New Profs on the Block
Faculty bring fresh ideas to Whitworth
What Do We Really Want for Our Students?

I was asked recently by a parent what my deepest desire is for Whitworth’s students. It’s a great question, because it forces me to think through the many ways that I pray and hope each day that the Whitworth experience contributes to the development of the incredible young people who have come here to study and live on our campus.

One answer that comes to mind is that I want students to have a great academic experience at Whitworth, one that challenges their minds and hearts while building upon their intellect and reasoning in the various major fields of study they have chosen. Another answer might be that I want Whitworth’s students to understand what it means to be in true community, learning to live, lead and love across the many things that can divide and separate them from others, focusing rather on those things that pull them together into genuine fellowship. Yet another answer to that question could be that I want Whitworth’s students to become aware of the deepest needs around them – in the Whitworth community, in Spokane, and across the globe – and to learn to reach out with a helping hand, a strong mind, and a compassionate heart in order to change the lives of others.

I really could go on and on with potentially worthy answers to that parent’s important question. The hopes I’ve mentioned above are, in fact, the things that I and so many others who work at Whitworth pray daily for our students and work diligently to realize. The aspects of the Whitworth experience I’ve just mentioned are certainly a part of my answer, but only a part of a much more profound whole, one that is at the very center of my own reason for being here.

You see, when I boil it all down, my deepest desire for Whitworth’s students is this: That they come to a more profound understanding of who they are in Jesus Christ, and, with that identity firmly established, that they begin to discover their important and unique place and purpose in this world.

Identity yielding purpose, and purpose serving to affirm identity – it’s a process that repeats itself for our students over and over again during their time here, a process that everything from our curriculum to our Speakers & Artists Series, and from our community engagement efforts to the programming in our residence halls are designed to support. Whitworth’s students get this. They are constantly seeking answers to the questions, “Who and whose am I?” and “What have I been called to do with my unique experiences, talents, gifts, and the education I am receiving?” It’s a blessing and a privilege to watch it happen. I’ve discovered along the way that my own answers to these fundamental questions have become sharper as a result of watching the courageous ways our students lean into them.

Each of our students is at a different point in her or his journey of finding identity and purpose, and it’s a thrill to have the opportunity to walk part of that journey with them.

As always, please keep Whitworth in your prayers.
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Associated Students of Whitworth University (ASWU) has committed to a yearlong initiative to fight for the 27 million victims of modern-day slavery. With the help of nonprofits, legislators and a Major League Baseball player, Whitworth students are doing just that.

8 LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE
When Whitworth professors extend the classroom into the “real world,” students develop and hone skills that are essential to post-college success. Meet three classes in which solving hands-on challenges leads to mind-and-heart growth.

12 SERIOUS FUN
It’s not every Whitworth sociology professor who juggles the joys and responsibilities of teaching, an active and happy family life, a new retail business, and passions for social justice and equality, martial arts, and roller derby. Meet Jason Wollschiele.

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The “dark November of our soul[s]” got a little brighter with the end of the presidential campaign and its vitriolic back-and-forth.

The day after the election, one of my colleagues posted on Facebook a thoughtful paragraph asking that no matter which side of the Democratic-Republican divide we might occupy, we would pray for the two sides to work together to solve the overwhelming problems that face our country.

I wasn’t quite ready to pray for those who’d vilified my candidates. I wanted to harbor that grudge a little longer, to revel in the defeat of those I had opposed, and to nurse my wounds in solitude over my failed favorites. I needed a little recovery time.

But I kept coming back to that request for prayer, to that inconvenient reminder that we are called to pray for our enemies as we do our friends. And I realized that my Facebook friend is right to ask for prayer in the immediate wake of the election. If I am loath at this point to give up my political antagonism, how much more difficult must it be for a legislator or ex-legislator to lay down the hatcher before a person who has offered him or her nothing but public criticism, disdain, and even ridicule? And if we don’t make an effort to build bridges where there are only chasms right now, when will we make that effort?

Whitworth does this to you. It rattles your cage. It gets in the way of your prejudices. It reminds you of your responsibilities. It makes you think: If recent graduates are out there trying to bring about reconciliation in the world, how can I concentrate instead on thinking up ways to torpedo my rivals? How can I help? How can I encourage positive change? How can I convince those (including myself) whose anger is fueled by fear and ignorance to listen, to think, to learn, to care?

One of the things I value most about Whitworth is its refusal ever to let us off the hook. In keeping with that thought, I hope you’ll find some important questions – and maybe even a few answers – in this issue of Whitworth Today.

In Carolyn Jacobs’ comments on Judy Shepard’s Whitworth visit (Spring/Summer 2012), she equates LGBT with “homosexuality.” Being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) is more than one’s sexuality or gender identity; it’s who we are as part of God’s creation. Facts show that Matthew Shepard was murdered in a gay hate crime: A Nov. 21, 1998, New York Times article reports, “By McKinney’s [one assailant’s] account, the detective said, the attack began after Shepard had placed his hand on McKinney’s leg as they drove through Laramie. ‘Guess what; we’re not gay, ’ the detective quoted McKinney as saying he had told Shepard. ‘You’re going to get jacked. It’s Gay Awareness Week.’”

If people of faith want to maintain their “Christian demeanor,” they should not “confront” LGBT activists. To confront is to threaten, defy, or come face-to-face with, especially with defiance or hostility. It would be far easier to maintain one’s Christian demeanor in a rational discussion. We welcome a Whitworthian-type roundtable with all interested parties [commenting] on these topics. We think it important to note that there are many bisexual and transgender individuals legally married in the U.S.A. And there’s a few of us gays and lesbians, too!

David Strachan, ’70, and Peter Tannen

We want to know what you think – about Whitworth Today, and about Whitworth in general. Send us an e-mail (tmitchell@whitworth.edu) or write us at Whitworth Today, University Communications Office, Whitworth University, 300 W. 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.

**Upcoming Whitworth Events**

**Feb. 4-8** Cultural Awareness Week, featuring events with the theme “Stigma.”


**Feb. 21-23** Annual Leonard A. Oakland Film Festival. Robinson Teaching Theatre, Weyerhaeuser Hall. For details, visit www.whitworth.edu/oaklandfilmfestival.

**March 8, 9, 10, 15, 16** Whitworth spring theatre production, *The Laramie Project*, by Moisés Kaufman. Cowles Auditorium. March 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m.; March 10 at 2 p.m. General admission $8; students/seniors $6.

**March 8, 9, 10, 15, 16** Whitworth spring theatre production, *The Laramie Project*, by Moisés Kaufman. Cowles Auditorium. March 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m.; March 10 at 2 p.m. General admission $8; students/seniors $6.

**April 7** Whitworth Symphony Orchestra spring concert. Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 3 p.m. General admission $7; students/seniors $5.

**April 13** 43rd Annual Hawaiian Club Lu’au, featuring authentic Hawaiian food and entertainment. Whitworth Fieldhouse, 5:30 p.m. General admission $20; students/seniors/children $10.

**April 16** Opening reception for senior art students’ exhibit. 5 p.m., Bryan Oliver Gallery, Lied Center for the Visual Arts.

**April 19** Opening reception for senior art students’ exhibit. 5 p.m., Bryan Oliver Gallery, Lied Center for the Visual Arts.

**April 21** Whitworth Women’s Choir spring concert. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 3 p.m.

**April 27** Whitworth Men’s Chorus spring concert. Seeley G. Mudd Chapel, 7 p.m.

**April 28** Whitworth Wind Symphony spring concert. Cowles Auditorium, 3 p.m. General admission $5; students/seniors free.

**May 4** Whitworth Choir spring concert, Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 8 p.m.

**May 10** *Broadway Unbound*, Whitworth theatre and dance production. Cowles Auditorium, 7 p.m. Admission $3.

**May 18** Graduate Commencement. Cowles Auditorium, 10 a.m.

**May 19** Baccalaureate. Whitworth Fieldhouse, 10 a.m.

**May 19** Undergraduate Commencement. Spokane Arena, 3 p.m.
Last spring Molly Hough, ’13, was in a meeting with fellow Whitworth students who were asked, “What are we doing to be a courageous university?” Nearly everyone in the room remained silent; a few students offered tentative answers.

The question nagged at Hough, who in April was elected president of the Associated Students of Whitworth University for 2012-13. During the summer, Hough met with Seattle Pacific University student-body president Nate Strong, Whitworth junior Audrey Evans, and 2012 alumnus Kasey Culmback to brainstorm ideas for an issue they could get people to rally around. They sought a cause that would garner the support of Whitworth students, Spokane community members, and residents of the Pacific Northwest.

Many issues the group considered were too controversial and divisive. Then they landed on human trafficking.

“This is a baseline evil,” Hough says. “And it needs attention.”

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, human trafficking is the second-most profitable international crime, surpassed only by the drug industry. The UNODC defines human trafficking as the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them.

ASWU committed to making human trafficking a target issue for the entire academic year. The group is hosting workshops, seminars, lectures and presentations, including seminars on modern-day slavery and labor trafficking; a workshop on conscious consumerism; and an expert-led discussion of pornography and its link to human trafficking.

“Through this initiative, ASWU is giving a voice to the voiceless,” says Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor. “They are demonstrating how we can make individual contributions based on each person’s passions, skills and abilities, and then partner with others to transform lives.”

ASWU’s anti-human-trafficking initiative seeks to inspire courageousness at Whitworth, in Spokane, and beyond

By Andrea Idso, ’12

Whitworth alumnus and Washington State Rep. Kevin Parker, ’96, has joined ASWU in its anti-human-trafficking efforts. “Few people realize we have more slaves in our world today than at any point in human history,” Parker says. “It is devastating that 2,200 children are reported missing in the U.S. every day and many of those children end up being trafficked.”

ASWU teamed with UNITE, a coalition of Pacific Northwest businesses, churches, nonprofits, law enforcement agencies, universities and legislatures dedicated to ending modern-day slavery. Whitworth’s partners through UNITE include Seattle Pacific and Gonzaga universities, World Relief, Called to Rescue and Lutheran Services.

Hough, Evans and Culmback created a UNITE core team to initiate human-trafficking-related events on campus. The team has received considerable support from Whitworth Chief of Staff Rhosetta Rhodes, ’99, Assistant Dean of Students Dayna Coleman-Jones, ’85, and President Taylor.
According to Taylor, the students’ UNITE effort exemplifies his four basic priorities for Whitworth: elevate academic quality, focus on Christ in a grace-filled way, serve the community, and position Whitworth as a significant and relevant institution in society’s discourse around difficult issues.

“Our student leaders are blazing a trail consistent with our mission and our values,” Taylor says. “They are effectively integrating our co-curricular education to produce a comprehensive educational experience.”

Aligning with UNITE’s mission to “educate, empower and change,” Whitworth’s core team spent the first phase of the initiative focusing on educating students and the public on the facts of human trafficking.

“It’s so easy for us to think, ‘Oh, this is happening in South Africa; it’s not my issue,’ but human trafficking is happening a block away from Whitworth,” Hough says.

UNITE’s next two phases will emphasize empowering people in their everyday lives to go out and create change.

“The idea is that you can take on small amounts of responsibility so that people are being active participants in change,” Hough says. “We’re giving people tangible ways to fight against modern-day slavery in their everyday lives.”

Being a conscious consumer is one of the practical ways in which people can create change. Free2Work is an app that provides consumers with information on how products relate to modern-day slavery. The app scans grocery-store items, then tells downloaders whether or not the products are fair trade.

Whitworth also has partnered with Free2Work creator Not For Sale, a nonprofit that fights modern-day slavery by targeting its root causes. On Sept. 22, Whitworth hosted a Not For Sale event sponsored by the Spokane nonprofit Generation Alive, which seeks to empower students by engaging them in acts of service that promote justice. The daylong event featured educational workshops, seminars and presentations.

“We’re so used to hearing statistics, and it’s easy for us to dehumanize them,” Hough says. “One of our goals is to show that these ‘statistics’ are our brothers and our sisters.”

Christian rock band The Wrecking performed at Whitworth as part of the Not For Sale event. After the concert, band members discussed why they’re involved with Not For Sale. Lead vocalist Douglas Elder showed a picture of his daughter to the audience and said, “I would fight for her. I would do anything for her.”

Another face of the anti-trafficking movement is pitcher Jeremy Affeldt, of the 2010 and 2012 World Series Champion San Francisco Giants. He and his wife, Larisa, founded Generation Alive. Affeldt spoke to Whitworth students in 2010 as part of Not For Sale’s Stop Paying for Slavery Tour; ASWU is planning another event where he’ll speak to the Whitworth community on human trafficking later this year.

“Freedom in this country means that you can say what you want to say, do what you want to do, be who you want to be,” Affeldt says. “If that’s something you want, then have enough dignity to pass on that right to these people. Have enough dignity to fight for the human being who doesn’t have the ability to dream. We’ve got freedom of speech; let’s speak out for these people.”

The Power of College Students

In January 2013, Rep. Kevin Parker will take Whitworth students to Olympia to inform legislators about the facts of human trafficking. Hough is excited about the idea of students educating legislators and the impact the education will have when legislators vote on the issue.

“Some of our greatest challenges, changes, and transformational leadership have been met by the younger population, from Jesus to Martin Luther King, Jr.,” says Parker, who is also an adjunct instructor at Whitworth. “We lawmakers would be wise to maximize these students’ passion and dedication for the greater good.”

Last year, Parker supported legislation with bi-partisan buy-in that increased the penalty of trafficking from the cost of a speeding ticket – $300 – to a maximum penalty of $10,000. The money from those penalties will stay in local jurisdictions and will be used to set up transitional housing and education for people rescued from trafficking.

ASWU encourages all Whitworthians to get behind the anti-human-trafficking movement, and Hough hopes the group’s initiative will light a fire in Whitworth students.

“If we are an institution that lives by our mission statement to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity, then we seriously need to figure out what that means before we throw that on paper,” Hough says. “This is your home for the next four years. What are you going to do here? We don’t think that you need a piece of paper to go out into the world to make change. You have the most incredible opportunity, surrounded by resources. This is your community. Do you really want thousands of sex slaves in Spokane?

“We’re not focusing on the fact that this is such a heavy issue,” she says. “Rather, we’re trying to capitalize on hope and how powerful that word is. It’s meant to be an action statement.”

The campaign will end in May, with UNITE’s participating universities hosting simultaneous capstone events to celebrate. Whitworth’s event will feature local law enforcement, churches, businesses, legislatures and high schools.

“This will be a true celebration of the work that was done in eight months,” Hough says. “And who knows what the ripple effects might be?”
When Whitworth professors integrate academic instruction with outside experience – when the "real world" becomes an extension of the classroom – the effects on students can be life-changing, and the effects on academic departments can be numbers-shifting.

Such was the case for Associate Professor of English Casey Andrews, who lost an English major to the School of Education when the student, while tutoring children in a homework club as part of Andrews’ Honors Reading Literature class, discovered she loved working with kids and had a knack for teaching. “She had an entire vocational change,” Andrews says, “because she realized she could share her advanced learning with less-advanced students.”

Andrews’ out-of-class assignments – tutoring at-risk children in an after-school program, helping retirement-community residents create a living-history project – are part of the abundant experiential learning opportunities Whitworth offers students. Experiential learning encompasses out-of-class projects, as well as internships and practicums, service-learning (academic instruction integrated with community service), and study abroad.

Each experience is designed to foster an active, collaborative learning environment through which students achieve identified strategic objectives and outcomes. Structured reflection – journaling, multimedia blogging, class discussions, presentations and writing assignments – is the synthesizing agent that transforms students’ hands-on activity into mind-and-heart growth.

A key objective of Whitworth 2021, the university’s 10-year vision and strategic plan, is for the institution to expand experiential learning opportunities for students to serve the community, participate in off-campus initiatives, and apply their educational skills in workplace settings.

“Experiential learning is central to the kind of liberal arts education we value at Whitworth,” says Noelle Wiersma, ’90, dean of Whitworth’s new College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. “As students travel, work, and serve alongside others, the knowledge they acquire in the classroom springs to life. Intellectual theories are tested. Assumptions are challenged. Questions are answered and new questions are raised. Students gain a deeper, more authentic understanding of who they are and of their vocational place in the world.”

Following are three Whitworth classes whose experiential-learning components stretch students’ minds, expand their hearts, and shape their futures.

Danny Cossey, ’16, listens to 101-year-old Irene Kinnier, a resident of Rockwood at Hawthorne. “There are so many stories and perspectives on history and life that will soon be forgotten,” Cossey says. “Writing them down is the best way to make what people achieved, felt, thought and experienced mean something to the generations after them.”

Learning from Experience

Classroom knowledge + real-world application = Whitworth students prepared for life

By Julie Riddle, ’92

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Engineering in Society

On a mild October afternoon, nine Engineering in Society students and Assistant Professor of Physics Markus Ong gathered at the historic Hutton Settlement, in northeast Spokane, where they met with David Milliken, director of the 319-acre campus. Milliken told the students about the settlement’s history and its mission to provide a safe, healthy environment to children in need of a long-term alternative home; he then guided the group on a tour of the facilities.

Along the way he pointed out the challenges of operating and maintaining century-old brick buildings. Faulty wiring systems. Poor insulation. Heat sucked from original boilers right up the chimneys. Third-floor dorm rooms that become sweatboxes in summer and freezers in winter. And then there’s the confounding swimming-pool cover that operates – or doesn’t – according to the inclinations of a temperamental hydraulic system. “That thing has been a thorn in our side for years,” Milliken says. “We have a full inspection every three years, and we’re always trying to find creative solutions to keep everything up to code.” Ideally, Milliken says, those solutions are also energy efficient. “It not only saves money, but it’s the right thing to do.”

That’s where Ong’s freshman honors students come in. After their initial site visit, the students will return to Hutton on their own to conduct energy audits. Back at Whitworth, they’ll work in teams, developing and testing models to devise energy-efficient retrofit solutions and tackling the challenge of the pesky pool cover.

“The students will have to consider their client’s requirements and constraints,” says Ong, who joined the Whitworth physics faculty in 2010. “They will need to generate several alternatives, evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each, and make recommendations to the client.”

The proposals the students will write and then present to Milliken at the end of the semester are an important element of the experiential-learning assignment Ong designed.

“Being an engineer is not just about being good at math or finding clever solutions,” Ong says. “It requires communication – you have to be able to speak and write well to convince the client, who may not have a technical background, that you have the best solution.”

Ong proposed the Engineering in Society class last spring as part of Whitworth’s new George F. Whitworth Honors Program, which launched this fall and incorporates an intensive focus on experiential learning and real-world application of course content. One of Ong’s goals with the Hutton project is for his students to discover the positive impact engineers can have on society. “I want the students to experience how their work can make a difference in their community,” Ong says. “If we do a good job, we’ll provide Hutton Settlement with ideas that can make a difference for years to come.”

Experiential learning at Whitworth, by the numbers*

- Students who study abroad: 70 percent
- Students who engage in service-learning: 90 percent-plus
  > Academic departments that incorporate service-learning: 100 percent
- Of the 583 members of the Class of 2012, nearly 50 percent completed an internship, practicum, or student-teaching experience.

*traditional undergraduate students
Community Arts in Practice

For their first assignment this fall, students in the Community Arts in Practice class designed and led two interactive projects at the opening for the inaugural Festival of the Arts in West Central. The event took place at Spokane’s Salem Lutheran Church, which filled its sanctuary and gym with works by local artists. When the evening began, the students quickly encountered one of the challenges the class presents: learning to focus on relational outcomes rather than finished-project outcomes.

“We found ourselves in a rather uncomfortable place,” says Gabby Perez, ‘14. “My group had gotten a huge display ready to make a giant mobile, and we had a room full of people who didn’t give it a second glance.” Perez’s group had expected a lot of families to attend the opening, and they created a project geared toward children. “The crowd was mostly senior citizens,” she says. “They weren’t exactly comfortable fighting over our craft table.”

As the evening progressed, community members trickled to the craft station and contributed to the project, and the students ventured from their table and mingled with the crowd of strangers. “Even though the night didn’t go exactly as I had thought it would, it ended up being a great experience,” Perez says. “I got to talk to so many different artists and people from the community. I learned about West Central, and, more importantly, about the individuals who call it home.”

Throughout the fall semester, students took the upper-division Community Arts in Practice class fan out across Spokane and work with nonprofit groups, businesses and churches to create art with and for the community. “The premise of the class is to build community and connection through creative expression,” says Whitworth Assistant Professor of Art Katie Creyts, who joined Whitworth in 2008 and received the university’s Innovative Teaching Award in 2011. Creyts also assigns students to visit art galleries and museums, and attend exhibit openings and artist lectures.

“What makes this course an interesting challenge is that there is an element of the unknown in community projects,” Creyts says. “I’ve found that this is the place where transformation and growth occur.”

Students document each activity with a digital camera, sketchbook and notebook, and then share their experiences on a blog the class creates and maintains. Through the blog, students develop critical thinking, writing and communication skills by describing and analyzing the community project they led or event they attended; evaluating its impact on the community; exploring their own response to the experience; and composing a question to generate discussion.

The community-art projects vary each year, based on the students’ interests and the agencies that need help. This fall students worked at Terrain, a one-night extravaganza showcasing Spokane’s emerging artists and musicians. Students also participated in One Million Bones, a worldwide art movement raising awareness of and support for victims of ongoing genocides and humanitarian crises. Whitworth students publicized and led a bone-making workshop on campus, and organized an exhibit of the bones at Saranac Art Projects, in Spokane. The bones will travel to Washington, D.C., for an installation at the National Mall.

Along with learning to be flexible about outcomes, to problem-solve, and to engage diverse communities, students learn to think critically about the relationship between art, community and culture; to create a project proposal and communicate clearly what each agency’s needs are; and to design and implement an art project for a specific demographic.

“When the class ends,” Creyts says, “students have the wherewithal to approach organizations and facilitate collaborative community-arts projects in their home communities or abroad.”

To view the fall 2012 Community Arts in Practice blog, visit communityartsinpractice.blogspot.com.
Through experiential learning, Whitworth students...

- develop professional skills and discern vocational interests
- explore career options and make job-networking contacts
- increase their marketability to prospective employers
- learn to synthesize diverse ideas and to problem-solve
- strengthen analytical- and critical-thinking skills
- strengthen written and verbal communication skills
- acquire an ethic of service and civic responsibility
- gain a broader perspective and deeper understanding of diverse cultures and complex issues
- become the next generation of leaders and innovators who will create positive change in the world

Occupational Fraud & Abuse

Whitworth’s Occupational Fraud & Abuse class isn’t a typical accounting course. In addition to studying the theoretical nature of fraud, evaluating schemes, and exploring the legal implications for companies, students team up with federal law-enforcement agents to investigate fraud cases.

During a daylong simulation, Whitworth students canvas campus, searching trashcans for incriminating documents, poring over fake bank records and tax returns, and interrogating suspects and interviewing victims (gamblers, bartenders, bookkeepers and business owners played by Whitworth faculty and staff). After collecting and analyzing evidence, students don bulletproof vests, plastic guns and handcuffs to serve search warrants and make arrests.

The Jan Term class is taught by Associate Professor of Accounting Heather Rogers, whose areas of specialization include fraud investigation and forensic accounting. Rogers serves as an educator representative for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners’ Spokane and national chapters.

Rogers brings the agents to Whitworth through the Adrian Project, an IRS recruitment program that provides students with exposure to alternative accounting careers. Coordinated by Silvia Reyes, an IRS special agent in Seattle, participating agencies have included the FBI, the Spokane Police Department, and the Gaming Commission. Rogers first teamed with the Adrian Project in 2010, making Whitworth the first school in the Pacific Northwest to participate in the program.

During Jan Term 2012, five federal agents with the IRS’ Criminal Investigation Division described to students a variety of situations they might face on the job, demonstrated defensive tactics on a mat, and displayed some of the equipment investigators use. The students were then divided into groups, each of which investigated a mock crime scenario involving tax evasion, embezzlement or fraud.

“Students loved the experience of working as fraud investigators,” says Rogers, who has taught in Whitworth’s School of Global Commerce & Management since 2005. “The application of tools and concepts learned in the classroom to real fraud cases provides them with experiential learning that is both challenging and exciting.”

After the simulation, many of the students expressed an interest in pursuing a career in fraud prevention and detection.

“Applying forensic accounting skills with real IRS agents taught me just how open the field of accounting is,” says accounting major Marisa Shumake, ’13. “To know that criminal investigation teams need accountants to handle cases of fraud and embezzlement taught me that I have plenty of options with what I want to do with my accounting knowledge after college.”

Adapted from an online spotlight story written by Andrea Idso, ’12
Sociology prof
Jason Wollschleger’s busy life combines research, retail, and recreation
Compiled and edited by Terry Rayburn Mitchell, ’93

Whitworth Today recently sat down (at our computer) with Jason Wollschleger (at his computer) to get a read on this new Whitworth faculty member. Wollschleger, an assistant professor who came to Whitworth in 2011, has managed to find a way to keep his life in balance by pursuing his passions for his family, his teaching job, his part-time coffee-shop job, his martial arts, and... roller derby?

An abiding interest in social justice and equality fuels Wollschleger’s life and his studies. In college, he double-majored in English and sociology and earned the equivalent of a major in religion. He has taught English and sociology at a Christian high school, worked as a resident counselor in a group home for juvenile offenders, earned a master’s degree in social work, and served in ministry and as a research associate at the Urban League of Rochester, N.Y.

“I realized that I loved research and writing,” Wollschleger says, “but I wanted to do my own, and I missed teaching. So I decided to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Washington.” His dissertation is on the impact of church congregations’ structure and organization on their levels of participation. It covers congregations all over the country as well as case studies of congregations in Seattle. (And if you read on, you’ll find one of the only sociological comparisons of churches and roller derby teams on record.)

How did you decide to become a sociologist?

I spent a summer in Tanzania between my junior and senior years in high school and became really passionate about social-justice issues. This led me to be a sociology major in college and carried over into my desire to be involved in ministry. Once I discovered my strengths and my weaknesses, I learned to follow my passions — which, as it turns out, were in the areas of research, writing and teaching.

Can you tell us about your family?

My wife, Tonya, and I got married at 19, when I was still in college. It was definitely ill-advised, but somehow it has worked out amazingly. Our three kids are James, 14, who just started high school at Lewis and Clark; Molly, 13, an eighth grader at Sacajawea; and Marah, 12, a “sevie” at Sacajawea. James is very artistic and, like most every other boy his age, is into video games, music and girls. Molly and Marah are into roller derby.

How did your passions in life develop?

I was deeply shaped by the evangelical religious environment in which I grew up, especially the drive to go out into the world and transform it. But I was also keenly aware of a disjuncture between the gospel’s orientation toward issues of social justice and my upbringing and experience in evangelical circles — which, I thought, were devoid of concern over social-justice issues. My passion for social justice grew out of this tension between my understanding of what Christians and the church should be doing and what I thought they actually were doing.
I’m also passionate about martial arts. For the past six years I’ve been training in multiple martial arts including: Filipino kali (a stick/–weapon-based art) and its empty-hand version, panantukan, muay Thai kickboxing, savate kickboxing (a French art), jeet kune do/jun fan (the approach to martial arts left behind by Bruce Lee), and Brazilian jiu-jitsu. While I was in grad school, I found I had a little free time. I’d always wanted to get involved in martial arts, but I had no desire for something traditional like karate or taekwondo. I saw a video on kali/panantukan, tried it out and fell in love. I love the challenge of learning in new ways, I love how physically demanding it is, and I love the contact. It offers the perfect counterpoint to life in academia and is, in my opinion, the best source of stress relief ever!

Okay, you’ve told us a bit about your family and your interest in martial arts. Now, how about your coffee shop and your excitement for roller derby? Any sociological studies lurking there?

Well, I got involved with roller derby through my daughters. Both skate for the Lilac City Rollergirls junior team, the Pixies. We went to a bout in Seattle, and my daughters fell in love with the sport and have been involved ever since. I love the gender-empowerment aspect of it, and I appreciate how it breaks norms for female sports. Plus, I love watching it. Research on roller derby? Yup, already started. I’m doing a multistage project that involves observation of differing teams’ practices and governance meetings, as well as interviews with skaters. On the organizational side of things, I think roller derby leagues and church congregations are pretty similar — they face many of the same problems, and the effective ones develop very similar types of strategies. For example, roller derby leagues are typically nonprofit and they are all skater-run and -operated. Thus, they are similar to churches in that they rely on members and their contributions to the organization to run. They have similar problems they need to solve in order to be effective, and these include coordination, decision-making, delegation of tasks, and simply getting their members to contribute — time, skills, and money — at higher levels. So while on the surface they appear to be very different in terms of what they need to do to be effective, they are actually very similar, organizationally. That’s the similarity I’m most interested in.

I doubt the coffee shop will lead to research. My wife had a tough time finding a job in her field — commercial real-estate accounting — when we moved to Spokane. We heard about a coffee shop that was for sale, and that started a chain of events that led us to where we are now: the owners of Revive Coffee, at the corner of Nevada and Lyons. We’re bringing home a small income soon. I work at Revive on occasional weekends; my wife has worked there almost every day, non-stop, since June.

If you had a generous grant and a “free” year to do research, what would you study?

I’ve always wanted to study seemingly bizarre or extreme religious phenomena like Marian apparitions, weeping statues, or the gold-teeth miracles. [Ed. note: Check this out on the Internet.] It would take some prep time, but if I had a generous grant and a year to do it, I would want to travel to active phenomena all over the world. As a social scientist, I don’t want to prove or disprove the phenomena; I’m more interested in studying their social context.

Do you consider yourself eccentric? Since you have serious interests in some non-academic areas, do you think you’re perceived here as kind of a character?

I’m not sure, actually. I hope that my colleagues and students perceive me based more on my teaching, scholarship, and personal interactions than on anything else. If they find me interesting, that’s all right, since I’m definitely not normal. The great thing about being a sociologist is that all areas of social life are up for inspection, analysis and interpretation. Sure, I spend a few hours a week skating/practicing with the local roller derby team, and you’ll definitely find me at just about any local derby event, but a couple years from now — if all goes well — I’ll be presenting papers at conferences and publishing articles on roller derby.
2012 President’s Leadership Forum a Triumph

Nearly 700 members of Whitworth and Spokane communities attend event featuring George F. Will

Three weeks before Americans voted in the 2012 presidential election, Pulitzer Prize-winning political columnist George F. Will shared his insights into the election and the country’s political landscape at Whitworth University’s 2012 President’s Leadership Forum. Will’s breakfast lecture, sponsored by U.S. Bank, took place on Oct. 16 at the Spokane Convention Center.

After Will’s lecture, Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor asked him questions posed by Whitworth students. “George Will was a perfect speaker for our inaugural President’s Leadership Forum,” says Taylor. “I found his remarks and insights to be very thoughtful and informed. He was an equal-opportunity critic of many on both sides of the aisle. He mixed his comments with historical anecdotes, humorous stories, and many baseball parallels.”

Taylor adds, “With nearly 700 people in attendance, I’m confident that the Spokane community appreciated Whitworth’s efforts to bring national thought leaders to our region. It was a great day for Spokane and for Whitworth.”

The Whitworth President’s Leadership Forum series brings to Spokane speakers who represent a broad range of voices, perspectives and ideas. Because members of the Whitworth community are confident that Christian worldviews and the ideas of Christian thinkers are sharpened by rigorous and open intellectual inquiry and by engagement with the broadest spectrum of thought, the university seeks to lead the way in inviting speakers to Spokane who can help our community engage in critical and careful thinking, civil discourse and effective action.

George Will is one of America’s most widely read political writers. His newspaper column has been syndicated by The Washington Post since 1974, and it appears twice weekly in roughly 400 newspapers in the U.S. and Europe. In 1976, Will became a regular contributing editor of Newsweek magazine, for which he writes a bimonthly essay. In 1977, he won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary for his newspaper columns. In 1981, he became a founding panel member on ABC television’s This Week.

Taking Her Faith Journey to Whitworth

Author and documentary producer Andrea Palpant Dilley, ’00, reads from her new spiritual memoir, Faith and Other Flat Tires: Searching for God on the Rough Road of Doubt (Zondervan, 2012). Dilley shared excerpts of her book that illustrated her journey of faith and doubt, from her father discussing Christian missionaries with a hitchhiker to her storming out of a church in protest of the sermon, and finally to her realization that doubt belongs in the sanctuary, as indicated by her chapter “Taking My Demons to Church.” Faith and Other Flat Tires can be purchased at amazon.com, zondervan.com, Barnes & Noble, and the Whitworth bookstore.
Using Culture to Create an Inclusive Mind-and-Heart Education

Geneva Gay, a professor of education at the University of Washington who is internationally known for her scholarship in multiculturalism, presented a lecture, “Choosing Course Content for an Inclusive Mind and Heart Education,” on Oct. 4 at Whitworth. Gay is the recipient of several scholastic awards, including the first Multicultural Educator Award, presented by the National Association of Multicultural Education.

Gay emphasized that cultural and social skills should be taught alongside academics. She also addressed a broad range of setbacks that educational institutions face in attempting to achieve an inclusive mind-and-heart education, such as the fact that there will never be a time when all members of an educational community are ready for diversity.

“Dr. Gay’s visit helped advance the strategic objective aimed at the development of intercultural competencies among and within faculty, staff and students at Whitworth as well as friends from the broader Spokane community who attended the lecture,” says Lawrence Burnley, Whitworth’s assistant vice president for diversity and intercultural relations, who is also an assistant professor of history. The fourth goal of Whitworth’s strategic plan states that the university strives to demonstrate courageous leadership in an increasingly diverse world.

Gay discussed the distinction between formal and informal curriculum and noted that in some ways, the informal curriculum can be the more influential of the two. Inclusivity should be found in both types of education, she said.

Gay said that definitions of diversity should include not only race and ethnicity, but also gender, religion and socioeconomic status. She also highlighted the importance of understanding that different people need very different resources and support.

“All of us, whoever we are, are cultural beings,” Gay said. “We have to live in this world together.”

At the U.W., Gay teaches multicultural education and general curriculum theory. In 2004, she received the W.E.B. Du Bois Distinguished Lecturer Award, presented by the American Educational Research Association.

To view a short video interview with Gay, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.

Jesus for President
Activist shares thoughts on politics, hope

Shane Claiborne, whose ministry experiences range from working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta to serving a mega-congregation in Chicago, gave a Whitworth lecture, “Christianity and American Citizenship: Jesus for President,” on Oct. 17.

One of Claiborne’s books, also titled Jesus for President (Zondervan 2008), exemplifies the subject that he focused on in his lecture: how to live well as Christians in regard to politics and elections. He also emphasized the need to look to God and ourselves to solve problems rather than to Washington, D.C. He stated the need essentially to vote every day, and to vote for Jesus.

“There’s a lot of danger around the election season to misplace our hope,” Claiborne said in his lecture. “We’ve found the last great hope; it’s not America, it’s not Barack, it’s not Romney. It’s Jesus.”

Claiborne added that his goal is to introduce an alternative way of living that uses imagination to change things. He wants to encourage thought on how different the world would be if Jesus were president, and what it would look like to be an “ordinary radical.”

Claiborne is a founding partner of The Simple Way, a group that creates and connects radical faith communities around the world, and he was also featured in the DVD series Another World is Possible. In addition to Jesus for President, he is the author of Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers (InterVarsity, 2008) and The Irresistible Revolution (Zondervan, 2006).

He also speaks at various denominational gatherings, festivals and conferences. His work has been featured in The Wall Street Journal and on CNN, Fox News and National Public Radio.

To view a short video interview with Claiborne, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.
On the Move

School of Education alumna named national P.E. Teacher of the Year

Jessica Shawley, ’03, was named the 2012 National Teacher of the Year for Middle School Physical Education by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Shawley, who majored in health, fitness and physical education at Whitworth, has taught P.E. at Moscow Middle School, in Moscow, Idaho, for eight years. In addition to her national award, she was named Teacher of the Year for the Northwest district, in 2011, and for the state of Idaho, in 2010.

“These are impressive accomplishments for someone who graduated only nine years ago,” says Professor of Education Betty Williams. “The School of Education faculty wanted to bring Jessica back to campus to inspire undergraduates who are pursuing the teaching field and to share her exceptional knowledge.”

Shawley returned to Whitworth Sept. 25 to present a lecture, “Going Above and Beyond with Excellence: Answering the Call to Educate.” As National Teacher of the Year, she will travel widely in 2012-13, sharing her physical-education best practices with educators across the country.

Among Shawley’s many contributions to the field of education, she is a leader on the Staff Wellness and District Coordinated School Health Council; president of the Idaho Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; a mentor-teacher for students in the University of Idaho’s Physical Education Teacher Education Program; and a mentor for National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards candidates.

African Enterprise Founder Discusses Love’s Effect on Politics

Political activist and author Michael Cassidy shared his insights on the South African church during his October lecture, “The Role of the Church in Healing a Nation: Lessons from South Africa.”

“Whitworth had the rare privilege of hearing from someone who has been integral to significant social change in South Africa,” says Ron Pyle, a professor of communication studies at Whitworth. “Michael Cassidy’s lecture revealed his passion for both social justice and the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

In his lecture, Cassidy discussed how love can have monumental effects in politics. Still, he said, loving individuals alone isn’t enough. That love must also go further into structures in order to bring social and political change. Justice is love built into structures, he said.

“I came to the conclusion that the love ethic has huge political implications,” Cassidy said.

In 1962, Cassidy founded African Enterprise, an evangelical reconciliation ministry designed to help heal post-apartheid South Africa. He said the nature of the ministry was influenced through his experiences in America during the Civil Rights Movement, as well as in the face of the extreme segregation in South Africa during apartheid.

Cassidy is recognized for his evangelical reconciliation ministry throughout sub-Saharan Africa. He has written many books, including A Witness For Ever – The Dawning of Democracy in South Africa, a devotional called Window on the Word, and, most recently, two books on Christian theology and ethics: Getting to the Heart of Things and Back to Basics.

“Cassidy stated that a church must be a ‘beacon of hope’ and a ministry of reconciliation where all races, together as believers, can be unified in the body of Christ,” says freshman Vanessa Kale. “What was most interesting to me was his statement that the power of the U.S. may be in jeopardy without a ‘resurgence of morality,’ and that the best thing we could do is to pray for Christian leadership. I found his account of the work he has done in Africa inspiring.”

“One of the main points I got out of his lecture was the importance of loving individuals,” says freshman Julianne King. “It takes strength to love someone, but when you reach the unstable structure of their hearts, it is even harder. Reform and love go hand in hand in order for change to happen.”
To the Corners of the Earth

New programs emerge in China, Tanzania; student interest in Costa Rica Center grows

The third goal in Whitworth’s strategic plan aims to “prepare Whitworth students to be global citizens.” While 42.5 percent of the Class of 2012 studied abroad, the 2011-12 school year upped the ante with new programs in China, Tanzania and Costa Rica.

The 2011-12 school year saw the launch of two semester-long study-abroad programs: Whitworth in China and the Tanzania Study Program. Anthony E. Clark is the Whitworth in China director and an assistant professor of history.

“We enjoyed a level of independence that allowed us to travel on our own in the Beijing area as well as to other parts of China,” says senior Kyle Novak. “One of my most valuable experiences while in China was accompanying Professor Clark on his research trips to Tianjin and Hebei to interview Chinese Catholic priests and villagers on the history of those regions during the Boxer Uprising.”

“My semester in China was, without question, the best four months of my life,” says junior Michael Bouterse. “It planted in me a deep love for people from different cultures that will likely shape not just my future career choice but my entire worldview.”

China has also been a source of interest for Todd Friends, assistant professor of business at Whitworth, who recently spent 10 weeks in Xi’an, China, for an extensive Mandarin Chinese language program. Soon after, he was one of 20 people nationwide to be named a 2012 Critical Language Scholarship Ambassador by the U.S. State Department.

Whitworth Professor of Political Science John C. Yoder, who has lived and taught in Africa several times during his career, took a group of students to Tanzania during spring semester for a semester-long experience amid Christian and Muslim cultures. The group began in the Tanzanian city of Arusha before spending a month in Zanzibar, on the Indian Ocean. They finished their Tanzanian travels in Dar-es-Salaam, the country’s largest city. Students lived in homestays throughout most of the trip; they learned Swahili in Arusha and Zanzibar and were involved in study, internships, travel, and even a photographic safari in Ngorongoro and Serengeti.

Such experiences, according to Yoder, “give students a learning experience that cannot be matched by classes on campus or within a single Jan Term. By living with Tanzanian families, teaching in local schools, attending church services, studying Swahili in Zanzibar and spending a weekend in a Maasai village, our students gained a deep understanding of African culture…. Living with and being taught by Tanzanians stretched students’ awareness and understanding of very different cultures, religions, economic systems and worldviews.”

Meanwhile, the Costa Rica Center is enjoying its largest fall semester class, with 19 students. Two students chose to complete their student-teaching there, and several completed their Intercultural Education Field Immersion Experience course at the “Whitworth South” location.

“Students at the Costa Rica Center discover that social ethics and public policies become a reality in our ‘Corazon 350’ class,” says Lindy Scott, director of the Costa Rica Center and a Whitworth professor of Spanish. Scott adds that the solar energy at the CRC is a direct result of students’ extended analysis of renewable energy sources in last year’s Core 350 class.
A Grace Revealed
Sittser's new book brings tragedy full circle

Twenty years ago, Jerry Sittser lost his daughter, his wife, and his mother in a horrific car accident. He wrote a book about his and his family's experience, A Grace Disguised, which became a best-seller and a classic on the topic of grief and loss. From the vantage point of 20 years, Sittser has now written a sequel to that book, A Grace Revealed: How God Redeems the Story of Your Life (Zondervan, 2012).

The publisher's website says of the book, "The long-awaited companion to A Grace Disguised, this eloquently written reflection on hope, loss, and God's story of redemption will inspire and empower you. As Jerry Sittser writes, the plot line of our individual stories will differ, but the outcome will be the same – a life rich in meaning and conformity to Jesus Christ. Though it will contain some bad chapters, it will end up being a good story after all."

While an unsuspecting reader might expect A Grace Revealed to be a personal chronicle or an attempt at catharsis, Sittser sees it very differently. "I'm actually not aware of communicating feelings at all," he says. "Nor am I interested in that. As I like to tell my students, feelings are real, but they don't define reality." So what did Sittser hope to accomplish in writing this book? "My goal is to reflect on my own story – and the stories of others – in light of THE story," he says.

Sittser says that his impetus for writing the book was Zondervan's request that he write about redemption, coupled with the fact that many readers of A Grace Disguised had asked for a follow-up. When asked if he felt any sense of sadness in finishing the book and "wrapping up" that part of his life, he says, "Not really. I enjoyed writing the book. I worked hard on it. When I was done, I was, well, done, and ready to move on to something else. Besides, the story never really ends anyway. No one's ever does."

Rec Center Breaks Ground
In lieu of turning dirt, Whitworth administrators shot hoops in a Sept. 21 groundbreaking ceremony for the new Whitworth Campus Recreation Center.

The $8-million, 32,000-square-foot facility will feature three basketball courts for intramural sports, a fitness and weightlifting room, a rock-climbing and bouldering wall, and an elevated running track. The rec center, located north of Westminster Hall on the northwest side of campus, will open for use by students, faculty and staff in fall 2013.
A Humble and Passionate Servant
Youth for Christ director explores Jesus as absolute truth

Ajith Fernando, who served as Youth for Christ’s national director for 35 years and is now the organization’s teaching director, came to Whitworth as a guest of the Speakers & Artists Series this fall. His lecture, “What Is Our Passion? Jesus in a Pluralistic Culture,” addressed the question of whether Christians still affirm both the uniqueness of Christ and the fact that Christ is absolute truth.

Dottie Mohrlang, associate director for the Whitworth Certification in Ministry Program, says that despite Fernando’s accomplishments and dynamism in speaking, he lives humbly and passionately as a servant of Christ.

“Ajith is passionate that people understand the uniqueness of Christ for salvation and life,” Mohrlang says, “but he speaks with grace and winsomeness. Christians often feel a tension between Jesus’ exclusive claims as savior and what they feel is a loving response of acceptance for all religious ideas. Ajith brings some challenging and thoughtful clarification, and, perhaps, some division, to this issue.”

At Youth for Christ, Fernando ministers to Christian workers and others through counseling and a Bible teaching ministry, both in Sri Lanka and abroad. Youth for Christ reaches out to thousands of youth in various parts of Sri Lanka with the message of Christ, with a special focus on youth drug addicts and urban poor. In the process, Fernando works with the two warring ethnic groups, both in outreach and in leadership training.

Fernando is a visiting lecturer and council president of Colombo Theological Seminary, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and he also serves as a visiting scholar at Tyndale University College and Seminary, in Toronto. One of his books, The Call to Joy and Pain, was honored with the Christianity Today Book of the Year award for church and pastoral leadership. He also serves on a team creating a new translation of the Bible into Sinhala, a language spoken in Sri Lanka.

Ugly Duckling Makes Good

The cast of the Whitworth Theatre fall production, Honk! The Musical, takes a curtain call at Spokane’s Bing Crosby Theatre, downtown. This was Whitworth’s first theatrical performance at “The Bing.” The play, a musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story The Ugly Duckling, brings a message of tolerance that appeals to all ages. Assistant Professor of Theatre Brooke Kiener, ’99, who directed the play, says of the main character, Ugly, “He’s so brave, even in the face of bullies and bad guys. While learning to hold his head high, he finally decides, ‘I like being me. I like being different.’ And I think that’s pretty remarkable.”
Not Resting on Their Laurels
Emeritus faculty members write, travel, teach

This summer saw the publication of Associate Professor Emeritus of Art Barbara Filo's first novel, *Return to Budapest* (San Juan Publishing, 2012), which “follows the intertwined lives of three Hungarian families from the waning days of the great Austro-Hungarian Empire to the end of World War II. The sweeping, multi-generational saga unfolds in the midst of great historic events and political turmoil – when decent men and women struggle to do the right thing, often at great peril” (from the Third Place Books website). Filo has read from the book for audiences at Auntie’s Bookstore, in Spokane, and at several venues in Western Washington.

Professor Emeritus of Theatre Rick Hornor, ’70, is Lithuania-bound on a Fulbright fellowship. He’ll be teaching in Klaipeda, at L.C.C. University, during spring semester 2013. Hornor and his wife, Susan, traveled this year to Israel, Korea, and Los Angeles, and Hornor sums up his first full year of retirement as “not too shabby.”

Professor Emeritus of History Jim Hunt is the author of the newly released *Restless Fires: Young John Muir’s Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf in 1867-68* (Mercer University Press, 2012). Publishers Weekly says of the book, “…For readers with only a vague notion of who Muir was, this volume, even if focused on just a small period in the naturalist’s life, provides a solid overview of his achievements. Hunt also deserves credit for noting that as observant as Muir was of the natural world, many aspects of human society evaded his gaze. Evocative prose (‘Malaria hung on John Muir like a wet, hot, wool coat’) makes this book highly readable.”

Finally, Professor Emeritus of Economics & Business Rich Schatz has done a little globe-trotting himself, visiting Cornell University in November to lecture on labor migration into Malaysia and working as a senior research fellow at the Institute of East Asian Studies of the University of Malaysia, Sarawak. He spent January through April at the university, and he will return there this winter to deliver the keynote address at a conference on agricultural development in Sarawak.

Praying for the Nation

Last summer, Jena Lee Nardella, ’04, received a phone call from the Re-elect President Barack Obama campaign’s Faith Vote office, asking if she would give the closing benediction at the Democratic National Convention, on Sept. 4.

“They said, ‘The President wanted us to find a Christian who was doing good and admirable work in the world, and we thought of you,’” Nardella recalls.

Nardella is the CEO for Blood:Water Mission, a nonprofit she founded at age 22 with the Grammy Award-winning Christian rock band Jars of Clay.

“The experience was wonderful; I felt God’s peace and confidence as I went up to deliver the benediction,” Nardella says. “It was already a sobering invitation to be asked to pray to God in an arena of politics, for a national audience, and then they put my benediction after the First Lady!”

Nardella prayed for President Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney, asking God to help them seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with Him.

“Give us, oh Lord, humility to listen to our sisters and brothers across the political spectrum, because your kingdom is not divided into red states and blue states,” she prayed.

Nardella says she read from St. Francis of Assisi’s prayer, which her church’s congregation prays weekly, because she felt a strong call to pray for humility and unity.

“I have been troubled by the finger-pointing and polarity of our politics,” she says, “and I simply wanted to pray for the virtues that transcend politics: love, justice, mercy, humility and faith.”
Jazz Phenom Shares Talent with Whitworth

Nine-time Grammy Award nominee Kenny Barron performs with the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble on Nov. 3. In his career, spanning more than 50 years, the renowned jazz pianist has performed with the cream of the crop, including Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald and Wynton Marsalis.

“Kenny Barron played the piano like he had four hands,” says Dan Keberle, professor of music and director of the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble. “His performance was both ultra-lyrical and super technical. He was very motivating and inspiring to our jazz students, a humble gentleman, and yet a gifted jazz artist.”

Keberle adds, “Our jazz ensemble students played excellently, and showed why they have been recipients of numerous awards in the past. Kenny Barron remarked several times how pleased he was with the playing of the students.”

Singing for the Nation

As part of the a cappella group SEVEN, Frank Hernandez, ’93, is accustomed to singing for large crowds. When the group received an invitation from Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin to sing for last August’s Republican National Convention, however, they encountered their largest audience to date – around 20,000 people in the arena in addition to nearly 22 million watching from home.

“I knew it was going to be a larger-than-life experience, but once I set foot onstage for the sound check, saw the lights, experienced stadium sound and witnessed what was going to play behind us on the Jumbotron, it was a little overwhelming,” says Hernandez, pictured at far right.

SEVEN shared a dressing room at the RNC with 2006 American Idol winner Taylor Hicks. Backstage, Hernandez met Olympic speed skater Derek Parra and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and his wife, Callista. Hernandez also met Florida Senator Mark Rubio, one of the RNC’s keynote speakers, and talked to him about the mechanics of singing and the art of speaking correctly. “In essence I gave him a condensed version of the speech my voice professor, Marjory Halvorson, gave to me in my very first days at Whitworth.”

SEVEN was formed in July 2011, and since that time has recorded two albums, Seven and What a Mighty Sound (both Oceanway Studios, 2011). Hernandez says he was extremely honored and humbled to sing at the RNC.

“For us, it wasn’t about Republicans or Democrats; it was us standing on that stage and being proud Americans,” he says. “Had the DNC asked us to sing at their convention, we’d have been there just the same.”

Other group members of SEVEN are Phil Armstrong, Amick Byram, John Cavazos, Van Dobbins III, Kelly Ford and Charlie Harris. To learn more about SEVEN, visit www.thesoundofseven.com
Whitworth trustee **Linda Cunningham** died in June, at age 63. Linda, who earned her B.B.A. at Eastern Washington University, was married for 44 years to Michael, an ophthalmologist. She was the mother of three grown children and was “Nana” to five grandchildren. She volunteered with the Spokane Junior League for many years, and participated in eye surgery projects with Michael in Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Ghana, Mexico and Bangladesh. She was business manager and consultant for Inland Eye Center and a tireless mission worker, and she contributed to cancer research in the last four years of her life by enrolling in several clinical trials. Whitworth President Beck Taylor calls Linda “a loyal trustee and a responsible leader. Most of all,” he says, “Linda was a fan and enthusiastic supporter of all things Whitworth. We will miss her.” She is survived by her husband, her three children, Mick, Mark and Amanda, their spouses, her grandchildren, her mother, her sisters, and other family.

**Richard E. Matheny**, who died in September, was vice president of development at Whitworth in the 1980s. He was a member of the John R. Rogers High School Hall of Fame who earned his undergraduate degree from Washington State University and went on to do postgraduate work at University of Southern California. He was married to Phyllis Ann (Cheever) Matheny for 51 years and was the father of two grown children, Richelle Harget and Dwight Matheny. He moved on to become a vice chancellor for U.C. Irvine and finished his career at U.C. Davis. Rich is survived by his wife and children, his five grandchildren, and his sister. Memorials may be sent to the John Rogers High School Alumni Fund, JRRAFF, 820 N. Post, #403, Spokane, WA 99201.

**Shirley Richner**, Whitworth’s first female vice president, died in June. She married Don Richner in 1950, and they became the parents of two children, Joanna and Scott. Shirley graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a bachelor’s degree, and in 1957 the Richners moved to Spokane, where their daughter Janet was born. Shirley earned her master’s degree at Whitworth and went on to become the dean of the education department and, later, interim vice president for academic affairs. She earned her doctorate from the University of Idaho and enjoyed traveling around the world as part of a college-accreditation team. An inspirational teacher who touched many lives, Shirley was active in Millwood Presbyterian Church and was instrumental in the rebuilding of the pipe organ and installation of the beautiful stained glass windows there. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, her children, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millwood Presbyterian Stained Glass Fund.

**Col. Jack R. Starrett, M.D.**, died in September. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and Whitworth College, where he met his future wife, Joyce – whose father, Frank Warren, was Whitworth’s longest-serving president. Jack finished medical school in St. Louis, interned at Spokane’s Deaconess Hospital, then started a family practice in North Bend. He later completed a residency in radiology sponsored by the U.S. Air Force and spent the rest of his career in various postings, including two tours of duty in Thailand during the Vietnam War. Speaking of Starrett’s involvement with and love for his alma mater, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Scott McQuilkin, ’84, says, simply, “Jack was a giant for Whitworth.” He is survived by his wife of 67 years, his daughter, Cindy Rach, and son, Rich Starrett, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Rob Starrett. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to Whitworth University.
We simplify Simon Says into Follow the Leader. We’re not sure of the word for “leader,” but we go with jéfe, or “boss.” I hop on one foot. Three Whitworth students start hopping on one foot. We ask the children if they want to join us. They shake their heads no.

Now one of the Whitworth students is the leader. She waves her arm back and forth like a tree branch above her head. We do the same. The children watch us and smile.

The fall 2012 group at Whitworth’s Costa Rica Center is traveling in Nicaragua for a week. Today we’re at the school in La Chureca, one of Central America’s largest dumps. La Chureca is home to an estimated 1,500 people. At least half are under 18.

Kids rush the playground in small groups for recess. Outlines of the Pinta, the Niña, the Santa Maria, and Christopher Columbus look on from a cinderblock wall behind a swing set. There’s a brown stain on the face of Columbus, as though he’s got a runny eye infection. He’d better get that checked out, I think.

The school in La Chureca has been open for 12 years. The teachers tell us that a majority of the kids attend school, though some families insist that their children help them pick through the garbage for recyclables to sell.

On the playground, a girl asks to try on my sunglasses. Another asks to try on my hat. Girls dodge a concrete planter in a fierce game of pato, pato, ganso (the Spanish version of duck, duck, goose). A boy tags my arm, and I learn that I’m the finish line in a foot race.

Smoke from a nearby trash fire stings my nose. Sweat pools and trickles down my back.

The children want to hug us. I’m ashamed that I think twice about hugging the boy in the knit beanie, the one with cuts on his face who’s been picking his nose with remarkable concentration. I think of myself as a fairly hardy traveler, but what I want right now is to wash my hands.

What does it mean, I wonder, for us to thank the teachers, donate our box of school supplies, and climb back on our air-conditioned bus? Our Whitworth group will eat lunch on clean white plates. We’ll shower and change clothes for a visit to the U.S. Embassy in Managua.

Teaching at Whitworth’s Costa Rica Center this semester reminds me that there’s no substitute for travel, for navigating languages and histories and currencies and supermarkets and festivals and transit systems that aren’t your own.

It’s important not only to study other cultures but to experience them en su carne propia, literally “in your own meat.” (I didn’t learn this phrase in Spanish class, but rather from Sara Miles’ fine memoir Take This Bread, part of which takes place in Nicaragua.)

During this week, our Whitworth group has met with fair-trade coffee growers trying to tap into bigger markets. We’ve spoken with banana pickers sickened by Nemagon, a pesticide outlawed in the U.S. since 1979 but exported by U.S. companies through the 1980s.

On our last day before we return to Costa Rica, we visit Coyotepe, a fortress-turned-torture chamber for political prisoners and now a historical site maintained by the Boy Scouts of Nicaragua.

Coyotepe is a 15-minute climb up a paved mountain road. The air feels saturated, ready to be wrung out by an afternoon storm. From the watchtowers, we can see volcanoes and Lake Managua.

Our guide ushers us in to the first level of the underground prison. Slits in the stone walls maybe four inches wide let in weak light. Bats flit overhead. We’re warned not to touch the walls in case of scorpions.

Our guide asks us to imagine what it would be like if we’d been one of hundreds of prisoners in these small, shadowy cells with no proper bathrooms.

In the prison’s lower level, our group gathers in a dank room without windows. I fight off panic with a deep breath. How could anyone survive this for more than a minute?

Another underground cell has small, high windows through which guards would dump feces. Our guide could not describe the smell.

Then we step into a blank room where prisoners were tortured. The cries and groans must have echoed from every stone.

I leave Coyotepe, like I left La Chureca, feeling dirty. It’s easy to wash my hands. It’s harder to forget.

Nicole Sheets is currently teaching at “Whitworth South,” the university’s Costa Rica Center.
Each year at Homecoming, Whitworth honors a group of alumni who, through their service to humanity and their loyalty to Whitworth, have supported and advanced Whitworth’s mission. This year’s recipients are Patricia Bartell, ’00, Recent Alumna Award; Cliff, ’55, and Dottie Goss, ’56, Alumni Service to Whitworth Award; Marilyn Hoyt, ’70, Distinguished Alumna Award; and Fritz Ridenour, ’55, Alumni Mind & Heart Award.

Patricia Bartell’s passion for playing and teaching the accordion has taken her around the world and brought her international renown as a performer and instructor. Her graduation launched her into a vibrant and celebrated career during which she has served as the director of the Spokane Accordion Ensemble and the Accordia-Nova Diamonds, a youth ensemble, while teaching more than 50 accordion and piano students at Music City, in Spokane. She has won performance championships at prestigious international accordion competitions, and she is also president of the World Trophy Accordion U.S.A. Organization. As the head of that organization, she is credited with bringing the 2012 Trophée Mondial, the most renowned international accordion competition, to Spokane this fall.

Cliff and Dottie Goss met through Young Life in high school and fell in love and married while they were students at Whitworth. They still live in the house near Whitworth that they built together soon after graduating, and they have also stayed in close contact with the university as faithful donors and volunteers, encouraging their children and grandchildren to take advantage of the Whitworth education that they appreciated so much. The Gosses support the Whitworth Women’s Auxiliary, Pirate Night, the Crimson Club and The Whitworth Fund, and they have frequently accompanied other alums and Whitworth faculty members on Core 650 alumni trips. Over the years they have also worked abroad with Young Life and in Spokane with a number of ministries, including Cup of Cool Water and En Christo.

Marilyn Hoyt came to Whitworth “a rigid little kid from Camas,” and “found a place to see the world as a broader, more jolly, and less black-and-white place.” She is a nationally recognized speaker, author and consultant in nonprofit fund-raising, as well as past president and CEO of the New York Hall of Science, a hands-on science and technology center where she spearheaded efforts to raise a total of more than $200 million. An advisory board member to Columbia University and an advisor to New York’s Latimer House and Chicago’s Public Housing Museum, Hoyt is deeply interested in nonprofits led by and serving minority communities. Her honors include the 2007 Latin American Women’s Council Fanny Calderon de la Barca Award.

Fritz Ridenour, who came to Whitworth as a self-described “unchurched jock,” met his future wife and embarked on his writing career here. Ridenour, a father of three and grandfather of 11 whose beloved wife, Jackie (Cosman, ’52), died in 2009, is the author of more than 20 Christian books, with five million sold. Several remain in print, including a recently updated edition of So What’s the Difference? and a classic study of Romans, How to Be a Christian Without Being Religious. Ridenour has spent most of his career in Christian publishing, including more than 20 years with Gospel Light. He’s still writing, and he currently serves as editor and mentor to Emerson Eggerichs, author of Love & Respect, and as founder and president of Love & Respect Ministries.

To see videos about the 2012 Alumni Award Winners, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.
2010s

2010 Keith Kirsch successfully completed field training for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. His field training officer was Erik Olson, ’98. Kristin Nilsson dedicated a year to serve as a volunteer with the Jesuit Peace Corps at St. Labre Youth & Family Services, in Ashland, Mont. Caitlynn Nelson, ’10, ’12, married Benjamin Rose, ’12, July 21. They live in South Bend, Ind. where Ben is starting graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame. Eric Crowell graduated from Eastern Washington University with a master’s degree in urban and regional planning. Philip Aldridge is in his second and final year working toward a master’s degree in occupational therapy at Eastern Washington University.

2011 Kathryn Bender is working toward her doctor of pharmacy degree at the University of Colorado. Laura Viducich dedicated a year to serving as a volunteer with the Jesuit Peace Corps. She served the WCAC in Missoula, Mont. Krista (Clegg) Johnson graduated with her master’s from Whitworth in May 2011; she works as a high school counselor.

2012 William Wilson graduated from the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and took an oath of office with the U.S. Army’s 3rd Regiment on July 13.

DEATH

Shawn Towry, ’11, died Sept. 10. Shawn graduated from Mt. Spokane High School in 2006 and went on to graduate cum laude from Whitworth with degrees in computer science and music. He worked at Ciena as a software engineer. From age 16, Shawn was a professional upright bass player, and he loved jazz. He is survived by his mother, two sisters, a brother, four nieces, and his grandfather.

2000s

2000 Tim Nelson is the community pastor at Transformation City Church, in Milwaukee, and the executive director of Inhabit, a ministry that purchases foreclosed homes in rundown neighborhoods so that church members may live there and serve the local residents. Megan Davis is a reference and instruction librarian and assistant professor at the Albertsons Library at Boise State University.

2001 Jeremiah Webster is an assistant professor of English at Northwest University, in Kirkland, Wash. Jennifer Cruz graduated in 2010 from the University of Washington with a master’s in social work. She is now a social worker at Swedish Hospital, in Seattle. Claire (Gault) Thorpe was the matron of honor, and David Thorpe, Andrew and Bianca (Prins) Gebelin, Jasmine Wilson, ’05, ’07, Rebecca (Fisher) Baker, Shelly Williams, and Matthew, ’06, and Jenevieve (Borin) Price were in attendance at the wedding. Miranda and Jonathan live in Waco, where she is earning her Ph.D. at Baylor University and he is working on a master of divinity at Truett Theological Seminary and serving as worship director at the couple’s church. Courtney (Daly) Boyer graduated with her second master’s degree, in mental health counseling, and received her counselor certification as a licensed mental health counselor associate. She has started a counseling and consulting practice in Puyallup, Wash., specializing in sexuality issues. Courtney’s husband, Nathan Boyer, recently received the Madigan Army Medical Center’s Resident Teacher of the Year award.

2006 Cory Siebe graduated with his M.D. from the Medical College of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee, in May. He earned his master’s degree in public health from Portland State University in 2008 and is now completing his residency in Denver. Bonnie Schwartz married Sungsoo Kim, of Seoul, South Korea, in February. In attendance were Mary (Adolfson) Henson, ’05, Angela Cesena, ’05, Chelsea Globe, ’05, Bill Kallio, ’05, Tiffany Buissink, ’05, and Stacy Fundenberger, ’01. Bonnie and Sungsoo live in Seoul, where she teaches kindergarten through an English immersion program while he works on his master of divinity degree at Torch Trinity Graduate University. Bonnie also sings with the Camarata Music Company, in Seoul, where Jayleen Hille, ’05, is the executive director. Mary Eagle, ’11, married Corban Harwood on June 23 on the Whitworth campus. Terry McGonigal, Whitworth’s dean of spiritual life, officiated, and Elizabeth (Eads) Reisner, Patricia Morel, ’09, Barbara (Graham) Sand, ’05, Ryan Hackenbracht, and Randy Newhouse, ’05, were in the wedding party. Numerous other Whitworth faculty, staff and alumni also attended the wedding. Phillip Grahlfs completed his doctor of osteopathy degree at the Pacific Northwest

2004 Jessica (Klingeman) Shawley received the 2012 National Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. (See News section, Page 16.)

2005 Miranda Zaper married Jonathan Cruz June 23 in Waco, Texas. Clare (Gault) Thorpe was the matron of honor, and David Thorpe, Andrew and Bianca (Prins) Gebelin, Jasmine Wilson, ’05, ’07, Rebecca (Fisher) Baker, Shelly Williams, and Matthew, ’06, and Jenevieve (Borin) Price were in attendance at the wedding. Miranda and Jonathan live in Waco, where she is earning her Ph.D. at Baylor University and he is working on a master of divinity at Truett Theological Seminary and serving as worship director at the couple’s church. Courtney (Daly) Boyer graduated with her second master’s degree, in mental health counseling, and received her counselor certification as a licensed mental health counselor associate. She has started a counseling and consulting practice in Puyallup, Wash., specializing in sexuality issues. Courtney’s husband, Nathan Boyer, recently received the Madigan Army Medical Center’s Resident Teacher of the Year award.

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University of Health Sciences. He is a first-year resident specializing in emergency medicine at St. John Medical Center, in Westlake, Ohio. He is married to Katie (Spence) Graffls, ’08, who teaches elementary school.

2007 Amanda Cox and Ozzie Crocco, ’08, were elected commencement marshals for their respective cohorts at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education commencement ceremonies, in May. Amanda was in Harvard’s prevention science and practice program with a concentration in research. She is relocating to South Carolina to serve as a manager of teacher leadership and development for Teach for America.

2008 Mark Anderson served a one-year tour with the United States Army in Afghanistan as part of the 2010-11 Operation Enduring Freedom surge. Now an army captain, he serves in Colorado Springs. Ali Kara graduated with her master’s in urban and regional planning from Eastern Washington University. Sarah Hennagin married Joe Evans last December. Amy (Schillaty) Winter graduated from the University of Washington School of Dentistry this year and works as a dentist at the Portland Veterans Affairs Hospital. Doug Smith is an advisor to Sen. John McCain (R. Ariz.). Doug, who is currently working on a law degree at Catholic University, married Nina Fernandez in 2011. Daniel Ramsay coached Whitworth’s 2012 baseball team to its first conference championship in 21 years, its first regional championship, and its first Div. III World Series appearance as a member of the NCAA. Morey Jones married Amanda Burnett, ’11, at Green Bluff, near Spokane, on July 28. Megan Schuetze married Tyrell Breese on July 29. In attendance were Katie Skattebo, Laura Hickey, Laura Richardson, Becky Burroughs and Lisa Gilham. Katrina Wheeler earned her master’s in the history of Christianity from Wheaton College (Ill.) last May. She received the Kantzer Award in Christian History and Theology for outstanding achievement and ethical and spiritual character. Michael Dague continues to serve underserved and stigmatized populations in his fight for social justice and for the equal rights of all people to pursue love and happiness.

2009 Mia Graham married Asher Ernst, ’12, in July 2007. Aaron Bowen married Carrie Gibson, ’10, on Aug. 25 in Snohomish, Wash. The bridal party included Tim Cotton and Sara Rylaarsdam. Carrie works in the Building Performance Group for MacDonald Miller, a Seattle-based facility solutions firm that provides mechanical engineering, design-build construction, and energy-management programs. Aaron is an education specialist for Public Consulting Group. Jeff Upton dedicated a year to serving as a volunteer through Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, which requires volunteers to live simply and work for social and ecological justice within designated communities. Jeff served L’Arche Tahama Hope in Tacoma, Wash. Tovah (Kingman) Fazzari’s husband, Mathew, was killed in Afghanistan on June 6, when his helicopter came under enemy fire and crashed. Mat was a member of the Gonzaga/Whitworth ROTC Bulldog Battalion. Katherine Zerker graduated cum laude in May from Stetson University’s College of Law. She took the Oregon bar exam in July and is now a licensed attorney.

BIRTHS

2000 a girl, Moira Avens, to Ryan and Andrea (LeGore) Donahoe, Nov. 26, 2010

2000 a boy, Kellan Stephen Hicks, to Ryan and Andrea (LeGore) Donahoe, Aug. 11

2000 a boy, Gordon, to Melinda (Bushnell) and Dustin Woelfle, Aug. 7, 2011

2001 a girl, Allison Kay, to April (Mclhenny) and Bobby Houseweldt, March 11

2001 a boy, Josiah, to Brianne (Jacobs) and Matthew Kopp, Aug. 24, 2010

2001 a boy, Clark Ryan, to Keats and April (Clark) McGonigal, April 24

2001 a boy, Jackson, to Jessica ( Alley) and Thomas Stagg, Aug. 4, 2011

2001 a girl, Kavana Shine, to Karolina (Wright) and Destiny Williams, May 1

2002 a boy, Owen, to Jonathan and Kristol Caldwell, July 4, 2010

2002 a girl, Kate Madeline, to Cara (Senness) and Ryan Fults, Oct. 21, 2011

2002 a girl, Miranda Clare, to Meri (Aljjan) and Travis Keller, Jan. 4

2002 a girl, Sophia, to Michael and Stephanie Mihalik, May 26, 2011

2002 a girl, Josie Grace, to Nicole Davis-Miller and James Miller, ’04, May 1

2002 a girl, Lia Michelle, to Brooke (Allen) and Joseph Schaffer, April 30, 2010

2002 a girl, Jayda, to Jamie (Withrow) and Christopher Spotts, Sept. 9, 2010

2002 a girl, Katherine, to Amber (Isaac) and Jonathan Ziring, Oct. 5, 2010

2002 a boy, Graham Thomas, to Garrett and Aubrie (Caldwell) Zumini, ’03, Oct. 18, 2011

2003 a boy, Aaron Richard, to Kelsey (Rice) and David Bogdan, Jan. 13

2003 a boy, Teyye Mark, to Charissa (Roehme), ’06, and Scott Cooley, May 30

2003 a girl, Addy May, to Krista (Clegg), ’11, and Kyle Johnson, adopted August 2012

2003 a boy, Christian, to Jennifer (Patey) and Jeremy Kovach, Sept. 10, 2011

2003 twins: a boy, Charlie Ryan, and a girl, Maylie Jo, to Ryan and Lindsey (Wagstaff) Pugh, ’04, April 14

2003 a girl, Zoey, to Amber (Shaeffer) and Nicholas Santilli, July 27, 2011

2003 a boy, Reese, to Beth Fox-Stultz and Nathan Stultz, March 21

2004 a girl, Zoe, to Anna (Shakarian) and Brandon Comella, ’06, April 15

2004 a girl, Belle Faith, to Russell and Sarah Kimura, April 29

2004 a boy, Gerard Jordaan, to Deborah (Bennett) and James Lyons, April 13

2004 a girl, Isabelle Grace, to Megan (Lentz) and Brian Mesh, Dec. 9, 2010

2004 a boy, Caleb Gideon, to Megan (Lentz) and Brian Mesh, June 7

2005 a boy, Miles Ray, to Anna (Hansen) and Marcus Corder, ’06, Dec. 22, 2011

LAO film festival

Feb. 21-23, 2013

Please join the Whitworth community for the fifth annual Leonard Oakland Film Festival. Each film will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Robinson Teaching Theatre in Weyerhaeuser Hall. For complete details, visit www.whitworth.edu/oaklandfilm.
Villa Ready to Sing a New Song
By Julia Feeser, ’13

When Heather (O’Brien, ’06) Villa, walks into a room, people notice. Standing better than six feet tall, she radiates a confident glow – perhaps from her years of performing. Or maybe it’s from the excitement of a new venture that is Villa’s response to a difficult medical diagnosis – one that might shake a less sanguine person to her foundations.

A self-proclaimed “lipstick hippie” and “Northwest granola mama,” a Whitworth alumna, and the lead singer of 6 Foot Swing, a 1930s-era jazz group named Best Band by Spokane’s The Inlander newspaper for five consecutive years, Villa is a busy woman. “I always knew that I would be singing, but performance is almost more important,” says Villa, noting that her onstage gusto is what drives her success.

Eight years after earning an associate degree from Spokane Falls Community College, Villa enrolled at Whitworth to pursue a degree in theatre and arts administration. During this time she also worked as a marketing manager at Interplayers Theatre and dedicated herself to 6 Foot Swing and other singing gigs. Since 2006, she has also worked as a sales representative for The Inlander.

Earlier this year, Villa was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. She was determined to make the best of the news and to face it head-on, even if it meant leaving her beloved band. After being the signature voice of 6 Foot Swing for more than seven years, she’s preparing for her final performance with the band, on New Year’s Eve. “It’s time to put my passions, skills and talents into a different cause,” she says.

Drawing upon her Whitworth experience and the university’s mission of service to others, as well as upon her own birth experiences and her desire to fulfill a need among other mothers, Villa has created a new business, Bella Cova, which means “the beautiful nest.” Her brainchild will be a resource and retail center for new and expectant mothers in the Spokane community. In a world of stressful hospital visits and scheduled C-sections, she says, many women miss out on the beauty of the birth experience. “Your body knows what to do. Your baby knows what to do,” she says. “I just want to encourage women to have positive, happy births.”

After giving birth to her son, Leo, Villa realized there were few resources in Spokane for new mothers, and she found herself wishing for an established community that could guide her through her physical recovery and emotions. “There is a huge need for support groups,” Villa says, noting mothers’ need for nurture after they give birth. She envisions Bella Cova as a gathering place where expectant and new mothers can be cared for, educated and refreshed. Her plans include an in-house herbalist, a massage therapist and a lactation specialist, as well as a cafè, pre- and postnatal yoga classes, and workshops. She is currently raising funds to acquire her perfect business location: a beautiful historic home on Spokane’s South Hill.

“This is a heart business,” Villa says. “We really need to nurture our mamas and our babies, because they are our future.” With the confidence that characterizes her life both onstage and off, she says, “It definitely feels like I’m on the right path.”

For more information about Bella Cova, visit facebook.com/bellacovaspokane. To contact Villa, e-mail her at bellacovamama@gmail.com.

2005 a boy, Kipton Benjamin, to Chelsea (Fisher) and Jesse Goff, Nov. 18, 2011
2005 a girl, Hannah Ellen, to Julia (Johnson) and Mark Mesdag, ’05, ’07, Aug. 16, 2010
2005 a boy, Markus Gilbert, to Erin (Caldwell) and Sean Newcomb, Oct. 24, 2011
2005 a girl, Hannah Marie, to Sarah (Lamb) and Bryce Robbert, April 27
2006 a girl, Kari Keumhee, to Mia (Graham) and Asher Ernst, ’12, Dec. 7, 2010
2006 a boy, Marcus, to Adam and Holly Jackson, April 11, 2011
2006 a girl, Mackenzie Ann, to Jordan, ’11, and Lindsey (Boyd) Mickelson, Sept. 7
2007 a girl, Leah Violet, to Stephanie (Gillman) and Kyle Bisch, ’08, Sept. 12
2007 a boy, Cole William, to Gregory and Jenna (Hays) Caster, ’08, ’10, Sept. 7
2008 a boy, Caleb Elijah, to Erin (Kimura) and Daniel Chinen, March 7, 2010
2008 a boy, Levi Aaron, to Aaron and Bonnie (Glaser) Drake, June 4
2008 a boy, Caleb Jonathan, to Rachel (Whiteaker) and Jonathan Leo, June 11, 2011

DEATHS
Douglas Griffith, ’09, died June 24. A graduate of Leilehua High School in Hawaii, he was a member of the Whitworth Choir and the swim team. He worked at Grassroots Campaigns, Inc., for three years. He is survived by his parents, his sister, and many extended family members. Kristina (Letey) Davis, ’01, died Aug. 12 after a six-year battle with cancer. Kristi was led
through her high-school association with Young Life to attend Whitworth, where she met Justin Davis, ’01, whom she married in 2003. After working with preschool children for a time, Kristi graduated from Idaho State with a degree in speech therapy. She loved helping students to communicate better through her work. In 2008, the Davises adopted a son, Elijah Russell. Then, in 2009, Justin says that God amazed the couple by allowing them to adopt Eli’s older half-brother, Jerrell Bryant. Kristi’s boys were her pride and joy. She continued throughout her illness to volunteer with Young Life to help teen girls, making many deep friendships with her fellow volunteers and influencing many people through her witness. Her family mourns her passing but celebrates the fact that she is no longer suffering. She is survived by Justin, their two sons, her parents, and numerous other family members and friends.

1990s

1990 Kelley (Donahue) Adams married Andy Jewell Sept. 2 at the Bethany Vineyards and Winery, in Ridgefield, Wash. She looks forward to attending Whitworth events and introducing her new family to her alma mater. Kelley is an office manager for Beagle Burke and Associates, in Vancouver, Wash.

1991 Greg Orwig is Whitworth’s new vice president for admissions and financial aid.

1993 John Boxmeyer teaches full time in the math department at the University of Alabama. He is also the head swimming coach for Crimson Tide Aquatics. Kristin (Moyses) Janson is a consultant and instructor for the Home Link program with the Deer Park School District. John Jenkins is an instructor for the School of Education at Chaminade University, in Honolulu. Bernice (Graybeal) Nichols is a member of the Peninsula Art League.

1994 Jonathan Sloan received a doctor of ministry degree from Bethel University, in St. Paul, Minn., in June.

1995 Sara Revel married Mark Krumm in Kalispell, Mont., July 3. Sara is a foreign service officer in the human resources bureau’s office of career development and assignments. In May, Ron Purdy completed his M.B.A. at California State University Northridge.

1996 Lesley Williams married Adrian Valdivieso in Bali, Indonesia, on Sept. 5, 2011. Lesley runs a cooking and nutrition business, and Adrian is a triathlon coach.

1997 Corey Anderson passed the national boards in school counseling early childhood-young adult. He serves on Whitworth’s school counseling program’s Professional Education Advisory Board.

1998 Alicia (Musgrave) Thompson is delighted that the Whitworth tradition runs in the family. Her daughter, Stephanie Jordan-Thompson, ’11, married Kristoff Bultema, ’12, on Aug. 18. Heather Krebs married Christopher Austin on Aug. 4. Justin Childers is a pastor of three Seventh-Day Adventist churches in southern Indiana. His wife, Sonia, is earning a licensed practical nursing degree at Vincennes University. Gregory Graybill and his family are living in Germany for the 2012-13 academic year while Greg researches the Reformation. Carry (Kyle) and Jason Struthers, ’99, and their family are extensively remodeling two houses in Seattle, one of which is 100-plus years old and one that’s just a youngster at 60-plus. Amy (Haagstrom) Whitley is a freelance travel writer, a staff writer at Practical Travel Gear, a columnist at Outdoors NW, and a content editor for a family travel website. In September, Katherine (Pavdis) Esquire accepted a committee position with the department of teacher credentialing in Sacramento, Calif. Monica Parmley is a faculty member at Portland State University’s School of Social Work. She is also a member of the Portland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Erik Olson was promoted to the rank of sergeant in Washington’s Department of Fish and Wildlife. He serves with a marine division based out of Seattle, working boat patrols that extend from Tacoma to the Canadian border. He recently trained new student officer Keith Kirsch, ’10.

BIRTHS

1992 a boy, Lincoln, to Jennifer (Pifer) and Mark Bixler, June 20, 2011

1992 a boy, Joseph Andrew, to Erin (Parker) and Michael Imler, Jan. 20, 2010

1993 a girl, Samantha, to Jennifer (Watson) and Larry Mittin, Oct. 28, 2010

1993 a boy, Mies Toki, to Meredith (TeGrotenhuis) and Toshi Shimizu, Sept. 18

1997 a boy, Elijah, to Tim and Katie Evans, May 23, 2010

1997 a girl, Emmanuelle, to Courtney Yin-LaVoie and Mark LaVoie, Sept. 14, 2010

1997 a girl, Grace Elizabeth, to Andy, ’97, ’98, and April Mitchell, Aug. 3

1997 a girl, Eliana, to Kristen (Peet) and Benjamin Palpant, Aug. 26, 2010

1997 a boy, Matthew, adopted by Annemarie (Ekland) and Aaron Russell, ’98, June 7

1997 a girl, Anna, to Alan and Brenna (Robinson) Stanfield, ’00, July 27, 2010

1997 a boy, Brooks, to Alan and Brenna (Robinson) Stanfield, ’00, May 30


1998 a girl, Makenna Joy, to Grant and Suzanne Clay, Dec. 29, 2011

1998 a girl, Meghan E., to Gregory and Cathryn Graybill on June 28

1998 a girl, Natalie Dianne, to Carry (Kyle) and Jason Struthers, ’99, on Aug. 5, 2010

1999 a girl, Clara Maggie Ruth, to Mary (Hubele) and Dennis Hodge, Nov. 18, 2011

DEATHS

Keith “Chet” Clerihue, ’91, died Sept. 21. (See Alumni Profile, Page 29.) Barbara (Gates) Kortsen, x’91, died April 23. She grew up in Spokane and, after graduating high school, attended the Kelsey-Baird Secretarial School as well as Washington State University and the University of Washington.
Clerihue Offered Life Lessons for ‘Fellow Cowboys’
By Tad Wisenor, ’89

A lifelong Coloradan and a Whitworth graduate from the Class of 1991, Keith “Chet” Allen Clerihue played tennis, served as a student-media photographer, and majored in arts administration during his days at what was then Whitworth College. He was a proud resident of Stewart Hall and was the only male student to travel with the 1990 British Isles Study Program. (He didn’t seem to suffer unduly in the company of the many Whitworth women with whom he travelled that year to England, Ireland and Scotland.) He was assigned two of his nicknames, “Chet” and “Huge,” at Whitworth, and he made a lifelong impact on scores of fellow students.

From his beginnings, Clerihue had art and rural life in his blood. His father was an artist in Littleton, Colo.; his grandparents were early settlers in Colorado and eastern Kansas.

“Taking pictures is my attempt to understand the land from which I come, and, ultimately, to understand myself,” Clerihue wrote on his website, chetphoto.com.

He first battled cancer in 1995, and he experienced many miracles that allowed him to enjoy a wonderful life in spite of his health challenges.

As a photographer, he captured the intimate agrarian landscapes of the West and its inhabitants. As a man, he captured countless hearts. He died in September, at the age of 44.

“I am still thinking about what an impact he had on me and on everyone who knew him,” says Michael Vahle, ’92. “Seems like everyone he ever met considered him a friend. ‘Huge’ wasn’t just a nickname, it was the way he lived.”

Clerihue’s pastor and close friend Josh Weidmann spoke at his memorial service and wrote a blog post that encapsulated “Four Lessons for Fellow Cowboys, from the Life of Keith Clerihue,” excerpted here:

**Be home for dinner.** Keith understood the importance of family.

**Keep your wranglers close.** Keith had a million friends. One person at his memorial service said, “Keith was a Facebook before there was a Facebook.”

**Laugh, even when life is hard.** Keith was never too short of breath to laugh.

**Love the Lord more than you love the land.** Keith loved the West, but he loved Jesus even more.

Keith is survived by his wife, Lori (Holladay), x’91, and their two sons, Kip (6) and Bodie (4). He is also survived by his mother, Phyllis, his father, Al, his brother, Dietrich, and a large extended family. At the request of Keith’s family, a memorial fund is being set up at Whitworth to establish a scholarship in his name.


She was a medical technician at Fort Wright Hospital before completing her training at Deaconess Hospital. Barbara and her husband, Willard A. “Bill” Kertson, had two sons, Scott and Fritz. Barbara continued to work as a registered medical technician at various hospitals and laboratories before wrapping up her career as a bacteriologist for Spokane Milk Producers.

During her retirement, Barbara took classes from Colorado Medical School, in Denver, as well as from Whitworth, where she studied French. She and Bill ran a dairy farm near Elk, Wash., for many years. She is survived by one son, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**1980s**

1980 **Gail (Bingham) Stewart** celebrated 25 years with the City of Burbank, Calif., in July. Last year she was responsible for their Centennial Celebration – Party of the Century!, which was attended by 35,000 people.

1981 **Andrew and Janet (Cizik) Lindahl**, ’82, moved to Portland, Ore., where Andrew pastors Bethany Presbyterian Church. **Robert Graham** published his diary, titled *GULF in the WAR STORY*, about his service as an enlisted man during Operation Desert Storm. He apologizes for the typos, as the book is authentic writing from his time in a combat zone.

1982 **Neil Caulkins** is the chief civil deputy prosecutor for Kittitas County, Wash.

1983 **Michelle (Moomaw) Le Beau** and her husband of 22 years, Jim, live in La Jolla, Calif. with their two sons, Jimmy, 18, and Jake, 15. Their sons are avid surfers and water polo players. The whole family is active at La Jolla Community Church, where Michelle works as the director of community life.

**Jeff Thomas** works as the CEO of Spokane’s Frontier Behavioral Health, a nonprofit organization. His company employs nearly 500 people and has an annual operating budget of over $43 million. **Susan (Heumier) Aasen** recently finished 24 years of homeschooling her five children. She now focuses on her three granddaughters, her blog, and expecting more grandchildren in the near future.

1984 **Peter Swicker** was promoted to assistant special agent in charge at the El Paso Intelligence Center, in El Paso, Texas.

1985 **Scott MacGregor** enlisted in the California Army National Guard (SMR) in 1999. **Katrina (Campbell) Plato** received her master of arts in teaching from Western Carolina University in December 2010. She is enrolled at the College of Education at Appalachian State University, in Boone, N.C., earning a doctor of education degree in educational leadership with a focus
on expressive-arts therapy and arts-based research. She plans to study expressive-arts therapy at the European Graduate School, in Switzerland.

1988 Robert Smoldt moved out of patrol work and is now a senior bailiff at the Criminal Courts Building in downtown Los Angeles. Gerald Turner teaches English at Cimarron-Memorial High School in Las Vegas. Eventually, he would like to return to administration.

BIRTHS
1989 a girl, Kayleigh Grace, to Dan and Danielle Polage, March 24

DEATHS
Jerry Walker, ’81, died June 16. He earned degrees from both Whitworth and Eastern Washington University. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Jerry proudly served in the submarine service during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed sailing, playing with his dogs, and spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, sons, five grandchildren, and other family. Melba (De Boer) Leestma, ’82, died April 30. She was the fourth daughter in a family of five girls. She married her husband, Herman, in 1950, and the two fulfilled their roles in pastoral and parish ministry for the next 40 years. After the birth of her seven children, she completed her formal education at Whitworth, earning a master’s in education. Melba is survived by her younger sister, her children, and other family. Charles Bissell, x’85, died April 27. “Mr. B” grew up in Napa Valley and was active in 4H. His 27 years of service in the USAF included tours in Korea and Vietnam. After his time in the military, he spent many years teaching at Northwest Christian, in Spokane. He was an author, teacher, and builder of everything from his own home to beautifully crafted wooden toys. He is survived by his four children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and other family. Barbara (Shields) Rote, ’85, died April 28 of heart failure. She was born in 1964 in Port Angeles, Wash., and as a member of a Navy family, she lived in Hawaii, Virginia, New York, Georgia, California and Washington over the years. She graduated from Whitworth with a nursing degree and became a registered nurse at Spokane’s Sacred Heart Hospital. She is survived by her husband, daughter, stepdaughter, and other family. Ronald Neufeld, x’82, died Aug. 21 after a brave fight with cancer. Born in California, Ron graduated from Clayton Valley High School in 1974 and from Whitworth in 1982. He had a long career in corporate management that began with the Nordstrom restaurant division and ended in 1974 and from Whitworth. Edward Udell, ’79, is a Buffalo Soldier storyteller who volunteers in donor development and grant-writing for the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. Ed is also a minister. E. William Frost retired from the Island County, Wash., Sheriff’s Department in April 2011 after eight-and-a-half years there. He and his wife, Suzie, celebrated 30 years of marriage last February. Jerry Walker, ’81, died June 16. He earned degrees from both Whitworth and Eastern Washington University. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Jerry proudly served in the submarine service during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed sailing, playing with his dogs, and spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, sons, five grandchildren, and other family. Melba (De Boer) Leestma, ’82, died April 30. She was the fourth daughter in a family of five girls. She married her husband, Herman, in 1950, and the two fulfilled their roles in pastoral and parish ministry for the next 40 years. After the birth of her seven children, she completed her formal education at Whitworth, earning a master’s in education. Melba is survived by her younger sister, her children, and other family. Charles Bissell, x’85, died April 27. “Mr. B” grew up in Napa Valley and was active in 4H. His 27 years of service in the USAF included tours in Korea and Vietnam. After his time in the military, he spent many years teaching at Northwest Christian, in Spokane. He was an author, teacher, and builder of everything from his own home to beautifully crafted wooden toys. He is survived by his four children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and other family. Barbara (Shields) Rote, ’85, died April 28 of heart failure. She was born in 1964 in Port Angeles, Wash., and as a member of a Navy family, she lived in Hawaii, Virginia, New York, Georgia, California and Washington over the years. She graduated from Whitworth with a nursing degree and became a registered nurse at Spokane’s Sacred Heart Hospital. She is survived by her husband, daughter, stepdaughter, and other family. Ronald Neufeld, x’82, died Aug. 21 after a brave fight with cancer. Born in California, Ron graduated from Clayton Valley High School in 1974 and from Whitworth in 1982. He had a long career in corporate management that began with the Nordstrom restaurant division and ended in 1974 and from Whitworth. Edward Udell, ’79, is a Buffalo Soldier storyteller who volunteers in donor development and grant-writing for the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. Ed is also a minister. E. William Frost retired from the Island County, Wash., Sheriff’s Department in April 2011 after eight-and-a-half years there. He and his wife, Suzie, celebrated 30 years of marriage last February.

1973 Susan Daun-Woodstock teaches elementary music and runs a Suzuki violin program for more than 70 students each year. Terra Hardin has been an ESL teacher for nine years. She truly enjoys linguistics and other cultures. Timothy Lickness serves as a chaplain’s assistant and counsels Marine recruits at Camp Pendleton, Calif. David Verdugo is superintendent of schools with the Paramount, Calif., Unified School District, a position he has held since 2005. This is his 40th year in public education. He attributes his “service ethic” to Whitworth. Edward Udell, ’79, is a Buffalo Soldier storyteller who volunteers in donor development and grant-writing for the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. Ed is also a minister. E. William Frost retired from the Island County, Wash., Sheriff’s Department in April 2011 after eight-and-a-half years there. He and his wife, Suzie, celebrated 30 years of marriage last February.

1975 Raymond Mayes is the secretary and treasurer of the Northwest chapter of the Pirates’ Association.

1976 Ted Christman and his wife, Becky Dakin, ’78, moved to the Albuquerque, N.M., area for Ted’s new job at the Sandia Regional Medical Center and in order to be closer to their daughter, a junior at the University of New Mexico.

1977 Scott Morris received his master in education degree from Washington State University and teaches basic education (reading and GED preparation) at Clark College, in Vancouver, Wash. Brian Moore is the business development manager for Graham Builders. Prior to joining Graham, he was a primary relationship officer with Bank of Hawaii; he also spent 26 years with Honsador Lumber.

1978 David Weinman and his wife, Susan, moved to Germany to accept a post teaching U.S. history at Black Forest Academy. Nestled against the borders of France and Switzerland in the village of Kandern, BFA is an English-language school that serves the children of mission workers from more than 50 countries. Carolyn (Gates) and Ric Smith are proud to continue the Whitworth tradition through two of their three children: Jennay Smith, ’12, and Bergen Smith, ’15. Jon Flora is the president of a 900-member association for credit professionals in Western Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii, focusing on professional education, certification, and commercial credit reporting. David Nelson and his wife, Suzette, continue to serve as public school teachers on Guam, where they have lived for 34 years. They have four adult sons: Matthew, Dorian, Daniel and Mikel.

1979 Linda (Withrow) Hilton received an award from the Church Women United Nations office for work in advocacy, peace and justice.

DEATHS
John W. Goeller, ’72, died July 6. After graduating from North Central High School, he attended Washington State University before earning his master’s in education from Whitworth. He was a teacher and counselor in the Mead School District before retiring to serve as the president of the Retired Spokane Teachers’ Association. He co-founded and published the Directory for Seniors and Their Families (now titled innovAGING) from 1994 until 2003. Though he was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease, he was ever the optimist and viewed adversity as a challenge. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Gail, ’81, his children, three grandchildren, and other family. Kenneth C. Lemke, ’72, died July 11. Born in 1934, he grew up in Walla Walla and graduated from high school there in 1954. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Eastern Washington University and a master’s degree from Whitworth. He spent most of his career teaching high school and special education in various locations in Washington, Oregon, and

Commencement Reunions

The classes of 1953, 1963 and 1973 will celebrate their 60th, 50th and 40th reunions during Commencement Weekend 2013, May 17-19. All alumni from 1973 or earlier are invited to return to campus to celebrate. More details are on the way.
California. During the 1970s and early 1980s, he owned and operated two restaurants. He enjoyed international travel, discussing world politics, and collecting antique car miniatures. He is survived by four children and five grandchildren. Barbara (Runberg) Chastain, ‘73, died May 5. She met her husband, Dick, in junior high school, but married him more than 50 years later. Barbara graduated from Fresno State College before she earned her master’s at Whitworth. She taught special education with the Central Valley School District in Spokane for 19 years, finally retiring as director of special education. Barbara was an avid traveler, visiting nearly every continent. She is survived by her husband, three children, numerous grandchildren, and other family. Janice M. Schaller, ‘73, died May 4. She earned her bachelor’s degree in education at Mankato State University, in Minnesota, and later earned her master’s at Whitworth. She worked as a flight attendant before spending the majority of her career as a teacher for District 81, in Spokane. She is survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, and other friends and family.

Esther (Anderson) Matthews, ‘74, died May 2. After high school, she attended teaching college in Minot, N.D., before marrying her husband, Dale, in 1951. After relocating to Spokane, in 1952, Esther continued her education at Whitworth and taught at Idaho Hill Elementary School for many years. She is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Craig H. Davis, ‘75, ‘82, died May 25. After graduating from Whitworth, he married Kristine (Johnson), ‘76, and their family lived in St. Helens, Ore., for 25 years. In 2009, he and Kristine moved to Walla Walla, Wash., where he worked for Wallula Boise Paper and then in sales for Blankophor. He is survived by his wife, two children, and other family.

Gary E. Rasmussen, x’76, died July 9. Sandra L. Booth, ‘73, died Aug. 24, 2009. She attended Scotia Elementary and Fortuna High School before graduating from Whitworth. She was well known as a kind and gentle person as well as an excellent baker, seamstress and crafter. She is survived by two brothers, two nephews, one niece, and one grandnephew. Craig L. Steele, ‘74, died April 23, 2011, after multiple battles with cancer. Craig was a clinical psychologist for the U.S. Air Force, for Kaiser Permanente, and, most recently, for the Department of Mental Health at the state prison in Vacaville, Calif. He and his wife, Kathy (Seppa), ‘75, were married nearly 35 years. He is survived by Kathy and their two adult children. Ronald L. Robinson, ‘70, died June 11. Ron graduated from Edwall High School before earning teaching credentials and an army commission from Eastern Washington University. He was on active military duty during the Bay of Pigs conflict. After leaving the army, he began a teaching and coaching career at Sprague High School. He graduated from Whitworth with a master’s in education and also attained degrees or certificates from Washington State University, Seattle University, and the University of Washington. Ron finished his education career in administration, in the Edmonds and Mukilteo school districts. After retirement, he and his wife, Carol (Peterson), ‘60, traveled the world. Ron was an active member of the Edmonds Lions Club, Sno-King Retirees, Holiday Ramblers RV Travel Club, Lynnwood Elks, and Westgate Chapel. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, two daughters, one granddaughter, four grandsons, two sisters, several nieces and nephews, and many friends. B.

Hale Redmond, x’78, died July 21.

1960s

1960 JoAnne (Greene) French is now a widow residing in Orlando, Fla. She recently wrote a book, My Leis upon the Water, which includes a few Whitworth anecdotes. She has two sons and four grandsons in addition to a stepfamily into the second and third generations.

1963 Lucretia (Beavers) Simpson, is active at Millwood Presbyterian Church and enjoys traveling with her sister-in-law. Robert and Rebecca Sparks enjoy their new home in the Falcons Landing retirement community in Virginia. They attempt to keep up with their four “kids” and 11 grandkids around the country. Chriss Bell mourns the passing of his wife, Marilyn, who died on May 14.

Mr. President!

Congratulations to Dennis Trotter, ‘83, who was inaugurated as the 15th president of Hastings College, in Hastings, Neb., in September. Trotter has served at the school since July 2011. Whitworth President Emeritus Bill Robinson (pictured with Trotter) was in attendance to celebrate and to speak at the inauguration.

1964 Sam Standard has been a volunteer guide on Amtrak’s Coast Starlight, between Seattle and Portland, Ore., since 2008.

1968 Packard Brown designed a program to help pastors in career transitions. The program is now used by the Denver Presbytery, in Colorado. Packard works as director or career services at the liff School of Theology. A successful entrepreneur, author and career-management consultant, he has provided expert testimony on employment legislation before the Colorado State Senate and House of Representatives. Dean Jamieson, was re-elected to a third two-year term as the Pacific Northwest regional councilor (yes, that’s the correct spelling!) to the National Council of the American Guild of Organists. Jeanne (Patton) Rogers is a retired high school teacher and vice principal. Sally (Gibbon) Montandon works as an elementary teacher at the Central Valley School District, in Greenacres, Wash. She has been teaching for 40 years and still loves it. Thomas Taggart retired as the business manager for two Unitarian churches. He also had a successful 30-year career at the University of Washington. Linda Luse retired in 2005 after 36 years of teaching and of being chair of the physical education department at Wilson Middle School, in the Glendale (Calif.) Unified School District. Cell (Slack) Cleveland is a retired professor of literature and writing and the author of eight books as well as many articles. She is also an editor with the Eno River Literary Journal.

DEATHS

Lucille (Quast) Copeland, ‘62, died June 6. She attended Odessa High School before earning her bachelor’s at Eastern Washington State College and her master’s at Whitworth. She was married to Henry J. Copeland, ‘66, and taught for Community College District 17 for more than 25 years. She was the organist at Spokane’s Crestline Baptist Church for 52 years and was named organist emeritus in 2010. She is survived by her son, two daughters, and other family. Hellen (Henry) Keller, ‘62, ‘65, died June 22. During WWII she worked in Lovell, Wyo., where she met her husband, who preceded her in death. Hellen and her three daughters moved to Spokane, where Hellen earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Whitworth and worked for more than 25 years in the social services as an advocate for the elderly. She was an avid traveler, visiting various locations including the
North and South Poles and China. She is survived by two daughters, three siblings, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Rev. Dr. Roger O. Kuht, '63, died Jan. 17. He was a beloved father, friend and teacher. Jack R. Ickes, '64, died April 19. He graduated from North Central High School in Spokane, and at 33 he returned to college at night and graduated from Whitworth cum laude. He married his childhood sweetheart, Beverly, in 1951 and spent his career serving in Washington’s juvenile justice system. He is survived by his three children, granddaughter, and numerous children and Beverly sponsored through World Vision and ChildFund. John Charles Regis, '64, died May 13. He lived in Spokane for his entire life, graduating from North Central High School and earning his bachelor’s in chemistry from Whitworth. He is survived by his daughter and other family. Nancy Scott, '67, died May 2. Jeannette (Mills) Selbo, '67, died May 5. She attended Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Valley City, N.D., where she met her husband, Conrad. She received her education degree from Whitworth and spent most of her career as an instructor of nursing at Spokane Community College. She is survived by her daughter, Julie Selbo, '76, a son, and other family. Marian (Johnson) Gildow, '68, died May 10. She lived in Idaho before attending Whitworth, and she went on to be a home economist for Washington Water Power (now Avista), as well as a Sunday school teacher, choir member, librarian and mother. She is survived by her daughter, sons, stepsons, and other family. William Faught, '63, died July 4. Bill met his wife Barbara, '64, in 1936 at Salem High School. They were married in 1942, a month before he enlisted in the U.S. Army. In 1946, he ended his duty in Hawaii, where he was joined by Barbara and their daughter, Eileen. Their son, Bill, was born there two years later. While the older Bill was a salesman and a business manager for Burroughs Corp., he graduated from Whitworth with a business management degree. He later earned a master’s degree from the University of San Francisco. He and his wife were active members of the First United Methodist Church. Bill was also a member of the Rotary Club and the Kit Carson Lodge of the Masonic Order, where he attained special honors. He is survived by a sister, two children, four grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and several nieces and nephews. Norma Jo Anderson, '67, died Aug. 13. NormaJo, who was known for her love of music, sang soprano with the Washington State College Choir, the Spokane Symphony Chorale, and the St. Stephens Episcopal Church Choir. After graduating from Palouse High School at 15, she went on to graduate from Washington State College and to do war-related work during the early part of WWII. She and Lt. Robert Hale Miller married in Spokane in 1943 and had two sons, Michael and Jeffrey, before their divorce in 1960. Norma Jo graduated from Whitworth with a degree in music education, which prepared her for 20 years of teaching in the Spokane area. She retired in 1982 and became a world traveler and successful investor. She is survived by two sons and five grandchildren. William T. Green, '69, died Oct. 3, 2011.

1950s

1957 Shirley (Ginther) and Richard Waddell, '58, have seen the completion of nine houses in El Playon, El Salvador, as well as improvements in schools and in water distribution of El Junco, Honduras, over seven years of mission trips.

1958 Stephen Fox has logged more than 200,000 air miles since 2001 doing volunteer projects around the world with Global Volunteers and Earthwatch. H. Wayne Smith and his wife, Grace, are both retired. Wayne enjoyed a 43-year career as an educator. He and Grace now maintain an orchard in East Wenatchee, Wash., and spend winters in Arizona. Don Ball and his wife, Arlene Joy (Baker), x'57, have moved into a retirement community in Fremont, Neb. Peter Eyster is an advocate for unreached peoples and a member of a church frontier missions team. He is also engaged in mentoring and discipleship. After a very successful 2008 reunion with 27 classmates, Roberta (Dayton) Coss looks forward to her next reunion at Whitworth. Raymond "Kay" Brown retired in January from his chaplaincy at Mt. San Antonio Gardens, where he had worked for five years. In August he spent a week salmon fishing in Alaska with his son, Kevin, '84, and his stepson, Jay Ratcliffe, '85. Bernard Rakes and his wife, Joy, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Aug. 3.

1959 Bill Heathman is now retired. He and his wife, Ruth (Moody), '58, are proud of their granddaughter, Sarah Atchison, who graduated from Whitworth with the Class of 2011.

DEATHS

Mary Beth (Anslow) Davis, '50, died April 9. She began her career in nursing at Swedish Hospital Public Health Department and Providence Home Care. After attending Whitworth, she graduated from Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing, and in 1956 she went to Japan to work at a U.S. Army Hospital. She discovered she enjoyed travel and visited many countries with her good friend Ruth Shipp-Dart. Mary Beth was a long-time member of Magnolia United Methodist Church. She is survived by her two sisters, two brothers-in-law, one sister-in-law, and other family. Robert R. Rasp, x'51, died after a battle with cancer April 4 at his home in Riverside, Calif. Raised in Washington, D.C., he moved to Seattle with his family in 1945 and graduated from high school with a football scholarship. He played football – and met his wife, Helen (Dunlap, x'51) – at Whitworth. They moved to Riverside, where he was a salesman for Inland Steel before taking a job as a counselor at juvenile hall helping troubled youth. After retiring, Bob joined the Janet Goeske Center, where he tirelessly served on the board of directors until his health declined. Known as the “King of Hugs,” he is remembered as a devoted, dedicated family man and a true friend. He is survived by his wife, four daughters, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

L. Gilman Martin, x'56, died April 3. “Gil” earned his bachelor’s in business from Trinity University, in San Antonio, and worked as a textbook and bookstore manager. He is survived by his daughter, grandson, and former spouse. Paul E. McCaw, '56, died April 6. He attended Prescott High School in Prescott, Wash., where he participated in football, baseball and basketball. While at Whitworth he studied education, music and social studies, and after graduation he served two years in the military before receiving an honorable discharge. He earned his master’s at Eastern Washington University and in 1960 began teaching history and social studies at Lake Washington High School, near Seattle. In 1993 he returned to his family’s farm and made it into a place of beauty, planting an orchard, building a pond, and holding annual cider-pressing parties. He was an accomplished musician and folk singer. Paul is survived by his wife, Mary. Dwight C. Treganowan, '56, died...
April 5. Dwight attended the University of Arizona before coming to Whitworth and completing his bachelor's degree in advertising. Dwight also served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War aboard the U.S.S. Hyman. While at school he met his future wife, Mary (Brown, '55); the two married in 1955 and settled in Walla Walla, Wash., for the next 56 years. Dwight was the advertising manager of the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin until he decided on a second career as the purchasing director for St. Mary Medical Center. After retiring, the Tregarawns traveled to the East Coast, the desert Southwest and Reno. Dwight took tremendous pride in his two granddaughters, who survive him along with his two sons. Stanley M. Blackwell, '59, died April 19. While at Whitworth he met and married Lola (Anderson, '60). He spent his career in the insurance business, and upon his retirement, in 1995, he received the Industry Achievement Award from the New Mexico Independent Insurance Agents Association. He enjoyed gardening, furniture-making and golf. He is survived by his wife, two children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joseph C. Smith, '54, '60, died Aug. 14. He spent his working life as a dedicated educator, teaching in Nine Mile Falls, Wash., and moving on to become a superintendent in the Deer Park (Wash.) Unified School District. Joe served in the U.S. Army during WWII; he also served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from Whitworth and then earned a master's degree at Washington State University. He returned to Whitworth to attain a master's in education before receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Idaho. He will be remembered for his great passion for the outdoors. Joe is survived by his wife, Josephine, and by one brother, one sister, three children, four stepchildren, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

1940s

1949 Martha (Dunlop) Peterson wrote the book, I Was There...When, which is being published by Xlibris. When she was 55, Martha went to Sierra Leone and Pakistan with the Peace Corps. Then, when she was 74, she taught the Bible in Ukraine as well as English in China and India. She credits the Holy Spirit with all of her trials and inspirations.

DEATHS

LeRoy Hook, '40, died May 2. He earned his bachelor's from Whitworth and later his master's from Western Washington University. He devoted his career to teaching biology and coaching baseball, primarily at West Valley High School, in Spokane. LeRoy loved and supported Whitworth by working throughout his life to continue its level of educational excellence and to be sure that students had the opportunity to experience the profound education he felt he'd received. He is survived by his four children, grandchildren, and a great-grandchild. Barbara (Elliot) Miller, '42, died April 17. She taught for one year at Davenport High School during WWII before spending the following years in New York City making theater rounds. She returned to Spokane to work in the archives of The Spokesman-Review and Spokane Chronicle before finally returning to New York for a job with General Dynamics Corp. In 1970 she moved to St. Louis to continue her work with General Dynamics, and while there she established a summer theatre, ACT Inc., which is still thriving. Throughout her time in Spokane and even after her retirement to San Diego in 1986, Barbara acted and directed with the Spokane Civic Theatre. She is survived by two nieces. Helen (Lampartner) Williams, x'42, died March 13. Betty (Arnquist) Minnich, x'45, died May 27. Betty grew up in New York City and Hudson, Wis. She met her husband, Harold Minnich, x'45, while attending Whitworth, and the two became well known around campus and in church as vocalists. Betty taught kindergarten for a number of years before returning to school to earn her degree in education from Eastern Washington State College at the age of 50. She loved singing and was a part of various church and community choirs. She is survived by her daughters, one son, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Susan E. (Harris) Dickinson, '47, died March 11, 2011. John P Rodkey, '47, '48, '58, died May 16 after a battle with cancer. After serving in WWII as a radio operator, John earned degrees from Whitworth: a bachelor's in recreational leadership, a bachelor's in education, and a master's in administration. After student-teaching at Spokane's North Central High School, John joined N.C.'s faculty for nine years and then went on to become vice principal of Spokane's Shadle Park High School. He returned to North Central, this time as principal, and joyfully served from 1959-79. John was a man of devout faith, always taking the high road in life. He and his wife, Marie, celebrated their 67th anniversary in April. He remained a loyal and active alum of Whitworth. He is survived by two children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and other family. Norman D. Gano, '49, died May 29. After graduating from Whitworth, he earned his master of divinity degree. He was passionate about pastoral and theater work, which he combined to form his ministry. Over his lifetime, Norman served as a pastor for approximately 18 churches across the country in addition to instructing and developing theater programs in seminaries, universities and community theaters, as well as acting in television and Hollywood productions, and directing and performing at the Spokane Civic Theatre. He is survived by his wife, Fay, their combined eight children, and a “bonus” daughter, along with numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and treasured family. Laurence D. Starr, '49, died April 3 in Shelton, Wash. He graduated from Spokane's North Central High School in 1942 and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He married Mildred Neustel in 1948 and graduated from Washington State University in 1955. In 1962 he began his work as a research chemist for ITT Rayonier, in Shelton, Wash., and he remained there until his retirement in 1992. Laurence was a member of numerous groups and organizations, including the National Flutist Society and the American Mathematical Association. He enjoyed rock-climbing and teaching music. He is survived by his wife, five children, and eight grandchildren. Gerald Charles Pomeroy, x'49, died May 9. After graduating from North Central High School, in Spokane, in 1945, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He later attended Whitworth and met Margaret “Peggy” Ridsdale, '49, and the two were married in 1952. Jerry went on to graduate from the College of Architecture at the University of Washington and to become a senior partner at Waldron, Pomeroy, Smith, Foote and Akira. He was an avid skier, sailor and glider pilot. He is survived by his wife, three children, four grandchildren, and other family. Willy Verafay (Wilson) Clark, '48, died June 14. Willy was married to Allen Clark. She graduated from Whitworth with a degree in biology, and then attained master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Washington. She taught high school for 15 years before teaching speech and drama at a community college for 34 years. Her passions included theater, education, and seafaring in her boat, "Tugwillow." Willy was the founding artistic director for the La Pensee Discovery! Theater as well as the recipient of several theater and humanities awards. She was also co-owner of an American-Canadian Champion Tibetan terrier, Sheydon’s Harlequin.
City Psalm

By Jeremiah Sataraka, ’09

City Psalm by Denise Levertov

The killings continue, each second
pain and misfortune extend themselves
in the genetic chain, injustice is done knowingly, and the air
bears the dust of decayed hopes,
yet breathing those fumes,
walking the thronged
pavements among crippled lives, jackhammers
raging, a parking lot painfully agleam
in the May sun, I have seen
not behind but within, within the
dull grief, blown grit, hideous
concrete facades, another grief, a gleam
as of dew, an abode of mercy,
have heard not behind but within noise a humming that drifted into a quiet smile.
Nothing was changed, all was revealed otherwise;
but that as if transparent all disclosed
not continue, not that I thought there was to be no more despair,
not that horror was not, not that the killings did
Nothing was changed, all was revealed otherwise;
but that as if transparent all disclosed
an otherness that was blessed, that was bliss.
I saw Paradise in the dust of the street.

What words would you use to describe
the city or urban neighborhoods? I would
imagine that for many people, the word
paradise would not be included on this list.
If there is any lesson that I have learned
since earning my bachelor’s degree in
sociology from Whitworth, it is this: The
way we see our cities needs to change. My
definition of “seeing” includes more than
just what our eyes can see, but involves
a fundamental shift in the way we think
about urban communities. For too long,
people have defined success for those living
in urban communities in terms of “getting
the heck out of here!” Tim Herron,
director and founder of Act Six, once told
a story of an important conversation he
had with a young person in his Tacoma
neighborhood. He realized that this young
person’s idea of success was defined by how
soon he could leave the city.

I have come to recognize that many
people define and see cities as, frankly,
ugly places. As a teenager from the south
end of Tacoma, I also bought into the
idea that urban communities were only
places where people “do service.” They
were places people went to for work, and
not places to seek, create and sustain
community. I had seen my fair share of
drive-by shootings and people selling
drugs. It was not hard to imagine that
success meant leaving a place like that.
But I began to recognize that the way
I view the city greatly impacts the way
I engage it. What the world needs is
not another success story of somebody
who made it out of the hood and into
the suburbs, but a success story of how
somebody came back to the hood and
changed things for the better.

Act Six was created, in part, to address
this definition of success. It is a nonprofit
organization that partners with colleges
and universities to provide full-tuition,
full-need leadership scholarships for urban
and community leaders who want to use
their education to make a difference on
the college campus and in their home
communities. Their first college partner
was Whitworth, which took a chance on
an idea that investing in a diverse group of
student leaders, representative of the cities
they come from, would serve as a catalyst
for change in cities all over the United
States, but also as a catalyst for change
on college campuses. Since the first cadre
of scholars at Whitworth, Act Six has
produced the school’s first gospel choir,
two student body presidents, resident
assistants, cultural diversity advocates,
small-group coordinators, international
club presidents, Black Student Union
presidents, Sociology Club presidents, the
Whitworth Choir and the Whitworth
Women’s Choir, winning debate team
members, and Whitworthian journalists
and have filled numerous other formal
leadership positions. We have seen the
creation of the Intercultural Student
Center and have welcomed Dr. Lawrence
Burnley, assistant vice president for
diversity and intercultural relations, to
the Whitworth community. We have also seen
an Act Six alumnus turned Whitworth
staff member – me!

Because I’m an alumnus of both Act Six
and Whitworth, Tacoma and Whitworth
have a very special place in my heart. In
City Psalm, Levertov talks about seeing
not behind the chaos, but within it. She
describes all of the pain and ugliness
that surrounds her, but is still able to see
“Paradise in the dust of the street.” This
poem continues to challenge and inspire
the way I see communities. Imagine how
much different the world would be if
we were able to see our cities, our urban
communities, or for that matter any
community, with the “Levertov lens.”
Imagine if we were to see communities
normally thought to be unfortunate and
pronounced them blessed, as Jesus did in
the Sermon on the Mount. I think it is
time to take our imaginations to another
level and see them come to life. Will you
join me?

Jeremiah Sataraka is the resident director of
Baldwin-Jenkins Hall at Whitworth.
NAME: Krister Johnson, '13

MAJOR: Philosophy

BIRTHPLACE: Seattle

KNOCK, KNOCK: Philosophy jokes usually imply that philosophy is impractical idle speculation with no real-world application. On the contrary, philosophy teaches you to question, reason and argue. You learn to consider other perspectives, explore alternative worldviews, and test the foundation of your own. Rather than being impractical, I’ve found philosophy to be the most valuable major for my future career path.

LET’S BE REASONABLE, SHALL WE? The class Introduction to Logic rewired the way I think. A professor once said that learning logic is like fixing blurred vision by getting glasses. He is exactly right. Intro to Logic benefited how I write, debate, speak and listen. It even helped boost my LSAT score in preparation for law school.

FORREST BAIRD (pictured, left, with Johnson) ROCKS! Forrest Baird’s legend is well deserved. I had the privilege of participating in his Core 250 Europe Study Program. He packed years’ worth of culture, laughter, philosophy and fun into that short Jan Term. The experience changed my life. Once I returned to campus, I got to be Forrest’s teaching assistant for his Intro to Logic class, getting to experience my favorite class all over again. He has taught me about the pivotal figures of Western and Eastern thought. But most of all, he has taught me to start every day, class and activity with a smile and a joke.

WANNA DEBATE? I’m in my third year on Whitworth’s Ethics Bowl team (2012 national champs!). I’m also one of the founding members of Whitworth’s revived forensics program (2012 national champs!).

MEMORIES... I was recently pulled into a conversation with some freshmen in my dorm. They were posing some of the big worldview questions that all students inevitably encounter during our time at Whitworth. I began adding questions to the conversation and proposing some of the answers that Whitworth professors often give. With every minute, the students’ excitement grew. Our conversation lasted for hours, well into the night.

WHAT’S NEXT? I’m going to law school after I graduate from Whitworth. I’ve applied to Harvard, Yale and Stanford. I want to shape public policy, in whatever role I end up in.
For years, students like Sergio Jara Arroyos have been able to attend Whitworth because of generous alumni who choose to give back.

A senior cross-cultural studies major, Sergio thrives on campus as an active student leader and advocate of social justice. But as the son of migrant workers, he didn’t always see a Whitworth education in his future.

“Financially speaking, I had little to no resources to make my education a reality,” he says. “The scholarships I received gave me the opportunity to search for the voice that every student wants and deserves.”

As the first person in his family to attend college, Sergio deeply appreciates the gift of education and wants others to have the same opportunities.

“I know firsthand how an education can change lives,” he says. Sergio is looking into post-graduate programs, such as Teach For America, which will allow him to be in the thick of promoting education equality.

“My personal philosophy when it comes to education is this: An education is not complete unless we are willing to share our knowledge with others.”

As 2012 draws to a close, we have embarked on a campaign that assists Whitworth and students like Sergio. If 1,500 alumni give to the university by Dec. 15, one of our Whitworth trustees will match those gifts with $50,000 to The Whitworth Fund. Join in the legacy with alumni who have helped students like Sergio. Light the Match; be one of the 1,500! Make your gift at www.whitworth.edu/give.