

WHEATON

VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2024



55 Years of Wheaton's Faculty
Faith and Learning Seminar

Beyond Blanchard



Dr. Mandy Kellums Baraka M.A. '13, Associate Professor of Counseling, uses play therapy to help children communicate.

WHEATON MAGAZINE
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Benediction



On the Cover

A doorway glimpse into the office of Wheaton College President Philip G. Ryken '88. *Photo by Kayla Smith*



Faculty Tribute

*Dr. Philip Graham Ryken '88
President*

In this issue, we celebrate the life-transforming spiritual and intellectual influence that our faculty members have on our students through teaching, scholarship, and mentorship. Here I wish to pay tribute to some of my faculty mentors from the 1980s:

To Roger Lundin '71—who taught me American culture through American literature; and to Beatrice Batson M.A. '47—who gave me a longing for “the journey home.” To Sharon Coolidge '72 and Erwin Rudolph—who deepened my love for older English literature. To Joe McClatchey and Rolland Hein '54—who inspired my passion for romantic literature. And to Alan Jacobs—who showed me how literary theory helps us understand culture in Christian perspective.

To Arthur Holmes '50, M.A. '52—who taught me to read and comprehend any difficult text. To David Fletcher HON—who made philosophy fun and calibrated my ethical compass. And to Jay Wood and Gary Larson M.A. '83—who sharpened my arguments through vigorous debate.

To Kathy Kastner '71—who taught me how to appreciate and enjoy every concert I have attended since graduating from Wheaton. And to John Walford HON—who awakened my interest in visual art and expanded my vision for truth and beauty.

To Bob Webber HON—whose view of Christianity and culture set my Reformed convictions in a broader evangelical context; and also to Vic Gordon and Andrew Hill—who expanded my understanding of the Old and New Testaments. To Lyle Dorsett HON—who modeled effective mentoring and gave me a stronger appetite for prayer.

To Gerald Haddock '56—who helped me understand the structure of the earth and prepared me for my own geology majors; and to Joe Spradley HON—who taught me how to understand physics in the context of liberal arts learning.

To Mark Noll '68—who helped me trace the religious, cultural, and historical roots of contemporary evangelicalism. Just as importantly, to Joe Bean HON—who prepared me for a successful side career as a youth baseball, basketball, and soccer coach.

To Mark Amstutz—who affirmed my call to gospel ministry. To Bud Kellstedt HON—who taught me how to read court cases and legal briefs, which has proved more useful than expected. And to Bruce Howard '74—who taught Lisa Maxwell Ryken '88 and me about marriage and family life as well as economics.

To Leland Ryken HON—well, that's another column . . . ●

PHOTO BY DARREN HAUCK; OPPOSITE PHOTO BY KAYLA SMITH

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Profiles



New Wheaton College Pep Band: An Athletics and Conservatory Collaboration

Words
Grant Dutro '25

Photo
Brady McNeil

Last winter, the Wheaton College Pep Band took to King Arena for their official debut. Funded by the Athletics Department, the new extracurricular music ensemble energizes the atmosphere at athletic events, fosters school spirit, and provides an avenue for student musicians to explore pep band music culture, styles, and techniques. The ensemble is open to all majors and compensates its members for each performance.

In the spring of 2023, students Cara Forsberg '24 and Michael Rocha '24 founded the pep band after meeting with Athletics Director Mike Schauer '93, M.A. '96, and Dr. Michael Wilder, Dean of the Conservatory of Music. The ensemble held auditions later that fall, with space for instruments including saxophone, trumpet, piccolo/flute, French horn, baritone/euphonium, and drum set. Led by faculty adviser Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Brady McNeil, who participated in pep band when attending Auburn University, the group performed at four double-header basketball games.

New Undergraduate Humanitarian Action Certificate

The Humanitarian Disaster Institute announced its new Humanitarian Action Certificate for undergraduate students at Wheaton. The certificate includes multidisciplinary courses in humanitarian response, poverty alleviation, anti-trafficking work, refugee care, disaster response, and other related fields. Through research, exploration of best practices, and practical approaches, the certificate aims to equip students to serve those affected by crises, disasters, and systemic inequalities both domestically and internationally.

Wheaton Rankings in U.S. News & World Report

Wheaton College was one of the only Christian colleges in the 2023–2024 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. Wheaton ranked #56 for National Liberal Arts Colleges and #50 among Best Value Schools, both higher places than the previous year. Two of the College's undergraduate majors also placed in the *USNWR* lists for similarly sized programs, ranking #165 out of 300 economics programs and #264 out of 500 psychology programs.

Questioning Christianity Lecture Series

Wheaton College hosted the Questioning Christianity Lecture Series this spring. Sponsored by the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center and the Jean Kvamme Distinguished Chair of Public Christianity, the four lectures featured key experts who addressed some common doubts and concerns about Christianity in the present age. Speakers covered the following topics: "Is Christianity Sexist?" by Dr. Amy Orr-Ewing, "Has

the Church Done More Harm than Good?" and "Are There Too Many Versions of Christianity—to take any of them seriously?" by Dr. John Dickson, and "Is Christianity Out of Date & Out of Touch?" by Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin.

"The Architecture of Prayer"

From February 9–March 1, the Wheaton College Department of Art and the President's Art Commission brought "The Architecture of Prayer" to campus. Curated by Amanda Iglesias '14, the traveling exhibition presented an international survey of the contemporary church, showcasing drawings and travel photography of historic church buildings in dialogue with new projects built between 1999 and the present. Over 20 global and local architecture firms contributed pieces to the gallery, which was displayed in the Walford Gallery in Adams Hall and the foyer of the Armerding Center for Music and the Arts.

Wheaton College Historical Review Spring Symposium

On March 12, Wheaton College hosted the Historical Review Spring Symposium in Barrows Auditorium of Billy Graham Hall. The second symposium featured Rev. Dr. Charlie E. Dates on the topic of biblical repentance, responsibility, and renewal. Dates, a highly sought-after speaker and pastor, is widely invited to preach at churches and speak at retreats, conferences, and universities throughout the U.S. and abroad. He became the youngest senior pastor at the historic Progressive Baptist Church of Chicago in 2011 and now serves as senior pastor at the Salem Baptist Church of Chicago.

Opera Mainstage *Merry Wives of Windsor*

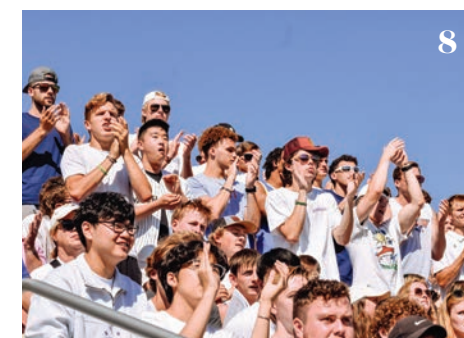
From January 10–13, Wheaton College Opera Mainstage performed *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a German opera in three acts by Otto Nicolai. The work is adapted from Shakespeare's comedic play of the same name. Conservatory of Music students involved in the year-long opera course sang in English, and the production featured classical pianist and composer Florence Price's *Encore Songs*. Each performance took place in the state-of-the-art Armerding Concert Hall.

2024 Science Symposium

This year's Wheaton College Science Symposium, titled "Machine Learning: A Tool for Good," examined how machine learning and other artificial intelligence technologies can benefit society and advance God's kingdom. The April 3–4 symposium featured four speakers: Joshua Nemecek, Dr. S. Joshua Swamidass, Dr. Ying Li, and Dr. Emily Willson Wenger '16. Speaker sessions covered a wide range of applications for machine learning, including medical research, humanitarian efforts, security, and Bible translation, while also accounting for the potential challenges and harms of AI technology.

Read more Wheaton stories
at wheaton.edu/news

#MyWheaton



1 President Ryken visits a student-built igloo on the Quad, by Josiah Rood '25. 2 The Wheaton College football team competes against University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, by Grace Lee '24. 3 Wheaton Crew concludes a chilly early morning practice on the Fox River, by Caris Donley '26. 4 College Union gathers around a fire table to plan events for the spring semester, by Josiah Rood '25.

5 The Dekes prepare to welcome prospective students with open arms on the steps of the Melvin E. Banks Welcome Center, by Grace Lee '24. 6 Grace Lee '24 and Andrew Kirk '24 show off their ceramics skills in Adams Hall, by Alina Kovalev '22. 7 Seniors enjoy their final President's Ball at the Field Museum, by Alina Kovalev '22. 8 Cheering on Thunder athletes at a spring track meet, by Grace Lee '24.



Wheaton's New Athletics Director: Mike Schauer '93, M.A. '96

Words
Abby Dorman '17

Photo
Kayla Smith

As a Wheaton College student athlete, Mike Schauer '93, M.A. '96, displayed a rare passion for basketball. Later, as a part-time assistant to Wheaton coach Bill Harris, it took just a week on the job for Schauer to know he wanted to pursue a career in coaching.

Although his career took him to other programs post-grad, Schauer found himself drawn back to his *alma mater*. After 26 years at Wheaton College, including time as a student athlete, assistant coach, and head coach for the men's basketball team, Schauer was named the College's Athletics Director in the fall of 2023. "It's a real privilege to coach the jersey you played in," he said.

Schauer's role at the college impacts students both in and outside his department. Twenty-five percent of Wheaton's undergraduate students are varsity athletes, and many others participate in intramural sports or activities at the Chrouser Sports Complex, which includes a

rock wall, indoor gym and track, Olympic-size pool, and dance studio.

"The whole college benefits from the presence of athletics on campus," said Dr. Paul Chelsen '91, Vice President for Student Development. "Even if people are not physically attending the matches, there's a kind of school spirit generated. Athletics on a college campus is a shared experience, whether you're playing, watching, or reading about it."

Years ago, Schauer shared experiences with his Wheaton basketball teammates that shaped his faith, character, and career path. Now, as he leads Wheaton athletics into the future, he relies on the culture instilled in him from his own playing days. His message to new recruits "is the same message I got years ago. There's no institution in the country that combines your relationship to Jesus, academics, and athletics at the level Wheaton does." ●

250

wins in 15 seasons as head coach

7

NCAA Division III Tournament appearances

2

players awarded the prestigious Jostens Trophy



Throwback: Michelle Anderson Rosa '06

Inducted to the Wheaton Athletics Hall of Honor in 2021, Michelle Anderson Rosa '06 left records in her wake as a women's water polo player during the program's existence. She was a two-time conference MVP and became the program's all-time leading goal scorer with 216 career goals. Rosa earned honorable mention All-American recognition from the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches as a junior and became a Second Team All-American as a senior—the only Midwest Region player to do so. She was also named to the 2006 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America College Division At-Large Team. "As exciting as all of the wins, goals, and successes were, what I learned to cherish and enjoy was building relationships with the teammates and learning how to work together regardless of strengths and personalities," she said.



Songs in Flight

The new song cycle from GRAMMY-nominated Professor of Music Dr. Shawn Okpebholo

Words
Delaney Young '20

Photo
Kayla Smith

As a composer, Professor of Music (Composition, Music Theory) Dr. Shawn Okpebholo possesses a remarkable gift for framing heavy themes with delicacy and beauty. His approach to composition is distinct: complex and classically informed, but fresh and alive with spiritual, historical, and ethnomusical intuition. This is particularly true of his recent composition *Songs in Flight*, which premiered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in January and came to Wheaton's campus this spring. It's a song cycle—a collection of poetry set to music—inspired by Cornell's "Freedom on the Move" archive, a database of over 3,000 advertisements from 17th–19th-century American newspapers for missing runaway slaves.

This project was conceived in partnership with Martha Guth of Sparks and Wiry Cries, but when Guth first pitched the idea to Okpebholo, he wasn't sure he'd say yes. "I had to get back to her because I had just done several works that dealt with black pain and tragedies, and I wasn't sure I could do a piece about slavery," he said. Her request came on the heels of his release of GRAMMY®-nominated album *Lord, How Come Me Here?*, a breathtakingly beautiful yet somber collection of reimagined Negro spirituals.

Despite his hesitation, a voice from within convinced him to say

yes to Guth's proposition. "And I'm so glad," he said. "This was one of the most rewarding artistic experiences of my life because it was so collaborative." Indeed, the project's collaborators are noteworthy, like the Pulitzer Prize-winning Rhiannon Giddens; internationally acclaimed artists Karen Slack, Reginald Mobley, Markel Reed, and Paul Sanchez; and renowned poet Tsitsi Jaji.

With Giddens crooning over a lightly picked banjo, the performance begins as a modest affair, until the piano floats in underneath Giddens' deep vibrato with haunting, slow pulses of low-end chords. Together, Giddens' soaring vocals and the piano's dissonant march draw the audience in. The eschatological lyrics and bright chords of an old African American spiritual juxtapose with the eerie, dark urgency of Okpebholo's melody and accompaniment. From the very first minute, *Songs in Flight* accomplishes what Okpebholo intended: It makes the abstract personal, and it reminds the listener that history is true.

"I hope listeners experience the profound impact that American slavery still has on our world today," said Okpebholo. "One of the most powerful elements of this song cycle is that it humanizes people. These were real people who were enslaved, and we kind of just forget that as a society. They were made in the image of God." ●

Left: Pulitzer Prize-winning musician Rhiannon Giddens opens *Songs in Flight*, performed in the Armerding Concert Hall.

Celebrating Faculty Legacy

In February, the Board of Trustees approved the following faculty members for promotion, tenure, or emeritus status. Five emeriti have left a profound impact on students, staff, alumni, friends of the College, and their peers throughout their many combined decades of service.

EMERITUS (PAGE 17)

Dr. Paul Isihara, *Professor of Mathematics Emeritus*
Dr. Kathleen S. Kastner '71, *Professor of Music (Percussion) Emerita*
Dr. Christina Bieber Lake, *Professor of English Emerita*
Dr. Tony L. Payne '79, *Associate Professor of Music Emeritus*
Dr. Nadine C. Folino Rorem, *Professor of Biology Emerita*

TENURE

Dr. Soh-Hyun Park Altino, *Associate Professor of Music*
Dr. Hyunju Kim, *Associate Professor of Computer Science*
Dr. Jordan Ryan, *Associate Professor of New Testament*

PROMOTION FROM ASSOCIATE LECTURER TO SENIOR LECTURER

Dr. James Gordon Ph.D. '15, *Senior Lecturer in Philosophy*
Professor Daniel Haase '98, M.A. '02, *Senior Lecturer in Christian Formation and Ministry*

PROMOTION FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

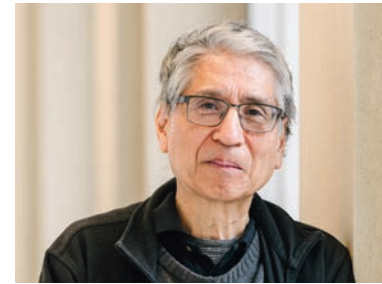
Mr. Joshua Avery, *Associate Professor of Library Science*
Dr. Francisco Xavier Beteta, *Associate Professor of Music*
Dr. Danielle Corple, *Associate Professor of Communication*
Ms. Megan Ruenz, *Associate Professor of Library Science*

PROMOTION FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TENURE

Dr. Olga Dietlin, *Associate Professor of Higher Education and Student Development*
Dr. Kristin Garrett '07, *Associate Professor of Political Science*
Dr. Benjamin Weber, *Associate Professor of English*

PROMOTION FROM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO PROFESSOR

Dr. Raymond Lewis, *Professor of Biology*
Dr. Bryan McGraw, *Professor of Politics*
Dr. Jennifer Powell McNutt, *Franklin S. Dyrness Professor in Biblical and Theological Studies*
Dr. Adam Miglio M.A. '01, *Professor of Archaeology and Old Testament*
Dr. Carlos Sosa Siliezar, *Professor of New Testament*
Dr. Thomas VanDrunen, *Professor of Computer Science*
Dr. David Van Dyke '91, *Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy*
Dr. Peter Walhout '91, *Professor of Chemistry*
Dr. Adam Wood '04, *Professor of Philosophy*



Dr. Paul Isihara

*Professor of Mathematics Emeritus
(37 years of service, 1987–2024)*

While at Wheaton, Dr. Paul Isihara taught mathematics at multiple levels and facilitated undergraduate research in fields including dynamical systems in epidemiology and urban data analysis with Wheaton in Chicago. Among his colleagues and students, Isihara is known for his passion for humanitarian work and ministry. He helped develop an engineering college in Tigray, Ethiopia, and he continues to support humanitarian work and missions in that region. *Photo by Tony Hughes.*



Dr. Kathleen S. Kastner '71

*Professor of Music (Percussion)
Emerita*

(52 years of service, 1972–2024)

Dr. Kathleen Kastner, Wheaton's first resident percussion faculty member, founded the Percussion Ensemble in the fall of 1972 and has served in numerous roles for the Percussive Arts Society, including as the Illinois State Chapter President. Kastner received the Senior Teaching Award from Wheaton College in 2011, and the Wheaton College Alumni Association named her the 2017 Alumna of the Year for Distinguished Service to Alma Mater. *Photo by Kayla Smith.*



Dr. Christina Bieber Lake

Professor of English

(25 years of service, 1999–2024)

A Flannery O'Connor scholar with an interest in Cormac McCarthy, Dr. Christina Bieber Lake's areas of expertise include contemporary American literature, Southern literature, African American literature, literary theory, and posthumanism. She is the author of four books, including *Beyond the Story: American Literary Fiction and the Limits of Materialism* (University of Notre Dame, 2019) and *The Flourishing Teacher: Vocational Renewal for a Sacred Profession* (IVP, 2020). *Photo by Kayla Smith.*



Dr. Tony L. Payne '79

*Associate Professor of Music Emeritus
(41 years of service, 1983–2024)*

Shortly after receiving his doctorate from Northwestern University, Dr. Tony Payne came to the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where he served in multiple roles throughout his tenure. He acted as general manager of the Wheaton College Artist Series in addition to his roles as professor and director of arts event management. He has composed over 100 hymns for worship and maintains an active performing career playing the piano and organ for local churches. *Photo by Kayla Smith.*



Dr. Nadine C. Folino Rorem

*Professor of Biology Emerita
(31 years of service, 1993–2024)*

A marine biologist by training, Dr. Nadine Folino Rorem brought her unique interests to the Wheaton classroom despite there being a lack of marine life in Chicagoland. Her expertise in invertebrates, particularly in the hydroid *Cordylophora*, opened doors for her students to work alongside her in a variety of research opportunities. She is also known for her avid interest in exploring God's creation outside the classroom, whether through biking, gardening, or SCUBA diving. *Photo by Kayla Smith.*

Abbie Strack '24

Undergraduate Student

From golf launchers to a community that makes space for everyone, Abbie Strack '24 loves to design and build things.

An applied physics major, Strack has wholeheartedly invested in the department. For two years, she joined the LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) project to help create 3D archaeological mapping for Wheaton's dig site in Israel. Last year, she worked with Assistant Professor of Engineering Dr. Kelly Vazquez in data processing and analysis on diabetes cells. And this year, she's on the cabinet for the Society of Physics Students.

Through these experiences, Strack has explored a wide variety of fields and roles, playing a part in archaeological innovation, pursuing cures in medical physics, and leading and mentoring her peers. Yet in a community of driven students, Strack is unassuming and warm, passionate yet modest about her accomplishments.

With this attitude, she engages other students who aren't sure of their place on campus. Strack moved from Japan to the United States at age 16, but she didn't attend international orientation when she arrived at Wheaton. She wasn't sure where she fit in. During her sophomore year, she joined MuKappa, a club that creates community among students experiencing cross-cultural transitions. Since then, she's been able to "draw students in when they're uncertain where exactly they fit at the start."

This opportunity gave her a broader vision for helping the pieces of a community work together. "I got to build good relationships with my cabinet and meet new people, but I also definitely saw the grand scheme of big events," Strack said. "You can see as someone hosting that there are people who are doing fairly well socially, but there are also a lot of people who are shy." Now, she looks out for ways to provide additional

support to fellow students as they find their way at Wheaton.

Whether working with professors, mentoring freshmen, or developing a female physics and engineering circle, Strack has discovered a deep value for relying on those around her. By zooming in on the microscopic details and stepping back to envision a flourishing community, she's contributed to her field and relationships. Slowly but surely, she builds the things that matter by being open to exploration and connection. ●

Words
Kailin Richardson '20

Photo
Tony Hughes



Allan Wiltshire II M.A. '24

Graduate Student

Allan Wiltshire II M.A. '24, was born in Washington, D.C., to parents who instilled in him a love of three things: Jesus, ministry, and music. Raised in the Salvation Army, in which his parents were pioneers (having built two of the largest Black Salvation Army churches in the South), he grew up learning music and encountering the realities of inner-city life in the mid 1960s and '70s. For many years, music was a powerful way of ministering to hurting people with the gospel.

Wiltshire's love of music never waned, but it did evolve. He went from primarily British brass band music to performing jazz and Black Gospel music at his father's church. He attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston, then returned to Washington to continue his studies at Howard University on a scholarship. By his late teens and early 20s, he was touring different Salvation Army churches around the country

and had opportunities to travel overseas with his music ministry.

Over the years, Wiltshire served as a musician in multiple congregations and contexts. Although he started playing music in Salvation Army churches, he ultimately moved to larger megachurch congregations. There, he experienced a shift in vision that involved moving beyond music into a more globally minded, pastoral, multiethnic type of ministry. Not only did he want to sing, but he also felt called to pastor.

While pursuing this vision, Wiltshire discovered the Mosaix Multiethnic Church Institute, headed by Dr. Mark DeYmaz. In partnership with the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center, the institute strives to "help ministry leaders build healthy multiethnic and economically diverse, culturally intelligent, biblically just, and financially sustainable churches to glorify God."

"I was really taken by DeYmaz's teaching and thought leadership on

the multiethnic church movement," said Wiltshire. "When I learned there was a degree program from Wheaton that was a Mosaix partnership, it was a no-brainer for me. I signed up."

Wiltshire sees the M.A. in Leadership as a pivotal moment in his already illustrious life and career. Although he doesn't want to abandon music ministry, God is calling him to expand his focus. His longstanding passion for the global church compels him to look for ways to minister and serve as a pastor in addition to his artistry. Everything from jazz and gospel music to ministry in Washington and a master's in leadership has shaped and prepared him for whatever comes next. ●

Words
Peter Biles '20

Photo
Kayla Smith



Dr. Kathryn Maneiro

Assistant Professor of Geology

Dr. Kathryn Maneiro, Assistant Professor of Geology, leaned over like she had a secret. “On my desk right now is potentially the oldest garnet in the world,” she said.

She took it out of its package, turning it gently to point out the reddish marks in the stone. She said garnets can grow in layers, like trees, that can be dated individually. There was joy in her face as she explained the methods she uses in her research, and that she hopes to conclusively determine the garnet’s age soon.

Maneiro is a geochronologist with a host of stellar research accomplishments. One of her research areas focuses on a metamorphic garnet that grows in layers over time in some of the earth’s oldest rocks. She uses tools like a modified dental drill, strong acids, and a mass spectrometer, which requires an enormous amount of patience. With this method, she is discovering

new information about early tectonic plates and other fundamental scientific questions. She also used it to date the second-oldest known garnet in the world.

When asked what she loves most about geology, Maneiro took a moment to consider. “I think my answer has changed,” she said. She painted a picture of herself entering college and intending to teach high school biology. Instead, she found herself falling in love with geology. She completed college with an unplanned double major and went on to obtain her Ph.D. in the field.

When she was younger, the field trips were the best part of geology—the travel, diversity of nature, and beauty of rock formations that reflected God’s divinity. Now, she says her greatest joy is watching students discover it for themselves, helping them as they challenge the assumptions they’ve made about the intersection of religion and science.

“I love my research,” she said. “But I love teaching more.”

Maneiro’s layers run deep, like the garnets she studies. Among her multifaceted identity markers, she is an avid traveler with her husband, a survivor of an extremely rare form of leukemia, and passionate about sustainability (which includes serving as theme coordinator for Wheaton’s Aequitas Fellows Program in Sustainability). But one thing remains constant: Through all her experiences, she has built a life of learning about what she loves. ●

Words
Cassidy Keenan ’21

Photo
Tony Hughes



Brent Etzel

Dean of Library and Archives

For Brent Etzel, Wheaton College's Dean of Library and Archives, his love of research and learning was evident at a young age. In college, he would nearly forget to go to class because, "I was in the library working on research projects I was interested in, not for assignments," Etzel said.

Etzel's career as an academic librarian has been devoted to making libraries accessible to scholars and empowering students for success. With his experience as a library administrator, he's uniquely equipped to cast a vision for Wheaton's libraries as an inviting hub for leveraging accessible resources and modern technology.

There's much that Etzel is excited about—not just the world's largest evangelical archive library in Billy Graham Hall, but also "some of the highest circulation figures for our print resources among liberal arts colleges." Etzel also values Wheaton's commitments to Christian truth and

preparing students for their vocations with enriching resources.

"We're preparing future business people, educators, and health professionals to discern and find trustworthy sources," he said. "So much of what is necessary for success comes from learning library resources and research skills."

Etzel's dreams for an ideal campus library span everything from technology—like the possibility of integrating multimedia labs, production centers, and accessibility resources—to the physical space. "Students want to study in a place that's beautiful," he said, where they can fully enjoy the beauty of the campus and have flexible space for collaborative projects. "Pedagogy for the 21st century involves a lot of group study and hands-on activities. We need places where people can gather—to share ideas and create together."

Not only is Etzel an advocate for this vision, but he also models

scholarship and service. When he's not working on his Ph.D., he enjoys studying foreign languages, researching Eastern Europe, and volunteering at the library of an evangelical seminary in Croatia.

He also loves walking by the Wheaton College Library's lunch area to engage with students. "I'll hear conversations about the nature of God and beauty and truth," he said. "To know some of these students will be impactful leaders—it's a blessing to nurture great scholars in this place of ideas." ●

Words
Joshua Little '12

Photo
Tony Hughes



Features

55 Years of the Faculty Faith and Learning Seminar

Commemorating Wheaton College's Historical Commitment to Academic and Spiritual Excellence

Words: Liuan Huska '09
Photo: Kayla Smith

Monday, July 21, 1969. While the world was abuzz with watching the first human walk on the moon just hours earlier, another momentous endeavor launched in a Fischer Hall meeting room. Nine faculty members, from soccer coach Joseph Bean to art professor Miriam Hunter, gathered to put their faith in conversation with their respective disciplines. There was, in the words of participant and Professor of English Emeritus Dr. Leland Ryken HON, “an awe-inspiring sense of the tremendous importance of what we were doing.” The month-long seminar kicked off 55 years of the Faculty Faith and Learning Seminar, which continues to define Wheaton’s identity to this day.

Today, all tenure-track junior faculty receive a course release in their second year to join a cohort of professors across disciplines in a yearlong seminar integrating their field of study with a biblical understanding of God’s world. To qualify for tenure, each professor must submit a paper or project that articulates a Christ-centered approach to their field. “Simply put, the integration of faith and learning means ‘thinking Christianly’ about everything,” writes President Philip Ryken ’88 in a chapter from the forthcoming volume *Habits of Hope: Seven Educational Practices for a Weary World* (IVP, 2024).

The faith and learning framework is now baked into all aspects of the College, from hiring practices to professor evaluations to the Christ at the Core curriculum. It informs how professors teach and how students and faculty members engage across disciplines. Wheaton has become a model for how to integrate faith and learning well for other Christian colleges and universities.

“It’s not too strong to say that it’s a key reason why Wheaton exists,” said Dr. Timothy Larsen ’89, M.A. ’90, current director of the Faith and Learning Program. “It is very difficult and rare and precious to bring together experts who also really believe the gospel and are really committed to being faithful to Jesus Christ to mentor, disciple, and form students so they can be whole persons in their disciplines.”

EARLY INFLUENCERS OF FAITH AND LEARNING AT WHEATON

When Dr. Carl F. H. Henry ’38, M.A. ’41, started his undergraduate career at Wheaton, a new evangelicalism was gaining momentum in response to the fundamentalism pervading the 1920s and ’30s, which saw everything



intellectual as a threat to biblical faith. Henry's work, including the 1946 book *Remaking the Modern Mind* (Eerdmans), became foundational reading for others who shaped the faith and learning conversation, including former seminar director Dr. Arthur Holmes '50, M.A. '52, and Dr. Mark Noll '68, who mentored many Wheaton faculty at this intersection.

Henry's mentor, Frank Gaebelein HON, became the first director of Wheaton's Faith and Learning Seminar, which President Hudson Armerding initiated in 1969. Gaebelein was headmaster of the Christian college-preparatory Stony Brook School on Long Island in New York. He co-edited *Christianity Today* with Henry in the 1960s and wrote *The Pattern of God's Truth: Problems of Integration in Christian Education* (Oxford University, 1954). Greg Morrison '87, Associate Professor of Library Science, documented this early history in an online library guide that came out of his own faculty faith and learning project.

During that 1969 summer seminar, Gaebelein brought in leading Christian thinkers, such as Clark H. Pinnock and Calvin Seerveld. He also assigned readings like *The God Who is There* by Francis Schaeffer (IVP, 1968) and *Christian Letters to a Post-Christian World* by Dorothy Sayers (Eerdmans, 1969). Faculty met for lectures and discussion during the day and spent afternoons researching and writing their own faith and learning papers.

For Leland Ryken, the seminar forced him to "put it all together" in regard to faith and learning. "I took the assignment of my paper very seriously, and it laid the life-long foundation of my philosophy and methodology for how to integrate the study of literature with the Christian faith," Ryken said. Ryken's 65 books, including *How to Read the Bible as Literature* (Zondervan, 1984), represent applications of the principles he codified in his original paper.

FAITH AND LEARNING EXPANDS AT WHEATON AND BEYOND

Holmes took over the Faculty Faith and Learning Seminar in 1974, directing the program for nearly two decades while teaching philosophy at Wheaton. His book *The Idea of a Christian College* (Eerdmans, 1975) has been widely read by members of the Christian College Consortium and later the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. The title of Holmes' book *All Truth is God's Truth* (Eerdmans, 1977) echoed through classrooms and conversations on campus. The book even made its way into the hands of Provost Emeritus Stanton Jones, who at the time had never heard of Wheaton College. "Where does this guy teach?" Jones wanted to know.

When Jones joined the faculty in 1981, participation in the seminar was advised but not required. Jones himself didn't participate, having just finished a doctorate program and struggling to keep afloat with finances and

workload. However, he was informally mentored by philosophy professor Dr. C. Stephen Evans '69.

"The more I talked to other faculty, the more I realized the integration of faith and learning was kind of uneven—how deeply committed they were, how they understood it," said Jones. He thought, "We really need to make something more rigorous."

Jones got his chance when he became provost in 1996. Jones and a team of others including Holmes, Noll, and Dr. Roger Lundin '77 raised \$2 million for an endowment and \$2 million for expanding the Faculty Faith and Learning Seminar into a full-fledged program, which began in 1997. Key to the new program was a reduced course load for faculty to participate in the yearlong seminar during their second teaching year.

"I'm super grateful that Wheaton found funding for this," said Larsen, who also serves as Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought and Professor of History. "I see that as a stress point for so many colleges, where there is the temptation to add more unpaid duties to their faculty." The institutional financial backing allows faculty to take time to truly integrate biblical beliefs with their studies, said Larsen, which speaks volumes about Wheaton's priorities. Quoting Luke 12:34 (NIV), he added, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jones and his team designed a yearlong seminar curriculum piecing together what they deemed the best resources available, though nothing was exactly like what they had in mind. "You always understand the world through a grid of belief," Jones said. "Sometimes those beliefs get pushed and shaped, but you organize the world differently depending on how you look at it." For Jones, integrating faith and learning at Wheaton is about how our fundamental grid needs to be shaped by Christian beliefs.

Jones frequently shared the seminar curriculum with other Christian colleges and universities, which Larsen continues to do today. "It was really a delight to see the Wheaton model spreading and morphing in other schools," Jones said.

A TWO-WAY DIALOGUE

Dr. Kristen Page, Ruth Kraft Strohschein Distinguished Chair and Professor of Biology, said she arrived at Wheaton in 2000 with very little understanding of faith and learning integration. Trained at Purdue University, a public land-grant school, she knew how to ask questions and design research as a biologist. During the Faith and Learning Seminar, in a cohort with many new Bible and theology professors, she understood that everything she did had to be "flavored" by her faith but wondered, "How does a scientist do this?"

"I was clueless when I came to Wheaton," Page said. During the interview process, however, she was drawn to the campus because of the students. "They were just so genuine, curious, smart, and asked really good questions."

"It is very difficult and rare and precious to bring together experts who also really believe the gospel and are really committed to being faithful to Jesus Christ to mentor, disciple, and form students so they can be whole persons in their disciplines."

Although she couldn't articulate it then, this quality that pervaded campus had to do with Wheaton's faith and learning commitment. "The reason for their curiosity was their faith," Page said.

Through the seminar and her subsequent faith and learning paper, Page realized that though her commitment to Christ wouldn't change her research methods, it did drive what questions she asked. "I'm a disease ecologist because I really, really care about the intersection of how we treat God's creation and how it often causes our neighbors to suffer," Page said. Her faith and learning paper used case studies that connected ecosystem degradation with disease spread, arguing that we perpetuate the suffering of our neighbors when we perpetuate the suffering of creation.

Page's paper became courses she now teaches—Global Health and Ecosystem Health. It was also the foundation for her Hansen Lectureship series, "Creation's Call: Stewardship Lessons from Middle-earth and Narnia," later published as *The Wonders of Creation* (IVP, 2022). The book discusses how spending time in fictional landscapes can expand our propensity to love the natural world. Exploring ecology through a faith lens is an ongoing journey for Page. "I still have lots of room to grow," she said.

While the Faculty Faith and Learning Program helped Page integrate Christian faith with her discipline, faculty

in the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies are pushed to integrate in the opposite direction, adding the perspectives of other disciplines to their studies.

Associate Professor of Theology and Urban Studies Dr. Gregory Lee started teaching theology at Wheaton in 2011 as an Augustine scholar. For his faith and learning project, he chose to explore how Augustine's understanding of sin speaks to questions of individual and collective responsibility related to mass incarceration, which disproportionately affects black men and other minority groups.

"I never really thought of myself as being involved in scholarship on race or ethics in general," Lee said. "There's no way I would have written on this topic if it weren't for the faith and learning paper requirement." Lee's paper was later published in the prestigious *Journal of Religion*. He now works at the intersection of early Christian studies, Augustine, and race and urban issues.

Lee credits his growth as a scholar and educator to Wheaton's emphasis on the integration of faith and learning. "Every faculty person outside my field is required to engage with Bible and theology," he said. "All these faculty are available for me to draw on as a theologian to think in an integrated way about social issues on the ground. This has made my theology much less abstract and theoretical—more tethered to grassroots concerns of actual communities."

“All these faculty are available for me to draw on as a theologian to think in an integrated way about social issues on the ground. This has made my theology much less abstract and theoretical—more tethered to grassroots concerns of actual communities.”

This two-way dialogue was Jones' hope all along. “It's not a one-way street,” he said. “I look at research through the grid of faith, but I also have that feedback challenge my interpretation of Scripture. The dialogic process is really important.”

THE FUTURE OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Wheaton's Faculty Faith and Learning Program has grown and changed with new faculty and directors. Dr. Gary Larson M.A. '83 led the seminar when it became a requirement for tenure-track faculty, followed by Jacobs and Lundin.

Jacobs, currently the chair of Christian Thought at Baylor University, started teaching English at Wheaton in 1984 with very little theological education. His own experience with faith and learning as a junior faculty member was piecemeal: The seminar then was a one-week summer event with Holmes. Jacobs wasn't prepared for the questions students would ask, so he often sought help from senior faculty like Dr. Robert Webber, Lundin, and Noll.

“If you're a young faculty member, it relieves you of the pressure of having to find and approach colleagues,” said Jacobs, describing one benefit of the program in its current form. “The theological education comes to you.” When Wheaton began the current one-year format with a course reduction for participating faculty, this was, as far as Jacobs could tell, “something far beyond what any other Christian college did. Few others would have had the commitment to faith and learning integration, and still fewer would have the financial resources.”

While he was director, Jacobs oversaw the first faculty faith and learning project that wasn't a paper. Professor of Communication Mark Lewis, who also directs the theater program at Wheaton, submitted a video of a live Shakespeare performance supplemented by interviews with theater graduates working professionally, telling a story of how their faith connected with their love of theater. Lewis was worried that his project wouldn't be considered legitimate compared to the traditional paper, but wanted to convey his synthesis of faith and learning in the medium of his discipline—performance. Lewis' project was accepted and he received tenure, which he considers a miracle. “For Wheaton to open its mind to the idea that this is actually scholarship felt to me like Wheaton opening the door and saying, ‘You belong here, too,’” Lewis said.

Since then, other faculty have submitted creative faith and learning projects. Professor of Music (Composition, Music Theory) Dr. Shawn Okpebholo composed a flute solo responding to a poem by Associate Professor of English Dr. Miho Nonaka, who was in the same seminar cohort. “On a Poem by Miho Nonaka: Harvard Square” has become one of Okpebholo's most-performed pieces worldwide. The two colleagues collaborated again when Lundin passed away within days of another English professor, Dr.

Brett Foster. Nonaka penned a poem in memory of Lundin, which Okpebholo responded to through a musical composition. Both pieces were presented at a 2015 concert in honor of Lundin and Foster. “That evening was a moment of rising,” Nonaka said. “It expanded our horizon of what could be achieved when different artists come together.”

The seminar was one of Okpebholo's favorite experiences at Wheaton. “I was talking about core issues with poets, theologians, scientists, psychologists, and economists,” he said. “I'm not just around musicians, and that makes me a better composer.”

Besides the second-year required seminar, Wheaton's Faculty Faith and Learning Program has supported other advanced and supplemental seminars, such as Noll's seminar on Christology and scholarship, which led to his book *Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind* (Eerdmans, 2013). Lewis led a seminar for faculty using theater exercises to explore the theme of mentorship. “Working with Mark Lewis really was, without exaggeration, a life-changing experience,” said Professor of Anthropology Dr. Brian Howell. “I'm much more aware of the ways my students need connection—with each other, with God, with the material we engage in class—and use theater games as a means of getting them ‘into the room.’”

Larsen emphasizes that the faculty seminars have become less theoretical and more pedagogical over the years. “It's becoming much more about, ‘How do I embody this? How do I live it out? How do I reflect this in the classroom?’” Larsen said.

As the College has hired more international faculty, the dynamics of the conversation have also changed. “The default was reading a lot of authors who came from similar backgrounds,” Larsen said. But now, faculty are earnestly asking, “What does it mean that Christianity is global? That we're serving a global church?”

As Wheaton's Faculty Faith and Learning Program continues, President Ryken sees its importance for this life and beyond. “In some mysterious, beautiful way, the things we learn and experience on earth are integral to our destiny,” he writes in his forthcoming chapter in *Habits of Hope*, referencing themes from Marilynne Robinson's novel *Gilead*. “Christian education will find its grandest fulfillment in the life to come, when our highest hopes for the integration of faith and learning will prove to be eternal.” ●



Beyond Blanchard

*Wheaton Professors Explore Calling
in Academia, the Church, and the
College's Global Community*

Words

Bethany Peterson Lockett '20

Photos

Tony Hughes and Kayla Smith

Traditionally, large universities emphasize publishing and research output for their faculty, while small liberal arts colleges tend to focus more on the classroom learning experience. Yet since its founding, Wheaton College's professors have been motivated by their faith to propel their fields forward within and beyond the classroom doors.

BRINGING A HISTORY OF SUCCESS TO WHEATON COLLEGE

Professor of History Dr. Tracy McKenzie had his dream job. As a tenured professor for the University of Washington's highly respected history department, he was writing books and articles while serving as an endowed chair. But he began to feel a pull toward something different.

"I actually began to feel considerably unfulfilled," McKenzie said. "Over time, I felt more and more of a desire, a sense of calling, to produce scholarship for the church." And not only for the Christian leaders, pastors, and scholars, but also for the "folks in the pews."

In the 14 years since McKenzie accepted a position at Wheaton, where he holds the Arthur F. Holmes Chair of Faith and Learning, he's lost none of his commitment to great research and scholarship. But he's gained the ability to explore with students and colleagues "what it means to bring Christian values like love and humility into the way we engage the subject."

"Every day that I'm teaching, I feel like I'm also sharpening my own understanding of my calling," said McKenzie. "I don't have to live a divided life. I get to bring all of me into the classroom and my relationships with students every day, and that's not something I take for granted at all."

BUILDING UNITY

Due to Wheaton's position as a nondenominational Christian liberal arts college, its academic faculty hail from various backgrounds, countries, and disciplines. Many professors find the variety of Christian faith to be an opportunity to overcome traditional divisions and speak to the unity of the global church.

This work may be especially relevant for what Dr. John Dickson calls "post-Christian America." As an Australian citizen, Dickson has lived and worked his entire career in a post-Christian environment where populations are statistically less likely to have a religious affiliation. He loves to explore how we can reach these places "thoughtfully, generously, yet with conviction and truth."

After more than two decades of teaching at large, public universities in Sydney, Australia, he can now combine his careers as a musician, historian, pastor, and documentarian into one role as the Wheaton College Graduate School's Jean Kvamme Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies and Public Christianity.



Page 34: Dr. John Dickson recording an episode of *Undeceptions*.

Above, from left to right: Dr. Paul Isihara with a copy of the Tigrinya Bible, translation work that was supported by the Timothy Project; Dr. Dana Townsend with students in the anatomy lab.

"It's a joy that the job here at Wheaton doesn't limit me to doing one thing," he said.

In most larger universities, specializing is expected, but a Christian liberal arts environment allows for increased integration and cross-disciplinary research, especially when it comes to faculty exploring their faith in their work. Dickson currently combines his multiple disciplines into one unique project: resurrecting the world's oldest known hymn. Collaborating with two Christian artists—Ben Fielding and Chris Tomlin—Dickson is producing a documentary on a fragment of an ancient Christian hymn that was discovered in Egypt and transforming the music into a modern praise and worship song for today's churches.

Beyond the ancient song's musical value, Dickson sees the hymn's renewal as a historical contribution. "The song predates all modern denominations, so this represents a kind of fundamental unity," Dickson said. Years before the Council of Nicaea established basic Christian doctrine, this ancient



hymn "praised the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That's what makes it so relevant to our modern church—our belief in the Father, Son, and Spirit, the giver of all good gifts."

Dickson also hosts the *Undeceptions* podcast, exploring questions about religious beliefs with an atypical audience: He speaks directly to nonbelievers.

"I just think it's possible to present classical Christian ideas in a way that leaves people thinking, 'Even though I don't agree with you Christians, you're not as dumb or mean as I thought,'" Dickson said. "And hopefully, the podcast leaves people wanting to have a second look at the Christian faith."

Guest Lecturer (Composition, Music Theory) Dr. Misook Kim, a professional composer alongside her teaching commitments, also explores divisions and unity through unexpected channels.

When we think of an opera, imagining lavish stages, elegant clothing, and the Italian language is simple. However, one may not picture an airport waiting room, customs officers, and a combination of English, Spanish, and Korean. The latter are all features of Kim's operatic scene, which is part of a grant-funded project supported by the University of the Incarnate in San Antonio, Texas.

Kim, who has taught at Wheaton since 2006, envisioned the scene as a celebration of "the beauty of diversity,

culturally and artistically." As a composer from South Korea, she has witnessed divisions in the global church, including political and linguistic barriers. Her operatic collaboration with extensively published poet and Wheaton College Provost Karen An-hwei Lee shares the frustration of people who cannot communicate but "are trying to use one language, which is that of the children of God with the grace of God."

Kim sees musical education as a path toward unity for the global church because she believes it can break down walls like nothing else.

"Music is a very powerful force," Kim said. "It is a great source for communicating with each other whether we understand the language or not. Sometimes it does not matter, because music touches our hearts."

REDEFINING SCHOLARSHIP

Professor of Mathematics Dr. Paul Isihara is retiring from Wheaton after 37 years. One would never guess that in his first year of college, he gave up on mathematics and dropped out.

As the son of a leading physicist, Isihara once believed that the only path to success was to study a discipline at its highest level, chasing award-winning research and



From left to right: Dr. Misook Kim in the Amerding Recital Hall, Dr. Tracy McKenzie teaches a 300-level class on the American Civil War.

academic acclaim. But as a first-semester college student at Princeton University, he was unprepared for the rigor of his highly abstract math classes. Although he dropped out the next semester, he had become a Christian and experienced the joy of serving with an inner-city ministry in Buffalo, New York. He eventually found a new calling to connect his talent for mathematics and his passion for ministry.

“Every academic discipline is worthwhile for a Christian to pursue, and there are ways to directly or indirectly integrate those with our faith, including math,” Isihara said. “But for me, the idea of math being used for humanitarian purposes is one explicit way to connect the two.”

At Wheaton, Isihara dedicated his math research to mission and society, even teaching a popular course on that same topic. He worked with the Wheaton in Chicago program by providing data support for violence reduction and housing equity programs. He also serves as chair of the board for the Timothy Project, a nonprofit organization founded by Wheaton coach Don “Bubba” Church ’57 in 1985. In this role, Isihara uses data to identify the greatest needs of internationally displaced persons (IDP) from the civil war in Tigray, Ethiopia, and shares creative problem-solving ideas with aid organizations.

“We don’t have to be doing what other mathematicians in the world are doing,” Isihara said. “God could have given us something a little different to do.”

The value of blending disciplines is also true for Dr. Mandy Kellums Baraka M.A. ’13, Associate Professor of Counseling, who recently earned her credential as a registered play therapist. Play therapy is a research-informed, developmentally sensitive modality that focuses on helping children communicate with others and heal in spaces that feel comfortable to them (as opposed to talk therapy with adults).

“We know that children aren’t going to enter counseling using words in the same way that adults are,” Baraka said. “As we think about the therapeutic process of play, it gives access to children using toys as their words and play as the language of communication.”

Since Baraka started teaching at Wheaton in 2021, she’s continued to serve the City of Chicago by seeing clients in a clinical practice once a week. Her practical knowledge and access to new insights in the field also benefit her students as they launch their own clinical careers.

Associate Professor of Music (Musicology) Dr. Johann Buis is another Wheaton faculty member expanding how and why research is conducted in his field. Like many music history scholars, Buis began his career by studying early European music from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. “You had to study Western music to validate yourself,” he said. Then he discovered ethnomusicology, a form of cultural anthropology that asks questions about music and



From left to right: Dr. Johann Buis shares an Ethiopian krar (or East African lyre); Dr. Mandy Kellums Baraka M.A. '13 in her office; Dr. Theon Hill teaches a communication class.

society. “European musical research had a long tradition—and with many, many, many scholars—but the music of the African people was in need of a lot of groundbreaking work,” he said. As a South African citizen, “It felt like coming home.”

Buis, who has worked at Wheaton for 20 years, recently traveled to one of the world’s most remote places—rural western Tanzania—as a Fulbright Scholar. Although this region is usually overlooked, it is the epicenter of a previously undocumented form of indigenous music and dance, utilizing a combination of a three-legged stool and clay pot as common kitchen items.

“I call it finding a titanic in Africa,” Buis said. “It was out of sight for so many scholars.” He hopes he can bring visibility and recognition to “what the local people see as part and parcel of their festivities. It is really a phenomenon that is one-of-a-kind in the world.”

CHANGING CULTURE

While some students graduate from Wheaton to pursue full-time ministry, many embark on what they may view as “secular” professions in the workplace. Paraphrasing 1 Corinthians 10:31, Dr. Theon Hill explains, “If we take the

biblical mandate of ‘whatever we do, do all for the glory of God,’ that means we need a biblical account of how we inhabit the workplace as faithful believers.”

Hill has taught in the communication department at Wheaton since 2014 and serves as the codirector of the Center for Faith and Innovation (CFI). Founded by Dr. Hannah Stolze M.A. '19, CFI is designed to encourage and support Christian leaders in the marketplace. The team works to develop Wheaton students as the next generation of leaders, but they also reach a broader network of alumni and other Christian executives through workshops, webinars, and conferences.

“Many students have been raised to almost look down on business as being not as missional,” said Hill. “As they come through our program, they realize, ‘Wait a second. God can actually work through me in the world of business in similarly important ways to a pastor or missionary.’ You see this spark of inspiration that God can use their unique gifting to advance the kingdom of God.”

MAKING DISCIPLES

First and foremost, Wheaton professors are educators. The small class sizes make it possible for faculty to have a real investment in their students, both academically and personally. For example, Isihara made it his goal to invite undergraduate students to research projects and even publish papers with him.

“I find it very rewarding to be able to work collaboratively with students,” Isihara said, adding that students often have perspectives and ideas that benefit him greatly. He even involved his capstone class with his IDP work in Ethiopia, putting their learning to the test in a crucial real-life situation.

Similarly, Baraka views her classes as a chance to be co-creators with the undergraduate and graduate students who walk through her door.

“We are so often learning together as a parallel to what occurs in the counseling office,” she said.

At Wheaton, students and professors can also grow in their faith together. Sometimes, the most valuable thing a professor can bring to the classroom is his or her life experience as a Christian. When Associate Professor of Biological and Health Science Dr. Dana Townsend arrived at Wheaton 12 years ago, it was her first time on the faculty of a Christian school. Previously, she taught anatomy and physiology at a large state school for 30 years. The first time her Wheaton science colleagues prayed with her, Townsend wept for joy. On her first day of teaching classes, she wondered aloud how she would adjust to a new school. After the lesson, a third of her class approached her with encouraging words. It was incredible to her to be “part of a community that would teach me, by having a great cloud of witnesses, how to be Christian in my workplace.”

Gradually, Townsend felt that God was working in her to be a witness for her students, too. She chose to be

vulnerable to her classes about what God was teaching her and to share about her own journey to strengthen and encourage her students.

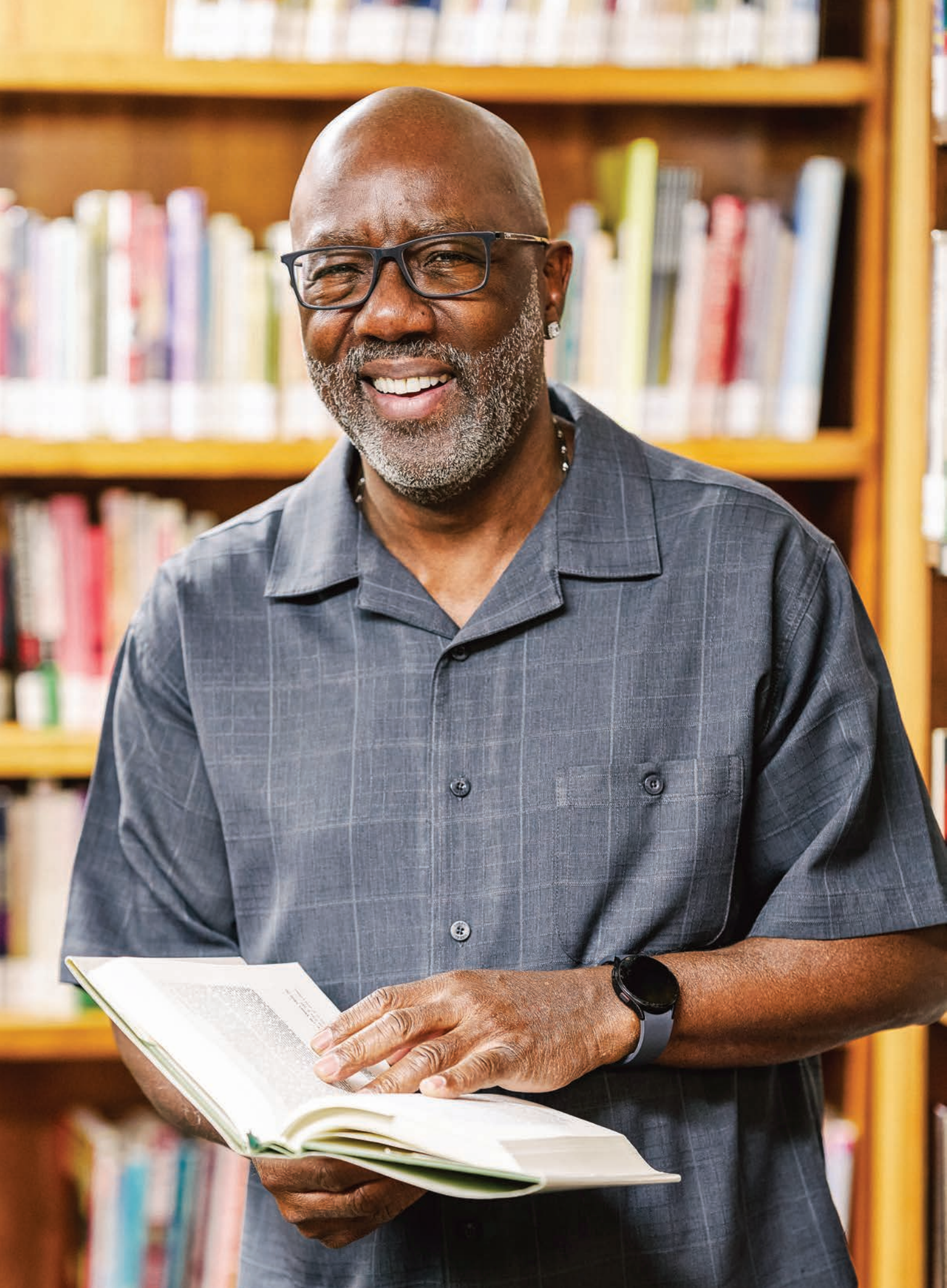
After two years at Wheaton, the Chaplain’s Office asked her if she would be willing to share her testimony during Chapel. Townsend prayed, “I’m going to tell them in detail what they’re asking me to say. And they will surely tell me, ‘No, that’s too much.’ And that’s how I’ll know I’m not supposed to do this.” She marched into the office and shared details of her life that few other people knew at the time, expecting rejection. Instead, she received the feedback, “It’s perfect. Just like that.”

She was terrified as she got up to share her testimony when the day came for her Chapel address. But afterward, students and faculty flooded her office hours to share about their own lives and to celebrate what God had done for her. She describes it now as a book in her “faith library” that she goes back to often to remember God’s faithfulness.

McKenzie summed the joy and opportunity of teaching and researching at a Christian liberal arts college by saying, “There is a certain perspective in our society that secular institutions have academic freedom and Christian institutions would be very restrictive. I think that depends on your sense of calling and your values. For me, it’s been just the opposite.” ●

Alumni News

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For the Rich in Faith

For raising up leaders in urban ministry and following Jesus' heart for the invisible through his life and ministry, Rev. Dr. Don Davis '88, M.A. '89, is the 2024 Alumnus of the Year for Distinguished Service to Society.

Words: Kailin Richardson '20
Photos: Darrin Hackney

“Jesus said if you throw a party, do it for the people who can't pay you back.”

When Rev. Dr. Don Davis '88, M.A. '89, paraphrases the parable of the wedding feast from Luke 14, he means it. He will soon celebrate the 50th anniversary of his time in ministry and currently serves as the senior executive advisor to the president at World Impact, a global organization dedicated to training pastoral and ministry leaders in urban churches. Across these decades of ministry, Davis has committed himself to creating theological learning opportunities for students from marginalized urban communities, making good use of his Wheaton degree in systematic theology. But when most Wheaton students were in college during their early twenties, Davis was already jumping into a life of ministry.

His story doesn't begin on Wheaton's campus. It doesn't begin with a dream to share the gospel or a desire to be in higher education. It doesn't take place in one of the country's largest cities. Instead, it starts in the 1960s in Wichita, Kansas, a city whose economically depressed neighborhoods were experiencing violence and riots at that time.

This is where Davis grew up and met his wife, Beth. The chaos in their Wichita surroundings echoed the turbulence in their own lives as they were involved in drug culture. When he was initially drawn to Jehovah's Witness by the moral change he saw in a dear friend, Davis' life began to shift. Later, when Davis and his wife became Christians, they lost their friends and entered a period of instability as they reoriented themselves around following Jesus.

Davis joined World Impact as a brand-new Christian in his twenties with a compelling interest in joining the ministry world and an insatiable need to understand Scripture. He found he had a deep and natural love for studying the Bible, and he lost himself in it. Before he knew it, he was teaching the Bible to and training men who were from the communities he had just left behind.

Between 1975 and 1985, he and Beth served as spiritual leaders in their community while Davis also served as the director of World Impact. But even as he

studied and taught Scripture with confidence, he wanted more formal theological training.

In 1985, Davis enrolled at Wheaton College with a decade of ministry experience as the class's oldest freshman. Soon, he was simultaneously taking undergraduate- and graduate-level Bible and theology classes at Wheaton, as well as teaching a Bible class.

He took as many credits as possible each semester, he and Beth both had jobs, and they lived in campus housing to make it work financially while raising their three kids. "You could have John the Baptist as a reference. You could have raised someone from the dead the week before," Davis chuckled. "But if you don't have the money, you can't attend a school like Wheaton."

Although this was an exciting, albeit challenging, opportunity for Davis, the transition from working directly with local communities to Wheaton's higher education context was jarring. Despite Wheaton's historical attention to the marginalized, there weren't established scholarships or institutes focused on the domestic urban poor. Chicago was next door, with struggling neighborhoods and a huge minority population, but when Davis tried to rally others in his program to teach Bible classes at a church on the South Side, he couldn't gather enough interest.

This baffled Davis, as it seemed disconnected from the very theological framework he had embraced. James 2:5 (ESV) says, "Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?" and this admonition was central to Davis' understanding of missiology. "Does it actually matter whether you do theology in an air-conditioned Billy Graham Hall, or on a dirt floor in Guatemala or Tanzania?" Davis asked.

Place was increasingly important to Davis' work, and Billy Graham Hall, which houses the Wheaton College Graduate School, was still a space where he could ask these questions. On day one of his Survey of Christianity class, he raised his hand and asked what Dr. Mark Noll '68 meant by "survey of Christianity." European Christianity? Asian Christianity? Were they going to look at the African church? The honest answer—European Christianity—only pushed Davis to pour himself further into developing a systematic theology that centered on the invisible.

The gap between where he had come from and where he was studying continued to shape his vision of what it meant for churches and communities to share the gospel. "Wheaton was not only good biblical, exegetical, and

"You should be able to fulfill the dream of what God wants you to do without going into debt."

canonical training," said Davis. "It was also really good for me philosophically and missiologically. I wanted the purest theory I could get on, 'How do you transform the world from the bottom?'"

Zeroed in on this, he went on to earn his Ph.D. in theology and ethics at the Iowa School of Religion. Although he loved the world of academia deeply, he was committed to making a change so that others could learn, too, even without access to higher education. "If there's going to be a genuine advancement of the kingdom in the poorest communities on earth, we have to find a different way," said Davis. "A more elegant, sustainable, faster, and certainly cheaper way to equip leaders and Christian workers in communities of poverty."

Enter The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI). In 1989, as Davis was completing his master's at Wheaton, the president of World Impact called with some exciting news. World Impact had just purchased 16 acres of land in Wichita, and its leaders wanted Davis to start his institute on the new campus. Six years later, Davis began teaching classes in the city that was the center of his own story.

This meant writing curricula for an expansive audience. Davis jumped into writing pages for the communities he was serving, designing "the entire infrastructure for a denomination to start its own training centers." This infrastructure now serves some of the most diverse communities in the world and is made up of "satellites"—training centers that each have their own identity and community focus while offering accessible biblical education.

Each satellite operates within local neighborhoods, connects with other TUMI partners, and welcomes students who can't afford to pay for theological training at traditional seminaries or other Christian higher education institutions. TUMI remains non-accredited to keep courses affordable. But they also partner with other schools, such as Fuller Seminary, Cairn University, CityVision University, and Dallas Christian College, that offer satellite students credit after they complete TUMI's seminary-level capstone curriculum. With core programs such as church-based seminary, urban church planting, and prison ministry, TUMI engages with some of the most overlooked yet passionate Christians who are called to teach and train others for gospel ministry.

Today, World Impact's Church-based Seminary (i.e., TUMI) has 375 satellites in 18 countries, 79 of which are in prisons, jails, and correctional facilities. Evangel School of Urban Church Planting (World Impact's church planting ministry, founded by TUMI) currently has 755 church planting teams equipped domestically and internationally, including in Bangladesh, Tanzania, Mexico, Pakistan, and Ethiopia. As Davis continues to create a model of learning designed for communities that are unable to pay for school, he finds again and again that they are "unquestionably to me the most valorous, courageous, remarkable Christians on earth."

This sincere posture of awe toward both his peers and his students characterizes him not just as a scholar, but



also as a shepherd. This is something Hasana Pennant Sisco '86 can attest to, having studied alongside Davis when he was a freshman at Wheaton. She and Rodney Sisco '84 forged a close relationship with Davis when he pastored their multiethnic church in Wheaton during the late '80s. From this relationship, Hasana paints a picture of a man committed to learning and honoring each individual's unique background. "A few words I could use to describe Don Davis: integrity, scholarship, biblically authentic, conscious of his identity, and a man of God," she said.

Davis strikes a balance of intelligent curiosity and deep care, challenging himself to forge compassion with brilliance. Although the gap between his desire to study Scripture and his ability to pay for Wheaton was, in part, the motivation for founding TUMI, he couldn't serve urban communities without the questions he was able to ask there, the classes he took, and the professors with whom he built relationships. But he never wanted to leave the gospel behind those walls when there were many rich-in-faith communities to pour into. At the end of the day, he believes that "you should be able to fulfill the dream of what God wants you to do without going into debt."

His passion for and commitment to his dream continue to be a valuable resource for Christian leaders across the country. Davis' fellow alumnus L. Brian Jenkins M.A. '93, founder of Entrenuity, helps adults and youth in Chicago learn the skills they need to start small businesses. He

became friends with Davis in Iowa, and this relationship led Jenkins toward Wheaton College and his work in the city today. "Don helped me shift my focus from myself and my desires to seeking God's direction for my life in an urban context," Jenkins said. "He is a person who has devoted himself entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and his kingdom." Davis became the mentor Jenkins needed when Jenkins first entered full-time ministry: a teacher and a voice for the vision of a people committed to the kingdom of heaven, regardless of what's in their pockets.

"With God's heart of compassion for the city, Davis has been a ministry leader in almost every aspect of kingdom work both inside and outside the church," said Wheaton College President Philip Ryken '88. "In honoring him, we honor all the Wheaton alumni who have answered God's call to serve urban communities with truth and mercy."

Davis has pursued an academically and spiritually rich ministry wholeheartedly for nearly 50 years. He has taught at and partnered with prestigious institutions across the country. Yet, ultimately, his heart is for those who are "invisible and voiceless," those who depend on God alone—those who felt they could never realize their dream of stepping into such classrooms.

"To be a Christian is to be tough-minded—really tough-minded—but tenderhearted," Davis said. "My prayer is that Wheaton would follow the example of the Nazarene: Be humble. Sacrifice its gifts. Always make room for people who can't pay Wheaton back." ●



Joy Tanimura Winqvist '04

Words
Grace Kenyon '22

Photo
Kevin Littrell

Only a few years out of college and working as a math teacher at West Chicago High School, Joy Tanimura Winqvist '04 found herself in a situation she had never faced before. She was what you might call an unconventional teacher—her classroom tending toward chaos, favoring games instead of worksheets.

“I ended up becoming a place for a lot of kids to talk about hard things going on in their lives,” Winqvist said. One Sunday, a student contacted her and shared that she had been sexually assaulted by another student. Without much training in how to handle these kinds of situations, Winqvist fumbled her way through helping the girl talk to her parents and take the necessary next steps. At that moment, Winqvist discovered another calling.

“I want to know people’s stories and walk with them through those things and be a reflection of love, care, acceptance, and kindness in the way that God’s been for me,” Winqvist said.

Her desire to teach was what brought Winqvist to Wheaton College from her home of Honolulu, Hawai’i. Although her eventual teaching career was short-lived, many other aspects of her Wheaton experience laid the foundation for the work she does now.

In particular, Winqvist was drawn to Global Urban Perspectives, a summer ministry program at Wheaton that connected students to internships in urban environments. The shift from Hawai’i to Illinois had been somewhat of a culture shock, and she felt more at home among the culturally diverse group of students involved in the program. She spent the summer between her junior and senior years in Los Angeles, working at a local nonprofit and living at the income level of the people in that community (which meant sleeping in sleeping bags in a furniture-less house). She returned to Chicagoland grappling with the hardship she had witnessed.

After graduation, she stayed in Chicago for 12 years, earning a social work degree from the University of Chicago and working for various nonprofits. Her most formative experience was spent working as a residential therapist and later assistant director at LYDIA Home, a Christian nonprofit that provides residential therapy programs for kids in foster care. She was able to unapologetically tell the kids they were loved by God and watch them respond in praise during the nonprofit’s gospel choir performances.

“It was really amazing to hear these kids sing, praise Jesus together, and cling to the knowledge that God loves them,” Winqvist said, reflecting on her experience working at LYDIA Home. “It was beautiful. I don’t think you can go there and not have your life changed.”

Eventually, Winqvist, her husband, and their three adopted children moved back home to Honolulu. When the pandemic led to a shortage in mental health resources, she opened her own counseling office, specializing in clients with backgrounds of trauma and histories of sexual abuse. Winqvist loves sitting and listening, knowing that her hope for her clients often goes deeper than what they dare to hope for themselves.

“God’s always pursuing us, right?” Winqvist said. “God’s going to reveal himself to them in some way, shape, or form. So, I love to wait for those moments and hold out hope for that—for them.” ●



Scott Bolinder '73

Words
Grant Dutro '25

Photo
Jill Devries

Following his 50th class reunion in 2023, Scott Bolinder '73 found himself contemplating Wheaton's motto: "For Christ and His Kingdom."

"Now that I'm almost 73, looking in the rearview mirror at my own spiritual journey, it's becoming clearer what those modifiers mean," he said. "Even 20 years ago, I had only understood part of that, and it was more like 'with Christ for my kingdom.'"

Bolinder grew up five blocks north of Fischer Hall, attending Honey-Rock as a camper and staff during summers. His parents often had the basketball team over for dinner, and Bolinder remembers selling popcorn at the team's home games. Bolinder also comes from a long line of Wheaton alumni, including aunts, uncles, and cousins.

After graduating from Wheaton, Bolinder earned his MSW in clinical counseling from the Jane Addams School of Social Work at the University of Illinois, Chicago, at the encouragement of Dr. Art Volle '38. He served in the Army Medical Service Corps in Colorado Springs, Colorado, before relocating back to Wheaton with his young family with the goal of welcoming college students into their home.

Soon, Bolinder began working for his friend and Christian author Philip Yancey M.A. '72, on staff at *Campus Life* magazine (later bought by *Christianity Today*). This role launched him into over 40 years in Christian publishing, including executive roles at Zondervan and Biblica.

This career pivot was a serendipitous combination of the skills he had already begun developing as a Wheaton student.

"As an English major, I studied words and the power of words," said Bolinder. "Then I got a master's in counseling, in which I studied people. That combination—words and people—equips you well for the relational bedrock of publishing."

He calls what happened next "the culmination of my vocational career." He faced a crisis of conscience when he saw the steep decline of Bible readership and engagement in the United States.

"We spent all these years publishing Bibles and Christian books, and every year, more Bibles are sold than any other book," said Bolinder. "But the dirty secret was, if you looked underneath the hood, nobody was reading the Bibles."

This conviction inspired him and three Biblica colleagues to found the Institute for Bible Reading in 2016, a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing Bible engagement. In 2022, its signature resource, *Immerse: The Reading Bible*, was named the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's "Bible of the Year." In December 2023, the Institute merged with Our Daily Bread Ministries to scale the global growth of its new Bible reading formats and study practices.

"In some ways, everything prior was preparation for this small, 'mustard-seed conspiracy' nonprofit," said Bolinder, referencing the 1981 book by Tom Sine. "Once invited to a fresh experience with the Bible, folks come alive, and we see their curiosity and imagination expand, which fuels Bible engagement."

Amid these vocational transitions, Bolinder cites Dr. Marvin Mayers '49 as one of many Wheaton professors who prepared him for a life lived "For Christ and His Kingdom."

"He helped me see it's not just about eternal security, checking the box and then going on with your life, but about agreeing to enter the suffering of Christ every week," said Bolinder. "The Creator invites us to conform to his image, giving us an example in Jesus. And I thought, 'Well, that is an adventure worth living for.'" ●

Wheaton College Alumni Association 2023–2024 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 2024–25

Dr. Aubrey Buster '09, M.A. '11
Biblical and Theological Studies
Travel funds to present at the Tyndale Fellowship 2024 conference in Cambridge, U.K., on rethinking “resistance” in the book of Daniel.

Dan Haase '97, M.A. '02
Christian Formation & Ministry
Continued support for Ph.D. work in biblical spirituality from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Cherith Lundin '96
Art
Travel funds to learn Japanese woodblock print and scroll making (*Mokuhanga* and *Emakimono*) at the Women’s Studio Workshop Summer Institute.

Dr. Rob Ribbe '87, M.A. '90
HoneyRock
Support for a project to equip parents and congregational leaders to maximize the impact of camp experiences and to train camps to partner with parents and congregational leaders.

Dr. Sandra Yu Rueger M.A. '89
Psychology
Sabbatical support for training and guided instruction in qualitative/mixed-methods research.

Dr. Carleigh Schoenleber '07
Education
Support to gather data from an alumni survey, further develop and strengthen the Department of Education’s alumni network, and develop and launch a mentoring program to keep alumni connected to students.

Science Division Block Grant for Faculty/Student Summer Research
Wheaton College’s ten-week Summer Research Program provides opportunities for Wheaton undergraduates to conduct independent and collaborative research projects under the guidance of faculty mentors.

JUNIOR ALUMNI FACULTY GRANTS

Dr. Eunice Hong
Mission, Ministry, and Leadership

Dr. Charles Liu '08
Psychology

Dr. Kevin Valson Jacob
Physics and Engineering

FACULTY MISSIONS PROJECT

Dr. John Walton '75
Old Testament
Travel funds to deliver the annual lecture series for the Campus Evangelical Fellowship in Taiwan.

Senior Scholarship Award Winners

JUNIORS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEIR SENIOR YEAR

Calista Chaidez '25, Lemont, IL
Psychology

Holly Nassif '25, Wexford, PA
International Relations

Hannah Poole '25, Centennial, CO
Integrated Philosophy with Communication

Anna-Austin Wellman '25, Boston, MA
Communication and Biblical & Theological Studies

Kerry Yu '25, Shenzhen, China
Elementary Education

Distinguished Service Awards 2023–2024

FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO SOCIETY

Rev. Dr. Don Davis '88, M.A. '89

FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO ALMA MATER

Dr. Scott Moreau '77

2024–2025 Senior Scholarship Committee and Recipients



Row 1 (L to R): Anna-Austin Wellman, Holly Nassif, Calista Chaidez, Hannah Poole, Kerry Yu. **Row 2 (L to R):** Eric Fowler '81, Jim Wilkes '79, Manette Galvan Turner '92, M.A. '98, Hannah Tan Follett '06, Naïssa Charles '21.

PHOTO BY KAYLA SMITH

Alumni Association Board of Directors



Row 1 (L to R): Manette Galvan Turner '92, M.A. '98, Doug Goebel '90, Jerard Woods '12, Eric Fowler '81, Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, Jim Black '94, M.A. '98, Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12.

Row 2 (L-R): Jim Wilkes '79, Naïssa Charles '21, Mary Ashley Miller '69, Barbara Bates Alexander '77, Jim Hawthorne '88, M.A. '92, Hannah Tan Follett '06, Brent Armstrong '91, Leigh Naraine Pylman '08, Lisa Biehle Files '83.

Not pictured: Noah Chung '12, Stephen Franz '09.

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

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.

PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON

New Board Members



Brent Armstrong '91, Germantown, Tennessee

A '91 graduate with a B.A. in physical education, Brent is the president and chief executive officer of Diversified Conveyors International in Memphis, Tennessee. He serves on the elder board at Mission Church Memphis and participates on several for-profit and non-profit boards. Brent and his wife, Stacey McKie Armstrong '91, have three children.



Naïssa Charles '21, Chicago, Illinois

Naïssa is the Alumni Association Board of Directors' young alumni representative. She majored in computer science and is a software engineer in Chicago. While at Wheaton, Naïssa was president and business manager of the Gospel Choir and a Center for Vocation and Career ambassador for two years. She is interested in civic technology and loves traveling.



Lisa Biehle Files '83, Chicago, Illinois

Lisa is the One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest program director and digital media associate. As a student, Lisa wrote for *The Record* and graduated with a B.A. in English literature. She also coordinated the annual Girl Scout Food Drive in Oak Park, Illinois, for ten years. Lisa and her husband, Bruce Files '80, have four children.



Hannah Tan Follett '06, Chicago, Illinois

Hannah graduated from Wheaton with a B.A. in sociology/pre-med and a Bible minor. She works as an internal medicine physician assistant/physician associate at Lawndale Christian Health Center. Hannah and her husband, Andrew Follett '06, are one of the founding families of The Field School on the west side of Chicago and have four children.



Jim Hawthorne '88, M.A. '92, Bozeman, Montana

Jim is the executive director of Yellowstone Alliance Adventures and an ordained pastor with the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Jim holds two degrees from Wheaton: a B.A. in Christian education and an M.A. in educational ministries. Jim and his wife, Andrea Howard Hawthorne '86, have five children.

PHOTOS BY MIKE HUDSON

2024 Alumni Survey Report

In February 2024, Wheaton College distributed its second all-alumni survey to connect with and learn from the members of its global alumni network. The survey asked alumni to provide authentic, constructive, and honest feedback on the institution in a variety of categories, including student and alumni programming, theological viewpoints, and opportunities for growth. This feedback is extremely valuable to College leaders and directly impacts the future of the institution in areas like alumni engagement, admissions strategy, marketing, and messaging around financial giving.

Over the next several months, the Alumni Engagement team will conduct an in-depth analysis of the data. This time, the 2024 results will be compared with data from the 2017 survey to assess any significant differences in alumni responses. The Board of Trustees, Senior Administrative Cabinet, and others across campus will also receive results from the survey to inform their decision-making.

The following graphic pulls preliminary data from the survey, and Wheaton College will report additional results in a future issue of *Wheaton* magazine.



Here's what you had to say!

82
countries represented

Top motivators for giving to Wheaton College:

- 1 Knowing that Wheaton College graduates have a strong ethical and moral foundation
- 2 Knowing that Wheaton College attracts high-quality faculty
- 3 Knowing that your gift has kingdom impact beyond Wheaton College

Ways Wheaton College prepared you for life post-graduation:

- 1 Further graduate education
- 2 Understanding of biblical principles
- 3 Deepening your commitment to personal development

93.5%
said it was a great or good decision to attend Wheaton College

Most important ways for alumni to serve Wheaton College:

- 1 Identifying job opportunities for graduates
- 2 Providing financial support for Wheaton College (e.g., donations)
- 3 Serving as ambassadors to promote Wheaton College to others

Key areas Wheaton College could improve in its offerings to students:

- 1 Skills and training for career
- 2 Developing spiritual maturity
- 3 Developing moral and ethical decision-making abilities

How you like to stay connected with Wheaton College:

- 1 Emails from Wheaton College
- 2 Reading *Wheaton* magazine
- 3 Getting in touch with other alumni

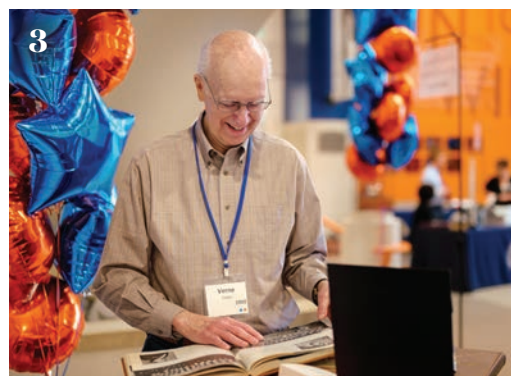
89%
of alumni read *Wheaton* magazine (Thank you!)

5,161
total respondents

Alumni Weekend 2024

Classes of 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, and 1984 were welcomed home to celebrate reunions.

Photos: Jared and Bethanne Tremper



1 Blanchard Hall. 2 Two alumnae look through old photos together. 3 Verne Evans '59 flips through old yearbook photos. 4 Alumni sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

5 Retired Wheaton College architect Bruce Koenigsberg leads a tour of campus. 6 Four 1984 alumni pose for a photo during Friday night's Welcome Reception. 7 President Philip Ryken greets the class of 1974 at their 50th reunion dinner. 8 Praying together at the close of the Alumni Weekend luncheon.

Alumni Weekend 2024: Class Reunions

Photos: Josh and Alexa Adams



Class of 1984

40-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Kay De Master Edwards, Jeff Kirchman, Cherie Newman Kirchman, Shannon Smith, John Bryant, Roger Christensen, Kathy Christensen, Ann Penner Usey, Susan Colip Backer, Mary Haddock, Ruth Matson Cole '84, M.A. '87, Laurel Praschan Larson '86, Ken Larson, Brad Benson.

Row 2 (L-R): Norm Muraya, Mark Mercado, Dave Robbins, Kelley Krile Robbins, Lynne Halleen Mazzone-Olness, Ruth Ann Swanson McKellin, Dave Helm '83, Lisa Schmid Helm, Karen Dixon Kase, Deborah Diller Harris, Terri Brown Penner, Susan Rassi Jahns '85, Randy Jahns, Phil Nussbaum.

Row 3 (L-R): Judy Imes Stadick '87, Bill Stadick, Keith Olsen, Suzanne Shirley, Jim Shirley, John Bunnell, Rob Reiskytl, Beth Reiskytl, Grace Hartman Sandeno, Andy Krumsieg '82, Debbie Dix Krumsieg, Alicia Lundstrom Hepler, Andy Larson, Tim Lefley '85, Guy Sawyer.

Row 4 (L-R): Marie Knibbe, Peter Knibbe, David Oppedahl, Todd Swentek, Ruth Wheeler Swentek, Roy Garringer, Pam Clark Garringer, Barb Hegg Buchanan, Shirley Huang Churchill, Beverly Liefeld Hancock, Jonathan Hancock '83, Stuart Ericson, David Plaep.

Row 5 (L-R): Janie Dorsey Emrick, Stephen Norton '85, Brad Ketch, Philip Eskeland, Jim Rathbun, Kimberly Rathbun, Parvine Mobed MacDonald, Ann Eychaner Gemmel, Julie Schmidt Allen, Debbie Peterson Clark, Alison Wright McCarty, Beth Ann Yoder Deal, Jim Jackson.

Row 6 (L-R): Jeff Teune, Irma Jimenez Teune '86, Karl Huber, Jill Scarpellini Huber, Andrew Hensel, Jane Nelson Hensel, Philip Kapitaniuk '88, Heidi Clark Kapitaniuk, Jim Matson, Jim Helfrich '84, M.A. '86, John Frederick.



Class of 1979

45-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Allen Steely '74, Marcia Limkeman Steely, Ruth McLatchie, Lud Anderson M.A. '83, Karen Zelek Anderson, Judy Abrams, Susan Wittkowski Kroeker, Barry Kroeker '80, Laura Vossbruch, Anne Sullivan, Chet Snouffer, Janet Sudak Graves, Jeanne Sudak Conder, Debbie Dixon Greene, Mona Firebaugh, Jerry Firebaugh.

Row 2 (L-R): Judy Gratton Kohl, Sarah Bartel Bradley '80, Mark Bradley, Dennis Suominen M.A. '80, Ruth Bulicek Suominen, Mel Smestad, Julie Rowe Smestad, Bonnie Gerdin Hautamaki, Lane Kasen '78, Terri Hilt Kasen, Scott Davis, Lori Mulligan Davis, Gilbert T. Zinke, Kristin Frederick.

Row 3 (L-R): Mark Katterjohn '78, Peggy Jackson Katterjohn, Scott Harris, Judy Plumstead Harris, Carol Grimm McColl, Mark John, Sally Berns John, Suellen Ziah Satern, Jill King Alexander, Debbie Schilling Brock, Nikki Wilbur Waters, Melinda Gipson, Janet Seymour, Steven Shindler.

Row 4 (L-R): Peter Davenport, Sue Etzel Davenport, Lora Larson Hattendorf, Crystal Davis Clay, Linda Smoker Milbourne, Sabina Rascol Bertsche, Kirk Bertsche, Tony Payne, Amy Davin Cho, Marj Frame Lewis, Mark Lewis, Steve Nutter, Kathy Carlson Delicath, Jenny Dowdy Rasmussen, Kim Rasmussen.



Class of 1974

50-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Scot Gillan, Meagan Stuart Gillan '75, Joan Killam Winchell, Janet Newlin Burgess '73, Roger Burgess, Gretchen Wagle McCaskey, Patrick McCaskey, Janet Rauch, John Darrow, Zora Lea Cutforth Darrow, Jim Rehnberg, Marg Rehnberg, Ruth Fischer Tennes, Mariellen McGrath True, Wayne True, Angella Pace Leonardson, John Leonardson, Peter Van Houten, Judy Fulop, Joan Knighton, Tom Knighton.

Row 2 (L-R): Jeff Pond, Laurel Baptista Pond, June Garrett Barrow, Al Barrow, Betty Fitts Bouzeos, Dean Bouzeos, Jon O'Hara, Beth Gibson O'Hara, Bill Borgeson, Pam Borgeson, John Henderson '74, M.A. '78, Rob Altorfer, Susan Weber Reidenbaker, Joel Reidenbaker, Jeannie Dunlap Hochstetler '73, Bill Hochstetler, Steve Carr, Cadmus Hicks.

Row 3 (L-R): Susan Talley Brinkman, Margaret (Peggy) Mayers New, Russ Ebersole, Melody Hofer Ebersole, Jean Caligiuri, Mark Caligiuri, Debra Walker, Dennis Walker, Tim Haislet, Darcy Haislet, Doug Howard '74, M.A. '86, Sue Vock Howard, Lynn VanderWeel Jarman, James (Jim) Jarman, Jill Gulbransen Bolinder, Scott Bolinder '73, Carol Gentry Fortosis '76, David Fortosis.

Row 4 (L-R): Bonne Hemminger Steffen, Carl Brenner, Barbara Butler Brenner '77, Jake Wetzel '72, M.A. '77, Sarah Horner Wetzel, Doug Pound, Cathy Pound, Ronald Troup, Lynn Sanders, Julie Sanders, Ward Rau '73, Marlene Swanson Rau, Jane Borozan, Susan Oakley Booker, Karla Slayton Fogel, Randy Pfund, Dale Waterman.

Row 5 (L-R): Cindi Mentzer Avezzie, Jinny Hill Brow '77, Craig M. Herr, Leslie Johnson Herr, Arnold Oftedal, Sonja Johannessen Oftedal, Bruce Yacko, Gail Lower Yacko,

Kathy Ware, Lee Ware, David Cerling, Ralph M. Leavitt, Mike Hackett, Gail Kepler Eubanks, Janet Downey, Connie Kraftson McDowell, Glenn McDowell, Gordon Comstock, Karen Comstock.

Row 6 (L-R): Kenton Pate, Jim Soderberg, George Saylor, Mary Weber Saylor '74, M.A. '75, David Vander Ploeg, Annette Callis Vander Ploeg, Todd Walker, Cathy Porter Walker, Jim Miller, David Brawand, Steve Marlett, Cathy Moser Marlett, Allen Steely, Marcia Limkeman Steely '79, Jim Bergwall, Dennis Hamill, Heidi Lott Bender, Mark Bender.

Row 7 (L-R): Thomas Bleed, Sue Cornell Bleed '75, Lorraine Comfield Amodio, Carl Amodio, Trevecca Newsom Okholm '74, M.A. '95, Dennis Okholm, Jim Munn, Lynn Hoffman, Stephen (Steve) Hoffman, Larry Lake, Mary Beth Nicholas Lake '75, Charles Oblom, Carita Stevens Powers, Lori Wilson Memmen, David Memmen.

Row 8 (L-R): Richard Winzeler, Bruce Gentry, Carole Haynes Gentry, Ken Muzzy, Carol Burton Muzzy, Stephanie Larson Lindsell '72, John Lindsell, Dora Myers Kawate, Toru Kawate, Elizabeth Long Madison, Randy Madison, Winston Lue, Helen Ho Lue '77, Atsuko Marutani Pickens, Stanley Pickens '73, Tom Hovestol.

Row 9 (L-R): Robert Frederich, Jillian Nerhus Lederhouse '75, Jon Lederhouse, Vicki Erickson Michel, Dan Michel, Gordon Goeking, Vickie Null Goeking, Jan Martin Teat '75, David Teat, Beth Hart Sparkman '73, David Sparkman, John Dillman, Jim Quigel, Julie Johnson Clum '76, Steve Clum.



Class of 1969

55-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Becky Stam Beebe '69, R.N. '67, Mary West Whitmer '69, R.N. '67, Susi Alexander De Vries, John G. De Vries, Thomas (Le) Seaman, Roberta Stanford, Elizabeth Moore Mackenzie, Linda Johnson Oury, Lon Oury, Steve Van Dine.

Row 2 (L-R): Gary Beebe '68, Sammy Puckett, Craig Ames, Devon Petersen Ames, Louise Tietjen Farmer, Pat McDonald O'Hare, Jan Ellis Fanning, Buist Fanning, Sam Kirk, Lydia Hawkins Munn, Jim Munn '74.

Row 3 (L-R): John Seekins, Becky Faircloth Shoger, Stanley Shoger, Tom Johnson, Mary Ashley Miller, Marr Miller, Nancy Crawford Lowe '69, R.N. '67, Wayne Lowe '68, Peter Adams, Daphne Adams.



Class of 1964
60-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Paul Cahill, Carol Cahill, David Johnson '62, Marianne Hess Johnson, Betsy Ross Pearce '64, R.N. '62, Ed Pearce, Carolyn Kleidon Breidenbaugh, Gretchen Milner Hurst, Bud Hurst '60, Linda Secrest, Les Secrest.
Row 2 (L-R): Cliff Williams, Judy Crabtree Merrifield '66, David Merrifield, Ken Greener, Nancy Heslinga Greener, Judi Hamer Whitecotton, Neal Whitecotton '63, Joan Allison Hornberger, Edie Krampe Walker, Mary Glover Rauter.
Row 3 (L-R): Tim Anderson '62, Lynn Anderson Anderson,

Nita Van Kampen Newing '64, R.N. '62, Bruce MacFadyen, Rosemary Mortensen MacFadyen '65, Stephen Walker, Sandy Simons Walker, Jan Concklin, Rick Concklin, Ellen Flood Gephart, Bonnie Ver Steeg Halcomb Aust, Jim Aust.
Row 4 (L-R): David Green, Judy January Kencke, Don Kencke, Terry Hall '63, Karen Johnson Hall '64, R.N. '62, June Trottier Arnold '66, Dean Arnold, Norm Wetterau, Mark Wilson, Shirley Rowan Wilson, Joan Hersey Webb '65, Ron Webb.



Class of 1959
65-Year Heritage Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Monty B. Burnham, Wendy Jayne Burnham, Dick Gorton, Jane Stetzer Gorton, Pat Horner King, Polly Taylor '84, Gene Taylor '59, M.A. '84, Ruth Flesvig Gibson, Dick Gieser.
Row 2 (L-R): Roger Gulick, Joy Keating Gulick, Nancy Robb Allain, Kent Allain, Jim Mann HON, Dottie Weyenberg Mann, Nancy Wiegand Matson, Barbara Balton Nilsson, Donal Nilsson '60, David Lindsay.

Row 3 (L-R): Joyce Bender Schmale, John Schmale, Verne Evans, Bud McCalla, Elaine Wakefield McCalla '60, Marilyn Barnes, Robert Barnes, James Kopp.



Class of 1954
70-Year Heritage Reunion

ROW 1 (L-R): Carol Doty, Ruth Bartel Stough, Emily Zak Oostdyk.
ROW 2 (L-R): Ray Smith, Bill Stough '53, Carolyn MacKinney Raffensperger R.N. '54, M.A. '85.



Class of 1949
75-Year Heritage Reunion

Jack Swanson



A Word with Alumni

*Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82
Chief Alumni Officer
Executive Director, Wheaton College Alumni Association*

Every May at Commencement, I brag about you when I welcome our newest graduates into the Alumni Association. I tell them they are joining one of the strongest and most loyal alumni networks in the world. How can I make that claim? Partly through data (reunion attendance, email open rates, survey responses, LinkedIn activity) and partly because I've been in this role for a long time and I know that you generously open your homes and your hearts to alumni, connect through the LinkedIn alumni network, post college memories on our Alumni Association Facebook page . . . and thousands of you took time in February to complete a VERY long survey. Thank you!

Here are a few things we learned from the initial survey results:

- You named several things that are important for alumni to do, including identifying job opportunities for graduates, providing financial support for your *alma mater*, and serving as ambassadors promoting Wheaton.
- Your Wheaton College education prepared you well for further graduate education, helped you better

understand biblical perspectives, and deepened your commitment to personal development.

- Most of you read *Wheaton* magazine and our emails (good to know!).
- You would welcome more invitations to alumni events and a greater Wheaton presence on social media.

You didn't just check the boxes. Many of you answered open-ended questions about the things that are most important to you about being an alumna/us and told us what Wheaton College can do for you in the next 5-10 years. Just like I did after the 2017 survey, I will read every word and meet with the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Alumni Engagement team to see what we can learn and how we can do better.

The survey company is analyzing the data, and we will report more fully in a future issue of *Wheaton* magazine. We understand that your time is very valuable and, on behalf of everyone at Wheaton College, thank you for giving us your time and your thoughts. We don't take it—or you—for granted. ●

Vice President for Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement Dr. Kirk D. Farney M.A. '98 **Chief Alumni Officer** Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 **Alumni Association President** Eric B. Fowler '81 **President-Elect** Jerard Woods '12 **Past President** Dr. Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84 **Executive Director** Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 **Alumni Trustee Representatives** Eric B. Fowler '81, Jerard Woods '12, Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2024** Barbara Bates Alexander '77, Mary Ashley Miller '69, Leigh Naraine Pylman '08, Manette Galvan Turner '92, M.A. '98, James Wilkes '79 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2025** Naïssa Charles '21, Noah Chung '12, Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2026** Jim Black '94, M.A. '99, Doug Goebel '90 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2027** Brent Armstrong '91, Lisa Biehle Files '83, Hannah Tan Follett '06, Jim Hawthorne '88, M.A. '92



To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;

PROVERBS 1:2-7A (ESV)

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