



L-R: Beck Taylor, Bonnie Robinson, Bill Robinson, Julie Taylor

A Grand Opening

Community celebrates the Robinsons and Robinson Science Hall

Whitworth celebrated the grand opening of the William P. and Bonnie V. Robinson Science Hall under clear and sunny skies the morning of Saturday, Oct. 8, as part of Homecoming Weekend. The building's namesakes, President Emeritus Bill Robinson and his wife, Bonnie, were in attendance, along with President Beck Taylor, members of the Whitworth board of trustees, Spokane Mayor Mary Verner, and other Whitworth and Spokane community members.

The \$32 million Robinson Science Hall, which opened for classes this fall, is the largest and most expensive academic facility built by Whitworth in its 122-year-history. The 63,000-square-foot building houses Whitworth's biology, chemistry, and health science departments, and features state-of-the-art laboratories and instrumentation, research facilities, and classrooms that can be converted to labs. (To view a photo-spread of the building, see Page 10).

During the grand opening ceremony, ASWU President Eric Fullerton, '12,

spoke about the importance of the building to students. Whitworth Associate Professor of Biology Michael Sardinia, '87, spoke about how the facility's cutting-edge instrumentation and labs will help advance the faculty's teaching and faculty/student collaborative research, and President Taylor presented the Robinsons with a framed photo of the building and a list of donor names.

With his typical good humor, Bill Robinson talks about his and Bonnie's feelings regarding the new building: "It makes me hope we have a grandkid who majors in science at Whitworth, and every time the kid enters the building, she or he will get the creepy feeling that we're watching," he says. "Mainly, we feel the naming to be a lovely honor that far exceeds our contributions. The Whitworth story from 1993-2010 was written by this entire community, so if this high honor is symbolic of our efforts, it makes us feel great. We are immensely honored."



Photo by Kiki Hirota

Jazz Great Jams with Whitworth Ensemble

International jazz giant and two-time Grammy nominee Joshua Redman performed with the award-winning Whitworth Jazz Ensemble Nov. 5 in Cowles Auditorium. This is the 23rd year that Whitworth has hosted an international jazz star in a performance with the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble. "This is always a fantastic event for our students and the Whitworth community, as we all get to hear and be inspired and learn from some of the world's greatest jazz musicians," says Dan Keberle, professor of music and director of jazz studies and the jazz ensemble. Redman has performed and recorded with numerous legendary artists, including Yo Yo Ma, The Rolling Stones, and Stevie Wonder.

To view a short video interview with Redman, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.

Whitworth a Top Producer of Fulbright Scholars for 2011-12

University ranks among nation's leading schools for second time in three years

For the second time in three years, the Fulbright Program listed Whitworth as a top producer of students who received Fulbright awards in 2011-12. The only school, public or private, in Washington state that had more Fulbright recipients than Whitworth was the University of Washington. The success of the top-producing institutions was highlighted in the Oct. 24 online edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Whitworth, which submitted five applications and had four Fulbright scholars selected, is listed in the master's institutions category, along with 13 other institutions. To view the top-producers list, visit <http://chronicle.com/article/Top-Producers-of-US/129452/>.

A record four Whitworth seniors were awarded Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grants for the 2011-12 academic year. Corey Dugan is teaching in Spain, Angie Hartley in Argentina,

James Mitsuyasu in Germany, and Katie Williams in Colombia. Since 2000, 15 Whitworth students and three faculty members have been selected as Fulbright scholars. In addition, Whitworth alum Matt Kaemingk, '03, recently was awarded a Fulbright research grant to pursue doctoral studies in The Netherlands through Fuller Theological Seminary.

"The remarkable success of Whitworth students in the Fulbright competition can be attributed to the high-quality students we attract and to the work they do while at Whitworth to prepare themselves for teaching and studying abroad, such as by participating in teaching assistantships and in Whitworth's study-abroad programs," says John Yoder, a professor of political science at Whitworth and the university's Fulbright advisor. "In addition, Whitworth professors know their students well and can write strong letters of support

that carefully explain why a student has the skills and personal qualities essential for success in the Fulbright program."

Whitworth was one of only five private institutions in Washington state to be recognized as top Fulbright producers. The achievement of having four students receive Fulbright awards in 2011-12 is also notable in light of the fact that of all the universities and colleges on the list, none had a higher success rate than Whitworth, Yoder says. Most schools had an average success rate of below 30 percent. Other schools with the same number of Fulbright recipients as Whitworth were Bernard College, Bates College, Bowdoin College, Davidson College, DePauw University, Macalester College, Villanova University, Wellesley College, and Wheaton College (Mass.).



Photo by Jordan Beauchamp, '12

Community Building Day Volunteers Break Record

Continuing a century-long tradition, hundreds of Whitworth students, faculty and staff, including President Beck Taylor and his wife, Julie, spent a crisp early fall morning in September volunteering at more than 45 nonprofit agencies across Spokane. Roughly 1,500 volunteers participated in Community Building Day 2011, making this year's event the largest in university history. "Our goal for Community Building Day is to provide an important first step for students in making a lifelong commitment to serving others and proactively participating in the community," says Steve LaPointe, Whitworth's assistant director for service-learning and community engagement. Kari Kelli, of Christ Kitchen, says, "We thoroughly appreciated the students who were here. They all worked hard, were very kind, respectful, funny and energetic. They were an absolute delight and blessing to all of us."

Gift Honors Talented Teacher, Leader

Donors pledge \$3 million to endow Margo Long Chair in Gifted Education

Donors, who wish to remain anonymous, have pledged \$3 million to fund an endowed chair in gifted education at Whitworth. The landmark gift recognizes Whitworth's commitment to preparing teachers who pursue a vocation in serving gifted and talented students, and will support the university's Center for Gifted Education & Professional Development, which is the only one of its kind in Washington state.



The endowed chair will be named in honor of Margo Long, who founded and was director of the Whitworth Center for Gifted Education & Professional Development. Long, who retired last spring, was also a longtime associate professor of education and supervisor of secondary-level education students for the School of Education at Whitworth.

"We are so grateful for the generosity

and vision of these wonderful donors," says Whitworth President Beck Taylor. "In

honoring Margo, and in establishing the Long Chair in Gifted Education, these dear friends of Whitworth are simultaneously celebrating the university's rich history of academic excellence and helping us point to a promising future for our students and faculty." The establishment of Whitworth's fourth endowed faculty position

moves Whitworth closer to its goal of establishing 10 such positions by 2021.

"I am truly overwhelmed by this gift to continue what I believe to be one of the most important needs in our schools today: to train teachers with the skills to address the needs of gifted students," Long says. "This endowed chair is really a tribute to the entire Whitworth School of Education and all the people who have contributed to the Center for Gifted

Education's existence and goals. It is a thrill to know that the center's influence will continue."

The Margo Long Endowed Chair in Gifted Education will allow Whitworth to hire a national leader in this important field, thereby assuring Whitworth's national prominence as a center of excellence in gifted education.

Whitworth established the Center for Gifted Education & Professional Development in 1979, in response to the growing need for leadership on the east side of Washington state to facilitate the distribution of materials and to provide services for exceptionally able learners. The center supports policies and practices that encourage and respond to the diverse expressions of gifts and talents in young people. In addition, the center's extensive library of current and classic materials is a valuable resource for teachers of gifted children.

"This gift will allow the School of Education to advance the agenda in this field through the preparation of teachers, as well as through research and advocacy," says Dennis Sterner, dean of the School of Education. "Children and young people in Spokane and beyond will be the ultimate beneficiaries of this wonderful donation."

Whitworth Remembers 9/11

Whitworth commemorated the 10th anniversary of 9/11 with a remembrance service held that evening in Seeley Mudd Chapel. "It was important for the Whitworth community to be involved in the national day of remembrance in order to remember what happened on that day 10 years ago, and to reflect on how we responded to it," says Terry McGonigal, Whitworth's dean of spiritual life. Whitworth also honored local heroes at its football game on Sept. 10, offering free admission to military servicemen and women and to first responders, and by holding a time of special recognition prior to the game in conjunction with the singing of the national anthem.

Rankings Recognize Whitworth's Commitments to Academic Quality, Financial Aid

For the 12th year in a row, Whitworth earned a spot in the top 10 of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings of the best regional universities and best values in the West. This fall Whitworth climbed three positions to capture the No. 2 spot among 118 regional universities in the best values rankings, and held its No. 9 position among the best regional universities in the West.

Whitworth also was recently listed at No. 62 in Kiplinger's 2011-12 rankings of the top best values among all private universities in the U.S.; was designated "Best in the West" in The Princeton Review's 2012 *Best Colleges: Region by Region* guide; and ranked among the top six private schools in the Pacific Northwest in *Forbes'* latest America's Best Colleges rankings.

"High rankings in *U.S. News* are indicators of Whitworth's commitment to using our resources to provide our students with an excellent education and to be faithful to our mission of integrating Christian faith and learning," says Whitworth Provost and Executive Vice President Michael Le Roy, '89. "Yet a high-quality education also involves many intangibles, such as the level of faculty commitment to student learning, the quality of instruction, and the role the institution's mission plays in shaping the minds and hearts of students. So while we appreciate the ways a top 10 ranking in *U.S. News* recognizes measurable positive attributes, we also remain committed to striving for excellence in areas that can't be quantified."

The *U.S. News* rankings are based on a variety of indicators of an institution's quality, including academic reputation, faculty resources, student selectivity,

freshman retention, graduation rate, financial resources and alumni giving.

This fall, Whitworth welcomed the most academically successful freshman class in its history, with an average high-school GPA of 3.7 and average SAT score of 1807. Whitworth has a three-year average freshman-sophomore retention rate of 85 percent, while 85 percent of students who graduate from Whitworth do so in four years; both measures are well above national averages. In addition, the university has lowered its student-faculty ratio to 11-to-1, even as undergraduate enrollment has risen.

The *U.S. News* best-values rankings are based on academic quality and the net cost of attendance for a student receiving the average level of need-based financial aid. Whitworth will provide \$36.3 million in grants and scholarships to undergraduate students this year, and the average total aid award for traditional undergraduate students is \$25,819.

"It is especially gratifying to rise to No. 2 on the best values list, because those rankings recognize Whitworth's strong commitments to both academic quality and financial aid," says Greg Orwig, '91, vice president for admissions and financial aid. "At a time when families are working harder than ever to afford college, we strive to ensure that Whitworth students get an excellent return on their investment through small class sizes, exceptional teaching, career and graduate school preparation, and on-time graduation. High rankings in *U.S. News*, Kiplinger's *Personal Finance* magazine, *Forbes* and The Princeton Review affirm Whitworth's track record of success in these areas."



Life after Death Row

Human rights activist Juan Melendez was wrongly convicted of murder and served 17 years on death row before being released in 2002. Since his release, he has traveled across the U.S. - including a visit to Whitworth in September - telling audiences his story. During his presentation, he talked about the injustices he witnessed behind bars and about the importance of faith and hope even in life's darkest circumstances. Melendez also discussed his Voices United for Justice project, which seeks to abolish the death penalty in the U.S. and to plant seeds for its abolition throughout the world.





Photo by Jordan Beauchamp, '12



I Am That I Am

Award-winning actress Adilah Barnes performed a one-woman show, *I Am That I Am: Woman, Black*, in Cowles Auditorium on Oct. 26. During her performance, Barnes portrayed seven remarkable African American women: Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune, Zora Neale Hurston, Lorraine Hansberry, Angela Davis and Maya Angelou. The show has toured since 1990, and it has reached audiences across the U.S. as well as in Europe and the Caribbean. Barnes is perhaps best known for her role as Anne Marie on *Roseanne* for five seasons. She has also appeared on shows including TV's *Gilmore Girls*, *Cold Case*, and *The Middle*, as well as in the movie *Erin Brockovich*. She has taught at the American Conservatory Theatre and other institutions including The Los Angeles Theatre Center. She also is co-founder of the Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival. And she is currently working on another one-woman show, *Just Call Her Woman of the Soil*.

To view a short video interview with Barnes, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.



Photo by Kirk Hirota

Contemplating “The Meaning of Matthew” *Matthew Shepard’s mother shares his story with Whitworth*

Just over 13 years ago, on Oct. 13, 1998, 21-year-old University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and left to die in a remote area east of Laramie, Wyo. His murder sparked a national dialogue about anti-LGBT hate crimes – a dialogue that continues to this day. Determined to turn tragedy into a crusade for justice and to prevent others from suffering Matthew’s fate, his mother, Judy Shepard, established The Matthew Shepard Foundation, which advocates for LGBT rights and respect and tolerance for all people. Shepard, who travels the country telling her son’s story, shared “The Meaning of Matthew” with the Whitworth community on Nov. 10.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation seeks to “replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance” through education, outreach and advocacy programs. Speaking from a mother’s perspective, Shepard urged the audience to work to make schools and communities safe for everyone, regardless of race, sex, religion or gender identity and/or expression.

“As a university committed to honoring God, following Christ, and serving humanity, Whitworth desires to be on the

front lines against all violent hate crimes, including those done out of fear and prejudice,” says Casey Andrews, assistant professor of English at Whitworth. “Judy Shepard has been a tireless advocate for people who, like her son, have been assaulted because of their sexuality. Hearing her tell Matthew’s story was a chance for all members of the Whitworth and broader Spokane communities to become more informed about these important issues. We believe her presence on campus helped further our discussions about hate crimes, about violence toward LGBT people, and about how to be responsible, engaged citizens.”

Shepard has appeared in two Human Rights Campaign advertisements urging an end to anti-gay violence and promoting a greater understanding of gay issues. Her *New York Times* bestselling book, *The Meaning of Matthew: My Son’s Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed*, offers an intimate look at how her life, and the fight for equal rights, changed when her son was killed.

Shepard’s visit to Whitworth was sponsored in part by 1962 Whitworth alumnus David E. Martin.

In It to Win It *Leetch is new director of athletics*



each of the past four years. In making Leetch’s appointment official, Whitworth President Beck Taylor said that “Aaron has a tremendous track record of engaging corporate sponsors, donors and volunteer supporters who can give our already-

Whitworth recently hired Aaron Leetch to lead its highly successful athletics program – the Northwest Conference’s most successful program in

successful coaches and student-athletes the resources they need to take Pirate Athletics even further.” Leetch, who was at Illinois State from 2005-11, hit the ground running in Spokane. “It’s so exciting to become part of the fantastic team and the championship tradition that’s in place at Whitworth,” he says. “There are many reasons why I wanted to be at Whitworth, but the leadership and vision of President Taylor are certainly at the top of the list. For me, the people make the place – and Whitworth is filled with wonderful people.”

Having served as an NCAA Div. I athletics administrator for nearly 10 years, Leetch understands well the importance of balancing fund-raising with creating

and maintaining programs that benefit both the university and its athletes. “It’s my belief,” he says, “that intercollegiate athletics should be an area of pride for the institution without distracting from its core values and mission. I believe that a student-athlete should be a student first. To that end, Div. III athletics provides a wonderful opportunity for an athletics director to have a direct impact on the lives of young people.”

Leetch follows Vice President for Institutional Advancement Scott McQuilkin, '84, who served as Whitworth’s A.D. from 1996-2009, and Golf Head Coach and Professor of Kinesiology Warren Friedrichs, who served from 2009-11.



Whitworth Forensics Makes a Comeback

Due to popular demand, this fall Whitworth has resurrected its forensics program after a 14-year hiatus.

The rebirth of the program came on the heels of a string of successful years for Whitworth students engaged in similar academic activities. Last spring, a team of Whitworth students tied for third place at the 15th annual National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, marking the second time in three years that Whitworth has placed in the top five at the national bowl. Whitworth teams have placed in the top tier at regional ethics bowls for the past decade.

“Whitworth is resurrecting the forensics program to provide academically talented students with a high-quality co-curricular activity,” says Mike Ingram, director of the forensics program and associate dean for faculty development and scholarship at Whitworth. “The new program will provide a rigorous intellectual experience for students across many majors.”

Ingram led the intercollegiate forensics program from 1988-97, but budget constraints resulted in the program being discontinued. Ingram says that since the program ended, the Whitworth Admissions Office has fielded a steady stream of inquiries about whether the university has a forensics team.

“Debaters and speakers tend to be very strong students who are interested in the exchange of ideas and in sharpening their public speaking abilities,” Ingram says. “The goals of the program are to significantly enhance abilities in critical thinking and effective public speaking.”

The team travels to regional tournaments in which they compete against other schools in a variety of



speaking events and debates. Recently the team competed in a speech and debate tournament in Caldwell, Idaho, where they took home a total of 18 awards, defeating teams from schools including Oregon State University, Northwest Nazarene University, and the College of Idaho.





Photo by Jordan Beauchamp, '12

Noted Slam Poet Taylor Mali Presents Reading at Whitworth

Taylor Mali, one of the most well-known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement, presented a reading on Oct. 18 to a large crowd in Cowles Auditorium. Mali is perhaps best known for his poem, "What Teachers Make," about his experience as a middle-school teacher and his views on the nobility of teaching. His recitation of the poem has been viewed more than 4 million times on YouTube and was quoted by *The New York Times'* Thomas Friedman in a commencement address. Mali also is author of two books, *The Last Time as We Are* and *What Learning Leaves*; he is currently working as a spoken-word and voiceover artist, traveling the country performing and teaching workshops. Mali ended his presentation at Whitworth by reading a poem, *Tony Steinberg: Brave Seventh Grade Viking Warrior*, about one of his 7th grade students who died of cancer.

To view a short video interview with Mali, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.



The HUB of Whitworth

Hixson Union Building undergoes expansion, renovation

After 14 years of faithful service to Whitworth's growing population, the HUB, too, is growing. In June, crews broke ground on a 14,000-square-foot addition, which includes a mezzanine-level dining area that can be turned into an event/catering space that seats 80-100 people, in addition to the main level's 120-seating capacity. There will also be two new dining venues on the main level, one serving Asian food and the other offering that savory staple of college life: pizza.

The building project, to be completed in summer 2012, will be followed by an updating of the current dining hall and food service areas, bringing them up to the high standards of the furnishings and equipment provided in the new addition. The \$6.5 million project will expand and enhance dining space and food service for the entire campus and will give Whitworth additional venues for community gatherings.

"This expansion will provide a comfortable place for students to hang

out in cozy booths in natural, floor-to-ceiling light, to enjoy a pizza from our authentic brick oven, and to catch a game on one of the numerous flat-screen TVs," says Assistant Dean of Students Dayna Coleman-Jones. "The mezzanine will provide an area that can be closed off for special programs and private dinners. The addition and renovation will give Whitworth a spacious, hip, student-oriented event and dining space."

Chelsea Stephens, '14, is enthusiastic about the changes to come. "I'm excited about the opening of the HUB expansion," she says. "It's much-needed and will add some real variety to the classic 'Saga' experience." Jamie Campbell, '15, concurs: "I think the addition will be great," she says. "It will offer more seating during mealtimes and will also give us more variety. After a while you find yourself wanting something in addition to what's currently offered in the food court!"



Photo by Robert Huggins, '04

Catching Hay Fever

In October, Whitworth Theatre presented its fall production, *Hay Fever*, a comedy written by Noel Coward and set in the witty and stylish world of the 1920s. Diana Trotter, Whitworth professor of theatre and the play's director, says *Hay Fever* captures the spirit of the 1920s and delighted the audience with its humor. The production marked the first time a set was designed in-house at Whitworth, thanks to the expertise of Whitworth's new assistant professor of theatre, Aaron Dyszelski, who specializes in costume and set design.

A New Way to Pray

Whitworth launches "On Bended Knee"

As Whitworth President Beck Taylor travels around the country representing the university, the people he meets often ask, "How can we pray for Whitworth? What does the university need most in order to continue to live out its mission?"

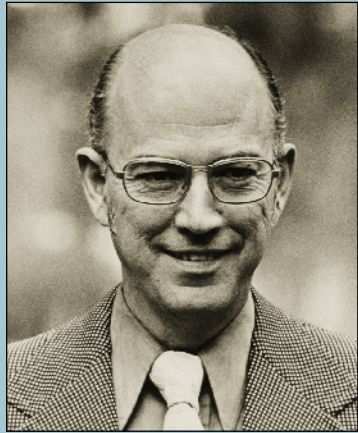


"On Bended Knee," Whitworth's new online prayer guide, is the university's response to that question. "Each week we provide a theme," says Dean of Spiritual Life Terry McGonigal, who oversees the site, "and we couple that with a reading from a Psalm. Prayer prompts provide reminders of the needs of Whitworth's students, faculty and staff. There's also a weekly focus on our Whitworth 2021: Courage at the Crossroads strategic plan, with a prayer prompt for one particular

initiative in the plan." The guide also provides the scriptural passage that will be preached in chapel that week, along with the name of the week's preacher. The prayer guide ends each week with a prayer of thanksgiving, which,

McGonigal says, "keeps us all mindful of our need for an attitude of gratitude for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ." More than 500 people have signed up to receive "On Bended Knee" electronically; the website has received more than 15,000 hits since the guide was launched in late August. If you would like to receive this weekly prayer guide, please sign up for the RSS feed at www.whitworth.edu/onbendedknee.

In Memoriam



Harry M. Dixon

Harry M. Dixon, a much-loved longtime business and economics professor at Whitworth, died peacefully in August at the age of 92 in his home in Simi Valley, Calif.

Dixon came to Whitworth in 1960, after working for Boeing in Seattle, and retired from Whitworth in 1984. He held the title of professor emeritus of business and

economics until his death. During his tenure, he helped build a business major, which eventually led to a major in accounting, as well, within the existing economics department. He also served on the Core 150 teaching team and on numerous committees and councils.

Known as “Mr. Whitworth” by many alums who were students during his tenure, Dixon was named Most Influential Professor by senior classes several times throughout his career. Respected for his economics expertise and for his engaging and approachable teaching style, Dixon expressed genuine interest in students and helped guide many toward successful and rewarding business careers.

“Vocational guidance is one of the most important things we can offer students,” he once said. “But the only way you can be effective is by getting to know them...sharing their insights... asking questions that help them sort out their interests and capabilities.”

Whitworth Trustee Scott Chandler, '84, managing partner of Franklin Court Partners LLC, in Centennial, Colo., says Dixon exemplified Whitworth's mission. He credits Dixon for teaching him business principles he has used throughout his career and for preparing him for his graduate studies at the prestigious Wharton School of Business, at the University of Pennsylvania.

“He was passionate about what he taught,” Chandler says, “and he wanted to get to know every student. He will forever be remembered for the genuine love he had for Whitworth and its students.”

Business Professor Emeritus George Weber says he cherished Dixon as a valued colleague and brother in Christ during their 20 years working at the school together.

“Harry and I had a common vision that business and economics should be a much bigger piece of the pie at Whitworth,” Weber says, “and we wanted to prepare people for a life of service in a field in which many graduates were beginning to find productive and meaningful employment.” Calling Dixon “a wonderful guy to work with,” Weber says he was also “a very gentle person who was willing to talk to anybody and to talk in depth about any subject you wanted to talk about. He was a committed believer who displayed to me and to everyone else the fruits of the Christian life.”

Memorial gifts to honor Harry Dixon's life may be made to the Harry and Marjorie Dixon Endowed Scholarship at Whitworth University.



Jane Newhall

Jane Newhall, 97, an extraordinary friend of Whitworth, died July 27 in Martha's Vineyard. She also had a home in San Francisco. She was a trustee of the San Francisco Theological Seminary as well as the board of directors of the Graduate Theological Union, and she was a founding member and director of the Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation.

She loved to sing and did so for many years in the Calvary Presbyterian Church Choir, in San Francisco, as well as in the West Tisbury Congregational Church Choir, in Massachusetts. Newhall was known for her generosity toward Whitworth and other Presbyterian organizations and institutions of higher learning. She is survived by her companion, Anita Guerra, by her extended family, to whom she was devoted, and by her “bi-coastal beagles,” Benjamin, Bugle Ann, Daisy and Poppy.



Disagreement by Design

By Michael Le Roy, '89, Ph.D.,
Provost and Executive Vice President

violence that tore France apart during its own revolution? As Tocqueville traveled through the country, he found an answer to his questions that even most Americans had not considered: community.

Though Tocqueville did not use the word “community,” he observed that individuals in the U.S. were not part of rival mobs bent on one another's destruction, but were instead a part of civic associations dedicated to purposes that transcended narrow individual impulses. Americans had formed churches, schools, charities, and universities – groups in which members debated and disagreed with one another but remained committed to the basic mission and purpose of the organization. Tocqueville noted that Americans seemed to be practical, rather than ideological, and observed that the common purpose or mission of each organization mattered more than any individual's narrow agenda. And the organizations he studied seemed to be laboratories to train up citizens committed to civil discourse in democratic society. Finally, Tocqueville observed that good relationships within a community mattered as much to most Americans as being right on a given issue.

I wonder whether Tocqueville would find the same vibrant civic culture today that he found in the U.S. in 1823. Today there are American schools, churches, charities and universities still governed by common purposes. But I worry that the rhetoric in American civic life is losing its mooring to the common purpose of a democratic republic. As I listen to the radio, watch television debates, and read blogs, I observe political discourse characterized by three worrisome trends: monologue rather than dialogue; attitudes characterized by suspicion, mistrust, and a lack of charity toward those with different

points of view; and disagreements about the nature and implications of truth that tend to obscure understanding rather than enhance it. It may be argued that these are the rhetorical characteristics of any era, but I fear that new media are beginning to reorganize society from social groups that join together to serve common purposes (schools, churches, charities) to social groups that share only common ideological perspectives (MoveOn.org, Fox News adherents, the John Birch Society, and NPR listeners). These sub-groups are certainly a vital part of a democracy, but what happens when Republicans and Democrats, Christians and non-Christians, environmentalists and business leaders cease to gather in common places for purposes that transcend narrow interests?

Because Whitworth's Christian mission welcomes believers of all traditions to join the conversation, that search for truth is realized in a context of lively discussion and mutual respect among fellow truth-seekers. Disagreement happens by design in this community, and, at times, each of us finds it uncomfortable. But it is our hope that, as we seek the nature and implications of truth, disagreements will lead to deeper understanding rather than to relativistic confusion. Whitworth isn't perfect in its pursuit of academic community, but it's our goal to produce graduates who can engage respectfully, think critically, and act compassionately across all societal differences. And perhaps institutions like Whitworth still have a role to play in the development of democratic citizens. In his analysis of democracy in America, Tocqueville observed that “The greatness of America lies not in her being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.”



Photo by Al Borman

Pictured (l-r): Travis Hartanov, Ginny Porterfield, and Primal de Lanerolle tour the campus before they receive their awards at the 2011 George F. Whitworth Honors Banquet. John Scotford was unable to attend this year's event.

2011 Alumni Award Winners

Primal de Lanerolle, '68
2011 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

Primal de Lanerolle's family moved from Sri Lanka to Berkeley, Calif., in 1958. "Moving to Berkeley was really tough," he says. "One thing that kept me going was that I became very involved with Young Life. My friends there introduced me to Whitworth, and I decided to attend."

De Lanerolle came to Whitworth intending to go to medical school. "My father wanted to be a doctor himself," he says, "and he pushed me hard in this direction. But a freshman English class taught by Dean Ebner changed my life." Ebner, Ken Richardson and Don Frantz taught about consciousness,

and how one fits into the physical universe. "Although they taught it from a humanistic/Christian point of view," de Lanerolle says, "it has been an important guiding principle for me as a scientist."

He graduated in 1968 with majors in English literature and chemistry and then completed his master's degree in literature at San Francisco State. He chose science over literature in his doctoral studies, believing that he was better at the latter, and earned his Ph.D. in physiology and pharmacology at U.C. San Diego. He is now a professor in the medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

De Lanerolle's major interest is in the role of proteins known as molecular motors. His team discovered the first molecular motor in the nucleus and showed that it was involved in the first step in gene expression. "In tangible ways,

this discovery is changing how we think about the nucleus and gene expression," says de Lanerolle. "I am proud of this achievement.

"But," he says, "I think I am most proud of something else. One of the things I learned at Whitworth is that the most important thing in life is touching other people's lives in positive ways. I think I have been a good mentor. That is what I am most proud of."

Travis Hartanov, '08
Recent Alumni Award

Travis Hartanov's vocational journey began in high school, when he learned to crochet hats. "My friend Kohl Crecelius called up Stewart Ramsey and me after his older brother returned home from college and brought with him an interesting new hobby," Hartanov says. "It took us an entire Saturday to complete our first hats, but from that moment on we were hooked." A local newspaper got wind of the young men's exploits and dubbed them the Krochet Kids.

At Whitworth, Hartanov and his friends were too busy to do needlework. Then they had the opportunity to travel to developing countries during summer breaks. They were dismayed by the lack of employment opportunities in places like Uganda. After talking with people there, they realized the people's need for dignity through employment – "the kind of dignity," Hartanov says, "that goes hand-in-hand with being able to provide for loved ones."

In 2007, the guys headed off to Uganda with yarn and hooks in hand. Once in Uganda, they gathered their first group of students in a small cement room. "The climax of my vocational journey rests in the memory of that day," Hartanov says. "It was on that day that a group of 10 ladies picked up crochet hooks and yarn for the first time; it was on that day that they realized there was hope for their futures; and it was on that day that I realized that my life would never be the same.

"I felt a very strong calling to start a nonprofit organization, Krochet Kids International," Hartanov says. "And God taught me that through Christ, all things

are possible, even if the journey is not easy." Today, Krochet Kids employs 122 women in Uganda and five in Peru.

John Scotford, '51
Alumni Service to Whitworth Award

Anyone who walks around the beautiful Whitworth campus can see the fruits of John Scotford's labor: He and his wife, Judy, have always been generous to the university, and John has given lavishly of his expertise and his time along with his hard-earned money.

Scotford's life as a business leader actually began at Whitworth, where his first mentor was Mark Koehler, a man who, Scotford says, "definitely showed me a great example of what a leader is." Eventually, as his many business enterprises grew, Scotford would become a trustee at his alma mater. He calls his time on the board "the years that taught me the true excellence of Whitworth as an educational institution founded upon traditional Christian values."

Whitworth President Emeritus Bill Robinson was a beneficiary of Scotford's expertise. "I never lost track of John in a board meeting," Bill says. "I couldn't afford to. He would lean forward, and a wince would crease his face as if he were having some kind of gastronomical issue. The wince would soon become a full-on facial contortion. 'Bill,' he'd say, stretching my name into three syllables, 'I'm sorry, I'm just a dumb car salesman, but...' And whatever followed was spot-on. 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. 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."

Former V. P. for Institutional Advancement Kristi Burns appreciates Scotford's uncanny ability to see into an even brighter future for Whitworth. "Whitworth University's grounds, property and athletics facilities are beautiful because of John's vision, which" she says, "is grounded in his love for Christ and for Whitworth. And the Whitworth community loves John."

Virginia (Ginny) Porterfield, '65
Alumni Mind & Heart Award Winner

Virginia Porterfield earned a Whitworth B.A. in sociology, and then went to work, in Tacoma, with the juvenile justice department. She was a juvenile parole officer for two years and a juvenile probation officer for 11.

Then came a year at Fellowship House, in Washington, D.C., serving and meeting people from all over the world and working to help put on the National Prayer Breakfast. She returned to D.C. every year for 17 years to help with the breakfast and to solidify her relationships in that part of the country.

Porterfield then worked with Ministry in the Central City and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity spending much of her time "just getting the word out," she says. After 13 years and helping to create housing for 40 families, she moved on. "Her" chapter of HFH flourishes to this day, having housed more than 100 families.

Next she learned from a friend, Daphne, about the wretched lives of poor children in her neighborhood. "I was moved by the gruesome stories Daphne would tell me about children living in her trailer court," Porterfield says. She began a Bible club there, and it continues to flourish 13 years later.

In 2004, Porterfield's heart was touched by the work in the Dominican Republic of Children of the Nations, which supports schools, orphanages, medical clinics and food programs in developing countries. She takes doctors and occupational therapists to the Dominican Republic to work with disabled children and train staff and parents to carry on their work. She and others have helped build a school and have taught the biblical ways of peacemaking.

"I don't have a lot of skills to offer," Porterhouse says, "but my gift of mobilizing and networking helps me bring together the teams to help these precious people. I'm preparing to lead my 12th trip to the Dominican Republic this fall." She calls her work with Children of the Nations "my greatest joy."

To see videos about the 2011 Alumni Award Winners, visit www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday.