

editor's note



A few years back, I attended a gathering of Trivial Pursuit enthusiasts known, simply, as The Society. This gang of cutthroat players used to get together on a regular basis to engage in their passion for arcane knowledge, to discuss the news of the day, to eat copious amounts of snack food, and to laugh it up at one another's expense. (Once, after I'd botched an answer to an easy question about geography – my nemesis category – I remember another society member saying, "We're not laughing at you, Terry; we're laughing *near* you.")

That night at The Society, in the midst of our game, we began talking about a U.S. Senate race then in progress. In the course of our conversation, several of the attendees made comments about the political acumen of society member **Travis Sines, '95** (see Page 22), and forecast that one day he would run for national office. "I'll be your campaign manager!" offered one. "I'll run your media office!" said another. "I'll be your chief fund-raiser!" interjected a third. Trying to figure out my own niche in this enterprise, I finally piped up, "And I'll vote against you!"

You see, Travis and I detest one another's politics. He supports ideas (and candidates) that make me shudder. And I'm a proponent of philosophies (and candidates) that cause him deep psychic pain. But he and I have been friends from the moment he transferred to Whitworth from the University of Washington, and I watched with unabashed admiration as he became ASWC president, graduated *summa cum laude*, and went on to the prestigious law school at the U.W., where he earned his J.D. As these accomplishments, as well as his current high-powered job, would attest, Travis is a born leader. He's smart and engaging and has a wonderful sense of humor, and he knows and loves the

workings of government: He once decided to stop seeing a perfectly nice young woman because, as he said in utter shock and disbelief, "She doesn't know how a bill becomes a law!"

Even born leaders can learn a great deal about how to lead, and Travis soaked up all the leadership training available to him at Whitworth. As he matured, he became the kind of man who can talk about anything with anyone, who's respectful of his opponents' ideas, and who, though he has passionate beliefs, can converse about another person's equally passionate – and absolutely opposite – beliefs and still remain friends with that person. He understands the importance of relationships, he keeps an open mind (though he's still not buying what I'm selling), and he works to build bridges rather than barriers. In other words, Travis is a great representative of the Whitworth tradition of student leadership – a tradition and experience that we explore in this issue of *Whitworth Today*.

In **Julie Riddle's** article on Page 16, you'll read about Whitworth's leadership-studies minor. On Page 18, **Greg Orwig** explores the college's unique student-leadership program, which has attracted national attention. And **Tad Wisenor's** article, on Page 22, follows some of Whitworth's former leaders, including Travis, to see what they're up to in the world.

I hope this issue of *Whitworth Today* will give you some insight into the ways in which Whitworth prepares its student leaders to go out into the world and make a difference. And I hope you'll enjoy reading about student leaders of the past, present, and future – people who have and will put Whitworth on the map. People like Travis Sines. Now, if I could just get him to see things my way....

Terry Rayburn Mitchell

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