A Century of Success
How the bold move to Spokane – and a host of believers – changed Whitworth’s history
God Showed Up

One of the things I love most about Whitworth is that our students know they need not wait to cross the stage at graduation to begin lives of service. From their first Community Building Day to service-learning courses during their senior year, our students find many opportunities to serve others.

Just a few days ago I had the awesome privilege of watching our students organize and lead a campaign to purchase, package and ship more than 600,000 meals to the hungry and food-insecure in our region and around the globe. Dubbed “The Million Meals Campaign,” this effort by our students began in September with fund-raising and organizing volunteers. On May 3, more than 1,000 students, staff, faculty and local volunteers descended upon the fieldhouse in an amazing show of community and solidarity.

Our students reminded me of three important lessons at this event. First, we should never hesitate to set big goals. When our students announced their desire to raise $250,000 to package one million meals in one day, we all knew that would be a stretch—and it was. But without such an ambitious goal, students would have never raised $150,000 and packaged more than 600,000 meals. I was reminded that we should never let the possibility of not reaching big goals dissuade us from setting them in the first place.

Second, our students’ efforts affirmed one of Whitworth’s core values: to give students responsibility. I will admit that there were moments during the year when I wanted to step in and direct traffic. But I resisted the temptation because I know that students must learn to handle responsibility, even if they have to learn from failure. I was also reminded that when Whitworth’s students set their minds to something, they usually succeed. Finally, as the day began, one of our student leaders said to me, “We’re expecting God to show up today!” At the time, I was thinking about logistics, safety, coordination and the weather. This student reminded me that despite all of the uncertainties, the only resource we could count on, and ultimately the only thing we would need, was God’s presence and blessing. Well, God showed up in miraculous ways that day.

I’m so thankful for our students’ passion for serving others and for a university that equips them to do so.

As always, please keep Whitworth in your prayers.

Read the full story online at www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.

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Long ago, a little boy picked cotton in Texas and dreamed of sending his children to school. Today, five young members of his family are Whitworth students. Meet the Martinez and Garza cousins.

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The Whitworth M.A. in Theology Program reflects the university’s deepest convictions about how theological education should be done. With a focus on practical application, the program is transforming its students’ work in ministry.

12 A CENTURY OF SUCCESS
In 1914, Whitworth was on the brink of closing. A bold move from Tacoma to Spokane and a host of determined believers changed the course of the university’s history.
One of my tasks as senior editor at Whitworth is to proof the course catalog — a great, lumbering thing that has more parts than The Lego Movie. We print up just a few catalogs these days, for faculty and for use in offices. Our students, who can navigate a website much more quickly than a person my age can flip from a table of contents to the desired page, get their information online, and that’s where our catalog lives. And despite the almost wholesale shift from a print catalog to an online version, the editing process remains much the same. It’s easy to get lost in the sheer blizzard of words in the catalog — to stop seeing words as elements of thoughts and to begin to isolate them into editable chunks. How many times today did I read the words “mind and heart”? How many times did I catch snatches of “honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity” and “integration of faith and learning”? Let’s leave it at “quite a few.” Yet every once in a while, in a thought, rather than a missing period or a jumbled sentence, jumped off the page and pierced my tired old editor’s brain.

Because I realized that though this is boilerplate language for Whitworth, it’s certainly not the kind of rhetoric you find in most college/university catalogs. Whitworth’s catalog makes it clear from the President’s Welcome to the last page that this is a place where a program like the Master of Arts in Theology (Page 8), a celebration like the one commemorating our first 100 years in Spokane (Page 12), and a family like the Koper and Lowell Poore, stands Grant Rodkey! I think the end man on that row may be Leonard Richardson.

Mary was a beautiful soul. Daughter of a Presbyterian minister in Eastern Washington and younger sister of Paul Koper of Whitworth College and Princeton Divinity School, she had a gorgeous soprano voice and a beautiful spirit. Her favorite scripture was Galatians 5:22-23. Later she married Clifford Chaffee, and they spent a lifetime as Presbyterian missionaries in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Lowell Poore had opened the 2013-14 calendar, I was shocked to find myself staring at Ms. Winifred McNair Hopkins (“Hoppie”) in the middle of the front row. In the next row and to the left as you face the picture, between Mary Koper and Lowell Poore, stands Grant Rodkey! I think the end man on that row may be Leonard Richardson.

I just read your Editor’s Note in Whitworth Today, and it made me really homesick for Whitworth. I loved Whitworth as a student, but now I wish I had appreciated even more what an incredible privilege it was for me to be there. I suspect at the time I just took it for granted. Now I wish I could do it all over again! It’s a treat to be able to get back for class reunions. I’m looking forward to our 55th in 2016.

Blessings to all! Priscilla Small, ’61

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. Whitworth Today reserves the right to edit letters for length and/or content.

PS. If you’re going to make a mistake in the spelling of someone’s name, try not to make it the name of the beloved son-in-law of a beloved former president. Yes, we misspelled the name of photographer Mike Wootton, ’04, a valued member of Bill Robinson’s family, in the fall issue. Yes, we ask for Mike’s forgiveness (and for that of his wife, Bailey Robinson Wootton, and maybe even that of his father-in-law). Whitworth Today regrets the error.

[Editor’s NOTE]

[Letters to the EDITOR]

I just read your Editor’s Note in Whitworth Today, and it made me really homesick for Whitworth. I loved Whitworth as a student, but now I wish I had appreciated even more what an incredible privilege it was for me to be there. I suspect at the time I just took it for granted. Now I wish I could do it all over again! It’s a treat to be able to get back for class reunions. I’m looking forward to our 55th in 2016.

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[Bad Wimseros] in Whitworth Today, the Whitworth Choir, was informative and inspiring, and it made me wish that I were near enough to return for the reunion in October. But when I opened the 2013-14 calendar, I was shocked to find myself staring at myself. The insert picture for October 2013 shows the 1856 choir with Ms. Winifred McNair Hopkins (“Hoppie”) in the middle of the front row. In the next row and to the left as you face the picture, between Mary Koper and Lowell Poore, stands Grant Rodkey! I think the end man on that row may be Leonard Richardson.

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Samson Martinez, ’16, recalls a story his grandpa repeated to him when he was younger. A little boy picks cotton with his grandpa, repeated to him when he was younger. A little boy picks cotton with his grandpa. 

Zenaido Martinez, Sr., the father of Zenaido Martinez III, with his wife, Meagan  

Samson’s older brother, Saul Martinez, ‘11, fondly remembers going home to Pasco, Wash., for the weekend during his Whitworth days and dealing with his younger brother’s gentle ridicule. “He said I was becoming more of a nerd each time I visited home,” says Saul, who currently works as an administrative assistant at Baker Boyer Wealth Management, in Kennewick, Wash. He earned B.A. in business management at Whitworth. The little brother “claimed to not be the Whitworth type,” Saul says, with a smile, “but after he attended a Why Whitworth event and stayed with me in my dorm, he was hooked. Now I get to tease him.” It isn’t uncommon for siblings to follow in each other’s footsteps when choosing a college. It is less common when five cousins, all about the same age and in the same class, attend the same college at the same time. Such is the case for the five Martinez and Garza cousins, who are now sophomores at Whitworth. Athletics was a major attraction for the group; Saul played golf for Whitworth, and Samson (who was an RA in McMillan Hall last semester) is currently on the team. Caleb Garza, ’16, is a running back for Pirate football, and Alyssa Martinez, ’16, plays catcher/infeld on the softball team. Arnold Garza, ’16, isn’t on a varsity team at Whitworth, but he plays intramurals, as do his cousins. Kristynn (Garza) Lind, ’16, limits her involvement in athletics to joining her cousins as often as possible for some rounds of urban golf. This sport is especially popular among the group right now, and they play together as often as they can.

Athletics was a major draw for the cousins, but a strong, small and welcoming academic community steeped in faith was the main driver for all of them, and Whitworth filled the bill. As a high school senior, Saul saw that Whitworth had the academic programs he was looking for and respected faculty members to study under; he knew it would be a great place to attend, and his cousins followed suit not long after he made his decision. “I would describe my relationship with my first cousins as comparable to the relationship between brothers and sisters,” Saul says. “In our culture, a cousin could be anybody who comes from the same bloodline, not limited to any number of generations back, as long as you can track it. This is why we end up having a lot of cousins, and there is a sense of pride throughout the whole family to see the others succeed in life.”

This close relationship helps keep family members accountable to and for each other, he says. Saul, who graduated last May, says he loves seeing his little brother involved with student body leadership. “It also makes me happy to know my family is safe, having a good time, and working hard to be successful in life after college,” he says. While the cousins were growing up together, they were fiercely competitive with one another. “Everything we did, we were competing with each other,” Arnold says. “It didn’t matter what we were doing.” Some of that competitive spirit drives the family members at Whitworth, as well. It isn’t all competition, however. Alyssa, a psychology major, says they often find themselves sharing similar challenges, goals and frustrations as each season begins. She relies on her cousins for support as much as she does her teammates and coaches. “It’s that family aspect that is so nice to have,” she says.

But I could feel where God was calling me. I knew God would use me at Whitworth to be a light for Him.

Alyssa (Martinez) Vargas, ’04

“Those people push you in ways beyond athletics and you don’t want to be the person who is not doing your best all the time.”

The small-community aspect was also an important factor for each of them as they chose to attend Whitworth. “Whitworth keeps us connected,” says Kristynn, who married Pirates wide receiver Devon Lind, ’14, also from Othello, in 2011. Kristynn says this helped her make the transition from a bigger city like Seattle, because in some ways it felt like coming home. Both Kristynn and Alyssa compare the Whitworth community to Othello. “Not only do I have family members here, but I’ve made family members here. Community is a huge thing for us,” Alyssa says. But how did the family discover Whitworth in the first place? Samson and Saul’s aunt Angelica (Martinez) Vargas, ’04, was the first family member to visit the campus and apply. “I could feel where God was calling me,” she says. “I knew God would use me at Whitworth to be a light for him.” However, the cost of tuition was an immediate barrier. One of her sisters and then-Vice President for Student Life Kathy Storm intervened on her behalf, and the financial aid office came up with a package that ultimately allowed her to attend. “It still brings me to tears thinking about it,” says Angelica, who is now married with one daughter. “It was something God was showing me, an example of his faithfulness to me and our family.” Angelica’s father is Samson and Saul’s grandpa, the boy who watched the school bus drive by the field each morning.

Angelica’s positive Whitworth experience was something that led her nephew, Zenaido Martinez III, to check out the school. Zenaido says he wasn’t necessarily looking for a Christian school; he was more interested in high academic standards. He studied in Mexico one summer, and re-dedicated his life to God on that trip. “One weekend we were parasailing together, and they couldn’t bring me down for whatever reason,” Zenaido says. “So I was up there for an hour and 15 minutes. It was during this period that I dedicated myself to God. Something happened up there that just changed me, and I saw God in a whole new light. When I came back down they looked at me and they said, ‘You look different.’ My life changed from that moment on.”

Zenaido played football for the Pirates, but transferred to Evangel University after his sophomore year. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business and went on to earn an MBA from Colorado Christian University. Today he is married, with four children, and he works as an operations engineer at the Hanford nuclear site. After admitting, laughing, that “Unfortunately, I beat up on them [the pesky younger cousin] quite a bit!” Zenaido says the three words that betray his love for them and his pride in their accomplishments. It might be the unofficial motto of the Martinezes and Garzas: “Family is everything,” he says. He, his aunts and cousins have fulfilled the dream of an education that Zenaido, Sr., had for their family.
answering the Call

M.A. in theology program equips ministry leaders to serve their churches, communities

By Emily Brandler Proffitt, ’05

O ne a seasoned minister and the other just beginning her career in ministry, both Wittwer and Dufault felt God calling them to receive additional theological education in order to serve those under their care most effectively. And both discovered that the Whitworth Master of Arts in Theology Program could help them answer that call.

“This program was a perfect fit for me, and I loved it,” says Wittwer, who graduated in 2011. “It helped my thinking, which has bled into my leadership and the way I work with people, and I’ve had a lot of people comment that they’ve noticed a new depth, theologically and historically, to my preaching.”

Launched in 2008, Whitworth’s M.A. in theology program is intended for lifelong learners who want to deepen their faith and enrich their Christian vocation. The program equips men and women to serve the church and society by integrating theological education, practical application and spiritual formation. It is designed for people who work full time, so it’s offered in a convenient, part-time schedule, allowing students to set their own date for completion.

“We wanted to deliver graduate theological education in a way that was true to our mission and sensitive to the needs of the church,” says Whitworth Professor of Theology and Master of Arts in Theology Program Director Jerry Sittser. “We saw an opportunity to start a new program that reflected our deepest convictions about how theological education should be done.”

Sittser says those convictions called for a part-time program that focused on both applied learning and classroom work. Program courses are rooted in classical theological disciplines, but they also have a required practical component so that students can apply their classical learning to concrete ministry situations, he says.

“We don’t want students dropping out of ministry to get an education, when part of their education should be their deep sense of involvement in and commitment to the church or to parachurch organizations or local ministries,” Sittser says. “We wanted to offer a graduate theological education that was more like a medical residency program, which prepares students for practice, than a typical humanities Ph.D. program that prepares scholars.”

The program draws applicants from a wide range of denominations and professional backgrounds. Students hail from all parts of the Inland Northwest, and graduates have gone on to plant churches, to assume higher positions of leadership at their home churches, and to earn D.Min. degrees, among other pursuits. Whitworth has articulation agreements with both Princeton and Fuller theological seminaries, which ensure that M.A. in theology program students’ credits will transfer to those institutions. The university will form partnerships with additional seminaries as the need arises, Sittser says.

Students in the program meet on campus one weekend a month and take additional week-long intensive courses on campus in the summer. They complete supplemental coursework online, as well. Whitworth’s full-time theology faculty teach the core courses, with electives offered by adjuncts in students’ specific areas of interest, such as pastoral care and counseling, public theology, and Christian culture.

The program is built around a cohort model, in which a group of students completes core courses together, following the program sequentially. Every new class begins with a banquet, and students eat several meals together following the program sequentially. Every new class begins with a banquet, and students eat several meals together over the course of a class. Each course also has built-in worship times.

“We are a Christian community living out faith together, not just sitting in a classroom,” Sittser says.
The road home

For Dufault, returning to Whitworth to earn her master's degree was an unexpected next step in her vocational journey. After completing her bachelor's degree, Dufault spent a year in Costa Rica helping establish Whitworth's center there. She then returned to Spokane and started working at The Porch, a church planted by Garland Alliance Church, which she had attended as an undergrad. Diving deeper into pastoral ministry, she saw all the different pieces of her passions come together. She began looking for a part-time graduate theology program that she could complete at her own pace, in her own city. For the second time in her life, her search for the right educational fit brought her to Whitworth.

"When I came back to campus I thought, 'Well, hey there, Whitworth, I didn't think I'd get to see you again so soon,'" she says. "It is the perfect program for what I need, plus the classes are blowing my mind and changing how I look at my faith and how I do ministry." Dufault hopes to finish her degree within three years. She's currently working on being licensed within the Christian & Missionary Alliance denomination. Once licensed, she will begin a two- to three-year training track within the denomination, culminating in her consecration as a pastor.

Dufault says that financing her degree has been a challenge, but a grant she received through Whitworth has offset a substantial portion of her tuition costs. Whitworth's ability to create and maintain such scholarships will be key to building the program, because so many of its students are financially challenged due to their involvement or planned involvement in ministry and nonprofit-related professions, says Cheryl Vawter, '94, associate vice president for graduate admissions and continuing studies.

"Unlike many students in our other graduate and continuing education programs, students aren't choosing the program based on the expectation that they will one day get a financial return on their educational investment," Vawter says. "While everything we do at Whitworth is directly tied to our mission, the M.A. in theology is particularly close to the heart of who we are as an institution."

Building the network

Another key to building the program will be bolstering its connections to Christian communities across the Inland Northwest, says Whitworth Lecturer in Theology Jeremy Wynne, '99, the program's new assistant director. Wynne is working on networking with Christian leaders in the region to raise awareness about the program and to help them see how it can be a valuable partner in their various ministries.

"It's really the only program of its kind in this area, but at this point there are still many people who don't know we're here and aren't aware of how accessible this program is to people with families and full-time jobs," Wynne says. In addition to relationship-building, Wynne is also focusing on increasing the program's diversity with regard to the ministry interests of its students, the areas of expertise of its faculty, and the types of electives it offers. He says the program recently added a master's thesis option for students who want to focus on research. The program is also adding classes focused on different aspects of ministry: a course in youth ministry, a course focusing on worshipping within Christian communities, and classes focused on mission, particularly the global Christian movement.

"We're finding opportunities to be stronger and applying ourselves to that," Wynne says. "This is a community that is passionate about learning and studying the gospel. They love what they do, and that's why they're doing this program. We want to support them in that."

NAME: Emily Dufault
AGE: 26
HOMETOWN: Moses Lake, Wash.
EDUCATION: Earned a bachelor's degree in cross-cultural studies and peace studies from Whitworth in 2010
CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Hopes to become consecrated as a pastor within the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church
FAVORITE PART OF THE M.A. IN THEOLOGY PROGRAM: The cohort model, which allows her to get to know people from a wide range of denominational backgrounds, life experiences, and ministry areas
QUOTE: "This is the right program for me. I'm getting high-level academic theological studies in a way that's directly applied to how I'm doing ministry, so I'm able to put it to use immediately."
TODAY

allowed the institution to survive. At first glance, this was Whitworth's founding. But this year, in 2014, we are celebrating the university's enduring mission and those who have supported and sustained Whitworth across 100 successful years.

By Dale Soden

Next year we will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Whitworth's founding. But this year, in 2014, we are celebrating Whitworth's 100th year in Spokane.

In a simple sense, Whitworth's move from Tacoma in 1914 allowed the institution to survive. At first glance, this was because people in Spokane donated land and raised money. But the college also survived because students, faculty and trustees fought for Whitworth.

Tacoma, nicknamed the City of Destiny, seemed a perfect fit for Whitworth. The school undeservedly enjoyed the most beautiful setting of any college in the Northwest: the campus acreage platted and sold, with roughly 50 percent of the proceeds going to Whitworth's relocation and had provided much-needed vision and leadership, died after a sudden illness.

Long's fellow trustees were so uncertain the college would survive that they decided to merge with another Protestant college in Spokane. It appears they had approved the merger, but it fell apart at the last minute.

Students and faculty pressed on to fight for Whitworth's success. School spirit helped sustain the fledgling campus through tough times, as students brought with them traditions from Tacoma, including Mayfest, the Colonial Party, and Campus Day, which is now Community Building Day. Faculty not only taught classes; they also filled multiple other roles. One such professor was David Guy. A 1909 alumnus, Guy was a true believer in Whitworth. He taught math and civil engineering, coached the athletics teams, was campus surveyor and dean of men, and sang second tenor in Whitworth's quartet.

By Dale Soden, Ph.D., is a professor of history, the campus historian, and director of the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith & Learning at Whitworth.

To read Soden's spring 2014 Convocation presentation about Whitworth's move to Spokane and to view accompanying photos, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.
Whitworth Auxiliary Endows Scholarship to Celebrate 100 Years

Next year, on the occasion of the Whitworth Auxiliary’s 100th anniversary, its members will present the first Whitworth Auxiliary Endowed Scholarship to a deserving Whitworth student. Over the years, the auxiliary has raised nearly $200,000 to assist Whitworth students. Members raise funds through their annual Fall Luncheon & Bazaar, their Winter Bazaar & Bake Sale, and their Spring Tea & Style Show.

In 1915, the group began meeting in the living rooms of its members’ homes. The women followed the core tenet “to pray, to plan, and to promote.” They made curtains and pillows for residence halls and acted as dorm mothers for hall residents. And they continued, throughout the 20th century – and now into the 21st – to make students comfortable at Whitworth.

“We wallpapered, we painted, and we had all the pianos tuned every summer,” says Marilyn Stedman, a member of the auxiliary since 1975. “I joined because my daughter was a Whitworth student, and Dorothy Farr-Dixon, the daughter of the auxiliary’s founder, asked me to. Dorothy was a grand lady. She said ‘Let’s do it!’ and we did it.”

Mary Lee Nickoloff, ’64, the current president of the auxiliary, says that one of her favorite aspects of the auxiliary is “being able to give back to Whitworth all of the great things that I received during my time there.” Nickoloff sees the auxiliary as an opportunity for fellowship “with a really neat group of Christian ladies who support and care for each other.”

In its 100th year, in addition to its original goal of making residence halls homes-away-from-home for Whitworth students, the auxiliary also addresses students’ financial needs, through gifts to the President’s Discretionary Fund, travel money for Hawaiian and international students, and the new endowed scholarship.

The Whitworth Auxiliary also raises funds through the sale of cutlery and its new cookbook, Tasty Treasures: Tried and True Recipes from the Whitworth Auxiliary (available through the Whitworth Bookstore). If you are interested in joining the auxiliary, please contact member Beth Davis at 509.777.4268.

The Bread of Life x 600,000

This spring, as Whitworth celebrated a century in Spokane, the Associated Students of Whitworth University gave back to our city and our region, and to hungry people far beyond our borders through a program they christened the Million Meals Campaign. Over the course of the 2013-14 academic year, ASWU devoted countless person-hours, considerable shoe-leather, a strong desire to help others, and boundless enthusiasm to raising $150,000 for people who are hungry and in need. ASWU partnered with the local nonprofit Generation Alive and its founder, San Francisco Giants pitcher Jeremy Affeldt, to see this project through. Though the effort fell a bit short of the one million meals Whitworth hoped to prepare, more than 1,200 Whitworthians — students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and community volunteers — showed up on Saturday, May 3, to package more than 600,000 meals, which were then distributed by Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest to hungry people here in the Inland Northwest, as well as to Nicaraguans in need.

Yeo Yeo! Wind Symphony Hosts Boston Trombonist

In May, the Whitworth Wind Symphony performed at the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, in downtown Spokane, with guest artist Douglas Yeo, who was bass trombonist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops for 27 years. Earlier this spring, the wind symphony toured California, performing from the Bay Area to San Diego.
Meet the Provost

Carol Simon leads implementation of Whitworth’s academic goals

Caroline Simon, Ph.D., joined Whitworth last July as provost and executive vice president. She succeeds Michael LeRoy, ’89, who is now president of Calvin College, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Prior to joining Whitworth, Simon, who prefers to be called Carol, served as associate dean for teaching and learning at Hope College, in Holland, Mich. She previously held numerous administrative leadership roles at Hope and served on the college’s board of trustees. As a faculty member, she held the John and Jeanne Jacobson Endowed Professorship, a rotating, four-year appointment, and chaired the philosophy department for six years.

While engaged in administrative leadership, Simon has continued to write about virtue and human affection. She has authored, co-authored and edited five books, including Can Hope Endure? A Historical Case Study in Christian Higher Education (Eerdmans, 2005), and Mentoring for Mission: Nurturing New Faculty at Church-Related Colleges (Eerdmans, 2003). She has also published more than two dozen articles. Simon holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Washington, and a B.S. in philosophy from the University of Oregon.

By way of introduction to her new community, Simon answered a few questions for Whitworth Today about her new position and the ways in which she approaches her work and her life.

Q & A with Carol

What was appealing about taking on the role of provost at Whitworth?

Being provost at Whitworth means working with talented, dedicated faculty and staff to educate students in mind and heart. What could be more important and satisfying than that?

Why do big ideas matter in a world where higher education often seems to be all about training graduates for jobs?

Big idea matter because, no matter what we are doing for a living, we want to live lives that make a difference for good in the world. We need to continually ask ourselves how to honor God, follow Christ and genuinely serve humanity. Those things don’t happen automatically. We need to be lifelong learners and reflective human beings in order to live lives that honor God.

How have you balanced your family and social life with your successful professional life and its demands?

I often haven’t balanced these very well. I am fortunate to have a wonderful husband, fantastic children and great friends. I am also fortunate to love my work.

What would you like to be your No. 1 accomplishment at Whitworth?

I would like to help Whitworth grow into its own ideals. If it turns out that Whitworth is better equipped to be its best self than it was before I became its provost, I will be satisfied with what I’ve accomplished.

Are you (secretly or otherwise) rooting for the Hope women in the NCAA Division III tournament? (Note: Simon answered this question in March, when the women’s DIII championship was still up in the air.)

Unfortunately, neither Whitworth nor Hope won the national championship.

When the Whitworth women beat Whitman in basketball, I had two reasons for rejoicing: That got Whitworth into the NCAA tournament and it may help Hope College women move up in their rankings. If Whitworth meets Hope in a playoff game, I’ll root for Whitworth, of course.

A Season of Change

Board’s evolution evokes thanks, anticipation, sadness

The Whitworth Board of Trustees saw a number of changes this spring as the chair stepped down, his successor stepped up, and the trustees— and the entire Whitworth community—bade farewell to one of the board’s most popular longtime members.

Walt Oliver, ’67, says it was a pleasure for him to serve as board chair (for six stellar years), and he is looking forward to continuing his service as a trustee.

Under his leadership, the university transitioned to a new president, and Oliver helped shape an ambitious 10-year strategic plan, oversaw major additions to the campus, and, with the board, ensured Whitworth’s continuity by extending President Beck A. Taylor’s contract through the 2019-20 academic year. “Whitworth has prospered tremendously under Walt’s careful leadership,” Taylor says. “His tireless and generous dedication to Whitworth’s mission has helped solidify the institution as an integral figure in Christian liberal arts education in the U.S.”

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Big idea matter because, no matter what we are doing for a living, we want to live lives that make a difference for good in the world. We need to continually ask ourselves how to honor God, follow Christ and genuinely serve humanity. Those things don’t happen automatically. We need to be lifelong learners and reflective human beings in order to live lives that honor God.

How have you balanced your family and social life with your successful professional life and its demands?

I often haven’t balanced these very well. I am fortunate to have a wonderful husband, fantastic children and great friends. I am also fortunate to love my work.

What would you like to be your No. 1 accomplishment at Whitworth?

I would like to help Whitworth grow into its own ideals. If it turns out that Whitworth is better equipped to be its best self than it was before I became its provost, I will be satisfied with what I’ve accomplished.

Are you (secretly or otherwise) rooting for the Hope women in the NCAA Division III tournament? (Note: Simon answered this question in March, when the women’s DIII championship was still up in the air.)

Unfortunately, neither Whitworth nor Hope won the national championship.

When the Whitworth women beat Whitman in basketball, I had two reasons for rejoicing: That got Whitworth into the NCAA tournament and it may help Hope College women move up in their rankings. If Whitworth meets Hope in a playoff game, I’ll root for Whitworth, of course.

A Season of Change
Lucky Seven, Plus 300

Whitworth wins all-sports trophy, Higgs reaches milestone

For the seventh consecutive year, Whitworth Athletics has claimed the McIlroy-Lewis All-Sports Trophy, bestowed upon the most successful athletics program in the Northwest Conference. And Women’s Head Basketball Coach Helen Higgs won her 300th game, becoming the Bucs’ “winningest” and longest-tenured basketball coach.

Whitworth won the McIlroy-Lewis over runner-up Pacific Lutheran by a final tally of 248 points to 201. The Pirates won championships in men’s swimming, men’s basketball and men’s track & field. Whitworth earned additional points toward the trophy with excellent finishes in a number of other varsity sports.

The all-sports trophy recognizes excellence among Northwest Conference institutions across all fields of competition. It is named in honor of John Lewis, who coached baseball and basketball and served as athletics director at Willamette University in the ’40s, ’50s, ’60s and early ’70s; and Jane McIlroy, Linfield College’s education professor, who also coached women’s athletics director and physical education professor, who also coached field hockey, basketball, volleyball, softball and tennis during her 31-year tenure.

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Higgs’ accomplishment is singular: She has now coached -- and won -- more basketball games than anyone else in Whitworth history. Having just completed her 20th season at the helm of the Bucs, Higgs and her teams have put together the best stretch of records in school history. Whitworth were 124-53 (.700) in seven seasons, from 1999-2005. In 2002-03, Higgs led the Pirates to a NCAA title and an overall record of 19-7, including a win over eventual NCAA Division III finalist Eastern Connecticut State.

In 2004-05 Higgs led the Pirates to a 22-1 record, the best single-season mark ever at Whitworth. This season, Whitworth repeated as NCAA tournament champion, earned her second straight automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, and won the program’s first NCAA tournament game. The Pirates also beat No. 1 ranked Whitman, whose only other 2013-14 loss was to Fairleigh-Dickinson Flohrum (Madison, N.J.) in the national championship game.

“Helen also wins in the lives of her players,” says interim A.D. Larson. “She has coached, taught and mentored student-athletes throughout her career as a servant-leader with a big heart and a love for her players.”

Click! Business-plan competition launches Whitworthian, partner

Devon Lind, ’14, and Michael Fisk are two creative guys with one common vision: “We just want to do remarkable things,” says Fisk, who first met Lind at True Hope Church, in Spokane. Their most recent collaboration, Photoboxx, took first place in the open category at the 2014 Inland Northwest Business Plan Competition, hosted at Whitworth in April.

Photoboxx is a social-media printing station used at events to print images taken with mobile devices. Not only does it provide users with a fun way to remember or commemorate an event, it also requires that users utilize the event hashtag to receive their photo. This is the key element in Photoboxx’s usefulness, turning it into an organic marketing tool that pushes out the name of the event, business or brand hosting the event.

Lind and Fisk first collaborated at True Hope. The duo built a website called “Ask a Pastor Anything,” which became a city-wide campaign that encouraged visitors to ask any question about Christianity that they wanted answered. Over the course of a couple months, questions piled into the site and were voted on by users. Top-rated questions were then answered in a seven-week pastoring series at True Hope.

The idea for Photoboxx popped up a little more than a year ago, Fisk originally thought it would be a good extension of his photography and photo-booth business. Lind joined as lead developer, and the duo decided to launch Photoboxx as a stand-alone company after they received positive interest from potential clients, including the Spokane Arena, CenturyLink Field, in Seattle, and Circus Circus Hotel & Casino, in Las Vegas.

To learn more about Photoboxx, visit photoboxx.com.

Spaun Makes Impressive Publishing Debut

Grad’s co-authored study lands Science cover

Ben Spaun, ’08, a bright star in Whitworth’s alumni constellation, has distinguished himself throughout his career as an undergraduate physics and math double-major, as a doctoral student at Harvard, and, now, as co-author of a study published in (and featured on the cover of) Science, one of his field’s most prestigious scholarly journals.

“Ben is a member of a large team of researchers at Harvard and Yale who are investigating the shape of an electron,” says Whitworth Associate Professor of Physics Kamesh Sankaran. “The significance of their result is attested to by the front-page publicity that Science has accorded to it.” The article, “Order of Magnitude Smaller Limit on the Electric Dipole Moment of the Electron,” appears in the Dec. 13, 2013, issue of the magazine. This article touches on a fundamental question regarding the nature of the physical world,” Sankaran says. “The shape of an electron might not seem to be a significant (or important) issue to study, but it has a profound implication on the nature of matter.”

Spaun’s intellectual bona fides have never been in question at Whitworth. In his junior year, he won a competitive Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, awarded annually to top math, science and engineering students nationwide. In 2005, Spaun and Sankaran conducted research on plasma rockets at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. The following summer, Spaun conducted nuclear research at Duke University. And in 2007 he completed a research project in condensed-matter physics at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Before graduating from Whitworth (as a President’s Cup honoree, with a 4.0 grade-point average), Spaun landed the Carroll-Thomas Research Fellowship, the University of Colorado at Boulder.

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National Champs – Again!

For the second year in a row, Whitworth’s forensics team, with program director Mike Ingram at the helm, took first in the overall sweepstakes at the National Christian College Forensics Association Tournament. The tournament featured 28 Christian schools that are members of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. Whitworth finished ahead of schools including Azusa Pacific, Biola, Colorado Christian, Dordt, Liberty and Wheaton. The team also brought home 23 individual speeches and 12 individual debate awards, including three national speech champions and five national debate champions. “To win this tournament again illustrates the breadth and depth of our team, and our staying power in both individual speech events and debate,” Ingram says. “Our Match Madness wins are no fluke – our team is here to stay!”
Three for the Road

Bloxham, Williams, Yoder hit the emeritus trail

This year’s faculty retirees have covered a broad range of research, reading and experience. As Laura Bloxham, ’69, Betty Williams and John Yoder prepare to depart their current teaching and research duties, all three plan to remain lifelong learners, and one, at least, dreams of a trip down the Congo with a few friends.

When asked what has changed most at Whitworth during their tenure here, Bloxham (English) says, “I especially appreciate the balance in the English department between canonical texts and classes with cutting-edge texts and classes, and I appreciate the creation of the women and gender studies minor and its programming.” Williams (Education) believes that “Whitworth has done an admirable job staying on the front edge of innovation in higher education while maintaining the personal touch that Whitworth College embodied.” And Yoder (Political Science) takes a practical tack: “Stepping onto campus these days, one is impressed with the handsome buildings and the beautiful landscaping,” he says. But Yoder also lauds the many things that haven’t changed. “Whitworth remains a school deeply committed to good teaching, to helping students navigate a formative time in their lives, and to the pursuit of knowledge and Christian faith,” he says.

Asked what will be hard to leave behind, Bloxham cites “Teaching, Office time with students and colleagues.” Williams says she’ll miss “the passionate energy of 20-somethings,” and “the great privilege of learning from keen minds, witnessing countless acts of kindness, and always knowing supportive and caring friends were within an arm’s length.” Yoder concurs. “I’ll miss the close interaction with colleagues and the joy of working with students as they encounter new ideas and make choices that will shape the rest of their lives,” he says.

And what does the future hold for these longtime faculty members? Bloxham says she plans to teach next year as an adjunct. Williams says she may sleep for a month and then “spend more time writing fiction, traveling, visiting with family, and generally enjoying this good earth that surrounds us.” Yoder (the one who dreams of adventuring down the Congo) has research and writing projects to finish, and he says that he and his wife, Janet, “have a few more places in the world we want to visit – perhaps on a long freighter trip.” The final component of his plan, though, echoes the thoughts of retirees, from Whitworth and elsewhere, through the ages: “Not being so busy and spending more time with my family are the two things I look forward to the most,” he says.

Whitworth Today learned late of two additional faculty retirements. We will include a piece on Robert Clark (Sociology) and Dinorah Scott (World Languages & Cultures) in our full issue.

Whitworth to Welcome New Faculty

This September, the Whitworth faculty will welcome four new full-time assistant professors, all making the move from points far east of Spokane.

Kira Austin, who joins the School of Education as an assistant professor, earned her Ph.D. and her M.Ed. at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she received her B.A. from Liberty University (Va.). Most recently, she was a program specialist with the Virginia Department of Education’s Training and Technical Assistance Center at VCU. From 2007-11, she served as a special education teacher for Chesterfield County (Va.) Public Schools.

Joining the biology department as an assistant professor is Aaron Putzke, who comes to Whitworth from Hope College, in Michigan. Putzke is currently an assistant professor at Hope, where he’s taught since 2009. He earned his Ph.D. from U.C. Santa Barbara, his master’s degree from DeVap University (Ill.), and his B.S. from Pepperdine University (Calif.). He also did postdoctoral work at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, in Seattle.

Dave & Carol Myers Endow Professorship in the Liberal Arts

In April, trustee and alumnus Dave Myers, ’64, and Carol (Peretkin, ’65) Myers established the Amy M. Ryan Professorship in the Liberal Arts. The $1.5 million endowment honors Carol’s grandmother, Amy (Johns) Ryan, who attended Whitworth from 1894-97.

The professorship within the College of Arts & Sciences will be awarded to an outstanding faculty member who embodies Ryan’s love of learning, her skill in writing, and her innovative spirit; who values the mainline church and the aspirations of women; and who exhibits dedication to students and compassion for all.

“We’re especially grateful for the care and thoughtfulness that went into designing this gift in a way that honors the things in life that were most important to Amy M. Ryan,” says Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Noelle Wiersma, ’90. “Those are the very same things that are central to an excellent Christian liberal arts education.”

Ryan was an editor of Whitworth’s student newspaper. She passed the teachers’ examination in 1897 and taught for four years before marrying Harry Ryan, Class of 1898. She served as Sunday School superintendent of Summer Presbyterian Church for 25 years, as president of the Spokane and Olympia Presbyteries (women’s groups that promoted missions within presbyteries), and on the Presbyterian Church’s boards of national and foreign missions.

We’ll Remember Always . . .

On Sunday, May 18, 630 members of the Whitworth Class of 2014 trod the stage of the Spokane Arena to receive their diplomas – along with the plaudits of faculty, administration, friends and family – as they celebrated their graduation at Whitworth’s 124th Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. Keynote speaker for the ceremony was Spokane Mayor David Condon. On Saturday, May 17, Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor spoke at Graduate Commencement, in Cowles Auditorium, where 85 candidates received their master’s degrees before an equally appreciative audience. Congratulations to the Whitworth Class of 2014!
John Yoder
Professor of Political Science

John Yoder specializes in African politics, conflict resolution and political philosophy. A professor at Whitworth since 1980, he co-founded Whitworth’s South Africa Jan Term Study Program, and he developed and led the Tanzania semester-long program, which launched in 2012. During his tenure at Whitworth’s Fulbright advisor, the university was a three-time top national producer of students who received Fulbright awards. Yoder was honored in 2001 with a Fulbright Alumni Initiative Award to expand a conflict-resolution program that he had helped establish at Daystar University, in Kenya, and he was selected to serve as an election monitor in Liberia and Sierra Leone with the Carter Center and the National Democratic Institute, respectively. He is also the author of the books Popular Political Culture, Civil Society, and State Crisis in Liberia and The Korey of Zaire: An Institutional and Ideological History to 1895. His three-year phased retirement from Whitworth concluded in May 2014.

Whitworth Alumna: Molly (Griffith) Burger, ’92

B.A. in Political Science and International Studies; Minor in French
M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Austin Peay State University

Molly Burger is in her first year as the middle-school principal of Saigon South International School, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Previously, she was the principal of Middleton Middle School, in Idaho, for 10 years.

I used to feel like I was busy. Too busy. I had a million things going on, like most adults. (I’m still a little miffed that nobody told me adulthood was going to mean being busy. I really expected more leisure time, like when I was 12. Alas.) Between a full teaching load, editing a literary magazine, running a small poetry press, serving on a board of directors (and several associated committees), volunteering in my neighborhood, going to church and engaging in various discipleship activities (meetings, teaching, programmatically hanging out), working my garden, being a father, a husband, and an artist, going to Cub Scouts, grading and grading and grading papers... I was exhausted. And I was doing none of these things well.

A couple of summers ago, my wife and I were part of a class, Gospel Fluency, at our church. We looked at ways the gospel has shaped our lives and identities, and how to respond to such humbling grace. I complained eloquently (“I know everyone is busy, but I am the busiest!”). When I finished speaking, a classmate said, “You get to do a lot of cool things.” I was dumbfounded and didn’t say another word the rest of the class. I thought about the cool things I get to do work with Whitworth students, Rock & Sling, Sage Hill Press, Project Hope Spokane, West Central Marketplace, and mission

community, grow food, raise children, and be married, write poems and share them with people.

The more I thought about it, the more those things started to emerge. They were cool things I get to do, they were great places God had put me, and they were all essentially the same: they were about building and sustaining community. They were about sharing, and the goodness of God, and about meeting with people, talking with them, understanding them, helping them, and being helped by them. So instead of having five jobs and a dozen different commitments, I had one big workplace, and my job was to help people make connections and to show them the great things going on in our community.

Last fall, I was selected as Spokane’s first poet laureate. It was a tremendous honor, and I was excited to start the work. Many people were confounded, though. “You’re already so busy. How can you do one more thing?” I heard that often. But since my job is all one thing, being poet laureate doesn’t feel like more. And it has connected me to several larger artistic communities in Spokane: performance and slam poetry, and arts organizing. I’ve met hundreds of people working to make Spokane better. They are doing amazing things, and I get to help; I also get to share my work with them, and tell them about Rock & Sling, and get Whitworth students involved. The circles of connection grow larger.

One of my hopes as poet laureate is to coordinate all of the reading series currently running in Spokane, to provide a central place for Spokaneites to check in and see what is going on in their city. Students and others complain from time to time about Spokane’s lack of culture and dearth of arts events, but if I chose to, I could attend a reading, show, gallery opening or play each day of the week. All across the city, you can find people making meaningful works of art. Writing poetry requires the ability to see the world differently, and to refine the common as miraculous, sacred. I live in West Central, and most people dismiss the neighborhood as hopeless. They call it “Felony Flats.” But if you look at it differently, it’s the most beautiful neighborhood in Spokane, full of hope and true community. When we choose to view our work, our communities and our world in new ways, our lives may not become less busy, but our purpose can become beautiful.

Thom Caraway joined the Whitworth English Department in 2028. He teaches fiction, nonfiction and poetry writing, and literary editing and design. He is also the editor-in-chief of Rock & Sling, the university’s literary journal.
2010s DEPARTURE

Charlotte R. (Ballard) Stenton, '13, died Jan. 10.

2000s

2000 Udita (Jones) Reid earned her national certification as a neuroscience registered nurse and is now a neurology trauma registered nurse at Salem Hospital, in Salem, Ore. Her husband, Tyler, '99, earned his Ed. D from Williamette University’s law school in May 2012 and is now a defense attorney in Lim County.

2003 Joshua Robbins published his first book of poetry, Poiesis Nothing, with the University of Arkansas Press, last spring. He is an assistant professor of English and creative writing at the University of the Incarnate Word, in San Antonio.

2002 Jeremy and Luta Garbat-Welch have been appointed as mission co-workers with the PCUSA. They are partnering with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Church, in Malawi, as well as with other churches across Africa. Bill Kofinger is enrolled in the D.Min. program at Dallas Theological Seminary. Adam Walker Cleaveland accepted a call as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, in West Seattle.

2004 Virgiliana (Way) Pickering completed her first year as the pastor of Lawrence Hall of Science, in Berkeley, Calif. The wedding party included JJ Jones, '06, Kosheno Moore, '07, Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, Melissa (Oyster) Agee, '06, and Richard Rockefeller, '12.

2005 Muchmore, '09, and Nathan (Allen) Muchmore, '11, married on June 14, 2013. Their wedding party included Corey (Hinrichs) Elise (Hinrichs), '09, and Timothy Hershberger, '10, as well as with other churches across Africa. Bill Kofinger is enrolled in the D.Min. program at Dallas Theological Seminary. Adam Walker Cleaveland accepted a call as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, in West Seattle.

2006 Brian Frasier received his MBA from George Fox University in 2006. In 2007, he married Linda Johnson for fun, she does cycling classes in the Inland Northwest. For fun, she does cyclocross biking in the Inland Northwest.

2007 Melissa Knoch married Ryan Taunum in April 2013 in Sumner, Wash. The wedding party included Marcie Koch, '03, Meli (Egleston) Good, '05, Nicholas (Stailer) Gary and Keith Higland, other Pilates in attendance were Bonnie (Mince) Weir, '90, Dave Visser and Kate (Baukema) Johnson, both '09, Erin (Smith) Lambert, '07, and Amber Holder.

2008 Christopher Greenwood, MAT, is in his sixth year of teaching math at Rogers High School, in Spokane. In his fourth year, he has completed his National Board Certification. Alex Kao married Ben Brost, '05, on June 22, 2013.

2009 in attendance were John, '04, and Emily (Brandor) Proffitt, '05. April (Boast) Smith, '05, Breanne Durant, Bryan and Meghan (Putnam) Tate, Douglas, Nick and Addie (Estes) Greene, Justin Brandier and Sarah Williams, all '09; Daniel Repsold, '10; Morally Brost, '13; and Amanda Muchmore, '15.

2010 Last June, Lish Aven successfully defended her dissertation on molecular medicine at Boston University. She continues her research on childhood asthma and its connection with lung innervation. Daniel Fry married Amanda Tufts, '16, in September. In attendance were Kate Swenson, Dish Griffin, Colton Skinner, and Ryan Knuth, '09; Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013.

2011 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2012 Bethany Indahl recently returned to her home in Hokkaido, Japan. During her deployment, Bethany assisted in building a retaining wall to protect an area of Thailand that was devastated by the 2004 tsunami, and she worked on various assignments in the Middle East, including the Red Sea, in early September.

2013 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2014 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2015 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2016 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2017 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2018 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2019 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2020 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2021 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2022 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2023 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2024 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.

2025 in attendance were Melissa (Ellis) Johnson, '05, and Ryan Muchmore, '09, and Barb (Uggar) Skinner, Katie (Baldrige) Kimes, Casey (Creech) Zander, Emily (Royall) Schippers and Meghan Woscombe, and Kate (Schmedake), all '16. Henry Williams, '11, and MeganFranze, '11, '13 MIT, in May 2013. Alen Green named her M.A. in museum studies at Johns Hopkins University.
1990s

1999 Rod Hayes is proud to announce that his new novel, Sinful Folk, was published by Campanile Books in January. The book was inspired by New's work with Professor of English Doug Sugino. Sinful Folk is the story of a medieval monk's quest for justice after a woman's murder. The mystery novel has been endorsed by many best-selling writers of historical fiction including Pulitzer Prize-winner William Dietrich.

1992 Michael Smith is an eight-time Hospfest champion.

1993 James Powers suffered a massive stroke in March 2010 and has humanized numerous settings since then. He has left behind his mother, Donna K. (Dittman), his father, John A. (Dittman), and his wife, Donna K. (Barker). His legacy, they answered that they'd like to leave love, and their devotion to the mission of the university.

1997 Brent and Amy recently returned to school, studying organic farming Neighborhood's volunteer and intern programs and Neighborhood's endeavors, Amy developed Global GN Clean in 2013. Brent has also taught as an adjunct in 2007 while finishing his M.A. in global urban area for Adam's new job on the faculty of the Andover-Newton Theological School.

1998 Christy Lang Hearlson is working on a Ph.D. and is the associate chief of psychology at Oregon State Hospital, in Salem, Ore. She has been endorsed by many best-selling writers of historical fiction including Jennifer is a psychiatric social worker.

1999 Eric Hurtt has been endorsed by many best-selling writers of historical fiction including Tatyana (Fedchun), Jan. 7, 2013. She has been endorsed by many best-selling writers of historical fiction including Jennifer is a psychiatric social worker.

2000 Gary K. Wright, ’83, died Aug. 11, 2013. He has been endorsed by many best-selling writers of historical fiction including Tiffanie (Hart) and Devon, ’08, are embarking on their new career in higher education as the executive assistant at the president of Corban University. In large part, Jodi credits her undergraduate studies. After her diagnosis, she tried to move on with her life "with the loving support of my husband and to live my life for Him in spite of having a debilitating illness."

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Alumni Service to Whitworth Award 2014

Gail (Warner) Fielding, ’62

Few people can say that they’ve spent half of their life at their alma mater, but alumna Gail Fielding can say exactly that. During her time here as a student, she majored in Christian education and worked in Whitworth’s library. Fielding eventually returned to the library, serving there for 37 years, until her retirement as interlibrary loan specialist, in December 2012.

After graduating from Whitworth, Fielding worked at the University of Louisville Library and at public libraries in Southern California. She also served at the medical library she had established at Holy Family Hospital while she was a consultant with Gospel Light Publications, and she was the director of children’s ministries at Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church. Fielding’s contributions to Whitworth are many and varied. She has acted as team mom for the basketball team for more than 30 years; has worked at the University of Louisville Library and at public libraries in Southern California; returned to the library, serving there for 37 years; can say exactly that. During her time here as a student, she majored in Christian education and worked in Whitworth’s library. Fielding eventually returned to the library, serving there for 37 years, until her retirement as interlibrary loan specialist, in December 2012.

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Ronald D. Haffter, ’62, died Feb. 15 in Spokane. Ron was inducted into the Whitworth Athletics’ Heritage Gallery Hall of Fame as a member of the Pirates football team of 1951. He married Sally Ann on July 3, 1958. Ron is survived by his wife, son, daughter, brother and sister. Maxine L. (Frisbie) McCallum, ’62, ’77 M.Ed., died June 7, 1996. John A. McCellott, ’63, died Sept. 26, 1999. Harold J. Lux, ’94, died Dec. 13, 2002. Caroline L. L. (Unterschultz) Mills, ’64, died March 4, 2010. Donald E. Blackburn, ’65, died June 3, 2010. Vance D. Beebe, ’65, died Jan. 26. Vance owned and operated the Golden Bull Motel in Boulter, Ohio, with his brother and parents for 50 years. He and his wife, Pam, were married for 25 years. Vance is survived by his wife, daughter, stepbrothers and brother. James M. Simo, Jr., ’66, died Feb. 25, 2007. Jim grew up in Spokane and eventually earned a master of social work degree from the University of Washington. He was a vocational rehabilitation therapist with the State of Washington for 33 years. Jim is survived by his mother, brothers, and many other relatives and friends. Maxine E. (Barnes) Nelson, ’67, ’73 MAT, died Jan. 19, in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Maxine was married to Elton for 67 years before his passing in 2005. Throughout her life, Maxine was a teacher and a small business owner. She was also involved in many community organizations. She is survived by many family members. Emil E. Schmidt, ’67, died Feb. 22. Emil was married to Ruby (Smith), ’69, for 46 years. He taught math and mentored students for 35 years at Saint George’s School, in Spokane. Saint George’s Emil Schmidt Athletics Center was named in his honor. Emil is survived by including his wife and children. Janet (Dalton) Span, ’67, died Oct. 14. Janet was a Women’s Army Corps officer at Fort McClellan, Ala., and Fort Harrison, Ind. She was eventually promoted to 1st Lieutenant and married Lieutenant Colonel Alan Span. Throughout her life, Janet volunteered with various organizations. She is survived by her husband, stepchildren, grandchildren and sister. Clara (Southard) Hunt, ’68, died Dec. 18, 2007. In February 1959, Clara married, ’69, died Nov. 16, 2015. In addition, she was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, for 60 years. Betty is survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1950s

1995s

1960s

1961 Dewey Lehnen and his wife, Put (Bear), ’60, are proud to announce the birth of their first grand-daughter, Cadlin Matthew Lehnen, on Nov. 7, 1998. Dewey retired from United Airlines, where he had worked in inventory management, providing parts to repair aircraft. Now his primary activity is mentoring younger men, challenging them to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

1964 Doreen Bara taught English at Peking University, in Beijing, for one semester after she retired as a school social worker. Peter Coffin provided a 2013 KSPU Northwest Profiles segment on the Arruda Orchards. He has also been researching and writing history articles for the Clinton Deer Park Historic Society’s Mountaineer bulletin.

1969 Nick and Laura (Staub) Bullard enjoy retirement. They have traveled to Kenya, Tanzania and more recently, the Russian and Swiss Alps, where they went hiking. Nick and Laura’s seven-year-old grandson also keeps them active and young. Nancy (Marsh) Canepa retired from teaching high school in June 2010. She is now the women’s ministry director at Christ Community Church of Milpitas, Calif. Jeanette (Powers) Rockwood retired in 2012 after 17 years as an elementary school counselor for the Plano (Texas) Independent School District. She enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren and has a fourth on the way. Jeanette loves serving the Lord and enjoys finding new areas of ministry. Her husband, Jim, continues his marriage and family therapy practice. Laura Sorensen is an avowed nationalist and is active in Freedom from Religion and Freethinkers groups in the San Diego area. She is also busy surfing and playing senior softball.

DEPARTURES

Clarence C. “Conky” Allison, ’60, died Nov. 10 in Spokane. Maryl J. Anderberg, ’61, died Dec. 4. Maryl spent his career teaching biology, anatomy and physiology at Spokane’s Sacajawea High School, Ferris High School and Spokane Falls Community College. He was married to Gertchen for 47 years. He is survived by his wife, children, and many other friends and family members. Margaret M. Grafmiller, ’61, ’65 M.Ed., died April 16, 2005. Dale R. Roberts, ’61, ’72 M.Ed., died Oct. 12 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. For the last 28 years of his public education career, Dale worked in administration with the Coeur d’Alene School District. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, his son and his grandchildren, among other family.

Alumni Discovery Project

Our student ambassadors are busy meeting with alumni across the country to hear their stories about life before, during and after their Whitworth experience. If you receive an invitation and you’d like to know more about the project, please visit www.whitworth.edu/ alumni/discovery

Portland Pirates Launch Chapter

By Lyle Rauh, ’10

The Whitworth Alumni & Parent Portland Chapter hit the ground running with a launch event last November at McMennamins Ringers Pub that featured campus updates and a Core lecture from Professor of Philosophy Forrest Forder. The Portland-based planning team welcomed more than 100 alumni and parents – graduates ranging from the 1950s to 2013. These Whitworthians swapped stories and caught up, and the legacy of an education of mind and heart was clearly evident.

Since then, we’ve sponsored professional networking lunches and we’ve cheered on athletes in teams in games against Lewis & Clark and George Fox. In April, the inaugural Portland Alumni Admissions Forum Brunch convened at McMennamins Kennedy School. Whitworth staffers, current students, recent alumni, and Portland-based parents gathered to share college-decision tips with prospective Whitworth students from the area. There’s a sense of momentum building as the chapter anticipates more events designed to equip former and future Pirates to “honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity.”

If you’re an alum in Portland-metro or Vancouver, stay in the loop by joining the Facebook group Whitworth Pirates in Portland. If you’re a recent or soon-to-be grad putting down roots here, the group is a great place to begin the process of finding a job, housing or a church community. If you’re a native to another city and are hoping to take part in a similar network, contact the Whitworth Office of Alumni & Parent Relations; networks for alumni and parents are launching in the Puget Sound area, Los Angeles and beyond.

Portland Pirates planning team members include Bob Krueger, ’86; Jay Schrader, ’84; John and Kelly (Rodimell) Rasmussen, ’97; Brian Gage, ’91; Lyle, ’10, and Heather (Stevens) Rauls, ’08; Calvin Jurich, ’97; Emilee Rasmussen, ’97; Brian Gage, ’91; Lyle, ’10, and Heather (Stevens) Rauls, ’08; Calvin Jurich, ’97; Emilee Rasmussen, ’97; Brian Gage, ’91; Lyle, ’10, and Heather (Stevens) Rauls, ’08; Calvin Jurich, ’97; Emilee Rasmussen, ’97; Brian Gage, ’91; Lyle, ’10, and Heather (Stevens) Rauls, ’08; Calvin Jurich, ’97; Emilee Rasmussen, ’97; Brian Gage, ’91; Lyle, ’10, and Heather (Stevens) Rauls, ’08.

We’re revved up for the university’s presence here in Portland, and we’re rooting for Pirates across the country as they work to build their Whitworth families at “Home, too.”
Stan Borg, ’82

One of the tenets of Whitworth University’s enduring mission is to instill in its students the desire to serve humanity. Dr. Stan Borg has long exemplified this mission through tireless efforts in the field of medicine and patient care for the less fortunate.

Borg has served his community, and humanity, with distinction, creating programs that have decreased mortality and improved patient safety. The implementation of the statewide Coronary Service Network, for example, has improved post-op results for all patients undergoing bypass surgery in the state of Ohio. In the first year of an electronic prescription program Borg deployed in Illinois, more than 100,000 possible adverse drug interactions were identified and averted. These achievements are remarkable in themselves, but it is the merger of Borg’s personal and professional values that earned him this award. His focus is extended toward the community and toward the individual. His empathy has been apparent in the simplest of actions, from holding the hand of a sick patient to holding vigil with a dying patient who has no family. Respect for human dignity is the foundation on which Borg has built his life and career— and it is this respect that has allowed him to personify the virtues of compassion, intelligence and diligence.

Whitworth is the place that allowed Borg to explore the truths and values that he would go on to represent, and he has come full circle, inspiring current Whitworthians toward lives of service and excellence.

DEPARTURES

Homer C. Castile, ’50, died March 4, 2013. While at Whitworth, Homer met and married Margaret “Maggie” Thoning, ’48. They had two daughters and were married 54 years before she passed away. Homer was an advocate for education and was employed by Great Western Chemical until his retirement in the mid-1980s. Joseph A. Davis, ’50, died Feb. 21. After high school, Joe entered the U.S. Army. He met Faye Hill, ’46, at Whitworth, and they were married on June 14, 1948. Both became teachers. Joe is survived by his wife, daughter, son, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many other family members. Margaret “Peggy” (O’Connor) Dickisson, ’50, died Sept. 16 in Boca Raton, Fla. Peggy worked as a society reporter, a high school teacher and a modern dance teacher. She was a devoted mother and served as the president of multiple Parent Teacher Associations. Peggy is survived by her daughter, son, brother and many other family members. The Rev. Donald N. Fidler, ’56, died Dec. 13, 2012, after a short illness with cancer. Don was an ordained Presbyterian minister for nearly 60 years in Washington. He was married to Barbara for 61 years. He is survived by his wife, daughters, including Donna (Griffin) Christiansen, ’73, son, and brothers, among others. Rabbi Samuel S. Lerner, ’50, died Feb. 5, 2004. Beverly I. (Anderson) Woff, ’50, died Jan. 9, 2017, in Novi, Mich. J. Bechy (Beckwith) Collins, ’50, died Dec. 22, 2010. Frances A. (Anderson) Dols, ’51, died Feb. 12 in her home in Portola Valley, Calif. Fian practiced psychotherapy for more than 30 years. She lived through the deaths of a daughter and three husbands. Fian is survived by her partner, her sisters, her daughter, Susan Daws, ’74, and her son, Bob Daws, ’78, among others. Robert E. Graves, ’52, died Oct. 5. Patricia (Waddell) Little, ’52, died Aug. 29, 2013, in Park Rapids, Minn. Patricia earned a master’s degree from San Francisco State University. She married Robert Little in 1953, and they had two daughters, throughout her life. Pat worked for various Presbyterian and Methodist organizations. Pat is survived by her sister, nieces, and nephews.

Dr. Duwayne Matthews, ’53, died Oct. 16. Dewey was the founding president of the Moses Intermountain Healthcare Foundation. Leonard M. Long, ’54, ’56 M.Ed., died Oct. 4, 2012, at his home. He worked for the State of Washington for 30 years and was married to Gwen for 63 years. Leonard is survived by his wife, daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Bev (Beekins) Klima, ’57, died Oct. 2. She was married to Ralph Klima, ’58. Bev gave each of her 11 grandchildren money for college, a selfless action for which she was featured in a documentary. She taught elementary school for more than 20 years. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Barney and Joyce (Oudick) Beekins, both ’54. The Rev. Charles G. Harris, ’56, died Sept. 16. Chuck earned his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. After marrying his wife, Irene, he taught at different schools. Chuck pastored various churches, including Hope Presbyterian Church, in southern Philadelphia, among other places. Chuck is survived by his daughters and their families. The Rev. William F. Eber, ’56, died Dec. 5 in Winona Lake, Ind. Ronald H. Kinley, ’56, died Feb. 18. Ron was inducted into Whitworth Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a member of the class of 1948. Larry E. Wilke, ’56, died Dec. 9 in Bergenfield, N.J. Larry was a member of the class of 1956. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He worked for Consolidated Edison Company of New York for more than 20 years. Larry is survived by his wife, daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Richard E. Gillespie, ’59, died Jan. 3. Joseph Howard Powell, ’59, died April 30, 2013.

Jean Whitworth Peck, ’44, died Nov. 4, 2013. She was a descendant of Civil War heroine and Whitworthian and was a longtime resident of Vadnais Heights, Minn.

Alumna, longtime trustee and Whitworth supporter Marvin Heaps, ’45, died Oct. 28 in West Chester, Pa. He was 81. After his graduation from Whitworth, Marx went on to U.S. Naval Officer Candidate School, graduating as an ensign, USNR; he also attended the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business, where he earned his MBA in finance. He became a consultant with McKinsey and Co. Management Consultants and traveled between Washington, D.C., and Geneva, Switzerland, as lead consultant for the U.N.’s International Labor Organization. Marx then spent 18 years with ARA Food Services, in Philadelphia, leaving as president and chief operating officer to pursue private consulting opportunities and non-profit board work. He served on the boards of Young Life, the Salvation Army, the Philadephia Academy of Natural Sciences, and Whitworth University, among others, and he was affiliated with the 10th Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia and the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Pa. Marx served on the university’s board of trustees from 1974 to 2008, when he was honored with trustee emeritus status. Whitworth President Emeritus Bill Robinson says of his late friend and colleague, “Marv chaired the search committee that invited me to join the Whitworth community. He was the first person I met and the perfect point person for me. He was a bundle of paradoxes—paradoxes I loved. He was deeply compassionate and steely smart. He was uncompromisingly committed to Christ and unfrocking irreverent about things that shouldn’t matter. He was all business and always fun-loving. I and my whole family adored Marv. I didn’t take my time at all to see that I wanted to work with this faithful Christian who loved Whitworth so deeply.” Marx was survived by his wife, Martha, his children, Mitchell, Martha, ’85, and Martha, and seven grandchildren.

The Rev. Marvin R. Smelser, ’39, died Dec. 10, 2013. The Rev. Marv R. Smelser, ’39, died Dec. 10, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, as well as by their daughter, Chuck, a graduate of Whitworth. Chuck pastored various churches, including Hope Presbyterian Church, in southern Philadelphia, among other places.

1940s

1949

Brian Barnes, ’52

Barnes graduated from Whitworth in 1952 with a degree in business administration. After graduation, Barnes served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He then worked for several years in the insurance industry before joining the family business, Barnes & Company, a CPA firm in Seattle. In 1972, Barnes was appointed to the State Board of Accountancy, where he served for 18 years, including five years as chairman. Barnes was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Washington Society of CPAs. He was an active member of the Seattle Rotary Club and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Barnes was a devout Christian and an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Seattle. He died Dec. 11, 2013, at the age of 85.

DEPARTURES

Jeanice (Peterson) Richardson, ’40, died July 2, 2013. At Whitworth, Janice sang in the choir and participated in theatre. In 1939, Janice married Norm Richardson, ’39. Both Norm and Janice were teachers in Bremerton, Wash. They had three children together and were married for 40 years before his death. Lyle S. Stephenson, ’41, died Nov. 21 in Liberty Lake, Wash. After attending Whitworth, Lyle graduated from Gonzaga University, where he played on the school’s last football team. A former member of the Spokane Police Department, Lyle served in the Marine Corps for 31 years before retiring, in 1973. Gerald S. Dunn, ’44, died Nov. 22. Jerry married his M.D. from Northwestern University Medical School, in Chicago, in 1947. He enjoyed a 38-year career in medicine, mostly as a pathologist. Jerry and his wife, Patricia, were married for nearly 70 years. He is survived by his wife, children, brother and sister, Ruth (Huntley) Gottshalt, ’44, died Dec. 30. For more than 20 years, Ruth used her talent in architectural and technical illustration to provide the university with drawings that were used on notecards and thank yous and in-fart and swastikoff designs. In 2007, she received the Alumni Service to Whitworth Award. Barbara F. Parks, ’46, died Jan. 9, 2013. Lois (Eyre) Sautter, ’46, died Nov. 3, 2011, in Spokane, Wash. Barbara was married to her husband until his death in 2001. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, and she worked for many years as the deputy auditor for Lincoln County. She is survived by her two children, among other family members. Julius E. Coleman, ’47, died Dec. 12, 2013. Grace C. (Hendrickson) Park, ’48, died Oct. 23 in Hillsboro, Ore. Evelyn (Vander Sys) Davis, ’49, died Dec. 12 in Arlington, Wash. Evelyn taught kindergarten for 25 years with the Edmonds School District. She was married to Albert Christensen until his death, in 2003. In 2003, Evelyn married Kenneth Davis, who passed away in October 2013. She is survived by her children among others. Dorothy (Hone) Ellikon, ’49, died Oct. 27. In addition to her degree from Whitworth, Dotte also earned a degree in Christian education from Biola University. She and her husband, Glen, were married 65 years and had two children. Dotte was active in churches and education programs throughout her life.
Russ Larson, ‘51, and Joan Larson, ‘59

Just months before Whitworth celebrated its 100th year in Spokane, J. Russell “Russ” Larson, a longtime associate professor of art at Whitworth, celebrated his 100th birthday, on Nov. 21, 2013.

Larson majored in art at the University of Washington, where he met his future wife, Joan, also an art major, and John Koehler, a future Whitworth art professor. The UW named Larson the Outstanding Senior Art Student for 1939-40, and he finished his undergraduate degree while designing signs for Ahsle Sign Co., in Seattle, where he went on to become a partner.

Larson and Joan married in 1941. During World War II, Russ worked as a patternmaker for Lake Washington Shipyards. The Larsons then moved to Spokane, where he was a designer and sales manager for Brown Industries, a commercial-trailer manufacturing firm. He had a strong desire to teach, however, and enrolled at Whitworth to earn a master’s degree in education and art.

At Whitworth, Larson encountered Koehler, who joined the faculty in 1945 at the behest of President Frank Warren. Warren had noted a void in the arts in Spokane and had begun working to formalize and grow Whitworth’s art program. The college soon recruited Larson, who joined the faculty in 1947 and completed his master’s degree four years later.

At the time, Whitworth’s art department resided in Westminster Hall’s cramped daylight basement. Larson drew up remodeling plans, and he and Koehler tore down walls to fashion a more suitable space for their students. As the department continued to grow, Larson designed three large art classrooms and faculty offices for the daylight basement of Cowles Memorial Library, which had been built in 1948. Once again, Larson and Koehler took up hammers and saws to complete construction, with the help of Whitworth’s maintenance crew.

When the library needed its basement space, Larson designed a remodel for a government-surplus building on campus, to house both the art and math departments. (The science program, which had occupied the building, relocated to the new Eric Johnston Science Center in 1966.) Larson also designed Whitworth’s first exhibit space, which he named the Koehler Gallery in honor of his friend and colleague, who had died before the revamped building was completed.

During these years, Joan earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Whitworth and taught art and drama at Fairwood Elementary and Mead High School. She and Larson also built three homes from his plans, which were influenced by the style of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Their first home’s unique features gained notice that resulted in Larson being commissioned to draw plans for more than 300 houses in Washington and Idaho.

Larson also designed neon signs for Baldwin Sign Co., remodels for Knox, Westminster and Mission Presbyterian churches, in Spokane; plans for three new churches in rural communities and for a pots-and-pans factory; and the interior of McEahan Hall, Whitworth’s administration building.

In his 14 years at Whitworth, Larson taught nearly every art course the college offered, including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, pottery and jewelry, and he taught art to education majors. He also studied art for two summers at the Institute Allende, in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

The Larsons’ eldest son, Jay, is a retired metallurgical engineer who is now a metallurgy consultant and the owner of three businesses. Their son Jon graduated from Whitworth in 1967, and is an art professor emeritus at Pacific University; he continues to show his works throughout the Pacific Northwest, Larson and Joan are also the proud grandparents of six successful adults and 10 great-grandchildren (and they’re just as proud of their progeny’s spouses).

In 1987 the Larsons moved to Fountain Hills, Ariz., where they lived in their own home for 26 years. They now enjoy living in the Fountain View Village retirement community, whose residents voted the couple king and queen for Valentine’s Day two years later.

100 Years of Artful Living - Russ Larson, ‘51, and Joan Larson, ‘59

TODAY

[AfterWORD]

Whitworth alumni in their own words
(with assistance from Julie Riddle, ’92)

Sam Adams and the Adams Family

Sam Adams is a Whitworth legend. As a student, he competed in football, basketball, track & field and baseball (he would sometimes leave baseball games early to participate in track meets). In football, in his freshman year he led the nation’s small colleges in touchdown receptions. In four seasons he caught 120 passes for 2,191 yards and 25 touchdowns, all NAIA records at that time.

In addition to setting records and studying, Sam and his roommate planted the first Young Life club in Spokane. Other Whitworth students who joined the effort included Sam’s future wife, Colleen (Pickert) Adams, ‘51.

After graduating and playing three seasons with the Canadian Football League’s BC Lions, Adams returned to Whitworth in 1956 as an assistant football coach; the next year he was named head track and cross-country coach. Adams became the Pirates’ head football coach in 1958.

In seven seasons, he led his football teams to a combined record of 47-17-1 and three conference championships. His 1960 team, ranked fourth in the national NAIA polls, competed in the semifinals of the NAIA national playoffs. His track teams won four conference titles.

Adams earned a master’s in teaching and coached at Whitworth until 1965; he went on to coach football and teach physical education at Washington State University, where he earned a doctorate in educational administration. Each year Whitworth honors his legacy through the Sam Adams Classic track meet, and through the Sam Adams Young Life Scholarship for student leaders. Adams was inducted into Whitworth’s inaugural Heritage Gallery Hall of Fame class in 1990.

The Adams’ family legacy at Whitworth extends into the 21st century. Sam and Colleen are the parents of Debbie, Sam, Jim, and Whitworth alum Steve, ’81, who played on the football and baseball teams. Two of their grandchildren, who are cousins, currently attend Whitworth. Katie Adams, ’15, is a nursing major and a defensive specialist on the volleyball team. Drew Adams, ’16, a health sciences major, plays guard on the men’s basketball team and competes in men’s tennis, as well.

This Is Whitworth

Sam Adams in 1952

Drew Adams, ’16, Sam Adams, ’52, and Katie Adams, ’15

This Is Whitworth

Drew Adams, ’16, a health sciences major, plays guard on the men’s basketball team and competes in men’s tennis, as well.
Jessica Webber is a junior psychology major who plans to earn a master’s degree in occupational therapy. She works with Young Life, mentors middle-school students, and participates in many campus activities. Jessica thrives in the community Whitworth has provided, and she appreciates the university’s encouragement to her to “honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity.”

“I never imagined the effect Whitworth would have on my life,” she says. “I look forward to my senior year so that I can continue growing spiritually, academically and relationally.”

Jessica’s parents are Whitworth alums, and she’s proud to continue her family’s legacy at the university. “We feel incredibly blessed to have shared so many precious years and memories with Whitworth,” she says.

Jessica attributes her Whitworth education to the alumni who choose to give back; without their support, Whitworth would not have been a possibility for her.

The Whitworth Fund helps provide students like Jessica with scholarships to attend Whitworth, as well as opportunities to learn and grow through academic and student-life programs, international experiences, and new technology in the classrooms.

Please help current and future students pursue a distinctive mind-and-heart education at Whitworth.

Make your gift to The Whitworth Fund today at www.whitworth.edu/give.

Thank you!