

# WHEATON

VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2022



Before the Banners

Witnessing Creation

Kids These Days



Priscilla Min '22 swims in the Jonathan Lederhouse Natatorium located in the Chrouser Sports Complex.

WHEATON MAGAZINE  
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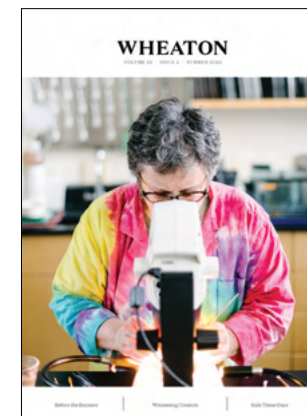
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### On the Cover

Professor of Biology Dr. Nadine Folino Rorem, who is studying the life cycle of freshwater jellyfish, uses a microscope in Wheaton's biology lab. *Photo by Tony Hughes*



PHOTO BY LISA MAXWELL RYKEN '88



## To the End of the Earth, Literally

*Dr. Philip Graham Ryken '88  
President*

It's winter in Antarctica now, but it was late summer when a group of intrepid alumni and other friends of Wheaton College traveled there in February—the final voyage in the Alumni Association's bold initiative to travel to all seven continents.

The wonders we witnessed defy description: mountains of snow, seas crammed with icebergs, majestic whales, soaring seabirds, and penguins that made us laugh out loud with their adorable antics.

Traveling aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* with a world-class team of naturalists and photographers, we had remarkable opportunities to learn about the history, geology, ornithology, oceanography, and marine biology of Antarctica.

We also took time to worship, recognizing that few people ever get the opportunity to praise God for works of creation that can be witnessed only near the South Pole.

As we traversed the notorious Drake Passage (twice!) between Cape Horn and the Antarctic Peninsula, the sailors aboard kept telling us that we were enjoying calm seas.

It didn't always feel that way to the landlubbers on the ship, though. As we rested queasily in our beds or lurched from handhold to handhold, some of us longed for something firmer underneath our feet. But we made safe passage and arrived back home.

Sir Francis Drake—the famous 16th-century explorer for whom the southern passage is named—regarded such oceangoing travels as a metaphor for Christian discipleship.

A poem widely attributed to Drake demonstrates awareness of life's stormy troubles but also so much hope in God's sovereign rule and safe guidance that the poet could commend a spirit of adventure:

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery;  
Where, losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.

Wheaton College, too, sails on wide and sometimes stormy seas. We invite our students to travel part of their journey with us, and then venture for Jesus Christ into this wonder-filled world.

The closing lines of the poem serve as a bold prayer for our intrepid discipleship:

We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes,  
And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love. ●

PHOTO BY DARREN HAUCK

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# News & Profiles

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## Congratulations, Class of 2022!

Photo  
Diana Sokolov Rowan

**R**enowned evangelist Dr. Billy (Jang Hwan) Kim addressed the members of the Graduate School and the undergraduate classes of 2022 at Wheaton College's 163rd commencement ceremonies on May 7 and 8, respectively.

Dr. Kim, Chairman of Far East Broadcasting Company-Korea (FEBC), a global radio network, received an honorary doctorate from Wheaton College in 1992 (Litt.D.), the year that his son, John Kim, graduated with an M.A. from Wheaton College Graduate School. His grandson graduated from the College this spring.

In his commencement address, Dr. Kim encouraged the undergraduate class of 2022 to always choose Jesus as their leader and to pursue a fervent life of prayer.

View commencement highlights and the full addresses at [youtube.com/wheatoncollege](https://youtube.com/wheatoncollege).

### Latin American and Latina/o Studies Major

The new major includes classes in history, philosophy, anthropology, music, and international relations, alongside at least one semester spent in a Latin American country.

### Science Symposium

As part of the Year of the Arts, Faith, and Imagination, Wheaton hosted a two-day symposium centered on science, imagination, and wonder. Dr. Jennifer Wiseman, a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Hubble scientist, gave a keynote lecture exploring the significance of human life amidst a dynamic and beautiful universe. Dr. Jeff Hardin, the Raymond E. Keller Professor of Integrative Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, gave a keynote lecture on God's sovereign hand in creating and sustaining human life. The event also included a live performance of a dramatic production titled *Fire from Heaven: Michael Faraday and the Dawn of the Electrical Age*.

### Graduate School Civil Rights Tour

More than 40 graduate students, faculty, and staff traveled through Alabama, Tennessee, and Missouri in April. At each destination, participants visited historic sites of the civil rights movement and took in films, readings, and lectures that confronted them with the legacy of racial injustice in America, both past and present. The experience invited participants into racial healing and biblical justice, in line with Wheaton's Christ-Centered Diversity commitment.

### Where Are the Women? Annual Conference

Wheaton College hosted its fourth annual "Where Are the Women?" conference in February. This year's theme of "embodiment" inspired panels and roundtables on wellbeing, physicality, self-image, shame, and wholeness. Speakers included professors and staff from around campus, as well as guest speaker Luan Chen Huska '09, a journalist and author whose work centers on the intersection of embodiment and faith.

### Rodney K. Sisco Diversity Students' Choice Awards

Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Theon Hill and Director of Graduate Student Life Dr. Mary Yeboah were named the 2022 award recipients in the fourth annual ceremony. The award honors the late Mr. Rodney K. Sisco '84 and was established to recognize staff and faculty members that advance kingdom justice, unity, and diversity. The recipients are nominated by students and selected by the Diversity Council.

### Student Orientation Changes

This August, incoming freshmen will participate in the new Passage Orientation. The program is designed to welcome and prepare students for their Wheaton experience and combines the previously separate Passage program with traditional orientation activities. Parents and students begin the experience on campus with sessions on life at Wheaton. Depending on their track, students then travel to HoneyRock or Chicago for community building, conversations with faculty, and further immersion into Wheaton life.

### Wheaton College Summer Institute Launch

The two-week WCSI will host rising high school juniors and seniors and offer them a taste of college life, from dorm life to meals at Anderson Commons to studying in the library. Students participate in a two-credit hour class during the program, earning them college credit should they choose to attend Wheaton in the future. They also receive guidance on the college application process. Read more about the Institute and other summer learning opportunities at [wheaton.edu/summertime](https://wheaton.edu/summertime).

### Storytelling Project Album

In April, the Wheaton College Storytelling Project, a student team dedicated to telling student stories, released its first album, now available on Spotify and Apple Music. Titled "Scrapbook Stories 107," it features music, poems, and cover art by 26 student musicians, writers, and visual artists. Like a scrapbook, the album is a curated selection of original songs and poetry created by students who represent a wide scope of majors, Christian faith traditions, musical styles, and cultural or ethnic backgrounds.

Read more Wheaton stories at [wheaton.edu/news](https://wheaton.edu/news)

# #MyWheaton



**1** International Justice Mission recognized the END IT Movement, a day set aside to fight modern slavery, by marking hands with a red X, by Mieko Yamamoto '22. **2** A group of seniors perform a dance during the annual Air Jam lip sync battle, by Yeting Li '23. **3** Students participate in *Confessions*, a dance show that invites the campus community to learn about dance as worship, by Maddie Cook '23.

**4** Students enjoy the warm spring weather by studying on Keul Patio, by Mieko Yamamoto '22. **5** President's Ball took place at the Old Post Office in downtown Chicago where students enjoyed dancing the night away, by Maddie Cook '23. **6** The Wheaton community celebrated WheatonGives on April 6, by Jed Edgar '23. **7** On Lunar New Year, students enjoyed traditional Chinese dance performances and food, by Yeting Li '22.

 Want to see your photo here? Use the hashtag #MyWheaton and your photo may be published.



## Free to Swim

Words  
Abby Dorman '17

Photo  
Josh and Alexa Adams

As Priscilla Min '22 searched for a college, she was excited to find an alignment of her athletic, spiritual, and academic priorities at Wheaton. Wheaton Swimming is thankful that she found them, too.

As a sophomore, Min topped the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) field in the 400-yard individual medley (IM). The following year, she qualified for nationals and was named a Division III All-American. As a senior, she placed second in the CCIW in the 200-yard breaststroke. Min achieved all this despite a career hampered by COVID-19 and injuries that led to altered training plans and canceled meets.

Through it all, Min was unflappable. Coach Meghan Ayers credits Min's character and leadership, saying, "She silently leads by example, always trying her hardest at practice."

Min was also diligent in her studies as an education major. As a student teacher in the fall of 2021, she fit early

morning training around grading papers and doing her own homework.

Reflecting on her four years at Wheaton, Min is thankful for the life skills she's picked up along the way. "I think swimming, in general, has basically formed me into a functioning human being," she said. "It forces me to be disciplined and to understand other people and their viewpoints."

Above all, Min is most proud of the way she's embraced Wheaton Swimming's mantra, "Free to Swim." Reflecting on how she's come to adopt the idea that her worth doesn't lie in swimming, she said, "I honestly think my spiritual growth helped me a lot with that."

When her time in the pool is done, determination and dedication will continue to define the way she goes about faith, work, and life. ●

**4**

Events for which Min is ranked top-12 in Wheaton's history.



### Throwback: Julie Davis '91

Julie Davis '91 has served as the Athletics Director since 2011, faithfully carrying out the mission to foster the development of Christian faith, character, and leadership through competitive sports programs that run the race to win. Under her leadership, Wheaton athletics has seen 46 CCIW championships, six top-50 Division III Learfield Directors' Cup finishes, 110 student athletes named All-American, and 48 student athletes named CoSIDA Academic All-Americans. During her undergraduate years, Davis played on the women's basketball team and was coached by Beth McKinney Baker '77, whose mentorship both on and off the court proved to be highly influential. After starting her career as a high school teacher and coach, Davis returned to her alma mater in 2003 to join the athletics department as the Internal Operations Coordinator and Senior Women's Administrator. She is now joining Wheaton's Division of Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement as the Regional Director for the Chicago area.

**4:38.59**

Min's time to win the 400 IM at the 2020 CCIW swimming championships

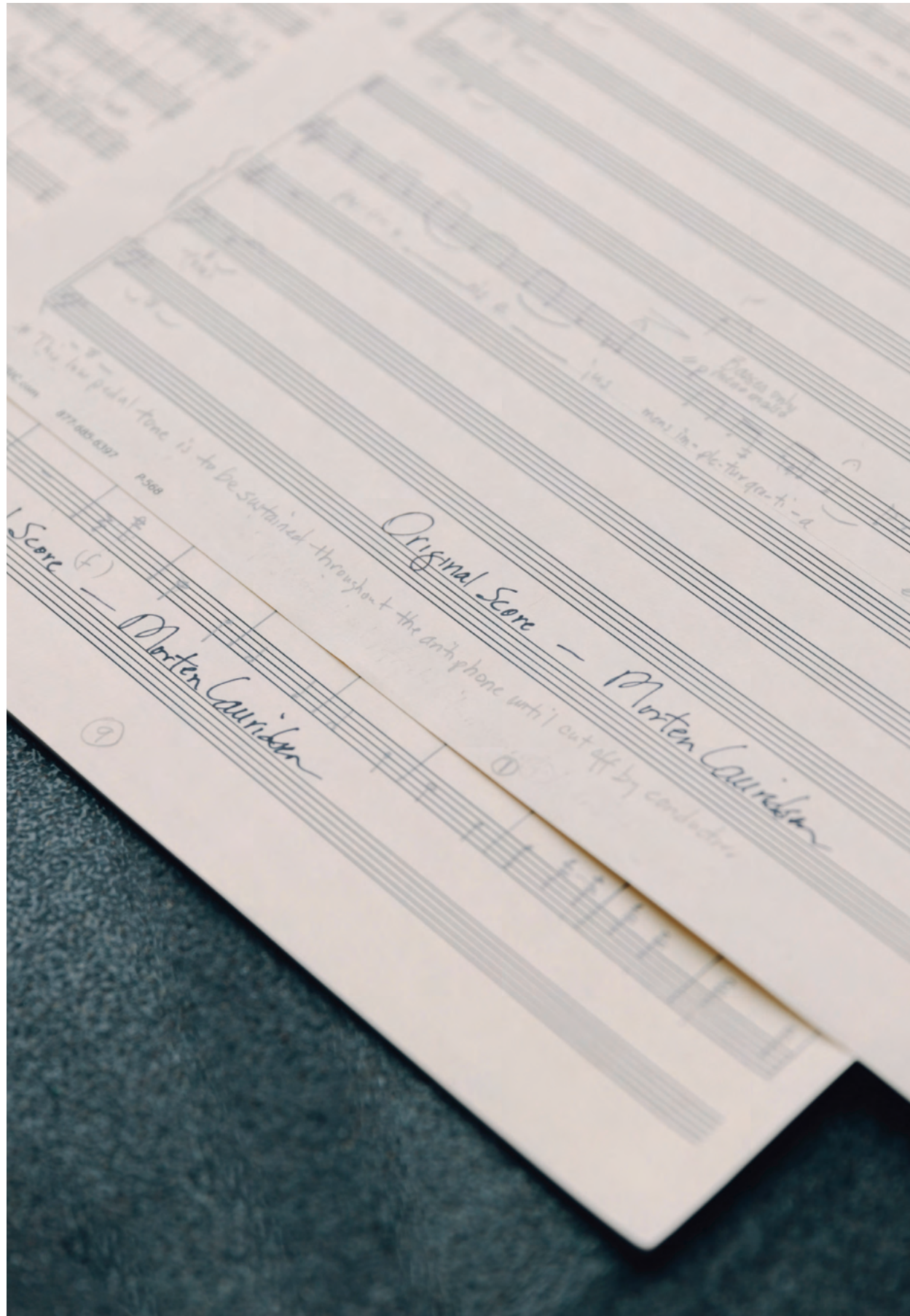
**2:21.80**

All-American qualifying time in the 200-yard breaststroke in 2020-21

**13<sup>th</sup>**

National ranking in the 200-yard breaststroke in the 2020-21 season





## Music and the Redemptive Invitation of Christ

*Wheaton Ensembles Perform the Inaugural Commissioned Work of the Nelson Center*

Words  
Melissa Schill '22

Photo  
Josh and Alexa Adams

The Wheaton Concert Choir and String Orchestra premiered *Ave Verum Corpus*, an original work by American composer Morten Lauridsen. The March performance was a preview of the commissioning vision of the future John and Anita Nelson Center for Sacred Music.

Once fully established, the Nelson Center will be a commissioning agency, supporting the creation of a new work annually as part of its mission to champion the production of sacred choral music based on biblical texts. The Center exists at the intersection of the academy, the church, and the concert hall, and seeks to unite the three through new compositions.

The Center will operate from a dedicated endowed fund that is currently being raised. An anonymous donor has offered to match every gift up to \$2 million in the 2022–23 school year. Once funding goals are met, the Center plans to bring on an artistic director and general manager to oversee fiscal planning, coordinate institutional partnerships, and provide artistic vision. An advisory council will assist in the commissioning process.

According to Dr. Michael Wilder, Dean of the Conservatory of Music and the Division of Arts and Communication,

sacred music is in need of strong patronage. Historically, the church and the government were the primary patrons, but resources and support have dwindled. Wheaton College and its Conservatory of Music are ideally positioned to fill that space and catalyze the creation of new sacred music. “We all will benefit enormously from the power of this music and the opportunity to engage directly in it,” Wilder said.

Wheaton students and ensembles will have the unique opportunity to engage with the new works and their composers, diving into the biblical messages that inspire and permeate the music.

The Center is named after John and Anita Nelson, graduates of the College who went on to become models of artistic excellence and leadership. Maestro Nelson conducts major orchestras and choirs domestically and globally, bringing the Good News of Christ to each concert hall he graces. The couple received Wheaton College’s 1998 Distinguished Service to Society Award, and the new Center exists to further honor their legacy.

“My hope is that this framework will allow for the creation of new music which directly serves the redemptive invitation of Christ,” Wilder said. “The world desperately needs to hear it.” ●

Left: Original score of *Ave Verum Corpus* by Morten Lauridsen



## Ministers of a New Medium

*Dr. Kirk Farney's New Book on the Radio Ministries of Fulton Sheen and Walter Maier*

Words  
Melissa Schill '22

Photo  
Diana Sokolov Rowan



On June 21, Vice President for Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement Dr. Kirk Farney M.A. '98 will release a new book, *Ministers of a New Medium: Broadcasting Theology in the Radio Ministries of Fulton J. Sheen and Walter A. Maier*.

Farney first developed the book's topic in 2008 as he transitioned away from his banking career to pursue a Ph.D. in American religious history at the University of Notre Dame. As he considered the financial crisis America was experiencing then, he remembered another financially turbulent time. "It occurred to me: I wonder what preachers preached on during the Great Depression?" he said.

In his research, Farney discovered the parallel histories of Fulton J. Sheen's and Walter A. Maier's radio ministries. Both men anchored influential and widely popular shows during the Great Depression and the years that followed—*The Catholic Hour* and *The Lutheran Hour*, respectively—attracting tens of millions of listeners. Despite abundant calamities, Sheen and Maier did not cater to the times with feel-good messages, but instead consistently delivered theologically weighty sermons.

"They were unlike preachers who developed their own following because of their antics. These guys certainly had celebrity, but it was the theological substance that drew their audiences," Farney explained.

In addition to their writing and speaking prowess, Sheen and Maier had the power of radio on their side.

"Listeners perceived radio as an intimate form of technology, as they chose which voices to allow into their parlors through the twist of a dial," Farney said. "They heard this pastor—who they felt was addressing them personally—and they projected considerable authority on him because he was a familiar voice on national radio."

Radio may not be the powerhouse it once was, but the book is timely for modern readers in the age of social media, rapidly evolving technology, and societal stress. In the same way that Martin Luther embraced the printing press, Maier and Sheen leveraged radio, and Billy Graham took to television, Farney believes there is value in harnessing the potential of technology to preach truth.

"Embracing technology, whatever it is, can be the avenue by which old truths can be conveyed to new audiences." ●

## Faculty Receive Promotions and Tenure

*The following faculty promotion, tenure, and emeritus status actions were approved by the Board of Trustees in February and are effective July 1, 2022.*

### EMERITUS

#### Dr. Mary Hopper '73

*Professor of Music Emerita  
(43 years of service, 1979–2022)*

After attending Wheaton as a student, Dr. Mary Hopper returned in 1979 and has served for 43 years as a music professor and performance studies director. To the campus community and Wheaton College Conservatory patrons, she is most recognizable onstage, where she conducted the Men's Glee Club and the Women's Chorale.

#### Mr. Michael Stauffer '70

*Professor of Communication/Theater Emeritus  
(43 years of service, 1979–2022)*

Mr. Michael Stauffer joined the Wheaton faculty in 1979 and served for 43 years as a communication professor. Stauffer attended Wheaton as an undergraduate, then pursued master's degrees in directing and stage design. His directing and designing expertise found an outlet in Arena Theater, Wheaton's theatrical community, where he has helped put on over 50 plays.

#### Dr. Laura A. Barwegen

*Associate Professor of Christian Formation and Ministry Emerita (20 years of service, 2002–2022)*

After a career as a middle school teacher, Dr. Laura Barwegen transitioned to teaching undergraduates, which she has done at Wheaton for 20 years. Her classes, many of which explore the intersection of neuroscience and faith, invite students to grow both intellectually and spiritually.

#### Dr. Douglas L. Penney '77

*Associate Professor of Classical Languages Emeritus  
(31 years of service, 1991–2022)*

Dr. Douglas Penney first attended Wheaton as an undergraduate, then returned in 1991 to teach at his alma mater as a professor of classical languages. During his 31 years of teaching, he gained a reputation on campus for making Greek accessible and fun to learn.

### TENURE

**Dr. Thomas Martin**, *Professor of English*  
**Dr. Jovanka Tepavčević**, *Associate Professor of Biology*

### PROMOTION FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

**Mr. Andy Mangin '99**, *Associate Professor of Theater and Communication*  
**Dr. Esau McCaulley**, *Associate Professor of New Testament*  
**Dr. Timothy Taylor**, *Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations*

### PROMOTION FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TENURE

**Dr. Ryan Kemp**, *Associate Professor of Philosophy*  
**Dr. Hanmee Kim**, *Associate Professor of History*  
**Dr. John McConnell**, *Associate Professor of Psychology*  
**Dr. Rebecca Sietman**, *Associate Professor of Communication*

### PROMOTION FROM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO PROFESSOR

**Dr. Andrew Abernethy**, *Professor of Old Testament*  
**Dr. James Beitler '02, M.A. '04**, *Professor of English*  
**Dr. Ward Davis**, *Professor of Psychology*  
**Dr. David Lauber '89**, *Professor of Theology*  
**Dr. John Trotter**, *Professor of Music*

## Kendra Paez '22

*Undergraduate Student*

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**A**s a first-year student, Kendra Paez '22 longed for a mentor. “I tried to get one in a variety of ways but could never find a willing older female to consistently meet with to get advice on life,” Kendra explained.

As a solution, Kendra started Presence, a women’s peer mentorship program that pairs a first- or second-year woman with a third- or fourth-year woman for the school year. Students are matched according to the desires of the younger student and mutual interests.

“I believe that all women should have the opportunity to be mentored and to have people in their life that they can turn to,” Kendra said. “The mission of the program is to promote growth and provide guidance in all areas of life to the female students at Wheaton College.”

In addition to Presence, Kendra serves her peers as a Student Ambassador

at the Wheaton College Center for Vocation and Career (CVC). Here she provides career help and direction to a variety of Wheaton students and receives her own professional development training.

Kendra’s service is not limited to the Wheaton campus, however. As an Aequitas Fellow, she has interned at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and traveled to Costa Rica for a summer ministry trip with six other students.

“Being a part of the Aequitas Program in Urban Leadership has provided me with experiences that I would not have had the opportunity to do otherwise,” Kendra said.

Growing up near Chicago, Kendra was hesitant about coming to Wheaton since it was only an hour from her house. But she was drawn to the rigorous academics and strong Christian community at Wheaton, so she applied.

“When I did Wheaton Connection later that year, I knew that Wheaton was the place for me,” Kendra said.

An international relations and urban studies double major, Kendra will join the Peace Corps for two years in The Gambia upon graduation. She is excited to see what God inspires her to do next. ●

*Words*  
Adrianna Wright '01

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes



## Emmanuel Kwizera M.A. '23

*Graduate Student*

**E**mmanuel Kwizera M.A. '23 is a Billy Graham scholar in the M.A. program for evangelism and leadership at Wheaton. He first arrived on campus with his family in 2021 after spending years working in Africa on behalf of African Enterprise, an organization that seeks to evangelize the continent for Christ.

Emmanuel was born and raised throughout Rwanda. In 1994, he survived the brutal genocide that ripped the country apart and led to the death of over one million of the Tutsi people. Raised in a Christian family, Emmanuel was left wondering how God could have allowed such horror to happen, especially in a country that identified overwhelmingly as Christian. Here, his journey as an evangelist and minister was born.

Emmanuel has learned much from the disaster in Rwanda and sees lessons in it for the United States.

“First, this happened in a Christian country, but the people were not disciples of Christ,” Emmanuel said. “The question is not what happened to the church during the genocide, but what happened to the church *before* the genocide.” Emmanuel noted that church leaders fused much too readily with political power.

“Number two,” he said, “I learned that healing the wounds is part of the gospel. Jesus died on the cross not only for our sins but also for our wounds, for our own pain.” An emphasis on Christ’s payment for sins on the cross can eclipse the reality that he also suffered and died in order to sympathize with humanity’s pain. Emmanuel is learning this in his own journey.

“What helped me is understanding that I need a journey to be healed. We often forget that God created us with emotions and a spirit—we are body,

soul, and spirit. The healing part was so important and is actually part of discipleship,” Emmanuel said.

“In my ministry as an evangelist, we focus on reconciliation between man and God, but also reconciliation between people. I believe that preaching the gospel can bring together a broken community,” Emmanuel concluded.

Emmanuel believes that what happened in Rwanda can happen anywhere, and that the United States, particularly in its current divided condition, desperately needs healing, reconciliation, and restoration. People need the healing power of God’s grace. ●

*Words*  
Peter Biles '20

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes



## Dr. Mary Vanderschoot

*Professor of Mathematics*

There is a clear distinction we make among ourselves from a young age when we start school—between those students who are “math people” and those who are not.

Dr. Mary Vanderschoot sees the consequences of this early math anxiety. “People make decisions about a student’s potential in math and label students pretty early in elementary school and high school, so a lot of people are intimidated by math,” Vanderschoot explained. “People feel so free to just say ‘I’m bad at math’ or ‘math is hard,’ and they feel like maybe they don’t even belong in a college math class.”

Vanderschoot now has a personal goal: to design her classes in a way that makes people feel safe and gain confidence doing math.

For this reason, Vanderschoot, who has taught at Wheaton for 17 years and

served as department chair for 10, hardly lectures during her classes—which range from teaching elementary education majors to showing fractions with pattern blocks to helping students use models in differential equation courses. Instead, she creates learning opportunities through activities in small groups.

“One of my favorite aspects about teaching is when my students are able to experience math as an exploratory adventure and experience the joy and satisfaction of working on mathematics with others,” Vanderschoot shared.

Vanderschoot loves to watch her students grow in confidence to tackle problems and ask questions. But her proudest moments are when they see how math can enrich their lives and faith.

“As Christians, math helps us to see God’s creation in a different light. It

expands our curiosity and helps us to see patterns,” she said.

Even as Vanderschoot continues her own complicated research in dynamical systems for an upcoming book, she hopes she can help people feel that math isn’t exclusive.

“I’m just constantly looking for ways to empower people in math and help them realize that math is for everyone.” ●

*Words*  
Bethany Peterson Lockett ’20

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes



## Jerry Woehr '08, M.A. '13

*Director of International Student Programs*

**J**erry Woehr '08, M.A. '13, Director of International Student Programs (ISP), loves *fútbol*. His loyalties lie with the English Premier League, but as an Ecuadorian-American who grew up in Chile, he finds himself rooting for a wide range of soccer teams.

“What do you do in the World Cup when two of your teams play against each other?” Woehr laughed. “That’s one of those things that a lot of ISP students can relate to. We have the gift of calling many places home.”

The ISP office is dedicated to helping F-1 visa, missionary kid (MK), and third-culture kid (TCK) undergraduates make Wheaton home. “We want it to be a receiving place, and also a sending place: a place that empowers international students to give back to the school community the gifts and perspectives they have,” Woehr said.

After graduating from Wheaton with

his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Woehr became the resident director of Fischer Hall. His own experiences as a TCK and MK turned into a passion for helping international students with their residential transition.

In 2017, Woehr moved out of Fischer and into the ISP office as the first full-time director. ISP has continued to grow, expanding its space last summer to better accommodate and serve the students.

When COVID-19 rolled around, Woehr was asked to join the response team. Just six years prior, the ISP did not exist and international students had no designated staff to advocate for them, so the inclusion of Woehr in COVID-related policy-making signified a positive step for the international student community. “Institutionally, the students’ needs were being voiced at the main table from the beginning, and I see God’s hand in preparing me

for that,” Woehr said. “The College came around that population.”

As ISP equips international students to establish their place at Wheaton, Woehr hopes that the campus community will in turn continue to make space for them in word and deed. “How much more of a vision of God and his kingdom would we have if we had holy curiosity and invited others into our own stories?” Woehr asked. “I hope that is something my team is instilling not just in international students but in all the domestic students and faculty.” ●

*Words*  
Melissa Schill '22

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes



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# Features

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## Before the Banners

*The History and Legacy of Wheaton Women's Athletics*

Words Abby Dorman '17  
Photos Tower Yearbooks

**B**lue and orange banners adorn the gym walls and stadiums at Wheaton College, commemorating the hard work and accomplishments of athletic teams from years gone by. The frames in All-American Hall highlight snapshots of greatness, celebrating athletes who excelled in their sports throughout Wheaton's history. Today, Wheaton women's sports teams and athletes hold a hefty share of these accolades. But before a single banner was hung or picture framed, the founding mothers of Wheaton athletics labored for years in relative anonymity.

### THE EARLY YEARS

Marilyn Scribner HON arrived in Wheaton, Illinois, in 1961 after beginning her teaching and coaching career in Washington state. Initially, she refused a job offer from Wheaton's Athletic Director Harve Chrouser '34, but Scribner felt the Lord impress Hebrews 11:8 on her heart: "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going" (NIV).<sup>1</sup> By faith, Scribner moved to Illinois and stayed there for the remainder of her life.

Before Scribner's arrival, women's athletics existed only in physical education classes, intramurals, and student-run clubs. A creative solution called Playdays emerged in the early 1940s, where women from local colleges participated in one day of multisport competition at a host school. The student-led Wheaton Women's Athletic Association (WAA) sponsored these outings, paid for with club membership dues and profits from bake sales.

Nonetheless, women like Dorothy (Dot) McDonald Chrouser '34 were instrumental in laying a foundation for generations of Wheaton women athletes, coaches, and staff to come. Chrouser spent her undergraduate years as an active member of the WAA and a joyful competitor in inter-class and inter-literary society basketball, baseball, soccer, and volleyball. When her husband, Harve, served on staff, Chrouser remained faithful in her support of Wheaton Athletics. She was an instructor of physical education and referred to in an admiring 1943 *Tower* yearbook article as the "number one director of all women's athletics."

Chrouser was also passionate about raising up young women to be active, whether in organized sports or other extracurricular activities. From forging strong

relationships with athletes and coaches to co-founding the HoneyRock Center for Leadership Development with her husband, Chrouser consistently broke ground for women's involvement in sports leadership.

By the early 1960s, Marilyn Scribner, Martha Cole Baptista '45, Ruth Berg Leedy '32, and others formed a core group that championed extramural women's sports at Wheaton. The group was undeterred by the initial lack of support for college-sanctioned women's varsity sports. They took the helm of the inaugural women's varsity sports teams, coaching field hockey (Leedy), basketball (Baptista), and volleyball and softball (Scribner).

For some of the athletes, competing on an intercollegiate team was their first experience playing on a sports team. Barbara Carlson Burwell '65, an Illinois native, recalls that team sports were not allowed for young girls statewide because the competition was deemed "too stressful and emotional." She joined the Wheaton field hockey and basketball teams as a green but eager freshman, experiencing her own personal growth alongside the women's athletics department.

In the 1960s, women's basketball nationwide was still a halfcourt sport played with three offensive and defensive players on each end. Burwell, who went on to become a physical education teacher and health sciences professor, was puzzled by the limitations on the women's game. Looking back, she said, "I could never figure out why they thought we couldn't run up and down a basketball court even though in field hockey we ran up and down a field of one hundred yards."

Despite the differences in the game, the 1967-68 women's basketball team set the bar high. To date, they are still the only team in Wheaton women's basketball history to achieve an undefeated season. They finished 11-0 with victories over the University of Iowa, Northwestern University, Northern Illinois University, and others.

The perfect season was never documented in the school yearbook, but anyone looking for proof might have found it in the architecture of the old Alumni Gym. Coach Baptista documented the team's reaction after defeating the University of Iowa. "We were gracious winners and contained our elation within the bounds of courtesy," she said. "But if a crack is ever found in the Alumni Gym roof, you can be sure that it came from the horrendous noise that resounded throughout the gym when the Iowa bus pulled away!"<sup>2</sup>

Alumnae from the early era of women's sports fondly remember the competition and camaraderie, but the influence of their coaches and teammates on their spiritual lives stood out the most. Sue Vogt '68 was a new Christian when she arrived at Wheaton to play basketball, softball, and tennis. She described Wheaton athletics as "missional," saying, "It laid a foundation of seeing your life as a platform for sharing Christ. It definitely formed me as a person."

Opposite: Coach Marilyn Scribner HON offers some words of wisdom to the volleyball team.





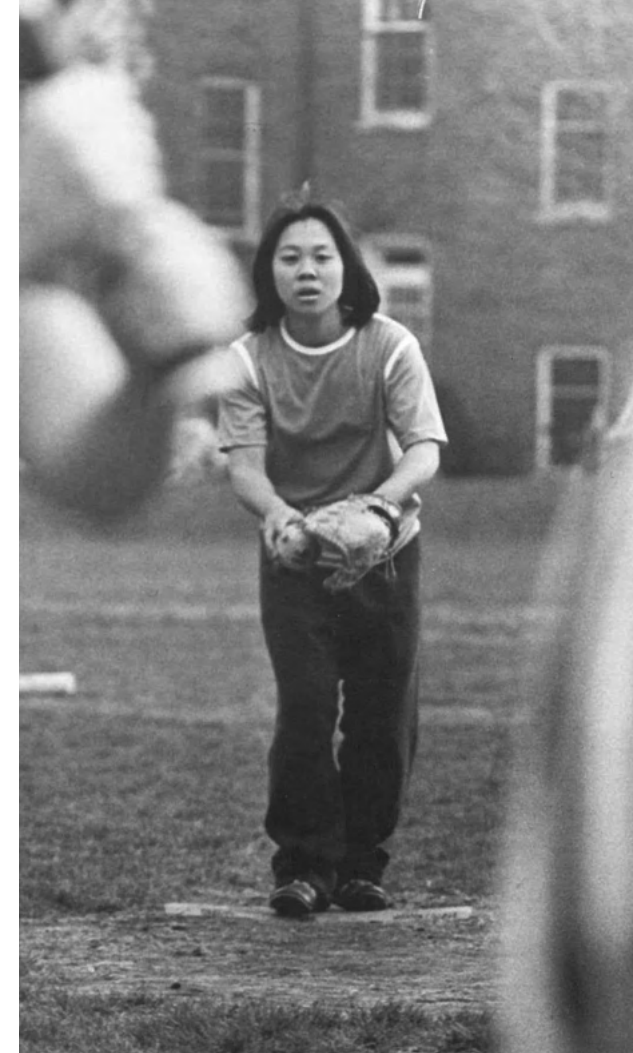
From left to right: 1959, the women's tennis team; 1977, the field hockey team eats some halftime snacks; 1977, Mei Griebenow '78 prepares to pitch (Sources: *Tower Yearbook*)

Other alumnae passed on the lessons learned by becoming coaches themselves. Bea Gorton '68 became the first-ever head coach for women's varsity basketball at Indiana University from 1972-76. Carol "Q" McEwing Harding '68, a five-sport athlete and member of the undefeated women's basketball team, returned to Wheaton to coach basketball and field hockey from 1974-84. Aside from instilling discipline and excellence in her athletes, she was motivated to convey the same relational care she had received. "My coaches cared about me, and I wanted to continue that," she said. "I wanted to convince my students that I cared about them."

#### THE TITLE IX ERA

Title IX was passed by the U.S. Congress as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. This law prohibited any federally funded educational institutions from discriminating against students based on sex. Today, it is widely remembered as the legal basis for equality in men's and women's sports.

For many schools, including Wheaton, Title IX began a much-needed movement toward better funding and facilities for women's athletics. Gone were the days when women's coaches paid for team meals out of their own pockets or drove the players to games in their personal vehicles.



Still, larger changes took more time to implement. Coach Harding recalls the time that one of her basketball players, an athlete named Beth McKinney Baker '77, needed to rehab a shoulder injury. She said, "The women had no weight room available to them because it was in the men's locker room. So [the athletic trainer] had to meet Beth at six in the morning to take her in to use the weight room to strengthen her shoulder."

Longtime Wheaton tennis coach Jane Nelson '83 played basketball and tennis in the same era. She remembers the separate and sparse women's athletic facilities, including a locker room and training room in the unfinished basement of Coray Gym. In the long winter months, with no indoor track or training facility, she ran the stairs in Fischer Hall to stay in shape.

Despite the disparities, Nelson described how she and other athletes were grateful for the chance to compete. She said, "To us females who were participating, we were just so excited to have the opportunity to play that we weren't really focusing on [the facilities]."

Nelson certainly made the most of her opportunity. In tennis, she was the AIAW Division III national flight three singles champion and was named AIAW Division III All-American as a freshman. As a junior, she claimed the doubles runner-up title in the NCAA national tournament. In basketball, she still ranks in the top 16 in school history

in scoring, free throws, field goal percentage, rebounds, steals, and assists.

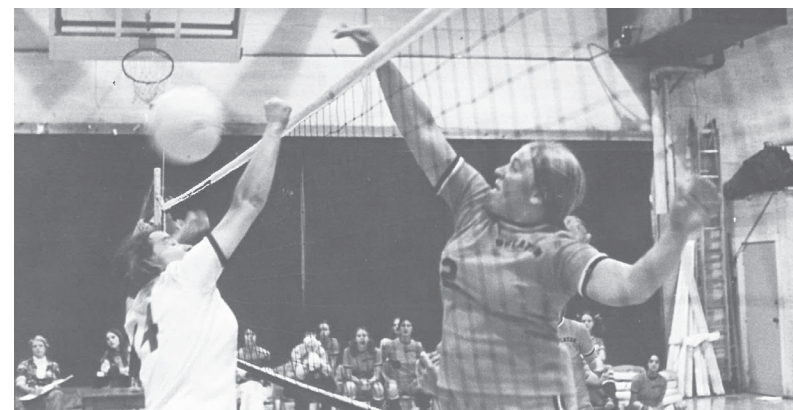
Nelson was one of the first among many athletes who paved the way not just for equal participation for female athletes, but also for athletic excellence.

#### WHEATON FEMALE ATHLETES EXCEL

The College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) didn't begin sponsoring women's sports until 1985. Since then Wheaton women's teams have amassed 100 conference championships across all sports, more than any other CCIW team.

Coach Nelson and her tennis teams have contributed their fair share of conference titles to Wheaton's tally. Since Nelson began coaching in 1986, Wheaton women's tennis has won 22 CCIW regular-season titles and made 12 NCAA postseason appearances.

Wheaton women's swimming has also procured a long list of team and individual accolades. Kirsten Nitz Brown '16 completed a stunning 3-event sweep in the 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly, and 200-yard backstroke at the 2013 NCAA swimming championships, then added two other titles during her career. From 1998-2017, the team won 20 consecutive CCIW championships. In total, the program accounts for 25 of the 100 Wheaton women's CCIW titles.



Opposite, clockwise starting from top left: 1977, the women's softball team; 1983, preparing to serve; 1977, Betty Welsh '79 successfully spikes the ball; 1977, the women's field hockey team; 1977, Janelle Barclay '80 returns the ball with a backhand; 1964, Genelle Samuelson '65 eyes the hoop (Sources: *Tower Yearbook*)

Wheaton swimming alumna Katie Deysher Kimmel '16 was motivated by the conference championship banners she saw every day on the natatorium walls. She said, "It felt like walking into a legacy of people who loved the sport, but also just loved one another." Not only do the banners serve as a visual reminder of the program's success, but that even in an individual sport, no swimmer is alone.

Notably, Wheaton women's soccer won three NCAA national championship titles in 2004, 2006, and 2007 and finished as runners-up in 2008 and 2011. Taryne Lee Russo '10, who still holds the record for goals scored in a season, arrived on campus two years after Wheaton's first national championship and found a culture of excellence already in place. "The culture of Wheaton women's soccer was known to have women who loved the Lord, but also competed at the highest level," she said. "The program, coaches, and the girls on the team would hold one another to that level."

Assistant women's soccer coach Sarah Guidera '15 found the same culture in place when she played several years later. She returned to coach at her alma mater with an equal passion for team culture and high-level competition. "I've always wanted to give back to the program and serve our players in hopes that they'll walk away with experiences like I had," she stated. "And I still need to win that national title."

Regardless of the sport, former Athletics Director Julie Schmela Davis '91 believes that the sustained success of Wheaton women's athletics over time elevates support for female athletes as a whole. Perhaps most importantly, she believes that Wheaton athletes' all-around experience is just as important as their success on the court or field. She said, "We want all of our student athletes to have a really good competitive experience and grow in their knowledge and ability in their sport, do well in the classroom, and grow in Christian discipleship."

#### ENDURING LEGACY

*"It is obvious that sports for women at Wheaton combined skill, travel, competition, and—for most athletes—great fellowship. One hopes that the future varsity teams will not lose the best parts of all: Christian fellowship and witness."* Martha Cole Baptista '45<sup>3</sup>

Volleyball coach Stephanie Schmidt joined the Wheaton Athletics Department in the spring of 2017 with a desire to coach and disciple young athletes. Once her first season was underway, Athletics Director Julie Davis

introduced Schmidt to Marilyn Scribner, Wheaton's first ever volleyball coach. The more alumni Schmidt encountered, the more she understood the breadth of Scribner's influence on Wheaton women's athletics.

Scribner herself estimated that she worked with some 4,000 students over her 50 years of teaching and coaching at Wheaton.<sup>4</sup> Her pupils and players graduated and went on to serve as missionaries, run businesses, and raise families. Still others were so strongly influenced by their time under her mentorship that they returned to Wheaton as the next generation of coaches and teachers.

Penny Polson '80 spent four years as an assistant coach under Scribner after playing volleyball and softball as a student. Penny fondly remembers how Marilyn was not ashamed when sharing her faith with her players and their opponents. Once, Marilyn prompted Wheaton players to socialize with the opposing team after a match and sing the "Wheaton College volleyball theme song": "I am persuaded to believe . . . tho the devil hate us he can never separate us from the wonderful love of God."

Looking back, one can draw a direct line in the genealogy of Wheaton women's sports from founding coaches like Baptista and Scribner. Carol McEwing Harding '68 played under both women and went on to coach athletes in the era of Beth McKinney Baker '77 and Jane Nelson '83. Baker retired in 2011 after 25 years at the helm of Wheaton women's basketball, while Nelson still carries the torch into year 36 of coaching women's tennis.

As a newer coach, Schmidt quickly acknowledges her gratitude for the decades of persistence and grit that earlier coaches displayed to allow Wheaton women to enjoy high-level competition and athletic facilities today. Most importantly though, she embraces the spiritual example set by her predecessor. "I think [Marilyn Scribner] set a great example for what it looked like to be a woman who loved the Lord and had no apologies about being strong, athletic, and competitive," Schmidt said. "It's an honor to acknowledge that and to keep recreating a team that reflects those same ideals."

As today's athletes don the blue and orange, they represent more than just the institution of Wheaton College—they carry on the legacy of generations of women who displayed deep love for others and enjoyment of sport for the glory of Christ and his kingdom. ●

<sup>1</sup> "No Peace without Obedience," Marilyn Scribner, *Wheaton* magazine, Spring 2002.

<sup>2</sup> *Through Clouds and Sunshine*, "Section II - Women's Athletics," Martha Baptista, p. 262, 1983.

<sup>3</sup> *Through Clouds and Sunshine*, "Section II - Women's Athletics," Martha Baptista, p. 266, 1983.

<sup>4</sup> "No Peace without Obedience," Marilyn Scribner, *Wheaton* magazine, Spring 2002.



# Witnessing Creation

*Twelve Wheaton Natural Scientists  
Share Their Research*

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*Words*  
Liu Chen Huska '09

*Photos*  
Tony Hughes, Josh and Alexa Adams

**W**onder. Intimate worship. Witnessing God's care and beauty. Partnering with God to restore his world. These are some of the ways that Wheaton professors in the natural sciences describe their research. Spanning various disciplines and continents, from vast aurora lights to minuscule molecules, each scientist profiled uncovers the intricate ways our world has been made. Together, their work becomes a testament to a wonderfully creative God and a call to better understand him through scientific study.



**Dr. Nadine Rorem**  
**Life cycle of freshwater jellyfish *Craspedacusta sowerbii***  
*Biological and Health Sciences*

Years ago, when Nadine Rorem was becoming certified in scuba diving, she swam through what felt like a snowstorm underwater. She was among a swarm of freshwater jellyfish, *Craspedacusta sowerbii*: white, each about the size of a quarter in mature medusa stage. Dr. Rorem recently received an Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant to better understand their life cycle.

Her research builds on earlier work with another invasive aquatic organism, *Cordylophora caspia*. Invasive aquatic species can affect food chains and potentially disrupt human food sources such as fisheries. Through her work on both these species, Dr. Rorem studies the effects of increasing temperatures and water levels, which shift the delicate balance of aquatic ecosystems.



**Dr. Scott Ickes**  
**Workplace policies' effects on breastfeeding mothers in Kenya**  
*Biological and Health Sciences*

Nutrition epidemiologist Scott Ickes's longstanding interest in maternal and child nutrition has led in recent years to research on breastfeeding mothers in Kenya. The East African country is known as one of the leaders in policies that protect breastfeeding. However, policy creation is not the same as implementation, Dr. Ickes said.

In Naivasha, Kenya, Dr. Ickes and his team study the factors influencing whether working mothers exclusively breastfeed for the first six months of their children's infancy. He found that while there is strong policy mandating lactation support at work, there are some mismatches with mothers' needs. His research has already shaped local health center offerings for new mothers, while spurring employers to consider better workplace support for mothers.

**Dr. Andrew Luhmann '06**  
**Mapping underground caves in Florida and the effects of sequestering carbon underground**  
*Earth and Environmental Science*

The Santa Fe River in Florida sinks into and reemerges from a karst aquifer, where rock dissolves to create caves, springs, and sinkholes. Hydrogeologist Andrew Luhmann '06 and his team have been monitoring how changes at the land surface reflect water levels and other characteristics underground. He and several Wheaton students are also working to create an interactive traveling museum exhibit that models how water flow beneath the ground surface affects seismometer signals.

In New Mexico, Dr. Luhmann also advises laboratory experimental work on two geologic carbon sequestration projects to assess changes from injecting carbon dioxide underground. Carbon sequestration is one prong, he said, in the larger effort to mitigate climate change.



**Dr. Jovanka (Vanya) Tepavčević**  
**Symbiosis between bacteria *Vibrio fischeri* and Hawaiian bobtail squid**  
*Biological and Health Sciences*

For the Hawaiian bobtail squid to survive in the shallow waters around Hawaii, it depends on a particular microbe known as *Vibrio fischeri* to colonize it and produce light, which counterilluminates the squid's shadow cast on a moonlit night and makes it invisible to predators. Microbiologist Jovanka Tepavčević studies the various molecular regulatory mechanisms that determine whether the bacteria will engage in further symbiosis with the squid.

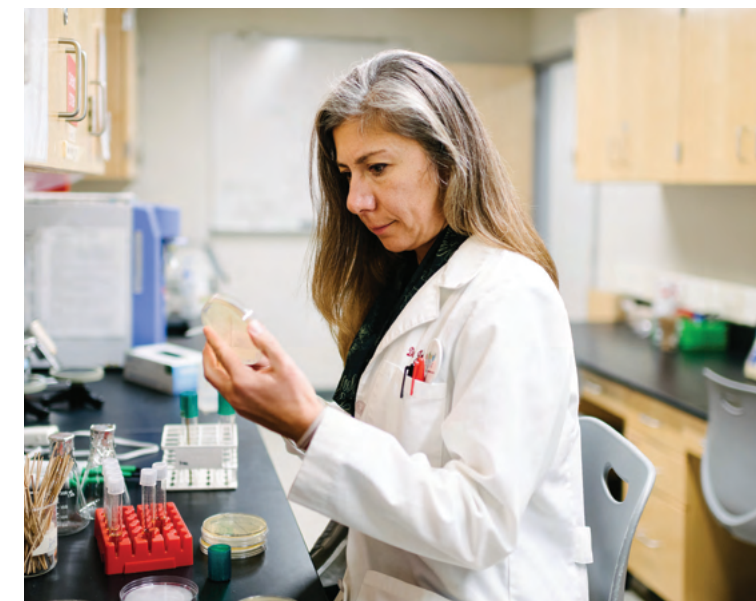
Learning more about this simple form of symbiosis, Dr. Tepavčević said, sheds light on the massive complexity that exists in humans, who depend on hundreds of thousands of microbes in the gut, skin, and other areas. She describes her work as an intimate worship experience: "I get to see what is usually invisible to us and understand God's character and the care with which all of these things were made."



**Dr. Kathryn Maneiro**  
**Unraveling the story of early earth through rock dating**  
*Earth and Environmental Science*

You might find geologist Kathryn Maneiro out collecting rocks, but more often she works in a lab, dissolving some of the world's oldest rocks to isolate elements that indicate the rock's age based on radioactive half-lives. Dr. Maneiro has dated the second-oldest piece of garnet in the world—which is over 3 billion years old.

In spring 2023, Dr. Maneiro will spend a semester in a clean lab facility in South Carolina dating garnet in ancient rocks from the Barberton Granite-Greenstone Belt in South Africa. She relishes the element of the unknown in her research, as well as understanding on a deeper level God's role in establishing and caring for the earth where we live and thrive today.





**Dr. Kristen Page**  
**Ecological transmission and control of raccoon roundworms**  
*Biological and Health Sciences*

The roundworm parasite of raccoons (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) can infect small animals like mice, woodrats, squirrels, and other wildlife in its larval form, and the larval infections are also dangerous for humans who come in contact with raccoon droppings. Parasite eggs in the droppings can hatch into larvae and move through the bloodstream, causing brain damage. Ecologist Kristen Page studies ways to reduce the spread of this parasite.

She and her team are also currently studying how the foraging habits of raccoons affect their likelihood of getting infected by the parasite. How humans transform landscapes, she said, affects how diseases are transmitted. “Caring for creation is part of our call to love our neighbor,” she said.



**Dr. Nathaniel Thom**  
**How exercise and attention training affect resilience**  
*Biological and Health Sciences*

Is resilience learned or innate? Health neuroscientist Nathaniel Thom has asked this question in various ways through studying Marines, Navy SEALs, adventure racers, and now missionaries. He and his colleagues have found that increased body awareness and emotion regulation improve performance under stress.

Now, Dr. Thom is studying ways to promote resilience in missionaries before, during, and after their time on the field. His work includes monitoring how regular exercise affects missionaries’ physiological and brain imaging data. He is excited about the neuroscience program offered at Wheaton, which puts the College at the forefront of integrating body, mind, and spirit.



**Dr. Jim Schroeder '09**  
**Electrons surfing Alfvén waves to cause aurora lights**  
*Physics*

Jim Schroeder '09 recalls the first time he saw evidence in the lab confirming his theory on the cause of distinct bands within aurora lights. “It was a still, quiet voice moment,” Schroeder said. “I got to be one of the first people to see that aspect of creation, which is really cool.”

For decades, physicists have wondered how the northern or southern lights are affected by Alfvén waves, a type of wave caused when solar winds interact with earth’s magnetic field. Just recently, Dr. Schroeder discovered through experiments a process he describes as surfing—electrons going at the right speed are picked up by an Alfvén wave and accelerate, eventually giving off the photons that create the spectacular bands of light we see in the skies.



**Dr. Ray Lewis**  
**Conditions for kelp reproduction and thriving**  
*Biological and Health Sciences*

Growing up in northern California, Ray Lewis became interested in marine biology through harvesting abalone with his family along the Sonoma County coastline.

Today, Dr. Lewis is an expert on kelp, large brown algae which form underwater forests. In the lab, Dr. Lewis manipulates salinity, iron levels, and other growing conditions to understand how kelp thrive and reproduce at different stages. Kelp are used in many cultures as food as well as for various industrial processes. Most importantly, said Dr. Lewis, they are “ecosystem engineers,” thriving in cool, nutrient-rich waters around the world and forming both physical habitat and the base of food chain in nearshore ocean communities.



**Dr. Allison Ruark**  
**Supporting healthy couple relationships as a disease prevention strategy**  
*Biological and Health Sciences*

To prevent HIV infections in Africa, social epidemiologist Dr. Allison Ruark studies a factor many wouldn’t think to consider—couple relationship quality. She asks, “What kind of couple relationship needs to exist for mutual fidelity to even be an option?” Dr. Ruark and a colleague developed an assessment for couple sexual satisfaction sensitive to African cultural contexts. She also consults with nonprofit aid groups, such as Catholic Relief Services and World Relief, to measure and strengthen the effectiveness of family interventions.

The gospel has relevance, Dr. Ruark said, not just for individuals but for societies. “How do we restore societies back to ways that meet people’s needs so we have the conditions in which people can choose to get married and form stable families?”

**Drs. Lisa and Dan Burden**  
**Understanding how alpha-hemolysin protein pores open and close**  
*Chemistry*

Many are familiar with *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria for the dangerous infections they cause. Fewer know that they produce a protein which could be used beneficially. Husband and wife team Lisa and Dan Burden have made understanding the protein, alpha-hemolysin, their life’s work.

Holding up a bumpy model about the size of a spread-out hand, Dr. Lisa Burden describes it. “Seven distinct molecules come together to form this beautiful pore,” she said. The Burdens are experimenting with ways to trigger the pore to open and close with various molecular tags. Creating pores that only open in certain conditions could allow for delivery of toxic drugs, such as chemotherapies, to limited areas instead of affecting the whole body. ●





# Kids These Days

*Insights on College Freshmen, Emerging Adulthood, and Gen-Z*

Words Emily Bratcher  
Photo Tony Hughes

**L**eaving home to go to college has always been a big transition.

Students exit the security of their families and high school friends and enter a space where almost everything is new. They become responsible for managing their course schedules, doing their laundry, and waking up on time for class.

On top of these normal challenges, Gen-Z freshmen also have some additional hurdles—starting school during a pandemic, contending with social and political upheaval at home and abroad, and rising levels of stress and anxiety, all of which make it an interesting time to be a kid these days.

Here are some insights about first-year students from Wheaton College faculty, staff, and alumni.

## KIDS THESE DAYS ARE CONTENDING WITH EMERGING ADULTHOOD

“In the past five years, there has been a significant and rapid change in the maturity, resilience, and mental and emotional health of today’s youth and young adults,” said Dr. Rob Ribbe ’87, M.A. ’90, executive director of Honey-Rock Center for Leadership Development.

Although 18-year-olds are legally adults, in reality, many are what developmental psychologists, starting with Clark University psychologist Jeffrey Arnett, now term “emerging adults.” A timeframe between high school and the late 20s, “emerging adulthood” is characterized by identity exploration, instability, self-focus, and having an array of possibilities.

So in addition to trying to manage the practicalities of college life, students are also trying to figure out who they are and their place in the world, maybe for the first time.

“For most first-year students, the focus, the preoccupation, the radar screen of their lives is very up close,” said Dr. Tim Clydesdale ’87, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies at The College of New Jersey.

They feel tremendous instability while also seeing an almost debilitating number of possibilities for their lives, he added. One of the reasons is that there is no longer one narrative for adulthood.

“Our understanding of adulthood has changed culturally,” Clydesdale said.

For instance, in the 1960 Census, 77% of women and 65% of men aged 30 reached all of the traditional markers of adulthood—leaving home, finishing school, reaching

*“There are so many choices and so many directions that one’s life can take. There’s not a commonly accepted script for how it’s supposed to go, and consequently it’s a difficult time to be a young adult.”*

financial independence, getting married, and having a child. In the 2020 Census, only about one-third had achieved the same. More and more people are picking and choosing the benchmarks they want for their own lives.

“Too many choices can become very paralyzing for people, so they just end up avoiding the choice—and that’s where we are culturally,” Clydesdale said. “There are so many choices and so many directions that one’s life can take. There’s not a commonly accepted script for how it’s supposed to go, and consequently it’s a difficult time to be a young adult, trying to navigate all that.”

#### KIDS THESE DAYS ARE WRESTLING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

Life on college campuses looks a lot different now than it did before 2007.

The introduction of the iPhone made it easier than ever to communicate, shop, manage finances, and experience entertainment, but 15 years later, there are also pastimes like binge-watching, doomscrolling, texting, sharing YouTube videos, and creating social media content, said Dr. Read Mercer Schuchardt, Associate Professor of Communication at Wheaton, who studies the cultural effects of social media.

It’s notable that “when we get a break in class, the first thing that almost all of the students do is pull out their phone and engage through the device,” said Professor of Sociology Dr. Brian Miller ’04, who studies emerging adults and social media.

But these students aren’t the first Christians to embrace new media.

Miller says American evangelicals in the twentieth century were quick to take up new technology forms and adapt them to Christian uses. Miller points to the National Association for Evangelicals and its concern that evangelicals

had a radio presence. As other media forms were introduced—television, Internet, and social media—American evangelicals have adopted and used them.

“My sense as a sociologist is that we’ve often innovated and adapted [to new technology] and then asked questions later,” he said.

Right now, for instance, Miller said more Christians might consider asking some questions, such as, “Is what we’re doing on social media as Christians good or useful?”

Schuchardt said two of his students are already doing that. Although both students have garnered 2 million views on their TikTok pages, they are taking a break to ask themselves that question.

Miller is encouraged about ways Wheaton students, staff, and faculty might be able to address some of these questions related to using social media responsibly. How could we build some best practices, consider the worth of social media fasts, or figure out how to gauge social media addiction?

“Wheaton has lots of resources, lots of people who are thinking about this, lots of ways to engage with it—and it’s an opportunity, I hope, that we can all participate in,” Miller said.

#### KIDS THESE DAYS ARE EXPLORING VOCATION

Whether students come to college confident of their future career or with only an abstract concept of it, they are almost certain to do some exploring as freshmen.

“During the first several months of the first semester, they start wrestling with these big questions like ‘Who am I?’ and ‘What does that mean for what God wants for me?’” said Rachael Botting ’14, M.A. ’15, adjunct faculty for outdoor adventure leadership.

These big inquiries call into question assumptions around career, she said.

“Perspectives of work are often based on what students know from their parents’ careers, mentors’ careers, or careers they’ve seen in action,” says Olivia Zimmermann Lorimer ’11, associate director for career education at the Center for Vocation and Career (CVC).

A fall 2021 CVC survey bears this out. In the campus survey, first-year students indicated the most interest in jobs like K–12 teacher and healthcare worker. Fourth-year students graduating in May 2022 responded differently. Their top job interests included financial analyst, business analyst, data science analyst, educator, and media communications manager.

As students move through their courses of study and CVC programming, they’re exposed to a wider range of job possibilities.

“The more exploration students are able to do, the more likely they are to discover industries and job functions that are genuinely interesting to them, rather than defaulting to the jobs they have seen firsthand,” Lorimer said.

During the Wheaton Passage orientation, leaders help students frame their college experience as their vocation. This idea comes as a moment of relief for many students who experience anxiety or pressure from parents about the future, Botting said.

“We want them to value the space and time to explore calling and explore vocation,” said Botting, who is involved with Passage.

Botting added, “The liberal arts at Wheaton College are designed to give you a strong foundation that is applicable really in any field. There’s freedom to try all these things and then narrow your focus later on.”

#### KIDS THESE DAYS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT JUSTICE

“Students are coming in with a lot of questions and a lot of convictions, especially on the issues that require the compassion of Christ,” says Ray Chang ’06, ministry associate for discipleship in the Chaplain’s Office.

Chang said many students—after years of seeing failures in Christian leadership, hypocrisy surfacing in significant churches and organizations, and instances of injustice around the country—come to college asking if what they were taught to believe is consistent with what the Bible is saying and who Jesus says he is.

They’re also wondering how they can live a more faithful and authentic Christian life. To that end, Chang said that many students come to college “with a deeper desire to address the issues they see consistently emerging across the country and the world and to bring healing to areas of deepest pain and to pursue justice where there is injustice.”

As they ask these questions in one-on-ones with Chang or in one of Wheaton’s small groups, many students are also getting involved with campus organizations in the Office of Multicultural Development, the racial reconciliation group

Solidarity Cabinet, or the student chapter of the Asian American Christian Collaborative.

“When [these organizations] have conversations on campus, the rooms are packed,” Chang said. “They’re having conversations around issues that people want to learn about and apply their faith to.”

As students ask these questions, Chang said they are looking for models of Christian leadership that can help them navigate divided times without compromising on the truth.

#### KIDS THESE DAYS ARE RELEARNING THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

When first-year students come to college, the spiritual structure of their lives is disrupted. Often, they leave behind family and former mentors who’ve poured into their lives, as well as the church and youth group meetings that have given their lives a spiritual scaffolding.

As students are adjusting to a new schedule, it’s up to them to build Scripture reading, prayer, and other Christian practices into their calendar. But sometimes the spiritual disciplines don’t make it back into their routines.

Some students seem to think—consciously or unconsciously—that they can focus on the things that seem important to them now and then flip a switch and become the sort of man or woman of God they’d like to be, said Dr. David Setran ’92, M.A. ’94, the Price-LeBar Chair of Christian Formation & Ministry. It’s not that they’re discarding all of their spiritual disciplines, but they might set aside a few for a time.

But at Wheaton, Setran said, they’re reminded of the importance of seeing their next four years through the lens of Galatians 6.

“It’s this sense that things I’m doing now, the practices I’m engaging in, the habits I’m forming are shaping me in very significant ways,” he said about the chapter, which discusses the theme of sowing and reaping.

Phones and social media have made it more difficult than ever to engage in practices such as solitude and prayer, and the pandemic turned church into a virtual event. Plus, in an age of immediate gratification, the biblical idea of patience, the daily practice of “sowing to the Spirit” (Gal. 6:8) is truly countercultural.

Setran remembers encouraging one student to read the Bible daily. After three weeks of being in the Word, the student came back to him and said, “You know, I’m not really seeing a big change.” Setran replied, “So much of the Spirit’s work takes time and is happening beneath the surface. Check back with me in five years.”

“Part of the challenge is helping them to see and actually believe the sowing-and-reaping principle,” Setran said. “It’s part of the reason I think that mentors are so important because they can demonstrate that these practices and habits make a difference when you’re 30, 40, 50, and so on.” ●

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# Alumni News

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## Obedience to the Call

L. Brian Jenkins M.A. '93

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When L. Brian Jenkins M.A. '93, completed his master's degree in theology at the Wheaton College Graduate School, he had a passion for urban ministry. But his career found an unexpected intersection with entrepreneurship education.

He points to a moment soon after completing his degree at Wheaton. After signing up to volunteer with a group—where his now-wife Dr. Jenai Jenkins '89 was working—to host a workshop on entrepreneurship for underserved communities in Chicago, he was struck by the difference it made.

"I wanted to make an impact on the inner city," Jenkins said. At the workshops, he saw the impact that entrepreneurship could have.

"I made a commitment: 'Lord, if there's any way you can use me in urban ministry through entrepreneurship, I will follow you,'" he said. "Be careful what you commit to. Here I am, 30 years later!"

Jenkins began leading workshops himself, eventually starting Entrenuity, an organization dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs—especially young people and Black, Latino, and female entrepreneurs. The organization provides business support and tools focused on teamwork skills, public speaking, personal motivation, and biblical principles of wisdom.

Within just five years, Jenkins and his team led workshops for at least 1,300 young people and saw 19 youth-led businesses started.

"We operate from our Christian values. God gives us the dignity of being stewards of his resources, and through that stewardship, we can have an impact for the kingdom on our families and communities," Jenkins said.

For a time, Entrenuity hosted week-long training camps at Wheaton, bringing Chicago Public School students to the campus. Some of those students went on to attend Wheaton.

"At the end of the training week, students would present a business idea in front of the whole group and their parents, and we would have a big banquet," Jenkins said.

Over time, Jenkins added programs for adult entrepreneurs and expanded through partnerships with business coaches and conferences.

"We're showing that entrepreneurship education is an important part of urban ministry," he said.

It is not without challenges, some of which he detailed in his book, *Know More Nonprofits: Moving from Dependency to Sustainability* (Startupup Business Solutions, 2019). Jenkins found that people of color experience unique challenges leading nonprofit organizations. The book helps nonprofit leaders and donors become more aware of those challenges and equips them with sustainable solutions and alternative revenue models.

Now, Entrenuity owns several businesses, including two coffee shops and a co-working space called Mox.E Chicago, a model he plans to expand nationwide.

Reflecting on Entrenuity's beginnings on the top floor of his house to now having its own space, employing dozens of people, starting many businesses, and providing thousands of people with entrepreneurship resources, Jenkins has one word: "Obedience. It's not about me. It's about being obedient to the One who called me." ●

Words  
Joshua Little '12

Photo  
Ian Rempel



## Feeding a Growing World

Krista Brinkley McDonald '01

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Krista Brinkley McDonald '01 is from Lamar, a small town in southeastern Colorado near the area her grandparents and great-grandparents called home. It is also where multiple generations of her family have operated a dryland wheat farm for over 100 years. She lived in the same neighborhood for her entire childhood.

“While my hometown gave me really deep roots and wonderful opportunities to develop a depth of relationship with people, I think my experience at Wheaton was so good for developing and maturing my faith and then also enabling me to get a better glimpse of the world and possibilities that lay beyond for me,” she said.

“I would say that I’ve always had a real passion for agriculture and for people who make up our rural communities. I love serving the people who take a tremendous amount of risk every year to feed the world despite a number of challenges, including uncertain weather and fluctuations in the markets,” McDonald said.

She decided to major in political science at Wheaton. Her dream was to one day run for office and represent her community. After graduation, she was hired to work in agriculture and transportation policy on Capitol Hill.

McDonald went on to study marketing, earning a graduate degree at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. Still, she had a desire to stay connected to agriculture, so she took a job as a brand director at Conagra Brands, a company that produces food products.

Conagra Brands brought her to Nebraska. Later, she transitioned to Farm Credit Services of America/ Frontier Farm Credit and was eventually promoted to chief strategy officer.

“I tell my team that our job is to create the future,” McDonald said. “Ultimately we know that everyone needs to eat, but to feed a growing world population, our customers’ businesses will evolve and we need to think differently to serve them well.”

She met her husband, Jeff McDonald '02, after moving to Nebraska. He is also a Wheaton graduate, although they did not know each other on campus. He serves as a pastor and holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Stirling in Scotland.

“Being grounded in Scripture and in church history can give us insight and understanding into what we’ll need to try to chart a course for the future,” she shared. “Trying to model God’s really deep love for people is a passion of mine in whatever sphere I’m in.” ●

*Words*

Bethany Peterson Lockett '20

*Photo*

Justin Fennert

## Wheaton College Alumni Association 2021–2022 Annual Report

Each year the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors awards financial and nonfinancial grants and awards to faculty, students, and alumni. Funds for these grants flow from the annual Wheaton Fund, which also supports every faculty member’s salary and every student’s academic program.

### Faculty Awards

#### ALUMNI FACULTY GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2022–23

Dr. Jeffrey Davis '83  
English

Mr. Dan Haase '97, MA '02  
Christian Formation & Ministry

Mr. Gregory Morrison '87  
Library

Dr. Terri Smith Watson M.A. '86  
Psychology, Counseling, and  
Family Therapy

Science Division Block Grant for  
Faculty/Student Summer Research

#### JUNIOR ALUMNI FACULTY GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2022–23

Dr. Pam Suksod Barger M.A. '00  
Teaching English to Speakers  
of Other Languages

Dr. Olga Dietlin  
Higher Education and Student  
Development

### Student Awards

#### JUNIORS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEIR SENIOR YEAR


Meghan Kwong '23  
English Writing

Isaac Kyeremateng '23  
Integrative Philosophy

Amelia Miller '23  
Applied Mathematics, Economics

Sienna Oates '23  
Community Art and Urban Studies

Cade Rex '23  
International Relations

 Read more about these scholarship winners at [wheaton.edu/magazine](http://wheaton.edu/magazine).



Alumni Association Senior Scholarship award recipients with Board directors: Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12, Association President Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, Isaac Kyeremateng '23, Cade Rex '23, Meghan Kwong '23, Amelia Miller '23, Mary Ashley Miller '69, Jim Wilkes '79 (Not pictured: Sienna Oates '23)

PHOTOS BY MIKE HUDSON


## Alumni Association Board of Directors



**ROW 1 (L-R):** Noah Chung '12, Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12, Eric Fowler '81, Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, Renae Schauer Smith '91, Mary Ashley Miller '69, Jerard Woods '12

**ROW 2 (L-R):** Becky Gray Jordan '88, Manette Galvan Turner '92, M.A. '98, Brian De La Cruz '21, Barbara Bates Alexander '77, Jim Wilkes '79, Leigh Naraine Pylman '08, Kari Shook Anderson '91, Chris Peterson '93, Lissy Verseput Jones '08

Not pictured: Bryan Eklund '89, M.A. '14, Jeff Shafer '96

 **Send us your nominations for Alumni Board members.**

All alumni are invited to suggest Wheaton graduates for the Alumni Association Board of Directors by submitting an online form to the nominating committee. The committee will take into account graduation year, vocation, gender, race/ethnicity, and demonstrated commitment to Wheaton. Job description and nomination forms can be obtained and submitted online at [alumni.wheaton.edu/boardnomination](http://alumni.wheaton.edu/boardnomination).

## International Alumni Missionary Book Mailing

Last Christmas, 372 alumni missionary families serving in 72 countries outside the United States received the following gifts, thanks to publishers who donate books and the College’s Board of Trustees, which gives funds for shipping costs.

- *Wheaton* magazine, Volume 24 // Issues 1 and 2
- *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers* by Dane Ortlund '01, Ph.D. '11 (Crossway, 2020)
- *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope* by Esau McCaulley (IVP, 2020)
- *Seen. Known. Loved.: 5 Truths About God and Your Love Language* by Gary Chapman '60 and R. York Moore (Moody, 2020)
- *40 Favorite Hymns for the Christian Year: A Closer Look at Their Spiritual and Poetic Meaning* by Leland Ryken (P & R Publishing, 2020)
- *A Church Called Tov: Forming a Goodness Culture That Resists Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing* by Scot McKnight and Laura Barringer '98 (Tyndale, 2020)
- *Good Night Tales: A Family Treasury of Read-Aloud Stories* by C.S. Fritz (Tyndale, 2017)

## Alumni Weekend 2022

*Classes of 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, and 1982 were welcomed home to celebrate reunions.*



**1** Beryl Hickman Johnson '52 and Janice Johnson Lundquist '85 catch a golf cart ride to the Commencement Celebration Concert. **2** Lynn Alberti Flack '82, Wheaton's first female Student Body President, shares her wisdom with Student Body President Hayden Sledge '22. **3** Beryl Hickman Johnson '52, Marilyn Coray Unruh '52, and Betsy Ross Guffey '52 attend the Friday night reception in Coray Alumni Gymnasium. The room is named for Ed Coray '23, Mrs. Unruh's father and former Executive Director of the Alumni Association. **4** President Philip Ryken '88 interviews Commencement speaker Dr. Billy Kim Litt.D. '92 at the Spring Luncheon.

**5** Cherry Tabb '82, Caryn McCarrell Thornton '82, Lisa Barber Fowler '82, and Linda Yohe Vergara '82 take a selfie at the 40th reunion reception. **6** Nancy Weller Black '68 and John Black '67 enjoy a quiet moment together at Reunion Check-in. **7** Kevin Sue Perry Roberts '72, Susie Wing '72, Janet Ceder Helin '72, Shelley Schaap Swanson '72, Liz Boebinger McEwen '72, Diane Garfield Scarbrough '72, Debbie Beal Baker '72, and Perry Roberts '72 catch up in The Stupe during their 50th reunion. **8** Faculty Emeriti Dr. Sharon Coolidge '72 and Dr. Norm Ewert at the 50th reunion dinner.

PHOTOS BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS

# Alumni Weekend 2022: Class Reunions

Photos Josh and Alexa Adams



## Class of 1982 40-Year Reunion

**ROW 1 (L-R):** Mark Tader, Kathy Green, Cynthia Dumm Andrews, Aaron Han '83, Laura Wong Han, Anna Shaw Schneider, Glenn Lafitte, Bonnie Brawand Lafitte, Nate Cassel, Susie Gieser Cassel '88, Alicia Vallejo Gorski, Cindi Osborn Graves, Mark Davis, Roger Hughes, Sally Prescott Phillips, Kevin Phillips '82, M.A. '83.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Bill Banks, Jeff Mohr, David Bisgrove, Chris Stoner, Tim Stoner, Ruth Dolansky Herr '81, Dave Herr, Dave Aldridge, Jim Riggs, Craig Nasralla, Keith Johnson '79, Jim Stipe, Melinda Haughie Fowl, Steve Fowl '82, M.A. '83.

**ROW 3 (L TO R):** Jasper Bacon, Carolyn Bacon, Mark Dawson, Susan Longenecker Dawson, Bev Westergren, Shirley Cook Bodett, Tom Silvasy, Nancy Brei Silvasy, Linda Wills Medhurst, Mike Medhurst '81, Chuck Larson, Ruth Carman Estep, David Strodel, Stephen Humeniuk.

**ROW 4 (L TO R):** Eric Fowler '81, Lisa Barber Fowler, Cherry Tabb, Andy Krumsieg, Debbie Dix Krumsieg '84, Mike Bontrager, Michael Bentz, Leah Berkland Bentz, Robin Morgan Hensel '81, J. Peter Hensel '83, Darla Isacson Bond, Deb Hendren Gustafson '83, Janet Colip Chestnut.

**ROW 5 (L TO R):** Randy Leander, Mark Gilchrist, Tom Thornton '83, Caryn McCarrell Thornton, Patty Klepack Mann, Jeff Mann, Mark Myers '83, Karen Peterson Myers, Kim Shirley Jahns, Chris Jahns, Lynette Paver, Lynn Alberti Flack, Sherryl Benware Aldridge, Ruth Williams.

**ROW 6 (L TO R):** Jennifer Rescorla Friday, Mark Friday, Joel Sutton, Randall Gruendyke, Ken Johnson, Marilyn Swanson Johnson, Carolyn Schmidt Balch, Dena Pearson Koehler, Laurie McLeRoy, Kate Maxwell Mackey, Valerie Pratt Cook.

**NOT PICTURED:** Bill Berg, Cindra Stackhouse Taetszch.



## Class of 1977 45-Year Reunion

**ROW 1 (L-R):** Jane Petersen, Paul Petersen, Randal Ellison, Greg Anderson, Mary Robin Nowack, Sheryl Walter Slocum, David Martinez, Adrienne Martinez, Mary Storck Crickmore, Scott Crickmore, Jennifer Fast Huber.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Donald Doubek, Katherine Hyde Doubek, Markley Marlow, Stephen Nelson, June Cranford Peck, Jonathan Peck '76, Torrey Olsen, Kim Olsen, David Carlson, DeeAnn Carlson, Linda Penner Samelson, Pam Callam Grote, Debbi Dewhirst Rayburn.

**ROW 3 (L TO R):** Tina Anderson Moberg, Ken Moberg, Jeff Smith, David Jacobson, George King, Katherine Kells King, Rod Stewart, Peggy Rushton Stewart, Barbara Bates Alexander, Jim Alexander '76, Carlene Ellis Ellerman, Bambi Sweney Penney.

**ROW 4 (L TO R):** Kathy Swanson Soneson, Steve Soneson '78, Michael Sajbel, Susan Allen Sajbel, John Hochevar, Nina James Hochevar, Helen Read, Glen Anderson, Sue Woodcock Gilliland, Richard Gilliland, Paul Holmes.

**ROW 5 (L TO R):** Brian Lassen, Thomas Johnston '77, M.A. '96, Larry Gilkerson, Carla Gilkerson, Wes Mesko, Kathy Lawrenz Mesko, Cathy Anderson Dodd '84, Kenny Dodd '77, M.A. '84, Janet Craven Linton '78, Phil Linton, Lyn Edwards Futrell '78, M.A. '81, Tom Futrell.



**Class of 1972**  
*50-Year Reunion*

**ROW 1 (L-R):** Charles Gibson, Margaret Briberg Gibson, Susie Wing, Perry Roberts '72, M.A. '82, Sue Perry Roberts '72, M.A. '82, Elaine Watt Gavette '73, Larry Gavette '72, M.A. '74, Philip Tillman, Pattie Skriba, Liz Boebinger McEwen, Bob McEwen, Diane Garfield Rietveld Scarbrough, David Bennet.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Wendell Karsen '58, Renske Greve Karsen, Laine Malmquist, Steffanie Merrick Malmquist, Dian Packard Fruth, Ellen Marum Fuchs, Shelley Schaap Swanson, Jack Swanson '74, Sherry Woods Olson, Ken Olson, Joanne Zimmermann Erickson '78, Richard Erickson, Grace Tazelaar.

**ROW 3 (L TO R):** Steve Dill, Marge Calderwood Dill, Norm Ewert, Sharon Coolidge Ewert, Becky Montgomery Card '73, David Card, Phil Murchie, Jill Wahlgren Murchie '73, Elaine O'Connell Watkins '72, R.N. '70, Janie Olson Morissette, Bill Long, Nancy Derck Long, Pauline Gustafson Soderholm, Jani Giles Ortlund.

**ROW 4 (L TO R):** Bud Hart, Marilee Melvin, Carol Ann Butka Anderson, Bart Anderson '70, James Lucius, Patricia Fish, Gordon Fish, Janet Hughes Betts, Janet Ceder Helin, Debbe Beal Baker, Peggy Nothum, Ferne Weimer, Carolyn Cathey Castelli, Jay Castelli.

**ROW 5 (L TO R):** Miriam Whinna Smith '73, Kevin Smith, Sara McFarland Heulitt, Ken Heulitt, Dwight Nelson, Marty Miller Shold '74, Dave Shold, Pattie Moore Barnes, John Barnes, Nancy Duerr Anderson, Mark Anderson '72, M.A. '77, Liz Mason Abramson '73, Jay Abramson, Becky Ahlfeldt Simon '72, R.N. '70.

**ROW 6 (L TO R):** Carolyn Cleath Thom '71, Pete Thom, Dorothy Duenckel Dunlop, Pam Schlomann, Dawn Johnson, Linda Johnson Jones, David Holst, Linda Holst, John Mulder, Lynn Mulder, Mark Hamm, Royce Hamm, Doug Trook. **ROW 7 (L TO R):** H. David Benton, Bob Lane, Patty Carlson Lane '72, R.N. '69, Steve Aram, Kathy Aram, Phil Hubbard, Patsy Elsen Hubbard '73, Sharen Nerhus Sommerville, Dan Sommerville.



**Class of 1967**  
*55-Year Reunion*

**ROW 1 (L-R):** Ro Habegger Hinzdel, Gordy Gault, Pris Mixer Gault '66, Irene Fulrath, Karyl Kroon Groeneveld, Kathi Nelson Johnson, Carol Morgan, Edie Mitchell Ritsman, Jean MacFadyen.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Ginny Thompson Perciante '66, Terry Perciante, Beverly Larson, Cynthia Bauer Ward, Marvin Johnson, Cheryl Henninger Krupa, Valerie Zandi Stutz '73, Phil Stutz.

**ROW 3 (L TO R):** Bob McNeill, Robin McNeill, Stu Johnson, Shirley Aldrich Schafer '65, Ken Schafer, Dick McGarrahan, Junior Toms McGarrahan, MaryAnne De Vries Berry, Bill Berry, Marty Hildebrandt, Skip Olsen.

**ROW 4 (L TO R):** John Black, Nancy Weller Black '68, Rik Haugen, Ginger Olson Haugen '69, Jeffrey Johnson, Ruth Lageschulte Johnson, Nancy Rebmen Worth, Dave Worth '65, Nancy Veltman, Gerald Veltman.



**Class of 1962 – A**  
*60-Year Reunion*

**ROW 1 (L-R):** David Iha, Shirley Iha, John Huffman, Anne Huffman, Pat Cate, Dave Johnson, Marianne Hess Johnson '64, Linda Brady Thompson Bennett, Rowland Bennett.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Laura Penner Billsten, Judy Shalberg Carithers, Robbie Conard Kraft, George Kraft, Marshall Macaluso, Mary Zuber Macaluso '63, R.N. '61, Caryl Krambs Collier.

**ROW 3 (L TO R):** Chet Stewart, Diana Stewart, Ed Kuhlmann '61, Janice Turner Kuhlmann, Dennis Nordmoe, Janey Nordmoe, Donna Lynn Petersen Poland.



**Class of 1962 – B**  
*60-Year Reunion*

**ROW 1 (L-R):** David Rowe, Richard Rowe, Bob Cook, Mary Cook, Joy Pogacnik Houston, Jack Houston '61, Dick Purnell.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Diane Cressman Lindley '62, R.N. '60, Jan Petrie Okesson '62, R.N. '60, David Harvey, Ruth Barrell Harvey, Wally Venard, Martha Bosland Venard, David Thiessen.

**ROW 3 (L TO R):** Judy Young Coulter, Dale Coulter, Jonathan Hess, Jan Doster Hirschy, Bob Hirschy '61, Allida Shoning, George Shoning.



**Class of 1957**  
*65-Year Heritage Reunion*

**ROW 1 (L-R):** Elna Fisher Coley, Nada Sigmon Dates, Gloria Davis Crow, Mer Crow.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Jerry Lemish Moore, Maxine Coder Howard, James Jones.



**Class of 1952**  
*70-Year Heritage Reunion*

**ROW 1 (L-R):** Beryl Hickman Johnson '52, '53, Betsy Ross Guffey, Dee Peterson Westergren, Marilyn Coray Unruh.

**ROW 2 (L TO R):** Wallace Alcorn '52, M.A. '59, Daniel Hansen, Fran Hansen, Lauren Asplund.



## A Word with Alumni

*Dr. Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, President,  
Wheaton College Alumni Association Board of Directors*

Four years is simply not enough time to fit in all the invigorating courses available at Wheaton. For example, I wish I could have studied Latin. While I find Google to be a sorry substitute, it does provide the meaning for *alma mater*: “nourishing or kind mother.” I am grateful to have seen Wheaton College live into that meaning: faculty investing in the lives of students; staff and administration caring for students’ minds, bodies, and spirits; students supporting fellow students by serving as RAs, student chaplains, and campus leaders; and the Alumni Association staff caring for students with generous surprise treats and faithfully connecting with 48,000+ alumni. As a parent, I entrusted my daughters with confidence to my alma mater as they grew independent.

Thankfully, “kind mother” is the experience of many at Wheaton; but not of all. Wheaton is a place with rich diversity: over 50 denominations represented, 50 states, and 43 countries. Twenty-three percent of students are American ethnic minorities. During the pandemic, we became more aware that embracing our differences does not always come easily. Even as the body of Christ, called

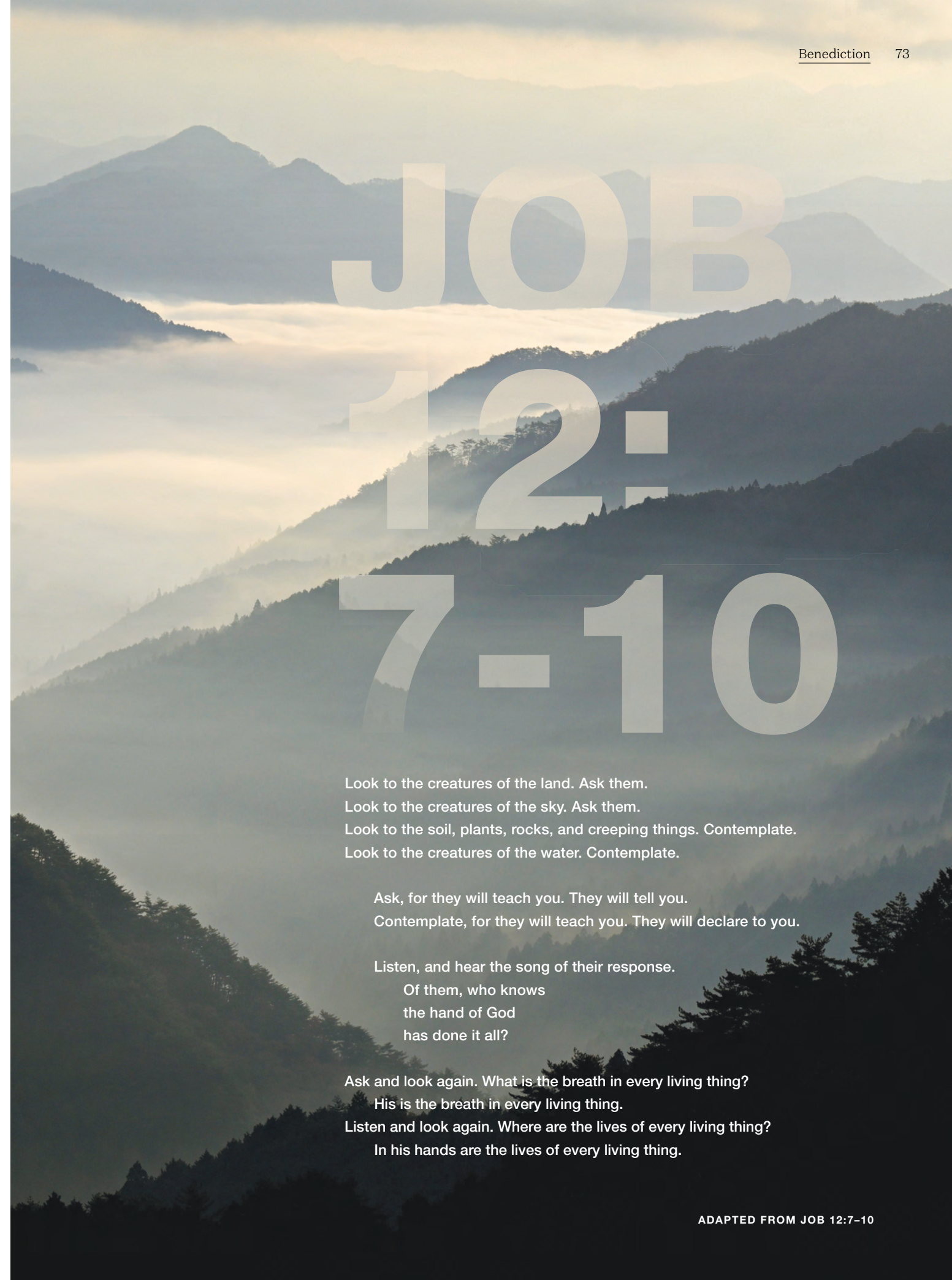
to love each other, we frequently struggle as we seek to understand differences, and we can fail to recognize when we cause pain.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors laments that for some, their experience of Wheaton, both as students and alumni, includes times of being wounded rather than nurtured. This is especially notable for some students and alumni of color. In light of this, in 2020 we created an internal Diversity Advisory Group composed of current members of the Alumni Board. We’ve looked at structures such as our Board composition, and our processes such as the criteria we use in granting awards. We’ve sought to identify unintentional barriers that prevent equal participation and asked ourselves to what we need to pay attention so we do not further unintentionally exclude alumni of color. While our work is in its infancy, our hope is that we will grow in understanding and sensitivity. And we pray that as alumni reflect on their experience at Wheaton, more will experience their alma mater as a place of nourishing and care grounded in our faith in a loving and gracious God. ●

**Vice President for Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement** Dr. Kirk D. Farney M.A. '98 **Senior Director for Vocation and Alumni Engagement** Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 **Alumni Association President** Dr. Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84 **President-Elect** Eric B. Fowler '81 **Past President** Renae Schauer Smith '91 **Executive Director** Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 **Alumni Trustee Representatives** Dr. Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, Eric B. Fowler '81, Renae Schauer Smith '91 **Board of Directors Serving through 2022** Bryan Eklund '89, M.A. '14, Manette Galvan Turner '92, M.A. '98, Christopher Peterson '93 **Board of Directors Serving through 2023** Kari Shook '91, Dr. Elisabeth Versepunt Jones '08, Rebecca Gray Jordan '88, Jeffrey Shafer '96, Brian De La Cruz '21 **Board of Directors Serving through 2024** Barbara Bates Alexander '77, Mary Ashley Miller '69, Leigh Naraine Pylman '08, James Wilkes '79, Jerard Woods '12 **Board of Directors Serving through 2025** Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12, Noah Chung '12



PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON



# JOB 12: 7-10

Look to the creatures of the land. Ask them.  
Look to the creatures of the sky. Ask them.  
Look to the soil, plants, rocks, and creeping things. Contemplate.  
Look to the creatures of the water. Contemplate.

Ask, for they will teach you. They will tell you.  
Contemplate, for they will teach you. They will declare to you.

Listen, and hear the song of their response.  
Of them, who knows  
the hand of God  
has done it all?

Ask and look again. What is the breath in every living thing?  
His is the breath in every living thing.  
Listen and look again. Where are the lives of every living thing?  
In his hands are the lives of every living thing.