



You'll notice that this issue's cover is a bit of a departure from other covers we've produced recently. Our new graphic artist, **Tom Bowman**, is responsible for this innovative look, and we're all pleased with the way he's captured the old and the new in a bold and engaging graphic.

Though Tom's new look for the *Whitworth Today* cover stands beautifully on its own, it also blends nicely with the creative interior-page design that longtime Whitworth graphic artist **Su Chism** has honed during her tenure as the magazine's art director. And just as Tom and Su have done a great job of blending the innovative with the time-honored, new faculty at Whitworth are researching, experimenting, writing and creating in new and different ways that draw from and complement the excellence of the work done over the years by senior faculty. That's what this issue is all about, and I think you'll be amazed as you read about the breadth and depth of thought and activity that contribute to the changing face of scholarship at Whitworth.

When I came to Whitworth in 1983, I was the half-time secretary in the English Department, and I was surrounded by scarily smart people. I can remember going home many days with my head aching from my efforts to keep up with the razor-sharp minds of the department's faculty, two of whom – **Laura Bloxham** and **Leonard Oakland** – remain at Whitworth today.

Leonard scared me to death. He was already such a Whitworth icon, and it seemed to me that he knew everything worth knowing. He was prone to the occasional cranky moment, but my fear of him was way out of proportion to any cantankerous behavior he'd ever exhibited. And he was always very kind to me (perhaps because he could see the sheer terror in my eyes when he approached). As far as I was concerned, this was a guy who had "Formidable Academic Personage" written all over him.

I expected that a man as smart and accomplished as Leonard would guard his turf and his reputation with every weapon in his arsenal. But as time went by, I saw that he was an extremely generous – even courtly – person who strongly supported his colleagues and welcomed new faculty with genuine excitement. When he heard a great lecture, he was pumped. When he got into a challenging conversation with a "youngster" who had innovative ideas, his eyes lit up. When he talked about what Whitworth needed, he always mentioned top-drawer new faculty. And as far as I could see, he had no fear of the young Turks; he just wanted to hear what they had to say and to learn what they had to teach him. And he wasn't alone: The finest minds at Whitworth have always wanted to surround themselves with others who share their intellectual acumen and enthusiasm for learning and who cherish the life of the mind as they do.

Now Leonard is the most senior member of the Whitworth faculty, and the young Turks are here. And he was right: they add a dimension to the college that comes with youth and enthusiasm and innovation. And in this issue of *Whitworth Today* you'll see why people like Leonard are so glad they've arrived.

Just as *Whitworth Today* would be a less interesting magazine without a classy cover – and a classy cover wouldn't mean much without news and features and a president's message and alumni notes – Whitworth is an amalgam of disparate elements that make up one great institution. Thanks to senior faculty like Leonard Oakland and to the newcomers (and the relative newcomers) who share his enthusiasm for Whitworth's mission, the college continues to be a place where the search for capital-T truth is the primary goal and where innovative research, the exploration of new theories and ideas, and top-notch scholarship will always be welcomed.

Enjoy this issue of *Whitworth Today*.

P.S. Leonard doesn't scare me anymore.

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