they are, without preconceptions, rationalizations or verbal clutter. (CavanKerry Press, 2009)

Gordon Jackson (Communication Studies) has published his fifth book of quotations, *The Weather Is Here, Wish You Were Beautiful: Quotations for the Thoughtful Traveler*. The compilation, which includes more than 500 quotes by well-known and unknown authors and travelers, captures the lure of the open road, the mystery of the road not taken, the magic of far-off places, and the joy of returning home. (The Intrepid Traveler, 2009)

Jackson targets a herd of sacred cows in his forthcoming book, ‘Jesus Does Stand-Up’ and Other Satires, a collection of 50 short, original parables and parodies that highlight the weaknesses of the contemporary Western church and the increasingly secular culture in which its members live out their faith. The humorous pieces gently admonish the church and Christians to be the distinctive countercultural presence and witness that God calls them to be. (Wipf and Stock, due in early 2010)

In *Participation in Christ: An Entry into Karl Barth’s ‘Church Dogmatics,*’ Adam Neder (Theology) offers a fresh perspective on a central theme in the theology of Barth, a towering figure in 20th-century theology who was a pastor, university professor, and the primary author of the Barmen Declaration, which resisted Nazism in the German Church. (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)

Jim McPherson (Communication Studies) was selected in summer 2009 as one of six finalists for the esteemed 2008 Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award for his book, *The Conservative Resurgence and the Press: The Media’s Role in the Rise of the Right* (Northwestern University Press, 2008). Named in honor of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Mott, the annual award is given for the best book on journalism and mass communication based on original research published that year.

Professor of Theology Jim Edwards, ’67, has just published *The Hebrew Gospel and the Development of the Synoptic Tradition* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.). Edwards’ colleague, Associate Professor of Theology Keith Beebe, calls the book “a significant advance in New Testament studies, because it challenges the Q-source theory, a long-held theory about the origins of the Gospel accounts.” Beebe expects that the book “will provoke a lot of debate in the scholarly community and raise the scholarly profile of Whitworth.”

Residential Patterns of Arab Americans: Race, Ethnicity, and Spatial Assimilation, by Jennifer Holsinger (Sociology), analyzes the segregation and neighborhood characteristics of Arab Americans to examine the ways that race and ethnicity are manifested in urban landscapes. (The book is a monograph in The New Americans: Recent Immigration and American Society series from LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2009.)

Lyle Cochran (Mathematics) is co-author of *Calculus: Early Transcendentals*, which takes a geometrically intuitive approach to teaching students calculus. The hardback version of the book will be supplemented with the first-ever fully electronic, interactive calculus textbook. (Pearson Higher Education, January 2010)

Whitworth faculty books may be purchased at the Whitworth Bookstore, www.whitworth.edu/bookstore, and at www.amazon.com.
Paying It Forward
Generations of Zeiger family build Whitworth legacy

Earlier this year, Karl Zeiger, ’75, beamed as he watched his daughter, Molly Zeiger, ’09, don a Whitworth cap and gown and receive her degree in peace studies through the Whitworth Political Science Department. Karl’s connection with Whitworth goes way back: He is the son of Whitworth alumni and is an alum himself. He also served Whitworth at one time as cross-country coach. But watching his daughter graduate added an extra dimension to Karl’s Whitworth experience.

The Zeiger-Whitworth connection began more than 60 years ago. Karl’s late mother, Wilma (Greene) Zeiger, ’47, attended Whitworth first, followed a few years later by his father, Ed Zeiger, ’49. Karl’s aunt, JoAnne (Greene) French, ’60, and his sister-in-law, Kim (Nisker) Zeiger, ’79, are also Whitworth alumni.

After Karl’s dad, Ed, completed his education, he began a long career in the Puyallup School District. He served as a principal and a mentor to thousands over his 42 years of service to the school district.

The value of a university education is very important to Ed, who says that “Not including grandchildren, my family has 55 years of college combined.” Ed and his late wife, Wilma, recognized the important role that Whitworth has played in their family’s life, and they have donated to The Whitworth Fund each year for nearly 50 years.

Karl Zeiger followed in his parents’ footsteps, completing his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Whitworth. He recalls many professors whose impact continues in his life even 34 years after his graduation: Bill Johnson, professor emeritus of psychology; Leonard Oakland, current professor of English; and Howard Stien, professor emeritus of biology, are among his favorites.

“So many professors had an impact on me; it’s not fair to single some out,” Karl says. He particularly values how he was taught to think deeply about the people and the world around him. “When I was attending Whitworth,” he says, “some students viewed it as a utopia, as if that were a bad thing. I viewed it as a good thing. Where else on Earth is there a place like that where you can live for a part of your life?”

Karl’s time at Whitworth helped prepare him for a successful career as an attorney. “Law is a peacemaking enterprise,” he says. “I don’t look like the missionary in Africa, but I’m still in the peacemaking business, if I’m doing it correctly.”

Reflecting on his time at Whitworth, Karl says, “I’ve come to realize that, for me, Whitworth is hallowed ground.” Because of the lasting impression Whitworth has had on his family, Karl and his wife, Suzan, decided to include the university in their will as a way to leave a lasting legacy and to inspire others to support Whitworth’s mission to provide an “education of mind and heart.”

Now, the Zeigers’ daughter, Molly, is carrying on the family’s legacy of giving back to the community. Her choice to attend Whitworth was made during a tour of colleges with her family. “Whitworth was the college I went to where the students seemed happy,” she says.

Molly is now putting her Whitworth degree to work: She serves with AmeriCorps in South Whidbey, at the Good Cheer Food Bank and Island Coffee House. Molly hopes eventually to work in a high school or university in a service-learning program.

These three generations of Whitworth alumni are making a difference in the world, built upon a foundation laid during each family member’s time on campus. Their continued support of the Whitworth mission ensures that many more students will have the same opportunity.

Have you completed your will?
Recommendations from The Whitworth Foundation:
• Make a plan today to create your will. Pencil in a date on your calendar.
• Find an attorney with estate-planning experience. See if s/he will charge a flat fee for legal services.
• Determine the best distribution of your assets, whether specific amounts, percentages, or the residual of your estate.
• Consider the legacy that you want to leave for your family, for Whitworth, and for the world.

For more information or for a free personal estate-planning course, please contact The Whitworth Foundation at foundation@whitworth.edu or at 800.532.4668.
Ten Years at the Top

U.S. News ranks Whitworth a top 10 university, value in West for 10th straight year

Whitworth is again ranked among the 10 best regional universities and best values in the West in U.S. News & World Report's annual America's Best Colleges guide, which this year also recognized the university for extraordinary undergraduate teaching.

Whitworth tied for No. 10 in U.S. News' 2010 rankings of 116 master's-level universities in the 17-state region of the West, and is No. 6 in the ranking of best values for the same category. In the magazine's new ranking of schools where professors are known for having an unusually strong commitment to undergraduate teaching, Whitworth was ranked No. 5 in its category.

"The growth of Whitworth's applicant pool – both in overall numbers and in academic qualifications – reflects a commitment to excellence that is also seen in the rankings," says Whitworth Vice President for Admissions and Financial Aid Fred Pfursich. "The fact that our graduation rate and retention rate are among the best in our peer group is a clear indicator that we are attracting excellent students and are helping them to complete their degrees in a timely manner. Those outcomes are even more important to us than high rankings."

Senior Wins Prestigious Award for Scientific Research

Senior Danjuma Quarless received first place in the 2009 Scientific Poster Presentation last summer while participating in the University of Massachusetts Medical School Summer Research Fellowship Program. He earned perfect scores for presenting his research in deflagellation-induced gene expression in Chlamydomonas.

“My experience presenting in Boston paled in comparison to the experience of performing the research at UMass Med,” Quarless says. “I was treated as a true grad school student and I carried a major portion of responsibility for the project, which forced me to step up to the plate and provided an opportunity for personal and professional growth.”

Quarless's study examined the genetic regulation of flagella growth in the microbe Chlamydomonas. These are similar in structure and function to human cilia, which are cells that create a lashing movement, especially found in free unicellular organisms. Defects in human cilia are linked to kidney disease, male sterility, retinal degeneration and obesity. Quarless developed an analysis that can be used to measure the extent of flagella gene expression in Chlamydomonas.

Quarless was also recently selected to present his research at the American Society of Cell Biology's annual conference, which will be held in San Diego in December. After graduating from Whitworth in May 2010, Quarless plans to attend graduate school in the field of bioinformatics, mathematical biology or biomedical sciences.

Groundbreaking

Community celebrates start of science project

A few small shovels of dirt at an early November campus ceremony marked a huge step in ensuring the continued success of Whitworth’s thriving science program. The ceremony signified the start of construction on a new $32 million biology/chemistry facility on the site of the former fine arts building. The three-story, 63,000-square-foot structure will feature state-of-the-art laboratories and instrumentation, and classrooms that can be converted to labs to meet the university's science and classroom needs for the next 20 years. The building is slated to open in fall 2011.

This is the first phase of a planned $53 million project to serve Whitworth's science students, whose numbers have swelled by 50 percent over the past decade, and to meet the urgent state and national need for well-educated scientists, engineers and science educators. Whitworth has designed the facility to meet the Green Building Council's LEED Silver Certification by implementing a number of sustainable practices in the construction and operation of the building. Phase II of the project includes a 16,000-square-foot addition to the north end of the Eric Johnston Science Center and renovation of the rest of the building.

Whitworth's biology, chemistry and physics departments currently are housed in the Johnston Center, which opened in 1966. The physics department will remain in the Johnston Center after the new building is completed, and the math and computer science department, which is currently in the Lindaman Center, will move to the vacated space in Johnston, along with the health science department.

For more information about the biology/chemistry building and the story of the sciences at Whitworth, or to make a gift to the project, visit a new interactive website at www.whitworth.edu/supportingthesciences.
Teaching to Fish and Building Cathedrals: Whitworth Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement marks 10-year anniversary

Rhosetta Rhodes, the energetic director of Whitworth’s Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement, can’t keep herself from using metaphors to describe the ways students and faculty serve people in need in the Spokane community.

“We’re giving them fish to eat for a day, and we’re teaching them to fish for a lifetime,” Rhodes says. “But we’re also helping to provide access to the pond for generations to come.”

The center has been involved in a lot of fishing in the 10 years since it was established. The number of service-learning courses at Whitworth has grown from five in fall 1999 to 91 last year, and the number of students involved in service has burgeoned from about 100 to more than 2,200. Students served a total of 63,538 hours in the community last year, providing an estimated benefit of $1.3 million to the Spokane area.

Much of the university’s service and community engagement is focused on Spokane’s West Central neighborhood, which is among the poorest in the state. Whitworth students and faculty are collaborating with West Central residents and organizations on workforce development, business development, neighborhood revitalization, and a neighborhood plan to address poverty, housing and community services.

Whitworth was one of just five institutions nationwide selected by the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund in 2007 to develop a student-run philanthropy project aimed at recommending grants to nonprofit organizations serving West Central. Most recently, the center has added mediation and dispute resolution to its repertoire of community resources.

While service-learning remains the center’s pedagogical core, Rhodes says she is excited about the ways in which students and faculty are taking initiative to strengthen and expand the university’s engagement with the community. She has organized a series of events throughout the year to mark the center’s 10-year anniversary.

“We’re not just engaging in short-term, ‘drive-by’ service; we’re involved in sustainable engagement,” Rhodes says, before launching into another metaphor. “When you ask someone who is moving bricks what he’s doing, one person may say, ‘I’m moving bricks.’ You ask another person doing the same work what she’s doing, and she’ll say, ‘I’m building a cathedral.’ We’re building cathedrals.”

The Whitworthian Online Is Notably Fine

Student newspaper wins top national award

The online edition of Whitworth’s student newspaper, The Whitworthian, won a 2009 Associate Collegiate Press Pacemaker Award, considered the most esteemed honor in student journalism.

The Whitworthian online, found at www.whitworthian.com, combines text and photos and incorporates a variety of multimedia tools such as video, slideshows and interactive timelines. The online entries were judged by Ellyn Angelotti, interactivity editor for the Poynter Institute, who noted that the winning sites displayed excellence in areas including the integration of multimedia and user-generated content, breadth of coverage and sound news judgment.

Roughly 220 schools nationwide participated in the online contest, which was divided into four categories. Whitworth was one of 20 schools selected as finalists in the four-year non-daily online newspaper category and was the only school from the Pacific Northwest represented in that category. The Whitworthian competed against universities as much as four times Whitworth’s size, including the University of Miami and the University of Missouri.

In addition to winning an online Pacemaker award, The Whitworthian was selected as a finalist in the print edition awards category, making it one of only four non-daily newspapers in the country that were finalists in both the print and online categories. Whitworth’s print edition was judged alongside schools including the University of Chicago, MIT, Vanderbilt University, and Ithaca College.

“The Whitworthian has a record of doing excellent work,” says Jim McPherson, associate professor of communication studies and the newspaper’s advisor. “Last year, under the leadership of editor-in-chief Joy Bacon and web editor Jasmine Linabary (Class of ’09), it reached new levels, and this year’s staff picked up right where last year’s left off.”

The current newspaper staff includes editor-in-chief Morgan Feddes, ’11, and online editor Yong Kim, ’11, as well as 16 editors and roughly 40 reporters, columnists, photographers and graphic designers.

To read about other top awards The Whitworthian has garnered in recent years, visit www.whitworth.edu/communicationstudies.
In Memoriam

Alan W. Peterson, Ph.D.

Alan Peterson, who taught physics at Whitworth for a number of years, died June 6. A first-generation American, Peterson was born in Georgia after his parents came to the U.S. from Latvia. He earned his B.A. in astronomy from U.C. Berkeley and his Ph.D. in physics from the University of New Mexico. After completing his education, he was awarded numerous research grants from NASA and the National Science Foundation, was the author of 39 publications, and was involved in airglow experiments and other research at Whitworth, where he sometimes worked alongside his wife, Physics Professor Emeritus Lois Kieffaber. Peterson is survived by his wife and their two children, Sarah May Peterson and Robert August Peterson.

Milton Johnson

Milton Johnson, professor of music from 1957-1984, died June 29. His impact on the Whitworth Music Department was profound, and many of his students gathered at a memorial service for Johnson, held in August, to pay tribute to their former teacher and friend.

Oj Cotes, of the Whitworth School of Education, also attended the service. “His contributions to both the students at Whitworth and our community were outstanding,” Cotes says. “He was also the minister of music at First Presbyterian Church from 1959-87. The lives he touched both through his music and love of God were inspiring.”

“Over the years,” says Whitworth President Bill Robinson, “I have encountered countless alumni who referenced the legacy of Dr. Johnson’s influence. In every sense, his music has lived on in their lives. He continues to bless us all.”

“The Whitworth Choir’s long-standing reputation for excellence continued . . . under the direction of Milton Johnson,” writes Dale Soden, campus historian, in his book A Venture of Mind and Spirit: An Illustrated History of Whitworth College (1990). “Professor Johnson spearheaded the annual Messiah performances, which grew into an all-city affair involving 200 Whitworth singers and as many as 80 local church and school choirs. The event became a Spokane Christmas tradition, playing to full houses first in the Coliseum and later in the Opera House.”

Soden also wrote of the yearly tours that the choir pursued under Johnson’s direction. “One year,” Soden writes, “the choir toured Europe, performing in Edinburgh, Coventry Cathedral, and Amsterdam.” The choir then, as now, welcomed non-music majors and, writes Soden “truly reflected a cross-section of the student body; the campus community as a whole took pride in it.”

Messages of love and appreciation for Johnson continue to arrive at Whitworth. “What a wonderful honor it was to be a student of Dr. Johnson,” writes Jim Bailey, M.Ed. ’72. “He brought to the rehearsal hall a flair and enthusiasm that we young musicians soaked up like sponges.”

Bailey traveled to Europe with the Whitworth Choir in 1965, where, he writes, “I played trumpet along with my roommate, Walt Oliver [Class of ’67, currently the chairman of Whitworth’s board of trustees], on percussion. In the next few years, as Milton introduced more contemporary music (including Jesus Christ, Superstar) to Whitworth audiences, Walt and I provided bass guitar and drums accompaniment.”

Reminiscing about the 2004 alumni choir reunion, Bailey writes, “What a thrill it was to sing under Dr. Johnson’s musical direction one more time. His musical legacies will live on in each of us forever.”

Johnson and his wife, Joyce, were married for 62 years. Cards and letters may be sent to her and to the family at 20219 N. Clear Canyon Drive, Surprise, AZ 85374.

John Pouk

Former trustee John Pouk died in August. Pouk was president and C.E.O. of Pouk and Steinle, Inc., electrical contractors, and was a prominent lay leader at Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church. Prior to entering private business, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps, in the South Pacific, China and Korea. He met his wife, Selma, who also served in the Marine Corps, while both were on active duty, and they married in 1945. She preceded him in death, in 2008.

A faithful supporter of Whitworth, Pouk donated to The Whitworth Fund as well as to many other causes. During his time as a trustee, he was a valued member of the Finance Committee.

He is survived by his son, two granddaughters, and other family.
Crossing the Line
What community-based theatre can accomplish

by Brooke Kiener, ’99
Assistant Professor of Theatre

As a theatre instructor at Whitworth University, I’ve had the opportunity to witness incredible acts of transformation, both for students and audiences. Theatre, as a live and human art, brings people together into one space to experience stories that illuminate and redefine human experience. And as such it can be an incredibly powerful tool.

However, the most transformative theatrical experiences I’ve had have been in a community arts context, or more specifically, while working on community-based theatre projects. As a growing field, community-based theatre includes theatre organizations and artists who center their artistic life in specific communities for the purpose of using theatre to express the values, interests and concerns of those communities. In other words, it is theatre that is of the people, by the people, and for the people. And it is in this kind of working context that I have also experienced and found need for the Christian practices of hospitality and testimony.

For instance, in 2004 my department hosted the Theatre for Social Justice Institute at Whitworth, inviting community members to participate in a week of workshops that focused on the issue of socio-economic discrimination and culminated in the creation of an original script. One community group in particular was central to the formation of the work – a group of individuals from poor neighborhoods who met regularly to provide support for each other. When they came to Whitworth and worked among our students, many in the room experienced “fear of the stranger.” People were hesitant to mingle or to interact, afraid of saying the wrong thing, of being criticized or misunderstood. But as the work began, interaction was necessary. And as participants shared their stories, fear gave way to awe and respect. The strangers in our midst, whom we had expected to need us, soon began to change us.

Further, we discovered through the workshop that accurate testimony meant we could not censor the parts of the story that were hard to tell. In one particular instance, a community member had witnessed a homeless friend of his being kicked out of a shelter because he was Muslim and refused to participate in the Christian prayer at meal time. My students were shocked by this story and found it difficult to believe. And as the group was writing the script, this particular story became a topic for heated discussion. Some insisted that including the story villainized Christian charities, which generally do a lot of good in the community. Others fought tooth and nail for its inclusion, believing that to exclude it was to be dishonest and to insult the participants who shared it. In the end, the story was included because most agreed that it was important to give accurate testimony.

In 2008 I taught a practicum course in community-based theatre, and students and I worked with a local nonprofit law firm to investigate issues of police power in Spokane through the following questions: “What should the relationship be between a police force and its citizenry?” and “What do we do when that relationship is somehow threatened or harmed?”

While we stretched ourselves beyond our disciplinary limits, researching everything from restraint devices to excited delirium, we again ventured into the community, to collect not just “expert” information but public opinion and diverse perspectives about law enforcement issues. You might expect that the most significant challenge we faced was familiarizing ourselves with foreign terminology, data and concepts. But once again I found that it wasn’t the subject matter that was disconcerting; it was the subject “bearer.” Students readily admitted their pre-existing biases about the police, stating, “I want to believe that the police are good, and that as long as I follow the rules I won’t ever get hurt.” But when confronted with evidence that showed otherwise, their inclination was to question the validity of the source bearing the information. Can we trust a lawyer who articulates her faith differently than we do? Can we trust someone who has been convicted of a crime? If the “expert” doesn’t share my worldview, can I still trust his or her testimony?

As we worked on creating our show, Crossing the Line: an investigation of the police, power, and people, our challenge was to find one narrative that would equitably present the multitude of perspectives we had uncovered. In the end, we realized the story we could most accurately tell was our own – the story of a group of learners, who started with two questions, engaged in an extensive civic dialogue about those questions, and still had a hard time deciding what to believe in the end.

Thus, as an artist and a teacher, I continue to look for ways in which I can use theatre to bring strangers together to share stories and to create new work that expands our understanding of citizenship, justice and democracy.
2009 Whitworth University Alumni Award Winners

This fall, Whitworth feted its 2009 Alumni Award winners at the university’s annual George F. Whitworth banquet. Morgan Feddes, ’11, compiled these bios of each of this year’s winners.

Ben Frank Moss III, ’59: Distinguished Alumni Award

While a student at Whitworth, Ben Frank Moss studied painting with Herman Keys, an adjunct professor who taught Moss what it meant to be a committed artist. Since his graduation, Moss has proved his commitment and his talent through both his art and his work as a professor. After spending a short time as a graduate student at Princeton Theological Seminary, Moss received his master’s degree in fine arts from Boston University. During his tenure as director of the MFA and the Visiting Critics Program at Fort Wright College, in Spokane, Moss founded and served as acting dean of the Spokane Studio School. He then taught for 13 years at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City. Today, Moss is on the faculty of Dartmouth College, where he serves as the George Frederick Jewett Professor of Studio Art and, for the past 21 years, as chair of his department. Moss’ work has been included in 359 group shows throughout the United States and around the world. He has had more 57 solo exhibitions, including shows at Philips Exeter Academy, Kansas State University, Colorado State University and Swarthmore College. In addition, his work is featured in more than 43 public exhibitions, as well as in more than 385 corporate and private collections. Moss has been a visiting artist or lecturer at nearly 100 institutions and has been honored with numerous awards for both his art and his teaching.

Heather Steckler Parker, ’96, Recent Alumni Award

As a student, Heather Steckler Parker had many opportunities to get involved in the music world. A Spokane native, Parker studied with Whitworth voice instructor Marjory Halvorson in high school and throughout her time at Whitworth. “It was her mission to support and encourage young talent,” Parker says. “She always believed in my talent and encouraged me to keep singing, no matter what.” With guidance and encouragement from Halvorson and other professors within the music department, Parker pursued a career in music after graduating from Whitworth. She completed her master of music degree at Eastman School of Music, in Rochester, New York, then moved around a bit before settling in New York City, where she auditioned for roles and continued to study voice. In 2005, Parker took second place at the Licia Albanese Puccini International Vocal Competition. As part of her prize, she performed at Alice Tully Hall, in New York City. Since then she has sung with opera companies all over the United States. She and her husband, Derrick Parker, a baritone, have a 1-year-old daughter, Grace Elizabeth.

Ben Lindstrom, ’63, Alumni Mind & Heart Award

Since graduating from Whitworth, Ben Lindstrom has been a pastor in several churches throughout California, Oregon and Washington. Over the years, he found his calling serving smaller congregations. He has served as pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church, in Des Moines, Wash., for 31 years. By serving a smaller congregation, Lindstrom says he has been able to focus on his relationships with those in his church. “I’m a simple servant doing a simple task,” he says. “I’m doing Jesus’ work in Jesus’ way.” As a pastor, Lindstrom focuses on relationships with those already in his church rather than on growing a larger congregation. His closeness with his congregation has allowed him to focus on cultivating strong Christian leaders—something he says he learned at Whitworth. Lindstrom has maintained a strong connection with the university over the years. He has been to several reunions and has missed just a few meetings of the Whitworth Institute for Ministry since its founding nearly 34 years ago. Lindstrom and his wife, Mary Jo, have also supported numerous Whitworth students by providing excellent leadership in the funding of scholarships for incoming students.

Kathie Koopmans Neir, ’64, Alumni Service to Whitworth Award

Kathie Koopmans Neir began her career in coaching and teaching right out of Whitworth. She earned her master’s degree in physical education and taught at schools in California and Washington. She also coached swim, track, cross-country and basketball teams. Neir served as the youth coordinator for the Oregon’s Governor’s Commission on Youth, and she was head coach of the women’s basketball team at the University of Washington from 1975-79. Today, Neir, in partnership with her son, runs a swim school she started in Sammamish, Wash. They teach both children and adults, giving approximately 500 lessons a week during their busy season. Neir has also devoted much of her time to organizing Whitworth class reunions. In 2005 she organized the joint reunion of the classes of 1963-65, one of Whitworth’s largest reunions ever. She is currently organizing another reunion, for the classes of 1963-67, which will take place next June. The Kathie Koopmans Neir 1963-65 Endowed Scholarship was established in Neir’s honor by graduates of the classes of 1963, ’64 and ’65, who wanted to show their appreciation for her leadership and her organization of the 2005 reunion.
An “x” before a class year indicates that the person attended, but did not graduate from, Whitworth.

00s

2000 Christina Anderberg recently received her master’s degree in counseling psychology from Northwest University. In July, Gretchen Anderson married Josh Cleveland, ’01, in Seattle. Many Whitworth alumni, staff and current students were in attendance. Gretchen and Josh live in the new East Residence Hall at Whitworth, where Josh is the resident director. Gretchen is now Whitworth’s executive assistant to the vice president for academic affairs. Andrea (Palpant) Dilley secured a book deal with Zondervan for a spiritual memoir that will track her years growing up in the evangelical church in Kenya and will cover the faith struggles she encountered in her 20s. The book is due out in spring 2011. Mina (Gormanos) Gokee is a board member for The Whitworth Foundation.

William and Rachal (Shim) Mather are currently developing an outreach to new friends and neighbors through sports. Lydia (Jones) Reid completed her nursing degree in June and works as an R.N. in Neuro Trauma at Salem Hospital in Salem, Ore. 2001 Peter Olsen is the vice president of sports and competition for Special Olympics Montana.

Danielle Pulham recently earned her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Denver. Erin (Benson) Raska graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with her master of divinity degree. Jeremiah Webster’s poetry appeared in The North American Review and The Midwest Quarterly this fall.

2002 Katie Harris lives in Colorado Springs, where she serves as the student ministries associate for the middle school group at First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs under the leadership of senior pastor and Whitworth trustee Jim Singleton. Roger Sandberg formed a law partnership, Esser & Sandberg PLLC, located in Pullman, Wash., in June. Majid Tanas completed his master’s degree in health administration and finished his health-system pharmacy administration residency at the University of Washington. He is now the ambulatory pharmacy operations manager at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland. Liz Rich married Ben Schriber Sept. 5.

2003 Elizabeth Abbey received a Ph.D. in nutrition in sport and chronic disease. She’s in the midst of a one-year internship at the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences in Rochester, Minn. Kelsey Rice Bogdan graduated in June.

Chelsea Globe-Kallio was accepted into Seattle University’s School of Theology and Ministry, where she is pursuing a master of divinity degree. She plans to pursue ordination as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Alyssa Hansen married Matthew Bell on July 24. Meghan McGarry earned a medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine. She was accepted into a pediatric residency at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital at Case Western University, in Cleveland. Heather Stout married Greg Svandize, ’06, in July 2007. Heather also received a master’s degree in international affairs from George Washington University in May.

2006 After two years in Guatemala, Lora Burge is beginning work on a double master’s degree program in theology and social work at McCormick Seminary and the University of Chicago. Neal Dixon is teaching English as a second language at a school in Changsha, Hunan, China. Brad Hixson and Andrea Lewis, ’07, were married on May 9. Greg Svandize received his master’s degree in international affairs from George Washington University in May.

2007 Sarah Rim married Bernie Mabinion March 8 in University Place, Wash. They had a traditional Cambodian wedding, at which Tara Yi, Crystal Viken, and Nissana Nov, ’08, were in attendance.

2008 Alisha Anderson and Clayton Townley were married July 11 in Arlington, Wash. Guests included Amanda Albright, Megan (Carper) Peterson, Zak Cannard, Dustin Smith, Daniel Moore, Andrew Peterson, Janae Brewster, Elizabeth Sutherland, ’07, Brian Baumann, ’07, Genesis (Kuhlman) Avalos, ’05, and Whitworth faculty and staff members Kari Dykhouse, ’08 M.Ed., Cheryl Carney, Kamesh Sankaran, and John Larkin. Alisha and Clayton live in Mukiiteo, Wash., where Alisha works as an engineer at Boeing and Clayton just earned his master’s degree in teaching at Seattle Pacific University. Alexandra Blore and Andrew Seccomb were married Aug. 1. Ashley Metcalf
founded and chairs the Hawaii League of Young Real Estate Professionals as a chapter of the National Association of Realtors. Ashley was also chosen to attend the 2009 Hawaii Association of Realtors Leadership Academy. **Jeffrey Rodland** married **Lindsay Reitsema**, '09, on June 27. **Elise (Hinrichs)** and **Brian Stenberg**, '09, were married Aug. 1 at Linfield College. Guests in attendance included **Mitch Carver**, **Kyle Ritter**, **Anne Dugas**, **Anna Monroe**, **Jesse Hinrichs**, '03, **Cara Bellwood**, '08, **Jodi Tangen**, '08, **Elesha Johnston**, '08, **Kelly Fink**, '10, **Erin Pugh**, '06, **Joe Gaines**, '04, and **Joel Stenberg**, '06.

**2009 Erin Cooley** is part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, and is a clinic coordinator at Wallace Medical Concern, in Gresham, Ore. **Hailey Johnson** married Michael Burgess on Camano Island, Wash., on May 23. **Kendra Hamilton** and Derek Weyhrauch were married on May 25.

**DEATHS**

**Colleen (Hanley) McComb**, '02, died Nov. 28, 2008. She was a chemical dependency professional, an alcohol/drug information school instructor, a registered therapist, and a certified relapse counselor. Her gift was working with youth, and she was employed as a juvenile probation officer. Colleen is survived by her two sons and other family. **Robert Marsalis**, x'05, died Aug. 14. He served in the U.S. Air Force after graduating from high school. He was retired from the U.S. Post Office, and he is survived by his four daughters, his mother, and other family.

**90s**

**1990 Katherine (Kopp) Jones** recently returned from a mission trip to Taut, Romania. **Charles McCrone** owns the Kaleidoscope School of Music, in Issaquah, Wash.

**1991 Chrystal (Cook) Helmcke** received a master's in theatre arts from Western Washington University in June 2007. She is now an adjunct faculty member at Northwest University, in Kirkland, Wash. She recently directed the school's fall play, *All My Sons*.

**1992 Matt Freeman** accepted an appointment as the chief fiscal officer for the Idaho State Board of Education, which has general supervision, governance and control of all state educational institutions.

**1995 Heidi (Warner) Bagnall** and her husband, Rick, live in Indiana, where Heidi works as a chemist at Purdue University and Rick is pursuing a doctorate in chemical education. **Scott Chadderdon** finished his cardiology fellowship at Oregon Health & Science University in June. He has joined the faculty at OHSU as an assistant professor. **1997 Wade Baker** is an adjunct voice faculty member at University of Portland and a private voice instructor. He was recently elected to the board of governors of the American Guild of Musical Arts. **Jamie (Pace)** and **Sidney Friedman**, '05, and their daughter, Isabella, 5, moved to Portland, Ore., where Jamie is finishing her dissertation in medieval English literature and Sidney works for Liberty Northwest Insurance. **Dave Luttinen** is the owner of Wheaton Way Veterinary Clinic, in Bremerton, Wash., and University Place Veterinary Hospital, in Tacoma, Wash. He completed an examination this fall to become a board-certified specialist in dogs and cats. His daughter is enrolled at Whitworth as a freshman. **Bill Kaufold** finished his ophthalmology residency at the University of Missouri in June and moved to eastern Connecticut to join a comprehensive ophthalmology practice.

**1998 Jeremy Watson** married Julie Olsen in Lake Oswego, Ore., on April 24. He now has a four-year-old stepson, Colby, and is the pastor of life development at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, in Portland, Ore.
1999 Jodi Carlson, in addition to writing and editing for world evangelist Luis Palau, recently co-authored her first book. Selby and Rachael (Gazdik) Hansen have an indoor soccer team for Whitworth alumni in Denver. In addition to Selby and Rachael, Nate Gazdik, ‘02, Lydia (Wingrove) Gazdik, ‘02, and Dalyce Young, ‘03, are also on the team. Phillip Harrington works as an assistant professor in the department of mathematical sciences at the University of Arkansas. Mary (Hubele) Hodge moved from Philadelphia, to Portland, Ore. Tamara Kennedy-Gibbens taught a course, Teaching Writing and Adolescent Literature, at Whitworth last spring. Andrew Lane was appointed interim executive director of the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency shelter to homeless families through local churches in Salem, Ore. Jay Niehaus completed his first Ironman competition in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Anne Osterlund had her second book, Academy 7, published in the spring. Josh and Karla (Folkins, ’00) Parbon have two sons and live in Spokane. Josh is a claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance, and Karla is an instructor for Whitworth and Gonzaga University in the theatre arts dance minor. They are looking forward to celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in December. Tyler Reid is working toward his law degree with the Class of ’12 at Willamette University. Allison (Foster) Stephens started a children’s and maternity consignment business called Just Between Friends, to help South Sound (Seattle) people care for their families and be good stewards of what they have been given.

DEATHS
Karen Skogman, ’91, died recently. She received her master’s degree in special education from Whitworth and taught in Spokane-area schools for 20 years. She is survived by her daughter, her mother, and other family. Jason Watts, ’96, died May 24 in Ephrata, Wash. After graduating from Whitworth, Jason worked on his family farm with his father, mother and grandfather. He is survived by his parents and other family. Linda Anastasio, ’97, died July 7. Her love was teaching, and she had spent the past eight years working with special needs preschoolers. She is survived by her husband, daughter, parents, and other family.

BIRTHS
1990 a boy, Braden Nathaniel, to Adam and Brittna (Blom, ’94) Green, June 19
1990, a girl, Grace Christina, to Jennifer (Crowe) and Paul Tolo, Oct. 21, 2008
1992 a boy, Samuel Kelin, to Susie Chang and Brad Eldridge, Sept. 15
1995 a boy, Richard James, to Heidi (Warner) and Rick Bagnall, May 22
1995 a boy, Reid William, to Scott and Melanie (Atwood, ’97) Chadderdon, April 10
1996 twin boys, Jesse Edwin and Noah Eugene, to Rachel (Hornor) and David Barach, April 23
1996 a boy, Finley, to Darcy Blanchard and Thad Klocksieben, May 26
1996 a girl, Audrey Susan, to Heath (Simon) and Benjamin Horst, Sept. 3, 2008
1997 a girl, Molly Minhee McFarland, to Nicholas Brownlee and Kari McFarland, Aug. 11
1997 a girl, Madeline Laine, to Steve and Andrea (Palpant, ’00) Dilley, April 13
1997 a girl, Melia Grace, to Bill and Sarah Kaufold, Jan. 27
1997 a boy, Orrin Ames, to Mindi (Thackston) and Jack Lippard, Dec. 9, 2008
1997 a girl, Allison Marie, to John and Kelly (Rodimel) Rasmussen, June 21
1997 twin girls, Sophia Quinn and Ayden Victoria, to Sarah (Coleman) and Joshua Sidwell, Jan. 5
1998 a girl, Marta Julia, to Carrie (Wasser) and Steve Anderson, Sept. 23
1998 a boy, Erik Brayden, to Ruth (Kaluza) and Patrick Eichholtz, Jan. 8
1998 a boy, Graham Aidan, to Kendra Nickerson and Paul Custer, Aug. 5, 2008
1998 a girl, Ava Caroline, to Tanya (Grunner) and Scott Wunsch, ’07, April 28
1999 twin girls, Emma Catherine and Teadora Marie, to Rhad and Anastasia Brown, March 8
1999 a girl, Jayana Elise, to Nicole (Bealey) and John Grubbs, May 1
1999 a girl, Bannon Mackenzie, to Tiffany (Brotherton) and Michael Hanf, May 10
1999 a girl, Leah Ellen Hope Kalal, to Tiffany (Smith) and Kevin Kalal, Jan. 29, 2008
1999 a girl, Kalani Leinaala Alene, to Kevin Hanf, Jan. 5
1999 a boy, Grahm Aidan, to Sarah and John Grubbs, April 28
1999 a boy, Reid Thomas, to Maria and Daniel Vazquez, May 7
1999 a girl, Ava Grace, to Rachel (Hornor) and David Barach, May 17
1999 a girl, Emily Grace, to Kristi and Tom McCawley, May 17
1999 a girl, Grace Christina, to Jennifer (Crowe) and Paul Tolo, Aug. 22
1999 a boy, Jayana Elise, to Nicole (Bealey) and John Grubbs, May 1
1999 a girl, Sarah Elizabeth, to John and Kelly (Rodimel) Rasmussen, June 21
1999 twin girls, Emma Catherine and Teadora Marie, to Rhad and Anastasia Brown, March 8
1999 a girl, Jayana Elise, to Nicole (Bealey) and John Grubbs, May 1
1999 a boy, Grahm Aidan, to Sarah and John Grubbs, April 28
Odd Couple: Alumna blends science and music

by Rachel O’Kelley, ’12

Dana Strait, ’02, has the ear of a musician and the mind of a scientist. A classical pianist and oboist, she graduated with her general B.A. in music, receiving a number of awards during her days as a Whitworth student. Strait’s love for music has led her to look deeper into the human obsession with music and the way it makes us feel when we experience it.

Referring to her desire to understand the effect music has on our lives and minds, Strait says, “I’m the kind of person who overthinks everything, and the question of how music affected both my audience and me was no exception.”

After graduation, Strait took an interest in the link between autism and music; she wanted to know how a person with autism can be helped by music. Strait worked as a private autism therapist with a Spokane family for about 18 months, after which she worked as an autism therapist at a trauma center in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

In 2006, Strait moved to Chicago to join Northwestern University’s Auditory Neuroscience Lab. She was named the first student board member of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, and she received a grant from the National Institutes of Health. She began to intertwine her love for music and her interests in neuroscience, and she led a study that found a biological link between music and the enhancement of the way one experiences emotion through sound.

She also wrote “Musical Experience and Neural Efficiency: Effects of Training on Subcortical Processing of Vocal Expressions in Emotion,” a study funded by the National Science Foundation. In the article, Strait sought to explain the effects of musical experience on the brain and its ability to memorize and respond to complicated mental processes. She also looked at ways in which this information might be used to help people with autism.

Today, Strait lives in Chicago, where she is a doctoral candidate in music cognition, with a focus on auditory neuroscience, at Northwestern University. “My education at Whitworth was foundational to my current work and has served me well,” Strait says. “My education was very well-rounded, and this gives me an advantage not only in academia, but in many areas of my life.”

Daniela Ozana, and both look forward to bringing her home from Haiti. Nancie (Nelson) Struck teaches high school English and drama at Liberty Classical Academy, in Maplewood, Minn. Todd Ulrich was named New Era Cap Company’s Regional Representative of the Year for 2008.

1986 Catherine (Verdier) Brown lives in Colorado after serving as a missionary for 10 years in Central Asia. Tobyann Willis-Camp began work as the director of libraries for the Law Society of Saskatchewan in March. She oversees a system of 15 libraries that provide research support to lawyers, judges, and the public in the province.

80s

1980 Deborah (Crouse) and Dean Bitz, ’88, live in Cheney, Wash. Both work at the Union Gospel Mission, and they love to hear from Whitworth classmates.

Alice Krehbiel is a physician at The Polyclinic, in Seattle. Christina (Reynolds) Moreau is in her 20th year of teaching music. She directs a choir and writes children’s novels in her spare time. Her book The Professor’s Telescope was published in 2004; she is currently working on her second book in the same series.

1981 Andrea (Knappen) Neault graduated in June from Western Washington University with a master’s in educational administration and a principal’s certificate. Dee Ann Potter Wylie came across fellow Whitworthian Oliver Crocco, ’08, in Chiang Mai, Thailand during a fourth of July celebration.

1983 Gyl Elliott received her master’s degree in Buddhist studies in May. She also visited Masaki Taniguchi, ’81, in Nishinomiya, Japan. 1985 Susan (Insko) Bryant and her husband, John, recently built a home in Kittitas Valley (Wash.) after his 23 years of service in the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel. Susan is certified as a K-12 teacher; she homeschooled her three children: Amy, 13, Gabe, 10, and Julianne Faith, 3. Rebecca Douglas and her husband continue raising their sons, ages 10 and 12. Rebecca will begin serving on their school board in December. Natalie Dong is a clinical neuropsychologist in the Center for Polytrauma Care at the V.A. Puget Sound Healthcare System. Margaret Fowler continues to create paintings and greeting cards. She is writing and illustrating books for children, as well as one for adults about her experience with brain cancer. Kathy (Jacobi) Knoefler is the national director of healthcare systems for the American Heart Association Emergency Cardiovascular Care Department. Scott Miller and his wife celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in August. They have two daughters in college and one still at home. Michael Patterson and his wife completed the adoption of their daughter, Angela (Reynolds) and Reuben Schug, June 8

1999 a girl, Eliana Nafisha, to Angela Nabalta, Sept. 3

1999 a girl, Larkin Marie, to Adam and Joscelyn (Wilson) Stevens, April 15
1988 Janine Hoffman married Robert Noel on Oct. 10, 2008. Paula Olson-Dunbar has been teaching kindergarten for 15 years. She has three children: Connor, 5, Cameron, 3, and Sarah, 15 months.

1989 Julie (Meaor) Brown enrolled in a master’s program in clinical psychology at the Wright Institute. She and her husband, Andrew, ’90, live in El Cerrito, Calif., with their three sons. Christine (Klesch) Hamilton is homeschooling her two daughters, ages 5 and 7, and enjoying church life. Kevin Peterson has been selected as the new principal of Midway Elementary, in the Mead School District. Kevin and his wife, Tammi, live in Mead with their three sons. Tammi is a teacher at Spokane’s Ridgeview Elementary.

DEATHS
Kathryn Gottschalk, ’80, died May 11. She served in the U.S. Coast Guard Women’s Reserve during WWII and retired from Pacific Northwest Bell after 34 years. She is survived by her brother and other family. Susan (Davis) Gum, ’82, died May 31, after a long battle against ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). She was a teacher in the Mead School District for 27 years, and she retired with her husband in Ferndale, Wash., to be with family. She is survived by her husband, Bob, her two children and other family. Margie Raymond, ’84, died April 10. She began teaching at Hamilton Elementary School before getting her master’s degree in counseling, which she used in the Displaced Homemakers Program at Spokane Falls Community College. Margie was a loving woman who reached out to many people. She is survived by three daughters, one son, and other family. Robert Bruce Eckley, ’87, died April 25. He was a dedicated father and had a passion for photography and cooking. Robert is survived by his wife, Valerie (Buch, ’87), two daughters, his mother, Barbara (Bertsch) Eckley, ’57, sister-in-law Susan (Buch) Stewart, ’89, and other family.

BIRTHS
1988 a girl, Sarah Grace, to Paula Olson-Dunbar and Montgomery Dunbar, May 2, 2008

1970 Carol Bryan teaches fifth grade in Spokane.

Steve Gorman is entering his 19th year as the pastor of Westwood First Presbyterian Church, in Cincinnati. His wife, Lucinda (Warner) Gorman, ’71, is a life coach and founder of Seasons of Purpose, in Cincinnati. Catherine (Hager) Graville owns and operates Valley Air Photos, a company in Caldwell, Idaho, that provides vertical aerial photography for contour mapping and land-use planning. Marilyn Hoyt retired after 20 years as the CEO of the New York Hall of Science. She is currently consulting, teaching and working on nonprofit leadership issues. David Johnson retired from the Ephrata School District, in Ephrata, Wash., after 36 years of teaching; he currently works for Canfield Insurance Co. and coaches a summer baseball team. His daughters, Kim (Johnson) LaVine, ’01, and Rachel Johnson, ’08, graduated from Whitworth. Linda (Robertson) Johnson is a high school English as a second language and Bible literature teacher in Ennis, Texas. Linda and her husband also encouraged their three sons to pursue college educations and the youngest just finished his degree. Linda (Graham) Stevens continues to work and be involved in her church, leading two Bible studies. Lowell Wood is the senior pastor at Northside Bible Church, in Muskegon, Mich., and is a workplace chaplain at three car dealerships. 1971 Thomas Babagian retired in 2006 after teaching for more than 32 years. He serves on the board of Students International Mission Organization. 1973 William and Selina (Alexander, ’75) Slater have been married for 30 years. 1974 David and Cheryl (McPherson, ’75) Votaw will celebrate 35 years of marriage in December. Cheryl has been in full-time ministry for more than 30 years. 1975 Ted Cook is retired from the U.S. Army and lives in Kansas with his wife. David Hunter is a pastor in Brookings, Ore. Carolyn (Curley) McNeil still loves teaching after 34 years. Deanda (Syte) Roberts has been married for 45 years and is a mental health counselor in Spokane. Carol Stewart-Smith has been directing music for 30 years at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, in Oregon. 1977 Sue (Rexpanch) Hague recently graduated with a master’s degree in linguistics from California State University, Fresno. She hopes to teach basic English at the college level.

1978 Cathy (Svare) Oehler, who has been teaching at international schools in Kobe, Gifu, and Nagoya, Japan, created programs for city governments and was the head of the foreign English department for a private high school in Aichi Prefecture. Cathy currently lives in the U.S. and awaits the day she may return to teach in Asia. 1979 Paul Meyer is proud to be the father of two Whitworthians, Gretchen Meyer, ’07, and senior Heather Meyer, ’10.

DEATHS
Kay Chew (Ida Katherine Olson), ’70, died March 18. Kay served in the U.S. Navy WAVES during WWII, was an accountant, and later taught accounting at Spokane Falls Community College. She is survived by two daughters and other family. Richard Mitchell, ’70, died Sept. 25. After graduating from Whitworth, Richard attended Fuller Seminary and was an interim pastor. He was also a Washington
David Myers is an award-winning social psychologist, a psychology professor at Hope College, in Holland, Mich., and a 1964 Whitworth alumnus and current trustee. He has been a repeat guest speaker at Whitworth, most recently in October, when he presented a lecture based on his latest book, A Friendly Letter to Skeptics and Atheists: Musings on Why God Is Good and Faith Isn’t Evil.

Myers’ writings have examined diverse topics including happiness, intuition, sexual orientation, group influence, assistive listening, and faith and reason. His recent essays have appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and on the Newsweek/Washington Post religion blog. His articles have appeared in three dozen academic periodicals and four dozen magazines, and he has authored 17 books, including psychology textbooks that have been translated into 12 languages.

Read on to learn a few choice tidbits about Myers:

Q. Why did you major in chemistry at Whitworth?
A. I was a pre-med chemistry major, biology minor. During college I worked three summers as an orderly in Seattle’s Harborview Hospital. I took the Medical College Admissions Test and completed half of my medical school applications. After doing everything right to become a physician, I abruptly changed my mind and decided I’d rather be a college professor.

After my junior year I thought back to how much I had enjoyed a psychology class I’d taken my first year. So I took several psych classes my senior year, with mentoring from Pat MacDonald (professor emeritus of psychology), and got admitted to two science-oriented psychology graduate schools.

My Whitworth science and math training prepared me to appreciate psychology as a science and to do experimental research with support from the National Science Foundation, which ultimately led to many other opportunities.

Q. How did you meet your wife, Carol, ’65?
A. We met over Whitworth’s family-style dinner – four women and four men to each table. That practice forced a shy guy like me who’d never seriously dated to meet and talk with women. Voila! Carol and I were engaged before spring break of her second year and married that next summer. We then lived in a small but free HUB apartment, with my being responsible for locking up the building each night.

Q. What factors spur you to research and write about certain topics?
A. Occasionally I come across information and insights that strike me as so fascinating and humanly significant that I have an urge to tell more people, which has prompted my writing of trade books and magazine articles, and books relating psychological science to Christian faith.

My avocational passion, making American assistive listening hearing-aid compatible, grows out of being a person with significant hearing loss. My efforts were inspired by my experiences with hearing assistance in the United Kingdom, where my hearing aids can serve as customized in-the-ear loudspeakers at venues ranging from churches and cathedrals to post office windows. These experiences led to my creating www.hearingloop.org and authoring related articles, to introducing this technology to west Michigan (where it now can be found in some 300 venues, including most churches and both concourses of Michigan’s second largest airport), and to supporting its spreading adoption in other states and communities.

For more about David Myers, visit www.davidmyers.org. A podcast of Myers’ Whitworth lecture is available at www.whitworth.edu/podcast.
60s
1960 Jon Adams is semi-retired but still has fun working at Pacific Galleries, in Seattle, and working on his home. Richard Frost continues to do more than 100 magic shows each year. Eric Iverson enjoys oil painting and assists the gallery at First Presbyterian Church, in Lexington, Ky., in recruiting artists to exhibit their works. Eric and his wife, Libby, also assist Living Waters for the World to install water-treatment systems in the Yucatan Peninsula. Maralyn (Dover) Killorn has served for two years with Wycliffe Associates doing volunteer construction jobs and traveling. Diane Sharp currently works as a substitute teacher in Spokane’s Mead School District; she has appeared in numerous local plays. Dick Silk continues to work in his group counseling practice, Silk and Associates, with two Whitworth alumni: Ken Cochran, ’66, and Suzie (Short) Johnson, ’99.
1961 Tom and Verna (Stillman, x’61) Black celebrated 53 years of marriage on Sept. 23. 1964 Marti Lane is now semi-retired after more than 40 years of full-time work in adult literacy. She recently co-authored Staying Healthy, a book for English as a second language students.
1965 Joan (Cross) Barden supervises student teachers in Whitworth’s Master in Teaching Program. Ann (Perry) Saari retired from teaching and library work and now serves on the Ilwaco (Wash.) Library Board. She enjoys needlework, gardening, travel, and spending time with her children, Nick and Chuck, ’95, and her grandson. Marilyn (Munger) and Peter Wurtz were married May 3. James Roghair is “an honorably retired” member of the Presbytery of Chicago. A. Wesley Seideman started Tresco of Idaho, a professional fiduciary company, and is involved with several volunteer positions in his community, including his church and Kiwanis.
Bob Sharp and his wife, Carol, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Aug. 23. Bob was selected as one of five outstanding professors by students and staff at Eastfield College, in Mesquite, Texas. Betty (Garrett) Steinbach is involved in the Sacramento Concert Band, the Sacramento Valley Sweet Adeline Chorus, and the Fair Oaks United Methodist Choir.
1966 Paula (Cook) Nordby retired in 2002 after 32 years as a social worker for Tacoma’s Department of Social and Health Services. 1968 Kathy (Best) Franz has worked as the director of human resources at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital for 35 years. The Kathy Franz Award was created in her honor to be awarded to people who significantly contribute to the field of human resources management in healthcare. Kim and Christine (Sacco, ’70) Williams enjoy living near their children, including Anne-Marie (Williams) Strohman, ’95, her husband, Trevor, and their children.

DEATHS
Gladys (Dartford) Meriwether, ’60, died July 23. She is survived by her daughter, Margaret (Meriwether) Connell, ’79, her son, grandson Corin Faye, ’08, and other family. Margaret (Krause) Erickson, ’61, a former Whitworth employee, died June 9. After graduating from Whitworth, she earned her master’s degree and administrative credentials and became a teacher. She enjoyed writing and illustrating, as well as traveling. She is survived by her husband, four children, sister Elizabeth (Krause) Close, ’68, and other family. Geraldine (Thompson) Coutre, ’61, died March 31. She taught English, art and horticulture in Spokane. She is survived by her husband, four children and other family. Marybeth (Mayhill) Lannigan, ’61, died April 18. She is survived by her husband, Dean, ’58, and other family. Ernest Gosnay, ’62, died June 30. He served in the U.S. Marines during WWII, graduated from Washington State University, and earned a master’s degree from Whitworth. Ernest retired, after 28 years, from Spokane Public Schools; he taught mathematics and science. Bill Kelso, x’63, died May 11. He was well-known for his athletic abilities, having played baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Oakland As and the Cincinnati Reds. After retiring as a player, Bill spent the next 29 years as a talent scout for the California Angels. He is survived by his wife, four children, and other family. Leon Ross, ’63, died May 21. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and other family. Daniel Gerpheide, ’64, died Sept. 1. Daniel served in the U.S. Army and was a long-time business owner in Bellevue, Wash. He is survived by his wife, Lynda, two children, and other family. Margaret (Bundy) McEachern, ’65, died Jan. 26, 2008. She was a nurse and a resident-care manager. She is survived by her two children and other family. Joan Barnes, ’65, died July 27. She retired after 24 years of teaching, and she enjoyed traveling. She is survived by her three children and other family. Linda (Harton) Clark, ’66, died in a car accident March 23. She and her husband served with the Peace Corps in South Korea, where she later returned to teach English on faculty sojourns at Seoul’s Yonsei University. She also served on the staff of Harvard Law School. While in San Antonio, Texas, Linda worked at First Presbyterian Church and Trinity University; she also taught in the Alamo Heights School District. She was most recently on the library staff at Texas Lutheran University. She is survived by her husband, Donald, ’65, two daughters, sisters-in-law Kathleen Clark and Dorothy (Clark) Brooks, both ’58, and other family. Samuel
Three for 14Four
Alums find creative niche at cutting-edge agency
by Rachel O’Kelley, ’12

Adam Van Ornum, ’02, Ryan Moede, ’04, and Natalie Danielson, ’06, are using their unique gifts at 14Four, a Spokane agency that works closely with advertising agencies to create online campaigns. The alums’ work includes web design and creating interactive websites for agencies working with large corporations like McDonald’s, Jansport and Microsoft.

Danielson’s journey to 14Four began with information from another Whitworth grad, who was leaving the agency to go back to school. Danielson was interviewed and offered the job, and she accepted the position the next day. She was most recently part of a year-long project in which she worked on a large, user-generated site with a heavy content-management system that tied in multiple social platforms. She says that this experience taught her useful management skills, requiring her to make difficult decisions and to manage the participating parties. Of her undergraduate preparation for such a challenge, Danielson says, “I think Whitworth not only prepares students well academically, but it challenges graduates not to live life sitting down – to be active participants in society.” Whitworth’s interpersonal communications course was one of the most memorable, Danielson says, because it taught her skills that are vital to any career and, more important, to life.

Moede joined the 14Four team last spring, after working for an interactive agency in Washington, D.C. Moede says it is great to be back in Spokane working for “an amazing shop” and getting to work on some of the biggest brands in the country. His work with 14Four includes a wide range of brands; lately, he has been working on applications for Live Nation and Jansport. Looking back to his undergrad years, Moede says that Whitworth’s emphasis on building community and relationships has helped to prepare him for work at 14Four. “In my job, you can build a cool website,” he says, “but if you don’t foster and strengthen great relationships with your clients, nothing else matters.”

After Van Ornum graduated from Whitworth, he left Spokane and headed to Seattle to work on IT and web development. He soon received a call from a computer science professor telling him that a Spokane computer game company, Cyan Worlds, was looking for someone with his skill set. Within weeks he was back in Spokane. After five years at Cyan Worlds, his circumstances changed and he began to look for a new job. Through networking, Van Ornum was interviewed by 14Four for a position as a web developer. Due to his experience in that area at Whitworth, he was able to join the 14Four team. Van Ornum says that he “gets to work on a wide variety of projects for a wide variety of brands, ranging for simple, single-page sites to large, data-driven community sites.” He has worked with Reader’s Digest, Gonzaga University, and Microsoft (where he helped develop Live@Edu). His work in the computer science department at Whitworth gave him “experience working with the foundation of web development technologies,” he says. “So it was easy to learn the advances that took place in the years in between my time at Whitworth and my start at 14Four.”

Wharton, ’66, died June 19, 2008. Carol (Fritsch) Hardy, ’67, died May 17. She had a passion for teaching, primarily second grade, and was known for her cooking. She is survived by her husband and daughter, and by other family. Jacob Stappler, x’67, died March 23. He served in the U.S. Navy before and during WWII. He was a teacher and wrestling coach, and he retired as an insurance agent. He is survived by his wife, three stepchildren, and other family. Linda (Ashworth) Pugh, ’69, died April 29. She taught home economics and kindergarten for many years before retiring, in 2002. She is survived by her husband, two children and other family.

1950 Robert and Carmen (Poole, ’51) Farley were honored in June 2008, after more than 30 years of volunteer work, by the Spokane Children’s Theatre, which established a scholarship program in their name. Elementary and high school cast and crewmembers are eligible to apply for the annual award. Peter Hewitt has been an elder in his church, as well as a soloist in the choir, for 50 years. Donald and Ruth (Wimpy, ’51) Smith are still in contact with and treasure the friends they made at Whitworth. Graley Taylor concluded 40 years of ecumenical media ministry in 2008 with the Academy of Religious Broadcasting. He also served as temporary supply pastor at Inglewood Presbyterian Church, in Bothell, Wash. Graley continues to work in media production, traveling to Thailand and New

(L-R) Moede, Van Ornum and Danielson
Zealand to produce mission documentaries and news reports.

1953 Edwin “Pete” and Kay (Kennedy) Swanson have been married 55 years and enjoy retirement in Woodbridge, Calif., where they live (and play tennis) near their children and grandchildren.

1955 Lois (Ostenson) Barndt recently retired and hopes to write a devotional book. Nancy Howard is now retired and plans to do some freelance writing. Leta (Randal) Kempton enjoys her nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as teaching women’s Bible study. Carolyn (Kolden) Owens and her husband, Bill, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Carolyn’s niece, a freshman at Whitworth, assures her that Whitworth remains a great school.

1958 Barbara (Monteith) and Donald Spellman, ’59, enjoy retirement, traveling, and spending time with their grandchildren.

1959 Stanley Blackwell enjoys gardening and oil painting.

## DEATHS

**Betty (Follett) Alsgaard, ’50**, died last spring. Betty taught for many years in Spokane and led Sunday school music, sang in the church choir and carried out many other activities at First Presbyterian Church, where her husband, Russell, was a pastor. She enjoyed dancing and traveling, not only the U.S., but throughout the world. She is survived by her husband, daughter, Catherine, ’76, son, Joel, x’77, and other family. **Robert Canfield, ’50**, died Aug. 3. Bob served in the Marines during WWII, fighting in the South Pacific, where he was awarded a silver star, a bronze star, and two purple hearts. After graduating from Whitworth, he earned a master of divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He later joined the Navy as a chaplain, and he was a minister after retiring from the military.

Bob is survived by his wife, Marilyn (Nelson, x’50), his six children, including Jan Canfield, x’69, and Doug Canfield, x’75, and other family. **Ralph Felger, ’50**, died last Dec. 23. Bill Gwinn, ’50, died April 17. He is survived by his wife, Colette (Stirm, ’49), four children, sister, Barbara Antes, ’50, sister-in-law, Ruth Gwinn, x’80, and other family. **Nancy (Johnson) Starrh, ’50**, died July 9. Nancy, who enjoyed painting, was a nurse. She is survived by her husband, four children, niece Karen Shoemaker, ’75, and other family. **Mary (Kunkel) Breen, ’54**, died June 7. She lived in Sequim, Wash., and was a music teacher for many years. She enjoyed sewing and flower arranging. Mary is survived by her husband and other family. **Alice (Stalsberg) Holladay, ’55**, died Sept. 22. After receiving her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education, Alice taught for 40 years. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. **Mary (Rice) Sherwood, ’55**, died July 11. She is survived by her husband, daughter Rebecca Sherwood, ’83, and other family. **Priscilla Buchin, ’56**, died June 29. She earned a master’s of public health degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master’s degree in Christian leadership from Western Seminary. She spent most of her working life as a dietician and public health nutritionist. She is survived by her brother, **George Buchin, ’53**, nephew Dan Buchin, x’80, and other family. **Tommy Luce, x’56**, died April 23, at the age of 74. **Bob Phillips, ’56**, died Jan. 8. He worked for several ad agencies in Eastern Washington, and he enjoyed spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife, three children, and other family. **Robert Cleath, husband of Virginia Cleath, ’58**, died recently. Robert, who once taught at Whitworth, is survived by his wife and other family. **Donald Johnson, ’59**, died June 16. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict, and was a teacher and school principal for many years. He is survived by his wife, three children, and other family.

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60th wedding anniversary. Mary earned first place in the 80-plus-year 5K event at the Pacific Crest Sports Festival in June. Marjorie Roose lives in Silverton, Idaho. Richard Schwab has been a pastor for nearly 60 years. His grandson, Nathaniel Schwab, ‘13, is a freshman at Whitworth.

1949 James and Barbara (Wilson) Larsen enjoy living at Covenant Shores Retirement Community, on Mercer Island, Wash. Jaye (Christensen) and Ben Fairchild, ‘50, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary where they honeymooned, in Barrief, Canada.

DEATHS
Helen (Mitchell) Cook, x’40, died April 25 on Bainbridge Island, where she had lived for 52 years. Buford Clark, ‘42, died May 19. He was a Baptist minister. Buford is survived by his wife, four children, and other family. Keith Hickox, ‘42, died April 17. After graduating from Whitworth, Keith attended computer programming school with IBM and worked on the Space Shuttle program for NASA. He is survived by his wife, and other family.


Loren Gothsberg, ‘43, died July 19. Loren met his wife, Eleanor (Hook), ‘44, at Whitworth, and they married soon after graduation. Loren went on to earn a medical degree from Harvard University School of Medicine. He served with the U.S Army during WWII, and was a medical officer in the Korean Conflict. After his service in Korea, he returned to Spokane and opened a medical practice. He is survived by his son, daughter, Karen (Gothsberg) Yamada, x’77, foster daughter, Chany Sak-Humphry, ‘79, and other family. Merle Wood, ‘44, died April 19. He attended Grace Theological Seminary and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is survived by his wife, Helen (Ghormley), ‘44, five children, and other family. Donald McInturff, ‘45, died May 16. He was a teacher for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Mae, ‘46, their two sons, and other family. Estel (McKay) Taylor, x’45, died Aug. 4. She was a teacher for many years and was a member of multiple organizations in the Wenatchee area. She is survived by her husband, Jim Taylor, x’45, sister, Billie (McKay) Rappé, x’43, two children and other family. Lenora (Carlson) Moore, x’46, died on Feb. 7. Lenora worked at a variety of places as a secretary. She ran a café and a post office for a time, and then started a farm with her husband in Colfax, Wash. Lenora was a member of Selbu Lutheran Church, and she served her community in many different ways. She is survived by her husband, three sons, and other family. Barbara Parks, x’46, died Jan. 9, 2001. Marian (Pond) Breckenridge, ‘49, died March 7. She was offered a post with the Christian Missionary Alliance, which sent her to France for training, then on to French Guinea, Africa, where she was a school nurse. She went on to teach, nurse, translate the Bible, and write booklets in other parts of Africa. Returning to the U.S., Marian worked as a deputy in the office of the Stevens County treasurer, in Colville, Wash. She is survived by nieces, including Geneva (Reno) Erickson, ‘66, nephews, and other family. Ellen (Olsen) Hewitt, x’49, died April 14. She is survived by her husband, Peter, ‘50.
Wheelchairs from Jesus

by Ron Rice, ’58

Nigeria has the highest incidence of polio in the world. Tens of thousands of children and adults spend their lives crawling on the ground, and nobody is doing anything significant about it – not donor agencies, not government agencies, not NGOs. Most of the victims are hidden away. If you can’t get further from your little house in the village than you can crawl, how often are you going to be out in public? Children can’t go to school unless someone carries them. They become throwaway children, a burden and a disgrace to their families. In January 2009, the Gates Foundation pledged $255 million, Rotary International $100 million, the German and British governments each over $100 million, all for polio eradication, which is absolutely wonderful. But they pledged zero for polio’s victims.

My wife, Sharon, and I have been doing volunteer mission work in Nigeria since 1998 – 16 trips so far. My initial project was developing teachers’ manuals for Christian Religious Knowledge (CRK) teachers in Nigeria’s public schools. These sets of six 500-page manuals are now in use in more than 2,500 junior high and high schools and have already improved Bible teaching for millions of Nigeria’s teenagers.

At a CRK teacher’s workshop, in 1999, I met a young teacher, Ayuba Gufwan, who, as a result of his having had polio, walks on his hands. That providential meeting has led to an amazing partnership. Together, we have now built and donated more than 2,600 wheelchairs. This is far, far more than the number donated by any organization in Nigeria, a country that has half the population of the U.S. We have our own shop, in Jos, Nigeria, with 21 employees (five who are crippled by polio), where, for $150 each, we build three-wheeled, self-pedaled tricycles made of bicycle parts.

Watch the five-minute video at www.wheelchairsfornigeria.org to get an overview of our work. The photography skills that got their start at Whitworth in the 1950s, when I was the campus’ student photographer, have enabled me to share this need. I’ve shown the powerful images of Nigerian polio victims to churches, schools and other audiences. Most Americans have never seen children and adults crawling on the ground because, as polio victims, they have no other way to get around. It breaks your heart. Wherever I show my videos, people are deeply moved, and many contribute to our cause. Where else can you transform a child’s life and give him or her a future for $150?

My friend Ayuba had polio when he was four. His father, a simple farmer in a remote village, sent him to a rehabilitation center. When Ayuba finished the third grade, his father told him it was a waste to spend any more money on school fees for a boy who walked on his hands. It wasn’t until Ayuba was 19 that his uncle built him a wheelchair and made it possible for his nephew to attend fourth-grade classes. With great determination, Ayuba went right through school, including three years of teachers’ college. On his first day on the job as a teacher, his principal sent him to the workshop where we met.

Ayuba has now graduated from the University of Jos, and he is the only university graduate in the history of his village. Imagine, a young man who walks on his hands is his village’s Number One Son! More than 1,500 villagers attended Ayuba’s wedding (the story appears on the website). His example is a powerful inspiration to the disabled, and it helps to dispel the stereotype held among many Africans that a disabled person can never amount to anything.

Polio eradication in Nigeria received a huge setback in 2003, when the Supreme Sharia Council, comprising Nigeria’s top Muslim leaders, called for a moratorium on all polio vaccinations due to a rumor that the vaccine contained an anti-fertility component and was a conspiracy of the West to depopulate Islam. Polio infections shot up, and the Nigerian strain has spread to other Muslim countries in Africa and Asia.

Our ministry reaches out to people of all beliefs. In one remote area in 2007, some Muslim militants began insisting that wheelchair recipients remove the statement “Jesus cares for you,” which is stenciled on the chairs. The dispute was carried to the village head, a Muslim. He said, “Jesus brought you these wheelchairs, and if you remove Jesus’ name, he may come and take the wheelchairs back. Besides, Jesus’ name is in the Qur’an and nobody has removed Jesus’ name from the Qur’an. So tell the Christians that if Jesus wants to bring more wheelchairs, he is most welcome!” Ayuba and I returned for the third time to this remote town in October 2009 to give out 30 more wheelchairs, half to Christians and half to Muslims.

For more information about this ministry, e-mail RonRice@ronrice.us. Information re: tax deductions is available on the website.
1. From 1890-1946, where were Whitworth science labs conducted?
   a. Dormitory basements
   b. Dining hall kitchen
   c. Men's/women's restrooms

2. What Spokane-area building did President Frank Warren purchase in 1947 and relocate to campus, to serve as Whitworth's first dedicated science facility?
   a. A Burlington Northern railway station
   b. A hay barn owned by Palouse wheat farmer Ole Olson
   c. A wing of Baxter General Hospital

3. In what year was Whitworth's current science building, the Eric Johnston Science Center, completed?
   a. 1966
   b. 1957
   c. 1978

4. How many science majors were there in 1967/how many are there in 2009?
   a. 48/279
   b. 92/600
   c. 75/450

5. As part of the 1998-99 Eric Johnston Science Center remodel, what item was removed that Geology Professor Ed Olson installed in 1962 to conduct carbon-dating research?
   a. A 4.3-ton section of petroleum pipeline from Colonial Pipeline Co.
   b. A 2.8-ton cement septic tank from the City of Spokane Solid Waste Management
   c. A 6.5-ton section of gun barrel from the WWII battleship USS Wisconsin

6. In three of the past six years, Whitworth students have been selected from among 1,100 top math, science and engineering students nationwide to receive prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships.
   True
   False

7. What objects have recent physics students launched skyward as part of their engineering-orientation and electricity and magnetism coursework?
   a. High-altitude balloons equipped with GPS receivers and radio equipment
   b. Pumpkins
   c. Chemical propulsion rockets

8. What percentage of Whitworth's pre-professional health studies students are accepted into medical, dental and veterinary schools?
   a. 91 percent
   b. Almost 100 percent
   c. 93 percent

To view timelines highlighting Whitworth's science story and notable science alums, and to learn about the university's exciting new science initiative, which includes the construction of a 60,000-square-foot biology/chemistry building, visit www.whitworth.edu/scienceinitiative.

Answers: 1. a; 2. c; 3. a; 4. b; 5. T; 7. a,b; 8. b
The heart of activity at Whitworth may have shifted venues over the years, but one thing remains the same: Whitworth students will always be the heart of the campus. Making the Whitworth experience more affordable for these students is the chief purpose of The Whitworth Fund. As educational costs rise each year and campus initiatives are carried out, The Whitworth Fund is an important renewable source to leverage those costs and provide scholarship support. Your Whitworth Fund gift is greatly appreciated to help ease the financial burden on students and their families. Please make your annual gift to The Whitworth Fund today. Visit www.whitworth.edu/give, or contact us at 509.777.4350 or 800.532.4668. Gifts may also be mailed to the Whitworth Office of Annual Giving.

For additional photos of Whitworth buildings then and now, please visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.

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<td>Bob Gray</td>
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