

Increase in faculty publications raises Whitworth's visibility, contributes to national dialogue on current issues

Whitworth faculty publications aren't dry, dusty tomes cranked out on obscure presses and then shoved onto the back shelves of library archives.

Books and academic-journal articles written by Whitworth faculty feature expert, engaging voices that speak to current civic, political, social and religious issues that are being discussed and debated in courtrooms, boardrooms and classrooms across the country.

In recent years, Whitworth has experienced an increase in publication productivity that reflects a trend among all Protestant and private four-year institutions in the United States, according to a national poll of college faculty conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute. This rise in faculty publications has raised the college's visibility and reputation in academic circles and on a national level. Books and journal articles by Whitworth faculty reach a broad spectrum of audiences, from mainstream readers, attorneys, and Holocaust scholars to corporate leaders, journalists, poets and teachers.

From Professor of Religion Jerry's Sittser's *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss* (1996, Zondervan), which is in its 19th paperback edition and has sold more than 200,000 copies, to poems by award-winning poet and Associate Professor of English Laurie Lamon, '78, whose work appears in *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, and *Ploughshares*, Whitworth's strong tradition of faculty publications continues.

The work of Dale Soden, history professor and director of the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning, who chronicles the life of Seattle's "reverend of righteousness" in *The Reverend Mark Matthews: An Activist in the Progressive Era* (2000, University of Washington Press), provides rich material for scholars of religious history and the history of the Pacific Northwest. Secular and faith-based teachers nationwide are also learning valuable teaching strategies from Professor of History Arlin Migliazzo's new book, *Teaching as an Act of Faith: Theory and Practice in Church-Related Higher Education* (2002, Fordham University Press), which features essays by veteran scholars who have honed their theological understanding and teaching strategies at a wide variety of church-related colleges and universities.

For music faculty, conducting, performing and adjudicating are equivalent to publishing in other academic fields, and Whitworth music faculty are highly active in all three areas. Cellist and String Ensemble Director Roberta Bottelli performs with area symphonies and orchestras, adjudicates Washington Music Educators Association competitions, and is establishing a new string program at Whitworth which will grow into a full symphonic orchestra within the next five years.



by Julie Riddle, '92

Faculty are also active at prestigious seminars and symposia and are taking their published research to those beyond the academic arena. Assistant Professor of Psychology Noelle Wiersma, '90, recently chaired a session and presented her research on sexual abuse at the Western Psychological Association's annual convention; Associate Professor of Education Jack Burns gave a presentation on chaos theory at a conference for the International Leadership Association; and Whitworth President Bill Robinson has spoken about his book, *Leading People from the Middle – The Universal Mission of Heart and Mind* (2002, Executive Excellence Publishing), to corporations, churches and business groups in Washington, Alaska, Texas and California.

Whitworth students benefit from their faculty's strong publishing record, as well. More than 60 percent of Whitworth faculty engage in scholarship alongside their students, says Tammy Reid, '60, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

"The last time I spoke to a group of prospective students, I took an armful of faculty books with me," Reid says. "I wanted those high-school seniors to know that Whitworth faculty... share their knowledge with their students as well as with a broader audience. The passion for learning is contagious, and the academic habits of mind are passed on."

Whitworth faculty, from those in the midst of their first year to those well into their fourth decade, conduct expert, original scholarship in their disciplines. Read on to learn about recent publications by six faculty who have joined Whitworth within the last 15 years.

Publications

Julia Stronks Politics & History

Ongoing debate in political and public spheres about the Bush Administration's efforts to provide government funding of faith-based initiatives points up many Americans' confusion about the proper role of religion in public life. In



her book *Law, Religion and Public Policy: A Commentary on First Amendment Jurisprudence* (2002, Lexington Books), Professor of Politics & History Julia Stronks clarifies this complex issue and provides readers with a framework for engaging in constructive dialogue that can lead to the resolution of "culture wars."

"It is clear to me that the public's unrest over religion's role in the public sphere is more than a simple disagreement about the separation of church and state," says Stronks, a former attorney who is currently writing a new book, *So You Want to Be a Christian Lawyer?* "The debate stems from two very different understandings of what religion is and what the role of government ought to be."



In her book, Stronks examines whether religion is a belief in God or a worldview and explores whether government should promote a specific worldview or seek to give equal justice to all perspectives held by the public.

Stronks says *Law, Religion and Public Policy* serves as a supplement to lay readers' knowledge of First Amendment jurisprudence, as a textbook for college courses, and a guide for policymakers as well as public-school and government officials.

Dan Stewart Economics & Business

For those who think that the fabulous presentation for which they spent months crunching numbers and creating pie charts will help them win their bosses' respect and launch them to the top of the corporate ladder, Assistant Professor of Economics & Business Dan Stewart has some disheartening news. Stewart has analyzed data that reveals how people's reputation in the business world often has little to do with the quality of their work and character and may instead depend on what other people are saying about them, and who says it.



"To succeed in business, not only do you have to have people say that you're good, you have to have the right people say that you're good," he says.

Stewart, a former U.S. Army Captain who holds a doctorate in organizational behavior from Stanford University, recently submitted a manuscript based on his dissertation research to the *American Journal of Sociology*.

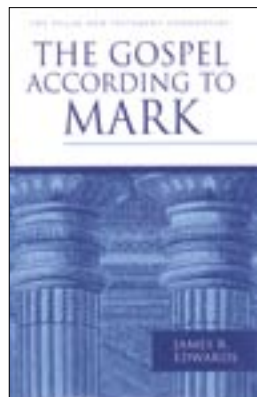
That manuscript, *Status Mobility and Status Stability in a Community of Free Software Developers*, is based on status theories developed by sociologists 50 years ago to which Stewart added data drawn from his research of Advogato, an online advocacy site for the developers of free software.

Stewart is new to teaching and publishing; he joined the Whitworth faculty in September 2002 in his first academic position. "As a junior academic who is new to this field, I need to establish a sense of legitimacy among my peers," Stewart says. "Being published will allow me to get feedback from other academics and experts and will provide opportunities for collaboration on further research."



James Edwards Religion

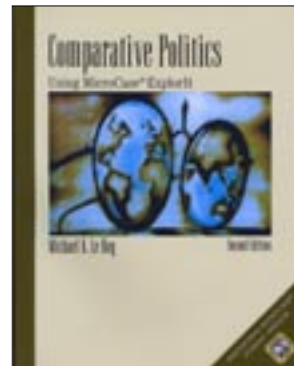
Professor of Religion James Edwards, '67, isn't one to shy away from hotly debated issues. Edwards is currently writing a new book, slated for publication in 2004, which tackles the question of whether Jesus is the only savior of the world.



"A recent surge of interest in multiculturalism, world religions, and spiritual relativity has opened this subject in new ways," Edwards says. "Whenever I talk on this subject, people tell me to finish the book because it relates to a question that is at the top of their list." Edwards has published more than 100 articles on biblical and theological subjects in academic and popular journals. He serves on the editorial board for *Christianity Today*, and is the author of two recent books: *The Divine Intruder* (2000, NavPress) and a commentary, *The Gospel According to Mark* (2002, Eerdmans). "Commentaries tend to be either very technical and abstract or devotional. In *The Gospel According to Mark*, I worked hard to uncover every historical, literary or philological stone, but I also wrote from a standpoint of faith," Edwards says. "My goal is to be an informed believer and to enable others to be so, too."

Michael Le Roy Politics & History

Professor of Politics & History Michael Le Roy, '89, has taught students at Whitworth, Wheaton College, and the College of William and Mary long enough to discover that many students feel a disconnection between their faith and working in the public sector. Le Roy, who began teaching at Whitworth last fall, is writing a new book addressing that dissonance. *Acts of Faith in Public Life: Christian Vocation and Calling in a Post-Christian World* will equip students with theological tools to work in public vocations and will include profiles of Christians who are leaders in public fields.



"Students who are serious about their Christian faith often feel that working in public vocations such as journalism, politics, business or the arts is less meaningful than working in so-called professional ministry," Le Roy says. "This book is intended to encourage students to take up public professions in the name of Christ, and to do so with the confidence that God is already at work in the places that He is calling us to."

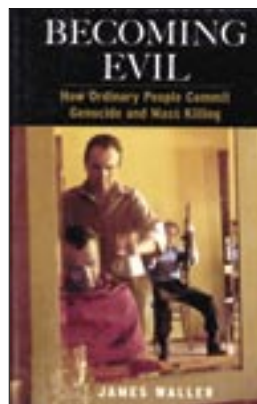
In addition to *Acts of Faith*, Le Roy is the author of the textbook *Comparative Politics, An Introduction* (2002, 2nd edition, Wadsworth), which features a software program that allows students to critically analyze real data drawn from countries around the world.

"The book builds a bridge between undergraduate students and professional research in comparative politics," Le Roy says. "Faculty tell me that this is the first classroom tool that has allowed them to share the rich body of research with students in an interactive fashion."

Jim Waller Psychology

Psychology Professor Jim Waller's research and writing on racial prejudice, collective violence and social injustice are garnering national and international attention and are moving Waller to the forefront of public dialogue on critical social issues.

Waller's book *Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing* (2002, Oxford University Press) was praised in a July 2002 *Publishers Weekly* review for "clearly and effectively synthesizing a wide range of studies to develop an original and persuasive model of the processes by which people can become evil." The book was included in an October 2002 *New York Times* column by Edward Rothstein, has been selected as a finalist for the Raphael Lemkin Award for Outstanding Book Published in 2001-2002 from the International Association of Genocide Scholars, and is being adapted as a play at UCLA.



"Most scholars believe that present-day population growth, land resources, energy consumption, and per-capita consumption cannot be sustained without leading to even more catastrophic human conflict," Waller says. "These facts, coupled with the harsh reality that our nation now teeters on the brink of war, make essential our continuing search for understanding the origins – and, more important, the prevention – of social evil, collective violence, and group conflict."

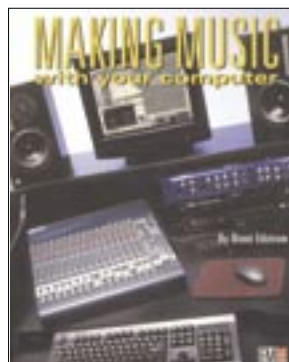
Waller has an agreement with Oxford University Press to write two additional books on social evil and is writing a series of articles and book reviews in professional journals. He is also serving as the general editor for *Deliver Us from Evil: Genocide and the Christian World*, a volume of papers resulting from a seminar that Waller led at Whitworth last summer.



Brent Edstrom Music

Renowned conductor Gunther Schuller issued high praise to Assistant Professor of Music Brent Edstrom prior to a recent Spokane Jazz Orchestra concert, which Schuller conducted and for which Edstrom played piano. "This is only the second time I've had the opportunity to work with a pianist talented enough to play these pieces," Schuller said of Edstrom.

Edstrom, who has coordinated Whitworth's music-theory and composition program since 2001, is earning a national reputation for his work as a performer, composer and author; he has two books currently in production. *Bill Evans, Signature Licks* highlights the work of one of the most influential jazz pianists of the 20th century and features note-for-note transcriptions of a number of Evans' improvisations. Edstrom also recorded trio versions of Evans' improvisations on a demonstration CD that accompanies the book.



In another of his areas of expertise, Edstrom's upcoming book, *Music Notation Algorithms* in C++, explores how programming language can be used to create music notation algorithms.

"Computers are amazing tools for composers," Edstrom says. "I'm interested in using music software and hardware to create, edit and synthesize music. My theoretical focus has been on the design of computer algorithms and classes to handle the complex rules of music notation, which has led me to develop a library of notation classes that will form the basis of a computer-aided ear-training application."

