Celebrating Science
Opening of Robinson Hall fulfills Whitworth scientists’ longtime dream
As I have the pleasure of talking with prospective students and their families who are visiting Whitworth, I am often asked, “What makes Whitworth different?” It’s a great question, and it should be a question we are continually asking ourselves. There are many layers of Whitworth’s distinctiveness in the landscape of higher education, but when I speak with potential Whitworthians, I most often mention four specific qualities of a Whitworth education that stand out in my mind: mission, community, responsibility and engagement.

Whitworth’s mind-and-heart mission is unique. I’ve never seen a community so devoted both to elevating the life of the mind through rigorous and open intellectual inquiry and to integrating Christian faith and learning. These two objectives are complementary in Whitworth’s vernacular, and the intellectual and spiritual tension that is occasionally generated when mind and heart are dually emphasized is a healthy one. By elevating simultaneously ideals that the world often sees as mutually exclusive – such as curiosity and conviction, responsibility and compassion, grace and truth – Whitworth honors our Creator, who so generously blessed us with searching minds to understand his creation and with compassionate hearts to serve it.

Intentional community is at the foundation of the Whitworth experience. Just like the famous 1980s television sitcom Cheers, Whitworth is a place “where everybody knows your name.” But Whitworth’s supportive community is much more than just name recognition on the Hello Walk. As students navigate their rigorous academic studies and ask tough questions about the meaning of their lives, Whitworth’s staff and faculty are eager to come alongside them through true relationship. We don’t simply ask our students to jump into the deep end of confusing intellectual and spiritual issues by themselves, to sink or swim; rather, staff and faculty members are ready to dive in with our students because they are on the same journey. The best learning occurs in the context of meaningful relationships, and Whitworth does relational community very well.

If Whitworth’s mission creates minds and hearts ready to be engaged, and if students feel supported and encouraged through relationships, then the next Whitworth distinctive comes naturally: Whitworth emphasizes responsibility and decision-making. We want to create a safe environment where students can flourish, so Whitworth has established some very important guidelines that inform how we protect relationships and the health and welfare of our community. But those guidelines don’t determine every choice a student makes, and the university intentionally puts a lot of responsibility for maintaining our community in students’ hands. Our students become great decision-makers as a result, and our world needs more of those.

Finally, when mission, community and responsibility come together in harmony, we can be confident that Whitworth’s students are ready to engage the world. Whitworth’s mission statement concludes by committing that we will “prepare graduates to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity.” Service and engagement should be among our most important barometers as we measure effectiveness. In this category, Whitworth’s students shine. Whether volunteering at community agencies, serving the homeless, helping to write public policy, conducting important research, or participating in substantive internships, our students continually demonstrate that they can faithfully live out Whitworth’s noble mission. And in the process, our students push the university to think harder about how we are using its resources to do the same. I’ve learned much by watching our students in action.

Mission. Community. Responsibility. Engagement. I’m grateful to be part of a university that elevates these important ideals. May God continue to bless our efforts to live them out faithfully.

As always, please keep Whitworth in your prayers,
Features

6 ALUMS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS
What can Whitworth graduates do with their liberal arts education? Anything they choose. Meet four alums who are successful entrepreneurs and leaders in the corporate world.

10 SUPPORTING THE SCIENCES
Take a peek inside Whitworth’s new $32 million, 63,000-square-foot Robinson Science Hall, featuring stunning architecture, sweeping views of campus, high-tech classrooms and labs, and cutting-edge equipment.

12 IGNITING CHANGE
Act Six Scholar Holy Chea, ’07, came to Whitworth with intelligence, wit, an engaging personality and raw ability to lead. He returned to his hometown, Tacoma, ready to fulfill his calling: to spur pride, to spark positive change, and to help transform young lives.

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www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday

On the cover: Whitworth’s newest building, the William P. and Bonnie V. Robinson Science Hall, dedicated Oct. 8, 2011. Photo by Dean Davis
As a confirmed lover of fall and winter weather, I find myself in a distinct minority here at Whitworth. Those first few cool nights, usually at the end of August, give me a feeling of completion and rebirth that my friends report only in mid-spring (sometimes as late as May), when Spokane finally gets the message that winter is over for another year.

My sense of completion comes from having made it through another summer. I’m always glad to see those temps in the 80s and 90s disappear for another year. The sense of rebirth comes from knowing that we’ve begun yet another academic cycle at Whitworth (I’m in the midst of my 29th such cycle right now). When I get to campus at the end of August and hear the frosh practicing for the yell-off, I realize that the exhilaration, trepidation, anticipation and exhaustion of the school year have begun yet again.

So here I am in my favorite season, in one of my favorite places. And here you are, reading the fall edition of Whitworth Today. I think you’ll enjoy the wide range of our features in this issue: Julie Riddle, ’92, has pulled together another interesting piece about some of Whitworth’s most successful business folk and the value of their Whitworth liberal arts education experience. Emily Proffitt, ’05, straw-bossed the photo feature on our newest building, the William P. and Bonnie V. Robinson Science Hall, and if you haven’t yet seen the building in person, you’ll be amazed at this addition to Whitworth’s already beautiful campus. And I, ’93 (I had to do it), have written a feature about Holy Chea, ’07, an amazing young man from Tacoma who came to Spokane and changed Whitworth for the better while allowing himself to be changed, as well.

The news is good, the alumni notes are voluminous, the photos are crisp, it’s autumn, the family is well, the magazine is done, and I work at a really great place. I’m blessed, and I hope and trust that you are, too. Thanks so much for reading Whitworth Today and for caring about and for Whitworth.

And don’t forget to bundle up.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>Whitworth Choirs’ Valentine’s Day Concert. Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16-18</td>
<td>Annual Leonard Oakland Film Festival. Robinson Teaching Theatre, Weyerhaeuser Hall. For details, visit <a href="http://www.whitworth.edu/oaklandfestival">www.whitworth.edu/oaklandfestival</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 2-4</td>
<td>Whitworth spring theatre production, <em>All My Sons</em>, by Arthur Miller. Cowles Auditorium, March 2, 3, 9, 10, 8 p.m.; March 4, 2 p.m. General admission $8; students/seniors $6. Call 509.777.3707.</td>
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<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>Wind Symphony spring concert. Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 3 p.m. Admission $5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Annual Hawaiian Club Lu’au, featuring authentic Hawaiian food and entertainment. Whitworth Fieldhouse, 5:30 p.m. General admission $20.</td>
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<td>Apr. 21</td>
<td>Whitworth Men’s Chorus spring concert. Seeley Mudd Chapel, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 22</td>
<td>Whitworth Symphony Orchestra spring concert. Cowles Auditorium, 3 p.m. Admission $5; students/seniors free.</td>
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<td>Apr. 29</td>
<td>Whitworth Women’s Choir spring concert. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Whitworth Choir spring concert. Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Broadway Unbound – Whitworth Theatre and Dance Production. Cowles Auditorium, 7 p.m. Admission $3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Graduate Commencement. Cowles Auditorium, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Baccalaureate, 10 a.m., Whitworth Fieldhouse.</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Undergraduate Commencement. Spokane Arena, 4 p.m.</td>
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With national unemployment hovering around 9 percent and a high unemployment rate expected for years to come, college students are worried about finding jobs after graduating, and many liberal arts institutions are shifting away from the humanities – the study of literature, languages, philosophy and history – and are tailoring their curricula toward industry-specific skill sets. Yet Whitworth is actively deepening its commitment to providing students an education grounded in the liberal arts: One of the university’s eight goals in its recently launched Whitworth 2021 strategic plan calls for the university to further elevate a liberal arts education as essential and relevant to all majors and careers.

The liberal arts reach across traditional academic boundaries, connecting and integrating multiple disciplines and schools of thought. Through joint courses, interdepartmental faculty/student research projects, and interdisciplinary majors and programs, students engage with a broad body of shared knowledge and learn how to think, not what to think. They become equipped to analyze issues from a variety of perspectives, ask questions that yield fresh insights, make unexpected connections, synthesize diverse ideas and information, and communicate clearly. Students develop mental focus and flexibility, as well as capacities for innovation, sound judgment and creative problem-solving that are critical to addressing the world’s increasingly complex problems. A liberal arts education trains students in specific fields, yes, but students also acquire transferable skills that are critical to adapting to the 21st century’s unprecedented pace of progress and change.

What can Whitworth graduates do with their liberal arts education? Anything they choose.

Alums Get Down to Business

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A Whitworth liberal arts education is distinctive in part because it challenges students to engage contemporary issues with intellectual rigor through the lens of Christian faith. In Whitworth’s required Core courses, students explore the external forces that have shaped their worldviews, expose their most deeply held beliefs to scrutiny by others and themselves, and apply their worldview convictions to society’s most pressing ethical and political issues. When Whitworth students graduate, they are prepared to excel in and influence industries and professions that will test their mettle.

Primal de Lanerolle, ’68, majored in English and chemistry at Whitworth, earned a master’s degree in English literature and a doctorate in physiology and pharmacology, and is now a professor of biophysics. “My Whitworth liberal arts education, rather than preparing me for a specific career, gave me the tools to be successful at virtually any career,” he says. (See De Lanerolle’s “AfterWord” on Page 34 of this issue.) De Lanerolle and thousands of his fellow Whitworth graduates are using the tools of their Whitworth liberal arts education to address current and emerging challenges in wide-ranging fields including science, technology, health care, government and education. Here are four alums who are putting their Whitworth liberal arts education to work as critical thinkers and imaginative leaders in business.
At Whitworth, I was most influenced by the political studies classes I took from Dr. (John) Yoder, his depth of experience and expertise, and his ability to use Africa as a construct for teaching us about dynamic human communities. In my work today, I still reference some of the specific concepts he introduced to me. He’s such a collaborator with his students; he brought us into the discussion and really encouraged us to contribute. I think that is a hallmark of a great liberal arts education and a Whitworth education. It’s the kind of experience that stays with you.

Around my junior year, my interest in political studies morphed into an interest in communications. My political studies classes challenged the way I thought and, through extensive writing, really helped to develop my writing style. When I began taking communications courses, I uncovered a passion that led me to a career in marketing communications.

As senior vice president for Seattle’s Best Coffee, a colleague and I are responsible for the day-to-day success of the brand, and I am directly accountable for the consumer-packaged-goods business. As chief marketing officer, I’m responsible for products, promotions, marketing communications, digital strategy, public relations and internal communications.

My greatest rewards come from developing people and creating breakthrough customer experiences: a product, a campaign, digital experiences, or a complete retail store experience. I really enjoy building consumer brands that are relevant to people’s daily lives and that impact people on a daily basis. Coffee is inherently uplifting – I love working on a brand that’s social and promotes community.

If there’s one thing that drives my focus, it’s consistently delivering on the promise that the Seattle’s Best brand makes to our customers. There are so many people who directly or indirectly participate in bringing any consumer brand to life, and not all of these are within your sphere of control. A total brand view and a commitment to positively influence all the key points of brand contact are critical.

It’s fascinating to participate in the massive shifts of power taking place in the consumer marketplace right now. People have access to so much information today, and they are individually and collectively more powerful than ever before. The winning brands will be those that unlock a real, direct, two-way relationship between the brand and its customers. In my view, that will require transparency and community-building. When done right, it’s powerful – a legion of promoters spring up, sharing a deep well of insight that directly influences (and increases the likely success of) the products a company brings to market.

Crystal Rose Bryan, ’06
Whitworth majors: Business Management & Marketing
Industry: Public Relations
Current position: Online publicist with Think Jam (www.thinkjam.com), a digital creative and public relations agency that works predominantly in the film industry; its clients include 20th Century Fox, Universal Pictures and Warner Bros.
Founder and CEO of Moon Things (www.linkedin.com/in/djmoonbooties), which provides online public relations and marketing for artists.
Corporate headquarters: Los Angeles

Previous positions/employers include:
• Freelance Public Relations Account Executive, specializing in music, fashion, film, lifestyle and entertainment
• Publicity and Promotions Campaign Manager & Record Label Representative, M80
• Artist and Repertoire Scout, Ready to Break (now Treadstone Music Intelligence)
The range of courses I took at Whitworth, including traveling abroad to Thailand, provided a depth of experiences and understanding of numerous worldviews. This knowledge continues to fuel how I adapt to change and remain flexible each day on the job. Consumer Behavior, with Brad Sago, Business Law, with Rob Wilson, and Social and Ethical Issues in Business and Economics, with Craig Hinnenkamp, are at the top of my list of favorite Whitworth courses and professors. Douglas Laher took me under his wing very early on, and I am grateful to him and all my professors for their support and care.

Growing up in the performing arts, I have always had an interest in working in the entertainment industry, specifically in music. As the industry and the economy evolved, I eventually ended up working as a film publicist and entrepreneur. It all just happened naturally!

I specialize in online marketing, and editorial and publicity coverage. I also coordinate interviews with talent and develop and present proposals to various movie studios. My main focus at the moment is home entertainment, but I look forward to expanding to theatrical and international work. I also continue to do freelance public relations work for local Los Angeles restaurants, events, artists, filmmakers, actors and musicians.

Seeing seemingly impossible ideas come to life and bringing an artist’s vision into the public eye are the most satisfying things about my job. Working on movies like Black Swan and The Tree of Life has definitely made it all worthwhile thus far. I have to admit that red carpets and screenings keep my job exciting!

Extreme multi-tasking and last-minute deadlines keep me on my toes. It can be stressful, but it is ultimately rewarding, as long as I take time daily to reflect and meditate on what I value most in life. It’s easy to lose sight of your creative self while working in an office setting. I find strength in remaining open to change and having confidence in my ideas.

Media formats continue to change and evolve, and we are constantly coming up with new editorial and promotional ideas to stay competitive in an advertisers’ world. Working in the online field forces you to continue to educate yourself and stay on top of industry trends.

Walt Oliver, ’67
Joined the Whitworth Board of Trustees in 1996; has served as chair since 2008
Whitworth major: Psychology
Industry: Aerospace and Defense Human Resources
Current position: Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Administration for General Dynamics (www.generaldynamics.com), which offers products and services in business aviation; land and expeditionary combat vehicles and systems, armaments, and munitions; shipbuilding and marine systems; and mission-critical information systems and technology.
Corporate headquarters: Falls Church, Va.
Previous positions/employers include:
• Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Ameritech
• Corporate Vice President of Human Resources, Johnson Controls
• Vice President of Human Resources, Hoover Universal
• Corporate Personnel Manager and Labor Relations Representative, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Company

My liberal arts education at Whitworth prepared me to think broadly and to be holistic in my view of the world around me, and to be appreciative of all life has to offer.

I chose a career in human resources because I have a passion to help people in organizations function to their full potential. In addition to overseeing human resources at General Dynamics, I also have responsibility for our corporate headquarters facility; security – both physical and cyber; ethics; health and safety; and flight operations for our 90,000 employees worldwide.

It’s gratifying and exciting to see people learn, grow and accomplish their goals. The challenges are in keeping the things of life, mind and heart in perspective, staying balanced, and being inclusive.

Professionals in my field trend toward championing various and numerous theories and philosophies about people and business management. I strive to remain focused on the essences and results in life versus picking the flavor-of-the-year theory, while keeping in mind that I must continue to create an environment for learning and improvement.
The Whitworth experience that was life-altering for me was the France Study Program. I have a vivid memory of Pierrette Christianne-Lovrien [late associate professor emeritus of modern languages and 1977 alumna] stomping around the front of our classroom in France in her red ankle boots, exhorting us to “Get out of yourselves! Get out there and talk to people!” There was so much to absorb – the language, the art, the culture, the way of being. I also learned graciousness from Pierrette, and steadfastness, and to be curious always. And that faith is a very deep and personal thing that you can’t put in a contract.

The most valuable assets that a liberal arts education gives anyone are good problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to communicate. I’ve never taken a formal computer science class, yet I hold my own, on a daily basis, with engineers who hold master’s and doctorates in computer science, mathematics and physics. I may not have the same level of coding skills as many of them, but I don’t have to. I have to know what questions to ask, how to pick the most important details out of a conversation or specification, how to edit information and repackage it for several different audiences (including engineers and executives), and how to discuss technical details that are beyond my realm of expertise while maintaining my authority in a room. All of those skills are possible because of the foundational education I received at Whitworth.

In my current position as a standards professional, I work with representatives from other companies to create open international standards for software. For instance, I represent Microsoft on the U.S. and international committees that put together guidelines that govern the way future versions of Portable Document Format should work in any application that can save as or allow you to view a PDF.

Microsoft has a terrific matching gifts program, and the first thing I did when I could take advantage of it was to start a fund for Whitworth’s France Study Program. I worked several part-time jobs, and a good friend gave me money so I could make the trip while I was at Whitworth. I wanted to make someone else’s trip possible by helping them out the same way that friend helped me.

A few years ago, I became frustrated with the candidates we were interviewing for testing internships and full-time jobs at Microsoft. So I approached Whitworth, and teamed up with Pete Tucker [associate professor of computer science and 1992 alum] to create a new Quality Assurance in Software Management course. Each year I return to campus and interview students for full-time and intern engineering positions, and each year we get a couple more good candidates. It’s unheard of for a small liberal arts university to get the number of placements that Whitworth is landing at Microsoft. But Whitworth is getting noticed – the computer science department may be small, but it’s really good.

The single most challenging thing about my job is keeping up with changes in the industry. Technology moves at a rapid pace. Keeping track of the individual items I’m working on is a breeze compared to keeping track of the changes that might impact what I’m working on.

On the surface, the hottest topics in standards are about the same as just about everywhere in tech these days: cloud computing, mobile devices, social networking, and accessibility. You don’t have to dig very far, however, to realize that underlying almost all of these is one key theme: interoperability. When you move from one social networking site to another today, you have to completely recreate your personal profile. How much easier would it be if you could carry even the most basic information from your LinkedIn profile to Facebook, Google+, Twitter, and so on? How do we ensure that all of them can work together, talk to one another, maybe even share software and tools? Interoperability, created by standards, is the key that unlocks all of these possibilities.

For more info:
www.microsoft.com/openspecifications
www.microsoft.com/interop/openup
blogs.msdn.com/b/cherieekholm

Cherie Ekholm, ’87
Whitworth majors: French and English (Creative Writing)
Industry: Software/Computer
Current position: Senior Standards Professional, Microsoft (www.microsoft.com)
Corporate headquarters: Redmond, Wash.
Previous positions/employers include:
• Lead Software Development Engineer in Test, Microsoft
• Executive Secretary, Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
Whitworth’s new William P. and Bonnie V. Robinson Science Hall was dedicated in October, during Homecoming Weekend. The three-story, 63,000-square-foot building will be LEED-Silver certified and features state-of-the-art laboratories and instrumentation, animal-research facilities, and classrooms that can be converted to labs to meet the university’s science program and classroom needs for the next 20 years. Since 2001, Whitworth has seen a 50 percent increase in science majors, who now number 600 students – a quarter of the student body. Robinson Science Hall represents a major step forward in securing the continued success of Whitworth’s thriving science program.
Whitworth Assistant Professor of Physics Markus Ong lectures in one of Robinson Science Hall’s two tiered classrooms, which feature high-tech teaching stations that allow faculty to perform demonstrations during lectures. A variety of academic disciplines are taught in the tiered classrooms, making Robinson Hall a resource for the entire campus.

Taylor Powell, ’13, loads protein samples onto an SDS-PAGE gel, which separates proteins by size for later identification, in one of Robinson Science Hall’s chemistry research labs. The new equipment in this lab is meeting growing demand from students interested in doing research with faculty.

Sunlight floods Robinson Science Hall from the third-story skylight. Whitworth Assistant Professor of Philosophy Joshua Orozco chats with Bethany Carrillo, ’14, in the building’s third-floor mezzanine area, which features three mosaic panels created by Whitworth art students in a community arts in practice course. From left to right, the panels are “Nuclear Fusion,” “Erlenmeyer Flasks,” and “Stem Cell.”

Tyler Bland, ’12, places a sample into Whitworth’s new 400 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer, which allows students and faculty to analyze structures of organic molecules both in the classroom and for research. All students taking chemistry will use the NMR equipment during their time at Whitworth, giving them hands-on experience afforded to few of their peers in undergraduate science studies.
Back in the day, when Holy Chea – so named because his father was singing “Holy, Holy, Holy” on the way to the hospital where his fourth son would be born – walked the halls of Whitworth, he somehow found ways to do the near-impossible: He combined his intellect, his talents, his bright smile and engaging personality, and his love for hip-hop culture with life as a serious student at a small, Christian, liberal arts university in a place not known as, ahem, a hotbed of urban life.

“Holy had many adjustments to make when he arrived at Whitworth, because we’re so very different from his urban experience,” says Assistant Dean for Programming and Diversity Esther Louie. “He demonstrated grace and generosity of spirit, and what I remember is his focus on helping inner-city youth. He taught break-dancing to kids here in Spokane, and he would often go downtown during his off hours to connect with street youth.

The clarity of his focus and his passion for service to youth are inspirational.”

And though Chea’s experience at Whitworth was not all rah-rah and hot cocoa – occasionally, he experienced a moment of discomfort when a fellow student made a rude remark about his race or made him feel he didn’t deserve the Act Six scholarship he had earned – “it inspired me to consider others’ worldviews and experiences,” he says. “I realized that I could be angry and defensive, or I could use the event as an opportunity to engage someone in a learning conversation. Many of those conversations turned into very good friendships.

“But through these moments were uncomfortable, they were also necessary,” he says. “Whitworth challenged me to build on my strengths, but also to recognize my weaknesses. It provided me the discipline that I needed to grow as an individual and as a leader.”

Now, four years out of college, Chea is pursuing his desire to serve and his love for the culture of his hometown in his position as community initiative coordinator at The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.

“In my job,” says Chea, “I co-lead with our Youth Philanthropy Board, which provides people ages 15-24 with the tools to become philanthropic and community leaders in an effort to reduce and prevent youth violence in Tacoma-Pierce County.”

In partnership with Seattle’s Raikes Foundation, Chea also oversees Pierce County’s Youth Program Quality Initiative, which engages agencies in processes that reflect best practices in youth development.

“I would never have imagined myself doing this type of work,” Chea says. “My parents are survivors of the Killing Fields in Cambodia, where, between 1975 and 1979, close to two million Cambodian men, women and children were killed by Pol Pot’s Khmer Rouge.” When Chea’s parents escaped the regime’s concentration camps after the war and eventually made it to the U.S., they had nothing more than the clothes on their backs, very little knowledge of American culture, and high-school educations.
In their straitened circumstances, the Cheas had to worry constantly about keeping their growing family fed, clothed and together: “Helping others was not at the top of their priority list,” Chea says.

It certainly is at the top of their son’s list now. Discovering at age 14 that he had the ability to mentor others sparked an interest in him. “I saw the importance and the positive impact of being in caring and healthy relationships,” he says. These days he works to bring about change among those who lack hope and opportunity in a society that sometimes forgets about them. “I won’t be able to fix all the problems or bridge all the gaps in society’s systems,” he says, “but I strongly believe in this statement by Desmond Tutu: ‘Do a little bit of good wherever you are; those little bits of good put together can overwhelm the world.’”

Tutu’s words may ring especially true for Chea because the Nobel Peace Prize winner himself was the person of honor and keynote speaker at an event that Chea helped organize last spring in Tacoma. “Be the Spark” was the expression of a movement to inspire Tacoma residents, “to prove that together, we have the power to spark change, to care, to act, to build a better community,” Chea says.

In addition to Tutu, “Be the Spark” featured local entertainers and luminaries including Seattle Seahawks’ coach Pete Carroll and philanthropist William Gates, Sr., as well as Canadian Craig Kielburger, founder of “Free the Children” and three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and L.A.’s Quest Crew, America’s Best Dance Crew Season Three winners.

Chea and the foundation were buoyed by the response to “Be the Spark.” He helped audition talent and entertainment for the event, and “I also had the privilege of distributing close to 4,000 scholarship tickets to Pierce County youth,” he says. The majority of these tickets, donated by multiple foundations, organizations, and businesses, went to nonprofit agencies, schools and faith-based organizations serving youth in Tacoma-Pierce County. More than 15,000 people – close to half of them under the age of 24 – attended the May event at the Tacoma Dome.

Chea might not be where he is today – right in the midst of combining little bits of good to make a big difference in his hometown – without the Act Six program. The program is a leadership/scholarship initiative that connects community ministries with faith- and social-justice-based colleges in equipping emerging urban and community leaders to make a difference in their communities. Whitworth was Act Six’ first partner institution, in 2002; that very productive partnership still exists today. “The most rewarding thing about being an Act Six student,” Chea says, “was the opportunity to share my story with others. There were countless opportunities to share about my culture, my family history, while I learned others’ stories, as well. Being part of Act Six and a student at Whitworth, I appreciated that learning was not limited to the classroom; it happened in the dorms, in the HUB, in The Loop, and even during late-night walks on Hawthorne Road. My time at Whitworth was an enormous learning experience. It was a blessing to be an Act Six student and to attend Whitworth University.” (See more about Act Six at www.actsix.org.)

Referring to Chea’s Act Six origins, Whitworth President Emeritus Bill Robinson says, “The best way to give back is to go back, and that’s what Holy did. He returned to his neighborhood in Tacoma to work with youth. That impressed everyone and surprised no one. It’s just what you would expect from Holy. He’s Whitworth at its best.”

“Being able to do the work I do is a blessing,” Chea says. “And although The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation is not faith-based, I strongly believe that my Christianity and my relationship with God have been the driving force behind my energy, my work and my efforts. It is because God loved me first that I am able to love others through my work. It makes perfect sense that I would fall in love with what I do.”
A Grand Opening

Community celebrates the Robinsons and Robinson Science Hall

Whitworth celebrated the grand opening of the William P. and Bonnie V. Robinson Science Hall under clear and sunny skies the morning of Saturday, Oct. 8, as part of Homecoming Weekend. The building’s namesakes, President Emeritus Bill Robinson and his wife, Bonnie, were in attendance, along with President Beck Taylor, members of the Whitworth board of trustees, Spokane Mayor Mary Verner, and other Whitworth and Spokane community members.

The $32 million Robinson Science Hall, which opened for classes this fall, is the largest and most expensive academic facility built by Whitworth in its 122-year history. The 63,000-square-foot building houses Whitworth’s biology, chemistry, and health science departments, and features state-of-the-art laboratories and instrumentation, research facilities, and classrooms that can be converted to labs. (To view a photo-spread of the building, see Page 10).

During the grand opening ceremony, ASWU President Eric Fullerton, ’12, spoke about the importance of the building to students. Whitworth Associate Professor of Biology Michael Sardinia, ’87, spoke about how the facility’s cutting-edge instrumentation and labs will help advance the faculty’s teaching and faculty/student collaborative research, and President Taylor presented the Robinsons with a framed photo of the building and a list of donor names.

With his typical good humor, Bill Robinson talks about his and Bonnie’s feelings regarding the new building: “It makes me hope we have a grandkid who majors in science at Whitworth, and every time the kid enters the building, she or he will get the creepy feeling that we’re watching,” he says. “Mainly, we feel the naming to be a lovely honor that far exceeds our contributions. The Whitworth story from 1993-2010 was written by this entire community, so if this high honor is symbolic of our efforts, it makes us feel great. We are immensely honored.”

Jazz Great Jams with Whitworth Ensemble

International jazz giant and two-time Grammy nominee Joshua Redman performed with the award-winning Whitworth Jazz Ensemble Nov. 5 in Cowles Auditorium. This is the 23rd year that Whitworth has hosted an international jazz star in a performance with the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble. “This is always a fantastic event for our students and the Whitworth community, as we all get to hear and be inspired and learn from some of the world’s greatest jazz musicians,” says Dan Keberle, professor of music and director of jazz studies and the jazz ensemble. Redman has performed and recorded with numerous legendary artists, including Yo Yo Ma, The Rolling Stones, and Stevie Wonder.

To view a short video interview with Redman, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.
Whitworth a Top Producer of Fulbright Scholars for 2011-12
University ranks among nation’s leading schools for second time in three years

For the second time in three years, the Fulbright Program listed Whitworth as a top producer of students who received Fulbright awards in 2011-12. The only school, public or private, in Washington state that had more Fulbright recipients than Whitworth was the University of Washington. The success of the top-producing institutions was highlighted in the Oct. 24 online edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education. Whitworth, which submitted five applications and had four Fulbright scholars selected, is listed in the master’s institutions category, along with 13 other institutions. To view the top-producers list, visit http://chronicle.com/article/Top-Producers-of-US/129452/.

A record four Whitworth seniors were awarded Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grants for the 2011-12 academic year. Corey Dugan is teaching in Spain, Angie Hartley in Argentina, James Mitsuyasu in Germany, and Katie Williams in Colômbia. Since 2000, 15 Whitworth students and three faculty members have been selected as Fulbright scholars. In addition, Whitworth alum Matt Kaemingk, ’03, recently was awarded a Fulbright research grant to pursue doctoral studies in The Netherlands through Fuller Theological Seminary. “The remarkable success of Whitworth students in the Fulbright competition can be attributed to the high-quality students we attract and to the work they do while at Whitworth to prepare themselves for teaching and studying abroad, such as by participating in teaching assistantships and in Whitworth’s study-abroad programs,” says John Yoder, a professor of political science at Whitworth and the university’s Fulbright advisor. “In addition, Whitworth professors know their students well and can write strong letters of support that carefully explain why a student has the skills and personal qualities essential for success in the Fulbright program.”

Whitworth was one of only five private institutions in Washington state to be recognized as top Fulbright producers. The achievement of having four students receive Fulbright awards in 2011-12 is also notable in light of the fact that of all the universities and colleges on the list, none had a higher success rate than Whitworth, Yoder says. Most schools had an average success rate of below 30 percent. Other schools with the same number of Fulbright recipients as Whitworth were Bernard College, Bates College, Bowdoin College, Davidson College, DePauw University, Macalester College, Villanova University, Wellesley College, and Wheaton College (Mass.).

Community Building Day Volunteers Break Record
Continuing a century-long tradition, hundreds of Whitworth students, faculty and staff, including President Beck Taylor and his wife, Julie, spent a crisp early fall morning in September volunteering at more than 45 nonprofit agencies across Spokane. Roughly 1,500 volunteers participated in Community Building Day 2011, making this year’s event the largest in university history.

“Our goal for Community Building Day is to provide an important first step for students in making a lifelong commitment to serving others and proactively participating in the community,” says Steve LaPointe, Whitworth’s assistant director for service-learning and community engagement. Kari Kelli, of Christ Kitchen, says, “We thoroughly appreciated the students who were here. They all worked hard, were very kind, respectful, funny and energetic. They were an absolute delight and blessing to all of us.”
Gift Honors Talented Teacher, Leader

Donors pledge $3 million to endow Margo Long Chair in Gifted Education

Donors, who wish to remain anonymous, have pledged $3 million to fund an endowed chair in gifted education at Whitworth. The landmark gift recognizes Whitworth’s commitment to preparing teachers who pursue a vocation in serving gifted and talented students, and will support the university’s Center for Gifted Education & Professional Development, which is the only one of its kind in Washington state.

The endowed chair will be named in honor of Margo Long, who founded and was director of the Whitworth Center for Gifted Education & Professional Development. Long, who retired last spring, was also a longtime associate professor of education and supervisor of secondary-level education students for the School of Education at Whitworth.

“We are so grateful for the generosity and vision of these wonderful donors,” says Whitworth President Beck Taylor. “In honoring Margo, and in establishing the Long Chair in Gifted Education, these dear friends of Whitworth are simultaneously celebrating the university’s rich history of academic excellence and helping us point to a promising future for our students and faculty.” The establishment of Whitworth’s fourth endowed faculty position moves Whitworth closer to its goal of establishing 10 such positions by 2021.

“I am truly overwhelmed by this gift to continue what I believe to be one of the most important needs in our schools today: to train teachers with the skills to address the needs of gifted students,” Long says. “This endowed chair is really a tribute to the entire Whitworth School of Education and all the people who have contributed to the Center for Gifted Education’s existence and goals. It is a thrill to know that the center’s influence will continue.”

The Margo Long Endowed Chair in Gifted Education will allow Whitworth to hire a national leader in this important field, thereby assuring Whitworth’s national prominence as a center of excellence in gifted education.

Whitworth established the Center for Gifted Education & Professional Development in 1979, in response to the growing need for leadership on the east side of Washington state to facilitate the distribution of materials and to provide services for exceptionally able learners. The center supports policies and practices that encourage and respond to the diverse expressions of gifts and talents in young people. In addition, the center’s extensive library of current and classic materials is a valuable resource for teachers of gifted children.

“This gift will allow the School of Education to advance the agenda in this field through the preparation of teachers, as well as through research and advocacy,” says Dennis Sterner, dean of the School of Education. “Children and young people in Spokane and beyond will be the ultimate beneficiaries of this wonderful donation.”

Whitworth Remembers 9/11

Whitworth commemorated the 10th anniversary of 9/11 with a remembrance service held that evening in Seeley Mudd Chapel. “It was important for the Whitworth community to be involved in the national day of remembrance in order to remember what happened on that day 10 years ago, and to reflect on how we responded to it,” says Terry McGonigal, Whitworth’s dean of spiritual life. Whitworth also honored local heroes at its football game on Sept. 10, offering free admission to military servicemen and women and to first responders, and by holding a time of special recognition prior to the game in conjunction with the singing of the national anthem.
Rankings Recognize Whitworth’s Commitments to Academic Quality, Financial Aid

For the 12th year in a row, Whitworth earned a spot in the top 10 of U.S. News & World Report’s annual rankings of the best regional universities and best values in the West. This fall Whitworth climbed three positions to capture the No. 2 spot among 118 regional universities in the best values rankings, and held its No. 9 position among the best regional universities in the West.

Whitworth also was recently listed at No. 62 in Kiplinger’s 2011-12 rankings of the top best values among all private universities in the U.S.; was designated “Best in the West” in The Princeton Review’s 2012 Best Colleges: Region by Region guide; and ranked among the top six private schools in the Pacific Northwest in Forbes’ latest America’s Best Colleges rankings.

“High rankings in U.S. News are indicators of Whitworth’s commitment to using our resources to provide our students with an excellent education and to be faithful to our mission of integrating Christian faith and learning,” says Whitworth Provost and Executive Vice President Michael Le Roy, ’89. “Yet a high-quality education also involves many intangibles, such as the level of faculty commitment to student learning, the quality of instruction, and the role the institution’s mission plays in shaping the minds and hearts of students. So while we appreciate the ways a top 10 ranking in U.S. News recognizes measurable positive attributes, we also remain committed to striving for excellence in areas that can’t be quantified.”

The U.S. News rankings are based on a variety of indicators of an institution’s quality, including academic reputation, faculty resources, student selectivity, freshman retention, graduation rate, financial resources and alumni giving.

This fall, Whitworth welcomed the most academically successful freshman class in its history, with an average high-school GPA of 3.7 and average SAT score of 1807. Whitworth has a three-year average freshman-sophomore retention rate of 85 percent, while 85 percent of students who graduate from Whitworth do so in four years; both measures are well above national averages. In addition, the university has lowered its student-faculty ratio to 11-to-1, even as undergraduate enrollment has risen.

The U.S. News best-values rankings are based on academic quality and the net cost of attendance for a student receiving the average level of need-based financial aid. Whitworth will provide $36.3 million in grants and scholarships to undergraduate students this year, and the average total aid award for traditional undergraduate students is $25,819.

“It is especially gratifying to rise to No. 2 on the best values list, because those rankings recognize Whitworth’s strong commitments to both academic quality and financial aid,” says Greg Orwig, ’91, vice president for admissions and financial aid. “At a time when families are working harder than ever to afford college, we strive to ensure that Whitworth students get an excellent return on their investment through small class sizes, exceptional teaching, career and graduate school preparation, and on-time graduation. High rankings in U.S. News, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine, Forbes and The Princeton Review affirm Whitworth’s track record of success in these areas.”

Life after Death Row

Human rights activist Juan Melendez was wrongly convicted of murder and served 17 years on death row before being released in 2002. Since his release, he has traveled across the U.S. – including a visit to Whitworth in September – telling audiences his story. During his presentation, he talked about the injustices he witnessed behind bars and about the importance of faith and hope even in life’s darkest circumstances. Melendez also discussed his Voices United for Justice project, which seeks to abolish the death penalty in the U.S. and to plant seeds for its abolition throughout the world.
Contemplating “The Meaning of Matthew”

Matthew Shepard’s mother shares his story with Whitworth

Just over 13 years ago, on Oct. 13, 1998, 21-year-old University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and left to die in a remote area east of Laramie, Wyo. His murder sparked a national dialogue about anti-LGBT hate crimes – a dialogue that continues to this day. Determined to turn tragedy into a crusade for justice and to prevent others from suffering Matthew’s fate, his mother, Judy Shepard, established The Matthew Shepard Foundation, which advocates for LGBT rights and respect and tolerance for all people. Shepard, who travels the country telling her son’s story, shared “The Meaning of Matthew” with the Whitworth community on Nov. 10.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation seeks to “replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance” through education, outreach and advocacy programs. Speaking from a mother’s perspective, Shepard urged the audience to work to make schools and communities safe for everyone, regardless of race, sex, religion or gender identity and/or expression.

“As a university committed to honoring God, following Christ, and serving humanity, Whitworth desires to be on the front lines against all violent hate crimes, including those done out of fear and prejudice,” says Casey Andrews, assistant professor of English at Whitworth. “Judy Shepard has been a tireless advocate for people who, like her son, have been assaulted because of their sexuality. Hearing her tell Matthew’s story was a chance for all members of the Whitworth and broader Spokane communities to become more informed about these important issues. We believe her presence on campus helped further our discussions about hate crimes, about violence toward LGBT people, and about how to be responsible, engaged citizens.”

Shepard has appeared in two Human Rights Campaign advertisements urging an end to anti-gay violence and promoting a greater understanding of gay issues. Her New York Times bestselling book, The Meaning of Matthew: My Son’s Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed, offers an intimate look at how her life, and the fight for equal rights, changed when her son was killed.

Shepard’s visit to Whitworth was sponsored in part by 1962 Whitworth alumnus David E. Martin.
In It to Win It
Leetch is new director of athletics

Whitworth recently hired Aaron Leetch to lead its highly successful athletics program – the Northwest Conference’s most successful program in each of the past four years. In making Leetch’s appointment official, Whitworth President Beck Taylor said that “Aaron has a tremendous track record of engaging corporate sponsors, donors and volunteer supporters who can give our already-successful coaches and student-athletes the resources they need to take Pirate Athletics even further.” Leetch, who was at Illinois State from 2005-11, hit the ground running in Spokane. “It’s so exciting to become part of the fantastic team and the championship tradition that’s in place at Whitworth,” he says. “There are many reasons why I wanted to be at Whitworth, but the leadership and vision of President Taylor are certainly at the top of the list. For me, the people make the place – and Whitworth is filled with wonderful people.”

Having served as an NCAA Div. I athletics administrator for nearly 10 years, Leetch understands well the importance of balancing fund-raising with creating and maintaining programs that benefit both the university and its athletes. “It’s my belief,” he says, “that intercollegiate athletics should be an area of pride for the institution without distracting from its core values and mission. I believe that a student-athlete should be a student first. To that end, Div. III athletics provides a wonderful opportunity for an athletics director to have a direct impact on the lives of young people.”

Leetch follows Vice President for Institutional Advancement Scott McQuilkin, ‘84, who served as Whitworth’s A.D. from 1996-2009, and Golf Head Coach and Professor of Kinesiology Warren Friedrichs, who served from 2009-11.

Whitworth Forensics Makes a Comeback

Due to popular demand, this fall Whitworth has resurrected its forensics program after a 14-year hiatus.

The rebirth of the program came on the heels of a string of successful years for Whitworth students engaged in similar academic activities. Last spring, a team of Whitworth students tied for third place at the 15th annual National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, marking the second time in three years that Whitworth has placed in the top five at the national bowl. Whitworth teams have placed in the top tier at regional ethics bowls for the past decade.

“Whitworth is resurrecting the forensics program to provide academically talented students with a high-quality co-curricular activity,” says Mike Ingram, director of the forensics program and associate dean for faculty development and scholarship at Whitworth. “The new program will provide a rigorous intellectual experience for students across many majors.”

Ingram led the intercollegiate forensics program from 1988-97, but budget constraints resulted in the program being discontinued. Ingram says that since the program ended, the Whitworth Admissions Office has fielded a steady stream of inquiries about whether the university has a forensics team.

“Debaters and speakers tend to be very strong students who are interested in the exchange of ideas and in sharpening their public speaking abilities,” Ingram says. “The goals of the program are to significantly enhance abilities in critical thinking and effective public speaking.”

The team travels to regional tournaments in which they compete against other schools in a variety of speaking events and debates. Recently the team competed in a speech and debate tournament in Caldwell, Idaho, where they took home a total of 18 awards, defeating teams from schools including Oregon State University, Northwest Nazarene University, and the College of Idaho.
The HUB of Whitworth

Hixson Union Building undergoes expansion, renovation

After 14 years of faithful service to Whitworth’s growing population, the HUB, too, is growing. In June, crews broke ground on a 14,000-square-foot addition, which includes a mezzanine-level dining area that can be turned into an event/catering space that seats 80-100 people, in addition to the main level’s 120-seating capacity. There will also be two new dining venues on the main level, one serving Asian food and the other offering that savory staple of college life: pizza.

The building project, to be completed in summer 2012, will be followed by an updating of the current dining hall and food service areas, bringing them up to the high standards of the furnishings and equipment provided in the new addition. The $6.5 million project will expand and enhance dining space and food service for the entire campus and will give Whitworth additional venues for community gatherings.

“This expansion will provide a comfortable place for students to hang out in cozy booths in natural, floor-to-ceiling light, to enjoy a pizza from our authentic brick oven, and to catch a game on one of the numerous flat-screen TVs,” says Assistant Dean of Students Dayna Coleman-Jones. “The mezzanine will provide an area that can be closed off for special programs and private dinners. The addition and renovation will give Whitworth a spacious, hip, student-oriented event and dining space.”

Chelsea Stephens, ’14, is enthusiastic about the changes to come. “I’m excited about the opening of the HUB expansion,” she says. “It’s much-needed and will add some real variety to the classic ‘Saga’ experience.” Jamie Campbell, ’15, concurs: “I think the addition will be great,” she says. “It will offer more seating during mealtimes and will also give us more variety. After a while you find yourself wanting something in addition to what’s currently offered in the food court!”
As Whitworth President Beck Taylor travels around the country representing the university, the people he meets often ask, “How can we pray for Whitworth? What does the university need most in order to continue to live out its mission?”

“On Bended Knee,” Whitworth’s new online prayer guide, is the university’s response to that question. “Each week we provide a theme,” says Dean of Spiritual Life Terry McGonigal, who oversees the site, “and we couple that with a reading from a Psalm. Prayer prompts provide reminders of the needs of Whitworth’s students, faculty and staff. There’s also a weekly focus on our Whitworth 2021: Courage at the Crossroads strategic plan, with a prayer prompt for one particular initiative in the plan.” The guide also provides the scriptural passage that will be preached in chapel that week, along with the name of the week’s preacher.

The prayer guide ends each week with a prayer of thanksgiving, which, McGonigal says, “keeps us all mindful of our need for an attitude of gratitude for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ.”

More than 500 people have signed up to receive “On Bended Knee” electronically; the website has received more than 15,000 hits since the guide was launched in late August. If you would like to receive this weekly prayer guide, please sign up for the RSS feed at www.whitworth.edu/onbendedknee.

Catching Hay Fever

In October, Whitworth Theatre presented its fall production, *Hay Fever*, a comedy written by Noel Coward and set in the witty and stylish world of the 1920s. Diana Trotter, Whitworth professor of theatre and the play’s director, says *Hay Fever* captures the spirit of the 1920s and delighted the audience with its humor. The production marked the first time a set was designed in-house at Whitworth, thanks to the expertise of Whitworth’s new assistant professor of theatre, Aaron Dyszelski, who specializes in costume and set design.
In Memoriam

Harry M. Dixon

Harry M. Dixon, a much-loved longtime business and economics professor at Whitworth, died peacefully in August at the age of 92 in his home in Simi Valley, Calif.

Dixon came to Whitworth in 1960, after working for Boeing in Seattle, and retired from Whitworth in 1984. He held the title of professor emeritus of business and economics until his death. During his tenure, he helped build a business major, which eventually led to a major in accounting, as well, within the existing economics department. He also served on the Core 150 teaching team and on numerous committees and councils.

Known as “Mr. Whitworth” by many alums who were students during his tenure, Dixon was named Most Influential Professor by senior classes several times throughout his career. Respected for his economics expertise and for his engaging and approachable teaching style, Dixon expressed genuine interest in students and helped guide many toward successful and rewarding business careers.

“Vocational guidance is one of the most important things we can offer students,” he once said. “But the only way you can be effective is by getting to know them…sharing their insights…asking questions that help them sort out their interests and capabilities.”

Whitworth Trustee Scott Chandler, ’84, managing partner of Franklin Court Partners LLC, in Centennial, Colo., says Dixon exemplified Whitworth’s mission. He credits Dixon for teaching him business principles he has used throughout his career and for preparing him for his graduate studies at the prestigious Wharton School of Business, at the University of Pennsylvania.

“He was passionate about what he taught,” Chandler says, “and he wanted to get to know every student. He will forever be remembered for the genuine love he had for Whitworth and its students.”

Jane Newhall

Jane Newhall, 97, an extraordinary friend of Whitworth, died July 27 in Martha’s Vineyard. She also had a home in San Francisco. She was a trustee of the San Francisco Theological Seminary as well as the board of directors of the Graduate Theological Union, and she was a founding member and director of the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation.

She loved to sing and did so for many years in the Calvary Presbyterian Church Choir, in San Francisco, as well as in the West Tisbury Congregational Church Choir, in Massachusetts. Newhall was known for her generosity toward Whitworth and other Presbyterian organizations and institutions of higher learning. She is survived by her companion, Anita Guerra, by her extended family, to whom she was devoted, and by her “bi-coastal beagles,” Benjamin, Bugle Ann, Daisy and Poppy.

Business Professor Emeritus George Weber says he cherished Dixon as a valued colleague and brother in Christ during their 20 years working at the school together.

“Harry and I had a common vision that business and economics should be a much bigger piece of the pie at Whitworth,” Weber says, “and we wanted to prepare people for a life of service in a field in which many graduates were beginning to find productive and meaningful employment.” Calling Dixon “a wonderful guy to work with,” Weber says he was also “a very gentle person who was willing to talk to anybody and to talk in depth about any subject you wanted to talk about. He was a committed believer who displayed to me and to everyone else the fruits of the Christian life.”

Memorial gifts to honor Harry Dixon’s life may be made to the Harry and Marjorie Dixon Endowed Scholarship at Whitworth University.
As a student of democracy these past 25 years, I have become increasingly concerned with the drift in political discourse in American public life. Passionate disagreement has always been a lively part of public conversation in the U.S., but the parties have generally believed that they shared a common purpose: nurturing the idea of a democratic republic. In the late 18th century, this idea was new, complex, highly nuanced and untested in the modern world. The devil of this big idea remained in the details. What is the proper balance between the power of the people and the power of government? Could slavery be condoned? How should this republic relate to other kingdoms and new revolutionary governments as they emerged? Americans such as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson disagreed passionately on these questions — in fact, their political disagreements strained their friendship, forged during the years of the American Revolution — but it is clear that both were committed to the establishment of a new democratic republic. This shared commitment disciplined their rhetoric and restored their friendship at the end of their lives.

Many years after the founding of the U.S., France's Alexis de Tocqueville visited, seeking to understand how American democracy worked. To many Europeans, the idea of democracy was threatening and confusing. How does a government invest political authority in the people without the people becoming a ranting, dangerous mob? How can Americans disagree about political matters without resorting to the kind of violence that tore France apart during its own revolution? As Tocqueville traveled through the country, he found an answer to his questions that even most Americans had not considered: community.

Though Tocqueville did not use the word “community,” he observed that individuals in the U.S. were not part of rival mobs bent on one another’s destruction, but were instead a part of civic associations dedicated to purposes that transcended narrow individual impulses. Americans had formed churches, schools, charities, and universities — groups in which members debated and disagreed with one another but remained committed to the basic mission and purpose of the organization. Tocqueville noted that Americans seemed to be practical, rather than ideological, and observed that the common purpose or mission of each organization mattered more than any individual's narrow agenda. And the organizations he studied seemed to be laboratories to train up citizens committed to civil discourse in democratic society. Finally, Tocqueville observed that good relationships within a community mattered as much to most Americans as being right on a given issue.

I wonder whether Tocqueville would find the same vibrant civic culture today that he found in the U.S. in 1823. Today there are American schools, churches, charities and universities still governed by common purposes. But I worry that the rhetoric in American civic life is losing its mooring to the common purpose of a democratic republic. As I listen to the radio, watch television debates, and read blogs, I observe political discourse characterized by three worrisome trends: monologue rather than dialogue; attitudes characterized by suspicion, mistrust, and a lack of charity toward those with different points of view; and disagreements about the nature and implications of truth that tend to obscure understanding rather than enhance it. It may be argued that these are the rhetorical characteristics of any era, but I fear that new media are beginning to reorganize society from social groups that join together to serve common purposes (schools, churches, charities) to social groups that share only common ideological perspectives (MoveOn.org, Fox News adherents, the John Birch Society, and NPR listeners). These sub-groups are certainly a vital part of a democracy, but what happens when Republicans and Democrats, Christians and non-Christians, environmentalists and business leaders cease to gather in common places for purposes that transcend narrow interests?

Because Whitworth’s Christian mission welcomes believers of all traditions to join the conversation, that search for truth is realized in a context of lively discussion and mutual respect among fellow truth-seekers. Disagreement happens by design in this community, and, at times, each of us finds it uncomfortable. But it is our hope that, as we seek the nature and implications of truth that disagreements will lead to deeper understanding rather than to relativistic confusion. Whitworth isn't perfect in its pursuit of academic community, but it's our goal to produce graduates who can engage respectfully, think critically, and act compassionately across all societal differences. And perhaps institutions like Whitworth still have a role to play in the development of democratic citizens. In his analysis of democracy in America, Tocqueville observed that “The greatness of America lies not in her being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.”
Pictured (l-r): Travis Hartanov, Ginny Porterfield, and Primal de Lanerolle tour the campus before they receive their awards at the 2011 George F. Whitworth Honors Banquet. John Scotford was unable to attend this year’s event.

Primal de Lanerolle, ’68
2011 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

Primal de Lanerolle’s family moved from Sri Lanka to Berkeley, Calif., in 1958. “Moving to Berkeley was really tough,” he says. “One thing that kept me going was that I became very involved with Young Life. My friends there introduced me to Whitworth, and I decided to attend.”

De Lanerolle came to Whitworth intending to go to medical school. “My father wanted to be a doctor himself,” he says, “and he pushed me hard in this direction. But a freshman English class taught by Dean Ebner changed my life.” Ebner, Ken Richardson and Don Frantz taught about consciousness, and how one fits into the physical universe. “Although they taught it from a humanistic/Christian point of view,” de Lanerolle says, “it has been an important guiding principle for me as a scientist.”

He graduated in 1968 with majors in English literature and chemistry and then completed his master’s degree in literature at San Francisco State. He chose science over literature in his doctoral studies, believing that he was better at the latter, and earned his Ph.D. in physiology and pharmacology at U.C. San Diego. He is now a professor in the medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

De Lanerolle’s major interest is in the role of proteins known as molecular motors. His team discovered the first molecular motor in the nucleus and showed that it was involved in the first step in gene expression. “In tangible ways,
this discovery is changing how we think about the nucleus and gene expression,” says de Lanerolle. “I am proud of this achievement.

“But,” he says, “I think I am most proud of something else. One of the things I learned at Whitworth is that the most important thing in life is touching other people’s lives in positive ways. I think I have been a good mentor. That is what I am most proud of.”

Travis Hartanov, ’08
Recent Alumni Award

Travis Hartanov’s vocational journey began in high school, when he learned to crochet hats. “My friend Kohl Crecelius called up Stewart Ramsey and me after his older brother returned home from college and brought with him an interesting new hobby,” Hartanov says. “It took us an entire Saturday to complete our first hats, but from that moment on we were hooked.” A local newspaper got wind of the young men’s exploits and dubbed them the Krochet Kids.

At Whitworth, Hartanov and his friends were too busy to do needlework. Then they had the opportunity to travel to developing countries during summer breaks. They were dismayed by the lack of employment opportunities in places like Uganda. After talking with people there, they realized the people’s need for dignity through employment — “the kind of dignity,” Hartanov says, “that goes hand-in-hand with being able to provide for loved ones.”

In 2007, the guys headed off to Uganda with yarn and hooks in hand. Once in Uganda, they gathered their first group of students in a small cement room. “The climax of my vocational journey rests in the memory of that day,” Hartanov says. “It was on that day that a group of 10 ladies picked up crochet hooks and yarn for the first time; it was on that day that they realized there was hope for their futures; and it was on that day that I realized that my life would never be the same.

“I felt a very strong calling to start a nonprofit organization, Krochet Kids International,” Hartanov says. “And God taught me that through Christ, all things are possible, even if the journey is not easy.” Today, Krochet Kids employs 122 women in Uganda and five in Peru.

John Scotford, ’51
Alumni Service to Whitworth Award

Anyone who walks around the beautiful Whitworth campus can see the fruits of John Scotford’s labor: He and his wife, Judy, have always been generous to the university, and John has given lavishly of his expertise and his time along with his hard-earned money.

Scotford’s life as a business leader actually began at Whitworth, where his first mentor was Mark Koehler, a man who, Scotford says, “definitely showed me a great example of what a leader is.” Eventually, as his many business enterprises grew, Scotford would become a trustee at his alma mater. He calls his time on the board “the years that taught me the true excellence of Whitworth as an educational institution founded upon traditional Christian values.”

Whitworth President Emeritus Bill Robinson was a beneficiary of Scotford’s expertise. “I never lost track of John in a board meeting,” Bill says. “I couldn’t afford to. He would lean forward, and a wince would crease his face as if he were having some kind of gastronomical issue. The wince would soon become a full-on facial contortion. ‘Bill,’ he’d say, stretching my name into three syllables, ‘I’m sorry, I’m just a dumb car salesman, but…’ And whatever followed was spot-on. John’s fierce love for Whitworth and his laser-beam business savvy made it impossible for him to sit still if we got lazy or wayward in our thinking. He refused to let that happen. And that is as valuable to Whitworth as the millions of dollars he and Judy have given with such generosity and joy.”

Former V. P. for Institutional Advancement Kristi Burns appreciates Scotford’s uncanny ability to see into an even brighter future for Whitworth. “Whitworth University’s grounds, property and athletics facilities are beautiful because of John’s vision,” she says, “is grounded in his love for Christ and for Whitworth. And the Whitworth community loves John.”

Virginia (Ginny) Porterfield, ’65
Alumni Mind & Heart Award Winner

Virginia Porterfield earned a Whitworth B.A. in sociology, and then went to work, in Tacoma, with the juvenile justice department. She was a juvenile parole officer for two years and a juvenile probation officer for 11.

Then came a year at Fellowship House, in Washington, D.C., serving and meeting people from all over the world and working to help put on the National Prayer Breakfast. She returned to D.C. every year for 17 years to help with the breakfast and to solidify her relationships in that part of the country.

Porterfield then worked with Ministry in the Central City and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity spending much of her time “just getting the word out,” she says. After 13 years and helping to create housing for 40 families, she moved on. “Her” chapter of HFH flourishes to this day, having housed more than 100 families.

Next she learned from a friend, Daphne, about the wretched lives of poor children in her neighborhood. “I was moved by the gruesome stories Daphne would tell me about children living in her trailer court,” Porterfield says. She began a Bible club there, and it continues to flourish 13 years later.

In 2004, Porterfield’s heart was touched by the work in the Dominican Republic of Children of the Nations, which supports schools, orphanages, medical clinics and food programs in developing countries. She takes doctors and occupational therapists to the Dominican Republic to work with disabled children and train staff and parents to carry on their work. She and others have helped build a school and have taught the biblical ways of peacemaking.

“I don’t have a lot of skills to offer,” Porterhouse says, “but my gift of mobilizing and networking helps me bring together the teams to help these precious people. I’m preparing to lead my 12th trip to the Dominican Republic this fall.” She calls her work with Children of the Nations “my greatest joy.”

To see videos about the 2011 Alumni Award Winners, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.
Class Notes

2000s

2000 Tamara (Villegas) Elder is the district social studies specialist for grades 4-12 in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools system’s Kaiserslauern District, which includes 19 schools and 10,000 students in four U.S. military communities in Germany. She taught history, Spanish, and language arts at Bitburg High School, in the Kaiserslauern District, and in the Wilbur School District, in Washington.

2001 Christina Close now lives and serves in Birmingham, U.K., with Operation Mobilization. She will be serving as the organization’s finance manager and will be on the DanceLink ministry team. Erin (Benson) Raska recently accepted a call to be associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette, on the north side of Chicago. Our deepest condolences go out to Joel and Kate (Nuechterlein, ’02) Robnett, who are mourning the March 14 death of their daughter, Ava Katherine.

2002 Stephanie (Stern) Carlson and her husband, Ben, relocated to Corpus Christi, Texas, after Ben’s promotion. Josh Pasma is a part of the Acts 29 network; he serves as pastor of Crossview Community Church, in Washington’s Tri-Cities. Abby (Hyder) Barrantes and her family are in enjoying community life in Pasadena while her husband, Eliecer, studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. Abby’s son, Isaiah, just started kindergarten. Zachary Brown became the new camp director of Sound View Camp and Retreat Center, in Longbranch, Wash., in June. Nicole Craddock and Robert Petina were married on Aug. 20 in Rye, N.Y.

2003 Diana Huey completed a master of fine arts in creative writing from Seattle Pacific University. Matthew Kaemingk was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study in the Netherlands. Dana Strait will graduate from her doctoral program next September. She recently presented a paper at Edinburgh University, U.K., and gave an invited lecture at Cambridge.

2004 Drew Strait recently returned from South Africa, where he began work on his doctoral dissertation at the University of Pretoria. He is an adjunct professor in the theology department at North Park University, in Chicago. Julie Grubb married Matthew Mead on Jan. 16. The wedding party included matron of honor Shannon (Tolley) Borgman, Nicole Grubb, ’15, and Julie’s parents, Paul and Laurie (Hall) Grubb, both ’78.

2005 Alyssa Bell graduated June 3 with her master of divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. In August, Justin Smith earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Tennessee Knoxville; he completed his clinical internship at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, in Denver. In June, Erik Lystad graduated from Thomas Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and he is now midway through his intern year of residency at Lancaster General Hospital. Nathan Boyer received the Army Achievement Medal for scoring in the 93rd percentile on the Internal Medicine Training Exam. Caitlin Gregory moved to Lake Stevens, Wash., in early March. She is in her fifth year of teaching sixth-grade students. Katie Linder earned her doctorate from Ohio State University in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. She accepted a job at Suffolk University, in Boston, as assistant director of the Center of Teaching Excellence. Nathan Dressback and Julie (Karber) Dressback, ’06, both received their master’s degrees in May. Nathan graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree, and Julie graduated from Rutgers with a master’s in communication and information studies. They just relocated to Phoenix, where Nathan is with Teach for America. Katie Brown is back in the U.S. after completing Youth with a Mission’s six-month Discipleship Training School, in

Proud Whitworthians gathered in Spokane last August to celebrate the marriage of Noree Johnson, ’08, to David Dolphay, ’08.

Pictured are (front row, l-r) Stephanie Hunter, ’09; Noree (Johnson, ’08) Dolphay; Stephanie Bisch, ’07; Jeannie (Sibbett, ’08) Huskisson; (middle row, l-r) Jason Hunter, ’08; David Dolphay, ’08; Jewel Chrisman, ’06; Elizabeth Sutherland, ’07; Kyle Bisch, ’07; Delynn Hampton, ’08; Travis Huskisson, ’08; (back row, l-r) Kevin Wang, ’04; Serena Wang, ’05; Debbie Clark, ’06; Pat Bech, ’08; Justin Brandler, ’09; and Luke Stocker, ’08.
Rasmussen Named Gresham Officer of the Year

By Josh Cleveland, ’01

John Rasmussen, ’97, was honored as the recipient of the Gresham (Ore.) Police Department’s Ron Crump Officer of the Year Award in 2010. The award is the result, in part, of Rasmussen’s work with at-risk students involved in gangs. “He is part coach and counselor to kids who are leaning toward the dark side,” wrote a police peer in one of Rasmussen’s six nominations for the award. And “he is who we want our officers to be.”

Rasmussen, 36, attended Whitworth on a scholarship as a competitive swimmer. After earning his bachelor’s degree in theology and speech communications, he worked for a Portland-based program as a residential treatment counselor for troubled youths and juvenile criminals. After working as a counselor for eight years for a nonprofit organization, Rasmussen joined the police force in Gresham, where his work allows him to continue using his skills as a counselor. “I try to approach people pretty compassionately,” Rasmussen says. “I’ve had people on an arrest thank me,” he adds. “Not necessarily for taking them to jail, but for treating them civilly.”

Rasmussen believes that his Whitworth education prepared him well for his life as a police officer. “My years at Whitworth were very formative,” he says, “and seeking to educate the minds and hearts of the citizens I work with is something I continually strive for. Through the leadership of great people like Bill Robinson, Jerry Sittser, Ron Pyle, Rick Hornor, Jim Waller, and Roger and Dottie Morhlang, I continually learn to rely on Christ and represent Him in all I do.” Rasmussen entered Whitworth planning to enter traditional full-time ministry, but “Dottie’s wisdom in placing me in a prison ministry internship through the Certification for Ministry Program proved foundational to my recognition of God’s plan for me in law enforcement. I am forever grateful to have learned that working for Christ includes putting on a uniform and running toward cries for help from those in crisis: “Being an ambassador for Christ at their doorstep” is the way in which Rasmussen lives out his calling in Gresham.

The Rasmussens – John and his wife, Kelly (Rodmel, ’97) – are tireless supporters of Whitworth who have influenced a number of current students in their decisions to attend the university. And they’re raising a whole new generation of potential Whitworth students, as well. They are the parents of three, with a baby due in February.

After serving on the Gresham force for two years as a patrol officer, Rasmussen worked at Barlow High School, where, during his four years as the school’s resource officer, he collaborated with the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team. After his stint at Barlow, which ended in spring 2011, Rasmussen went back to patrol duty. He is now a lead for the Gresham P.D. crisis-negotiation team and a public information officer for the department. In his free time, he is an assistant coach specializing in stroke instruction for the Barlow High School swim team. Sometimes, he says, he dreams about trying to reclaim some of his swimming titles or trying to qualify for the 2012 Olympic trials. But considering his growing family, he laughs and says, “I don’t know if my wife would like that.”

Chile. She also visited Colombia and Cuba during the outreach phase of her training. Katie works in West Texas and looks forward to new adventures.

2006 Christopher Holmes received his master in divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in May and entered the Ph.D. program at Emory University this fall.

2007 Toree Pfursich married Robert Double III on July 22 in La Cañada, Calif. They plan to move to Chicago, where Robert will soon begin studies at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Keith Petersen is the worship pastor at South Hills Church, in Kennewick, Wash. Jenell (Jennings) Morris is now a stay-at-home mom to her eight-month-old son, Paul, after more than three years of medical-surgical nursing at Spokane’s Sacred Heart Medical Center. Jenell and her husband, Jeremy, have been accepted with Africa Inland Mission as long-term missionaries; they will leave for Tanzania in early 2013. Katelynn Brown married Martin Lopes in 2008. They now reside in Ridgefield, Wash. Kaley Hawk participated in Youth with a Mission in France and Madagascar during 2009-10. She is a secondary history teacher at Liberty Christian School, in Richland, Wash. Amy Newton was accepted into the University of Washington School of Medicine. Stephanie Kreuter is pursuing a master’s degree in international policy studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, in Monterey, Calif., after working for two years at Siguatepeque Bilingual Christian School, in Honduras. Emily Creek married Patrick McHenry on March 19. They both practice nursing at Spokane’s Sacred Heart Medical Center. The McHenrys plan to begin travel-nursing and serving with Mercy Ships in 2012. Stephanie (Thurston) Hackbath and her husband, Ryan, just returned from Mongolia, where she has served with the Peace Corps for the past two years. She is currently looking for employment.

2008 Kara Hafner recently joined the Bay Area branch of Teach for America to further her efforts in helping to close the achievement gap. She has been teaching in Phoenix for three years. Christina (Herman) Oscarson received the Distinguished Educator Team 2010-11 Award from Spokane Public Schools in May. Andrea Naccarato received the Rookie of the Year Teaching Award for the Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, School District. Andrea (Mielke) Blackburn and Sean Blackburn, ’07, are in Texas while Sean pursues his master’s degree in biblical counseling from Dallas Theological Seminary. Andrea is a cardiac nurse at Baylor University Medical Center.
2009 McLane Stone and Charley Brinkman Stone, ’10, live in Princeton, N.J., where McLane attends Princeton Theological Seminary; Charley is enrolled in the master’s degree in public policy program at Rutgers.

MaryKate Anderson and Andrew DeBoer were married on July 24 in Nine NW, NJ, where McLane attends Princeton Theological Seminary; Charley attends Princeton Theological Seminary; Charley attends Princeton Theological Seminary.

2002 twins, a boy, Charlie, and a girl, Gracie, to K.C. and Sarah (Ambrose) McVey, May 18

2002 a boy, Beckett Thomas, to Allison (Pemberton, ’04) and Christopher Noland, ’02, Sept. 6, 2009

2002 a boy, Brooks Gary, to Allison (Pemberton, ’04) and Christopher Noland, ’02, July 16

2002 a boy, Nathaniel Joel, to Adam and Stephanie (Ball, ’03) Van Ornum, April 17

2003 a boy, Calvin Henry, to Col in and Jennifer (Brandler, ’02) Hesse, Jan. 6

2004 twin girls, Clara June and Eliza Ruby, to Bryan and Jaime Tidwell, March 8

2004 a girl, Kiana Marie, to Kristin (Tewell, ’07) and Kevin Swisher, ’04, March 14, 2009

2004 a boy, Keaton Robert, to Kristin (Tewell, ’07) and Kevin Swisher, ’04, March 1

2006 a girl, Makaylin Grace, to Cameron and Amy (Bowers) Collins, Sept. 22

2006 a boy, Graham David, to Jon and Valerie (Iveson, ’08) Brewer, April 27

2007 a girl, Brooklyn Ann Marie, to Emily (Johnson) and Jerrod Miller, Dec. 11

2007 a girl, Grace Evangeline, to Kristi (Bechtel) and Daniel Mullen, April 26

2007 a girl, Lexy, to Kate (Fuller) and Marc Peterson, Dec. 16, 2009

2007 a boy, Josiah, to Kate (Fuller) and Marc Peterson, May 14

DEATHS

Corinne Cridland, ’06, died July 3. She was born Feb. 28, 1954, in Pierre, S.D. She moved to Tekoa, Wash., when she was a child and lived in the Spokane area for the rest of her life. She is survived by her children, two granddaughters, her siblings, and other family.

1990s

1991 Staci (Baird) Stoller earned her law degree from the University of Houston Law Center, in Houston, in May. Throughout her time in law school, she worked for Cyberonics, Inc., a medical device manufacturer. She plans to stay with the company. LaRinda (Utter) Chapin began teaching humanities at Pascal Academy, a new private Christian school, in Post Falls, Idaho.

1992 Kalani Fronda, who is senior land asset manager with the Kamehameha Schools Endowment Group (a $6.5 billion trust), co-led a regional land-planning team that received the 2011 National Plan of the Year for Innovation in Sustaining Places from the American Planning Association, as well as the 2009 Plan of the Year for the work they completed on Kamehameha Schools’ North Shore Plan. Diane M. Hanson just finished her seventh year as an intensively trained dialectical behavior therapist. She works with the poor, the mentally ill, and often the suicidal clients of Spokane County, and she “asks God to help with the words my clients need to hear.” Courtney McDermed and a partner opened an immigration law firm in San Francisco last April.

1993 Kyrsten (Lee) Weber was production assistant and researcher on an upcoming KSPS documentary on 1920s bootlegging in the Northwest. Kyrsten and her husband, Daniel Weber, ’91, have two children, Karsten (6) and Annika (3), who debuted on TV this spring. Both were on camera for Spokane’s new “Best of Broadway” ads.

1994 Michelle-Lynne (Cron) Morimoto and her husband, Hide Morimoto, ’97, work together as co-owners of Clear Skies English School. Though teaching children to speak, read, and write in English is the obvious objective, “abiding in Christ in order to love them” is their deeper purpose. To see what they are up to, please visit www.clearskieskids.com.

Jost graduated from medical school in 2009 and will finish his pediatric residency at the University of Utah in June 2012. Erica Horn is an executive director at a nonprofit health and human services organization in Bellevue, Wash. Troy Miller is the area manager for National & Alamo Car Rentals at the SeaTac Airport and Downtown Seattle. His wife, Jamie (MacKenzie, ’98) Miller, as a senior project engineer at Sellen Construction, is finishing up work on the new Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation campus. The Millers are enjoying life with their four-year-old daughter, Maryn.

1999 Megan Banasek is the systems and applications librarian at Pacific University. Nicole Polen married Damon Petit on Jan. 15, 2010. She now goes by Nicole Polen-Petit. Dick Powell accepted a new position as the executive director for Clatsop Economic Development Resources in Clatsop County, Ore., late last year.

1992 a boy, Marcus Stuart, to Susan (Thurman) and Brian Smiley, March 9
1995 a boy, Grady Ronald, to Todd and Kirstin (Schmidt, ’97) Orwig, Feb. 22
1997 a girl, Kara Maile, to Sharon (Olney) and Timothy Louie, Nov. 2, 2010
1997 a boy, Luke Anthony, to Terry (Hochstatter) and Alan Nicholas, April 10, 2009
1997, a girl, Lily Alayna, to Terry (Hochstatter) and Alan Nicholas, March 2
1997 a boy, Jacob Matthew, to Mathew Scamahorn and Debbie Starr, Aug. 19
1999 a girl, Presley Elizabeth, to Nicole Polen-Petit and Damon Petit, Oct. 3, 2010

DEATHS
Kimberly (Kopp) Ellis, ’92, died on May 6. She was born on Jan. 10, 1969, in Seattle, and she lived there for most of her life. She worked for CB Richard Ellis in Tukwila, and enjoyed serving at her church, gardening, Sudoku, volleyball, and poetry. She is survived by her parents, her brother, Kevin Kopp, ’96, her cousin, Gwyn (Millar, ’91) Kopp, and many other family members. Thomas Capp, ’94, died on May 27. He was born on June 9, 1959, in Butte, Mont. After graduating from Montana State University, he fulfilled his dream of being a teacher. He married Karen Cossey on July 19, 1985. He is survived by his wife, their children, and his father, brother, and other family.

1982 Bobbi Polkingham works as a psychotherapist with kids, parents, and families who have dealt with child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, and/or sexual abuse. Charlie Lewis and his wife, Ann Lewis, have been co-pastors of First Presbyterian Church, in Snohomish, Wash., for the past 12 years. One son, Daniel Lewis, ’10, just began graduate school in medical physics at the University of Kentucky. The other, Andrew Lewis, ’13, began his junior year at Whitworth this fall. Julieann (Howell) Miller successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in July 2008. She and her family then moved to Davenport, Iowa, where she is director of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at St. Ambrose University. In 2005, Susan (Jeffreys) Vinton and her husband, Steve, founded Village Schools International with a group of their former students. They work so that one day every child in every village will be able to attend school. Kim (McCray) Carnazzola lives in Libertyville, Ill., with her husband, Amerigo, and their three children. She opened a private practice in Libertyville as a family physician. Margaret (Symons) Gregory lives in Western Washington, raising three boys and 80 sheep, making and selling sheep’s milk and cheese. In her spare time (!), she does public-health nursing. Kelly (Winkleman) Prudek and her husband, Fred, are in Prague working with the Cirkev Bratrtska (Brethren Church) through the International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches.

Their work includes church planting, theological education, ministries of compassion and justice, and spiritual direction. Following the merger of Arab World Ministries and Pioneers, Ruth Ann (Heddendorf) Leduc and her husband, Norm, relocated to Orlando, Fla. Norm serves on the evacuation team and Ruth Ann serves field missionaries in member development.

1985 Jim C. Richards is a financial planner in the Seattle area, providing financial advice with a different kind of goal in mind—one of happiness and well-being, not only of wealth. He recently wrote a book, Better is Better.


1987 Deborah Burkhart married Tracy Peterson in November 2007. Deborah is a senior sales representative with Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals. Linda (Washburn) Delong works for the Newberg School District as an instructor assistant with small groups of children. Her husband, Aaron, owns his own business, The Dark Chocolatier, making hand-dipped candy. Their oldest daughter is a freshman at Whitworth. Marty Cosby works with at-risk populations and sponsors relatives from Nepal. He enjoys the outdoors, NASCAR, and football. Rev. Kristin Will-Pratt serves as chaplain of The Terraces at Los Altos, a continuing-care retirement community. She also continues her role as psychotherapist at The Pratt Center, a family mental health clinic in Los Altos, Calif. She lives with her husband and two children in Los Gatos.

1985, a girl, Katriel Aletheia, to Pamela (Jacobi, ’92), and Scott Starbuck, May 18
1987 a girl, Reese Bella, to Deborah (Burkhart) and Tracy Peterson, May 22, 2008

DEATHS
Douglas Balandis, ’81, died April 2. He was born in San Jose, Calif., Jan. 11, 1958. Steven Sutton, ’86, died April 5. He was born Jan. 12, 1964, in Everett, Wash., and he is survived by his siblings and many nieces and nephews.

1971 Dr. Mark Snelling, ’71, and his wife, Sue (Julian) Snelling, live in Bremerton, Wash., near their three daughters. Sue is the librarian at her school and serves as an educational technology specialist for Central Kitsap

1970s

LAF film festival
Feb. 16-18, 2012

Please join the Whitworth community for the fourth annual Leonard Oakland Film Festival. Films will be shown at 7 p.m. all three evenings in Robinson Teaching Theatre, in Weyerhaeuser Hall. For complete details, visit www.whitworth.edu/oaklandfilm.
The Roots of Christianity in America with the Rev. Dr. Jerry Sittser
May 14-24, 2012

Explore the history of the Christian faith tradition in the United States with theology professor and religious historian Jerry Sittser, a member of the Whitworth faculty since 1989. Learn together as you experience some of the most important sites in our nation's history, including Salem, Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg and Washington, D.C. All details are available at www.whitworth.edu/christianityinamerica.tour.

School District. Mark works in global missions with a focus on microenterprise development in West Africa and other Islamic areas of the world.

1972 Donna (Spencer) McComas and Mark McComas became grandparents on Sept. 28. Jeanne (Larsen) Baranski retired after 38 years of nursing and is enjoying retirement, which gives her the time to appreciate family, friends, God’s blessings, and new areas of service. Judy (Scott) Williams completed her doctorate in education. Her husband, Robert Williams has taught and worked at Disneyland for 23 years. They have two granddaughters and two grandsons. Kenneth Young recently retired as chief U.S. probation officer (So. District Calif.) in San Diego, and is now the chief deputy of administration for the U.S. District Courts in Los Angeles. Sandra (Pederson) MacQuinn and her family just returned from a two-month sabbatical service trip to New Orleans, where they worked at the St. Bernard Parish Community Center distributing food and clothing and helping to refurbish the center. Nancy Brookie-Connor is involved in the arts, and she displays her paintings in various venues. Ricardo Bravo is an attorney in his own law firm, practicing general law with an emphasis in personal injury, family law, criminal law, and immigration law. Carol (Isaac) Reineck was promoted to a full professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center of Nursing, in San Antonio. Since retiring in 1992, Eufemia (Tobias) Munn has helped to develop a Christian school in her hometown in the Philippines. To earn the funds to build classrooms and put personnel into place, she taught in China for four years and in Chile for two years.

1977 Kellie (Warriner) Doyle and her husband, Jim, live in Culpeper, Va., with their cat, Mystic, and border collie, Cogan. Kellie is a writer, and Jim is a senior principal programmer. Marybelle (Passmore) Savage finds that her nursing degree has helped her maintain status as a second-year, medical-surgical nursing instructor at Walla Walla (Wash.) Community College. She was the director of the college’s associate degree in nursing program from 1983-86; she taught registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, led refresher nursing programs, and was the relief supervisor at St. Mary Hospital. Richard Waite is now retired from the U.S. Air Force and US Bank.

DEATHS

John Henry, ’70, died Aug. 23. He was born in Spokane in 1926, and he spent his early life on an apple farm in Green Bluff. He attended Eastern Washington State College after a Navy stint during World War II, and he married Bernadine Robinette in 1948. John had a long career with the Central Valley School District, as a teacher and later a vice principal. He is survived by his son, daughter, and other family. Helen (Renfro) Wilson, ’71, died June 21. She was born on April 3, 1917, in Butte, Mont. She and Glade Wilson were married for 59 years, until his death in 1998. Helen was an active member of Knox Presbyterian Church as an elder and church treasurer. She enjoyed playing bridge, painting china, traveling, and spending time with family. She is survived by her children and other family. Wilma McIntosh, ’72, died May 4, 2009. Christine (Gifford) Triano, ’74, died Oct. 2, 2008. Darrell DuChene, ’75, died Feb. 26. He was raised in Spokane, graduated from Shadle Park High School, attended Whitworth, and worked at Morning Star Boys Ranch for 17 years and at CCS District IEL for 19 years. From just after his graduation until the time of his death, he was a foster parent; he served as foster father to 114 kids over the years, and he loved each one. He is survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Ruth Sria, ’77, died March 18. She was born Dec. 24, 1921, in Thermopolis, Wyo., and was raised in Ferdic, Mont. She loved Jesus Christ and taught Sunday school for her entire life. Ruth enjoyed traveling, golf and gardening. She is survived by her three daughters, grandchildren, and other family. Tamara Paulson, x’77, died April 14. She was born July 23, 1957, in Yakima. After attending Whitworth, she went on to work for the Purple Cross Insurance Company in Seattle, where she met her husband, Vaughn Langley. She is survived by her husband, three sons, brother, father, and other family. Mary (Case) Reed, ’78, died on June 8. She was born Jan. 7, 1928, in Grand Junction, Colo. She served on the board of directors of the University of Colorado Alumni Organization and was one of the founding women of the Grand Junction Women’s Resource Center. She is survived by her five children, her sister, and other family. Mark Jensen, ’79, died June 11. He was born March 5, 1955, in Walnut Creek, Calif. He married Marilyn Powell on Oct. 24, 1987. They had three children, of whom he was very proud, and settled down in Mercer Island. He is survived by his children, sisters, and mother.

1961 Charlotte (Schmutz) Mills was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 27, 2010.

1962 Geraldine (Nanz) Draper retired after 39 years of teaching. She lives in Nampa, Idaho, and enjoys the Nampa Art Guild, gardening, writing, and volunteering with Love INC. Ronald Haffner enjoyed the fourth annual Sam Adams reunion in Spokane, attended by more than 65 former football players and friends. Lois (Stewart) McDonald received a bachelor’s degree in geology in 2008, and she designs geology programs and classes for kids and adults in the Boise area. Ann (Miller) Moore retired from a multifaceted nursing career, which included instructing student nurses in pediatric care. She is busy now with deacon calls, caring for grandchildren, leading a small-group women’s Bible study, and quilting.

1965 Dave Gunderson was featured in Spokane’s Spokesman-Review for his lifelong achievements as a teacher and coach in the Inland Northwest. In 2010, Dave was inducted into the Inland Empire Softball Hall of Fame.

1967 Florene (Eickmeyer) Moore retired, but is busy with Friends of the Library, Deer Park Dollars for Scholars, and other community volunteer projects, as well as with family. Karen Byrne retired after 40 years working in public, academic, and school libraries. Spokane is her base for travel, catching up with family and friends, and volunteer work. Gary Stanford Raymond retired but works part time as a limo driver and a high school cross country and track coach. He is happily married to Mary Beth Christensen-Raymond. They are raising two six-year-olds adopted from China and they are the grandparents of seven-month-old Sophie. James A. Ross retired in 1989; he says that his Whitworth education opened great doors in his life, and he is still preaching and serving the Lord in various churches.

1968 Eugenia Eleanor Stewart Thorp used her fields of education and art from college in faith expression in church. Her other interests over the years have been in the needle arts, travel and museums.

DEATHS

John Dee, ’61, died June 26, 2005. Gertrude Wardwell, ’62, died March 5. She was born in Colorado Springs in 1937. She attended Mills College and Whitworth, going on to teach kindergarteners and work as a real estate broker. She retired in 1981 and moved to Colorado, to a homestead ranch. She is survived by her husband, two children, brother, and other family. Howard Robbins, ’63, died April 3. Ann (Parks), ’64 Hayden died May 21. She was born May 15, 1940, in Boise, Idaho. She worked as a nurse for 20 years and was a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps. It was during that time that she met and married 2nd Lt. Robert Duane Hayden. She is survived by her husband, brother, grandchildren, and other family. Bruce McCullough, ’66, died Nov. 23, 2010. He earned his J.D. from the
Whitworth Takes Chicago!

Act Six graduates converge in the Windy City

By Katie Palmer, ’13

While Whitworth Act Six graduates are working all over the world, Chicago has become an epicenter for alumni who participated in that program. Luis Flores, ’11, Tiffany Beatty, ’07, and Michelle Bess, ’09, all are currently working in urban Chicago communities.

Beatty is the program director at the Chicago Center for Urban Life & Culture, which equips college students to learn from the city’s diverse urban communities through innovative programs, seminars and internships.

“Chicago is a historically segregated city,” Beatty says, “and Chicagoans, whether due to racism or discomfort, tend to stick to their neighborhoods, while tourists tend to stay downtown and on museum pathways.” She continues, “At the Chicago Center, we like to say that we are interested in the ‘real Chicago.’ I love being able to help others see the big picture.”

Beatty says she was first introduced to this “big picture” concept during her time in the Act Six program. She says that at Whitworth, she learned to see her culturally diverse background as an asset, which then empowered her to see herself as a leader.

Beatty first visited Chicago during Jan Term of her senior year at Whitworth, when she studied at the Chicago Center and interned with a dance company. She enjoyed the city and the experience so much that she applied to Chicago Center’s apprenticeship program.

Since her move to Chicago last year, Beatty has become a part of the open-mic poetry community and has formed many relationships with Chicago’s “faithful poets,” she says. Eventually, Beatty aims to start her own community-based nonprofit organization that promotes leadership and community development through the arts.

Bess is the assistant to the director at Chicago’s Posse Foundation. The Posse Foundation is a college-access and youth-leadership development program rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students can serve as a catalyst for increased individual and community development.

“It is so amazing to know that the students we work with are going to be the movers and shakers of the world,” Bess says. “I don’t know if I have ever met more inspiring young leaders.”

Bess also studied in Chicago during the Jan Term of her sophomore year at Whitworth.

“I have been having a love affair with the city of Chicago ever since,” she says. “I finally felt at home here and learned a lot about myself and gained an enormous amount of self-confidence.”

Bess says that there are many parallels between Whitworth’s Act Six program and the Posse Foundation, and those parallels have given her a unique perspective that enables her to connect even further with the students with whom she works.

As for future career plans, Bess has “embraced the idea of living in ambiguity,” she says. “I’m a free agent, looking for the next great adventure.”

Flores is an intern for the Christian Community Development Association, a faith-based organization that helps restore under-resourced communities. He first learned about CCDA during the “Prejudice across America” Jan Term trip, during which he met the CEO of CCDA, who subsequently asked him if he was interested in doing an internship.

“CCDA is allowing me to continue my passion for helping others through the act of community development,” Flores says. “Act Six taught me to speak up for others and to be the voice of the voiceless,” Bess says. “That’s what I’m doing through my role at CCDA.”

Flores plans to work as a college preparatory advisor in a high school setting in his hometown of Tacoma. “I want to work with students who are struggling in high school and motivate them to pursue a post-secondary education,” he says. (See the Whitworth Today feature about Act Six alum Holy Chea, ’07, on page 12 of this issue.)
1950s

1952 Sterling Rainey is the organist and choir director at First United Methodist Church, in San Rafael, Calif.; this is his 56th year in that position.


Arlene (Carr) Loder earned a master’s degree in teaching from Harvard University, taught in two high schools, took one year of New Testament Greek at Princeton Seminary, and taught the scriptures in her home. Robin (Alford) Adams served in Nara, Japan, for 30 years, inspired by Whitworth’s Frank Warren and Toyohiko Kagawa. She returned to Nara City on Oct. 5 for two months, praying for “a tsunami of repentance and spiritual awakening.”

1959 Joyce (Anderson) Miller and Galen Miller, ’72, are volunteer firefighters in the North of the Narrows Fire District in Huckleberry Bay at Priest Lake. Galen is a commissioner and treasurer of the district. Joyce recently participated in a demonstration water rescue with the district’s fireboat.

DEATHS

Allen Good, ’50, died April 9. He was born Aug. 27, 1927, in San Diego. He attended Hoover High School and San Diego State College and earned two master’s degrees. After attending Whitworth, he became a missionary, teaching and coaching Navajo boys at a Presbyterian boarding school in Ganado, Ariz. He is survived by his daughters, son, grandchildren, and other family. Robert Notson, ’50, died May 10. He was born on Dec. 15, 1926, in Tonasket, Wash. He joined the Navy in Sept. 1944, after graduating from high school. After being honorably discharged, he married his childhood sweetheart, Barbara, and after he graduated from Whitworth he began his career with Boeing. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara. He is survived by his second wife, Patricia, his five children, and other family. John L. Raibley, ’50, died May 29. He was born on Oct. 7, 1928, near Visalia, Calif. After serving in the Pacific during World War II, he attended Whitworth and later married Jean Waltner. He taught for 20 years and retired to work on his family farm. He is survived by his wife, son, and other family. Donn Jann, ’51, who died Sept. 5, was retired from the Presbyterian National Church Headquarters. He is survived by his daughter, Lucinda Jann, ’81. Carolyn (Douglas) Leavens, ’51, died April 5 in Ventura, Calif. She was born Nov. 27, 1930, in Ephrata, Wash. She and her husband of 60 years, Paul Leavens, ’52, met at a freshman mixer at Whitworth and were married a year later, in 1950. She was very involved with the agricultural and political affairs of Ventura County, Calif. She is survived by her husband. Jean Paeth, ’51, died Sept. 2.

Richard Peters, ’51, died June 7. He was born Nov. 10, 1925, in Priest River, Idaho. Richard joined the Army in 1944 and served in Europe until he was wounded. After the war, he attended Whitworth and met his wife, Joyce Trail. He taught at an elementary school until retiring in 1987. He is survived by his wife, son, and other family. Ruth (Wimpy) Smith, ’51, died Feb. 22. Ruth Beeman, ’52, died on April 19. She was born on Dec. 19, 1930, in Lindsay, Calif. Later, she organized and directed a child-care center for abused and neglected children. She is survived by her daughter, stepdaughter, grandparents, and other family. Lois Hastings, ’52, died Nov. 28, 2010, on her 79th birthday. Lois earned her nursing degree before joining the USAF Nurse Corps in 1956. After her discharge, she moved to Maple Valley and worked in the labor and delivery section of the Group Health Hospital in Redmond, Wash., for 14 years. She is survived by her brothers and sister. Laura Young, ’52, died Sept. 8. She served as a volunteer mission worker in rural Nebraska and worked at Ming Quong Orphanage, in Los Gatos, Calif. She married Herbert Young, ’49, on June 24, 1954. She was active in local and state Presbyterian women’s groups. She is survived by her husband, Herbert, her son, and other family. Lt. Cmdr. Jack E. Dowers, ’53, died March 13. Wallace Moseley, ’54, died May 31. He was born Sept. 28, 1932, in Spokane, and married his wife, Martha, in 1975. He graduated from Whitworth and was ordained as a minister at Central Christian Church. His focus in life was God and his family. He is survived by his wife, daughters, sons, and other family. Robert Lantz, ’55, died April 9. He was a Presbyterian minister who served in the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain. He is survived by his wife, Diana Lantz, ’93, his sons, Bob, Tim, Chip, Mark and Jack, his daughter, Susan, and his numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dick Myers, ’56, died July 21. He was born on Nov. 23, 1934, in Seattle. His passions in life were his wife, family, and being a shining light of Jesus. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, and other family. Elizabeth Norman, ’58, died July 19. She was born on Feb. 22, 1928, in Baker, Mont. She grew up on a ranch in Fallon County, in southeastern Montana, where she discovered her lifelong love for horses. She was a registered nurse from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, and she retired in 2002. She is survived by one brother and other family. Gary Turner, ’59, died April 8, 2010.

1940s

1947 Rev. Ted Hegg and his wife, Edith Hegg, celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on Sept. 13. Betty (Douglas) Williams’ reports that her husband, M.E. Williams, died in 2006.

DEATHS

Harold Borhauer, ’47, died Feb. 7. He was born on May 15, 1922, to George and Ida Borhauer, in Spokane. He was married to Ida (Castleman, x46) Borhauer for 64 years. He is survived by one daughter, five sons, and other family. Rudy Bradshaw, ’47, died June 11, 2009. She is survived by her
Clark’s Korea Commitment Extends beyond Classroom

By Karen Robison, ’12

Whitworth’s mission to “honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity” is evident in the significant accomplishments of Donald Clark, ’65. Not only has Clark succeeded in the classroom and as a published author, but he has also lived, worked, and served extensively overseas.

Being overseas is not a foreign concept to Clark, who says, “I am an international person.” He was born in Medellin, Colombia, and, before he was 11, had lived in five countries: Colombia, Venezuela, America, Japan and South Korea. His parents and grandparents were Presbyterian missionaries, and all spent a large portion of time living overseas. In fact, Clark is the third generation of his family – and his children are the fourth – to live in South Korea.

His main work is as a professional in Korean affairs, keeping up with change and culture on the Korean peninsula, south and north, visiting often, working and teaching there, leading groups, and spending time with interesting people who share his interests. One special project is his participation in “Christian Friends of Korea,” which supports tuberculosis patients in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea). He travels to the DPRK with Christian Friends, monitoring the delivery of medical and other supplies, traveling to remote corners of the country and experiencing what he calls the “real place with real people and problems.” And he is grateful for the opportunity and privilege to make a positive difference in the country.

Clark holds a bachelor’s degree from Whitworth, a master’s from Washington State University, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has been awarded three Fulbright grants, all to South Korea, where he worked with the Peace Corps immediately after graduating from Whitworth.

A professor in the history department at Trinity University, in San Antonio, Texas, since 1978, Clark built the university’s international studies program and founded its East Asian studies concentrations. He says, “I love my job, my office, my staff, and my students at Trinity, and I feel fortunate to have a life that keeps me interested and active.”

Remembering the time he spent at Whitworth, Clark says that aside from meeting his late wife, Linda (Harton, ’66) here, the contact he had with the faculty was one of the most important things about his time in Spokane. Clark says of the professors, “These were warm human beings who had high personal standards, who could show students how to balance the sacred and the secular, who gave graciously of themselves to students by inviting them to dinner and taking them skiing, and who demonstrated their commitment to Whitworth as an institution.”

The community and environment at Whitworth made a significant impression on Clark. Over the years, he has been associated with every kind of university. But in the end, he says, it is the liberal arts environment that he values most. He goes on to say that institutions like Whitworth provide a “foundation of general knowledge, adaptability, resilience, and human values.” These skills and values are highlighted in Clark’s significant accomplishments since graduating from Whitworth and as he continues to serve throughout the world today.

1930s

DEATHS

Blair Cosman, ’39, died July 30. He was born in Rockford, Wash., on Sept. 8, 1918. After graduating from Whitworth, he attended Eastman School of Music, where he was later hired as a classical piano teacher. During and after his retirement, he was an organist and choir director in Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal churches. Edward Machle, ’39, died Aug. 4. He was a religious studies educator at the University of Colorado from 1953-81; he was also the director of music at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church from 1961-70 and the interim pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, in Port Angeles, Wash. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Machle, seven children, 13 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.
The Enchantment of a Liberal Arts Education

By Primal de Lanerolle, ’68

I enrolled at Whitworth partly because there were “big” questions that I hoped a Christian education would help me answer. We all seek an understanding of transcendental truths; this desire is one epigenetic factor that separates us from all other species. But “The Truth” is hard to define, and it is the tension in deciding which is the greater truth that causes some people to do horrible things in the name of religion. The Dalai Lama says, “My religion is kindness.” Religions have to be more complex, but one truth I learned at Whitworth is that any religion that does not include kindness and tolerance as cornerstones is doomed to failure.

On a more practical level, I came to Whitworth fully intent on going to medical school. My father wanted me to be a doctor, and he pushed me in this direction. But I took an English class taught by Dean Ebner in my freshman year that changed my life. It, and subsequent English classes, made me realize that life cannot be lived by solving a series of equations.

Because of my professors’ influences, I decided to double major in English and chemistry. After graduating, I earned a master’s degree in English literature at San Francisco State University. To support myself in school and to keep from being sent to Vietnam, I did alternate military service, conducting medical research at a hospital in San Francisco. I discovered I was a creative scientist who loved doing research, and I went on to earn a Ph.D. in physiology and pharmacology at U.C. San Diego.

People often ask me if going from literature to science was difficult, and the answer is a resounding yes. But in one important way it wasn’t difficult, because I possessed a wonderful liberal arts education. My Whitworth professors taught me to analyze data critically, to think creatively and analytically, to make associations and to see relationships, and to present my thoughts in an organized way. My liberal arts education, rather than preparing me for a specific career, gave me the tools to be successful at virtually any career.

My Whitworth professors also introduced me to the wonders of scholarship. They taught me that scholars seek the truth, and that the way you seek the truth is as important as the truth you seek. President Beck Taylor recently wrote “Whitworth summons its students to a crossroads, where the fearless pursuit of truth intersects with a steadfast commitment to the integration of Christian faith and learning . . . It is in the creative tension at these intellectual and spiritual crossroads that students’ minds and hearts are forged for great purpose.”

A thousand years ago, the principle was that one had to withdraw – become a hermit or sit under a Bo tree – to discover the transcendental truths of life. President Taylor’s words espouse a very different approach to seeking truth. Any good liberal arts education should give you the intellectual foundation and emotional security to become part of the world. With a Whitworth education you have the added benefit of a Christian perspective. It is by testing your beliefs and ideas that you grow, that your “hearts and minds are forged for great purpose.” What truths you discover will depend on how you challenge yourself.

Primal de Lanerolle is professor of physiology and biophysics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the recipient of Whitworth’s 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award; his AfterWord essay is adapted from a lecture he gave at Whitworth during Homecoming Weekend. To read his full presentation, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.
NAME: Rory Buck, ’12

BIRTHPLACE: South Africa

HOMETOWN: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

IN THE CLASSROOM: Majoring in business management

IN THE POOL: Dominates in breaststroke and freestyle

2011 WHITWORTH SWIMMING HIGHLIGHTS:

• Named NCAA Division III Men’s Swimmer of the Year

• NCAA DIII National Championships – champion in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke, breaking the 200-yard national record. Twice.

• Northwest Conference Championships – champion in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke

2011 WORLD SWIMMING HIGHLIGHTS:

• Took home top-three finishes in the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststroke in the Telkom South Africa National Aquatic Championships

• Competed in the 50-, 100- and 200-meter breaststroke for South Africa at the 26th World University Games in Shenzhen, China

BRAWN AND BRAINS: Selected 2011 CoSIDA Second Team Academic All-American and College Swimming Coaches Association of America Scholar All-American (3.93 GPA)

THANKS, STEVE [Whitworth Head Swimming Coach Steve Schadt, ’96]. Steve and I have developed a great connection and we understand each other very well. He is incredibly supportive and has done so much to help me achieve my goals (including opening up the gym or pool at 4:45 on some mornings and spending some holidays doing extra work with me). I am very grateful for his input and insight into my swimming.

OLYMPIC DREAMS: The South Africa Olympic trials are in April 2012 and I am looking to qualify in the 100 and 200 breaststroke at that meet.

SHARK SIGHTING! I don’t know where I want to take my swimming, but one thing is for sure: I have major unfinished business with the water, and as long as I am loving it and having fun I will be pushing my body as hard as it will go for as long as it will go.

BUCK’S BLOG: rorylbuck.wordpress.com
Meet Blake and Cheryl, proud 2006 alums and Whitworthians for Life

Their love bloomed in Baldwin-Jenkins. What they love now (in addition to each other, of course):

He: Leadership, running, improv
She: Public radio, good books, traveling, yoga

Blake and Cheryl’s favorite Whitworth memories:

She: English classes with Laurie Lamon; Late Night in the dining hall; swim meets; living in Baldwin-Jenkins as a freshman and later as an R.A.

He: Dorm and campus life; getting to know professors; Late Night in Saga; the Jan Term study programs Urban Life Center in Chicago, Christian Spirituality at Tall Timber, and Christianity and the Arts in Italy

What they choose to support at Whitworth:

Student scholarships, Lied Center for the Visual Arts, and Robinson Science Hall

Most recent Whitworth event:

Five-year class reunion, in October 2011

Why are Blake and Cheryl Whitworthians for Life?

He: “The tight-knit community drew me to Whitworth, and it’s that same sense of community that keeps me coming back.”

She: “Whitworth feels like a home away from home. My years there were life-changing; that’s why I find it such a joy to attend alumni gatherings and to support the university in as many ways as I can.”

Visit www.whitworth.edu/give to make your annual gift and support Whitworth’s important mission for its next generation of students.