What a Weekend!

University celebrates 125 years and launches The Campaign for Whitworth

This fall, Whitworth hosted a celebration unlike any other in the university’s history. Across four days, Oct. 9-12, faculty, staff, students, trustees, alumni, parents and friends converged on campus and celebrated Homecoming, Family Weekend and Whitworth’s 125th birthday.

A high point of the weekend was the official 125th-anniversary celebration event, held Saturday evening at the Spokane Convention Center. The 1,400 attendees enjoyed tasty food and stellar performances by Whitworth’s major music ensembles: wind symphony, string orchestra, jazz ensemble and choir; as well as the debut of a film, Celebrating Whitworth, that was commissioned for the occasion. Three featured speakers – Professor of English Leonard Oakland, Class of 2015 member Sena Hughes, and President Beck A. Taylor – offered comments on Whitworth’s enduring past, vibrant present, and bright future.

Taylor, in his comments, formally announced the public phase of The Campaign for Whitworth, which has already secured $56 million in gifts and pledges toward the campaign’s ambitious $100-million goal. Among those gifts, Taylor highlighted a leadership donation of $2 million from the Cowles Family Foundation for the new Cowles Music Center. The project includes a significant addition to and a remodel of the existing music facility, which was originally constructed in 1978 with a lead gift that was also from the Cowles family.

In addition, Whitworth trustee and immediate past Chair of the Board Walt Oliver, ’67, and his wife, Kay, have committed $3 million in support of the new music center. Whitworth has secured $10.6 million toward this $13.5-million highest-priority facility.

Taylor also highlighted a campaign initiative to increase scholarship funds, which are critical for supporting students and maintaining the socioeconomic diversity of Whitworth’s student body, and he identified other initiatives that elevate Whitworth’s distinctiveness, including the Core Worldview Program, study-abroad, science research, endowed faculty chairs and professorships, and faculty and staff development.

The evening celebration closed on a special note, as Oakland led the audience in singing Amazing Grace, which he called “the alma mater of our souls.”

The historic celebration weekend concluded with a Sunday-morning community worship service. The Whitworth Fieldhouse resounded with instrumental music by the Spokane Brass Quintet and choral works and hymns sung by the 135-voice Choral Reunion Choir, featuring the Whitworth Choir, performing with reunion participants, led by Director of Choral Music Marc A. Hafso.

The service also included a sermon delivered by Professor of Theology Jerry Sittser; an awarding of the George F. Whitworth Medal to trustee and alumnus Charles “Chuck” Boppell, ’65; and the premiere of The Way of Wisdom, a hymn commissioned for the 125th celebration. (For related stories, see Pages 18 and 22.)

The concluding service was a fitting way to close Whitworth’s one-of-a-kind quasquicentennial celebration.

To learn more about The Campaign for Whitworth, including the Whitworth Serves initiative; to view the short version of the commissioned Celebrating Whitworth film; and for stories, videos and events related to Whitworth’s 125th-anniversary celebration, visit www.whitworth.edu/125.
James P. and Wanda Cowles (left) are honorary co-chairs of The Campaign for Whitworth, and Scott, ’84, and Sue, ’85, Chandler serve as campaign co-chairs.

Exhibit Encapsulates Whitworth Experience

In honor of Whitworth’s 125th anniversary, Harriet Cheney Cowles Memorial Library is hosting Torchbearers: The Exhibit, a historical display highlighting a selection of people and items that help to tell Whitworth’s story. The exhibit features objects from the Whitworth Archives and from personal collections, including George Whitworth’s writing desk, the first print edition of the student newspaper, The Whitworthian, and a vintage Westminster dorm sweatshirt. An opening reception for the exhibit took place Oct. 10, 2014, during Whitworth’s 125th Anniversary Celebration Weekend. The exhibit, which is a companion presentation to the new book, Torchbearers: Whitworth Stories (see Page 35), is on view through June 2015. For library hours, visit http://libguides.whitworth.edu/hours.

Whitworth Serves

At the evening celebration on Saturday, Oct. 11, Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor launched a key initiative of the campaign: Whitworth Serves. This initiative invites members of the Whitworth family to track and report their hours of community service, whether they volunteer at their churches, at nonprofits in their hometowns, or on reunion committees for their alma maters.

“We hope you will give to Whitworth, but we also hope you will give through Whitworth,” Taylor said. “We envision alumni and parents, faculty, staff and students, and friends all over the world notifying us of their gifts of service and allowing us to count them in the name of Whitworth. At the end of each academic year, we will tally up the hours served and report them alongside our fund-raising totals.”

As part of the initiative, March 28, 2015, has been named the inaugural “Whitworth Serves” Day, when members of the Whitworth family are encouraged to join together in their hometowns and enjoy a day of service in the name of Whitworth.
A Hymn for Whitworth
By Ben Brody, ’98, D.M.A.

When I was approached with the idea of commissioning a hymn to celebrate Whitworth’s 125th anniversary, I immediately thought of my friend Adam Tice. Adam (born 1979) is a Mennonite pastor and hymn writer with whom I frequently collaborate, writing tunes for his texts. Adam’s fourth published hymn collection will appear this summer, and his hymns have appeared in virtually all recently published hymnals (including six in the recent Presbyterian hymnal, Glory to God). Adam visited Whitworth a year ago to lead a hymn-writing workshop and festival featuring his hymn texts. In preparing to write the commissioned hymn, Adam read up on Whitworth’s history, mission, and unique place in Christian higher education. The hymn contains references familiar to Whitworthians (“mind and heart,” “narrow ridge”), yet is universal enough that it could be sung at worship services at other academic institutions.

The tune that we chose for the hymn is by English composer Gustav Holst, and is found in the movement “Jupiter” from his orchestral work The Planets. It was later adapted and set with the English patriotic text, I Vow to Thee, My Country, and appears in many hymnals with the text O God, Beyond All Praising. It seems to me to be musically accessible to congregations, but it has a certain gravitas that lends itself well to academic settings. I am thrilled with the way Adam’s text turned out and with how well it works combined with the Holst tune. I look forward to singing it at future academic convocations and other university events for years to come.
President’s Leadership Forum Features
Condoleezza Rice

Bush Secretary of State attracts enthusiastic audiences

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was the featured speaker at Whitworth’s fall President’s Leadership Forum, held at the Spokane Convention Center. Nearly 2,000 people attended the luncheon at which she spoke.

From 2005-09, Rice served as the 66th U.S. Secretary of State under President George W. Bush. She was the second woman and first African-American woman to hold the position. Rice was also the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor, a post she held from 2001-05.

“We were thrilled to welcome Condoleezza Rice to Whitworth University and to Spokane,” says Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor. “The depth of her experience within the White House and higher education, and her expertise in history, economics and political science, provided the
Whitworth and Spokane communities with intriguing perspectives on important issues in our world.”

Rice’s visit – which also encompassed a trip to Whitworth to speak to students, faculty and staff – attracted standing ovations and picketing dissenters. Her reception at Whitworth was warm, and she discussed, among other things, her faith and its relationship with her work in the Bush administration.

Rice served as provost of Stanford University from 1993-99, during which time she was the institution’s chief budget and academic officer. As provost, she was responsible for a $1.5 billion annual budget and an academic program for 1,400 faculty members and 14,000 students. Rice is currently the Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business; the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution; and a professor of political science at Stanford University. She is also the founding partner of RiceHadleyGates, LLC, an international strategic consulting firm.

Rice is the author and co-author of numerous books, including two bestsellers: No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington, and Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family.

Tony Award-Winner Wows Whitworth

The cast of Whitworth Theatre’s fall production, The Drowsy Chaperone – a parody of 1920s musical comedies – graces the stage for a curtain call. The play, a 2006 Tony Award-winning effort directed at Whitworth by Assistant Professor Brooke Kiener, ’99 (Theatre), music-directed by Associate Professor Scott Miller (Music), and choreographed by Jeannie Huskisson, ’08 (Admissions), wowed the crowds with its comedy, illusions, energetic dance numbers, on-board-an-airplane wedding, and celebration of the value of entertainment in our lives. “We wanted something that felt really celebratory for the 125-year anniversary celebration,” Kiener says. “If you love a laugh-a-minute comedy, a hummable tune, and a good kick-line, this is the show for you.”
Whitworth Rising

University reaches highest echelons of respected rankings yet again

Whitworth University holds the No. 3 spot in *U.S. News & World Report*'s annual rankings of the best regional university values in the West. And for the 15th consecutive year, Whitworth maintains its position as one of the top 10 best regional universities in the West.

Whitworth also ranks No. 3 in the West for strong commitment to undergraduate teaching. The institutions on this list were cited most often by college presidents, provosts and deans, who were asked to identify up to 10 schools in their ranking category that met the commitment-to-teaching criteria.

The university is also No. 9 in *U.S. News*' latest ranking of 120 master's-level universities in the 15-state region of the Western U.S. Greg Orwig, '91, vice president for admissions and financial aid at Whitworth, says that to be ranked a top-10 regional university by *U.S. News* for the 15th year in a row, in addition to being recognized by so many other respected organizations, is a sign of Whitworth's commitment to excellence.

“Whitworth's consistently high rankings underscore for students the fact that they are getting an excellent return on their educational investment – not only in the outstanding faculty, programs and facilities they enjoy, but also in the great things they accomplish when they graduate,” Orwig says. “What really makes Whitworth distinctive, however, goes beyond top rankings. What our students and alumni highlight is the deeply relational character of our campus community and our mission to elevate academic excellence and faith-learning integration as complementary rather than competing values.”

Excellence Refueled

Keeping Whitworth's rankings in the high digits includes recruiting an excellent freshman class each year. Here's a profile of Whitworth's Class of 2018:

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS:** 619

**AVERAGE GPA/SAT:** 3.76/1760

**PERCENTAGE FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS:** 24.2 (most diverse class in Whitworth history)

**PERCENTAGE FROM OUT OF STATE:** 40.2

**PERCENTAGE OF MALE/FEMALE:** 41/59

**NUMBER OF NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** 25 (up from 10 last year)

**NUMBER OF STATES/COUNTRIES REPRESENTED:** 25/18

**MOST COMMON FEMALE NAME:** Emily

**MOST COMMON MALE NAME:** Andrew

**MOST COMMON HOMETOWNS:** Spokane, Tacoma, Colbert, Portland

**LONGEST DISTANCE TRAVELED TO ENROLL:** 10,250 miles, from South Africa

Viva Sandoval!

Jazz icon Arturo Sandoval, who rocked the house with the award-winning Whitworth Jazz Ensemble on Nov. 7 in Cowles Auditorium, is quite an award-winner himself – of 10 Grammy Awards, six Billboard Awards, and an Emmy (not to mention a little trinket called the Presidential Medal of Freedom). Calling Sandoval “one of the greatest jazz musicians and trumpet virtuosos of all time,” Whitworth Jazz Ensemble Director Dan Keberle promised concertgoers – and attendees at Sandoval’s master class – “a once-in-a-lifetime musical experience.” Judging from the audience’s overwhelming response, it’s clear that Sandoval and Whitworth’s jazz band fulfilled – and exceeded – Keberle’s promise.
Demant & Sandberg Join the Team

Whitworth brings new A.D., head football coach on board

Tim Demant, who brings more than 15 years of experience leading small-college athletics departments, is Whitworth’s new director of athletics.

Demant comes to Whitworth from Indiana’s Goshen College, where he served as A.D. for six years. He was also the A.D. and head men’s volleyball coach at Columbia Bible College (B.C., Canada), from 1998-2008.

“Tim will be a great leader for the Pirates,” says Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor. “He’s a competitor himself, having achieved success in a variety of roles that include coach and administrator. And he fully embraces the values and mission of Whitworth University.”

Steve Schadt, ’96, Whitworth’s aquatics director and swimming coach, chaired the committee that selected Demant. “It was apparent very early that Tim has a genuine heart for student-athletes,” Schadt says. “And his Christ-centered leadership style aligns well with the mission of Whitworth.”

Schadt and his fellow committee members were not the only ones pleased by Demant’s interview.

“I was very impressed by the commitment to excellence shared by President Taylor, the coaches and everyone I interacted with,” says Demant. “Whitworth University is truly a special place, and I am excited to be a part of the team.”

Rod Sandberg is Whitworth’s new head football coach, and he’s on a mission.

Coming to Whitworth from Wheaton College (III.), the intense defensive specialist leads a team of more than 100 players and is already making his mark in the tough Northwest Conference, where the Bucs finished the 2014 season with a 6-4 record. He served as Wheaton’s defensive coordinator from 2003-14 and was also the Thunder’s linebackers’ coach.

“I’m excited to welcome Coach Sandberg as Whitworth’s new head football coach,” Taylor says. “In my conversations with Rod, he not only demonstrates great leadership and coaching strengths, but he also understands and embraces Whitworth’s mission. It will be fun to see where Rod takes the Pirates.”

Sandberg chose Whitworth’s offer over a number of others. “It became clear to me during the interview process that Whitworth is a special place,” he says. “The players, faculty and administration are the kind of people I want to align myself with.”

Hall of Fame Welcomes 25th Class

Samantha Kephart, ’08, Jock McLaughlin, ’66, Haley Nichols, ’97, and Scott McQuilkin, ’84, were inducted into Whitworth’s Heritage Gallery in October. Kephart, a nine-time All-American, won two NCAA Div. III titles in swimming. McLaughlin, a standout in both football and track, earned conference honors and national recognition. Nichols ranks second all-time in total points (94), goals scored (34) and assists (26) in soccer; she helped lead her team to a pair of NWC championships. And McQuilkin, a current Whitworth vice president, was director of athletics from 1996-2009, earning the 2002 NCAA Division III West Region A.D. of the Year Award. He played varsity baseball for the Pirates, and he was Whitworth’s baseball coach from 1985-90, leading his team to the NAIA regional playoffs three times.
Honorary Doctorates

Bruner, Mouw feted at summer ceremony

Dale Bruner – known, admired and loved at Whitworth, where he taught for 22 years, as well as throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the American faith community – returned to Spokane this summer to receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from the university. Bruner is the author of a number of books, including A Theology of the Holy Spirit: The Pentecostal Experience and the New Testament Witness; Matthew: A Commentary; and The Gospel of John.

During his years at Whitworth, Bruner touched the lives of countless students. His passion for teaching the biblical narrative, for scholarship, and for church renewal made him one of Whitworth’s most influential professors. His engaging and challenging teaching style also made him a favorite with the community and at the seminars and workshops he conducted across the country. He remains a respected teacher and speaker and a strong influence within the church, and he has an endowed chair, The Bruner-Welch Chair in Theology, named for him at Whitworth.

Bruner lives with his wife of 51 years, Kathy, in Pasadena, Calif., where he is working on a commentary on the fifth Gospel, Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Joining Bruner in receiving an honorary doctorate of humane letters was Richard Mouw, who served as president of Fuller Theological Seminary from 1993-2013. A philosopher, scholar and author, Mouw joined the Fuller faculty as a professor of Christian philosophy and ethics in 1985, after 17 years at Calvin College (Mich.). He has been an active friend of Whitworth, consulting with faculty members and administrators about the meaning of being a Christian/ theologically Reformed institution. A dynamic thinker and speaker, Mouw has been a keynote speaker at Whitworth’s annual Institute of Ministry.

Whitworth’s Highest Honor

During the university’s festive 125th-anniversary celebration, former chair of the Whitworth Board of Trustees Charles “Chuck” Boppell, ’65, was honored with the George F. Whitworth Medal, the university’s most hallowed award. Boppell, who was chair of the board for 18 years, somehow managed to combine successfully his dedication to his family (Karyn, ’67, and children Tauni Broennle, ’90, Tiffany Thompson, and Todd Boppell), his business career, and his alma mater. In conferring the award, Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor said, “Chuck has been incredibly generous with his leadership, his undying support for Whitworth, and his financial generosity to ensure that this special place makes an impact on students’ lives for generations to come.”

Gerald “Jay” Gordon Kendall, Jr.

Former business professor Jay Kendall died at home in August, surrounded by his family. Jay, who was born in Oakland, Calif., in 1939, was a graduate of San Francisco State University. He earned his MBA from St. Mary’s College, in Moraga, Calif., and went on to work for Bank of America for 20 years. Jay joined the Whitworth faculty as a business professor in 1984 and retired in 2001. He recalled his 17 years at Whitworth as a highlight of his life, saying that he loved working with students. A loving husband, father and grandfather, Jay graciously accepted the things that were required of him in his life. He faced a debilitating illness with grace and resolve, and he served as a role model for Whitworth’s business students and for everyone who knew and loved him. Former students came from as far away as California to join Jay’s family and friends, as well as Whitworth faculty and staff members, at his memorial service at Spokane’s Knox Presbyterian Church. Jay is survived by his wife, Donna, ’99; his children, Brian, ’97, Sara, Andrea (Valentine), ’98, Joseph, ’01, and Joanna, ’10; his grandchildren; and extended family and friends.
Robinson Rides Again

Longtime Whitworth president shares a decade of speeches

Whitworth President Emeritus Bill Robinson, whose presidential tenure at the university (1993-2010) is second only to that of Frank Warren (1940-63), has produced a book of his Whitworth convocation and commencement speeches. Matters of Mind & Heart (2014) includes Robinson’s Whitworth addresses from 2000-10, as well as introductions for each year and an appendix of favorite speeches he’d given at other institutions during that period. “I expect that reading these addresses (which are more sermon than speech) will transport alumni readers back in time, to a seat in Cowles Auditorium, and to that voice and presence central to their Whitworth experience,” says Vice President for Institutional Advancement Scott McQuilkin, ’84, who was instrumental in the publication of the book. “Convocation was a must-attend event when Bill was at the podium, and commencement was made even more special for graduates and their families when Bill spoke. Read. Reflect. Be blessed once again.”

The book is available through the Whitworth Bookstore at 509.777.3277 or www.whitworth.edu/bookstore.

Clark and Scott Enjoy New Season of Life

Professor Emeritus Robert Clark, ’67, who taught sociology at Whitworth from 1968-73 and from 1987-2014, and who says that his transition has gone smoothly (“though cleaning out 42 years’ worth of books and files from my office was a real challenge!”), is pursuing “valuable things I postponed or gave insufficient attention to while I was teaching. I look forward to ’catching up’ on piano lessons, fly-fishing, boating with my grandchildren, enriching my friendships, and traveling.” (He’ll visit Korea this winter to see his son, David, ’03, and David’s wife and baby son, and he’s reserved his tickets for Mariners’ spring training in Arizona.) Clark also plans to continue to contribute to the academy and to society: “I continue with professional reading and some writing projects,” he says, “and I will be plugging into volunteer service opportunities where I can make a contribution.”

Dinorah Scott, who worked at Whitworth for eight years and taught Spanish-language classes and directed homestays for the Costa Rica Center, says, “I am enjoying myself, particularly because I have been able to combine traveling/spending time with our children and grandchildren with working on different scholarly projects of my interest, being involved with academia and contributing to it. I am particularly happy with the opportunity to keep in touch with students and colleagues at Whitworth as I participate in events on campus, which is a productive way to be involved with the community.”

Both Clark and Scott mention Whitworth’s mission as the thing they value most about the university they served. Speaking of Whitworth’s “narrow-ridge” philosophy, Clark says, “There are only a handful of historically faith-based colleges and universities in which I would enjoy working. I’ve been blessed to teach at two of them, and it’s ‘walking the narrow ridge’ that has made Whitworth so special to me.” Scott concurs: “This is my favorite thing about Whitworth: its efforts to fulfill its mission through programs that engage its community of students, faculty and staff to serve humanity in deeds as they strive to honor God and follow Christ.”