

Fall 2018

# Alumni Magazine Fall 2018

Whitworth University

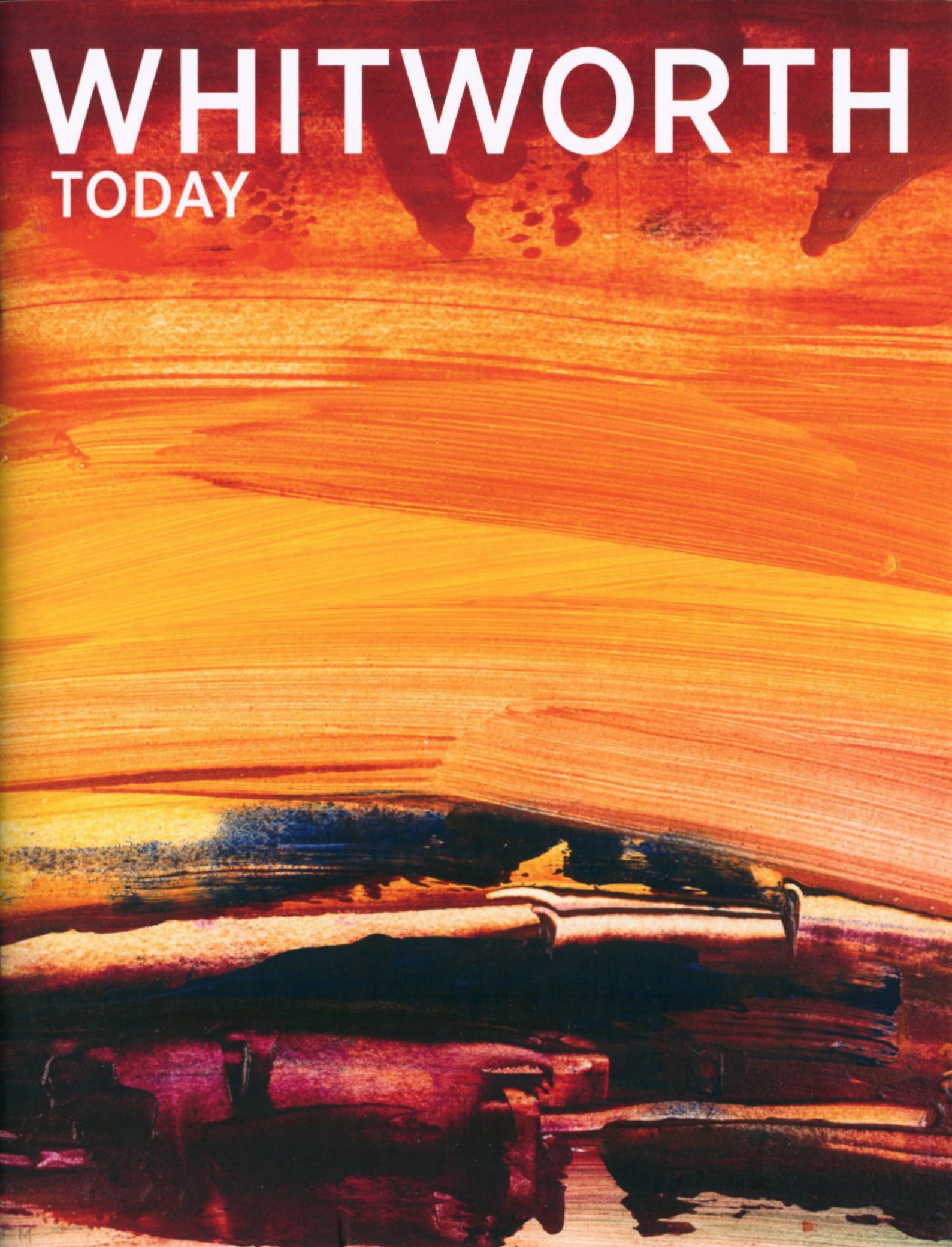
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# WHITWORTH

TODAY



# WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU RECEIVED AT WHITWORTH?

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Jerry Sittser (theology) said, "Live in the tension." Christian faith isn't about easy answers. I now say this to my theology students. Jim Edwards (theology) told me, "I'm not smarter than you, I just know more." This gave me hope that being a professor wasn't out of reach. I tell my students this, too.

MIRANDA ZAPOR CRUZ '05

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I had declared a major my freshman year, but the courses didn't ignite me. Diana Marks (coach) asked me what classes brought me joy and fulfillment. I went on to become an elementary school teacher for 30 years with a passion that was God-given.

TRACY DELONY '71

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Don Liebert (sociology) kept me in school at a pivotal point. I was so passionate to help, which he complimented. Then he said, "You do not have all the tools in your toolbox that you need to be of help," and he would not let me quit. I am a first-generation college graduate because of this moment.

MISSY SANDERS MAJNARICH '90

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Julia Stronks (political science) told me that if I felt like I was faking it, that I would always feel that way, and that it was important to acknowledge my strengths and weaknesses at every station in life. I still feel that way sometimes, but her advice is a good reminder that I am more capable and competent than I believe.

SAUNDRA RICHARTZ '06

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Dick Mandeville (student life) told me, "When you're late, you are saying that your time is more important than theirs." Eighteen years later, I still take this advice to heart.

STEPHANIE STERN-CARLSON '02

**FOR THE NEXT COMMUNITY VOICES:** What fashion trends were popular on campus when you were a student? Email us at [today@whitworth.edu](mailto:today@whitworth.edu).

# WHITWORTH TODAY

ON THE COVER: *LANDSCAPE MYSTERY VALLEY NO. 73*



PHOTO BY TOSHI SHIMIZU

This rich-toned acrylic painting is the work of renowned landscape painter Ben Frank Moss, a 1959 Whitworth alumnus and the former George Frederick Jewett Professor of Studio Art at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Moss and his wife, Jean (Russel) Moss '59, recently donated to Whitworth 278 of Ben's paintings valued at about \$1.3 million. The art department featured selections from this significant gift in its fall exhibit, *Ben Frank Moss: The Whitworth Collection*. View other paintings from the Moss collection at [whitworth.edu/artcollection](http://whitworth.edu/artcollection).

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## WHITWORTH TODAY

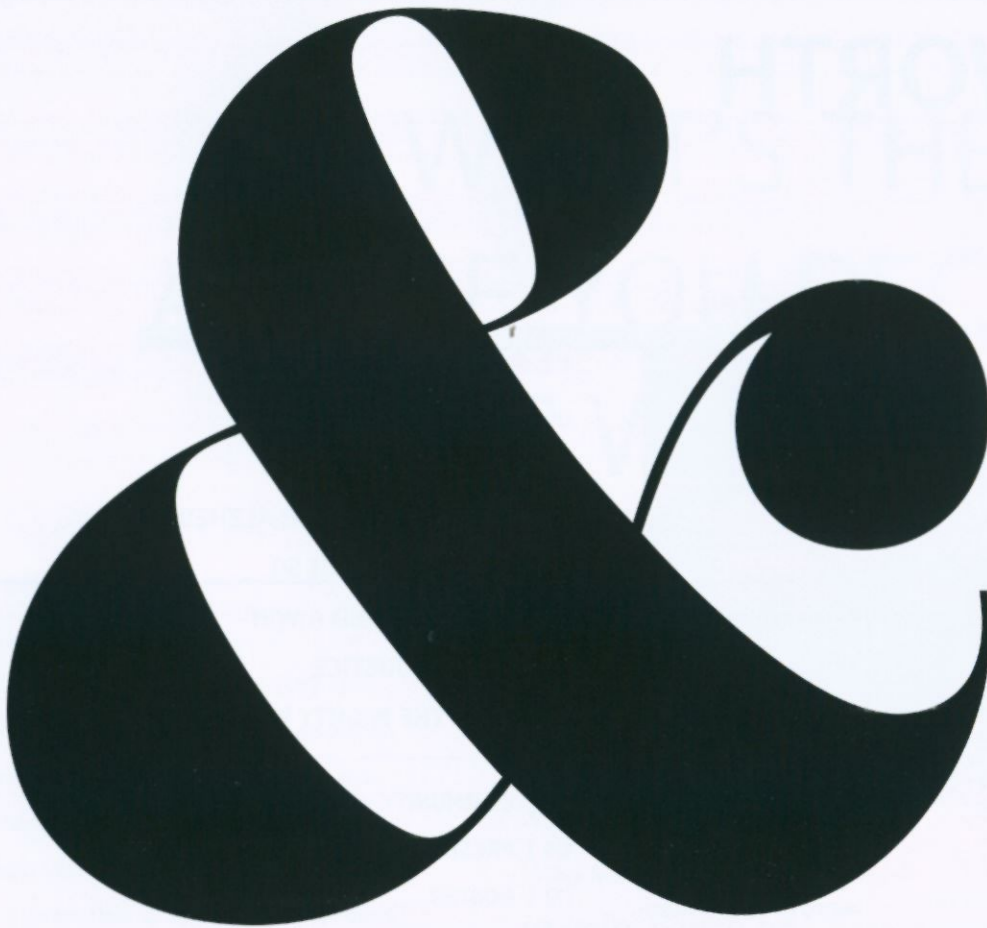
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## BEFORES AFTERS

*Before*s and *after*s. My life's journey can be divided into epochs that predate a significant event, or that come after a seminal moment: before and after my parents were divorced; before and after my stepfather became an important role model for me; who I was before and after accepting Christ as savior; life before and after my marriage to Julie, or on either side of having children, or before and after my parents' deaths. Certainly, life before and after coming to Whitworth more than eight years ago.

One reason *before*s and *after*s are important is that they animate and color the narratives of our lives. They give us meaning – who we were, who we are and who we're becoming. Sometimes the *after*s are joyous, and sometimes sad. The *before*s can seem nostalgic or remind us of regrets.

It is a grace of God that we do not know our futures, our *after*s. How many of us would cower at the knowledge of the ways God might use us, or at knowing the growing pains we will

have to endure to become the people God is shaping us to become? The 29-year-old version of me would be terrified to know some of the details of the 49-year-old version's life and responsibilities, and not just because of the receded hairline.

And our *after*s cannot be fully understood without the *before*s. We cannot fully appreciate some of the joys of life, for instance, without experiencing the places of pain or emptiness from which we were rescued. And the ways we might experience the disappointments of life are conditioned on the way life used to be.

People of faith are assured of the Alpha and Omega – the ultimate *Before* and *After* – and we have the confidence of knowing that God lives in our *before*s and *after*s.

Beck A. Taylor, President



October was a significant month for spiritual life at Whitworth, as the university dedicated the new Beeksma Family Theology Center and installed the Rev. Forrest Buckner as the inaugural Storm Family Dean of Spiritual Life, and as the Office of Church Engagement received its latest \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment. Donors and foundations have recently given more than \$9 million to provide facilities, programming and scholarships to enhance these three critical ministry areas at Whitworth.

The Beeksma Family Theology Center features an addition to the 1978 Seeley G. Mudd Chapel and a remodel of the original space. The \$2.8 million project, funded by 17 donors who provided gifts from \$1,000 to a lead gift of \$1.5 million from Barney and Joyce (Dudek) Beeksma, both '54 (pictured with their family), provides new office space for the Office of Church Engagement and the theology department. Collocating these departments with the existing campus ministry team creates a synergy that elevates Whitworth's internal and external teaching and programming.

Campus ministry received a significant boost through the endowed Storm Family Dean of Spiritual Life position, established with a \$3 million gift from Anne and Kim Storm, both '74. When fully funded, the gift will expand

Whitworth's campus ministry programs and its chapel staff, and students will benefit from increased opportunities for service and leadership.

The new Lilly Endowment Thriving in Ministry grant recognizes the OCE's unique partnership with a variety of churches in the Inland Northwest and the office's ability to offer leadership development for ministry practitioners. This joint effort between Lilly, the OCE and regional pastors, along with substantial student scholarship support from the Welch Family Foundation, will yield new expressions of disciple-making communities over the next few years.

## CAMPAIGN GIVING UPDATE | TOTAL: \$116 MILLION

**\$27.3M**

ENDOWMENTS

**\$30.2M**

FACILITIES

**\$32.3M**

PROGRAMS

**\$26.2M**

BEQUESTS & OTHER  
PLANNED GIFTS



Learn more about campaign projects at [whitworth.edu/campaign](http://whitworth.edu/campaign). 5



# Defining moments

BY ELIZABETH STRAUCH '04

Epiphanies can be grand: the Star of Bethlehem revealing to the Magi where the Christ child lay; the “lightbulb” insight – or falling apple – that leads to a major discovery. They can also be quiet moments that forever change the way we understand ourselves, our work, our faith or our world. Here, Whitworth faculty and staff members share pivotal revelations that divided their lives into before and after.

### **Tim Caldwell**

*Assistant Dean for Student Life*

When I was 19, I worked for a backcountry wilderness camp in upstate New York, where I took a dozen 10-year-olds hiking and camping in the Adirondack Mountains. Until this point, the camping I had done could be counted on one hand, and all of it involved driving to the campsite. “Hard” does not begin to describe the difficulty of that summer. I struggled, I failed and I longed for something easier. But at the end of the summer, I realized that I had grown. As I reflected on my life, I began to see a pattern: the times when I had grown the most were when I had struggled or gone through hard things. Difficulty was not something to avoid, but something to embrace. This realization transformed my life and led me to do the work I now do in student development.

### **Kathryn (Hendricks) McInturff '17**

*Coordinator, Office of Church Engagement*

I struggled with reading comprehension for much of my elementary school years. I have vivid memories of sitting with my mom, pulling out a book from class and reading the words aloud. When I finished, my mom would ask me, “Now, what did you just read?” I would sink down in my chair and say, “Mom, I have no idea.” It wasn’t until my sixth-grade English class that I realized the purpose of reading: to connect with a story outside of my own. I have loved to read (and understood the words that I read) ever since.





## Elizabeth Abbey '03

*Assistant Professor of  
Health Science*

During my year of AmeriCorps service after finishing my master's degree, I volunteered at an after-school program for kids from low-income families. I offered a 10-year-old boy a strawberry, and he didn't know what it was. He said that in his home, fruit only came in cans. At that moment, I realized that cost shouldn't be a barrier to healthy food. This solidified my desire to continue my studies in nutrition.

## Ron Pyle

*Professor of Communication  
Studies*

My life changed on March 25, 1993, when I provided preaching training to 14 African American pastors in Spokane. Ten minutes into the first session, it was clear that I was the student and the pastors were my teachers. I soon realized that much of what I had assumed was universal was not. I discovered a new way of doing biblical interpretation, of structuring messages, of relating with the listeners, of using language and more. From that experience emerged a Jan Term class that I have taught eight times with my dear friend and mentor, the Rev. C.W. Andrews of Calvary Baptist Church.

## Kathryn Picanco

*Associate Professor of Education*

A marathon was an interesting choice of races for our college cross-country coach to pick as our senior season came to a close. While I was self-assured in ways and ready to embrace the challenges life would soon bring, troubled thoughts filled my mind as we waited for the starting gun. Was I prepared? Was I strong enough? What if I failed? Facing uncertainty, I settled into a steady pace, my confidence growing as the miles flew by, striding ahead of the boys to the finish. Inner strength won. I knew then that I could accomplish anything I set my mind to, but only if I was willing to take the chance.

## Dale Soden

*Professor of History*

When I think of the times when my life seemed to turn in a different direction, I think of the first college history course I taught. I was 25 years old and I felt very unprepared. But when it was over, I realized that not only did I really like teaching, but students seemed to like the way I taught. That realization changed my life.

I realized the  
purpose of reading:  
to connect with a  
story outside of  
my own.

# attitude matters



**“Perpetual  
optimism  
is a force  
multiplier.”**

## AN INTERVIEW BY JULIE RIDDLE '92

Was I ever nervous to interview Colin Powell for *Whitworth Today*. Powell, the speaker for Whitworth's fall President's Leadership Forum, is a retired U.S. Army general and served as U.S. secretary of state. He is the author of the memoirs *It Worked for Me: In Life and Leadership* and *My American Journey*. Powell soon put me at ease with his humor and warmth as he shared some of the wisdom he's gained serving at the highest levels of leadership.

**JULIE RIDDLE:** The last rule of your “13 Rules of Leadership” is, “Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.” Could you expand on this?

**COLIN POWELL:** To understand number 13, you have to look at number 1 first, which says, “Hey, it ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.” That is not a prediction – that is an attitude. It may look *worse* in the morning. You may be in *bigger* trouble. I've always worked with my soldiers to think, “Whatever is wrong today, we will fix it and we will be better tomorrow.” Always be optimistic about what we're doing, always believe in what we're doing, and remember, I believe in you and I want you to believe in me. That's how an organization runs successfully.

“Force multiplier” is a term you'll only hear in the military. Say I'm planning a battle – I'm always looking for something I can add to my forces that makes them more effective than the enemy thinks they are. I have better intelligence, I have better morale, I have more supplies. These are force multipliers that make my soldiers more effective. If you can always believe, and if your people can always believe, that multiplies the effect of your organization. **W**



so many



miracles

BY JULIE RIDDLE '92

Malachi Areta '22 remembers it was a Friday night in January, nearly two years ago. His father, Lex, began feeling an iciness in his chest, but insisted he was fine. Malachi's mother, Michelle, convinced Lex to go to the hospital near their home in Spokane. She woke Malachi and asked him to sleep in his younger brother's room while they were gone. "Later I got a text from my mom," Malachi says. "'The EKG is normal and he's OK. We'll be home in 15 minutes.' I thought, 'OK' and went back to bed."

Soon after, Malachi's phone rang. "It's my mom. She's hysterical. 'We're gonna lose Dad! Grab your brother and get to the hospital right now.'"

#### MY DAD WAS GONE

At the hospital, Malachi hugged his distraught mother and watched a swarm of staff perform CPR on his father, his eyes rolled back, face purple.

Lex had sustained "the widow maker," a massive heart attack that often leads to sudden death. He was clinically dead for 45 minutes, "but we got a faint pulse back," a doctor told Michelle. "We need to move him to Sacred Heart Hospital."

Lex underwent CPR throughout the ambulance ride to Sacred Heart, where a ventilator took over. The next day, doctors informed the family that Lex showed no

brain activity and his heart, lungs and kidneys had failed.

"In that moment, I accepted my dad was gone," Malachi says. "It felt like this was God's plan."

#### THIS ISN'T GOD'S PLAN

So many people came to Sacred Heart that night.

"It was crowded all the time," Malachi says. "People were praying around the clock, and they set up a prayer vigil at our church. Of course I was thankful, but I was also thinking, 'These people are wasting their time.'"

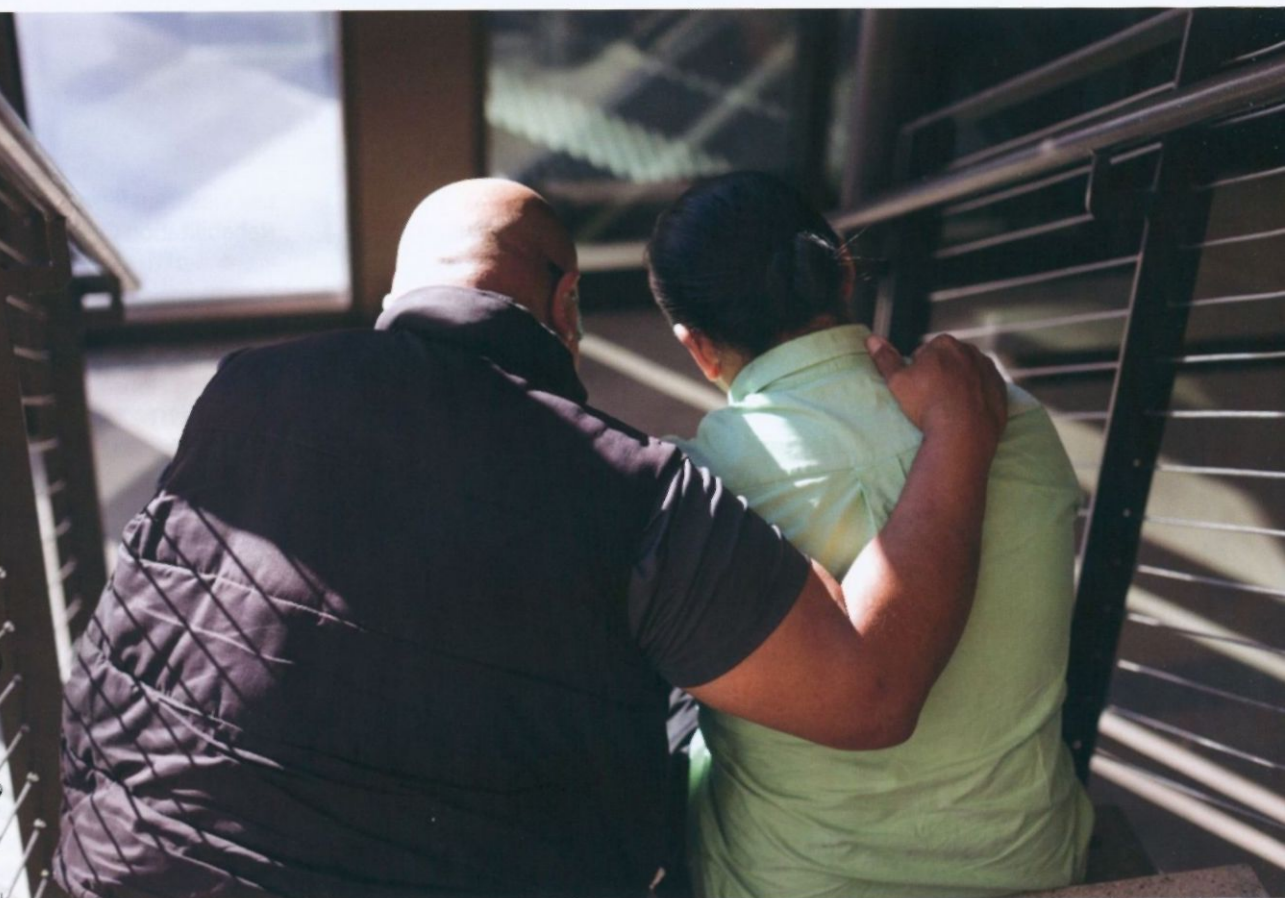
Five days after Lex was hospitalized, doctors advised Michelle to take him off life support, but she would not yield. "This isn't God's plan," she said. Malachi, at his father's bedside, felt he needed to let Lex go.

"My dad's face was puffed up, his eyes were bulging and red with blood." He pauses, overcome with emotion. "I said goodbye."

#### SO MANY MIRACLES

Several days later, Malachi's older sister joined Michelle in Lex's room and began singing her dad's favorite worship song. As she sang, Lex made a slight movement with his hand - his first physical response since the heart attack. He soon regained

praying around the clock





## about malachi

› Diagnosed with Type I diabetes in fifth grade; volunteer counselor at Camp Stix, for youths with diabetes

› Whitworth track & field athlete and Act Six scholar

› Plans to major in education and teach high school

› Composes and performs rap

consciousness, and his steady improvement over the next few days led doctors to remove Lex's ventilation tube.

"He came back to life," Malachi says.

Doctors couldn't explain Lex's revival, or the fact that his organs had begun to slowly heal. Even so, they warned that his brain remained severely damaged. "This is who he is now," Malachi recalls a doctor saying.

"Even that, my mom refused to believe," he says. "She said, 'No. This isn't God's plan.' And I was like, 'Come on. You were right before, but let's just be happy with what we've got.'"

One night, Michelle poured her heart out at Lex's bedside, begging God to restore him completely. In the early dawn, exhaustion overcame her and she slept. She later awoke to her husband's voice. "Wake up, sleepyhead," Lex said.

"He was back to his normal self," Malachi says. "It's amazing – I'm so grateful."

Lex was transferred to St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center, where he continued to recover and relearned how to walk. He takes medication and can't exert himself much physically, but he's once again pastoring House Church Ministries, the church he founded with Michelle. And he's back to being Malachi's dad.

"There were so many miracles," Malachi says.

The Areta family has walked together through the valley of the shadow of death. Their bonds with each other are now as strong as Michelle's fierce belief in God's plan. And Malachi? "I sold my faith and my hopes short by saying 'Nah, God won't save my dad,'" he says. "But witnessing what God did, and telling the story, it changes other people's faith, and that has helped my faith." **W**

academic minute

## VERONICA SCAFIDI '20

MAJORS: BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION - ACCOUNTING;  
MUSIC - VOICE PERFORMANCE



I have had a passion for singing since I was a young girl, and I started to take classical performing seriously in high school. I gained confidence in my abilities during each performance and realized that making music makes me happy. I feel complete when I can share a story with an audience and move people.

I wouldn't be studying voice today without the guidance and inspiration of two people. My high school choir director, Scott Davis ('91, MIT '93), made voice lessons easily accessible by bringing in a voice teacher, Kay Joham, during choir time. I took lessons, and Kay and Mr. Davis encouraged me to perform.

I have also always been very numbers-oriented. I enjoy looking at numbers and adding meaning to them. I also like the business aspect of accounting. I took financial

accounting at Whitworth and fell in love with it. I would always dive into that homework first. It came naturally and I enjoyed it, so I figured accounting would be a good career path.

The coolest thing I've noticed as a business major is how I'm starting to understand the world better. I'm learning skills and information that are immediately applicable to my life. It makes my studies feel real and worth every minute.

I will get my CPA license after graduation, and I hope to have a successful career in accounting. I hope to perform on the side for fun and would love to be in the cast of a production or to give recitals. I still want to share music even if it isn't my career. **W**

# Empathizing *with* Alzheimer's



BY TRISHA CODER

You're walking on what feels like tiny needles in your shoes, while wearing headphones that play a constant buzz. Large, bulky gloves limit the use of your hands, and you struggle to see through sunglasses with stickers on the lenses. You're led into a dim room pulsing with strobe lights and are asked to complete five simple tasks. You can only hear a few words because of the buzzing and can't complete the tasks.

This 10-minute simulation reflects what more than 5 million Americans over age 65 experience daily, living with Alzheimer's disease. Health science major Faith Lopez-Flores '19 participated in the simulation on Community Building Day at the assisted-living facility at Rockwood Hawthorne, near

Whitworth. As president of the Alzheimer's Awareness Club at Whitworth, she wanted to feel what daily life is like for people coping with the disease.

Lopez-Flores has been working with residents at Rockwood through her internship with Generation Connect, a program that promotes intergenerational relationships between youth and elders through oral history. Lopez-Flores created two-minute videos that feature photos of the residents' families. When the videos play on iPads provided by Generation Connect, residents hear a family member's voice, sharing memories the photos evoke.

"If the residents feel really anxious or are wandering, [staff] can play these videos for



*Garrett Westling '19 shares special memories with a Rockwood Hawthorne resident.*



them," Lopez-Flores says. "The videos usually will reduce some of that anxiety."

Lopez-Flores plans to work as a physician assistant, as does the vice president of the club, Garrett Westling '19. His great-grandmother had Alzheimer's.

"You have to understand that they're doing these actions because they truly aren't aware," Westling says. "Their brain cognition is just not there. You have to give them patience and not fault them for something they're not capable of understanding right now in life."

Lopez-Flores and Westling are passionate leaders who have grown the Alzheimer's Awareness Club to 14 members. Rather than attending weekly meetings, members seek to attend the many community events and town halls in Spokane, to help raise awareness about the disease and to let others know how they can support those in their lives who have Alzheimer's.

"Even if we're not scientific researchers, we can still be with our loved ones," Lopez-Flores says. "We'll never fully understand what they're going through, but we can be more aware of how much they are being affected." **W**





# fifty

## JAN TERM TURNS 50

BY ELIZABETH STRAUCH '04

Fifty years ago, Whitworth was one of 60 colleges in the U.S. that instituted "January Term" as part of a new 4-1-4 academic calendar. "This is a time to be intellectually adventuresome!" Garland "Gus" Haas, political science professor and inaugural Jan Term coordinator, wrote in the 1969 course catalog. Jan Term classes were intended to provide students

a change of pace, allowing them to focus on a single course of study as part of a class or independently, on campus or off.

Across five decades, Jan Term has proven to be a seminal Whitworth experience for students, producing rich personal growth, vocational discernment, lifelong friendships and cherished memories.

## Inaugural Jan Term

# 1969

### SELECTED CLASS OFFERINGS FROM THE FIRST JAN TERM, 1969

Experiments in Creativity (*Spike Grosvenor '63*)

Marine Biology and Ecology in the Puget Sound (*David Hicks*) Cost: \$50

The Art Film as Literature (*Leonard Oakland*)

Geology of the American Southwest in Arizona, New Mexico and Southern California (*Edwin Olson*) Cost: \$225

Sport and Society (*A. Ross Cutter*)

The Holy Land Today (*David Dilworth*) Cost: \$900

*"I have fond memories of that first Jan Term. It was very cold – a record minus 25 degrees one day, and we had more than 4 feet of snow that month, another record." Nancy Yeats '71*



# 1970s

"I took a religious drama class taught by Al Gunderson (speech & drama). We toured the morality play *Everyman* around Washington. The night we performed in Friday Harbor we were in an old and very creaky wooden church. The wind was howling outside, and as I gave the closing narrative I was sure the Second Coming was at hand. I gave an inspired performance!" **Doug Anderson '73**

"I took an environmental health class with Nicolin Gray (biology) in 1970. We visited agencies and production facilities all over Spokane. Among the most memorable was the visit to the hot dog factory, where we all swore off hot dogs... This class powerfully affected me in how I look at modern life, health and commercial food preparation." **Marlee Blick '72**



# 1980s

"I witnessed a world that no longer exists. I was part of the inaugural Jan Term trip to West Berlin in 1988, led by Darrell Guder (academic dean). I remember thinking at the time that if communist East and democratic West reunited in my lifetime, it would be a miracle." **David Kennaly '88**

"My fiancé and I took Alternative Physics from Ed Olson (natural sciences). I remember having a knockdown, drag-out fight with my husband-to-be. We were supposed to defend our position on which screwdriver would have more torque - a fat one or a long one. I said a fat one; he said a long one and got his dad (another Whitworth prof) to back him up. I was vindicated when I found out I was right, and I use that win to this day when we come to a deadlock in an argument. 'Remember the screwdriver!'" **Glenna (Carlson) Ainley '84**

"I went with a priest on a night walk ministry in San Francisco. I saw him work with people at low points in their lives, and it opened my eyes to a whole new world and a place in need of people to just listen to them." **Tammy Jones '84**

# 1990s

"Due to heavy rains, I missed my flight to Seattle for the start of my Jan Term trip. I made it to Seattle in time to hug the group as they got on the plane, but my seat was given away. Doc Evans (music) pulled me aside, handed me some Deutschmarks and a sticky note with the name of our youth hostel in Munich, and wished me luck. I flew to Europe alone, got on the train going the right way, hailed a cab and got to the hostel. I rang the doorbell and the group came rushing down to meet me. I made it! My mother, on the other hand, was a nervous wreck." **Jen Willson '95**



"The greatest Ultimate Frisbee game ever happened my sophomore year in The Loop. It had snowed, so there was gravel spread on the walkways, but it was pouring rain that day. We played for hours. We were so wet and muddy and gross and bloody and filled with gravel that by the end we all just stripped in the laundry room and headed back to our rooms and showers. It was epic."

**Matt Hilditch '97**

"In January 1990, I led 16 students on my first Core 250 Study Program, from Athens to Rome, Florence, Geneva, Paris and London. I had no idea how to plan and lead such a trip – and this was before the internet. I got everyone Eurail passes and we ended up on slow trains and slow ferries, and we had terrible connections everywhere. I used old guidebooks to find the names and addresses of hotels and simply booked whichever was cheap. We frequently got lost and had to retrace our steps, while hauling all our luggage. By the end of the trip, I swore I would never do it again." **Professor of Philosophy Forrest Baird, who will lead his 27th Core 250 program this January**

# 2000s

"I took Judy Mandeville's Sacred Dance Choreography course. She asked us to dance our testimony, which was particularly difficult for me after the recent death of my younger brother. I felt like God was so far away when my brother needed Him. One day after class, Judy sat with me and told me the story of a time when she had cried out to God and asked Him where He was while we suffered. She said she saw a clear picture in her mind of Jesus on the cross, arms outstretched, saying, 'I was here. I am here.' My faith shifted that day to incorporate a God who is doing His deepest work when we are in our darkest moments." **Jeannie (Sibbett) Huskisson '08**

*"My faith shifted that day..."*



"I traveled with the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble three times during Jan Term: to Brazil, to Italy, and to New York and New Orleans. These opportunities helped give me an understanding of the music culture from different parts of the world. As a music teacher and professional musician, this has given me credibility with my audience and a deeper understanding of different styles of music." **Sky Thoreson '09**



# 2010s

"I traveled to Tanzania with Patricia Bruininks (psychology). I watched as my host family spent their last shillings to buy me and two other students mangoes. I have never seen anyone demonstrate such selflessness and have never been more humbled. I keep a 500 shilling bill framed in my kitchen to remind me of that sacrifice." **Annie (Merriman) Gabriel '15**



"I took Science of Weapons and we built trebuchets and launched cantaloupe from them... I'm sure I was supposed to learn something about the physics behind it, but mostly it was just fun to launch cantaloupe in the Back 40." **Kimberly (Stokesbary) Briggs '10**

**Wifitworth**



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**'I JUST  
NEEDED  
A WIN'**



# C

BY MEGAN JONAS

Cooper Strout '17 grabs his phone and brings up an image that he's saved for over six years. It's a side-by-side comparison of him and his father, Steve. "That's us at the same age," he says. "Isn't that crazy?"

He knows he and his dad shared a resemblance and "the same grit and persistence," but there's a lot he doesn't know, and never will. Just as Strout began his junior year at Whitworth, his father died of early onset dementia – a disease that had slowly robbed him of his personality and abilities.

"It was awful," Strout says. "The year that followed, I was just losing it."

Strout, a business administration major, says that's when academics became tougher. "My dad had just died. My grades were slipping big time, and I wasn't sure I was going to be able to graduate," he says. "I had these two really difficult things in conjunction, and I started cracking, essentially."

A professor soon took notice. "He pulled me aside and asked if I was doing OK," Strout says. When Strout responded with tears, the professor referred him to Whitworth's Student Success Center, which coordinates care and resources for students in need, and supports them through relationships with staff and with trained students who serve as peer coaches.

Strout began meeting regularly with Rebecca Blackburn, assistant director of Student Success. Together with Blackburn, Strout processed his personal issues and set goals for school.

"If you're struggling, it's not shameful to ask for help," he says. "The Student Success Center put me on a good track of things I *could* work on and *could* control."

Blackburn helped him create strategies for staying organized and completing his schoolwork on time – "stuff that I was going to learn ultimately, but I needed that spark," he says, snapping his fingers.

When Strout met his first goal of becoming an analyst for the Whitworth Student Investment Group that spring, he knew he was making progress. "I just needed a win," he says.

Strout not only graduated, but landed a job as a financial analyst and married his college girlfriend. Although he is still working through issues, he knows he can use the tools he gained from Student Success.

"Life," he says, "gets better every single day." 







*From left: Silas Patterson '19, Jacqueline van Wormer and Natalie Mayse '20*

# path to justice



*Lindsey LeBret '19, with Jacqueline van Wormer, takes pictures for the SNAP life-skills booklet.*

## BY TRISHA CODER

Whitworth students can now major in criminology & criminal justice, thanks in part to the expertise of Jacqueline van Wormer, assistant professor of sociology. Van Wormer came to Whitworth in 2017 from Washington State University, and is a highly sought-after criminal justice expert who works extensively to improve the justice system, both statewide and nationally.

One of van Wormer's priorities at Whitworth has been collaborating with Associate Professor of Sociology Jason Wollschleger to develop the new criminology & criminal justice curriculum.

"Jacqueline provides our students with opportunities for real-world experience," Wollschleger says. "She has a number of grants and contracts with courts that she has hired our students to work on. As she takes over our practicum class, she will be able to use her depth of local connections to assist our students with internships and practicums that we wouldn't otherwise be able to access."

Van Wormer recently secured a two-year grant of \$102,000 that allows two of her students to evaluate the adult, family and juvenile drug courts in Snohomish County. Her students are inspired by her commitment to providing opportunities to learn outside the classroom and

by her passion to seek justice for all.

"Her different perspective of justice has been really eye-opening," says Silas Patterson '19, one of the students involved in the Snohomish County project. "We are not here to lock people up. We are here to help and rehabilitate people, especially with the drug court aspect. She has been a real mentor for me."

Nursing major Natalie Mayse '20 is leading a project for Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners as a result of van Wormer's work with Spokane's community court. Mayse and 12 other Whitworth students are creating a photo booklet that will teach basic life skills to people who were formerly homeless.

"I love her as a professor and as a mentor," Mayse says. "She embodies a lot of qualities that I would hope for myself as an adult, and I just want to keep learning from her."

Van Wormer says she always keeps Whitworth's mission in mind and that she's confident her students will carry out their Christian ideals in the workplace. "These students have such potential," she says. "I've really come to appreciate how compassionate and community-minded they are. There's something special about them and what they're willing to do to help our community." **w**



MEET  
THE  
MIGHTY

# Whit worms

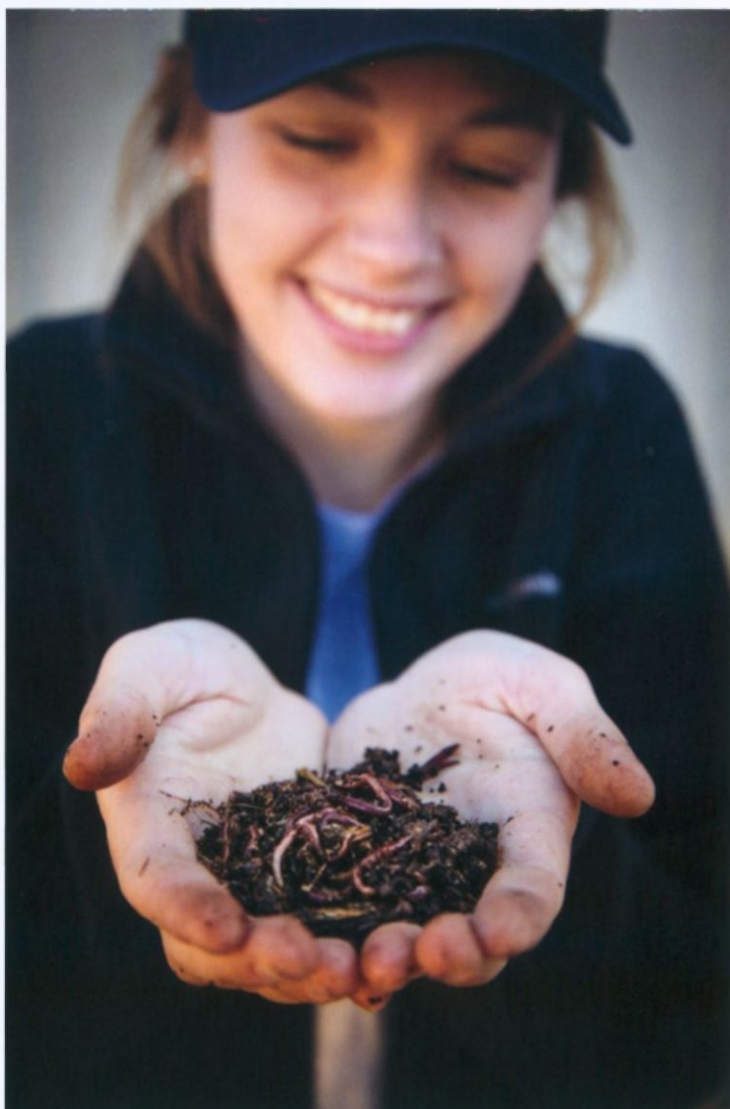
BY TRISHA CODER

They may be tiny, but they're a giant part of Whitworth's new recycling program.

The "Whitworms" wriggled onto campus last summer after then-Turf and Landscape Specialist August Weil (now Whitworth's safety specialist) made a pitch to acquire red wigglers composting worms. Weil's vermicomposting idea helped secure a \$9,000 grant from PepsiCo.

The red wigglers live in a big bin, where they ingest shredded napkins and food products from the dining hall. The worms' castings are then turned into a tea-like substance that may eventually be used to replace chemical fertilizer on the university's athletics fields.

Meanwhile, different types of worms are hard at work underground. Students are encouraged to put their food waste and napkins down "worm tubes" located throughout campus. Worms will ingest the food



*Groundskeeper Candace Ireland '17 manages Whitworth's vermicomposting program.*

particles over time and then spread their castings, producing healthier soil.

"All this work the worms do makes many things possible like clean water, clean air, healthy plants, and it leads to good water flow through the soil," Weil says. "We are working with the system that God created to faithfully care for His creation in our neighborhood."

The Whitworms are part of a new recycling program that earned Whitworth the Recycler of the Year award from the Washington State Recycling Association.

The program was implemented in fall 2017, after Whitworth teamed up with Spokane's Resource Synergy. The waste-reduction consulting firm identified that most of the university's waste, about

1,000 pounds a day, came from the Hixson Union Building.

The firm worked with Whitworth and its dining vendor, Sodexo, to make changes. Soon, compost bins replaced trash cans in the kitchen. Cafeteria workers began focusing on portion control, and Sodexo installed signs and plate scrape bins, making it easier for students to compost leftovers.

Within a few weeks, the HUB had decreased waste by 70 percent and was saving thousands of dollars in trash collection costs.

"We thought we were doing a good job recycling and managing waste," Facilities Director Chris Eichorst says. "But with expertise and analysis from Resource Synergy, and discoveries we made, we are now optimizing our waste streams."





*Arborist Caleb McIlraith '13 stirs the compost bin and deposits food waste into a worm tube.*



Whitworth is setting the recycling bar for universities across the Inland Northwest, according to Erik Makinson, founder and CEO of Resource Synergy. "It's becoming recognized both statewide and nationally for its leadership," he says.

You won't find the Whitworms angling for praise, however – they're notoriously shy, and they prefer to focus on finding their next meal. **w**

# CLASS NOTES

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Let us know what you're up to! Update us at [whitworth.edu/alumniupdate](http://whitworth.edu/alumniupdate), email us at [alumni@whitworth.edu](mailto:alumni@whitworth.edu), or write us at Alumni & Parent Relations Office, Whitworth University, 300 W. Hawthorne Road, Spokane, WA 99251.

*Submissions received March 1-Sept. 30 appear in the fall issue of Whitworth Today; submissions received Oct. 1-Feb. 28 appear in the spring issue.*

## 2010s

### 2018

**Lee Cantrell** began a Ph.D. program in chemical biology in Nashville, Tenn. **Alec Grebe** works as a certified nursing assistant at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center, in Spokane. He plans to take a two-year gap before attending physician assistant school. He enjoys learning Spanish, climbing and traveling. **Emma Harms** is a supervisor and development assistant at Family Promise's Open Doors Family Shelter, in Spokane. **Casey McClure** is a first-year teacher at Erie High School in Erie, Colo. She teaches ninth-grade world studies and 10th-grade U.S. history. **Annie Quatier** is the worship director at River's Edge Church in Spokane. The church is a part of A Jesus Church Network. **Micah Sanders** works full time in youth ministry as a Young Life leader and as a church partner in Millwood, Wash. **Megan Thompson** is earning a master of science in management degree at the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business.

### 2017

**Dave Adams** has been promoted to police sergeant with the Spokane Police Department. **Brittany (Boring) Botejue** started a new position as a program coordinator for Psychiatric Solutions in Spokane Valley, Wash., after working at Catholic Charities House of Charity Medical Respite Program in Spokane.

### 2016

**Justin Botejue** and **Brittany Boring '17** were married July 28 in Spokane. Justin started a new position at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Spokane as a

physician relations liaison after working at Better Health Together, a subsidiary of Empire Health Foundation. **Korey Hope** and **Logan Shenkel** were married in July. The couple met in Baldwin-Jenkins their freshman year. **Emily MacDonald** moved to Switzerland to work at the European Organization for Nuclear Research for her Ph.D. research in particle physics. **Kristen Schoenike** attends the physician assistant program at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C., and plans to graduate in 2020.

### 2015

**Alma Aguilar** works at Family Impact Network in Spokane. She works with the Department of Children, Youth and Families and with family service providers to enhance parent-child visitation and in-home therapy contracts. **Alaska Bruneau** is a commercial fisherman in Sand Point, Alaska. **Elizabeth Choma** graduated from the University of Montana in May with a doctorate of physical therapy. She is now pursuing a yearlong geriatric specialty certification in physical therapy at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis. **Christopher Engelmann** is earning a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. His research focuses on examining and integrating the psychological benefits of the Christian faith and religious practices. **Larissa Huff** taught ninth-grade English language arts (ELA) in Nampa, Idaho, for two years and spent last year in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She currently teaches seventh-grade ELA at a public charter school in Meridian, Idaho.

### 2014

**Matthew Goebel** married **Jill Ross '15** in Spokane on Jan. 27. The wedding party included many Whitworthians.

### 2013

**Erin Ballo** accepted a third-grade teaching position in Richland, Wash., after completing her master's in teaching degree in June. **Sarah Lackenbauer** helped launch Kalos Church in Bellevue, Wash. The church meets in a comedy club and serves as a welcoming place for non-believers, those hurt by the church, and those looking for community. **Christie McReynolds** works for Spokane Public Schools with the McKinney-Vento program, helping children and youth who are homeless to access the services and resources they need. Her eldest daughter currently attends Whitworth. **Caitlin Rahn** served as a Peace Corps health volunteer from February 2014 to March 2016. She is now earning a master's degree in public health at Oregon State University. **Brianna (Anderson) Rogers** recently began a career in marketing for Pushpay, a software-as-a-service company. She also works as a freelance wedding coordinator. **Rachel Rosedale** graduated in May from Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine as an osteopathic physician. She is in residency training in family medicine as an active-duty lieutenant in the U.S. Navy at Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

### 2012

**Danielle Hand** was married Sept. 1 in Spokane. She plans to graduate in June

2020 with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. **Gerald Hunt** married **Kristina Hess '13** on Sept. 23. **Andrea Idso** blogs about mental health; she is also a substitute teacher and a barista in Enumclaw, Wash. **Anne Merriman** married Travis Gabriel on June 9. **Cameron Sweet** completed a Ph.D. in mathematics at Washington State University and is an assistant professor of mathematics at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Wash. **JaJa Quarless** is attending the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor.

## 2010

**Francine (Olson) Lamb** earned a master of arts degree in organizational leadership. She works with Spokane's low-income and homeless populations, and she loves photography, woodworking, and spending time in nature and with her family.

## DEBUTS

### 2013

Oliver and Avery, to **Danica Rasely** and Kolby Burwell, Sept. 7, 2017

### 2012

Cedar, to **Emily (Linquist) Badgley** and **Hunter Badgley '15**, March 17

### 2011

Madison, to **Amanda (Dane) Correll** and Darren Correll, Nov. 17, 2017

Juniper, to **Janna (Silvis) O'Brien** and **Liam Zenger-O'Brien**, Aug. 5

Isaiah, to **Christina (Wiese) Thain** and Bryce Thain, March 26

## 2000s

### 2009

**Carla Carnegie** completed a music therapy degree from Marylhurst University in Portland, Ore. She runs a private practice in Spokane serving those with mental health concerns. She also works at Willow Song Music Therapy Center. **Rashid Gabdulhakov** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands. He is researching vigilant behavior in digital space and is teaching a few courses. **Katherine Murk** married Tyce Velde on Sept. 16, 2016. She received a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in the field of special education with an emphasis on working with students with low-

incidence disabilities. **Emily Railsback** married Jeremy Quinn in June. Earlier this year they released their feature-length documentary, *Our Blood Is Wine*, which is available online. **Julie Wootton** married Cody Greener on Sept. 30, 2017, in Twin Falls, Idaho. Five of the six bridesmaids were close friends of the bride who met while living in Warren Hall their freshman year.

### 2008

**David Bonnema** is senior pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Denver, N.C. **Sarah Butler** completed a master of divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School and has returned to the Spokane area to work as senior operations manager of Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Inland Northwest. **Oliver Crocco** married Suparat Kongsri in 2017. Oliver accepted a job as a tenure-track assistant professor in the School of Leadership and Human Resource Development at Louisiana State University. **Nissana Nov** married Jason Revet on July 15, 2017. **Jennifer Pullen** is an assistant professor of creative writing at Ohio Northern University. Her chapbook, *A Bead of Amber on Her Tongue*, comes out from Omnidawn Press in April 2019. **Joe Schwalbach MIT** has taught fifth grade at Garwood Elementary in Rathdrum, Idaho, since graduating from Whitworth. **Michael Vander Giessen** served as a trial attorney at the Spokane County Public Defender's Office for four years. He began a clerkship in July at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

### 2007

**Sarah (Brogden-Thome) Buckley MBA '08** and her husband, Trevor Buckley, celebrated their first year of marriage. They are building a home in the Spokane area. **Jessie Jelsing** graduated in June from Western Washington University with a master of arts degree in speech-language pathology. **Noah Patterson** works as a senior assistant attorney general for the state of Colorado. He was one of only 20 attorneys nominated and selected to participate in the Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training program. **Aaron Ruff** and his wife, Meagan Ruff, have been commissioned as officers in the Salvation Army. They are stationed in Kaneohe, Hawaii, with

their daughters Isla and Magnolia. **Katie Stewart** returned from Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she worked for a decade as a teacher to underprivileged children. She now teaches kindergarten and first grade in Fork Valley, Colo.

**Megan Stone** completed a master's of social work from George Fox University last spring. **Lauren (Thompson) Taylor** started her second year as an assistant principal in Tacoma, Wash. She and her husband have two daughters; Zoe is 3 and Brielle is 7.

### 2006

**Krista (Adams) Lack** completed a master's in social work at Eastern Washington University. She works full time in outreach ministry at Life Center Church in Spokane. Krista and **Paul Lack '07** celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary in June. **Laurel Maxwell** accepted a full-time position as an admissions evaluator at Cabrillo College in Aptos, Calif. **Lara (Thompson) Ramsay MBA '09** became director of admissions at Whitworth University.

### 2005

**Angela Cesena** completed a master's of communicative disorders and sciences degree from San Jose State University in May. She works as a speech language pathologist at Brookdale Rehab Facility in Oakland, Calif. **Caitlin (Gregory) Lee** and her husband moved to Brier, Wash. Caitlin is taking a year off from teaching to be a stay-at-home mom.

### 2004

**Jillian (Smith) Mosteller** married Ray Mosteller on Aug. 6, 2017.

### 2003

**Meg DuMez** received a Ph.D. in higher education from Azusa Pacific University in July. Her dissertation focuses on the balance between mission and money goals in faith-based higher education.

### 2002

**Tyana (Day) Kelley** received a master's degree in strategic communication from Washington State University in May 2017. She has started a marketing consulting firm, Purple Horizons, in Snohomish, Wash.

### 2001

**Rachel (Iblings) Dombach** lives with her family in Helena, Mont. Her husband, Seth Dombach, is pastor of Headwaters Covenant Church. Rachel assists with administrative duties at the church and homeschools their sons

Isaiah, Malakai and Zachariah. **Libby (Chase) Germer** is the head of school at Church Hill Academy in Richmond, Va. The academy is a private, nonprofit high school for economically disadvantaged students. **Charlotte (Lowry) Riersgard** and her husband have retired and live in Idaho. Her last position was as regional manager for the Women, Infants and Children Overseas Nutrition Program, serving U.S. military families in Italy, Spain and Portugal.

## DEBUTS

### 2009

Isaac, to **Sarah (Williams) Brandler** and **Justin Brandler**, June 27

Bruce, to **Chelsea (Leahy) Hallenbeck** and **Patrick Hallenbeck**, May 31

### 2008

Lena, to **Edward Anegon** and **Jessie Anegon**, Dec. 28, 2016

### 2007

Elan, to **Melissa (Vanderwel) Borthwick** and **Michael Borthwick**, Aug. 4, 2017

Bodhi, to **Sarah (Brogden-Thome) Buckley MBA '08** and **Trevor Buckley**, June 12

Eli, to **Joshua McCorkle** and **Lindsey Bain-McCorkle**, Aug. 22, 2017

### 2006

Ezra, to **Hannah Kimball-Fuller** and **Evan Fuller**, Jan. 9

Carew, to **Lara (Thompson) Ramsay MBA '09** and **Dan Ramsay '08, M.Ed. '13**, July 29

Naomi, to **Kathy (Reale) Stedman** and **Jeremy Stedman**, July 4, 2016

### 2005

Rowan and Ezra, to **Jessica (Chapman) Bussard** and **Bryan Bussard**, Dec. 19, 2017

Abigail, to **Emily (Loeffler) Hofstetter** and **Brandt Hofstetter**, June 2, 2016

Beckett, to **Caitlin (Gregory) Lee** and **Pierson Lee**, April 15

Piper, to **Hailey (Nordmarken) Rohde** and **David Rohde**

Jude, to **Angela (Johnson) Visser** and **David Visser**, May 28, 2017

### 2003

Alexander, to **Kelsey (Rice) Bogdan** and **David Bogdan**, March 31

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### RYAN COLE



**Ryan Cole '17**, an academic support specialist and assistant football coach at Rogers High School in Spokane, feels he is exactly where God wants him.

Ryan first discovered he loved working with high school students while at Whitworth, where he majored in psychology. He got involved as a volunteer and coordinator with the BELIEF Conference, which brings local students to campus for a college-prep program. The experience ignited in him a passion for mentoring high school students. His passion became a vocation that was reinforced through the relationships he developed with his Whitworth professors.

Now, at Rogers, Ryan serves as an academic-interventionist, mediator and group counselor. He describes his primary role as being a resource for students. As the football team's varsity defensive line coach, he aims to transform students' lives on the field as well. "We are trying to develop these student-athletes into capable young men who are ready for the next step after high school," he says.

In both of these roles, Ryan does his best to put his faith into practice every day, something he saw modeled in his Whitworth psychology courses and faculty mentors. "I just remind myself how God plays a role in what I do with these kids on a daily basis," he says.

Ryan is also earning a master of education degree in school counseling at Whitworth. He hopes his degree gives him the skills to develop programs, connect with community assets, and build connections between the community, schools and parents, all to increase the resources available to his students.

"I think God has given me the tools and the right kind of heart to work with any age group," he says. "I see myself working with young people for a long time." **W**



# ALUMNI CONNECTION

## ALUMNI AWARDS

**Know a Whitworthian who deserves recognition?** Nominate a classmate by Jan. 30 for one of our four alumni awards. Go to [whitworth.edu/alumniawards](http://whitworth.edu/alumniawards).

## JOIN US!

**You're invited to Homecoming, Oct. 4-6, 2019.** Want to help plan a reunion celebration for the classes of 1959 and earlier, or '69, '79, '89, '99, 2009 or 2014, or for Baldwin-Jenkins alums? Contact [alumni@whitworth.edu](mailto:alumni@whitworth.edu).

Mark your calendar now to visit your Whitworthian next fall during **Family Weekend, Oct. 11-13.**

**The Class of '19 is about to walk.** Whitworth's 129th commencement ceremonies will take place the weekend of May 19. Learn more at [whitworth.edu/commencement](http://whitworth.edu/commencement).

## HOMETOWN FUN

Events for Pirates take place across the country throughout the year. Visit [connect.whitworth.edu](http://connect.whitworth.edu) to see what's happening near you.

2002

Cole, to **Kimmie (Read) Fink** and Joseph Fink, June 23

### 1990s

1999

**Michael Lawlor** started the law firm Lawlor & Co, PLLC, in Missoula, Mont. He practices in the areas of business transactions and estate planning as well as alcohol and gambling licensing and compliance.

1998

**Sarah (Bade) Bergman** and her husband, Benjamin Bergman, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in July. Their second grandchild was born in October.

**Melissa (Dunn) Cohea** works as director of philanthropy for Sutter Care at Home. She manages operations, strategy and fundraising for Sutter Health's hospice and home health affiliate. **Amanda (Johnson) Dungan** was diagnosed "no evidence of disease" (NED) after nearly two years of cancer treatments. Amanda is thankful for the support of many Whitworth alumni including her husband, **Mark Dungan '98.**

1997

**Erin (Cummings) Helbling** is a resident care manager in a memory care unit in Helena, Mont. **Melodie Jones Pointon** received a doctor of ministry from McCormick Seminary in 2017. She is senior pastor at Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Neb. She and her husband have two children, Phoebe and Eli.

1996

**Mae (Senechal) Greenwood** retired from teaching in August and continues to substitute teach in the Central Valley School District in Spokane Valley, Wash.

1995

**Yuriko (Ejiri) Barrett** started a career in real estate and joined Century 21 Island Homes, selling homes on Oahu. **Matt Hirschfelder** presented on pneumatic player pianos at the Piano Technicians Guild national convention in July in Lancaster, Pa.

1992

**John Dierdorff** and **Kristin (Wolington) Dierdorff '94** are proud to be Whitworth parents to their daughter **Phoebe Dierdorff '21.**

1991

**Kathleen Cole** transitioned into business and legal affairs with Warner Bros. Home Entertainment after working for 18 years in international corporate finance with Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

1990

**Emily (Kiyasu) Jew** has been licensed and certified to open a new school, Pacific Heights Prep, out of her home. She is excited to soon fulfill her lifelong dream of operating her own school. **Sara Stewart** married Michael O'Donnell in 2017.

### DEBUTS

1999

Emma, to **Bennett Gibson** and Jamie Rogers Gibson, March 4

1995

Miles, to **Sara (Revell) Krumm** and Mark Krumm, Feb. 5

### 1980s

1988

**Jeffrey Newcomb** is manager of client services for the Mediation Training Institute at Eckerd College, a Presbyterian-affiliated college in St. Petersburg, Fla. **Mary Palmer** has moved from San Bernardino, Calif., to Costa Mesa, Calif. **Robert Smoldt** was promoted to bailiff line supervisor at the criminal courts building in downtown Los Angeles.

1987

**Lisa Commander** is director of the Columbia Gorge Veterans Museum, which opened Nov. 11, 2017. Lisa's husband, Adam Commander, passed away on March 23, 2017. **Jill Johnson** and **Sam Weber '88** were married Aug. 5, 2018, atop Mineral Ridge Trail overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. **Andrew Swift** has moved to Kansas City, Mo., where he works as a registered nurse.

1985

**Rebecca Douglass** published a new book, *Death by Ice Cream*. Since retiring, **James Rutherford** has been involved with the Sierra Club, the National Parks Service and the Nature Conservancy.

1984

**Erin (Fernandez) Austin** was appointed by the governor of Oregon to serve

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### CHRIS AND JENN ATWOOD

on the State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying. **Pete Swicker** retired as a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency and lives with his wife, Violy, in El Paso, Texas. Pete teaches law enforcement classes throughout the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. **Bridget Weiss** is superintendent of the Juneau School District in Alaska.

#### 1980

**Debbie (Henderson) Dodd** and her husband, Peter Dodd, have returned to Taiwan for their 23rd year as missionaries.

#### 1970s

##### 1979

The Rev. **Leslie Vogel** began serving in June as the regional liaison for Guatemala and Mexico with Presbyterian World Mission and continues to live in Guatemala.

##### 1978

**Randy Hague** has retired as a chemist for the city of Fresno and is active in his local church. **Shellye Lindsay** has retired from teaching after 38 years and plans to do volunteer work and fabric arts. **Lawrence Miller** and his wife have moved to Snohomish, Wash.

##### 1975

**Helena (Ansotigue) Reynolds** leads monthly discussions on "Hamilton, the Man and the Maestro Who Made the Musical" at the 50-plus community center in Kent, Wash. She has subsequently been asked to lead workshops on "Alexander Hamilton, the Forgotten Founding Father" around the Puget Sound region.

##### 1974

**Barbara (Hafey) Beard** and **William Beard** reside in Minneapolis and own a real estate development company. Barbara recently retired as senior vice president of advancement for the Greater Twin Cities United Way. **Dave Reynolds**, who pitched for Whitworth's baseball team in the early '70s, was inducted into the 2018 Puget Sound Senior Baseball League Hall of Fame. At 67, he still pitches for two PSSBL summer teams and two Washington Titans All-Star teams.

##### 1973

**Michelle (Curley) Twohig** is able to dedicate more time to her art. She is



God is on the move in downtown Miami, where **Chris '03** and **Jenn (Putnam) Atwood '04** are infusing new life into a formerly run-down historic church. Chris serves as senior pastor at First Miami Presbyterian Church, founded in 1896, and Jenn is communications director.

When the Atwoods arrived in 2011, only 10 attendees gathered weekly in First Miami's 1,000-seat sanctuary. The church has since grown to 250 members, with 400 attendees participating in Sunday worship.

"The church just needed someone to have leadership and vision to see how people's lives could be transformed," Jenn says.

The Atwoods have brought about First Miami's transformation in part by creating a dynamic worship service, developing a children's ministry program, and setting a standard that all members serve, give and connect. And then there's Chris' popular Pub Theology night, where gatherers ask him questions about anything.

"We try to create space in our church and in our hearts for God to work," Chris says. "It's amazing what can happen when we do that."

Chris incorporates insights from his Whitworth theology and philosophy courses into his weekly sermon preparation. Jenn credits Professor Emeritus of Sociology Raja Tanas with showing her how to understand others through new lenses, a skill she particularly values now as she works with a primarily Latin American community.

"We want First Miami to be a place that has a substantial impact on the city," Chris says, "that speaks for justice and mercy, and that compellingly communicates the love of God to those around us." **W**



the author of the storybook *The Artful Dodger*.

### 1970

**Stephen Gorman** retired from the Presbyterian Church (USA) as the organization's liaison to Egypt. He now volunteers at a school in Cleveland for children who are refugees and immigrants. **Florence (Thacker)**

**Petheram** published her third young-adult novel, *Josie and the Mystery Room*.

### 1960s

#### 1968

**Packard Brown** recently started a private enterprise in Denver that provides career advice to theology graduates seeking to work in nontraditional fields. **Thomas McClure** won the United States Tennis Association Men's 65-Plus National

Title in January, competing on a team from Rancho Bernardo, Calif. This accomplishment comes 52 years after taking Ross Cutter's beginning tennis class at Whitworth.

#### 1967

**Glen Thorp** is the transitional pastor for First Presbyterian Church in Covina, Calif., after retiring several years ago.

#### 1965

**Richard Young** earned a certificate in complementary health care from Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Mont. He supplies clinical support to several veterans' organizations in the area and is an avid fly fisherman.

#### 1960

**Jo Anne (Greene) French** moved to Utah to work on writing and publishing her third book.

### 1950s

#### 1959

**Janeth (Park) Childers** moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., to help her son and to be closer to her grandchildren.

#### 1958

**Raymond "Kay" Brown** and his wife celebrated their 40th anniversary and Kay's 82nd birthday in Cancun, Mexico. For the past two years, **Stephen Fox** has volunteered with Earthwatch and Global Volunteers, which took him to Poland last summer to teach English at a summer camp.

#### 1953

**Harry Lewis** has retired from his job as a computer specialist with the U.S. Department of Defense.



PHOTO COURTESY VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

# 101

Dr. **Grant Rodkey '39** celebrated his 101st birthday on Nov. 17. He retired at age 97 as associate chief of surgery for the Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System.

In 2016, Grant published a book in three volumes, *Our Fated Century*, "a kaleidoscopic scan of events and attitudes that have affected us and our fellow earthly travelers during the tumultuous period from 1917 to 2017."

He offers these words of advice for longevity to *Whitworth Today* readers: "Be humble, be honest, be helpful, be joyful, and be mindful of others' differences and struggles. Cherish your values and blessings and give thanks."

## GFW HONOREE



# DICK COLE

This fall Whitworth recognized the Rev. **Richard “Dick” Cole ’51** with the university’s highest honor, the George F. Whitworth Medal. Since the 1970s, Dick has made a significant impact on generations of students through his stewardship and long-term vision for Whitworth. He has served as director of church relations, as a development officer for The Whitworth Foundation, as a trustee for 14 years, as a volunteer, and as a faithful and generous supporter.

Dick, with his late wife, **Liz (Olds) ’53**, has also led significant fundraising efforts including an endowed School of Business deanship and the Early Fifties Fund, a million-dollar scholarship endowment that perpetually benefits students.

Former trustee **Art Symons ’51** calls Dick an “avid promoter” of the university and the “ideal Whitworth alumnus and encourager.” We heartily agree.

# IN MEMORIAM

*Bolded names without class years indicate those who attended Whitworth but did not graduate. Obituaries received March 1-Sept. 30 appear in the fall issue of Whitworth Today; obituaries received Oct. 1-Feb. 28 appear in the spring issue.*

## 2010s

**Chelsea Snyder '10**, of Shoreline, Wash., died April 4. **Whitney (McClure) Etter '12** died Aug. 20. She was a resident of Bloomfield, Colo. Survivors include her husband, **Geoff Etter '09**, and her sister **Casey McClure '18**. To make a gift to the scholarship established to celebrate Whitney's legacy, visit whitworth.edu/give and indicate your gift is in Whitney's honor. **Gregory Vibbert '14**, of Bend, Ore., died Sept. 26.

## 2000s

**John Christman '02**, of Spokane, died April 23. Survivors include his wife, Stephanie Christman. **Billy Moore Jr. '08**, of Elk, Wash., died April 18.

## 1990s

**Richard Guenther '90**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died Aug. 11. **Carolyn Shumate MAT '93, M.Ed. '07**, of Tumwater, Wash., died April 23. Survivors include her husband, John Shumate. **Harold Malmsten Jr. M.Ed. '94**, of Spokane, died May 3. Survivors include his wife, **Patsy Malmsten '97**, and his daughter **Sara Malmsten '09**. **Linda (Billow) Svoboda M.Ed. '97**, of Spokane, died Aug. 6. Survivors include her husband, Jim Svoboda.

## 1980s

**Kelly Michelle (Glasscock) Baird '82**, of Wisconsin, died April 16. Survivors include her daughter **Anneka Baird '16**. **Gary Peck '83, MHSA '88**, of Valley, Wash., died April 19. He is survived by his wife, Carol Ann Peck. **Paul Carosella M.Ed. '84**, of Spokane, died Aug. 10. Survivors include his wife, Betsy Carosella. **Kenneth Brooks '89**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died Sept. 27. Survivors include his wife, Jana Brooks, and his sister **Melora (Brooks) Jackson '87**.

## 1970s

**Dennis Anthony '71**, of Spokane, died July 1. Survivors include his wife, Violet Kathleen Anthony. **Joseph Caddy '70**, of Bremerton, Wash., died Aug. 2. **Pamela Kallian** of Bellevue, Wash., died

Jan. 23. Survivors include her husband, **Michael Kallian '71**. **Verna Richards '71**, of Spokane, died Sept. 7. **Sheldon White '71**, of Benicia, Calif., died June 9. Survivors include his wife, **Beverly White '70**, and his daughter **Corrie (White) Billiet '92**. **Dorothy (Hauge) McDonald M.Ed. '72**, of Palm Desert, Calif., died July 9. Survivors include her husband, John McDonald. **Eufemia Munn M.Ed. '72**, of Medical Lake, Wash., died June 22. Eufemia was the widow of Professor of Education Merton Munn. **Mayme Hanlen '74**, of Spokane, died May 15. **Shirley (Kirk) Higgin '74, M.Ed. '77**, of Spokane, died April 4. **Richard Norem '74**, of Olympia, Wash., died Aug. 18. Survivors include his wife, **Susan Norem**. **Jean Bateham '75**, of Spokane, died Sept. 15. Survivors include her husband, Richard Bateham. **Julie (Astrup) Borrevik '75**, of Spokane, died July 6. Survivors include her husband, Kevin Borrevik, and her son **Andrew Borrevik '88**. **Gordon Pierce '75**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died April 20. **John "Kevin" Hughes '76**, of Eagle, Idaho, died March 30. Survivors include his wife, Des Hughes. **Marilyn (Krall) Morlan '76**, of Spokane, died July 14. Survivors include her husband, David Morlan. **Flora (Wood) Smick '77**, of Spokane, died June 14. Survivors include her husband, **Robert Smick '64**. **Richard Waite '77**, of Spokane, died May 27, 2017. Survivors include his wife, Beverly Waite, and his sons **Kevin Waite '98** and **Steven Waite '97**. **Gregory Giesa '78**, of Spokane, died April 16. Survivors include his wife, Sandy Giesa. **Gary Reiter M.Ed. '78**, of Spokane, died April 13. Survivors include his wife, Susan Reiter. **Thea Nerud '79**, of Spokane, died March 28.

## 1960s

**Mang-So Tsio-Pullar '61**, of Bellevue, Wash., died June 26. Survivors include her husband, Dennis Pullar. **Norman Harding '62**, of Spokane Valley, Wash., died March 17. Survivors include his wife, Kymm Harding. **David Phillipy '62** died Dec. 16, 2017. **Norman Roehl '62**, of Bellevue, Wash., died June 24. **Darrell James '64**, of Salem, Ore., died April 1. Survivors include his wife, **Anna (Hendrickson) James '64**. **Judith Ray '64**, of Spokane, died April 1. **Patsy (Williams) Yergen '64**, of Yakima, Wash., died June 13. Survivors include her husband, Fred Yergen. **Julie (Brief) Wysocki '64**, of Lynnwood, Wash., died April 8. **Victoria (Kelly) Charbonneau '65**, of Spokane, died March 3, 2017. Survivors include her husband, **Jim Charbonneau '65**. The Rev. **Paul "Doug" Goins '66**, of Peoria, Ariz., died Aug. 6. Survivors include his wife, Candy Goins. **Marcia Skinner '66, MSN '95**, of

Camano Island, Wash., died Nov. 13, 2017. **Bob Harmon '67**, of Tacoma, Wash., died Aug. 6. **Ronald Prior Sr. '68**, of Spokane, died May 28. Survivors include his wife, Marlene Prior, and his granddaughter **Rachel Prior '19**. **Timothy Dewhirst '69**, of North Richland Hills, Texas, died April 14. Survivors include his wife, **Robin Dewhirst '69**. **Joyce (Ashley) Leonard '69**, of North Idaho, died March 31. **Robert Waite '69**, of Spokane, died May 4. Survivors include his wife, Joyce Waite.

## 1950s

**Gordon Schweitzer '50**, of Bremerton, Wash., died Aug. 1. Survivors include his wife, Thea Schweitzer, and his sons **Bruce Schweitzer '76** and **Neil Schweitzer**. The Rev. **Melvin Unruh '50**, of Colfax, Wash., died July 14. **Leigh Taylor '51** died Nov. 25, 2016. Survivors include his wife, **Marlene Taylor '73**. **Gregory Sanford '54** died Jan. 18. Survivors include his wife, **Ruth (Jones) Sanford '58**, and his daughter **Shawna (Sanford) Byrne '84**. **Della (Weyrick) Johnson '55**, of Durango, Colo., died April 12. **Virginia (Humphrey) Snip '56**, of Archer, Iowa, died March 1. **Richard Green '57, M.Ed. '69**, of Payson, Utah, died Feb. 18. He is survived by his wife, Kayla Green. **Arlin Rhoads '57**, of Golconda, Ill., died April 21. He is survived by his wife, Mary Rhoads. **Jacqueline (Haskins) Eide '58**, of Spokane, died March 19. **Virginia (Anderson) Cleath M.Ed. '58**, of San Luis Obispo, Calif., died Aug. 10. **Fred Glandon '58**, of Stanwood, Wash., died Aug. 9. **Joan Larson '59**, of Fountain Hills, Ariz., died March 7. She was the widow of Associate Professor Emeritus of Art **J. Russell Larson M.Ed. '51**.

## 1940s

**Edith (Purcell) Manildi '41, M.Ed. '61**, of Spokane, died April 18. **Reginald Arfield**, of Kirkland, Wash., died July 28. Survivors include his wife, Henrietta Arfield. The Rev. **Willis Case '48** died Jan. 10, 2017. Survivors include his wife, Eleanor Case. **Robbin Marvin '48**, of Muncie, Ind., died Aug. 26. **Emily (Polson) Simmons '48**, of Arlington, Wash., died Feb. 25. The Rev. **William Ainley '49**, of Yakima, Wash., died March 6. Survivors include his daughter **Carolyn (Ainley) Pinke '71**. **Donna (VanderMeer) Dorpat '49**, of Spokane, died July 14. **Thelma (Bruce) Landon '49** died April 12. Survivors include her daughters **Donna Landon '75** and **Joann Landon '77**. **Barbara (Aultman) Wright '49**, of Yakima, Wash., died June 24.

## IN MEMORIAM



## MARILYN (HAHN) STEDMAN

Marilyn (Hahn) Stedman, a former trustee and Whitworth Auxiliary member, died May 28 in Spokane. She was 89. Marilyn was born in Spokane and attended Lewis and Clark High School and Washington State University. She served on the Whitworth Board of Trustees from 1986-89, and was an active community volunteer throughout her life. Marilyn was a passionate advocate for tolerance and understanding between people of different faiths. Survivors include her husband of 68 years, Dale; daughter **Cydney Stedman Brown '76** and her husband, **David Brown '75**; son Bruce Stedman and his wife, Castle O'Neill; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## WHITWORTH STAFF

**JOHN BLOUNT**, a groundskeeper from 1978 to 2004, died in Spokane on May 19. He was 79.

**LARRY LEONARD**, a custodian from 1996 to 2006, died in Spokane on March 24. He was 78.

**MERLE PRATER**, the director of the Whitworth Outdoor Environmental Learning Center from 1974 to 1977, died June 20, 2017. The Ames, Iowa, resident was 95.

# 2018 ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES

*Our award recipients share what they hope is the legacy of their life's work.*



## **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**

**CAPT. SHANNON  
JOHNSON '88**

*U.S. Navy Psychologist*

"Over the last 30 years, the Lord has placed me in positions where I have had tremendous opportunities to serve and impact others, both on the individual and systemic levels. I hope I will have been worthy of that trust, and will have used all of my abilities, influence and positions of authority to reduce suffering, increase hope, communicate truth and extend grace."



## **SERVICE TO WHITWORTH AWARD**

**LAURA BLOXHAM '69**

*Whitworth Professor  
Emeritus of English*

"I hope my students have retained a love of learning, joy in reading, and a passion for critical thinking and writing. Students who write or visit want to share memories of our learning together in the classroom, in my office and outside of that, too. I am happy with that legacy."



## **EMERGING LEADER AWARD**

**SHAUNA EDWARDS  
'05**

*Founder of Lumen High  
School and Former Regional  
Director of Spokane  
YoungLives*

"I hope that those who feel they have no voice or no hope will know they have opportunities and options, and that they can go out and change the world with their experiences and stories."



## **MIND & HEART AWARD**

**AMY JO MEINERS '88**

*Elementary School Teacher,  
Education Advocate, 2017  
NEA Foundation Global  
Fellow and 2016 Alaska  
Teacher of the Year*

"My greatest hope is that everyone I serve grows in their understanding of their own potential, and believes they are lovable and in turn makes an impact on loving others, and that we are all learners in life."





## HOW TO NURTURE YOUR CHILD'S STRENGTHS

BY JANN LEPIEN  
MARGO LONG ENDOWED  
CHAIR IN GIFTED EDUCATION

Parents play a crucial role in developing their children's talents and interests. Nurturing these talents can help children become motivated, find meaning and cultivate curiosity, and it can be especially helpful for children who struggle in areas of learning or who have autism or other disorders. By focusing on strengths and interests, parents can help their children better relate, adapt and function in the world while retaining the essence of who they are.

Following are my recommendations for how parents can support the development of their children's strengths:

### **BE AWARE OF WHAT YOUR CHILD LIKES TO DO OR SHOWS INTEREST IN.**

Engage in conversations with your child about these interests, showing you value their ideas. It's also important to be patient with their changing interests as they broaden their knowledge. A child often first develops interests and strengths by engaging in the excitement of the topic or talent area, with a sense of playfulness and curiosity, before committing long term to developing related skills.

**PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES SO THEY CAN TRY MANY ACTIVITIES AND EXPLORE TOPICS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.** This might include purchasing resources to help them investigate topics in greater detail, checking out library books to deepen their knowledge, or visiting museums that offer opportunities to learn interactively or to acquire more sophisticated knowledge and skills.

**IF YOUR CHILD CONTINUES TO SHOW INTEREST IN AN AREA, HELP THEM PURSUE THAT AREA BEYOND THE INTRODUCTORY PHASE.** This might include locating clubs, associations, local hobbyists, mentors, camps and other organizations that can provide continuous or more in-depth training. There is nothing more exciting than sharing an interest, talent or strength with others who appreciate it as well.



WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY

300 W. Hawthorne Road  
Spokane, WA 99251

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[whitworth.edu](http://whitworth.edu)



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