Rx for Success
Future doctors thrive in Whitworth’s pre-med program
Whitworth's 121st academic year is in the books, and what an amazing year it was. For my family and me, it was a year of introductions and of beginnings. For our recent graduates, it was a year of reflections and of endings. Indeed, for everything there is a season under heaven.

During Whitworth's Commencement Weekend, I was asked to give a charge to the graduates at the annual baccalaureate service. It was a beautiful ceremony as our community came together to offer thanks to God for watching over the Class of 2011. The Reverend Eugene Peterson spoke wonderful and challenging words to these newest Whitworth alumni, including his own grandson. But giving charges is new for me – I can’t quite say that I’ve ever been asked to give a charge before. How does one give a charge? Is it an order? Some helpful advice, perhaps?

As I thought about the charge I might give these remarkable young adults who have contributed so much to the Whitworth community, I thought of some common understandings of “charges” and how they might relate to our graduates’ experiences as they begin to live out our mission as Whitworth alumni.

Whitworth loves basketball. A basketball charge is a foul committed by an offensive player who barrels through his or her defensive counterpart, often leaving the defensive players flat on his or her back – it’s not pretty. I reminded the members of the Class of 2011 that, in basketball terms, “they’ve got game.” Our graduates are ready to tackle our society’s most difficult challenges. They are ready to contribute significantly to the missions of the organizations and persons they will be called to serve. They are equipped with the intellectual competence, moral courage, and deep compassion it will take to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity. But I reminded our graduates that serving a world in great need and being a servant in the image of Christ to persons of different backgrounds, experiences, and cultures will require finesse, wisdom and great care. In their heartfelt efforts to advocate, persuade and serve, our graduates don’t want to be called for an offensive charge. Rather, Whitworth graduates around the globe are known for their grace and ability to work effectively across differences. Similarly, just as basketball players are sometimes asked to “take a charge,” our graduates will also have plenty of opportunities to extend forgiveness and to work constructively for reconciliation, even when they are wronged.

Americans love credit cards. Recently, when I was running low on cash at the grocery store, my four-year-old, Chloe, reminded me that I could “just charge it.” When we use our credit cards, we enter into a two-way promise: The bank that issues our card agrees to pay the current charges for the goods or services we desire, and in return for the convenience of credit, we promise to settle our accounts with the bank at a later date. The relationships our graduates enjoy with family members, colleagues, and friends work the same way: at times our new Whitworth alumni will need to draw on their personal credit lines in asking others for help, guidance and wisdom as they launch their post-college lives. But all of us need to keep a close eye on our relational accounts. Are we giving back as much as or more than we’re receiving? Are we maintaining good credit, so to speak, by investing in others just as generously as others have invested in us? My charge to our newest Whitworth alumni was that they should strive to have great credit.

I thought also of the charge we get from electricity. We all enjoy people whose personalities are described as “electric.” These are people with passion, a love of life, and a deep sense of calling. I reminded our graduates that they are called to be plugged in to both the ultimate source of power (Jesus Christ) and the distribution grid (a community of faith) that can energize in them a spirit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. When our spiritual wires get crossed, sparks and power loss can occur, but when our wires are connected correctly to their source and to the grid that keeps them grounded, the Power Giver can direct our energies in ways that maximize our gifts and talents to change the world.

As always, please keep Whitworth and our newest graduates in your prayers.

Charles Wesley’s
A Charge to Keep I Have

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill:
O, may it all my powers engage
To do my Master’s will!

Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live;
And O, Thy servant, Lord, prepare
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely,
Assured, if I my trust betray,
I shall for ever die.
Features

6 RX FOR SUCCESS
Fifty-nine Whitworth alums, from the classes of 2007-11, are now enrolled in some of the top medical schools in the nation. What accounts for the success of Whitworth’s pre-med program? Five M.D.s tell how their Whitworth education prepared them to excel in medical school and equipped each for the demanding life of a skilled, compassionate physician.

12 FIVE FOR THE ROAD
This spring, Whitworth bids adieu to five longtime profs who’ve made their indelible mark on the lives of students, fellow faculty, and the institution itself. Read what they have to say about their memories of Whitworth and their ambitious plans for the future.

16 WHITWORTH 2021
What kind of university will Whitworth be 10 years from now? A commencement speaker from the future visits this issue to introduce readers to Whitworth’s far-reaching vision and strategic plan, Whitworth 2021: Courage at the Crossroads.
The other day I was talking with a friend about medical options. (As one ages, this becomes a hot topic of conversation.) We agreed that what we’re looking for in terms of medical care is, first and foremost, a caring, up-to-date, dedicated doctor. We’d also like to go back to the days when a doctor’s-office visit required two days’ notice and a $5 copay, but that’s a conversation for another day.

This issue of Whitworth Today focuses, in its main feature article, on Whitworth alums who are all of the things my friend and I are looking for in a medical professional. Their specialties are varied, their backgrounds very different; Whitworth’s pre-med program may be their only common denominator, other than their unquestionable ability and accomplishment. But each speaks of an undergraduate education that set him or her on a path to fulfillment and achievement in medicine.

You can’t help but be impressed and inspired by these Whitworthians who’ve dedicated their lives to improving, and saving, the lives of others.

Another feature details Whitworth 2021, the 10-year vision and strategic plan that Whitworth’s trustees approved this spring. This ambitious plan, which has been read and evaluated by a wide spectrum of the Whitworth community – students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the university – outlines Whitworth’s 10-year destination and what the university hopes to achieve along the way. (And the news section includes information about our online master plan, which will give you an overview of the bricks-and-mortar changes that are planned over the next decade.)

Our third feature is a Q & A with five Whitworth professors who are retiring this year. Their combined time at Whitworth equals 134 years. Their impact is immeasurable. They will be missed, and their answers reveal many facets of the people who make up Whitworth’s faculty. Check out the article: You may find one of your favorite professors there.

The news at Whitworth is good these days. It includes a very generous gift to our School of Global Commerce & Management, yet another conference trophy for our fantastic athletics program, a richly deserved honor for past Whitworth president Bill Robinson, a visit by a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner, and a new program, Whitworth in China, conceived and implemented by one of our young faculty members.

This magazine will reach you in June, after our students have headed home for the summer. At this much-anticipated time of year, we wish them, and you, good weather (unlike the spring rain, clouds and cold we’ve been experiencing here in Spokane), a bit of time for powering down and appreciating life, and, of course, a few minutes to read and enjoy this issue of Whitworth Today. Oh – and don’t forget to let us hear from you (tmitchell@whitworth.edu). We’re interested in what you think about the magazine – and about all things Whitworth. Happy summer!

[Today’s NOTE]

[Letters from YOU]

I’m writing to ask that you no longer send me Whitworth Today. The matter that has brought me to act is the Tea Party article in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue. It is shabby. Assistant Professor Andrew Hogue willfully misrepresents matters several times in his article. He does this most clearly when he describes television commentator Rick Santelli as having “...screamed and cursed his way through a rant...” and then goes on to describe the Tea Party as “guided by anger and given to absolutism.” The tone throughout Hogue’s article is disingenuous and condescending. I realize that my last statement is in part subjective, but there it is. Those I have observed in the media as well as those I know who are involved with the Tea Party are good people operating in a generous spirit.

Larry LaBeck, ’90

[Write US!]

We want to know what you think – about Whitworth Today, and about Whitworth in general. Send us an e-mail (tmitchell@whitworth.edu) to offer your response to Whitworth 2021. Share a memory of one of our retiring faculty. Remark upon the work of a friend whose name appears in our Rx feature. Respond to a news story or one of our departments. Your comments help to steer the direction of this magazine, and we’re interested in what you like about W.T., what you want to see more of – and what you’d just as soon never see again. (The phrase “If you can’t say something positive, don’t say anything at all” doesn’t apply here.)

We also appreciate word from you alums about what you’re doing out there in the world. E-mail us at alumni@whitworth.edu to keep your alma mater and your friends up to date on what’s happening with you.

Hate e-mail? Write us at Whitworth Today, University Communications Office, Whitworth University, 300 Hawthorne Road, Spokane, WA 99251.
To view a calendar of all of Whitworth’s upcoming events, visit www.whitworth.edu/calendar.
Events below are free unless otherwise noted.

July 11-15 The 36th annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry. This year’s week-long conference features Whitworth Theology Professor Emeritus Dale F. Bruner, Dean of Samford University’s Beeson Divinity School Timothy George, and Karen Petersen Finch, Whitworth assistant professor of theology. For registration and information, visit www.whitworth.edu/wim.

Sept. 3-9 Orientation Week. Incoming freshmen participate in Whitworth Traditiation – attending student fairs, special dinners, residence-hall meetings, ice-cream socials, Mock Rock, the Yell-Off, and other annual events. Music auditions also take place during this week. If you are a member of the Class of ’15 or the parent of an incoming student, watch your mail for information and for the address of this year’s Orientation Week website.

Sept. 8 Opening Convocation. Join the Whitworth University community in asking God’s blessing on the 2011-12 academic year. Fieldhouse, 11 a.m.

Sept. 13-Nov. 5 Bruce Herman Art Exhibition. Artist’s reception on Oct. 13, 5 p.m. in Lied Art Center, followed by Artist Lecture at 7 p.m. in Robinson Teaching Theatre.

Sept. 29 Faith, Film and Philosophy Lecture. In conjunction with Gonzaga, Whitworth students and community members will explore the complex relationships between faith and reason in contemporary culture, film and literature. Robinson Teaching Theatre, 7 p.m.

Oct. 8 Grand opening of Robinson Science Hall. The Whitworth University Board of Trustees and President Beck Taylor cordially invite you to celebrate the opening of the William P. & Bonnie V. Robinson Science Hall, 11 a.m.

Oct. 7-9 Homecoming Weekend. Alumni gather for five-year, 10-year and 20-year reunions, along with swimming and chemistry & biology reunions. For details, see www.whitworth.edu/homecoming.


Oct. 21-23 Parents’ Weekend. Parents are invited to visit their Whitworth students and join in the Whitworth experience. Students are welcome to attend all events with their parents. Additional details for Parents’ Weekend 2011 can be found at www.whitworth.edu/parentsweekend.

Nov. 5 Whitworth Jazz Ensemble fall concert, featuring famed jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman. Cowles Auditorium, 8 p.m. $15 general admission; $10 for students and senior adults (62+).

Nov. 20 Whitworth Symphony Orchestra fall concert. Cowles Auditorium, 3 p.m. $5 general admission.
Before Whitworth formalized its pre-med program in 2004, the medical school acceptance rate for Whitworth students varied widely – from 50 percent in 2001 to 14 percent in 2002. Since then, the university has maintained a 100 percent acceptance rate for pre-med students who perform all of the prescribed activities in the pre-med program. About 20 students in the program apply to medical, dental and veterinary schools each year.

In the last three years, students have been accepted to some of the top med schools in the country, including the University of Washington, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, Washington University, Loma Linda University, Boston University, Chicago Medical School, Mount Sinai University, and Oregon Health & Science University, among others. Last year marked the first time that two Whitworth students got into the UW’s School of Medicine in the same year; this year, seven students have already been accepted to that highly competitive program. There are currently 59 Whitworth alumni from 2007-11 enrolled in medical school.

Whitworth’s interdisciplinary pre-med program consists of advising, counseling and optional seminar classes. Freshmen start the program by taking Introduction to the Health Professions, a seminar-style course in which students meet with guest speakers representing a variety of health fields. This course also introduces students to the “Big Seven” of the program: seven tasks that students are strongly encouraged to accomplish before graduating. Those tasks include earning a 3.7 GPA, obtaining a specific minimum MCAT score, logging a minimum of 500 hours of medical experience, serving a minimum of 500 hours of community service, completing at least 50 credits of science classes, gaining experience with diverse populations or other cultures, and applying “early and well” to medical schools.

Whitworth Professor of Chemistry Karen Stevens, who oversees the pre-med program with Associate Professor of Biology Mike Sardinia, ’87, says one of the program’s biggest strengths is that it draws on information she and Sardinia have learned as members of the National Association of Advisors for Health Professions. Deans of medical schools have spoken at NAAHP meetings and explained the application process from their end, which she says helped her and Sardinia build a pre-med program based on what medical schools are looking for in applicants. They also have instituted a year-long pre-application process that prepares students for the med-school application process. The process includes a committee letter system for submitting student reference letters, in which pre-med advisors hold informational interviews with each applicant, prior to collecting reference letters, and then prepare a cumulative committee letter using all of that information.

The new Robinson Science Hall, due to open for classes this fall, also will help give students a leg up for medical school, Sardinia says. The facility will house the chemistry and biology departments, and will include a dedicated anatomy and physiology lab with state-of-the-art equipment and a walk-in cold room that will support student and faculty research projects.
Amy Harker-Murray, ’94

• Physician/oncologist at University of Texas Southwestern Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center, in Dallas
• Assistant professor of internal medicine, hematology-oncology, at UT Southwestern Medical Center
• Medical School: Mayo Medical School, Rochester, Minn. (1999)
• Residency: Internal medicine at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. Recipient of the LeeAnn McCaffrey, M.D., Women in Medicine Award, which honors the outstanding achievement of a graduating third-year female internal medicine resident. (2002)
• Fellowship: Hematology, oncology and transplantation, University of Minnesota (2005)

I fell in love with Whitworth when I visited as a high-school junior. I wanted to become a physician and was looking at smaller colleges and universities with strong science programs. I also wanted an educational environment that supported my values. I felt that Whitworth would be a perfect fit for me and I was not wrong.

Whitworth introduced me to multiple aspects of biomedical science. This began with a summer research experience in the microbiology lab of Dr. Finn Pond, followed by a Jan Term when I shadowed a family practice doctor in Spokane. He let me follow him in the clinic and on rounds in the hospital, and interview his patients and colleagues.

One of the biggest influences in my life at Whitworth was Jan Murray, who directed the student health center. She gave me wonderful opportunities to learn about medicine: I worked with the family practice residents who staffed the evening clinic, and I saw students with minor medical issues when the residents weren’t there. These experiences gave me a head start in medical school, with a greater basic medical background than many of my classmates. Jan also showed me how to be an intelligent, tough, but still compassionate woman. She really helped me discover my strengths and reach my potential.

Whitworth’s emphasis on faith and serving others is the cornerstone of the care I provide my patients. There are days when I have to tell patients and their families very bad news, without taking away all hope. The patient’s faith in God and trust in the medical profession play a large role in these situations. My faith also helps me cope with my patients’ deaths, as the loss of a patient hurts every time. The idea of “physician as servant” was reinforced in medical school, and I try to treat each patient as I would want my family members treated.

The most challenging aspects of my work are balancing career and family life, and recognizing when it’s time to change a patient’s care from curative therapy to palliative therapy, and not taking it as a personal failure. Medical oncology is one of the few subspecialties in which you can cure patients. When you can’t cure them, you have the privilege of accompanying them on their final journey and trying to provide them with the best death you can. It can be heartbreaking work, but very rewarding.
Ara Balkian, ’95

- Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA): Associate head, division of hospital medicine; director, clinical hospitalist program; director of throughput management
- Assistant professor of clinical pediatrics, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine
- Medical School: Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University (1999)
- Internship, Residency and Chief Residency: Pediatrics at CHLA
- Graduate School: University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business, MBA (2010)

I learned about Whitworth through its football program (I played football all four years). I was originally an athletic training major, and even though that program was excellent, I wasn’t sure if it was the right fit for me. During my freshman year, I thought more and more about medicine. My brother, who was in his first year of med school, was gently pushing me toward medicine as well. Howard Stien (Biology) mentored me throughout the year and helped me make the decision to change to a biology/pre-med major, and I can’t thank him enough for his guidance. Spike Grosvenor (Art) was my freshman advisor and I remember conversations we had that helped shape my worldview and career path.

I took many great science courses with Howard Stien, Lee Anne Chaney, Finn Pond, Dave Hicks, Dean Jacobson, and many others. The close relationships I developed with the faculty and their sincere mentoring were vital to my career choices. There was a small group of us who were pre-med students, and we all worked together to reach our goals and helped each other however we could. I also went to Guatemala during my sophomore year, which was an amazing experience.

The intimacy of the small classes forced me to be engaged, even when I was having a bad day, which is often how it is at the hospital. Whitworth professors’ and staff members’ unwavering dedication to students has provided an excellent model in my teaching role at the Keck School of Medicine.

I decided to earn an MBA because I have become more and more involved in the business and administrative side of healthcare at CHLA and didn’t feel like I had sufficient training. The executives making major economic decisions at hospitals are rarely physicians, and I wanted to make sure that a physician had a seat at the table, so we could incorporate the patients’ perspective when making important decisions that affect them.

As a pediatric hospitalist at a major academic children’s hospital, my work is 95 percent fun and joyful, and 5 percent tragic and stressful. Those are great odds, but when that 5 percent hits, it can be extremely challenging because of the impact a child’s suffering has on the people around him or her, including the physicians.

My work provides the greatest perspective anybody could ask for. I have the privilege to care for the sickest of the sick. Whatever troubles me pales in comparison to what these patients and families are going through. And kids are just fun, even when they’re sick. They put a smile on my face and make me look forward to coming to work every day.
David Flesher, ’81

- Orthopedic surgeon with Orthopedic Associates, in Oklahoma City, Okla.
- Medical School: University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Norman, Okla. (1985)
- Orthopedic Residency: Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md. (1990)
- Fellowship: Sports medicine, with an emphasis on arthroscopic treatment of knee, elbow and shoulder conditions, Union Memorial Hospital, Baltimore, Md. (1991)

At Whitworth, my academic passions were English and the humanities. I loved Core 150 and 250, and was a T.A. in both, and religion, philosophy and English courses. But I wanted to be a physician, so I had to take science classes. (A lot of my family members are doctors and I really did not want to follow in their footsteps. But I got a job as an orderly at a hospital the summer after I graduated from high school, and I loved the patient-care aspect.)

Drs. Howard Stien, Dave Hicks and Nicolin Gray personalized and humanized the sciences, interjecting spirituality and the “essential questions” into our study of biology. I knew my professors – what they thought and cared about – and they knew me. Dr. Bob Bocksch made chemistry fun and real and relevant; he was my med-school advisor and he knew the importance of a well-rounded application.

During my sophomore year, in 1979, I spent Jan Term in San Francisco with [Professor of English] Leonard Oakland. I did an internship as a medical assistant at the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic. I worked in the epicenter of drug abuse, STDs, and the emerging AIDS epidemic (it did not have a name or etiology yet). I was on my own in the city, with all its culture and craziness, which challenged the belief systems I held. After that experience, I knew that compassion and acceptance of people, without judgment, are just as essential qualities as competence and skill in a physician.

I received a true liberal arts education at Whitworth, which has been invaluable to me as a practicing physician. My experience at Whitworth equipped me with knowledge and insight to comprehend the roles of compassion, empathy and spirituality in my personal and professional lives.

I have practiced orthopedic surgery at Orthopedic Associates since 1991. I currently serve as president of the clinic, which is time-consuming and challenging in these ever-changing and turbulent times. I have a full and thriving practice with the clinic, an ambulatory surgery center, and two local hospitals. I also serve as medical director of Comp Choice, a certified workplace plan for workers’ compensation.

The focus of my practice is providing orthopedic care to large employers throughout Oklahoma. Clients include city and state workers such as police officers and firefighters, as well as public schools, municipalities, and large private manufacturers and service companies. I really love caring for patients from all walks of life across the state.

My wife, Lisa (Ransom) Flesher, ’81, and I have been married for almost 29 years, and our two children are grown and moving on. Lisa and I want to enter the next phase of our lives with open hearts and minds. We want to go on a “Whitworthian” adventure, wherever it may lead us, to serve others and give back the many blessings we have received.
Fertility specialist Jennifer Ratcliffe, left, and her lab director discuss the morphology of a hatching human embryo that was about to be transferred to a patient (and that resulted in a successful pregnancy).

Jennifer Ratcliffe, ’86

- Founded Advanced Fertility Associates Medical Group, in Santa Rosa, Calif., in 2002, where she serves as medical director and physician
- Medical School: Tufts University School of Medicine, M.D. and Ph.D. in biochemistry (1995)
- Residency and Fellowship: Was the only candidate selected nationwide for a prestigious program at the University of California, San Francisco, which combined her residency in obstetrics and gynecology and her fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility (2002)

My senior year of high school I was actually bound for Stanford, but then I visited my sister at Whitworth, where I found the students much more engaged in learning and interested in expanding their horizons intellectually and spiritually. I didn’t get the same vibe at Stanford, so I changed my plans at the last minute. I’ve never regretted it.

I think I was the only student at that time who loved organic chemistry. I loved all of the chemistry labs, even though I was a disaster at first in physical chemistry. Our classes at Whitworth were very small, so we could never “fake” it – we really had to know our stuff. This wasn’t true of my medical school classmates, who came from much larger schools. They just had to “beat” the curve to get A’s, and sometimes that meant they didn’t have to know much. So I found my first-year med-school classes a breeze and was able to complete my Ph.D. classes at the same time.

I wrote in my high-school yearbook that I wanted to be a gynecologist, so it wasn’t a surprise that I went into women’s health. In med school I developed an interest in endocrinology. Hormones regulate so much in the body on a very precise scale. This fascinated me, so I chose reproductive endocrinology as my field.

The most challenging part of my work is understanding why there are negative outcomes in so many pregnancies. Counseling and helping patients when things don’t go right is the hardest part of my job. But I know it is harder for the patients. I can see the positives around me: 60 percent of my patients each month are successful. But the individual patient only has her pain, so I just try to be there for her and provide whatever she needs at that point.

As for what is most gratifying, the simple answer would be adding to families who so desperately want a child. But, really, helping those who don’t get pregnant to process that loss and disappointment is a greater challenge and is ultimately more gratifying. My best day is still the day that a couple brought their adopted baby straight from the hospital to see me when she was only four days old. I had worked with the couple for a long time and finally we concluded together that pregnancy wasn’t the plan for them. I referred them to an adoption lawyer, who found them a match relatively quickly. The new parents and I stood in my waiting room in tears, watching their new baby.
Taryn Clark, ’09

• Medical School: Third-year student at Weill Cornell Medical College at Cornell University, with a focus on emergency medicine and an emphasis on global health and disaster relief

• Co-founder and a director of the Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights, a clinic that provides free medical and psychological evaluations for people seeking asylum in the U.S. based on claims of torture in their home countries

When I visited Whitworth I met with Dr. Mike [Sardinia, ’87]. Our discussion quickly turned from the advantages of Whitworth as a pre-med institution to the merits of The Brothers Karamazov as an analogy of the Christian life. I was impressed that a biology professor spoke so eloquently about both comparative anatomy and Russian literature. That cross-disciplinary interest was important to me and was a major factor in why I attended Whitworth.

Whitworth taught me to ask my professors for help and to seek extra assistance when I needed it — and you need it in med school. The writing skills I gained at Whitworth have made the papers required in med school much easier for me than for some of my peers, and the research experience I got interning at GenPrime, a Spokane biotech firm, helped prepare me for microbiology.

While I was at Whitworth, I joined a team that provided medical care to the H’Mong and White Thai people in the northern mountains in Vietnam, and for the past five years I’ve volunteered with a Samoa Medical Missions team (www.medicalmissions-samoa.com). During college I worked as a campus medic for two years and as a tech at two hospital emergency rooms. These experiences help me now as I care for patients; in a sense, this is easy for me because I’ve done it before.

Over the next two years, I’ll rotate full time through our hospitals in the five boroughs of New York and in Texas, and do rotations at hospitals in Samoa, Washington state and, possibly, Yemen and Australia. When I complete my fourth year, I hope to match into a program in emergency medicine, where I’ll work full time in an emergency department.

My work with the Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights has been some of the most rewarding and heart-wrenching work I’ve done. Asylum seekers with medical affidavits proving torture have an 87 percent approval rate; those without have closer to a 25 percent approval rate. As one of the directors of the clinic, I recruit faculty, reach out to the community, and liaise with legal and nonprofit groups in the tri-state area. Fellow Cornell classmates and I started the clinic in September 2010, and we’re very excited to see it move into its second year.
Elisabeth Buxton  
MODERN LANGUAGES

A Few Career Highlights

• Came to Whitworth in 1991 as an adjunct after teaching full time as a visiting professor at EWU. Divided time between Whitworth and Eastern, until joining Whitworth faculty full time in 1997.

• Two-time member of Faculty Review Committee

• Chair of modern languages from 1999-2005

What will you be doing on May 16, the day after the 2011 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony? And what are your plans for the future?

I’ll be staying in Spokane after I retire, visiting Whitworth, specifically the modern languages department, using the library, and attending functions such as Faculty Scholarship Forum and Teaching Roundtable. I have also been asked to be a guest lecturer.

Describe your ideal student.

My ideal student is not interested only in fulfilling the language requirement, but also in really learning the language and literature of German-speaking countries, and the history and culture of Europe. That student typically decides to minor in German to learn more than the basics that we teach in the beginning courses.
What is the funniest or strangest thing that happened while you were teaching a class or leading a study program?

While I was leading a study program in Germany during Jan Term, I lost my way in Berlin with a group of students in tow. It was cold, icy and snowy, and I am a country girl, not a big-city slicker. However, after a few tense moments I was able to go in the right direction to our goal.

How did you come to Whitworth, and why did you stay?

Whitworth offered me the opportunity not only to teach as an adjunct, but also to be promoted, eventually to assistant professor. I feel very fortunate and blessed by the people who encouraged and supported me. I wanted to give back to the university that had made it possible for me to share my love for the German language and literature.

What has changed most at Whitworth during your time here and what has remained constant? How do you feel about the changes and about Whitworth’s future?

Modern languages has moved several times (sometimes within the same week), from Grieve Hall to the basement of the then-unrenovated Dixon, to Hendrick, to Alder, to the old fine arts building, and then to Westminster. The beauty of the campus has not changed: The green lawns, the plantings, the walkways, and especially the tall pine trees have remained beautiful. Whenever the wind rustles in the trees I am reminded of the woods in North Germany, where I spent my childhood.

In the future, when alums talk about your Whitworth career, what would you like them to say?

I hope that I will have made a difference in the lives of some of my students, that they learned something they had never heard before, that their horizons opened up, and that in some cases their lives changed because they had the opportunity to study abroad, to get out of their comfort zone, and to come back with newfound wisdom. The words and gestures my students might remember most about me are when something, such as a difficult point in German grammar, finally sinks in, and I throw up my arms exclaiming, “I live for these moments!”

Rick Hornor, ’70

Theatre

A Few Career Highlights

- Alumni Distinguished Service Award
- Founded Whitworth Service-Learning Program with Professor of English Emeritus Linda Hunt, ’78 M. Ed.
- Founding member of committee to design and implement the First-Year Experience Program
- Designed Certification in Arts in Ministry program for Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya
- Member of teaching team for Britain and Ireland Study Program for three semesters
- Created and directed (for five summers) a summer arts camp for low-income kids ages 5-18
- Declared “Righteous Gentile” by Spokane Jewish community for “honest telling of our story” in his production of Fiddler on the Roof

What will you be doing on May 16, the day after the 2011 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony? And what are your plans for the future?

On May 16, I’ll be attending the Dean’s Brunch, but not speaking; attending the Honors Banquet that evening; finishing clearing out of my office in between. My wife and I will be moving to Tacoma to be near three of our seven children and their families. I will be acting and directing in a couple of professional theatre companies in Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia, as well as doing as much volunteer work as I can. I also would like to do some adjunct teaching, perhaps at SPU and UPS.

Describe your ideal student.

Coachable, honest and diligent.

What is the funniest or strangest thing that happened while you were teaching a class or leading a study program?

Almost getting arrested in Beijing, China.

Why did you come to Whitworth, and why did you stay?

The students. And the students.

What has changed most at Whitworth during your time here and what has remained constant? How do you feel about the changes and about Whitworth’s future?

The physical plant and grounds have changed the most. The coherency and cohesiveness of relationships and programs due to the clarity and potency of our mission have remained constant. I am very optimistic about Whitworth’s future because I believe we are unique in higher education as an institution that is unapologetically Christian yet keenly committed to scholarship. I honestly don’t know who does “mind and heart” education better than we do.

In the future, when alums talk about your Whitworth career, what would you like them to say?

“Hornor challenged me to be a more creative, disciplined, thoughtful and compassionate artist and human being – and we laughed a lot along the way.”
clean the basement, finish the book in the bottom drawer, travel to 10 new countries, learn to knit and crochet, finish the alphabetically organized projects stored in the closet, upgrade my tech skills, give Sunday afternoon teas, remodel the kitchen myself, learn to juggle, play the piano, speak French and Russian, join a fitness group, start a garden club and go to bed early.

Describe your ideal student.

I love bright, funny students who do their work... on time.

What is the funniest or strangest thing that happened while you were teaching a class or leading a study program?

Two years ago I realized that many, not all, students were smitten with the TV series Glee. In an attempt to relate to the younger generation, I announced that from that day forward the class and I would cover the content each day as a Glee episode. The result was a disaster. A student comment/question at the end of the first class summed up the problem: “Do you realize the importance of rehearsal in activities involving performance?” The thought had not crossed my mind. The strategy was immediately revised. Embarrassing enough? For all of us.

What brought you to Whitworth?

I needed to pay the medical bill for my new daughter, Darcy. (Ed. note: Darcy Long McMurray, ’96, and her husband Aaron, ’95, are now the parents of four children of their own. Aaron is Whitworth’s director of alumni & parent relations/annual giving.)

What has changed most at Whitworth during your time here and what has remained constant?

The students change constantly and I love that. The job is always changing. I love the challenge.

In the future, when alums talk about your Whitworth career, what would you like them to say?

“She was funny and very hard.”

What will you be doing in the future?

I’m headed off on a research project in Malaysia exploring the flow of migrant Filipino workers into the Eastern states of Malaysia: Why do these migrant workers come? Why are they hired? What challenges do they face? To what extent are they part of a trafficking trade? How do these mostly Christian migrants adjust to life in a predominantly Muslim country?

Describe your ideal student.

Open-minded, enthusiastic, well-prepared, and willing to disagree with his/her professor.

Margo Long, ’67, ’73 MAT
EDUCATION

A Few Career Highlights

- Proposed, with collaborative team, Washington state specialty endorsement for teaching the gifted
- Member, State Advisory Board for Gifted & Talented, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Member of a committee of the OSPI to examine meeting the needs of underrepresented K-12 gifted and talented students
- Founded and serves on Whitworth’s Advisory Board for Gifted
- Recipient of Courage Award from Washington Assn. of Educators of Talented & Gifted
- Winner, Customer of the Week, Wandermere Starbucks, 2008 (!)

What will you be doing on May 16? In the future?

On May 16 I’ll be grading papers and finishing grades. My future plans are to not grade papers and to enjoy working for advocacy of gifted students, spend more intentional time with my grandchildren,

Rich Schatz
ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

A Few Career Highlights

- Whitworth’s faculty athletics representative for 18 years (service that “was a joy and of which I am proud”)
- Department chair for six years
- Faculty president for two years
- Received Advocacy Award from Whitworth’s students of color (“And I would like to think that my role as a friend of and advocate for international students was a significant contribution.”)

What will you be doing on May 16? In the future?

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How did you come to Whitworth? Why did you stay?
I was planning to teach for a year or two while taking a break from my “real career” as a development economist and businessperson. That year or two turned into 22, mainly because of how much fun I had with the students of Whitworth.

What has changed most at Whitworth during your time here and what has remained constant? How do you feel about the changes and about Whitworth’s future?
We became much bigger, and we have better facilities. Our athletics programs became much more successful. We became more university-like, with a faculty more divided by discipline and more focused on their individual success, with less concern and involvement in the institution as a whole. I’m happy about the continued commitment to the Whitworth mission and about our ability to continue to attract enthusiastic students. I am less happy about our transformation from a community-centered college to a university culture. For many of my years here, the faculty felt strong ownership of Whitworth as a whole, and faculty involvement in the direction and operation of the college was seen as important by most faculty; in recent years, management and decision-making at Whitworth have become top-down, with a few administrators making all the decisions. Many of those who have challenged this new “corporate culture” have left because they no longer felt welcome here. The free and open exchange of ideas has been repressed, and it feels to me like this loss of academic freedom poses important dangers for Whitworth as it moves forward.

In the future, when alums talk about your Whitworth career, what would you like them to say?
I hope they’ll say, “He worked hard to encourage us to think for ourselves, and he cared about us as people.”

Describe your ideal student.
My ideal student is not afraid to challenge my point of view, is interested in ideas and course content, is deeply committed to using his or her education for the common good, takes challenging courses in other departments, has a life outside the classroom, and keeps in touch with professors in the department after graduating.

What will you be doing in the future?
During fall semester 2011, I will be preparing to lead the new Whitworth Semester in Tanzania Program, which begins in January 2012. (Ed. note: Yoder is taking a phased retirement over the next three years.) In addition, I have some academic projects that I want to complete, one or two dealing with Liberia, another on the politics of the Hebrew Bible’s Book of Judges. But, more important, I want to discover ways to enjoy life without being consumed by Whitworth. I look forward to traveling, working with my wife, Janet, in her garden, and just having fun.

To read about retiring staff members and to see faculty members’ answers to a couple of other questions, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.

John Yoder
POLITICAL SCIENCE

A Few Career Highlights
• Faculty president for two years
• Developer and leader of the study program in South Africa
• Developer, with Moses Pulei, ’97, and Ann Teberg, of a semester-abroad program to be launched in Tanzania in January 2012
• Active with Fulbright Program: lecturer in Liberia and Kenya; Fulbright Alumni Initiative Award; member of the National Screening Committee for Fulbright Graduate Awards for Africa
• Election monitor in Liberia and Sierra Leone (with the Carter Centers and the National Institutes for Democracy)

What will you be doing in the future?
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Describe your ideal student.
My ideal student is not afraid to challenge my point of view, is interested in ideas and course content, is deeply committed to using his or her education for the common good, takes challenging courses in other departments, has a life outside the classroom, and keeps in touch with professors in the department after graduating.

In the future, when alums talk about your Whitworth career, what would you like them to say?
I hope that my classes and our discussions enabled them to become better thinkers, writers, and even dreamers. I also hope that as they go through life they continue to ask the questions I pose in my teaching: How will our actions affect the lives of the disadvantaged and vulnerable? How can I make the best contribution to society? Is there a more constructive, peaceful way to resolve conflicts? How do others view the world?
“Congratulations, Whitworth Class of 2021!” a future commencement speaker may say. “You entered the university as the most academically accomplished, service-oriented, and racially, ethnically and geographically diverse class in Whitworth’s history. You raised the bar in many other areas of the university and elevated Whitworth’s standing as one of the finest Christian liberal arts universities in the country.

“As Whitworth stabilized traditional undergraduate enrollment at 2,300 students and focused on enhancing the depth and quality of the student learning experience, you were challenged to discern and respond to God’s call on your lives; to develop intercultural competencies to live, learn and work effectively across multiple dimensions of human diversity; and to explore intellectual frontiers in the context of a liberal arts curriculum that empowers graduates for lifelong learning, professional development and community service.

“During your time at Whitworth, 100 percent of you engaged in service learning, 75 percent completed internships, 70 percent studied abroad, and a record number engaged in research or other forms of experiential learning. You benefited from Whitworth’s strong commitment to relationship-centered learning as the student-faculty ratio dropped to 13-to-1, the rate of students living in university housing climbed to 70 percent, and the rates for freshman-sophomore retention and six-year graduation reached record highs of 90-plus percent and 80-plus percent respectively. And members of your class were among the first to pursue majors in the new College of Arts and Sciences and to participate in business programs with specialized accreditation from the demanding Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

“In the decade leading up to your graduation, a robust culture of philanthropy attracted $150 million in donations to the university, with annual alumni giving climbing 7 percent, to top the 25 percent mark. Gifts for endowed scholarships, professorships, chairs and other initiatives doubled Whitworth’s endowment to $180 million. And thanks to a combination of donated and borrowed funds, you enjoyed an expanded HUB dining hall, a new residence hall, and a student intramural/recreation facility; new performance, rehearsal and instruction space for performing arts; additional space and equipment for science majors; and an indoor athletics facility that provides a multipurpose center for university events.”

“Everything in the plan is geared toward making the Whitworth experience better for students.”
Melinda Leavitt, ‘12
This far-reaching vision for Whitworth, along with a strategic plan to support it, was approved unanimously by trustees at their April board meeting.

“Trustees have joined with other members of the Whitworth community to chart an exciting course for the institution’s future,” says Board Chair Walt Oliver, ’67. “Whitworth has been on a very positive trajectory, and we are ready to build on that success. I am confident that the Whitworth 2021: Courage at the Crossroads vision and strategic plan positions the university to provide an excellent education for our next generation of students.”

At the outset of a 10-year vision and strategic plan, Whitworth finds itself at a defining moment in its history when internal and external forces present significant opportunities and challenges that call for courageous decision-making. And in many ways, Whitworth has always lived out its mission at a nexus uniting the deep resources of its Christian mission with a broad spectrum of ideas, voices and perspectives.

President Beck Taylor says the university sought to engage all of its constituents in creating a vision that is ambitious yet achievable, and that is flexible yet clear in its direction for the future. Hundreds of alumni, parents, supporters, community partners, faculty, staff and students provided input on the Whitworth 2021 plan through an online survey and through a number of community and town hall meetings.

“There is a clear consensus among our constituents that gives energy and purpose to the work ahead,” Taylor says. “Whitworth is at a crossroads that calls the university to engage its distinctive mission, its educational enterprise, and its external environment in courageous ways.”

After a decade of steady enrollment growth that contributed to an expansion in programs, faculty and facilities, the Whitworth 2021 vision and strategic plan focuses on enhancing the depth and quality of the student learning experience rather than the size and scope of the university.

“Everything in the plan is geared toward making the Whitworth experience better for students,” says Melinda Leavitt, ’12, executive vice president-elect for the Associated Students of Whitworth University and a student representative on University Council, Whitworth’s chief planning group. “Students are mostly concerned with enrollment, the overall feel of the campus, and the upcoming facilities projects. The plan has given answers to students’ questions regarding stabilizing enrollment and the building of much-needed and desired facilities.”

Whitworth 2021 also calls for continuing strategic growth in programs for graduate and non-traditional adult learners, investing in new professional development and enrichment resources for faculty and staff, and expanding the university’s network of constituents and supporters as Whitworth elevates its role as a resource to the church and society by engaging challenging contemporary issues with intellectual rigor through the lens of Christian faith.

“The plan is not about simply ‘staying the course,’ but about envisioning directions and initiatives that will invigorate the academic and intellectual life of the campus community over the next decade,” says Richard Strauch, professor of music and president of the faculty for 2009-2011. “Without compromising our commitment to academic excellence, the plan proposes that we broaden our thinking and imagination with respect to reaching beyond the confines of our physical campus. The increased emphasis on, and support for, service-learning, international study opportunities, faculty scholarly production, adult learners, and graduate programs will require that we engage the community and the world in a more consistent and sustained fashion.”

The Whitworth 2021 vision and strategic plan can be viewed online at www.whitworth.edu/whitworth2021.
A Landmark Gift
Donors give $3 million to fund new endowed SGCM dean position

In years to come, Whitworth students will benefit from business program enhancements made as a result of a landmark gift given by several alums to the School of Global Commerce & Management. These alums and other donors have made Whitworth history by pledging $3 million to help fund a new endowed dean position and to support strategic improvements in the SGCM. This is the largest endowment of its kind at Whitworth University.

The Charles L. Boppell Dean of the School of Global Commerce & Management position is named for California restaurant executive Chuck Boppell, ’65, and his wife, Karlyn (Allbee), ’67, who made a significant gift to help the endowment become a reality. Chuck Boppell served for 18 years as chair of Whitworth’s board of trustees and is past president and CEO of Worldwide Restaurant Concepts.

“Chuck Boppell is a consummate Whitworthian,” says Whitworth President Beck Taylor. “He has served the university as a student, alum, parent, donor and trustee. In Chuck’s career as a top executive for some of the world’s most recognizable restaurant brands, he also has been a model of success for our business students. It is an honor for Whitworth to recognize a great Whitworthian and a great businessman by establishing this endowment.”

“As a Whitworth grad,” says Boppell, “I’m able to look back and see that, 40 years later, what I really learned in school – the values and the ways to be centered as a person – I have used throughout my career. Whitworth prepares you to find your way in the gray areas of the business world by teaching you that you need to be able to think for yourself, to know who you are and what you believe and why. That has served me and other alumni donors very well, and we want to see that continue.”

Trustees Art Symons, ’51, and Dick Cole, ’51, along with fellow trustees and friends of Boppell, raised $1.5 million to establish an endowed chair in business to honor Boppell’s long tenure as board chairman. The Boppells adopted that vision and then expanded it by generously donating an additional $1.5 million.

Robert C. Beatty was appointed dean of the SGCM in July 2010 and will be the first to hold the Boppell endowed dean position. Beatty says the endowment will allow the school to provide experiential learning projects for undergraduate and graduate students, increase student placement opportunities and internship programs, support faculty development, and bring executive lecturers to campus.

Beloved PBS Host, Nature Photographer Art Wolfe Visits Campus

Art Wolfe, an American photographer noted for his color photographs of international wildlife and nature and his work as host of the popular PBS series Travels to the Edge, presented a lecture and slideshow of his work at Whitworth during Heritage Month this spring. The multimedia presentation featured his documentation of a team attempting to climb Mount Everest, which began Wolfe’s career as a wildlife and nature photographer. He also discussed his experiences in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and India. Tad Wisenor, ’89, Whitworth’s campaign director in institutional advancement, says Wolfe’s presentation was one of the most successful Heritage Month events ever. It drew more than 350 attendees from the Spokane and Whitworth communities. The appearance was made possible in part by the Floyd and Shirley Daniel Fund.
New Website, Interactive Map Show Potential Campus Development

This spring Whitworth launched a website and interactive map dedicated to the university’s campus master plan. The plan, adopted in June 2010, outlines a flexible framework of potential campus development over the next 20 years and reflects possible future needs based on enrollment growth, existing conditions and strategic goals. The plan will help guide the university’s decision-making in light of the Whitworth 2021 vision and strategic plan (see story on Page 16).

The website identifies potential projects across three distinct phases and features aerial photos of campus overlaid with renderings of possible new facilities. The interactive map allows visitors to view the location and scope of potential projects by clicking on color-coded boxes in the legend on the right side of the map. The map’s categories include new construction and renovations, courtyards, plazas and pedestrian corridors, and a proposed new primary access road.

To view the campus master plan and interactive map, please visit www.whitworth.edu/CampusMasterPlan.

School of Global Commerce & Management Charts New Course

Whitworth’s School of Global Commerce & Management is getting ready to take off.

“I am very excited about the future,” says Robert C. Beatty, who was appointed SGCM dean in July 2010. “With continued support from the university and additional financial support from alumni, friends and business leaders, I am confident that the school will continue to build upon its exceptional reputation as the school of choice for students wishing to obtain an exceptional business education.”

Under Beatty’s direction, the school is envisioning ways it can evolve to meet the needs of its students in an ever-changing business environment. Toward that end, the school has begun re-engaging the business community, through efforts such as hosting business professionals on campus, participating in business alumni networking events in Spokane and Seattle, and supporting local and regional events that cater to business professionals. This summer, Beatty plans to establish a dean’s advisory council that will include business and government leaders from around the Inland Northwest. He already has established a dean’s student advisory board that includes undergraduate students from all business disciplines who serve as ambassadors for the school, support service-learning projects, and sponsor social events for business students.

The school is increasing social and professional engagement opportunities for students. This fall, the SGCM plans to coordinate with Whitworth Career Services to offer a Business Job 101 course that will teach students how to begin a career in business. Also in the works for this fall are two events during Orientation Weekend: a business career fair for freshmen and their parents and a “Welcome Back to Campus” event for returning and potential business students.

The SGCM also has established an executive-in-residence program to strengthen Whitworth’s connections with the region’s business leaders and to provide students with practical insights into emerging business trends and practices. Brian “Duff” Bergquist, the first businessperson selected for the executive-in-residence position, brings 15 years of management experience with the world’s top financial institutions (see Faculty Focus on Page 27).

This spring, Bergquist assembled a Whitworth team to participate in the Certified Finance Analyst Investment Research Challenge, in which teams from universities around the region performed a financial analysis of Spokane-based Itron Corp. Whitworth students also took first place in two of the three categories in the 2011 Inland Northwest Business Plan Competition, winning a total of $17,500.

This fall, the SGCM will launch an executive speakers’ series and an executive lecture series. The former aims to bring up to six speakers a year to campus; the latter will be a night class in which 15 distinguished executives from government and industry will be “professors for a day.” The school also is pursuing accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. All of the other colleges and universities in the Inland Northwest have earned this accreditation, which Beatty says is the “gold standard” for identifying high-quality business programs and serves as a mark of distinction for graduates. The school currently is performing an internal assessment to determine its readiness for beginning the accreditation process. After a school submits an application to begin the accreditation process, it typically takes four to six years to earn accreditation, Beatty says.

The SGCM is now working with students, faculty, alums and business leaders to craft a strategic plan that will map out goals for the next several years. Beatty invites business alums to contact him (rbeatty@whitworth.edu or 509.777.4567) or other faculty members with their input for the plan.
Leonard and Friends Welcome Norman

Several hundred people were on hand for the regional premiere of the film *Norman*, the closing-night feature of February’s third annual Leonard A. Oakland Film Festival. Filmed in Spokane by North by Northwest productions, *Norman* tells the story of a troubled teen pretending to be dying of cancer and confronting problems with his new girlfriend and his terminally ill father. Starring Dan Byrd and Academy Award-nominee Richard Jenkins, the film was directed by Jonathan Segal, who was on hand to introduce the feature and answer questions from the audience following the showing. (Artwork courtesy of normanthemovie.com.)

Lindaman Lives On
Stronks chosen for endowed chair

Professor of Political Science Julia Stronks is Whitworth’s next Edward B. Lindaman Chair. She will assume that role from Professor of Education Betty Fry Williams, who has held the position since 2007. The chair, an endowed position that rotates among selected senior faculty members, is named for the late Edward B. Lindaman, president of Whitworth from 1970-80, and was established in 1982 to honor Lindaman’s work as a futurist, a business leader and an educator.

As the end of each Lindaman Chair cycle approaches, Whitworth professors who are engaged in significant regional and national academic initiatives and who contribute to public dialogue concerning important social issues are encouraged to apply for the four-year position. Stronks, who came to Whitworth in 1994 and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and a J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law, was chosen from among those applicants. In her new role, she will continue to teach in the political science department and will assume the special duties of the chair, as well. “My primary goal is to write and speak on faith, law and politics,” she says. “The first two projects are already under way. One is related to faith and feminism, focusing on violence and sex trafficking in American cities. The other is on what it means to practice law as a Christian.” Reaching out to the Whitworth community, Stronks adds, “I would really love to hear from alums who work in these areas.” Stronks can be reached at jstronks@whitworth.edu.

‘A Legacy of Leadership’
Robinson named president emeritus by Whitworth trustees

Whitworth’s trustees voted unanimously at their spring meeting to recognize Bill Robinson as president emeritus. Emeritus status is bestowed on certain trustees, administrators and faculty for their long and distinguished service to the university.

“Whitworth continues to benefit from Bill Robinson’s legacy of leadership,” says President Beck Taylor, who nominated Robinson for the recognition in honor of his extraordinary contributions to Whitworth as president from 1993 to 2010. “This honor for Bill recognizes that his DNA and that of Whitworth are inexorably intertwined. I felt that it was more than appropriate to forever link Bill to the university he has loved and served so passionately.”

Since stepping down as president, Robinson has been speaking and traveling widely on behalf of the university, supporting institutional advancement initiatives, consulting with a number of universities, churches and businesses, and serving on several boards. He also is compiling a book of speeches he gave over his last 10 years at Whitworth.

Robinson says he appreciates the emeritus honor, as it reflects his enduring commitment to the university he and his family love so deeply.

“This is a very warm affirmation,” he says. “I’m grateful to Beck and to the board. But no title could deepen further my affection for this place to which I am so indebted and committed. Since leaving the presidency, I’ve seen a little more clearly how Whitworth and I shaped each other. If that’s true, I got a better deal than Whitworth did.”
Award-winning poet Michelle Glazer, noted for her exploration of the tension between the abstract and the concrete, presented the third annual Nadine Chapman Endowed Reading at Whitworth this spring. Glazer is winner of the Iowa Poetry Prize and is an associate professor of English and the director of creative writing at Portland State University. She read poems from her three books, *On Tact*, *& the Made up World* (Iowa, 2010); *Aggregate of Disturbances* (Iowa, 2004); and *It Is Hard to Look at What We Came to Think We’d Come to See* (Pittsburgh, 1997). Whitworth invites regional authors to campus each year to read their poetry, prose and/or creative nonfiction in memory of Chapman, a member of the English faculty who died in July 2008 after a four-year battle with ovarian cancer.

To Support and Celebrate Excellent Teaching
Michaelis appointed associate dean

Randy Michaelis, ’74, chair of the undergraduate department of teacher education, has been appointed Whitworth’s next associate dean of instruction. In June, Michaelis will take the place of Barb Sanders, Ed.D., who has provided three years of excellent service to Whitworth in that position.

In addition to his expertise as a teacher and department chair, Michaelis brings to his new position extensive experience with assessment and accreditation from the Whitworth School of Education, according to Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Michael Le Roy, ’89. “Randy is an able and respected colleague who has served Whitworth with distinction as a faculty president and key committee servant,” Le Roy says. “I look forward to the benefits we will all reap from his considerable gifts and strengths.”

Michaelis, who has worked at Whitworth for 25 years, says the appointment suits him well because teaching is where his passion lies. “In my new role, I’ll have an even greater opportunity to support and celebrate excellent teaching at Whitworth,” he says. “I’m grateful for this new opportunity to be of service to the Whitworth community.”

Whitworth established two associate dean positions in 2005. The appointments are open to tenured faculty. In addition to Michaelis’ appointment, Kathy Storm, currently vice president of student life and dean of students, has been appointed as the next associate dean for faculty development and scholarship. She will assume this role in June 2012, when Mike Ingram’s term of distinguished service in the position concludes.

Noted Poet Presents Reading in Honor of Chapman

Whitworth Reimagines Orpheus Myth in *Eurydice*

Dana Sammond, ’13, (above) and Nick Kemner, ’11, played the classic roles of Eurydice and Orpheus in Pulitzer Prize-winner Sarah Ruhl’s *Eurydice*, Whitworth Theatre’s spring production. A play about memory, love and grief, *Eurydice* is a modern reimagining of the myth of Orpheus. The play premiered at the Madison Repertory Theatre, in Madison, Wis., and it has since been staged across the U.S., says Brooke Kiener, ’99, the play’s director and an instructor of theatre at Whitworth. “Sarah Ruhl is one of my favorite new playwrights,” Kiener says, “because her work is always inventive and poetic.” Whitworth’s performance featured creative sets and lighting techniques, and the memorable moment of Eurydice’s entrance into the underworld via an elevator in which rain fell. “The actors performed their roles beautifully, bringing in all the work of our rehearsal period and also being responsive to the audience’s energy,” Kiener says.
Pirate Athletics Program Aces Competition

Whitworth wins fourth consecutive All-Sports Trophy

The Mac is back. The Northwest Conference is known as one of the most competitive NCAA Div. III conferences in the country. And Whitworth has reigned supreme in the NWC for the past four years. This year, the Pirates won the all-conference award, the McIlroy-Lewis Trophy, by the contest’s largest margin ever.

Finishing with 267 points in the final tally, the Bucs tied their 2010 score – the highest for any school since the NWC began a new scoring system after the 1998-99 season. For the first time, Whitworth also scored the highest number of points among the nine conference schools in all three academic seasons – fall, winter and spring. Rankings are based on a system in which points are awarded on the basis of each school’s final standing in every sport.

Whitworth won seven NWC championships in 2010-11: men’s cross country, women’s volleyball, men’s swimming, women’s swimming, men’s basketball, women’s tennis, and men’s track and field. The Pirates also finished second in women’s cross country and women’s soccer, and third in five other sports.

The winter sports season yielded the best ranking and best finish ever for Whitworth’s NCAA Div. III men’s basketball team, which racked up a 28-2 record, a No. 1 ranking in the country, and a berth in the Div. III Elite Eight. The team boasted great synergy and skills, some gaudy stats – and the best Div. III player in the U.S., Michael Taylor (left). Taylor, whose smooth moves were the talk of the national tournament, earned Player of the Year honors from both the National Association of Basketball Coaches and D3hoops.com, and was also named All-America First Team. To top off his stellar season, Taylor put up 18 points, six rebounds and four assists to lead the West to a 92-81 win over the East in the Div. III All-Star Game. During the regular season he led the Bucs in scoring (20.3 per game) and assists (3.5) and led the NWC in both free-throw percentage (88.4) and three-point percentage (.528).

After an amazing 10-year run at Whitworth, Men’s Head Basketball Coach Jim Hayford (above) cut down the Div. III nets for the last time. The end of the season saw Hayford agreeing to a contract with the Div. I Eastern Washington University Eagles, just down the road, in Cheney. Hayford, among the most successful active coaches in Div. III, posted a record of 217-57 and a winning percentage of .792 while he helmed the Pirates. Under his tutelage, the Bucs enjoyed eight 20-win seasons, six appearances in the NCAA tournament, five NWC titles, and three NCAA Div. III Sweet 16 appearances. He was named NWC Coach of the Year five times. After expressing Whitworth’s sorrow at seeing Hayford go, President Beck Taylor said, “I am equally excited about this opportunity for him. He’ll be a great Div. I coach.”

Whitworth’s men’s swimming team earned its ninth consecutive NWC championship and Rory Buck (above left) shattered the NCAA Div. III record in the 200-yard breaststroke to earn the 2011 Div. III Men’s Swimmer of the Year title. Buck, who pulled off his best swim of the year at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, at the University of Tennessee, actually broke the national record twice at the meet. In the second race, he beat his opponent by nearly three seconds. Calling Buck a “very smart swimmer,” Head Swim Coach Steve Schadt, ’96, said of the junior’s championship swim, “Rory was in control the whole way, and his stroke technique was smooth, controlled, and consistent.” Buck, who hails from South Africa, went on to compete in that country’s nationals and finished second, third and fourth in his three races there.
From The Loop to the Great Wall

Whitworth has created a new semester-long study abroad program to China, through which students will study in Beijing, visit rural Chinese villages, travel to Chinese pilgrimage sites rarely visited by Westerners, and earn intensive Chinese language credits.

Set to begin this fall, the program, Whitworth in China, will be based at Beijing’s Minzu University of China and will take place every three years. It is the brainchild of Anthony E. Clark, assistant professor of East Asian history at Whitworth, who, shortly after he began teaching at Whitworth in 2009, began to envision a way for students to study in China. He says academic experience in that increasingly powerful country is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after résumé items among U.S. employers. His goal with the program is to make students more globally savvy, as well as to equip them with linguistic and cultural skills that will make them attractive to employers.

“Students in Whitworth’s program will see and experience things rarely included in other study-abroad programs,” Clark says. “Everyone who goes on the Whitworth in China program will return with a new perspective. Living in China has a way of re-orienting a person’s worldview.”

Students taking part in the program will encounter a challenging academic experience, earning credits in history, political science, and a year’s worth of intensive Chinese language credits. Outside of the classroom, they will be exposed to seldom-seen life in rural villages, such as those in Shanxi province, and they will travel to pilgrimage sites generally shielded from Western view, such as Wutai Mountain and Pingyao ancient village. They also will visit the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, and the Forbidden City.

Demand has been strong for the program; 21 students have been accepted for its inaugural semester. To learn more about Whitworth in China, visit web.me.com/anthony.e.clark/Whitworth_in_China_Program/WIC_Welcome.html.

Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award Winner Visits Whitworth


“In an era when we have faced one of the most severe financial crises in our nation’s history,” says Professor of History Dale Soden, “Vanderbilt’s story can provide us with some important historical perspective.”
Top Producer
Record number of Whitworth students win Fulbrights this year

A record number of Whitworth seniors have been awarded Fullbright English Teaching Assistantship grants for the 2011-12 academic year, continuing more than a decade of strong Whitworth representation in the prestigious Fulbright Program.

The Fulbright scholarships are part of the English Teaching Assistantship Program, an element of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program that places U.S. students as English-teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas. Corey Dugan, a cross-cultural studies and Spanish double major, will teach English in Spain; Angie Hartley, an international studies and Spanish double major, will teach in Argentina; James Mitsuyasu, a music performance major, is heading to Germany; and Katie Williams, a peace studies and Spanish double major, will teach in Colombia. All four, who graduated from Whitworth in May, say they look forward to both enriching and being enriched by the communities in which they will serve.

In October 2009, the Fulbright Program named Whitworth a top producer of students who received Fulbright awards in 2009-10. Since 2000, 15 Whitworth students have been selected as Fullbright scholars: Dugan, Hartley, Mitsuyasu and Williams, '11; Gillian Goodrich and Blair Daly, '10; Kendra Hamilton and Amy Whisenand, '09; Beth Carlson, '08; Lindsey Kiehn and Leah Silvies, both '07; Laura Thaut, '05; Carla DePriest, '04; Kelly Siebe, '03; and Alissa Johnson, '01.

Whitworth Professor of Political Science John Yoder oversees the Fulbright applications and guides students through the application process. He is pleased with the level of success they have achieved during their time in the program.

“Whitworth’s Fulbright students are among the best in the country,” Yoder says. “The fact that they not only win Fulbrights, but also excel during their Fulbright year, proves to me that our students are very committed and accomplished.”

Whitworth Introduces New Men’s Basketball Coach

Matt Logie’s deep background in basketball coaching and deep roots in the Northwest led Whitworth Athletics to select him as the Bucs’ new head men’s basketball coach. Logie, who has served as associate head coach at NCAA Div. I Lehigh University for the past two seasons, replaces Jim Hayford (see story on Page 22). Logie was introduced to the community at a press conference in May. “Matt is a terrific fit for Whitworth,” says Acting Athletics Director Warren Friedrichs. “He exemplifies our mission as a Christian university, and he understands our high academic standards. Matt impressed us through every step in our search process.”
Act Six Student Selected for PBS’ American Experience Freedom Ride 2011

Whitworth senior Benjameen Quarless was among 40 college students nationwide selected for the 2011 Student Freedom Ride, a 10-day journey that traced the route taken by the original freedom riders of 1961. The ride marked the 50th anniversary of the original freedom rides and coincided with the premiere of the film Freedom Riders, which aired May 16 on PBS’ American Experience series.

Quarless was selected out of nearly 1,000 applicants who represented a diverse cross-section of America. The selected students hail from 33 states and Washington, D.C., as well as China, Tajikistan and Haiti.

“I want to understand the energy and principles that drive this movement, as well as learn about how the current struggle for civil rights can be improved,” Quarless said before the ride. “I expect to learn a lot about myself and my personal stance on issues concerning access to resources, education and racial equality, and plan to bring what I learn back to Whitworth’s campus.”

The Freedom Riders of 1961 were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated South to test a U.S. Supreme Court decision that outlawed racial segregation in the restaurants and waiting rooms in terminals serving buses that crossed state lines. The rides, and the reactions to them, helped strengthen the Civil Rights Movement and called national attention to how the South disregarded federal laws and continued to enforce segregation.

Accompanied by Freedom Riders filmmaker Stanley Nelson, original Freedom Riders and others, students on the Freedom Ride 2011 participated in a traveling classroom and learned about the commitment and courage of the people who took part in the Freedom Rides. Kicking off in Washington, D.C., the ride traced the original route through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, stopping along the way at historically significant locations. The journey ended in New Orleans, the intended destination of the 1961 Freedom Riders.

Quarless, a philosophy major from Tacoma, Wash., is a student scholar in the Act Six Leadership & Scholarship Initiative. Launched in 2002 by the Northwest Leadership Foundation, in Tacoma, Act Six seeks to develop young urban leaders to be agents of transformation on campus and in their home communities.

Whitworth was the first university to launch an Act Six affiliate, in 2002, and supports the program as part of its longstanding commitment to be a place where the richness of an education of mind and heart is available to all people. Act Six scholars at Whitworth, including Quarless, who also was a member of the debate team that took third place this spring at the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (see Ethics Bowl story on Page 24), participate and lead in athletics, community service, international study abroad programs, music, student leadership and enriching campus discourse inside and outside the classroom.

Wilds, Taylor and Peterson Speak at Commencement Weekend Events

Deborah Wilds, president and chief operating officer of the College Success Foundation, addressed graduates at Whitworth’s 121st undergraduate commencement ceremony May 15. Wilds presented her commencement address, “Greatness Sought: Servanthood Taught,” to the nearly 580 members of the Whitworth Class of 2011. Her organization provides college scholarships, mentoring and support for low-income students and students of color, and she is a former senior program officer for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Beck Taylor, presiding over Commencement Weekend for the first time, was keynote speaker for the graduate commencement ceremony May 14. His address, “Be Still,” charged Whitworth’s 120-plus master’s degree candidates to serve the world with the confidence that they are called by God and equipped by Whitworth to be agents of Christ’s love, justice and mercy. Taylor also conferred honorary doctorates upon commencement speaker Deborah Wilds and upon Stephen Davis, ’62, the Russell K. Pitzer Professor of Theology at California’s Claremont McKenna College.

Noted pastor and scholar Eugene Peterson offered the homily, “Jesus and His Friends,” for the baccalaureate service on Sunday in the Whitworth Fieldhouse. Peterson, a Montana native, has written more than 30 books, including the Gold Medallion Book Award winner The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language. Peterson’s grandson, Andrew, a member of the Class of 2011, introduced Peterson at the service. Peterson’s granddaughter Sadie is a member of the Class of 2014.
Shirley Ann Oliver, ’77
Shirley Ann Oliver, wife of the chair of the Whitworth University Board of Trustees, Walter (Walt) Oliver, ’67, died in January. Shirley Oliver grew up in the church, the oldest of eight children, and, according to an obituary in The Washington Post, “dedicated her life to helping others as a social worker, teacher and lead activist for numerous civic, social and community organizations.” The writer went on to say, “Her love of life and people was matched only by her passion for music,” and to mention Oliver’s belief that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life [John 3:16].” Whitworth President Beck Taylor says of her, “Shirley joined Walt in strong support of Whitworth. They have given generously of time, efforts and resources in ways that have transformed the university. We will miss her.” Oliver is survived by her husband, Walt, and her son Jason and his wife. She was preceded in death by her son Bryan, for whom Whitworth’s Bryan Oliver Art Gallery is named. The Olivers ask that in recognition of Shirley’s passing and in lieu of sending flowers, friends contribute an extra amount to their place of worship or to a charitable arts organization “in memory of her time with us.”

Taylor Fenters, ’13
Sophomore Taylor Fenters, 19, died at his home, in Klamath Falls, Ore., in January. He succumbed to brain cancer, which had been eradicated in his first bout with the disease, when he was 12, but which returned in his freshman year (2009) at Whitworth. He underwent difficult and depleting therapy for several months and was able to return to Whitworth in fall 2010, but the cancer recurred, and he left campus for the last time after Thanksgiving. Assistant Professor of Theology Karen Petersen Finch, who taught Taylor and became his friend, says of him, “The best word for Taylor is relentless. He was a warrior personality in a pitched battle, and he was determined to glorify God in it. I learned from him that one’s life should be one’s theology. He knew that God was good. That’s why he fought so hard and played so hard. He testified to the goodness of God with his every breath, including his last.”

A memorial service was held for Taylor at Whitworth after Jan Term, and many of his friends and fellow students flew and drove to his funeral, in Klamath Falls, in late January. Taylor graduated from high school as class valedictorian in 2009 and majored in theology at Whitworth. He is survived by his parents, Scott and Janelle, his three siblings, other family, and the Whitworth community.

William “Bill” Johnson, Ph.D., ’61
Longtime Whitworth psychology professor Bill Johnson died in March at his home in Anacortes, Wash. He graduated from Whitworth after marrying fellow Whitworthian Rachel Higgins, ’62, in 1960. Bill earned his Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Oregon and returned to Whitworth in 1968 to begin a 30-year career as a psychology professor. Combining his strong interests in athletics with his love for his discipline, he took on the role of Whitworth’s faculty athletics representative to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and he served in prominent national roles with the organization. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1995. Bill was also a lifelong distance runner and a leader in the development of Spokane’s Bloomsday. He died after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease, leaving his wife, Rachel, their two children, Brad, ’84, and Shannon, ’88, three grandsons, and four siblings. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in honor of Bill’s life and service go directly to the Elder Training Initiative at Whitworth University, a program to promote the mentoring and development of church elders. For information on making a contribution, contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Scott McQuilkin, ’84, at 509.777.4386 or smcquilkin@whitworth.edu.
World’s Economy Calls for Great – and Difficult – Decisions

by Brian “Duff” Bergquist
Executive-in-Residence

As part of Whitworth’s Great Decisions lecture series, I just finished giving a presentation on the financial crisis. As I worked on my lecture, I took some time to reflect on my first year as Whitworth’s executive-in-residence. It has been a very satisfying eight months. I’ve had the opportunity to engage students on an intellectual basis as well as to provide guidance as they prepare for the next step in their journeys. And it has been rewarding to see the seniors receive job offers and fulfill their first objectives.

The title of my Great Decisions presentation was “Narvik to Spokane with a Stop in Las Vegas Aboard the Financial Crisis Express.” I left Lehman Brothers in the summer of 2007, one month before Bear Stearns’ mortgage hedge funds collapsed, initiating the crisis. It gave me a chance to compare corporate America to the financial structures of the other countries involved and to draw some interesting conclusions.

Corporate America’s balance sheets today are as healthy as they have been in the last 20 years. U.S. corporations hold more cash on their balance sheets today – $1.93 trillion at the end of December 2010 – than at any other time since the 1950s, and they are utilizing the least amount of leverage since 1995. Companies have made tough decisions and right-sized their businesses to match the economic environment. This was a painful process, and the result was a stubbornly high unemployment rate. But we have started to see some encouraging signs: Global mergers and acquisitions activity surpassed two trillion dollars in 2010 for the first time since 2007. M&A activity is expected to top three trillion in 2011. First-quarter 2011 activity continues this trend, but it has been influenced by geopolitical turmoil and the tragedy in Japan. The initial-public-offer market is also coming back to life as the appetite for new companies is starting to pick up. Several companies, including LinkedIn, Facebook, Groupon, Skype and Pandora, will go public this year. This is an encouraging sign as it signals that CEOs and other business leaders have increasing confidence in the direction of their businesses.

Corporations are starting to invest some of the earnings they had retained to protect themselves against continued economic weakness. Stock buybacks were up 174 percent in 2010 vs. 2009, at $359 billion, and 2011 is running at a higher rate than 2010. Corporations are also more likely to return cash to shareholders; the dividend payout ratio for S&P 500 companies is currently at 31.3 percent, a 20-year low. This does not necessarily indicate that the economy is going to grow at a rapid pace, but it does mean that business leaders closest to the market are confident enough in their short- to midterm outlook that they are willing to invest. Corporate America has made a lot of progress in healing the wounds caused by the financial and economic crisis.

The same can’t be said for other countries involved in the crisis. The economic health of several European countries is moving in the opposite direction of that of U.S. corporations. The fiscal and economic crisis reduced revenue and highlighted the deteriorating debt burden – debt as a percentage of GDP – which many of these countries face. Portugal requested an E.U. bailout April 7 of around 80 billion euros or $115 billion. Ireland and Greece received bailout money last year. A condition of the bailout requires countries to cut spending and usually to raise taxes to meet a target figure for deficit as a percentage of GDP. The IMF target for Ireland is 3.8 percent in 2015.

The budget cuts required to meet these targets have caused unrest and protests across Europe. In March, London experienced protests against cuts to public services. The protests were reported to be the largest in the capital since 2003. Ironically, the rally centered around Oxford Street, the world-famous shopping area. It has also had an impact upon employment in Europe, as Greece and Ireland have unemployment rates of 13 percent, while Spain’s is around 20 percent. The bailouts have not automatically eased the markets’ views of the affected countries’ finances. The CDS spread of credit default swaps in Greece traded at a record of 1,100 basis points on April 14. This spread indicates the market’s belief that Greece will have to make further cuts and, most likely, to restructure its debt.

It’s interesting to see corporate America’s response to the financial and economic crisis compared to the response of other involved governments. The U.S. government is finally addressing the deficit, with both the Republicans and the Democrats advancing deficit-cutting plans. This will not be an easy process, and tough choices will have to be made. I think we should all buckle up and grab a bowl of popcorn because it’s going to be an interesting and bumpy ride.
Class Notes

An “x” before a class year indicates that the person attended, but did not graduate from, Whitworth.

2000s

2000 Ryan Baker recently completed his pediatric residency in Cincinnati and will begin a sports medicine fellowship at UCLA in July.

2001 Erin (Johnson) Camper lives in Thornton, Colo., with her husband, Matt, and their daughters, Ella and Adalyn. She works as a pediatric intensive care nurse at the Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, in Denver. Andy Hall and his wife, Kelli (Narva, ’02), live in Kirkland, Wash., where he serves as the director of student programs at Northwest University. Patrick Plumb was elected mayor of Tonasket, Wash., in November 2009. He is working on the first major expansion of Tonasket in 30 years. He is married and is the father of a daughter, Symarah, age 4, and a son, Austin, age 3. He has worked as the chargemaster specialist at North Valley Hospital since 2001.

2003 Kelly Fonteijn and her husband, Adri, moved to Pullman, Wash., where they are planting a ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for international students at WSU. Matthew Kaemingk was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the Netherlands.

2004 Laura Dilgard recently married Andrew Hershberger. They have moved to Great Lakes, Ill., while Andrew pursues his career in the Navy. Logan Gage received his master’s degree in philosophy from Baylor University. Jeff McCann is a history teacher and a coach at Thousand Oaks High School, in California. He assists with strength and conditioning programs for the football, baseball, boys’ basketball, and boys’ water polo teams. Jessica (Klingeman) Shawley will soon travel to San Diego to accept the Northwest District Middle School PE Teacher of the Year Award, given by the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Charlie Shepherd taught for two years at a mission school in the Republic of Cameroon, Africa. He completed a master’s degree program in Durham, England, and advanced into a Ph.D program. He spent a month doing research in Tübingen, Germany, and plans to return to Durham to complete his doctorate.

2005 Chris Collins is president of West African Vocation Schools, WAVS, which operates post-secondary schools in Guinea-Bissau that teach trade skills. Caitlin Gregory finished her master’s degree in December 2009; she earned a professional teaching certificate in June 2010. She has taught sixth grade for the Snohomish School District for five years and occasionally leads teacher workshops on science notebooking. Jayleen Hille is an English teacher at Jeongwang Middle School, in Sinheung City, Gyeonggi Province, South Korea. She is also the executive manager of the Camarata Music Company, in Seoul, South Korea. The nonprofit company provides musical instruments and lessons to underserved children in Korea. Heather Knorr married David Marshall in May 2010. The wedding party included Leah (Hewett) Wolters, ’05; Rebekah (Heestand) Aeschliman, ’05; Meagan (Frey) Helton, ’05; Marco and Anya (Behrends) Tulluck, both ’05; best man Nick Preuninger, ’04; Devon Wolters, ’05; and Geoffrey Helton, ’04. Heather earned a master’s degree in community mental health counseling. Meghan McGarry is a second-year pediatric resident at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, in Cleveland. She was named Resident Teacher of the Year, was recently elected assistant District Five coordinator for the American Academy of Pediatrics, and serves on the Section on Medical Students, Residents, and Fellowship Trainees Executive Committee. JJ Vancil and his wife, Katy (Peringer, ’06), live in Spokane. JJ works for Youth for Christ, overseeing a youth center, supervising volunteers, and developing ways to care for the youth of the West Central neighborhood. Katy recently
completed her master’s degree at Whitworth and balances her time between substitute teaching and caring for the Vancils’ new baby boy, Owen Matthew.

**Katie Brown** recently returned to West Texas after completing a six-month discipleship-training school in Chile with Youth with a Mission; she visited Colombia and Cuba during her outreach phase. She is now looking forward to new adventures. **Katie Linder** graduated from The Ohio State University with a Ph.D. in women’s, gender and sexuality studies. Following graduation, Katie accepted a position at Suffolk University, in Boston, as the assistant director of the Center for Teaching Excellence. She and her husband, **Ben Winter,** ’04, love the East Coast.

**2007 Soren Baird** spent the last two years earning his master of science degree at Azusa Pacific University. He then began working as the resident director of Taylor Hall and campus apartments at Howard Payne University, in Brownwood, Texas. He continues to pursue his music with a new band, So Aware. **Holy Chea** is the community initiative coordinator with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. He helps sustain the Youth Against Violence Initiative and helps lead the Youth Philanthropy Board, a program that recruits and trains young people from Pierce County in principles of leadership, civic engagement, and how to use philanthropy as a tool for social and systematic change.

**2008 Amanda Smith** teaches mathematics at Union High School, in Vancouver, Wash. In April, she took a group of students to the Cajamarca region of Peru, where they undertook a service project. **Rebeccah Todd** married Alexander Bare, ’09, in Lacey, Wash., on Aug. 13. In attendance were Carolyn (Grable) Bare, ’74; Margaret Mitsuyasu, ’08; James Mitsuyasu, ’11; Ashley Smithers, ’08; David Zumin, ’08; Peter Labberton, ’10; Kasandra Ross, ’07; Sarah Hennigan, ’08; Haley Smith, ’09; Jon Brewer, ’06; Delynn Hampton, ’08; and Scarlet Ponder, ’10.

**2009 Breanne Durham** is the executive director of Beautiful Downtown Lewiston, which works to strengthen the Idaho community as a cultural and historical hub during holiday gatherings, farmer’s markets, and other events. **Deidra Stands** was crowned Miss Columbia Basin in March and will compete in the Miss Washington pageant this summer. She teaches fifth grade at Vista Elementary School, in Kennewick.

**2010 Kristin Nilsson** moved to San Jose, Texas, in August 2010 to be part of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She works in the Office of Social Ministry at St. Joseph’s Cathedral Basilica, where she and a co-worker daily serve hundreds of people who are homeless. She primarily helps manage the office, coordinates volunteers, organizes mail, compiles resources from the county, and passes out lunches and groceries. **Emily McGrady-Beach** lives in Houston, where she works as a foster parent at a child-placement agency. Casa de Esperanza de los Niños, which takes in abused, neglected and homeless children. **Alex and Emily (Royal) Schilperoort** work for Developmental Pathways, a Denver-based social-service agency that helps clients with developmental disabilities to enhance their independence and self-direction.

**BIRTHS**


**2000** a girl, Zaidee Marie, to Matt and **Joy (Hunzeker) Lockard**, March 23

**2001** a boy, Evan Alan, to **Steven** and **Sarahet Butts**, April 12, 2009

**2001** a boy, Talon Thomas, to **Amy (Austin)** and Shawn Borgen, July 29

**2001** a girl, Eliza Lela, to Luke and **Marla (Meekhof) Hyder**, Aug. 6

**2001** a boy, Tyler Curtis, to Andy and **Kelli (Narva) Hall**, Oct. 27

**2002** a girl, Johanna Nanette, to **Stephanie (Stern)** and Ben Carlson, Jan. 11

**2002** a boy, Calvin Henry, to **Jennifer (Brandler)** and Colen Hesse, ’03, Jan. 6

**2002** a boy, Ethan Charles, to **Beth (Kear)** and Zachary Kintner, Feb. 24

**2004** a boy, Wells Augustine, to **Logan** and Elizabeth **Gage**, Nov. 29

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

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**Fauerso Pursues Justice with FBI**

by Karen Robison, ’12

Holly Fauerso, ’07, graduated from Whitworth with a degree in political science, a long-time passion for working in law enforcement, and the courage and skills to pursue her passion. She is now a community outreach specialist in the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Public Affairs Department, in Portland, Ore.

After graduation, Fauerso worked as the community outreach coordinator for the Community Advocacy Department at the Center for Justice, a nonprofit law firm in Spokane. The firm helps low-income individuals with legal problems ranging from landlord/tenant disputes to employment issues. Fauerso wrote grants, planned events, and helped coordinate free legal outreach programs. She says this work was deeply rewarding and provided valuable opportunities for her to develop new skills that helped equip her for her current work with the FBI.

Now, as an FBI community outreach specialist, Fauerso works with Portland community leaders through the FBI’s Multi-Cultural Advisory Council to discuss pertinent issues with law enforcement representatives and to create workable solutions for the community. She also helps to educate students, meets with community leaders, and develops crime prevention and public safety programs to fit the unique needs of communities in Oregon. “I see the FBI as an organization that works with the private sector, members of the community, and law enforcement to keep our communities safe,” Fauerso says. “I love to see people engaged and actively working to make our cities and our communities better.”

Fauerso says several Whitworth experiences helped her get to where she is today. The training she received as a cultural diversity advocate at Whitworth helped her learn to listen to cultural perspectives, to ask forthright questions about difficult topics, and to interact with individuals from a variety of backgrounds. She found support and guidance at Whitworth, as well as many opportunities to explore foundational questions about life. She ultimately attributes her success to God, whom she credits for “maneuvering my goals, hopes and aspirations for His purpose and timing.”

Though her days are full, Fauerso still finds time to reflect on the future. “I hope to touch lives for the better,” she says.
Three Ballard Hall sisters reunited to perform in First United Methodist Church of Colorado Springs’ production of My Fair Lady, in March. Pictured (l-r) are Kari Kiser, ’06, Katie Harmon, ’07, and Megan Rieger, ’07.

2005 a girl, Lily Abigail, to Megan (Hanson) and Nathan Backman, Oct. 15, 2009
2005 a girl, Avery Elynn, to Nate and Courtney (Dalay) Boyer, Feb. 3
2005 a girl, Hannah Joell, to William and Christina Gaines, Aug. 24, 2009
2005 a girl, Shemsaah Grace, to Amy (Glover) and Philip Membre, Dec. 5
2005 a boy, Peter Elliot, to Heather (Stoutz) and Greg Svandize, ’06, Jan. 10
2006 a boy, Dale Andrew, to Erica (Vonk) and Adam Van Duyt, Feb. 2
2007 a boy, Maxim Alexander, to Sara (Bello) Walter, Aug. 13

1990s

1990 Kathy Williams, M.Ed., was recently named the Spokane Public School District’s Dick Stannard Distinguished Elementary Principal of the Year for her outstanding service and leadership as principal of Ridgeview Elementary School.
1991 LaRinda (Utter) Chapin teaches humanities to students of all ages at Pascale Academy, a new private Christian school in Post Falls, Idaho.
1993 Keith Knowles, the president of LiveLight Energy, was recently selected as the contractor for the Solar Beaverton pilot program for Beaverton, Ore., and will install solar equipment for as many as 200 homes in the area.
1994 Lisa D. Pearce is an assistant professor of sociology and a fellow in the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is co-author of a new book, A Faith of Their Own; Stability and Change in the Religiosity of America’s Adolescents.
1995 Sean Wescott moved to Port Gamble, Wash., in Kitsap County, which is home to the oldest and longest-running lumber mill in America, now a historical site. Sean, his sister, and their business partner owned and operated a gift store there for a year. In May 2009, the team opened Gamble Bay Coffee. Sean also launched a record label, Gruenheimer Recordings and Musical Productions Associated, which is the exclusive label for his music as the American house artist Gruenheimer. He also operates an advertising agency.
1996 Kevin Parker was chosen by Washington State House Republicans to serve on the leadership team as the assistant floor leader for the 2011 session. He will assist the floor leader with organizing and overseeing strategy during legislative debate.
1997 Karen (Ellison) Andrews is active in Women’s Ministry at Casas Church, in Tucson, Ariz., where she lives with her husband, Richard. Her hobbies include gardening, gourmet cuisine, crafts, custom-design sewing, and writing. Her daughter Kristine, ’99, is flourishing as an advanced registered nurse practitioner in cardiovascular surgery. Karen’s daughter Elisabeth is also doing well teaching teens who have struggled in traditional schools. Mathew Scamahorn married Debbie Starr in Portland, Ore., on July 3, 2010. They are teachers in the Beaverton School District. In attendance at the wedding were Joseph Schneller wrote his first book, Your Average Joe: Unplugged (“A Seriously Funny Christian Devotional”), which is set to be released this year. He is a nationally published author and has credits in Focus on the Family’s Thriving Family, Clubhouse, Lifeway’s Stand Firm, and Walk Thru the Bible’s Indeed. Joseph writes nonfiction and humor for adults and fiction for children, youth and adults.

BIRTHS
1996 a boy, Graham, to Trevor and Crystal (Isaac) Sill, ’99, Oct. 25
1999 a boy, Jett Robert Blaine, to Heidi (Haase) and Kenton Clairmont, Feb. 12
1999 a boy, Bryant Joseph, to Karina (Boslet) and Nelson Bell, March 30

DEATHS
Deborah Miller, ’91, died Nov. 26. She had a tremendous impact on many lives through her unconditional love and humble leadership. After graduating from Whitworth, she served for five years as the activities director at Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital, in Orinda, Calif. She was also very active with The Creek Covenant Church, in Walnut Creek, Calif., and served on its leadership team. She is survived by her husband, daughters, parents, sisters, and other family. Dorothy Neal, x’92, died July 21. Anna (Nelson) Kenney, ’94, died Nov. 6. She is survived by her husband, daughters, and son. Randy Osborne, ’95, died Nov. 22. He was a dedicated husband, father, and leader to his three surviving brothers. He loved to play tennis at Spokane Racquet Club, where he was well known for his incredible serve, and he competed on the Whitworth baseball and football teams. He is survived by his wife, children, brothers, and other family. Rebecca Randell, ’95, died Oct. 31, 2007.

1980s

1980 Anne (Wasburn) Goddard is the director of development with the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Sacramento, Calif. Her husband, Glen, is the director of programs for the Golden Empire Boy Scout Council, in Sacramento. They have lived in Folsom for seven years and enjoy boating, camping, fly fishing, reading, gardening, and being involved with Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. Their daughter, Katie, is a freshman at St. Mary’s College of California, in Moraga. Kathleen Harris, a retired grandma of three young men, is taking classes in peer counseling. She is involved with community task forces against violence. She occasionally volunteers as an ESL teacher and gathers with some of her Whitworth classmates for mini-retreats.
1981 Lucinda Jann is excited about receiving a promotion in the U.S. Forest Service, for which she manages wilderness, trails and recreation in the Shoshone National Forest. Her bachelor of science degree from Whitworth helped pave the way for her to become a natural resource specialist.
1982 David Williams works for Pearson Vue, a testing facility. His wife, Tracy (Gibson), earned her doctorate from WSU in 2009 and is a professor in the education department at Seattle Pacific University, where she works with graduate students. The Williamses’ son, Jon, is a freshman at Issaquah High School, where he’s on the school’s swim team.
1983 L. Sue (Almour) Carroll teaches language arts and journalism at a low-income middle school in Perris, Calif. She and her family live in Temecula. She received her master’s degree in education with a middle-level specialization from Walden University, and she will soon begin Walden’s education specialist program. George Pontius wrote an autobiography, Grave Over the Long Run, about hardships, including the death of his son, Steven, and his years as a student, a pastor, and a missionary. Dennis Trotter will become president of Hastings College on July 1. Dennis served previously in college administrative positions at Pitzer, Franklin and Marshall, Coe,
St. Martin’s, and Sheldon Jackson colleges. He is completing a Ph.D. at California’s Claremont Graduate University School of Educational Studies and has an MBA from the University of Iowa.

1985 Byron Wade finished a two-year term as vice-moderator of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) last July. He is pastor of Davie Street Presbyterian Church, in Raleigh, N.C.

1987 Trey Malicoat and his partner, Eric Smith, live in Denver, where they have launched an innovative empowerment program, The Bold Life Project, designed to equip people with opportunities for personal growth and development, to connect people to dynamic communities, to build and support the business community, and to make a charitable difference in the world. For more information, visit www.boldlifeproject.com.

DEATHS

Roy Dunn, ’84, died Feb. 12. Roy entered the Navy at age 17 and went into the reserves at 21. He met his wife, Diane, at that time, and they married and had two sons. He worked in the electronics industry before he was called back into the Navy for 26 years; he retired as a cryptologic technician senior chief in 1982. He earned his master’s degree, in counseling, at LaVerne University. He was preceded in death by his son, Wayne, father, mother, stepfather, and half-sister. He is survived by his wife, son Jeffery, brother, and other family.

Steve Sutton, ’86, died April 5. After graduating from Whitworth, he attended Western Washington University and went on to be a software program engineer with Microsoft. He enjoyed singing and playing the piano and was a member of the Cascade High School Del Sonics and the Seattle Men’s Choir. In his early years Steve loved to spend time at church camp at Tall Timber, Leavenworth. He was preceded in death by his mother and sister. He is survived by his siblings, nieces, and nephews.

1970s

1974 Sharon Hare returned home to the Bay Area and serves at First Presbyterian Church, in San Jose, Calif. Her family comprises her partner, her daughter, two cats, one dog, and 19 fish.

1978 Lori Lynford is director of the Sweet Adelines Scottsdale Chorus, a group associated with Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide women’s education music organization. Lori is also a music educator, the choral director at Chandler High School, a master director with the Sweet Adeline organization, and an International School of Music faculty member; she coaches choruses both nationally and internationally. Sandra (Schiller) and her husband, Andrew Smith, have worked for nine years as educators with Quality Schools International. They lived in Turkmenistan for six years, and are now working in Moldova for the third year. Next year they will move to Kazakhstan. They enjoy their roles as director and teacher for the expat communities in these countries. Russ Thompson is a director of high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He recently authored a book, Steady and Strong: People Skills for Principals, to help new and aspiring school administrators.

1979 The Rev. Ian MacInnes-Green moved from Barrow, Alaska, to Anchorage in February and now serves as the spiritual life minister for Alaska Children’s Services, which provides psychiatric services to support youth with severe emotional disturbances.

DEATHS

Agnes Warn, ‘70, died Feb. 4. She received her bachelor’s degree from Multnomah School of the Bible, in Portland, Ore., and her master’s from Whitworth, and she completed much of her doctoral work at Whitworth and Eastern Washington University. In 1983 she was chosen by her peers as the first Distinguished Elementary Principal and was elected Regional Elementary Distinguished Principal in 1984. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, son, and other family. She is survived by her husband, daughter, son, and other family. Charles Maines, ’72, ’75 M.Ed., died Jan. 3. He was a lifelong outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking, backpacking and water sports. Rob Starrett, ’72, died April 26. He was married to Australian native Maggie Grant. A malignant brain tumor took his life, but Rob had a two-year remission that allowed him to build a home in Australia and to travel to the U.S. to see family and friends. Daphne (Chapin) Williams, ’72, died Nov. 1. After retirement, she and her husband enjoyed traveling to the Baja Peninsula and Australia, and taking cruises along the West Coast and down the Mexican Riviera. She is survived by her husband, children, sisters, and other family. Frances Shaw, x’75, died Oct. 6. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Washington in 1947 with a degree in fine arts and advertising. After retiring, she enjoyed singing as a member of Project Joy, the Joyettes, and the German Concordia Choir. Preceding her in death were her parents and sister. She is survived by several nieces, nephews and other family. Bernadine Henry, ’75, died Feb. 20, 2008. She enjoyed working with children at Adams Elementary School, in Spokane. She also taught Sunday school at Spokane’s Fourth Memorial Church for many years. She had a great love of reading, teaching and traveling. She is survived by her husband, son, daughter, and other family. She was preceded in death by her mother, father, brother, and daughter. William Aller, ’76 M.Ed., died Jan. 18. He married his wife, Armande, ’76, in 1946. He taught at John Rogers High School for 30 years and continued his own education at Whitworth, earning a master’s degree. He joined the Naval Reserve Station at Gieger as an intelligence officer. He is survived by his wife, sons, and other family.

1960s

1965 Donald Clark earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University. In 1978 he joined the history department at Trinity University, where he teaches courses on China, Japan, Korea and U.S. diplomatic history. He served as director of international studies from 1991-2006, and in 1999 he founded the university’s international programs office. He has co-directed East Asian studies at Trinity since 2006.

1968 Packard Brown studied at Princeton Theological Seminary and earned an M.Div. from the Iliff School of Theology, in Denver, where he resides with his wife, Debra. For the past 27 years he has been vice president for organizational development and senior executive coach in the career management industry. He has also begun a ministry that provides spiritual guidance for Christians seeking jobs. Dean Jamieson was recently re-elected and installed as the Region 8/Pacific Northwest Councillor of the American Guild of Organists. He was an organ student of David P. Dahl at Whitworth. He is retired from his Edmonds School District classroom position and is the organist at First Lutheran Church, in Bothell, Wash.

Four alums gathered in December to celebrate the achievements of Todd Bloomquist, ’90, and Keith Lambert, ’91, who earned doctor of education degrees from George Fox University. Pictured (l-r) are Beth (Jackson) Bloomquist, ’92, Todd Bloomquist, Ed.D., Keith Lambert, Ed.D., and Tara (Brekke) Lambert, ’93.
Commencement Weekend 2012

Mark your calendars now for reunions of the classes of 1952 and 1962, celebrating their 60- and 50-year reunions during Commencement Weekend, May 11-13, 2012. All alumni from 1962 and earlier are invited to take part in the festivities. Details will be mailed the first of the year.

Whitworth alumni from around the Northwest gathered in May 2010 at Young Life’s Washington Family Ranch for a Memorial Day Weekend Family Camp. Whitworth trustee Jim Bennett, ’89, transformed himself into the Whitworth Pirate in hopes of winning the camp’s best costume competition. Fellow alums couldn’t resist a photo-op with the Pirate. Arrgh!

Top row (l-r): Julane (Lussier) Dover, ’93; John Andonian, ’96; Tayt Knowles, ’96; Emily (Andonian) Knowles, ’97; Melissa (Kuhlmann) Pettey, ’00; Scott Hanson, ’97; Stephanie Carlson, ’89; Jim (the Pirate) Bennett, ’89; Glen Carlson, ’86; Andrea (Warner) Boatman, ’86; Boo Boatman, ’88; Mark Lupton, ’99; and Kristi (Knoell) Lupton, ’01. Bottom row (l-r): Chad Reeves, ’94; Julie (Ellerd) Reeves, ’96; Kara (Hartle) Billingsley, ’97; Daphne (Howe) Sumpter, ’88; and Tony Billingsley, ’97.

DEATHS

1950s

1958 Dorothy (Clark) Brooks earned a master’s degree in art education and a teacher’s credential from the University of Minnesota. She taught in Berkeley, Calif., for several years. She and her husband, Jerry, a history teacher, raised two children. In 1980 she began seminary school at Pacific School of Religion, in Berkeley, where she was ordained (United Church of Christ) in 1985. The last parish she served, from 1991-2002, was in Santa Rosa, Calif. She is the 14th ordained person in three generations of her family, and the first woman. Now retired, she is an active clergy member of her local congregation; she preaches several times a year, in addition to other duties. Kathleen Clark, ’58, worked several years for the Organization of American States, in Washington, D.C., and then was a bilingual secretary and administrative assistant for the Latin American Mission. She lived mainly in Miami and San Jose, Costa Rica. Now retired, she lives in Rockville, Md.

Donald Anderson, ’50, died Jan. 19. He earned master’s and doctoral degrees at WSU. He was an educator in almost every situation, teaching his children to love education, to laugh, and to become committed members of a church family. He is survived by his wife, brothers, sister, daughters, son, and other family. Rev. Elsie Apling, ’50, died Sept. 2. The Rev. Ben Fairchild, ’50, died Oct. 19. His family plans to establish a scholarship fund in his name at Whitworth and will encourage memorial gifts to the university. Shirley Blair, ’51, died Jan. 19. She taught preschool and extended daycare for 17 years, and she was also a Girl Scout leader. She is survived by her children and other family. Ralph Claassen died Aug. 15. He retired in 1994 from his work in mathematics at the Pacific Missile Test Center, in Point Mugu, Calif. He married Dorothy Galle on June 9, 1962. He is survived by his wife, sons and their families, sister, brothers, and other family. Llewelyn Daniels, ’51, died Dec. 7. He is survived by his wife. The Rev. Donald Pierson, ’51, died Sept. 11. He earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from EWU and worked as a cost accountant for The Boeing Company. He loved music, photography, reading, wood-carving, geology, genealogy and astronomy. He is survived by his wife, four sisters, and other family. Paul Parker, ’51, died Jan. 1, 1998. Malcolm Bolen, ’52, died Dec. 28. He loved the Lord, his wife, and his family. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Dolores (Yandle, ’55), brother, children, and other family. Carol (Geary) Crecelius, ’53, died Nov. 27, after a six-year battle with cancer. Flore Lekanof, ’53, died Sept. 17. He earned a master’s degree in public school administration from the University of Washington. He became the principal of Scenic Park Elementary School, in Anchorage, Alaska, in 1975, and was the first Alaskan native to be appointed as a school principal. He was a charter member of the Alaska Federation of Natives and was elected its first chairman in 1966. He is survived by his wife, children, sisters, brothers, and other family. Norman Taylor, ’54, died Feb. 1. He was the pastor of Grace United Presbyterian Church, in Greenville, Texas, from 1960-68. He is survived by his wife, three sons, and five granddaughters. Evelyn (Kelly) Peterson, ’56, died Nov. 5. She taught at schools in Pasco and Ephrata, Wash. She is survived by her husband, daughter, son, and other family. Otto Eckman, ’59, died Dec. 26. He married Sandra Thayer in 1958; he taught fifth and sixth grades in Los Angeles, and was a principal in the East Dubuque, Ill., public schools; he later earned a doctorate from Florida State University. He retired to enjoy time with his family, and to travel, fish and hunt. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, sister, and other family.

1940s

DEATHS

Paul Wilkstrom, ’40, died March 12, 2010. He served his country in WWII with the 44th Infantry Division. He is survived by his wife and other family. Marjorie (Boughton) Rodkey, ’42, died Nov. 14. From 1958-91 she lived in Kensington, Md., where she worked as a media aide for Montgomery County Public Schools. She was the wife of the late F. Lee Rodkey, ’42. She is survived by her two grandsons and great-grandson. Cora Kinard, ’44, died Sept. 18. She attended a trade school, where she was awarded a certificate
in comptometer operations. She married Lyman Kinard, '51, on May 27, 1951. She loved cooking, sewing, music, gardening and huckleberries. She is survived by her children, brother, and other family. Frances (Nichols) Scott, '44, died Oct. 12. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Whitworth and her law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law. She later became the first African American female attorney in Spokane. She is survived by her children and other family. Marie (Franz) Ewert, '45, died Oct. 18. She taught home economics in the Odessa, Wash., public school system for two years; she married Elmer Ewert on Aug. 31, 1947. She is survived by her daughters, sisters, and other family. Eirene (Carlson) Boni, '46, died Dec. 29. She was a musician, artist, wife, mother, teacher and gardener. She was an accomplished pianist, and music was always an integral part of who she was. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Washington. She is survived by her husband, children, brother, and other family. Jean (Carlson) Stromberger, '48, died Sept. 21. She attended Washington State University and Whitworth. She graduated from the U.S. Cadet Nurses Corps program in 1947 and married Lorenz Stromberger in Oct. 1949; the couple raised four children. She is survived by her children and other family. Thelma Plager, '49, died Feb. 12, 1930s. DEATHS Esther (Miller) Gray, '38, died Dec. 17. She married William Gray, and the couple raised their three children north of Reardan, Wash., and later moved to Edwall. She was a talented pianist and piano teacher, cook and baker, and she enjoyed playing cards. She is survived by her family, including six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

Robinsons Tend to Community Caught Up in Egypt’s Revolution
by Josh Cleveland, '01

The Rev. Ben Robinson, '03, and Emily (Hinson) Robinson, '05, were first-responders during the recent revolution in Cairo, as thousands of Egyptians took to the streets to protest issues including the country’s high unemployment, lack of free elections, and government corruption, and to demand the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak. The Robinsons have lived in Cairo since 2009, when Ben became associate pastor at the Church of St. John the Baptist, in Maadi, and Emily began working as a nurse at the U.S. Embassy.

Almost overnight, Ben’s job changed from leading Bible studies, doing youth work, and preaching, to delivering food, helping people evacuate, and tying up loose ends for those who were fleeing. “It was really fulfilling to be able to play such a primal role in people’s lives – it felt like what the church should be doing,” he says. “It has been an amazing time to be here on a variety of levels. It was very encouraging to see people finally stand up to the government that has been oppressing them for years.”

Ben, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and Cairo’s Evangelical Theological Seminary, was struck by how quickly the uprising’s tone changed and how vigilant the community became. “On Saturday afternoon, Jan. 29, the police disappeared,” he says. That evening, the mosques in the city called out to the men of the neighborhoods to join together to protect their neighbors.

“We had a tense night filled with automatic gunfire on the streets below us,” Ben says. “The next morning we went out to assess the damage and found that virtually nothing in our neighborhood had been looted. There were people everywhere in matching armbands, carrying golf clubs, tee-ball bats, tennis rackets and anything they could get their hands on. As we walked around, there was a palpable sense of pride and a sense of community I’ve never felt in the States.”

In early February, as tensions escalated and westerners were increasingly targeted, the Robinsons made the difficult decision to evacuate to Rome. “Fortunately, the day we left (Feb. 3) was the worst it ever got, and once things started to calm, we made our plans to return,” Ben says. He and Emily arrived in Cairo on Feb. 13 and got back to work.

“As a pastor, it was encouraging how secular the revolution was, and how religious differences were secondary to people’s desire for self-determination,” Ben says. “There have been moments of regression, with inter-communal retaliations, but there has been a lot of progress over the past few months. It was fun to see our friends giddy with joy after they voted for the first time.”

In their work and in their daily lives, the Robinsons embody Whitworth’s mission to honor God and serve others. They plan to remain in Cairo. “Though I am hopeful about the long-term effects of the revolution, Egypt has a long road ahead of it,” Ben says. “Egypt is taking very real, important steps to a more open and representative democracy, but that will take time.”
A Chronic Problem in Worldwide Health

by Tracy J. Sims, ’91

More than $1 trillion. That’s what the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks 2010 Report estimates as the potential economic impact of chronic disease worldwide. And this is in addition to the massive economic impact of infectious diseases. Growing and highly interconnected global economies simply cannot withstand the combined social, political, and economic impact of escalating global health realities.

Today, 60 percent of all deaths globally are associated with chronic diseases, and 80 percent of those deaths occur in less-developed countries. Reports and statistics tell one side of the story but fail to convey the human side of global health issues. In order to make any improvement in this dire situation, one must understand global health issues at the personal level and must take effective action there.

Of the many stories I could relay to describe the personal-health issue, none is more immediate than that from a small hut two hours east of Kigali, Rwanda. There, a young man, his wife, and their newborn daughter live in a hut with thumb-sized wasps clinging to its ceiling. The man suffers from diabetes and struggles daily to maintain his health at a level that allows him to grow enough corn and cassava from his one-half acre plot to feed his family and to generate money for basic needs. This young man says, “I am too weak to farm. If I can’t grow, I can’t earn. I won’t be able to feed my family, and my daughter will not go to school.” This is where the $1 trillion impact begins – but the personal pain can never be measured.

I have seen personal-health realities in many locations. Recently, in New Delhi, I saw first-hand the scale of chronic disease’s impact on a population; it is mind-numbing. India is home to more than 1 billion people (700 million live on less than $2/day), and it is experiencing a dramatic growth in chronic disease. No country has more people with diabetes – 50 million-plus. The deputy minister of health there shared with me the urgent need to find ways to halt the increase of such diseases and to treat those currently afflicted. The cost is much greater than India can cover.

What is the bridge, then, that connects personal health issues with sustainable improved outcomes? The bridge may be three words wide: research, report, and advocate (RRA). This bridge is built on a foundation of aggressive prevention measures. Many chronic diseases are preventable, but preventive measures must be put in place and incentivized. When prevention fails, efficient, data-supported treatment must be available.

The RRA framework provides a system through which such approaches can be developed and refined. Once weaknesses are identified, an improvement hypothesis can be applied. Examples include improving diagnostics, refining treatments, evaluating access to medicines and programs, and using wireless treatment-support tools. Once applied, the improvement hypothesis is studied through a formal research effort that produces data that confirm or deny the strength of the hypothesis. If the data are useful and show a probability of being replicable, they are reported. Reporting allows for a broader audience to refine and apply the measures and to develop additional information and broad-scale applications. These, in turn, allow organizations to advocate for policy change at the global and national level and to partner with government and other funders to determine the best uses of finite resources.

RRA is just one tool. Other ideas, such as evolved partnerships and the social leverage of global business capability, can energize new approaches. Action is needed, and my company is pleased to be a member of the alliance to improve outcomes for people – especially the underserved – around the world.

In September, the U.N. will host a high-level meeting on chronic diseases. Global leaders recognize the threat of chronic disease coupled with already challenging infectious disease issues; at the meeting, they will seek agreement on a collaborative and sustainable path to prevent and treat chronic disease – in a hut in Rwanda, in the bustling New Delhi cityscape, or in one of countless other places of great need in a hurting world.

Tracy J. Sims is senior advisor for Global Health Programs and vice president of The Lilly Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company.
“Stem Cell” is one of three collaborative mosaics created by students in Assistant Professor of Art Katie Creyts’ Community Arts in Practice course. “Stem Cell” was created by Casey Armstrong, ’12, Rebecca Estelle, ’11, Kellen Pacheco, ’12, and Allison Schiesser, ’12. All three of the pieces will be on permanent display in Robinson Science Hall when the building opens this summer.
Through their estate, Bill & Harriet Fix are contributing enough to the Whitworth University Endowment Fund to ultimately replace their annual gifts to the university. Long into the future, their support will continue to make a difference in the lives of Whitworth students.

If you want to continue your gifts to Whitworth forever, please consider including Whitworth University in your estate plans. One of the easiest ways is to direct your attorney to include Whitworth in your will when it is created or revised. Another simple way is to name Whitworth as the beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k) or life insurance policy. Just remember to include this designation: “For the Whitworth University Endowment Fund.” The table illustrates the yield for several levels of giving.

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*based on a 5% endowment payout

To learn more about Bill and Harriet Fix and about how you also can have an impact upon future Whitworthians, please contact The Whitworth Foundation at 509.777.3243, or visit www.whitworth.edu/forever.