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WHITWORTH TODAY

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROOMMATE MEMORY?

"The camping trip in the park when the sprinklers went off; taking Flash the turtle for walks; and making Christmas toffee in the tiny Stewart Hall kitchen with **Cathryn (Dapples) Goettel** and **Dana (Rogers) Whitney**." **Jen (Ludlam) VonLintel**, all '92

"When Marta the Monkey's voice box stopped working and never started again, by no fault of ours..." **Alissa (Kensok) Roloff** and **K.D. (Roope) Strasburger**, both '06

"For my roommate's birthday, I filled our room up to the waists with balloons. Little did I know that **Maery Simmons '12** hated balloons because they unexpectedly pop. After a week of occasionally cutting one at the knot to let the air slowly squeal out, Maery left the dorm and I went at the balloons with a thumbtack. Our room stunk of balloon rubber and bad breath for days. Totally worth it." **Sarah Lackenbauer '13**

"I'm sure **Joel Buffum '10** is glad I grew out of my 'taking photos of everything and putting them on Facebook' phase. Jenkins 109, baby!" **Christian Legaspi '10**

"My sophomore year, there was this girl, Julie, I was interested in but didn't really know. My roommate, **Adam Bediamol '04**, invited her to help us prepare food for the upcoming Kanikapila event, and she opted to come with us. During the food prep, I heard the Pirate Radio DJ dedicate the UB40 song *Can't Help Falling in Love* to 'Jason and Julie.' Julie was standing next to me, and we were both bright red. I looked over at Adam, and he along with everyone there was trying to suppress their laughter. Yeah. My roommate had called it in. **Julie (Jones) Reynolds '03** and I have been married for 17 years and we have two kids. Adam was the best man at our wedding." **Jason Reynolds '03**



From left: Jen (Ludlam) VonLintel, Cathryn (Dapples) Goettel and Dana (Rogers) Whitney, all '92



From left: Sarah Lackenbauer '13 and Maery Simmons '12



From left: Christian Legaspi and Joel Buffum, both '10



From left: Adam Bediamol '04, Julie (Jones) Reynolds '03 and Jason Reynolds '03

FOR THE NEXT COMMUNITY VOICES: How did you earn money as a student? Email us at today@whitworth.edu.

WHITWORTH TODAY



ON THE COVER: April (Szuch) Vomfell '03 turned her love of flowers into a thriving urban farming business. Through creativity combined with her writing, marketing and technical skills, Vomfell is cultivating a fulfilling career. See story on P. 27.

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FEATURED STORIES

06 | CRUCIAL CO-LAB-ORATION

08 | 'I AM NOT ALONE ON MY CHRISTIAN JOURNEY'

12 | FEMALE FINANCIERS TAKE THE LEAD

14 | JUST A MOMENT

02 | COMMUNITY VOICES

04 | PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

18 | FOND FAREWELLS

25 | CLASS NOTES

30 | IN MEMORIAM

34 | ACADEMIC MINUTE

35 | FACULTY FOCUS

WHITWORTH TODAY

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Spring 2021

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US! Email us at today@whitworth.edu, or write us at *Whitworth Today*, University Marketing & Communications Office, Whitworth University, 300 W. Hawthorne Road, Spokane, WA 99251.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Alumni, submit online at whitworth.edu/alumniupdate. Parents of students and friends of Whitworth, email to updates@whitworth.edu. Or mail to University Marketing & Communications Office, 300 W. Hawthorne Road, Spokane, WA 99251.



4,018 Meaningful Days

Serving as Whitworth's 18th president these past 11 years has provided many meaningful moments.

Each day, I am privileged to work alongside some of the brightest and most faithful people I have ever known, all in a common calling to "equip graduates to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity." One of my most meaningful moments each day is walking to campus from Hawthorne House with energy and anticipation, knowing that I get to roll up my sleeves with friends and colleagues in pursuit of something noble and worthy. I work with great people.

Once I'm on campus, I'm quickly reminded that there's another source of energy and inspiration that makes my job fulfilling, and that is Whitworth's amazing students. When I walk into the HUB or Cowles Auditorium or the chapel, I see the faces of students who have worked so hard to get to Whitworth. They love this place too, and they inspire me to be a better person through their ingenuity, humor, determination and brilliance.

Alumni and friends of the university often regale me with stories of when times were different, harder, simpler or more uncertain. They are also quick to tell me how much Whitworth has changed and improved, and about their delight in seeing Whitworth stretch its borders and excel in so many areas previously thought unattainable.

Meaningful to me are the days I travel the world to meet with these mind-and-heart standard-bearers. Whitworth is cared for and supported by people who generously give back with their time, prayer and treasure. Whitworth's alumni and friends are the best in the world.

For more than 130 years, God has sustained this place and its people, often against great odds. There is nothing more important for me, for us, than upholding Whitworth's Christ-centered mission, one that simultaneously embraces curiosity and faithful conviction. Among the most meaningful moments of any day as president is when I see a student, faculty member, coach or staff member striving to learn more about God's creation – to study it with rigor and with wonder. Whitworth serves – we serve – an awesome God.

Thank you for each of the 4,018 meaningful days I've had the pleasure of serving as your president. May God in Christ bless you and this place we love so dearly.

Always a Whitworthian,

Beck A. Taylor, President

In honor of Beck and Julie Taylor's exceptional 11 years of service to Whitworth, members of the Whitworth community asked them 11 questions. Their video responses are available at whitworth.edu/11for11.

A GROUND-BREAKING GIFT



Architect rendering

A transformative \$10 million gift has propelled Whitworth's establishment of doctoral degree programs in the health sciences. The largest single gift in university history was given in December 2020 by philanthropists and humanitarians David and Dana Dornsife. Their gift has equipped Whitworth to complete the construction of its state-of-the-art health sciences building and to hire faculty and staff for the university's developing doctoral programs in occupational and physical therapy.

The 38,000-square-foot Dornsife Health Sciences Building is located next to the Lied Art Center on the north side of campus. The facility will include a motion analysis research lab, exercise physiology labs, anatomy labs, simulation labs, dedicated classroom and functional lab spaces, and an interprofessional practice clinic. Students will begin their studies in the doctoral programs in 2022, pending accreditation.

"This exciting space for our new doctoral programs, as well as for our existing master's degree in athletic training program, will give Whitworth's students the opportunity to branch out in much-needed health fields," says Provost

& Executive Vice President Gregor Thuswaldner.

Graduates of these programs will be prepared to engage in health science education, research and service, particularly to the region's underserved populations.

The Dornsifes made their remarkable gift as part of the 11-year Campaign for Whitworth, which is an integral component of the university's Whitworth 2021 strategic plan. Both conclude in June 2021.

More than 25,000 generous donors have made campaign gifts ranging from several dollars to \$10 million, raising a record \$155.3 million to date. The Whitworth community's inspiring support is sustaining the university's mission and strengthening opportunities for students to receive a Whitworth education that prepares them to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity in communities worldwide.

Stories of the campaign's significant impact for Whitworth will be shared through a dedicated website and celebration video in October. [W](#)

CAMPAIGN GIVING UPDATE | TOTAL: \$155.3 MILLION (through April 30, 2021)

\$33.8M

ENDOWMENTS

\$43M

FACILITIES

\$50.5M

PROGRAMS

\$28M

BEQUESTS



Learn more about campaign projects at whitworth.edu/campaign.



crucial co-*lab*- oration

BY MEGAN JONAS

As an undergraduate student, Alisha Epps experienced a pivotal moment when she joined a behavioral neuroscience lab and began researching epilepsy. “That was the first time I understood that the two areas I was interested in, biology and psychology, actually have so much overlap,” she says.

Epps studied the strong link between epilepsy and depression in graduate school and has continued that research for the past five years as a Whitworth assistant professor of psychology. Not only is she contributing to the scientific community, but she is providing students with the opportunity to have their own “aha!” moments in the lab.

Last fall Epps began to research treatment strategies for co-occurring epilepsy and depression as part of a three-year grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

"Having epilepsy and depression simultaneously makes finding safe and effective treatments for both conditions an incredible challenge," she says.

Epps and her students are examining diet and exercise as potential therapies by using a unique rat model in Whitworth's vivarium, where live animals are cared for and studied. So far, the preliminary results have been encouraging. They also plan to eventually test a pharmaceutical treatment.

"To bring the work to Whitworth and see the research develop and get stronger has been really rewarding," Epps says. "Students frankly make it possible – there wouldn't be enough capacity to do this without them."

Psychology major Rachelle Kreger '21 says she wanted to be involved in Epps' research the moment she heard about it. "I knew her lab was a rare and incredible opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the mind and its biological processes," Kreger says.

Kreger's biggest takeaway as a research assistant is that meaningful insights are gained over time. "Research happens through small and consistent accomplishments," she says. "As someone who wants everything to happen right now, this has been a great lesson."

Kreger plans to become a mental health therapist but would like to conduct research too. "I just know I won't be satisfied unless I have that type of challenge," she says. "Regardless of what unfolds in my career, I am dedicated to the lifelong practice of helping people and healing my community."

A dedication to humanity is also what drives Epps. "We don't always envision scientists in white lab coats as a helping profession," she says, "but that desire to help somebody is what's motivating me." **W**



From left: Rachelle Kreger '21 and Assistant Professor of Psychology Alisha Epps research treatments for epilepsy and depression.

'I Am Not Alone on My Christian Journey'



BY MEGAN JONAS

Last fall, 13 students from a range of backgrounds formed a Christian living-learning community through the new Emmaus Scholars Program. Sponsored by campus ministry, the yearlong program integrates spirituality, theology and justice.

"My vision for Emmaus is to create an intentional community that helps teach students what it means to follow Jesus," director Derek Taylor '08 says. "We move learning into the context of community, and we embody our learning as we gather to eat, pray, serve, play and simply do life together."

Students kept journals reflecting on their experiences, and as the following excerpts show, doing life together Emmaus-style is challenging but also richly rewarding.

"The first morning session left me feeling a little intimidated. I realized the vulnerability and dramatic change that joining the community would entail, and I felt insecure and unprepared around people who already had an active prayer life, daily encounters with Scripture, and a general aura of having their stuff together."

Henry Johnson '23

Spanish and Peace Studies Double Major

"I got my first turn in leading evening prayer, and I was riddled with anxiety. I have never been in a communal faith environment before. I must remember that praying communally is not substantially different than praying alone, and my audience truly doesn't change. I am still just communicating with God, and that is all that matters at that moment, even if I'm in a room with my peers."

Kylie Vera '22

Political Science and Theology Double Major

"In some ways, cooking for 14 people feels exactly like interceding for someone. Cooking is labor on behalf of someone's physical need to eat, which is what interceding for someone means! It is such a joy to know we are a community that has formal means of practicing intercession for one another. I take these meals as a foretaste of our future."

Ezekiel Pierson '22

Computer Science Major





From left: Kylie Vera '22 and Kit Haley '22

"About half of us had a significant discussion on how we can have better conversations in class and serve each other better. It was frustrating – the problems we're trying to solve are difficult and have roots deeper than we can fully tackle in a year. We come from diverse backgrounds and Christian foundations. It was also exciting – an opportunity to think about what others need and how we as a community can come together to support them."

Eli Min '21

Computer Science Major

"Being close to people and in the community is hard. It's awkward, our mistakes and differences get tangled up, and when someone close hurts you, it hurts bad. But love, vulnerability, relationships and fellowship all require community and being close to others. It's definitely a risk because no one wants to see things go poorly, but we have to risk conflict to move forward."

Anonymous

"I'm learning to understand how privilege impacts perceptions of hope, renewal and growth in our community. Those who already feel as though they have much don't need to hope for God's kingdom to come quickly, and that's why it's difficult for the proverbial rich man to get into heaven. It strikes me that the way the rich man can learn how to wait with sorrow, anticipation and hope is in loving his neighbors. By seeing the suffering in this world and in the lives of those around him, and working toward a greater tomorrow, the rich man can learn how to crave the coming of the kingdom of God."

Eli Min '21



From left: Henry Johnson '23, Alyssa Fusato '21 and Ezekiel Pierson '22



"During quarantine [for potential COVID-19] I felt a growing disconnect not only from Emmaus as a whole, but even from my housemates. This is why I have been encouraged so much by the increase in interaction with our Emmaus family this week. This time has served as a reminder that I am not alone on my Christian journey, but I have partners and supports all around me; a loving community I am blessed to be a part of and should not take for granted."

Caleb Rosen '23

Spanish and Peace Studies Double Major

"I'm usually very engaged and vocal in discussions, but in Emmaus, I am listening much more than I usually do. I'm humbled. I know so little. I appreciate so much more what others have to say and how much I learn from simply listening. Different perspectives and traditions come together to interrogate difficult ideas or attempt to answer complex questions. Diversity adds to the richness of learning, and it's difficult to imagine such good discussions with monolithic views of faith."

Anonymous

"I feel as though I'm becoming more invested in this idea of Christian community over time. It no longer feels like just a form of commitment, but also a form of care, genuine care, and it feels exciting to be a part of."

Eli Min '21 



FEMALE FINANCIERS TAKE THE LEAD

BY JULIE RIDDLE '92

Over the past few years, business students and faculty members noticed a perplexing pattern during many team stock pitches for the Whitworth Student Investment Group. Female team members would deliver a welcome and provide an industry overview, and then their male counterparts would present the complex stock analysis.

"These females were among Whitworth's very best students" says Dawn Keig, associate professor of strategic management, "but they felt they were lacking in confidence around their nimbleness in working with some of the technical skills."

Gracie Pfau '21, an investment group member and business administration major, also observed that in her classes male students were more likely than females to raise their hand to ask or answer questions. "We usually let other people go first," says Pfau, pictured at left.

Pfau and other upper-division business students decided to address these issues by creating Women in Finance, a chartered club that seeks to build sustainable confidence through competence. "At its heart, WIF is women teaching women in a supportive environment," says Keig, the club's faculty advisor.

With a grant from the Whitworth Women's Leadership Network, club officers built a reusable curriculum that they began teaching in a weekly class. Each unit includes basic and advanced levels, providing challenging material for all participants.

Last fall, students from a variety of majors learned how to read a 10-K annual report, with units delving into each of the report's financial statements. "The most important piece we wanted them to take away is how these are all

interconnected," says Pfau, the president of WIF. "The younger students are really eager to learn, and this is like a jump-start to the upper-division classes."

For spring 2021, WIF moved from a classroom to a computer lab, where the students collaborated with Assistant Professor of Math & Computer Science Qian Mao to learn Python, a programming language that is used for business analytics. "The financial and technical worlds are starting to merge," Pfau says, "and it looks really good on your résumé if you know how to code."

Pfau will soon begin her career in the finance industry, where gender inequality prevails, particularly in senior roles. But she has developed the skills and the confidence to excel. She wants the same for the members of WIF. "With resources and knowledge, they'll be on a similar playing field to the guys," she says, "and hopefully that'll get them to raise their hand." **W**

"At its heart, WIF
is women teaching
women in a supportive
environment."



JUST A MOMENT

BY JULIE RIDDLE '92

THE QUESTION IS SIMPLE:

***What is the most meaningful moment of
your day at Whitworth?***

The responses – from a spectrum of students, and staff and faculty members – represent simple moments in time. But these moments prove significant, revealing dearly held values, the fulfillment of callings, the hope of future aspirations, and the profound impact of personal connection.

Here, Whitworthians share the moment in their day that makes all the difference.



“Opening the health center each morning makes me excited for the day ahead. While turning on lights and checking voicemails may seem mundane, I always feel thankful that God has given me a tangible way to use my gift of healing for his people.”

Brianna Gullett R.N., Health Center

“Going to the lab after class and doing research on worms. It is really cool to be able to study an organism directly to learn more about biology.”

Ryan Bax '21, Biology

“Taking walks on campus with my friends and sitting by the fire pit, having conversations.”

Keilani Kim '22, Elementary Education

“When a student drops by my office to chat about their coursework, their weekend, their housemates, their résumé, their... anything. Getting to know each student improves my ability to offer them advice and build connections to support their career path.”

Addie (Estes) Grow '09, Assistant Director of Internships & External Relations, School of Business

“Seeing my student-athletes at the start of practice. This moment allows me to have a touch point (fist bumps) with each one of them and see how they are doing.”

Joial Griffith, Head Women's Basketball Coach

“Playing trumpet in wind symphony rehearsal. I can take a mental break from my physics work to enjoy making music with my friends.”

Maria Straight '21, Physics





“When I see students decide on a career path and successfully navigate that path, and I have been a part of their journey – WOW! I feel privileged and honored to be a part of their growth and development.”

Kirk Westre, Chair and Professor, Kinesiology & Athletics

“Collaborating with my friends to make art that engages us creatively and academically.”

Sarah Hull '22, Theatre – Acting Track and Communication

“When students fall in love with a new adventure sport, from the climbing wall and the bike trails to the ski slopes and the Cascade volcanoes. I have the incredible privilege of seeing students conquer fears, realize dreams and stoke a passion for new sports that they may carry for the rest of their lives.”

Brad Pointer, Assistant Director, University Recreation Center & Climbing Wall

“Talking with student leaders about how they can use their strengths and passions to bring about a more equitable and just world. It inspires me to see current students working to improve our campus and wider communities.”

Jade Faletoi '15, M.A. in Administrative & Nonprofit Leadership '22, Area Coordinator for Duvall and Oliver Halls

“Meeting new international students and sometimes their parents as well. To be able to interact with people from all over the world has made an impact on who I am, and for that I am grateful.”

Lulú González, Assistant Director, International Student Services, Office of Student Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

“Catching up with my teammates as we set up the [volleyball] nets. I love to hear about their day, and hearing their funny stories brings a smile to my face.”

Abby Wolverton '23, Chemistry – Biochemistry Track





“Working alongside our student employees. It brings me joy to develop lasting relationships with our students, whether teaching them life skills through landscape work or providing them encouragement and support in their professional and personal lives.”

Candace (Ireland) Wallin '17, Turf & Landscape Specialist, Grounds Department

“Passing by the Intercultural Student Center and seeing the flags adorning the pathway. The ISC isn’t open this year because of safety guidelines, and it used to be a place I visited every day. It gives me comfort and joy when I see the flags because they remind me of good memories.”

Esther Brown '21, Communication

“Attending chapel, where I can come to breathe easier. I get to hear my talented friends worship, and after chapel ends, everyone sticks around to talk, help clean up and get lunch together.”

Jenna Breedlove '22, Psychology

“Meeting with my students. As a Student Success coach, I have the opportunity to meet with my students once a week and talk about academic success but overall learn their stories and connect with the community.”

Mark Ponce '22, Psychology

“Delivering mail to faculty for my campus job. I have the pleasure of stopping by their offices, eating chocolate, trading stories, and receiving words of encouragement and wisdom.”

Jordan Pride '19, M.Ed. in School Counseling '23

“The moment when I connect with a student and we really see each other as human beings. Whether it’s through French literature, poetry, history and culture or through jokes and conversation, or when we solve a problem together or I hold them in prayer – that connection is what means the most to me.”

Jennifer Stafford Brown, Chair and Professor, World Languages & Cultures



So. What’s the most meaningful moment of your day? 

FOND FAREWELLS

BY KATIE LACAYO '19

WHITWORTH BIDS GOODBYE TO THESE LONGTIME
FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS WHO RETIRED IN 2020-21.



Forrest Baird

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

YEARS OF SERVICE: 42.5

ALUMNUS REMEMBRANCE:

"Forrest changed the course of my life and career with his brilliance, love, passion, perseverance and kindness. Core 250 and Philosophy of Religion and Logic, to name a few, awakened the critical thinker in me and gave me a love for truth and knowledge. After I changed from a religion major to philosophy, Forrest sat me down in his office and said, 'Tim, you are like a wrestler who discovered he had a brain, and now you are trying to pin your classmates to the mat in every class.' I felt at once seen, loved and gently corrected; I had not experienced that before. Psalm 68:5 calls God 'a father to the fatherless.' Forrest was the incarnation of that characteristic of God for me. I am forever in his debt."

TIM MILLER '88 | Partner, Valle Makoff LLP

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Editor of the seven-volume *Philosophic Classics* series, editing seven editions across 28 years. | Authored *How Do We Reason?: An Introduction to Logic*, 2021. | Chosen 11 times by the senior class as a Most Influential Professor.

Richard Bishop

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE *(photo unavailable)*

YEARS OF SERVICE: 20

COLLEAGUE REMEMBRANCE:

"Richard brought a wealth of experience in applied mathematics to our department. He was able to cite examples from his work in the aerospace industry and share experiences with students about his work on the Space Shuttle. He had experiences that none of the mathematicians in the department could match. Richard had a desire for students to succeed and provided a variety of pathways for them to do well in his courses. He is a person for whom his Christian faith is an important part of who he is, and he brought that into the classroom."

MARTHA GADY | Associate Professor and Department Chair, Mathematics & Computer Science

Lee Anne Chaney

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

YEARS OF SERVICE: 41

ALUMNA REMEMBRANCE:

"Dr. Chaney is one of my favorite people in life. Whitworth is the place it is because of professors like Dr. Chaney. As my advisor, she was engaged and caring and an advocate for me. As a professor, she met me mind-to-mind, fostered curiosity, and held us all accountable to a high academic standard without ever belittling, mocking or disregarding a student in our classes. As a person, she has modeled Christ and his church in compassionate engagement with her community. She has been my mentor for over 20 years now, and I am a vastly better person because of her influence. Plus, she loves plants."

ROBIN EMMANS '01 | Criminal Defense Lawyer, 2nd Street Law PLLC



SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Authored "Responsibilities to the Institution" in *Walking on the Rim: A Guidebook for New Faculty and Their Mentors*, 2011. | Authored "A Careful Convergence: Integrating Biology and Faith in the Church-Related College" in *Teaching as an Act of Faith: Theory and Practice in Church-Related Higher Education*, 2002. | Presented "Ethnobotany of the Northern Cheyenne" at the Washington Native Plant Society, Northeast Chapter, 2001.

Marc Hafso

PROFESSOR OF MUSIC | DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES AND THE WHITWORTH CHOIR

YEARS OF SERVICE: 18

ALUMNA REMEMBRANCE:

"The lessons Marc teaches extend far beyond the rehearsal room. He emphasizes the importance of serving and honoring the music and each other, as a reminder that we are all lucky to be part of something far bigger than our individual selves. His humble and careful leadership creates an environment that encourages real growth. Marc tells his students to 'prepare for a good experience,' knowing that good experiences come from diligent, intentional work. Besides being an absolutely brilliant choral director, he is a deeply caring friend to many and will be dearly missed at Whitworth."

EMMA THACKSTON '20 | Resident Worship Director, First Presbyterian Church of Missoula



SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Published choral compositions through Colla Voce Music, Indianapolis. | Served as vice president, president-elect and president of the Washington State Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. | Conducted the Whitworth Choir at the Northwest Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association and at the Music Educators National Conference, 2008.



Debbie Hansen

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC | CONDUCTOR OF THE WHITWORTH WOMEN'S CHOIR

YEARS OF SERVICE: 34

ALUMNA REMEMBRANCE:

"I would not be the person I am today if not for Debbie. As an undecided major, I was randomly assigned Debbie as my advisor my first year. She encouraged me to enroll in music classes and lessons, which propelled my lifelong musical journey. Debbie is beloved and adored by her students, not just because of the endless supply of candy in her office, but because of her clear instruction and inherent care for her students and craft, all while pushing us to do the best work possible. Singing under Debbie's conducting was one of the greatest pleasures and privileges of my life. She remains my mentor, professor, conductor and lifelong friend."

JONELYN LANGENSTEIN '03 | Clinical Speech Pathologist, Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, Northwestern Medicine

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Conducted several Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre productions. | Director of Music at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Spokane.



John Hengesh

VISITING INSTRUCTOR, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

YEARS OF SERVICE: 16

ALUMNUS REMEMBRANCE:

"John was easily one of my favorite professors at Whitworth. I was fortunate to be a student of his during both my undergrad and graduate careers. John seemed to have personally experienced nearly every business concept he taught and never hesitated to share them. Between that and his 'tell it the way it is' style, it was almost impossible not to stay glued to his words during class. Outside of class, he was a friendly face and someone I could go to for advice. My Whitworth experience would not have been the same without him."

EKOW NOTTINSON-NYAANKU '17, MBA '20 | Financial Analyst, Washington Trust Bank

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Director of Graduate Studies in Business, 2010-17. | Recipient of the Contingent Faculty Award, 2009, and the Dean's Distinguished Service Award, 2018. | Namesake of the John Hengesh Servant Leadership Award, given annually to an MBA graduate for outstanding student leadership.

Jann Leppien

MARGO LONG ENDOWED CHAIR IN GIFTED EDUCATION | PROFESSOR, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

YEARS OF SERVICE: 8

ALUMNUS REMEMBRANCE:

"Jann has been my most inspiring educational mentor. Our work together in the Gifted & Talented Education Program at Whitworth drastically elevated my understanding of human growth and development while building my confidence and abilities as a leader and advocate for my students. As an educator, Jann challenges and engages all students at all levels. She guides and leads those around her with both her mind and her heart. Most importantly, the influence that Jann has had on so many educators has exponentially accelerated the growth of countless students, supporting them on their journey to self-discovery and self-efficacy."

NICK CASTILLEJA MAT '19 | Sixth Grade Highly Capable Teacher, Pasco School District



SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Recipient of the Idaho Gifted Education Milestone Award from Idaho: The Association for the Gifted, 2018. | Recipient of the Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted Advocacy Award, 2018. | Co-authored *The Parallel Curriculum: A Design to Develop Learner Potential and Challenge Advanced Learners*, 2009.

Terry McGonigal

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

YEARS OF SERVICE: 26

COLLEAGUE REMEMBRANCE:

"Terry is a humble and wise leader, always stepping back for others to shine. At his core, Terry is a peacemaker. He believes in a God of shalom and is driven by a profound sense of reconciliation, relying heavily on his faith in the coming kingdom of God. His work has been formative for upholding Whitworth's mission to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity. I am so grateful to Terry for his vision of the Office of Church Engagement and the incredible ways he has taught Scripture, walked with ministry leaders, and preached shalom through his life of faithful ministry to so many."

THE REV. MINDY (BEARD) SMITH '98 | Interim Director, Office of Church Engagement



SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Former theology professor, dean of spiritual life and director of the Whitworth Institute of Ministry. | Authored Gospel of John commentary and Book of Judges commentary for Community Bible Study. | Authored "If You Only Knew What Would Bring Peace: Shalom Theology as the Biblical Foundation for Diversity." | Received the Dove of Peace Award from the Center for Jewish-Christian Dialogue, 1998.



Ron Pyle

PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

YEARS OF SERVICE: 33

ALUMNA REMEMBRANCE:

"When people ask about my favorite part of Whitworth, I typically respond with 'Ron Pyle!' What started as a professor-student relationship quickly became a strong friendship and mentorship. Ron has taught me about the power of relationship through the way he has loved me and my husband so well. We couldn't have imagined anyone else officiating our wedding. Ron is passionate in his craft, generous to students, loyal to loved ones, dazzling with his magic tricks, and faithful through it all. Congratulations, Ron. I love you."

QUINCY (COOPER) MCCUNE '15, M.A. '18 | Associate Director, Campus Visits, Whitworth Admissions

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Preached and taught at numerous churches and retreats. | Coached preachers and trained pastors and laypersons in ministry. | Provided premarital counseling and marital mentoring. | Chosen 18 times by the senior class as a Most Influential Professor.



Dale Soden

**PROFESSOR OF HISTORY | DIRECTOR OF THE
WEYERHAEUSER CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH
& LEARNING**

YEARS OF SERVICE: 35

ALUMNUS REMEMBRANCE:

"Dale Soden was foundational in my development, teaching me how to read and reflect critically on history and, more importantly, how to assess the assumptions and methods behind the narration of history itself. Dale really saw me as a person, encouraged me to take my work seriously, and gently nurtured the nascent promise that he discerned in me, believing in my future possibilities long before I did. Forever grateful, I try to engage my students the same way: with a delight for learning and the same twinkle-in-the-eye sense of humor that Dale gifted to generations of Whitworth students like me."

MICHAEL BARRAM '89 | Professor of Theology & Religious Studies, Saint Mary's College of California

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Authored *The Reverend Mark Matthews: An Activist in the Progressive Era*, 2000; *An Enduring Venture of Mind & Heart: An Illustrated History of Whitworth University*, 2010; and *Outsiders in a Promised Land: Religious Activists in Pacific Northwest History*, 2015. | Awarded the Washington State Historical Society's Robert Gray Medal for contributions to the study and teaching of Pacific Northwest history, 2020.

Kathy Storm

**PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY | DIRECTOR OF
TEACHING, LEARNING & FAITH INTEGRATION**

YEARS OF SERVICE: 39

ALUMNA & COLLEAGUE REMEMBRANCE:

"Kathy is amazing and I'm so thankful to her as my professor, colleague and friend. As my professor, Kathy expanded my thinking while also taking an interest in getting to know me. When I returned to Whitworth as a faculty member, she once again reached out in support. Through her unfailing encouragement, brilliant teaching and skillful leadership, Kathy offers a positive influence in every interaction while also contributing behind the scenes to improve the community for all. Her heart for helping others is inspiring and makes Whitworth feel like home. I'm so grateful for Kathy."

ELIZABETH CAMPBELL '05 | Associate Professor of Psychology



SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Former associate provost and vice president for student life/dean of students. | Presented on faith development and the implications of that theory for the work of Christian colleges. | Keynote speaker for President's Colloquy on Theological Identities, speaking on Whitworth's Reformed and Presbyterian identities, 2013. | Chosen three times to speak at baccalaureate.

Roberta Wilburn

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION & DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

YEARS OF SERVICE: 13.5

ALUMNA & COLLEAGUE REMEMBRANCE:

"Educators come in all shapes and sizes, but very few are the complete package. Roberta brought out the best in every single student, including me. How blessed I have been to learn from the best of the best. Determination, dedication, commitment and hard work are second nature to Roberta. She is a kind, fun-loving and highly skilled professional. Roberta is nothing less than a real-life superstar, and I am grateful to know her. Her teachings and advice will forever be part of the foundation of Whitworth."

RHOSETTA RHODES '99, M.ED. '12 | Vice President for Student Life



SELECTED PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Selected to serve on the National Advisory Council for the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education, 2019.
| Awarded national *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Giving Back Award for administrators, 2017, and the YWCA Women of Achievement Carl Maxey Racial and Social Justice Award, 2016. | Appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee to the Washington State Charter School Commission, 2014.

STAFF RETIREMENTS

CHRISTIE ANDERSON

Associate Dean, School of Continuing Studies
and Director of Evening Business Programs

Years of Service: 20

LEANN DETTMANN

Registered Nurse, Health Center

Years of Service: 25

CONNIE MCKNIGHT

Program Coordinator, Chapel & Campus
Ministry

Years of Service: 7

JANNA NICHOLSON

Program Coordinator, Institutional
Advancement

Years of Service: 16

TERRY NORTON

Associate Director, Information Systems

Years of Service: 25

SANDY NOWACK

Assistant Director, Career & Personality
Assessments, Career Services

Years of Service: 23

LAURIE ARMSTRONG SARGENT

Assistant Director, Student Employment

Years of Service: 28

CLASS NOTES

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

Submissions received Oct. 1-Feb. 28 appear in the spring issue of Whitworth Today. All cities listed are located in Washington state unless otherwise noted.

2020s-10s

2020

Breanna (Byrum) Bacon has begun Whitworth's marriage & family therapy master's program. **Timothy Beggs** married Mica Kondryszyn on Nov. 14, 2020. Both were accepted into a physician assistant program in Spokane. **Caleb Belton** is a sales associate at Wide World of Golf in Spokane. He has begun Whitworth's master's in business program. **Jake Bethards** is a supply chain associate for Allios in Kent. **Jacob Butler** works at the Center for Translational Medicine, focusing on developing vaccines in Montana. **Emily Cahill** teaches at Christ the King Catholic School in Richland. **Jordan Cain** is a staff tax accountant at Delap LLP in Lake Oswego, Ore. **Chris Cantrell** is an audit associate for KPMG in Seattle. **Chloe Casady** is applying to graduate schools to study occupational therapy. **Austin Casey** is a letter carrier for the Pasco Post Office. **Robin Christian** is a core substitute for Central Valley School District in Spokane Valley. **Lauren Clark** is a marketing assistant for Baker Boyer Bank in Walla Walla. **Sarah Cool** attends the University of Montana's doctor of physical therapy school. **Sophie Dickinson** is a house parent and family support specialist at Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery in Spokane. **Natalie Edlin** is a residential supervisor at Morning Star Boys' Ranch in Spokane. **Eric Gomez** completed certification courses in personal training and nutrition and is a fitness consultant at MUV Fitness in Spokane. **Julia Haley**

teaches secondary education at Deep Creek Hutterite School in Reardan. **Courtney Harmon** is a caregiver at Touchmark in Portland, Ore. **Vanessa Heller** is a medical assistant for NW Pain Specialists in Spokane. **Alyssa Kisner** teaches third grade at Travis Unified School District in Vacaville, Calif. **Kamryn Laurence** is earning a doctorate in naturopathic medicine at Bastyr University California in San Diego. **Makayla Long** is a donor services assistant for Sojourners in Washington, D.C. **Jeb McGlinchy** married Heather McGlinchy on Oct. 24, 2020. **Ethan Mendoza-Pena** owns Ethan Mendoza-Pena Insurance Agency LLC in Liberty Lake. **Anujin Munkhbat** is a software developer for Faithlife in Bellingham. **Anya Nordling** is a caregiver at Sunrise Senior Living in San Diego. **Hayley Olson** is looking for work in Spokane. She is grateful for the friendships she made at Whitworth. **JackRyan O'Neil** is an adaptive ski and snowboard intern at Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center in Breckenridge, Colo. **James Parrish** is an operations and project coordinator for Medcurity in Spokane. **Layne Peters** is an intern at a restorative nonprofit that does social work and ministry in Billings, Mont. **Jordan Pride** has begun Whitworth's master's in school counseling program. **Derek Ramage** is an investment banking analyst for Piper Sandler in Chicago. **Ian Ritchie** is a horticulture lab technician at Stadelman's Fruit in Wapato. **Shaina Ruppelius** is a residential shift supervisor at Morningstar Boys' Ranch in Spokane. **Alaina Rushing**

is a microbiology laboratory analyst at KML Laboratories Inc. in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. **Michaela Scheer** is a data and administrative support specialist for Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, Mich. **Jordan Smith** is a mental health technician at Inland Northwest Behavioral Health in Spokane. **Lydia Tombarelli** is a youth director in Vancouver. **Taylor Trottier** is a corrections officer at Washington Corrections Center for Women in Gig Harbor. **Karisa Westom** and **Nathaniel Graham** were married on Sept. 19, 2020, and live in Boise, Idaho. Karisa is a prayer letter coordinator at Mission Aviation Fellowship. **Rachel Wofford** is working toward a Ph.D. in mathematics at Oregon State University.

2019

Makayla Balasa is a legal assistant at Kelly, Arndt, and Walker Attorneys at Law in Clinton. **Ana (Lawrence) Carson** moved to Kennewick and works at Trios Southridge Hospital. **Nathan Elsheimer** is a product specialist at Logikcull in San Francisco. **Nick Healey** and **Brittany (Justham) Healey** were married Dec. 7, 2019. Nick is a store manager for The Sherwin Williams Co. in Spokane. **Emily Huston** is the choral director at The Bear Creek School in Redmond. **Hailey Kirsch** is a court assistant for Clark County Superior Court in Vancouver. **Andrew Knox** is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and serves as a rifle platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division. **Claire Longworth MBA '20** is an account-based marketing coordinator for Ignitium in Spokane. **Miriam Nokes** is a registered nurse at MultiCare Deaconess

Hospital. **Michael Ong** graduated summa cum laude from Liberty University, Graduate Helms School of Government. **Mitchel Pierce** is director of student ministries at Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church in Spokane. **Carly Setterberg** attends the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver. **Hunter Smit MBA '20** is an account manager for F5 Networks in Spokane. **Tanner Stepp** is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Gig Harbor. **Arielle Van Peursem** is a security compliance consultant at Medcurity in Spokane.

2018

Alex Blair is a quality assurance engineer at Avista Utilities in Spokane. **Danny Butler** is a resident director at Biola University. **Amy Cheng** is an immigration and pro bono legal assistant for Ayunda Inc. in Washington, D.C. **Rachael Eaton** is a programs manager and instructor at 1951 Coffee Company in Berkeley, Calif. **Lydia (Pierston) Halma** and **Zack Halma** were married June 6, 2020. Lydia began an online M.Div. program at Fuller Seminary last fall, and Zack works at a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant in Spokane. **Rachel Henson** is the assistant director of student activities at Valparaiso University. **Adrianna Horsey** is a program coordinator for Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest in Milwaukie, Ore. **Kate Kostenkova** helped organize the first virtual Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, held in November 2020. **Kayla Leland** was named the 2020 Walter Byers Scholar, the NCAA's highest academic award, in recognition of being the nation's top female student-athlete. She is earning a doctor of pharmacy degree at Washington State University. **Melissa (Johnson) Murakami** married Josh Murakami on Aug. 25, 2019. **Maddi Rinehart** is a care coordinator for Sea Mar Community Health Centers in Seattle. **Jian Rzeszewicz** began graduate school in September 2020 at the University of Tokyo and is researching how ocean acidification affects coral reef ecosystems. **Andrew Savage MIT '19** is the band director at Mt. Spokane High School in Mead. **Tracy (Whitlock) Townley MBA '20** is a senior transmission services analyst for Avista in Spokane. **Maria Vigil** is the career connected learning programs manager at Greater Spokane Incorporated. **Taylor Wicht** is a nurse at Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital in Yakima. **Hayden**

Wisniewski earned a master's in optical science at the University of Arizona and is now earning a Ph.D.

2017

Hannah (McCollum) Chiabotti and **Dominic Chiabotti '19** were married July 11, 2020. **Camina Hirota** earned a master's in marriage & family therapy from Whitworth. **Nate Lamberty** is an assistant athletic trainer at Whitworth. **Ryan Stroeher** and **Courtney (Herrington) Stroeher '20** were married June 26, 2020.

2016

Kendra Aplan has completed her fourth year of teaching private violin and piano lessons and third year as worship director at her home church in Hood River, Ore. **Breanna Barnes** graduated from Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry. **Sophia Du Val** received advanced certificates in museum libraries and archives from the Pratt Institute's School of Information in New York City. **Nate Fearer** is a business systems analyst for AppFolio in Goleta, Calif. **Alex Johnson** earned a law license and will begin work as a civil rights litigator, focusing on appeals. **Heidi (Ebert) Perez** is the executive assistant to the CIO at Community Colleges of Spokane. **Katie (Rupke) Saari** married Kyle Saari on Aug. 16, 2020. **Kylie Jo Skellen** is a human resource assistant for South Sound YMCA in Olympia. **Braden Stepp** earned a master's degree in architecture from Washington State University and is an architectural assistant with CollinsWoerman in Spokane. **Juliana Zajicek** graduated from Eastern Washington University with a master's in social work.

2015

Chelsea (Wilson) LaBenne owns and operates Chelsea LaBenne Photography. **Michael Peterson** is a process engineer at Numerica Credit Union in Spokane. **Aaron Roaf** works for PrimaHealth in Newport Beach, Calif. **Adam Wilks** is a sales representative for Stryker ENT in Boise, Idaho.

2014

Hannah (Ackerman) Lane has adopted a cat with her husband, Alexian. They are saving to purchase their first home in Spokane. **Robert Leavitt M.A. in Theology** is a chaplain resident at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.

2013

Kayla Anderson is a doctoral student at Vanderbilt University. **Holly (McCammon) Asplund** earned a master's in early childhood education from Eastern Washington University. **MacKenzie Covington** is a brand producer for Zendesk in San Francisco. **Julie Lilliquist** is a junior wind project manager for ENERTRAG AG France in Cergy-Pontoise, France. **Christine (Whiteaker) Riley** married Andrew Riley on May 30, 2020.

2012

Kelsie (Raunio) Hanson married Brandon Hanson on Aug. 28, 2020.

2011

Kalen Darling graduated from California State University, Monterey Bay's MBA program in 2019. He is an associate relationship manager at Mraz Amerine and Associates in Modesto, Calif. **Laura Schaffer** is a nurse practitioner at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix.

2010

Lisa (Montoya) Allison is a dance and theater teacher for Christian Youth Theater in Portland, Ore. **Taylor Belote MIT '11** teaches band for Spokane Public Schools and will serve as instrumental music director when the district opens three new middle schools in 2022. **Robyn Best** earned a master's degree in book publishing from Portland State University in 2014 and a second bachelor's degree, in graphic design, from Full Sail University in 2020. **Rebecca (Herington) Garcia** is a paralegal for the State of Alaska, Department of Law in Juneau. **Erin (Marshall) Walker** and **Tucker Walker '11** were married Oct. 12, 2019.

DEBUTS

Evelyn, to **Arielle (Alberts) Wiley '20** and **Andrew Wiley**, July 28, 2020

Anthony Christopher, to **Anthony Ruiz '20**, Sept. 15, 2020

James, to **Ana (Lawrence) Carson '19** and Jeremy Carson, November 2019

Maxine, to **Shyanne (Faulconer) Palmus '16** and Patrick Palmus, Aug. 30, 2020

Riley, to **Bree (Anderson) Rogers '14** and Timothy Rogers, Feb. 10

Iris, to **Zachary Autry '13** and **Anneliese (Dailey) Autry '14**, Feb. 26, 2020

Oliver, to **Shin Kang '12** and Julie Windholz, April 30, 2019

Clara, to **Heather (Kennison) Miesen '12**

and Patrick Miesen, Nov. 22, 2020

Halle, to **Chrisanne (Apperson) Wisniewski '12**, April 9, 2020

Maren, to **Kalen Darling '11** and **Amber Todd '12, MIT '16**, June 30, 2020

Rose, to **Taylor Belote '10, MIT '11** and Amanda Belote, July 14, 2020

Jinora, to **Lisa (Montoya) Allison '10** and Kyle Allison, Sept. 30, 2020

2000s

2009

Christina (Clair) Brantuk is the children's ministry director and office manager at Christ First Covina in Covina, Calif.

Jessica (Nolen-Morse) Gatimu is a behavior technician for Autism Spectrum Therapies in Hillsboro, Ore. **Stephanie (Melrose) Murphy MIT '11** married Loka Murphy on Jan. 18. She is in her 10th year of teaching math for Seattle Public Schools. **Justine (Hays) Ziegler** is a development supervisor at The Next Door in Hood River, Ore.

2008

Matt Amble is an investment manager in Helena, Mont. **Eva (Glenn) Marquette** owns FreshVue with her husband, Patrick, in Spokane. They have two children, Aiden and Eleana. **Shannon Newth** was selected as the "2020 Montana Broadcaster of the Year" by the Montana Broadcasters Association. She is a television anchor, host, producer and reporter at CBS affiliate KRTV in Great Falls. **Ron White MIT** is a property manager for WEB Properties in Spokane.

2007

Annemarie Huber married Michael Kirkland on April 4, 2020. They live in Port Orchard. **Bethany Jose** is a librarian for Oceanside (Calif.) Unified School District.

2006

Gregg Hare is a middle school principal for the Mead School District in Colbert. **Mary (Eagle) Harwood M.Ed. '11** and **Corban Harwood** live in Newberg, Ore., and have two children, Elizabeth and Christopher. Mary is a resident services coordinator at Friendsview Retirement Community. Corban is a mathematics professor at George Fox University.

Layla Karst is an assistant professor of theological studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. **Kelja Lee MIT '07** finished her 13th year of teaching secondary music and is the band director at Parkrose High School in

ALUMNI PROFILE

APRIL (SZUCH) VOMFELL



When you live a life of curiosity that keeps you learning, you're tending what Professor of English Leonard Oakland refers to as your "cosmic reading list." **April (Szuch) Vomfell '03** often remembers Oakland's insight as she harvests dahlias, snapdragons and dozens of other regional and organically grown blooms for her thriving flower farming business.

Flathead Farmworks grew from the quarter-acre garden that Vomfell and her husband, a landscape architect, had plotted next to their home in Kalispell, Mont. They developed the plot into an urban farm, and in 2015 they began selling vegetables and herbs to local restaurants while maintaining their day jobs. Vomfell, who also enjoyed growing flowers, dedicated a small plot to local varieties for cut arrangements. "The demand for local flowers was apparent almost immediately," she says, citing the popularity of the scenic area for weddings.

By 2019, Vomfell quit her job as a marketing specialist to grow and sell flowers full time. "As someone who is creative yet also organized and scientific, growing flowers and designing with them has been a fulfilling combination for me," she says.

Vomfell's Whitworth English degree and her subsequent careers laid the groundwork for her current entrepreneurship. "I feel lucky to have gained a wide range of skills working in publishing, government, healthcare, libraries and marketing," she says. "I enjoy the business side of urban farming more than I expected – maybe because planning, writing, technology and marketing are familiar skills."

New seasons bring Vomfell new experiments at the farm and abundant learning opportunities among the cosmos. **W**

Portland, Ore. **Bob Wiese** enjoys metal detecting, ham radio and photography with his wife, Mary. They live in Spokane.

2005

Devin Wolters and **Leah (Hewett) Wolters** have moved back to Spokane. Devin is the senior pastor at Engage Church. Leah is earning a master's in school counseling. **Jayleen (Hille) Yu** is an administrative assistant at Belfor Property Restoration in Spokane Valley. She purchased her first home in December 2020.

2004

Laura (Dilgard) Hershberger published her first book, *Isaac's Way Home: A Mother's Memoir*, in October 2020.

2001

Sarah (Hickinbotham) Rose and **Robert Rose** are raising their 10 children in Papillion, Neb., where Rob is a chaplain with the U.S. Air Force. He and Sarah are becoming more active in the field of self-directed education.

2000

Suzanne (Bruce) Bartlett is an associate executive vice president of the American Heart Association, where she has worked since 2005, in Sacramento, Calif. **Lindee Treweek** works as a

registered nurse in Spokane. She enjoys art projects, hiking and gardening.

DEBUTS

Eden, to **Justin Jose '09** and Liz Jose, Aug. 7, 2020

Eva, to **Melissa (Garner) Turissini '09** and David Turissini, Aug. 4, 2020

Anna, to **Sarah (Ozanne) Whitaker '09** and Brandon Whitaker, April 18, 2020

Maisie, to **David Dixon '08** and **Megan French '09**, Feb. 8, 2019

Abigail, to **Megan (VanSteenwyk) Kilada '08** and Elijah Kilada, July 21, 2019

Isaac, to **Peter Burke '07** and Heather Burke, Dec. 11, 2019

Theodore, to **Christopher Brown '06** and Rachel Brown, Dec. 11, 2019

Nola, to **Kelja Lee '06, MIT '07** and Kevin Findtner, Sept. 17, 2019

Piper, to **Jennifer Wild '06** and Kyle Born, May 7, 2020

Isla, to **Rita (Clay) Summerson '05** and **Paul Summerson '05**, Sept. 22, 2020

Rose, to **Katie (Thompson) Weeks '05**, May 21, 2019

Shai, to **Jayleen (Hille) Yu '05** and Heejong Yu, July 15, 2020

Milos, to **Angie (Nateras) Pappas '04** and Stephen Pappas, April 25, 2020

Weizhun, to **Laura (Doughty) Shui '01, MIT '02** and Ming Shui, Dec. 25, 2019

1990s

1999

Nate Harrison married Abbey Harrison on April 6, 2020. **Jason Roberts** is the pastor of Cornerstone Community Church in St. Petersburg, Fla.

1998

Jamie (Mackenzie) Miller is the director of engineering development at Sellen Construction in Seattle. **Sharon Naccarato MAT** is a visiting instructor at Whitworth. **Monica Parmley** married Roger Frutiger on Aug. 20, 2020. She teaches mental health, social services and addictions counseling at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Ore. **Heather (Stark) Rollins** is an assistant professor and director of didactic education for the George Fox University Physician Assistant Program.

1997

Rachel (Karr) DuPont is the co-director

of operations for Coldwell Banker 360 Team in Oak Harbor. **Kim (Strong) Fox MAT '01, M.Ed. '03** teaches kindergarten at Woodridge Elementary School in Spokane. She enjoys summers off with her three grandchildren.

1994

Heather (Mahugh) Ahlquist works for Spokane Public Schools.

1991

Lynn (Walker) Aley is a physical therapy clinical specialist in Spokane. She has four children and is married to **Russ Aley '03**. **Caryn (Caldwell) Di Domenico** married Steve Di Domenico on June 9, 2018. **Troy Reit** is the CEO of VIP Production Northwest in Spokane. The **Rev. Trish Tedrow** is a pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Payson, Ariz.

1980s

1989

Richard Merrill is the Atlanta sales manager for MSA Digital in Norcross, Ga.

1988

Thomas Billger has continued teleworking for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services in Spokane during the pandemic to assist as many people as he can. **Mary Palmer** helps rescue organizations by transporting shelter animals to new families or foster families in Yucaipa, Calif.

1986

Jill (Sem) Johnston passed the exam for Certified Industrial Hygienist in October 2020.

1985

Susi (Lindsay) Brumett moved to Chino Valley, Ariz., last year. She co-leads a women's Bible study at her church, volunteers at a horse ranch that rescues horses, and advocates for families with loved ones with Alzheimer's disease. **Ron Oldenkamp** was declared honorably retired as a pastor. He and his wife, Nancy, now run Beary Patch Lodge in Kalispell, Mont. **Christine (Stauffer) Sloan** and **Jeff Sloan '84** are married. Christine is an associate professor of nursing at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. **Meg Sparling** is the director of case management at Multicare Deaconess Hospital in Spokane.

1983

Brian Prior works in individual and

ALUMNI CONNECTION

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organizational leadership development with Prioritize Coaching in Minneapolis. **Linda (Gillingham) Sciaroni** is a chemistry, biology and environmental science teacher at Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School in Lynwood, Calif.

1981

Bob Graham received an endorsement on his screenplay by Oscar-winning director Costa Gavras. **Julia (Spear) Hill** is a newspaper reporter for the *Wilbur Register* in Wilbur. **Tom Hoback** retired from Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., after 30 years in live entertainment. **Tim Scott** retired from teaching for Nooksack Valley School District after 35 years and is now the Day2Pray coordinator at the Light of the World Prayer Center in Bellingham.

1970s

1979

Chris Koester retired from teaching and moved back to the Spokane region. **Ian MacInnes-Green** is a pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Gaylord in Gaylord, Mich. **Ira Westbrook M.Ed.** is the staff chaplain at Union Gospel Mission in Spokane.

1976

Ed Benson has retired and lives in North Bend. **Stephen Hegg** produces the popular series *Mossback's Northwest* and other programs at KCTS9 TV and Crosscut.com in Seattle. **Vivian Ingraham** lives in a retirement community in Spokane and has two sons. **Debbie (Wittwer) Makar** has retired and now lives and travels full time in a motorcoach. Her home base is near Portland, Ore. **Betsy (Wicklund) Newell** and **Dan Newell '79** live in Eugene, Ore., and enjoy visiting their grandchildren in Washington and Oregon. Betsy is retired from Bethel School District, and Dan works from home. **Judy (Porter) Rasmussen** is a supervisor for the master's in teaching program at Whitworth. She is married to **Gary Rasmussen '77**. **Julie Selbo M.Ed.** retired from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

1975

David Hunter retired in December 2020 after 42 years as a Presbyterian pastor. He lives in Brookings, Ore., with his wife, Linda. **Pete Olds** retired from Seattle Opera and lives in Yakima.

1973

Runette (Mitchell) Dodson retired and lives on a small farm in central Oregon.

1972

Debra (Schlicht) Morris is a private reading tutor in Denver. **Elinor Young** is a member of an international mission agency and coordinates its children's publication in Chattaroy.

1971

Tom Babagian is retired from teaching. He volunteers as a chaplain at Kaweah Delta Hospital in Visalia, Calif., and has five grandchildren. **Myles Bassford** earned a master of science in counseling studies from Capella University. **Carolyn Clifford Femrite** retired after 25 years as a teacher and literacy coach in Southern California. She has since written three children's books. **Doug Hansen** retired from teaching in Seattle-area graduate schools. He is a psychoanalyst in Port Ludlow. Due to COVID-19, his work has become all telehealth and he moved his practice to his boat. **Connie (Husted) Johnson** has been retired from teaching for 10 years in Hayden, Idaho. She has three children and 12 grandchildren, who have brought much joy to her life. **Charles "Chuck" Meyer** retired after 35 years as a college music professor and four years as a church choir director. He lives in Blue Mountain, Miss., and enjoys his grandchildren, woodworking, hiking and hobbies with his wife.

1970

Kathleen (Nebeker) Owen and **John Owen '71** are happily retired in Richland. They directed music for traditional worship at Kennewick First Presbyterian Church for 40 years and have three children and seven grandchildren.

1960s

1966

Linda (Lee) Angelo enjoys her book clubs, hiking, kayaking and dancing in Los Osos, Calif. **Larry Bryson** retired from the Marin County Fire Department and Rousseau's Fine Arts in Novato, Calif. He has since worked for Novato Housing Coalition, Art Contemporary Marin, and other groups. **Patrick Evans** founded Asian Partners International, Inc., an outreach to Indonesia, and is a semiretired assistant pastor in Fresno, Calif. **Rosemary (Harness) Gustafson** wrote a nonfiction book, *Star's Miracles and More*. **David Howard** moved to Apache Junction, Ariz. His

latest book, *Prisons with Stained Glass Windows: Untying the Bonds of Dogma - Embarking on the Path of Spirit*, is available now. **Tom Watson** retired as principal of Kentwood High School in Kent. He lives in Palm Desert, Calif., and Sun Valley, Idaho, where he is a ski instructor; he is also active with therapy dogs.

1965

Miriam (Rosenkranz) Kishi, of Sunnyvale, Calif., authored a children's book, *God Is with Us Always, Even in a Pandemic*. Kishi is a retired Christian educator who worked at six churches from 1965-2007. **Thomas Piper** is in his 15th year as a certified reflexology practitioner. He serves as a Stephen Ministry caregiver in Oak Harbor.

1963

Larry McKaughan published a study for what it means to be a Christian, *"Follow Me!" The Invitation in Mark*. **Olivia (Kauffman) Thompson and Leon Thompson** have retired and live near family in Dubuque, Iowa.

1961

Kay Barney and his wife, Sylvia, travel widely, with five children and nine grandchildren scattered from coast to coast and in Canada.

1950s

1956

Margaret (Wilson) Clark resides at Rockwood at Whitworth in Spokane, which will welcome many alumni as residents when a rebuilding is complete. She looks forward to the mutual benefits of this cooperative arrangement between Whitworth and Rockwood. **Gloria (Werner) Kaiser** retired after a long teaching career and lives in Damascus, Ore. She enjoys sharing her faith through Nursing Home Ministries.

1951

Fae (Eilers) Allen celebrated her 91st birthday in Lakeside, Calif., and is feeling great. She has four children, five grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

1940s

1949

Glen Ellison '49, M.Ed. '51 worked for Cargill Australia Ltd., in Western Australia, retiring in 1989 as vice president. He now lives in Spokane.

IN MEMORIAM

Obituaries received Oct. 1-Feb. 28 appear in the spring issue of Whitworth Today. Bolded names without class years indicate those who attended Whitworth but did not graduate. All cities listed are located in Washington state unless otherwise noted.

2000s

Enoch Evans '01, of Milwaukie, Ore., died Jan. 7. **Chad Miyamoto '01**, of Aiea, Hawaii, died Sept. 17, 2020.

1990s

Roseanna (McCoy) Aspinwall '93, M.Ed. '96, of Spokane, died Jan. 31. Survivors include her husband, Mark Aspinwall. **Robin Peterson '94, M.Ed. '01**, of St. Maries, Idaho, died Nov. 4, 2020. **Richard Trombley MIT '95**, of Fairbanks, Alaska, died Dec. 17, 2020. **David Luttinen '97**, of Bremerton, died Nov. 7, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Jennifer Luttinen, and daughter **Amanda Patterson. Kathleen (Chun) Benedict '98**, of Spokane, died Oct. 8, 2020. **Steve Wang MIM '98**, of Spokane, died Nov. 23, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Yan Meng.

1980s

Sally (Dyer) Holt '81, of Worley, Idaho, died Dec. 1, 2020. **Donna Beecroft M.Ed. '82**, of Richland, died Dec. 5, 2020. **Debra "Deb" Roope**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died Jan. 28. **Brian Stearns**, of Gilbert, Ariz., died. **Jay Ratcliffe '85**, of Santa Rosa, Calif., died Jan. 6. Survivors include his wife, **Dr. Jennifer (Verdier) Ratcliffe '86**, who is a Whitworth trustee, and 12 family members who are Whitworthians. See obituary on P. 32. **Victor Cooper '86**, of Spokane Valley, died Feb. 3. Survivors include his wife, Joy Cooper. **Akman "Aki" Savage '87**, of El Cajon, Calif., died Dec. 17, 2020.

1970s

Mickey Schultz M.Ed. '71, of Olympia, died May 15, 2020. Survivors include his wife, **Tamra Schultz. Janet (Otto) Goehner '74**, of Dunmore, W.Va., died Nov. 19, 2020. Survivors include her husband, **Paul Goehner '74. Randy Stephens '77**, of Spokane, died Dec. 14, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Jesse Stephens, and daughter **Andrea Strocsher '24. Bud Sharpe '78** of Phoenix, Ariz., died Dec. 29, 2020. The **Rev. James Brassard '79**, of Bowie, Md., died Nov. 4, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Andrea Brassard; brothers **Daniel Brassard** and **Paul Brassard '81**; and sister **Dr. Marla (Brassard) Litchford '76**.

1960s

Iris (Douglas) Avedovech '61, of Forest Grove, Ore., died Aug. 29, 2019. **Dewey Lehnen '61**, of Rancho Murieta, Calif., died June 8, 2018. Survivors include his wife, **Pat Lehnen '60. Alice (Carlson) Delafield '62** died April 16, 2020. Survivors include her husband, Richard Delafield. **Denny Driskill '63**, of Spokane, died Oct. 7, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Myrna Driskill. **David Vorpahl '63**, of Spokane, died Dec. 23, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Beverly Vorpahl. **Bernice (James) Kinsel M.Ed. '64**, of Spokane, died Oct. 18, 2020. **Robert "Bob" Knox '64**, of Mount Dora, Fla., died Oct. 25, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Joanne Knox. **Clifford McLean '64**, of Wenatchee, died Dec. 18, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Diana Johnston. **Helen Cooley**, of Spokane, died Nov. 21, 2020. **William "Bill" Denholm '66**, of Othello, died Nov. 15, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Tonny Denholm. **Ardell Howes '66**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died Oct. 10, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Eleanor Howes. **Carolyn (Curtis) Pavloff '66**, of Des Moines, died Dec. 7, 2020. **Leada "Lee" (Corbin) Hutchison M.Ed. '67**, of Kennewick, died Nov. 3, 2020. **Betty Benner '68**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died Dec. 30, 2020. **Ceil (Slack) Cleveland**

'68, died Jan. 14, 2020. **Harold Crowston M.Ed. '68**, of Spokane, died Sept. 23, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Patty Crowston. **Frederic Mitchell Sr. M.Ed. '68**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died Nov. 20, 2020.

1950s

Mae (Sofie) Mueller '50, of Spokane Valley, died Dec. 16, 2020. **Robert "Bob" Dudley**, of Fillmore, Calif., died Dec. 29, 2020. **John Scotford '51**, of Poland, Ohio, died Nov. 3, 2020. See obituary on P. 33. **Sterling Rainey '52**, of San Leandro, Calif., died Oct. 24, 2020. **Larry Clark '53**, of Spokane, died Nov. 1, 2020. Survivors include his daughter, **Rebecca Mogensen '80. Phillip Holmes '53**, of Fremont, Calif., died in November 2018. Survivors include his daughter, **Cheryl Holmes '77. George Johnson '53**, of Arroyo Grande, Calif., died Nov. 5, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Ann Johnson. **Dr. William McCullough '53**, of Madison, Conn., died April 25, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Barbara McCullough. **Franklin Koth '55**, of Spokane Valley, died Dec. 28, 2020. Survivors include his wife, **Arlene Koth M.Ed. '79**, and daughters **Judy Charles '81** and **Nancy Thompson. Shirley (Guilford) Truitt '55**, of Sitka, Alaska, died Oct. 30, 2020. **Miriam (Pohlman) Reed '56**, of Casa Grande, Ariz., died Dec. 15, 2020. The **Rev. Charlie Brown '58**, of Lake Oswego, Ore., died Jan. 8. Survivors include his wife, Edda Brown. **Ron Lockhart '59**, of Murrieta, Calif., died Aug. 15, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Marietta Lockhart.

1940s

Joyce (Warren) Starrett '45, of Camano Island, died Feb. 8. Survivors include her sons, **Richard Starrett '77** and **Robert Starrett '72. Marjorie (Schauble) Dymale '46**, of Canton, Ohio, died Dec. 22, 2020. **Heidi (Horikawa) Kitayama '46**, of Union City, Calif., died Feb. 12, 2018. **Alfred Biggs '49**, of Tonasket, died Oct. 6, 2020. **Bill Pfeiffer '49**, of Lenexa, Kansas, died Oct. 27, 2020. **Mary (Leavens) Schwabauer '49**, of Ventura, Calif., died Sept. 19, 2020.

WHITWORTH STAFF

TERRY LEE HELGESON, locksmith from 1998-2015, died Dec. 16, 2020, in Spokane. He was 73.

ENOCH EVANS '01, programmer from 2001-06 and senior database developer from 2006-07, died Jan. 7 in Milwaukie, Ore.

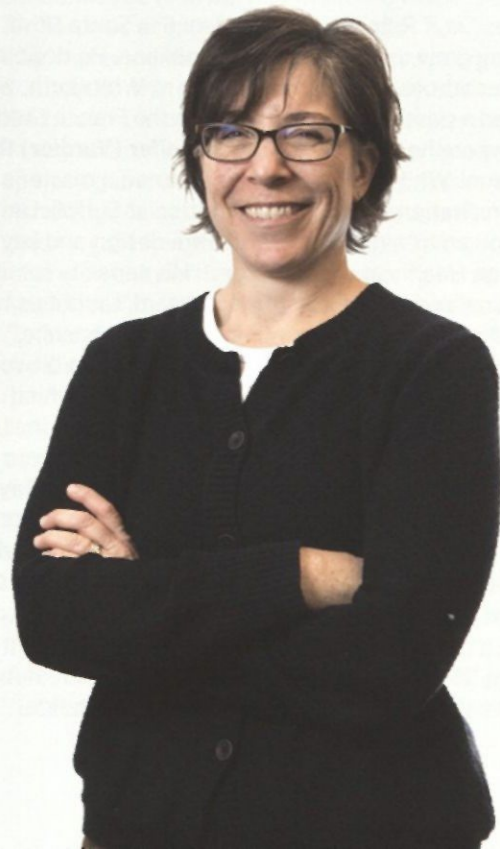


DON DEUPREE

Former Associate Professor of Music Donald Deupree died Dec. 8, 2020, in Montrose, Colo. He was 88. Don received a doctorate in music education from the University of Northern Colorado. He served as Whitworth's band director and as a music educator from 1968-73; as department chair from 1970-73; and as a college administrator from 1973-80. As band director, Don brought Whitworth musicians together to perform for and workshop with area high school music students. He also assisted Whitworth students experiencing difficulty in reading, writing and math in his role as assistant academic dean. Don was known for his quiet kindness, musicality, integrity and warmth. Upon retirement, Don moved to his ranch in Montrose and helped establish Joyful Sounds, an ensemble of musicians with disabilities. "Don was one of the kindest human beings I have ever known, and he was always supportive of my career in music," says Bryan Bogue, adjunct music professor at Whitworth. Don was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn; he is survived by his daughter **Cheryl Howard '78** and son-in-law **Evan Howard '78**, two granddaughters, and one great-grandson.

KATHY WATTS

Assistant Professor and Access Services Librarian Kathy Watts died Nov. 26, 2020, in Spokane. Kathy earned a bachelor's degree from California State University, Bakersfield, a master of library and information science from the University of Washington, and an M.Ed. from Northern Arizona University. She was passionate about books and the value of librarians as a resource. Through her church, Hamblen Park Presbyterian, she helped create reading libraries for schools in Guatemala. Kathy served as a volunteer in the Whitworth Archives, overseeing efforts in digital data entry. She formally joined the faculty in 2014, connecting students with library resources, developing the library's digital services, and helping faculty implement library technology in their classes. She also volunteered to teach coding to women majoring in computer science. "She was a tireless teacher, seeking methods to teach our students new ways to find information and use resources," says Amanda Clark, library director and associate dean of special programs. "Her presence brought out the best of everyone in a room [and] pushed us to be our better selves." Survivors include Kathy's husband of 24 years, the **Rev. Steve Watts '91**, and two children, **Bethany Watts '22** and **Nolan Watts**.





HOYT H. "LARRY" LARISON

Larry Larison, whose donation founded the H.H. "Larry" Larison Trading Room within the Whitworth School of Business, died Dec. 11, 2020. He was 80. Larry grew up in Montana and graduated from Carroll College in 1965. At age 35, he was elected president and CEO of Columbia Paint & Coatings; he led the company successfully for 31 years. Larry served on the Whitworth School of Business Advisory Board from 2012-20, and he endowed two School of Business scholarships and funded two annual scholarships. In 2014 he founded the Larison Trading Room, which allows Student Investment Group members to obtain real-world investment experience. "Larry became a profound influence in my life, particularly around business and finances," says **Kevin Parker '96**, visiting instructor in the School of Business. "When I was in the toughest spot I had ever been in terms of a major business decision, Larry spent so much time with me. I recall him saying, 'Don't worry Kevin, I am here for you.'" Larry is survived by his wife, Dayna Barton, two daughters and two stepchildren.

JAY RATCLIFFE

James "Jay" Ratcliffe '85 died Jan. 6 in Santa Rosa, Calif. He was 56. Jay grew up in Tacoma and Spokane. He double majored in international studies and French at Whitworth, where he gained a passion for travel through the France Study Program and where he met his wife, **Dr. Jennifer (Verdier) Ratcliffe '86**, a current Whitworth trustee. Jay earned a master's in public administration/health administration at Suffolk University, and he worked as a director of software design and key innovator at Change Healthcare for 20 years. "His capacity for listening to the marginalized voices, too often unheard, taught us how to be better friends and participants in the human experience," Jennifer says. In honor of Jay and his love for study abroad, Whitworth developed an endowed travel scholarship for students, which Jay started with a \$100,000 donation in his will. Jay's survivors include his wife of 30 years, Jennifer, and his daughter, Eva. Survivors also include the following Whitworth alumni: his stepfather, **Raymond Kay Brown '58**, and stepmother, **Marilyn (Renner) Ratcliffe '58**; his siblings and their spouses **Stephen Brown '83**, **Kevin Brown '84**, **Joan (Conley) Brown '84**, **Deena (Brown) Rauén**, **Cathy (Verdier) Brown '86**, **Jim Verdier '90** and **Sarah (Olsen) Verdier '92**; and his niece and nephews **Janae Brown '13**, **Jonah Brown '14** and **Caleb Brown '15**. To support the James Ratcliffe Global Awareness Travel Scholarship, visit connect.whitworth.edu/ratcliffe.



HOWARD REDMOND

Professor Emeritus of Religion & Philosophy Howard Redmond died Oct. 17, 2020, in Spokane. He was 95. Howard grew up in Los Angeles, where he met his wife, **Lois Wagner '62**, and received a bachelor's degree from UCLA. He earned an M.Div. from Princeton Seminary and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. After teaching for three years at Davis and Elkins College, Howard pastored a Presbyterian church in Sanger, Calif. He joined the Whitworth faculty in 1957. At Whitworth he became known for his courses on the Old Testament and C.S. Lewis, and he authored four books on Christian theology. A gifted musician, he sang in the faculty men's quartet, played piano duets with Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Hugh Johnston, and played string bass in the Whitworth Symphony, which also performed a symphony he had composed. After Howard retired in 1990 he and Lois continued to support Whitworth, funding an annual literary reading program in honor of Howard's mother, Ada Redmond. "He loved Christian theology, choice theological quotes, and hymns – especially the hymns of Charles Wesley, which he would sometimes boom out in my office," says Professor Emeritus of Theology Roger Mohrlang. "I remember him as a dear friend and kindly, gracious Christian gentleman." Howard is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lois; two children including **Colleen Redmond Peterson '76**; five grandchildren including **Gretchen Peterson '17**; and one great-grandchild.



JOHN SCOTFORD

Donor and Trustee Emeritus John Scotford '51 died Nov. 3, 2020, in Poland, Ohio. He was 91. John grew up in Omak, Wash. He earned a degree in economics at Whitworth and served in the U.S. Air Force as a fighter pilot stationed in Korea. He later managed the Ohio State University Airport in Columbus, where he met his wife, Judy Busler. In 1962, John purchased a Volkswagen dealership in Youngstown, Ohio, launching his career in owning, operating and overseeing several businesses in the Mahoning Valley. John served as a devoted and visionary Whitworth trustee from 1989-2004 and received Whitworth's Alumni Service to Whitworth Award in 2011. John and Judy's significant campus contributions include the Hello Walk, Omache Field, the Scotford Fitness Center, the Scotford Tennis Center, and a major renovation of Westminster Hall. "John's fierce love for Whitworth and his laser-beam business savvy made it impossible for him to sit still if we got lazy or wayward in our thinking," President Emeritus Bill Robinson says. "He refused to let that happen. And that is as valuable to Whitworth as the millions of dollars he and Judy have given with such generosity and joy." John was preceded in death by Judy, his wife of 54 years. He is survived by two sons, including former Whitworth trustee Steve Scotford, and five grandchildren.



From left: Judy Scotford, John Scotford '51, Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor and Julie Taylor, in 2010

academic minute

ANESU MUJENGE '22

MAJORS: INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES AND FRENCH



My father worked for a non-governmental organization, and such occupations often entail placement in foreign countries. As such, I was born in Zimbabwe, raised in Kenya, and nurtured into a third British-international culture. This makes me a global nomad of sorts. Cross-cultural connection is all I know, and international relations has been my lifestyle. As soon as I recognized it could also be my field of study, there was no doubt what my majors would be.

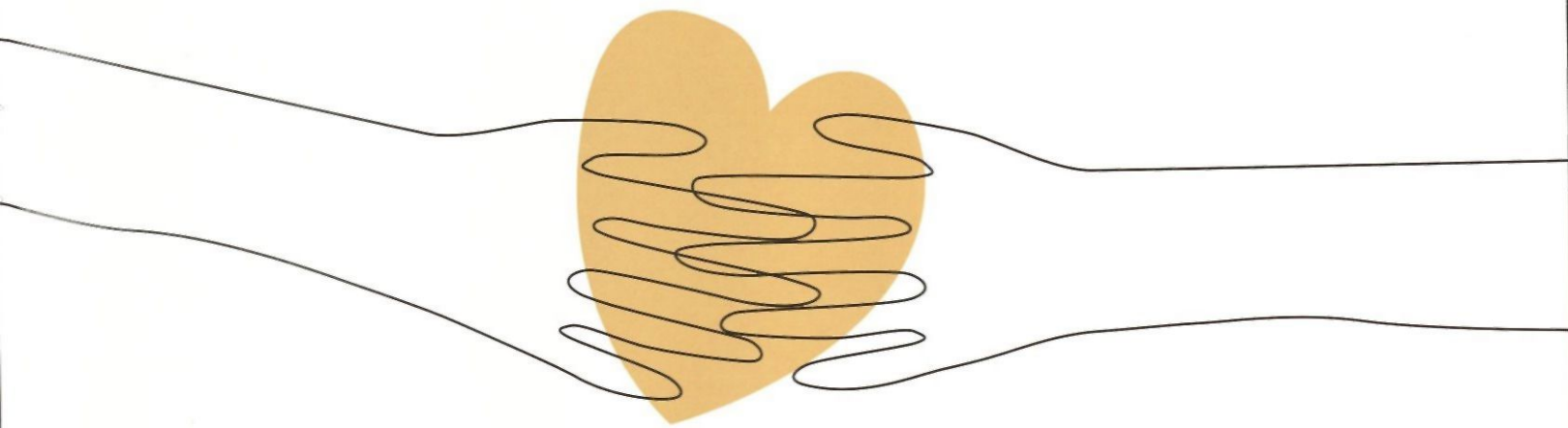
Under the pre-law track, I am double majoring in international studies (political science emphasis) and French. I chose French alongside international studies because I relish the prospect of connecting as vastly and deeply as possible across the globe while advocating for international human rights.

Eclectic would be a fine adjective to describe my academic pursuits. I have a general idea of what my career may involve, but not a specific one. I am open to an array of prospects, and Whitworth has helped me define my career

goals by affirming my uncertainty and challenging me to lean into my curiosity and do all that I love at the same time. I am confident this approach will enable me to be a more holistic servant to humanity.

As a project specialist with the Carl Maxey Center, Spokane's first Black community center, I provide legal assistance for employee discrimination cases. I also undertake projects such as planning virtual hangouts for senior citizens, writing columns for *Black Lens News*, and participating in virtual Washington for Black Lives meetings.

My faith and education are inextricably intertwined. I do not believe I would want to be an international human rights lawyer if it was not for my faith – it has been *the* factor that has shaped my vocational goals. **W**



VITAL LESSONS FROM THE PAST

BY KARI NIXON
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

As a medical humanities researcher, my work explores the ways that contagious disease uncovers surprising points of human connection and aversion. Examining the history of disease outbreaks provides vital lessons that can teach us how to survive the COVID-19 pandemic. The smallpox epidemic in the 1720s, the cholera epidemics of the 1840s and '50s, and the 1918 influenza pandemic all raised similar issues to those we face today. Solutions – perhaps imperfect ones – were developed for these significant dilemmas.

Here are three lessons from the past that can help as we try to understand and address the physical and mental impacts of COVID-19.

Choice Is a Relative Concept

The single mother working the third shift may have drastically fewer choices about keeping her family at home than a dual-income household with no children. To emerge from this crisis with our hearts intact, we must guard

carefully against making sweeping assumptions about what other people's options are at any given time.

It Ain't Whack-a-Mole

Complete risk elimination is not possible. There will always be germs, and believing we can fully sanitize any part of our lives (literally or figuratively) of risks will only lead us to an empty life where we are physically, but perhaps not spiritually, alive.

We Are Our Brothers' and Sisters' Keepers

Since disease microbes demonstrate that we are all connected, we each have a stake in one another's survival. I hope that we would care about one another for reasons beyond our own self-interest. But self-interest is hopefully a motivator even for those who want to look askance at communitarian goals. It behooves all of us to ensure the safety of all of us. This is one of the most vitally important lessons that disease has to teach us. **W**

Kari Nixon is the author of the new book Quarantine Life from Cholera to COVID-19: What Pandemics Teach Us About Parenting, Work, Life, and Communities from the 1700s to Today.

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