

## Triangulation is a technique for establishing the distance between two locations by using points like the vertices of a triangle.

It is considered one of the best ways to establish an exact location. While there are thousands of compelling stories among the ranks of former Whitworth student leaders who have taken seriously the college's admonition to go out into the world and "honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity," the best map of the legacy of student leadership at Whitworth might be found by "triangulating" just three of these alumni.

Long before leadership studies became an educational program or resident assistants shared their halls with myriad other acronym-laden student leaders, Whitworth was helping graduates to choose a vocation and preparing them to make a difference. The experiences and very different post-graduation journeys of the Rev. Cinda (Warner) Gorman, '71; Marquis Nuby, M.D., '85; and Travis Sines, J.D., '95, make it clear that the path to Whitworth's current leadership training programs emerges directly out of the college's successful past.

### 'He taught me the word "synergy"'

Cinda Gorman knew about Whitworth because her older siblings had all attended the college. "In the late '60s, it may have been a 'safe' place to be, but I was also looking forward to being far from my California home," says Gorman.

She graduated in February 1971 with a major in history and an area of concentration in African-American studies. She also earned an elementary-education teaching certificate. Gorman served as an RA for a senior-women-only dorm in Calvin Hall, was in charge of Homecoming and the annual women's retreat, and organized the college's very first ASWC Earth Day activities.

"Whitworth was in a time of transition in the early '70s, and was boldly trying on new ideas," she says. "Then-president Ed Lindaman led the team that dragged Whitworth into thinking about...the future of students who would face a radically different world than most of the trustees were envisioning for us, based on their past experience."

"Learning alongside great advisors was probably the best experience I had.... I became close friends with Ed Lindaman and his family and was very influenced by his futurist ideas," Gorman says. "He taught me the word 'synergy' and it has been one of my mantras. When I have brought churches together to tackle projects across denominational lines...I think of Ed."

Whitworth also prepared Gorman for her call to pastoral ministry. "If I had not been given so many leadership opportunities as a woman at Whitworth I would probably have been more intimidated," Gorman says. "I was academically prepared for seminary-level education and I knew how to juggle study and employment and still have a life as a real person."

"Unfortunately, I was never offered a course in leadership in seminary. I think most pastors learn leadership by trial and

error. Because I was without a mentor or even a role model as the first woman graduate of Fuller Seminary to solo-pastor a church, I took other young pastors under my wing in the earlier years of my ministry so we could touch base about the rigors and the lonely life of a rural parish," Gorman says.

Today, Gorman and her husband, Steve, '70, are co-pastors of Westwood First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Gorman is active with Habitat for Humanity, and she also serves as chair of the Student Development Committee of the board of trustees of San Francisco Theological Seminary. Last year, she was named one of Cincinnati's Women of the Year by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* newspaper.

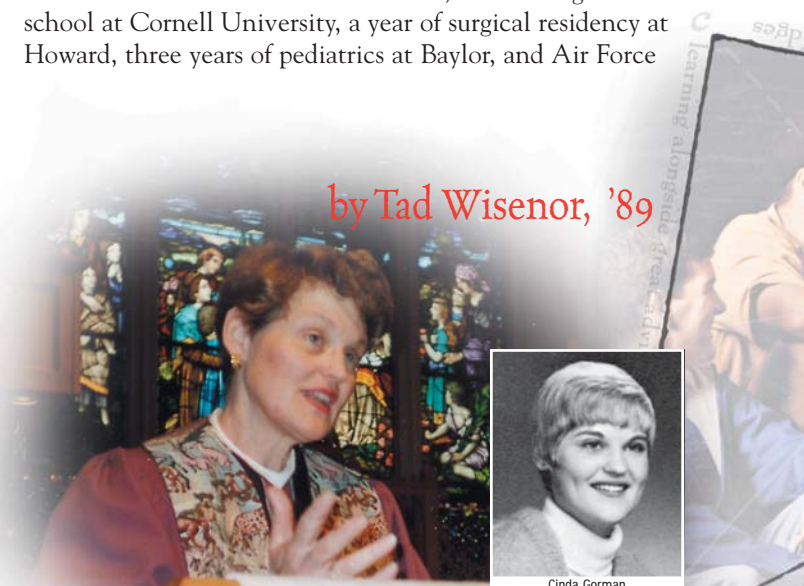
### 'Jesus flipped the pyramid'

Marquis Nuby would never have heard of Whitworth College had it not been for basketball coach Jim Larson. "I was one of three guys recruited from Southern California to play in 1980," Nuby says.

Nuby graduated pre-med in 1985 with a degree in chemistry. He was involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was president of the Black Student Union his sophomore year. He also served as an admissions volunteer and was ASWC president in 1984-85. "All of my leadership experiences were important to me," Nuby says. "I came to Whitworth as a low-key person and I wasn't sure what I was capable of doing. I was encouraged by the faculty, and my confidence grew."

Chemistry Professor (now emeritus) Bob Winniford and his wife, Georgene, a nurse in the health center at the time, were the first people to suggest that Nuby consider a career in medicine. He heeded their advice, and during medical school at Cornell University, a year of surgical residency at Howard, three years of pediatrics at Baylor, and Air Force

by Tad Wisenor, '89



Cinda Gorman

# Whitworth

postings in California and on the East Coast, Nuby had an opportunity to compare stories with a number of other students and doctors. "While many of my colleagues were discouraged from pursuing medicine, I had been encouraged," Nuby said. "Hands down, the nicest and warmest people I've ever had the experience of working with were at Whitworth."

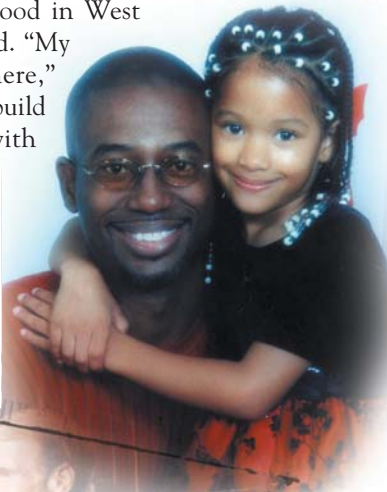
Nuby remembers hearing a speaker at Whitworth who discussed a model for leadership that "took the traditional leadership pyramid with the power at the top and flipped it over. Jesus Christ flipped the pyramid.... He was the first servant leader." That idea has remained a guiding principle for Nuby ever since. "People are usually enthusiastic to work with me because I'm willing to get 'down in the dirt' with them," he says.

"Whitworth encouraged me to look for a calling, not just a job. I realized early on that I wanted to make a positive impact on society and that I could do that through pediatrics," Nuby says.

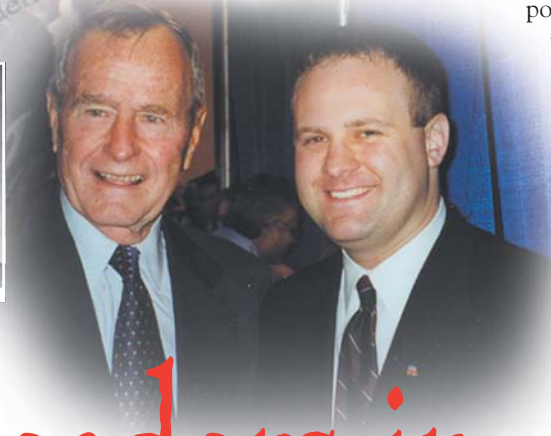
Nuby is a pediatrician in Fresno and an assistant professor in the Fresno pediatric residency program of the University of California, San Francisco. He is also part of an organization working to increase health-care access and clinical services to an underserved neighborhood in West Fresno where he once lived. "My grandmother still lives there," Nuby says. "I want to help build the clinic there, staff it with



Marquis Nuby



Travis Sines



residents, lower the infant-mortality rate and replicate this program throughout California's Central Valley."

In his role as director of community pediatrics, he is helping residents to make connections in the community. "We wait too much for patients to come to our turf," he says. "We need to go to their turf. For example, we do home visits for pre-natal care. My daughter, Amber, is my only child, but I attempt to take care of all my patients like family."

### 'He had faith in me'

Travis Sines grew up in Spokane and transferred to Whitworth after a brief stint at the University of Washington. He graduated in 1995 with a degree in economics.

"In the spring of 1993 I was elected president of the ASWC," Sines says. "This was a watershed year at the college with the arrival of the Robinsons and was a great learning experience for me. I believe much of my understanding of human interaction came from my experience as president. I'll never forget it."

Sines points to Whitworth President Bill Robinson as his greatest mentor at the college. "He had faith in me," Sines says. "He taught me to have faith in people and was a great counselor during my term in office." He continues, "I have a very 'hands-off' leadership style, much of which I attribute to Bill. If you have good people working for you...let them be creative and successful."

"I do think that Whitworth has made me more able to discern important from unimportant," he continues. "I believe my mind could have been educated in myriad institutions, but I don't believe I would have developed as I have from a 'heart' perspective. I often think about passages in scripture like Matthew 6:19-20 - 'Do not store up treasures for yourselves on Earth...' - and am reminded that there is another truth and another success to which to aspire."

Sines attended law school at the University of Washington and practiced business law from 1998 to 2001 with the Spokane firm of Paine, Hamblen, Coffin, Brooke & Miller, LLP. Now he works for U.S. Representative Jennifer Dunn of

Washington's Eighth District. "I am using my knowledge of law, economics, and political studies," Sines said. "I was well prepared at Whitworth, both academically and socially, to deal with the rigors of the practice of law and the management of a Congressional office. In my political world, relationship-formation is what it's all about. It's what I do every day all day: meet with people and build bridges." ▲

# Alumni: Leaders in Action