

## Eligible Middle Schoolers Can Now Be Whitworth Bound

Whitworth is introducing a new scholarship that covers 100 percent of tuition for students who qualify for the state of Washington's College Bound Scholarship and meet other requirements.

The Whitworth Bound Scholarship Program is a major commitment of university support for high-need, high-achieving students beyond the aid provided through the College Bound Scholarship Program and other state and

federal resources, says Vice President for Admissions & Financial Aid Greg Orwig, '91. "We're proud to partner with the



state of Washington to make a Whitworth education accessible to students who believe they would be best served by the relational, experiential, mind-and-heart education we offer," Orwig says. "The College Bound Scholarship Program is designed to engage and inspire middle schoolers with the dream of getting a college education. We want those dreams to include the option of attending Whitworth."

To be eligible for the College Bound Scholarship, students must sign up while in middle school and must graduate from a Washington high school or home

school with a 2.0 GPA or higher. Each applicant must be a good citizen who has not been convicted of a felony, and s/he must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in a timely manner. Applicants must also have a family income that falls within 65 percent of the state's median family income. For more information, please visit [www.wsac.wa.gov/college-bound](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/college-bound).

Incoming freshmen eligible for the College Bound Scholarship who are accepted to Whitworth with a GPA of 3.5 or higher will automatically receive the Whitworth Bound Scholarship, with 100 percent of their tuition covered through university, state, federal and other resources. Students will receive the Whitworth Bound Scholarship for up to four years as long as they meet eligibility requirements for the College Bound Scholarship and maintain satisfactory academic progress. For more information about the Whitworth Bound Scholarship, visit [www.whitworth.edu/academicscholarships](http://www.whitworth.edu/academicscholarships).

## Leonard A. Oakland Film Festival Welcomes Alumni Filmmakers

The Leonard A. Oakland Film Festival celebrated its eighth anniversary in February, continuing since its launch in 2009 to honor beloved Whitworth Professor of English Leonard Oakland and to bring the community together to enjoy film.

This year, alumni filmmakers Ryan Graves, '11, and Kelly McCrillis, '09, presented the Whitworth debut of their feature-length film, *Emily* (2015), which follows a recently wed couple as they face a crisis of faith and struggle to adapt in their marriage.

Other showings included the international film *Ida* (2013), and an evening led by Matthew Rindge, Ph.D., professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University, who discussed his second book, *Profane Parables: Film and the American Dream*, and introduced the festival's final film, *Fight Club* (1999).



From left: Casey Andrews (English), Ryan Graves, '11, Kelly McCrillis, '09, Leonard Oakland (English), Fred Johnson (English)



## A Bicentennial Remembrance

*George Whitworth: pioneer, educator, pastor and visionary*

By Dale E. Soden, Ph.D.

On March 15, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of our founder, George Whitworth. We threw a good party, where Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor cut the cake and led us in singing *Happy Birthday* to George. Over the years, I've enjoyed sharing Whitworth's story as part of the larger history of the university, and I loved the festivities. But the bicentennial of Whitworth's birth also provides an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the significance of his life and times.

Who was George Whitworth, and what did he do, aside from help found Whitworth College in 1890? He was a man of modesty, but also a man of determination and vision. He was a risk-taker, who, like all of us, had his blind spots. And he was a man of grit, who, despite the challenges of the frontier, remained undaunted in his commitment to bringing Christianity and education to the Pacific Northwest.

Whitworth came from England to the U.S. with his parents in 1828. The country was just one generation removed from its founding; Andrew Jackson was president; the horse was the major mode of transportation; the politics of slavery was beginning to divide Northerners from Southerners. The Pacific Northwest was best known as a land where beaver pelts were plentiful – a land whose distance and isolation from the East had been confirmed by Lewis and Clark during their famous expedition.

After marrying Mary Elizabeth Thomson, in 1838, Whitworth tried his hand at teaching school and at practicing law; by 1848 he was an ordained Presbyterian minister, and his life's mission had become clear to him. He decided, perhaps with Mary, that their future was in the West – more specifically, in the Pacific Northwest. It must have taken a certain chutzpah to recruit 50 families to join him in planning a new colony in the sparsely settled Oregon Country. And when all

but four of those families decided that they could not carry through with their commitment, the remaining families and the resolute Whitworths, with their four young children, made their way across the plains on the Oregon Trail.

In Portland, Whitworth planted churches, eventually establishing as many as 20 congregations, including First Presbyterian in Portland and First Presbyterian in Seattle. As his family moved to Olympia and then to Seattle and on to a number of other communities in the Puget Sound region, Whitworth also served as teacher and school superintendent, and even as president of the University of Washington.

And that's not all. Whitworth owned a coal mine near Renton and worked as a surveyor for local governments. And he did have his blind spots. During his stint as chief clerk of the U.S. Indian Department, the Treaty of 1863 was drafted. This controversial document took from the Nez Perce tribe as much as 90 percent of the land allotted it by an earlier treaty.

At Whitworth, we continue to celebrate the role of our founder in establishing first the Sumner Academy, in 1884, in the Sumner Presbyterian Church, and then in fulfilling his vision of a Presbyterian college, in 1890 – a vision evident in the earliest expressions of Whitworth College as an institution committed to the education of mind and heart.

I've spent 30 years at Whitworth and have witnessed the gratitude of tens of thousands of students, faculty and staff for George Whitworth's determination. I think he would be pleased with the work of those who followed him. Thanks, George. We owe you.

*Dale Soden, Ph.D. is a professor of history and director of Whitworth's Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith & Learning.*

**Web extra:** To hear a recent Dale Soden lecture about George F. Whitworth, visit [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday).



## From Locker Room to Law Library

*Whitworth introduces accelerated programs*

Anticipating the fact that athletic trainers will soon be required to hold master's degrees in order to be certified, Whitworth's new Bachelor's + Master's Athletic Training Program enables students to save time and money while they complete the curriculum for both degrees in an intensive, accelerated format. Students can complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in five years. "This program continues Whitworth's strong athletic training tradition while it allows us to expand the curriculum to include areas of significant student interest, like sports nutrition and manual therapy," Athletic Training Program Director Cynthia Wright says. "Athletic training is advancing at a rapid pace, and the shift to the master's level will allow us to better prepare future graduates for success."

Whitworth students whose interests lie in the legal arena also have access to a new program: The 3+3 Law and Justice Program lets highly motivated students earn an undergraduate degree (from Whitworth) and a law degree (from Gonzaga University) in just six years. Through the program, a partnership between Whitworth and



Gonzaga, students can take advantage of Whitworth's liberal arts foundation and pre-law curriculum as well as the Jesuit-influenced, solution-oriented curriculum of the Gonzaga Law School to earn a J.D. in less time and at less expense than is typical.

Pre-Law Advisor Julia Stronks says of the program, "Though much has been made about the fact that lawyer jobs

are declining, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us that the job outlook for attorneys will grow by six percent over the coming decade. The 3+3 program is ideal for highly motivated students who want to focus their intellectual energy. Students who plan carefully can fit in study abroad and internships while still qualifying for this intensive program."

### Audacious Goal Yields Exciting Results

Jena Lee Nardella, '04, was recently named to *The Chronicle of Philanthropy's* "40 Under 40: Young Leaders Who Are Solving the Problems of Today and Tomorrow." Nardella's Blood: Water organization, created with the band Jars of Clay, fights both AIDS and the lack of clean water in Africa. "In the pockets of Africa where we are," Nardella says, "we're working toward zero — zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero babies born with HIV. It's really exciting, because the global AIDS conversation, which started 40 years ago, is now about the end of AIDS." Nardella is the author of the recently released *1,000 Wells: How an audacious goal taught me to love the world instead of save it.*





## They Came THIS Close

### 1995-96 men's basketball team reunites 20 years later

A reunion of the national-champion runner-up 1995-96 Whitworth men's basketball team highlighted the 2015-16 season's Alumni Night in the Fieldhouse festivities as a pumped-up crowd welcomed back one of the most successful teams in Whitworth Athletics history.

Most of the members of that team, which reached the NAIA national championship game and set a season record (equaled this year) with 26 victories, joined their coach, Warren Friedrichs, now a professor of kinesiology and head coach of Whitworth's golf teams, in the fieldhouse that night. All were recognized prior to tipoff of the men's game.

"The '96 team was an unselfish group of young men with a complete grasp of what it takes to make a team successful," Friedrichs says. "We had strong inside play with Nate Dunham and Jeff Arkills, excellent perimeter players in Nate Williams, Roman Wickers and Gabe Jones, strong bench play from Sean Weston, John Beckman, Louie Vargas and Jeff Mix, and talented freshman reserves who made every practice competitive. These guys were not afraid of any team they faced. Each player had great confidence in his own and his teammates' ability to rise to any occasion."

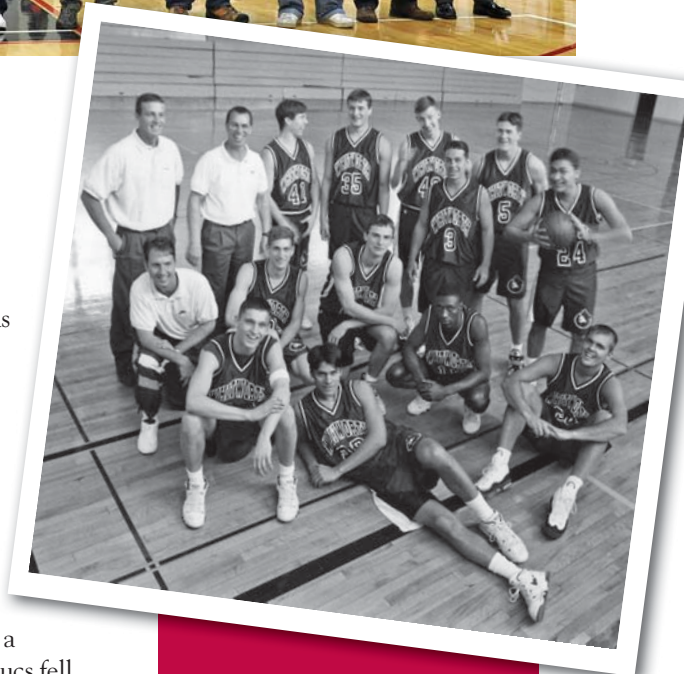
The Pirates won the 1995-96 Northwest Conference of Independent Colleges regular season title with a 12-2 record. Their run to the NAIA DII national title game, in Nampa, Idaho, included four victories, three of them come-from-behind wins.

When the championship game, against Albertson College (now The College of Idaho), tipped off on a Tuesday evening, the gym was packed with fervid Whitworth fans: Then-Whitworth President Bill Robinson had surprised and thrilled the community by cancelling school to allow six busloads of students, faculty and staff to make their way to Nampa. That night, more than 1,000 Pirate faithful cheered their team to within an eyelash of a national championship. But the Bucs fell to Albertson in a hard-fought battle that went to overtime.

"These were great guys who were very talented, very tough, utterly unflappable and just crazy competitive," President Emeritus Robinson says. "They were so focused, and just tailor-made for the frenzy of a 32-team tournament being played in one place over a six-day period. Because of my day job, I think I was back and forth from Boise five times. Warren did a great job; he knew when to coach them and when not to coach them. My dominant memory is of the spirit these guys brought to our entire campus. What fun!"

Where are they now? Read about what the 1995-96 team members are up to these days. Check out [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday).

*Thanks to Whitworth Sports Information Director Steve Flegel, '89, who contributed significantly to this article.*



### THE 1995-96 PIRATES

3 – Sean Weston, '98 (G)

5 – Jeff Mix, '98 (F)

12 – Nate Williams, '97 (G)

15 – Roman Wickers, '96 (G)

20 – Gabe Jones, '97 (F)

21 – Nate Dunham, '96 (F)

24 – Louis Vargas, '97 (F)

33 – Jeff Arkills, '96 (F)

34 – John Beckman, '96 (F)

35 – Doug Schultz, '99 (F)

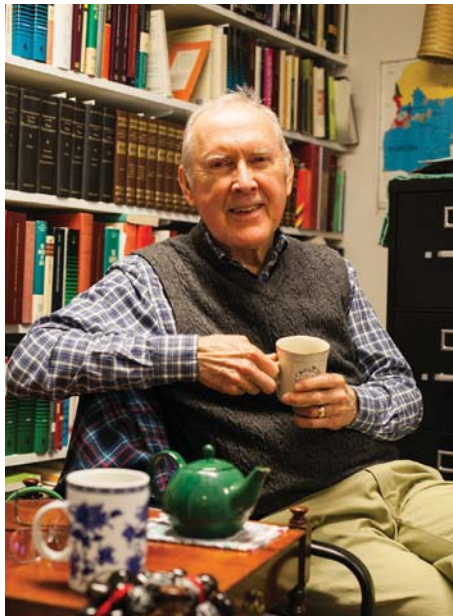
41 – Tyler Jordan, '99 (G)

42 – Greg Jones, '99 (F)

50 – Nate Fox, '98 (F)



## Mohrlang, Prosser Ready for Life after Whitworth



Known for, among many other things, a warm, cozy office where a nice cup of tea is offered graciously, **Roger Mohrlang** has been a great favorite of Whitworth theology students since his arrival at Whitworth 38 years ago.

Mohrlang's goal while at the university has been "to teach students the New Testament and encourage them to live wholeheartedly for Christ," he says. "To quote Paul, 'For me, the whole point of living is Christ – Christ means everything!' So I have thought of my teaching as an academic form of evangelism and discipleship."

He is also a Bible translator who has worked for years to translate the Scriptures into the language of the Kamwe people of northeastern Nigeria. He came to Whitworth after several years of translation work, and he found that "For [his wife] Dottie and me, Whitworth has been a wonderful place to serve Christ together. The university's emphasis on Christ and the gospel, the warm-hearted, evangelical camaraderie of the department, the serious interest of so many students in Scripture, and the non-legalistic tone of the campus have combined to make it a great place to teach the Bible."

While Mohrlang's favorite class has been (no surprise) The New Testament – which he has taught more than 100 times, and of which he says he never tires – and while his greatest joy has come in teaching Scripture, he has also enjoyed the opportunity to see Whitworth building for the future. "We have a growing number of really fine buildings now," he says. "And the computer is the king of the campus!" He is also pleased with the higher priority now given to faculty research.

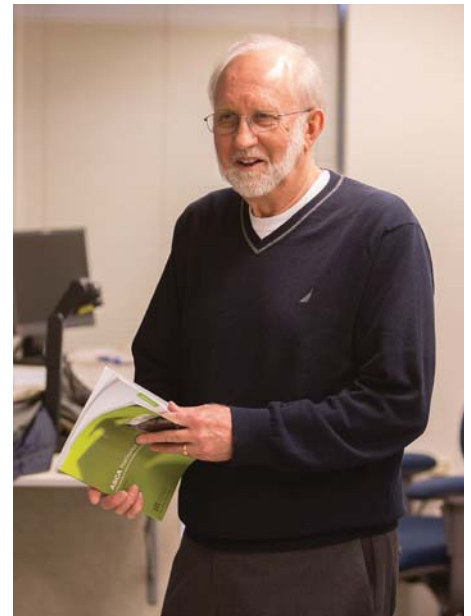
As Mohrlang moves into retirement, he looks forward most to seeing the completion of the Kamwe Bible translation, a project for which he is the primary consultant and one with which he has been associated (off and on) for the last 48 years. He also anticipates "spending more unpressured time with Dottie, and seeing my kids and grandkids growing in their commitment to Christ."

If money were no object and Mohrlang could do anything he'd like to do from here on out, he would stick to a rewarding and well-worn path. "I'd like to serve Christ faithfully all my remaining days," he says. "And if that were to involve teaching when the Bible translation is completed, I'd be delighted."

**Ron Prosser**, an associate professor in the Whitworth Graduate Studies in School Counseling Program, is a former Washington Elementary School Counselor of the Year who came to Whitworth as an adjunct professor in 1976 and joined the faculty in 1996.

"Whitworth has been a good fit for me," he says, "because while I was working full time as a counselor in Spokane Public Schools, I worked evenings at Whitworth. After retiring from SPS, I was promoted to a faculty position here. This allowed both of our children to experience the excellent education that Whitworth provides."

One of Prosser's priorities was to give back some of what he received during his undergraduate and graduate careers. "I have had the opportunity to be part of the 'ripple effect,' working to have an impact on students in the counseling program



who, in turn, have had a positive impact on the lives of their students and in the community," he says.

One of Prosser's favorite aspects of teaching at Whitworth has been working with students whom he's come to know well. He cites his class The Counseling Process as one in which he was able to relate to students on a very personal level. He found this especially rewarding because "Whitworth students come to the university with a very focused purpose and a 'calling' for work with others in the field of counseling," he says.

Citing the changes he's seen at Whitworth, Prosser mentions the growing cost of tuition and the institution's transition from college to university status. "Also," he says, "a major change has been in the many advantages provided by advancements in technology."

Like Mohrlang, Prosser looks forward to spending post-retirement time with his family – "My wife, Diane, and I have three beautiful grandchildren," he says, "and a fourth on the way" – and, perhaps, to doing a little teaching. "I plan to just keep on keeping on," he says. "I will stay physically and mentally active, and perhaps I'll teach a class or two in graduate studies."

## Rhodes Is New V.P., Dean of Student Life

Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor recently announced the appointment of Rhosetta Rhodes, '99, '11, to the position of vice president for student life and dean of students. Rhodes was serving as interim V.P. and dean at the time of her appointment. She has also served as chief of staff in the office of the president, from 2011-15, and as director of the Center for Service-Learning & Community Engagement (now the Dornise Center for Community Engagement), from 2007-11.

Rhodes earned a B.A. in organizational management from Whitworth in 1999 and a master's degree in education administration in 2011. According to Taylor, she has a keen sense of Whitworth's student-development philosophy and culture, and she is deeply committed to co-curricular education set within a Christ-centered context.

"Rhosetta brings important knowledge and experience around diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as multicultural education," Taylor says. "Further, she is eager to help sustain and strengthen the levels of excellence that Whitworth's student-life programs are accustomed to."



In addition to her leadership roles at Whitworth, Rhodes is also actively involved in the Spokane community. She currently serves on the boards of directors for Visit Spokane and the College Success Foundation; she was also appointed to the Washington State Legislative Task Force on Campus Sexual Violence Prevention, and she serves on the committee for the Spokane Citizen Hall of Fame.

ASWU President Justin Botejue, '16,

has benefited in a number of ways from Rhodes' knowledge and insights. "During her interim appointment, she has assisted ASWU time and time again and has provided excellent counsel to me," he says. "Rhosetta understands student culture, the mission of Whitworth, and what it means to put students first. I'm confident that she will continue to hold ASWU accountable for serving our students with integrity."



### AOL Founder Is President's Leadership Forum Speaker

Entrepreneur Steve Case was the featured speaker for the spring President's Leadership Forum, held May 3 at the Spokane Convention Center. Attendees received a copy of his new book, *The Third Wave: An Entrepreneur's Vision of the Future*. Case co-founded the Internet company America Online (AOL) in 1985. As a leading voice in shaping entrepreneurship-related government policy, he was the founding chair of the Startup America Partnership, an initiative to accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship nationwide. He was also the founding co-chair of the National Council on Innovation & Entrepreneurship and a member of President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. In 2014, Case was named a Presidential Ambassador for Global Entrepreneurship. He is currently the chair and CEO of the investment firm Revolution LLC.





### Commencement 2016

The third weekend in May marked commencement ceremonies for undergrads and graduate students at Whitworth. Noel Castellanos, '82, founder of Chicago's Latino Leadership Foundation and president and CEO of the Christian Community Development Association, spoke at the 126th Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, on May 22, during which 648 seniors received their bachelor's degrees. And Whitworth President Beck A. Taylor delivered the address at the Graduate Commencement Ceremony, on May 21, where 109 honorees accepted their master's diplomas.



## Whitworth Icon Holds Seeds of Hope, Faith

Spring Convocation 2016 featured a new participant in its ceremonial processional – the Quasiquicentennial Pine Cone. This new icon was commissioned and presented to the university by President Beck A. Taylor to be a ceremonial object commemorating the institution's 125th anniversary, which took place in 2015. It will be used at academic ceremonies, such as convocations and commencements. When it is not in use, it will reside in Harriet Cheney Cowles Memorial Library.

Designed by Associate Professor of Art Katie Creyts and crafted out of cast bronze and glass, the icon is modeled after a Ponderosa pine cone, long a symbol of Whitworth's beautiful tree-lined campus. It also gives a nod to the Whitworth tradition that students may not graduate unless and until they catch a pine cone as it falls from a tree and before it touches the ground.

As with any true work of art, the cone points to deeper inspiration, serving as a lamp of learning and a reminder that every pine cone holds the hope, promise, and awesome power of God. It carries within its scales the seeds of a strong tree, just as Whitworth students, through the education of mind and heart, carry the possibility of healthy and independent growth.

Written on 12 of the cast-glass pine cone's scales are moral and intellectual virtues that represent the highest aspirations for members of the Whitworth community. For a list of these virtues and the community members chosen to define each one, visit [www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday](http://www.whitworth.edu/whitworthtoday). The text of the virtues was handwritten by different members of Whitworth's community, signifying that out of many voices and perspectives, the community's members are united in celebration of and dedication to Whitworth's Christian mission.