



WHEATON



VOLUME 22 // ISSUE 3 // 2019 DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: THE GOOD NEIGHBOR P.34 ↓

**Shifting Landscape
of Christian Higher
Education**

Faith and Disability

**Bonhoeffer:
The Good Neighbor**



It is our privilege to welcome students and their families to this place of hospitality, to **help them find their home at Wheaton.**

Undergraduate Admissions Counselor Team in the Great Hall of the Welcome Center

Is there a high school friend or relative in your life we should know about? Please refer them to us, and meet the admissions counselor for your region at **wheaton.edu/connect**. There you'll find our college fair schedule, 'request info' form, and upcoming visit events—we'd love to welcome you to campus in person!



features

VOLUME 22 // ISSUE 3 AUTUMN 2019

WHEATON

“It is like God to unveil his glory through the witness of individuals with severe disabilities.”

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**THE SHIFTING
LANDSCAPE OF
CHRISTIAN HIGHER
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BONHOEFFER: THE
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PHOTO BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS

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Your gifts to the Wheaton Fund made a direct impact on the excellence and affordability of every student's Wheaton experience.

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wheaton.edu/WheatonFund

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WHEATON.EDU/MAGAZINE



President's Perspective

DR. PHILIP G. RYKEN '88
PRESIDENT

“WHAT WOULD PREXY say?” I asked myself, thinking back to Wheaton’s fourth president. “And what would Dr. Armerding think, if he could see them now?”

It was Reunion Weekend, and I was walking around from one alumni dinner to the next, greeting the Classes of 1979, 1969, and more—“brave sons and daughters true,” going all the way back to 1944.

The next day was Commencement, when I would hand diplomas to around 600 members of the Class of 2019 ready to make their way out into the world.

As I juxtaposed Reunion and Commencement, I couldn’t help but wonder what my predecessors would think of their former students 40, 50, even 75 years after they graduated. What would Dr. Edman and Dr. Armerding hope to see today in the students they led half a century ago?

I like to think that our former presidents would be gratified to see their old students again and to learn what God has accomplished in and through them since graduation. The alumni I met were eager to talk about the difference their time at Wheaton had made in the rest of their lives. They displayed a deep affection for their old classmates. The laughter came easily, along with a few tears. The worship came easily, too, with joyful praise for the faithfulness of God.

What stories will the Class of 2019 tell when they come back to campus

WHAT WOULD DR. EDMAN AND DR. ARMERDING HOPE TO SEE TODAY IN THE STUDENTS THEY LED HALF A CENTURY AGO?

in 2069? What praise will they offer to Jesus Christ?

Coming back for a 50th reunion is almost beyond the imagination of today’s students. For them, seeing elder alumni is a sobering curiosity. Theoretically, they know that they will turn 70 someday, but the thought is far from mind.

I think about it, though, and wonder what they will accomplish—by the grace of God—“For Christ and His Kingdom.”

My prayer is that today’s Wheaton students will become lifelong learners who love God’s truth wherever they find it. This is one of the highest goals of a Christian liberal arts education. But my deepest hope is that they will walk with God all their days. I pray that their lives will count for the kingdom—that they will make the full difference for Jesus Christ that someone with their unique gifts and exceptional education can make.

Some day, long after I am gone, one of my successors will welcome “my” students back to Wheaton and wonder what my hopes were for them. My answer is perhaps best expressed in the words of the apostle John, who said he had “no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth” (3 John 1:4, ESV). **W**

EMAIL EDITOR@WHEATON.EDU WITH FEEDBACK AND STORY IDEAS. TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL CONTENT, VISIT WHEATON.EDU/MAGAZINE

ILLUSTRATION BY BERND SCHIFFERDECKER

p.12

STUDENT NEWS
PHOTO CONTEST
WINNERS



p.6

CAMPUS NEWS
THE WHEATON COLLEGE
CORE BOOK FOR 2019-
2020 IS *THE WEIGHT OF
ALL THINGS* BY SANDRA
BENÍTEZ

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY GABRIEL SATOLA

PROFILES



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2019

Wheaton College graduated 650 undergraduate students and 200 graduate students during the 2018-2019 school year.

VIEW THE UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS OF ANDREW '88 AND NORINE STEINER BRUNSON '89 AT WHEATON.EDU/MAGAZINE.



2019-20 Core Book: *The Weight of All Things* by Sandra Benítez

Wheaton's Core Book program invites students, faculty, staff, and alumni to engage in a shared experience of reading, reflecting upon, and discussing a significant text that highlights themes from Wheaton's *Christ at the Core* general education curriculum. *The Weight of All Things* is a compelling narrative told through the eyes of a nine-year-old Salvadoran boy with a deeply held Catholic faith. The book engages enduring questions related to faith—God's providence, suffering, poverty, and the vulnerability of ordinary people caught up in the middle of political conflicts. Dr. Tiffany Eberle Kriner, faculty coordinator for Core Book, says that "*The Weight of All Things* is an absorbing, powerful read; it allows us to imaginatively enter the lives and landscapes, the faith experiences and suffering of members of the body of Christ in El Salvador. It invites us to consider the question of those who suffer—'Who bears the weight of this? Who bears the weight of all things?' in the presence of the Christ who bore our sins in his own body on the cross—and calls us to bear one another's burdens in his body the church." **W**

TO VIEW A READING GUIDE, READ THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS, AND FIND CORE BOOK EVENTS ON CAMPUS, VISIT WHEATON.EDU/COREBOOK



LAUREN ANDERSON '19 WAS AWARDED AN ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANT FULBRIGHT AWARD TO MEXICO FOR THE '19-'20 SCHOOL YEAR.



JAVIAN WALTER '22 WAS AWARDED A FUND FOR EDUCATION ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY IN GERMANY, FRANCE, AND SWITZERLAND WITH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION DR. READ SCHUCHARDT.



READ MORE WHEATON STORIES AT WHEATON.EDU/NEWS

Chad Rynbrandt '94 Named Wheaton's New Vice President for Finance and Operations

RYNBRANDT MANAGES THE finance, operations, and business affairs of the College, while also promoting its short- and long-term fiscal health. He oversees the College's legal and business practices and guides budget decisions that support the College's strategic priorities. He serves as a member of the Senior Administrative Cabinet and will work closely with the Board of Trustees as the Treasurer of Wheaton College. A lifelong learner who loves the liberal arts, Rynbrandt graduated in 1994 *cum laude* with a B.A. in Business Administration from Wheaton College, and in 2001 with an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia's Darden Graduate School of Business. Rynbrandt comes to Wheaton College after a 25-year career of expanding responsibilities at leading companies including Royal Philips, CSM Bakery Supplies North America, The Boston Consulting Group, and Accenture.

Endow-a-Seat Update

THE ENDOW-A-SEAT CAMPAIGN—which allows donors to place a name of their choice on a seat in the concert hall of the new Armerding Center for Music and the Arts—has raised \$260,000 for 260 endowed seats.

VISIT WHEATON.EDU/SEAT



CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

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WHEATON

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“Our centers and institutes deepen Wheaton’s commitment to be at the forefront of evangelical thought and action by producing interdisciplinary scholarship and by hosting academic and ministry conferences, events, and lectures.”

DR. MARGARET DUPLISSIS
DIDDAMS ’83, PROVOST

Wheaton’s academic centers enrich student education by providing significant experiences beyond the classroom, while also supporting and inspiring faculty to pursue areas of expertise and interest. These centers and institutes attract top scholars, invest in outreach and service to the world, and provide resources in the areas of scholarship, spiritual development and evangelism, and practical assistance.

Billy Graham Center

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/BGC

Center for Applied Christian Ethics

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/CACE

Center for Urban Engagement

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/CUE

HoneyRock Center for Leadership Development

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/HONEYROCK

Human Needs and Global Resources

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/HNGR

Humanitarian Disaster Institute

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/HDI

Institute for Cross-Cultural Training

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/ICCT

Marion E. Wade Center

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/WADE

Center for Faith and Innovation

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/CFI

Wheaton Center for Faith, Politics & Economics

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/FPE

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Global research, exclusive resources, and community enrichment from Wheaton’s world-class students and scholars.

Center for Urban Engagement

Director: Dr. Noah Toly ’99, M.A. ’12,
professor of urban studies, politics & international relations

THE CENTER FOR URBAN ENGAGEMENT prepared its first cohort of Aequitas Fellows for various internships throughout the United States and welcomed a second cohort of Aequitas Fellows for the Urban Track of Passage to start their experience at Wheaton. Wheaton in Chicago completed a successful first year in the Woodlawn neighborhood after its relocation last year. The year included student field experience trips to Los Angeles and to the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) conference in Chicago. During the spring semester, CUE lectures by Natalie Y. Moore, WBEZ’s South Side reporter, and Michael Emerson, provost of North Park University and specialist in city development and sustainability, were especially well-attended. Wheaton in Chicago 2019-20 students and faculty will travel to the annual CCDA conference in Dallas, Texas, in October. CUE looks forward to lectures by nonfiction author Carlo Rotella, human rights activist Jamie Kalven, urban sociologist Junia Howell ’10, and scholar of social welfare Reuben Miller. The Advisory Board (formerly Community Engagement Council) has expanded to 15 members, representing various specialties and professions. **W**



LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/CUE

Center for Faith and Innovation

Co-directors: Dr. Hannah Stolze, associate professor of marketing,
and Dr. Keith Johnson, associate professor of theology

OPUS: THE ART OF WORK was relaunched last spring as the **CENTER FOR FAITH AND INNOVATION**. The Center is dedicated to helping Christians apply their faith to their vocational callings, whether they be in for-profit, nonprofit, or ministry settings. CFI is pursuing a new, outward-facing vision, developing resources for use in the workplace, and conducting and disseminating research that draws deeper connections between the Christian liberal arts, vocation, theology, and innovation. These interdisciplinary resources will offer integrative best practices to address social and marketplace problems. This fall, CFI launches the Fall Leaders Forum, which will draw business and ministry leaders into conversation with faculty, generating insights with practical implications through an academically informed process. CFI will co-host Calvin College Professor of Philosophy Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung, Baylor University Distinguished Professor of Humanities Alan Jacobs, and president of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective Jemar Tisby, as guest speakers for a chapel series this October. **W**



LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/CFI

ILLUSTRATION BY CARL WIENS

WHEATON
IN THE NEWS

Sound bites from
Wheaton faculty quoted
in major media outlets

“It was excruciating to watch its spire fall. But at the risk of saying this too soon, the Gothic style represented by Notre-Dame de Paris cannot be stopped by fire. This style has given the church a theology of glass and stone, a model that has spread to Catholic and Protestant structures across the centuries and around the world.”

→ **DR. MATTHEW J. MILLINER '98**, associate professor of art history, from “At Notre Dame, Good Friday Came Early,” *Christianity Today*, April 16, 2019.

“We’re, in one sense, very proud of the fact that we were a stop on the Underground Railroad, and we want to take inspiration from that, but we don’t want to be self-congratulatory. I think the work of racial reconciliation, racial equality, justice (which we at Wheaton College would consider to be a very important biblical principle), that’s an ongoing and unfinished work in American society—and that’s true on our own campus as well.”

→ **DR. PHILIP RYKEN '88**, president, from “Wheaton College and the Underground Railroad,” *Illinois Public Media*, February 26, 2019.

“That’s part of what makes Christians countercultural. A Christian should think about this person as a human being created in the image of God, worthy of dignity and respect, irrespective of what things they may do that may make us frustrated or angry.”

→ **DR. VINCENT BACOTE**, associate professor of theology, director of Center for Applied Christian Ethics, from “Talking About—and Praying for—Jussie Smollett,” *World*, February 22, 2019.

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ON TWITTER.

Faculty Emeriti:
Celebrating the service of
exceptional faculty

Dr. Tom Schwanda

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND MINISTRY
HIRED IN 2006
13 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Tom Schwanda enjoyed teaching both undergraduate and graduate students in Christian formation and ministry. “I’d never want to teach one group without the other,” he says. Throughout his time, one of Dr. Schwanda’s proudest accomplishments was his involvement with the Graduate School Chapel program. In both classes and leadership positions, he emphasized the importance of an interpersonal relationship with God. As “a lifelong teacher,” Dr. Schwanda will continue his vocation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, surrounded by family.

Dr. Stanton Jones

PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AND CORE STUDIES
HIRED IN 1981
38 YEARS OF SERVICE

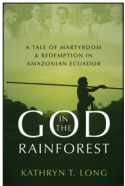
Growing up unfamiliar with Christian higher education, Dr. Stan Jones “hungered for intellectual life that would come together with [his] Christian life.” When he caught word of Wheaton in 1980, he was “blessed to join” as a psychology professor. In turn, Wheaton was blessed to have him lead the growth of the Department of Psychology as chair, develop the Faculty Faith and Learning Faculty Development Program, and oversee the hiring of more than 150 “passionate and outstanding” faculty as Provost of the College from 1996-2016.

TO DISCOVER MORE WHEATON FACULTY NEWS,
VISIT WHEATON.EDU/NEWS

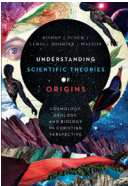
PHOTO BY GABI SATOLA



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



God in the Rainforest: A Tale of Martyrdom and Redemption in Amazonian Ecuador (Oxford University Press, 2019) by **KATHRYN T. LONG**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY EMERITA



Understanding Scientific Theories of Origins: Cosmology, Geology, and Biology in Christian Perspective (BioLogos Books on Science and Christianity), (IVP Academic, 2019) by **ROBERT C. BISHOP, JOHN AND MADELEINE MCINTYRE ENDOWED PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY OF SCIENCE; RAYMOND J. LEWIS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY; STEPHEN MOSHIER, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY; JOHN H. WALTON M.A. '75, PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT**



The Spirit of Methodism: From the Wesleys to a Global Communion (IVP Academic, 2019) by **JEFFREY W. BARBEAU**, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY



Balm in Gilead: A Theological Dialogue with Marilynne Robinson (Theology Conference Publication), (IVP Academic, 2019) by **TIMOTHY LARSEN '89, M.A. '90, CAROLYN AND FRED MCMANIS PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT; KEITH L. JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY**



A Little Book for New Historians: Why and How to Study History (Little Books), (IVP Academic, 2019) by **ROBERT TRACY MCKENZIE, ARTHUR F. HOLMES CHAIR OF FAITH AND LEARNING AND PROFESSOR OF HISTORY**



Seasoned Speech: Rhetoric in the Life of the Church (IVP Academic, 2019) by **JAMES E. BEITLER III '02, M.A. '04, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH**

Dr. James C. Wilhoit

PROFESSOR OF CORE STUDIES
SCRIPTURE PRESS CHAIR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND MINISTRY
HIRED IN 1981
38 YEARS OF SERVICE

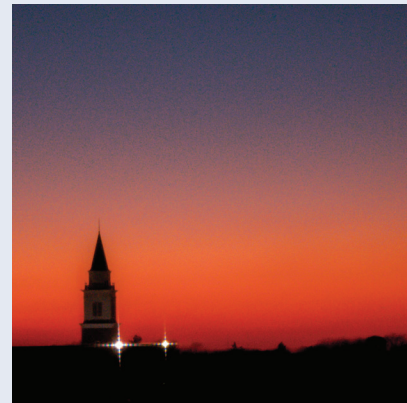
Dr. James Wilhoit has been a leader in the Department of Christian Formation and Ministry, serving as a Christian education professor, teaching Core Studies, and holding the Scripture Press Chair. He treasured the “collaborative projects” and “intellectual stimulation” with both students and professors. His favorite class was Christian Spiritual Practices, considering it “a nice blend of theory and practice.” Ultimately, Dr. Wilhoit’s influence spread to all departments as chair of the committee that led to the new general education curriculum.

Dr. Gene Green '76, M.A. '77

PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT
HIRED IN 1996
23 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Gene Green considers his time at Wheaton “not simply a job, but a calling,” characterized by “the greatest delight of walking students through the New Testament.” Throughout his time at Wheaton—as an undergraduate student, master’s student, and professor—he recognizes “it’s about more than the classes here; it’s about relationships.” Living out that truth, he passionately challenged Wheaton to both engage and “learn from our brothers and sisters in the majority world” through conferences, books, and lectures.

#MYWHEATON



#MYWHEATON PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS (PHOTOGRAPHERS IN SEQUENCE FROM TOP CENTER): 1) DYLAN SOSSO '19, 2) VALERIE HALIM '22, 3) CAITLYN CHELSEN '20, 4) RISSA HO '19, 5) SYDNEY BAUGH '22, 6) DAINI LIU '20, 7) CAITLYN CHELSEN '20, 8) EDWARD CARRINGTON '22, 9) KAILIN RICHARDSON '21, 10) VALERIE HALIM '22



WANT TO SEE YOUR PHOTO HERE? USE THE HASHTAG #MYWHEATON AND YOUR PHOTO MAY BE PUBLISHED

ILLUSTRATION BY ELLICE WEAVER

“Students all face a common challenge when we first arrive on campus: How can we feel at home in this place?”



BEEF RENDANG WAS BRAISED FOR hours in coconut milk, absorbing the flavors of the spices. We prayed the Lord's Prayer in English and Indonesian (*Doa Bapa Kami*); we ate, we sang, and we laughed amid the room-filling fragrances of ginger, lemongrass, garlic, and chilis. More than 20 people, including President Ryken, had squeezed into the International Apartments to feast: This was the Indonesian Fellowship dinner, continuing the biannual tradition started by Indonesian alumni.

The dinner was part of Wheaton's new International Apartments initiative, sponsored by International Student Programs (ISP) and Residence Life. In our apartments, international students receive encouragement, foster relationships, and build new connections with students of different backgrounds. We welcome everyone, whether they come from thousands of miles away or grew up three blocks from campus. The space has allowed us to share parts of our homes with one another. Adorned by eight flags and a world map, this setting forms a tapestry of our life stories and fosters a warm environment for students to stop by to snack on our Pocky biscuit sticks and write their papers on our comfortable couches.

Students all face a common challenge when we first arrive on campus: How can we feel at home in this place? For me, the International Apartments have enabled me to participate in the communal placemaking of Wheaton College. While we are sharing our lives—carving a bit more beef rendang—we create memories and experiences that make us feel more at home abroad. **W**

DOA BAPA KAMI

Given Tanri '20 shares how the new International Apartments help make Wheaton a home for all.

BY GIVEN TANRI '20

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHEATON'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS, VISIT WHEATON.EDU/ISP



“BEING AT WHEATON TAUGHT ME
NOT TO FIND MY WORTH IN WHAT I
ACCOMPLISH ON THE COURT BUT TO
RELY ON GOD EVERYWHERE I GO.”

Beyond the Division

After transferring from a
DI school, student-athlete
Hannah Frazier '20 found
her home at Wheaton.

BY KATHERINE BRADEN '16

WHILE A FRESHMAN AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, HANNAH FRAZIER '20 realized she wasn't where she belonged. It took just one visit with Wheaton's Women's Basketball Coach Kent Madsen and the women's basketball team to know Wheaton was her home.

A mathematics major, Hannah transferred sophomore year. She loved Wheaton, but she struggled with no longer identifying as a DI athlete.

“It had been a dream of mine for so long— I worried people would think I had failed,” says the Illinois native. Hannah's teammates and coaches helped her realize “none of that mattered” because her athletic success was from God and did not define her.

“I used to ‘succeed’ based on my abilities,” says Hannah. “Being at Wheaton taught me not to find my worth in what I accomplish on the court but to rely on God everywhere I go.”

Her junior year, Hannah averaged 20 points and 7.4 rebounds per game, totaling a season-high of 89 blocks, 84 assists, and 30 steals.

“Hannah's versatility makes her such a unique player,” says Coach Madsen. “While her position traditionally scores around the basket, she's a great shooter and scores three-pointers with ease, making her very difficult to guard.”

In 2019, Hannah was named First Team All-American by D3hoops.com, named to the CCIW First Team All-Conference, named WBCA First Team All-American, and named to the Google Cloud All-American Second Team.


“People might think because we are ‘nice Christian girls’ or play for a small DIII school, we can't be tough or competitive,” says Hannah, “but we are hardworking and talented, and we prove that stereotype wrong.” 

PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON '89



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHEATON SPORTS, VISIT
ATHLETICS.WHEATON.EDU

182

BASE HITS IN 4 SEASONS
FOR SENIOR KELLY
THORNTON, ESTABLISHING
A NEW SCHOOL RECORD
FOR CAREER HITS FOR
THUNDER SOFTBALL.

1,096

POINTS IN THE '18-'19
MEN'S BASKETBALL
SEASON FOR SENIOR
ASTON FRANCIS, THE
HIGHEST SINGLE-
SEASON TOTAL IN
DIVISION III HISTORY
AND THE 14TH-HIGHEST
SINGLE-SEASON TOTAL
IN NCAA HISTORY (ALL
DIVISIONS).

7,007

POINTS FOR SENIOR
LEIF VAN GRINSVEN
IN THE DECATHLON
AS HE WON THE CCIW
CHAMPIONSHIP IN
THE MULTI-EVENT
COMPETITION AT THE
2019 CCIW OUTDOOR
TRACK & FIELD
CHAMPIONSHIPS,
BREAKING A
CONFERENCE RECORD
THAT STOOD SINCE 1997.

ATHLETIC THROWBACK



[IT'S SAFE TO SAY THE](#)
Brown brothers left
a legacy. Starting
quarterback of the
first Wheaton team to
make NCAA Playoffs,
Jeff '96 boasts 7,090
passing yards and 67
touchdown passes.
In 1997, three-time
All-American Eric '00,
along with Scott '98
and Skip '98, led the
Wheaton soccer
team to a National
Championship.

James Van Drie '21



UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT PROFILE

HOMETOWN:
VALPARAISO, IN
MAJOR: POLITICAL
SCIENCE
FUN FACT: JAMES ALSO
COMPETES IN VARSITY
TRACK AND FIELD
ON TOP OF HIS ROTC
COMMITMENTS, STUDIES,
AND NONPROFIT WORK

BY ASHLEY
RYDBERG
BRIGHT '10

JAMES VAN DRIE '21 isn't only a varsity athlete or ROTC cadet; he's also the founder of a nonprofit. Having grown up close to Chicago, James is no stranger to the city's harsh winters. On a high school volunteer visit to the city, he realized that not everyone has adequate outerwear to ward off the freezing winds. "We talked with a lot of people experiencing homelessness that day and listened to what they had to say. We quickly discovered what they needed most was better quality clothing," James says.

He went back to his high school moved by the need of the people he had met in Chicago, and he tried to leverage the school's lost-and-found to serve them. At Wheaton, James took a Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) class, dove deeper with his professors, and ultimately launched a nonprofit during his freshman year.

Windy City Warmth is an organization with a mission to bring communities together while providing winter outerwear to those who are homeless; it also educates volunteers on the nature of homelessness and how to volunteer well. James and this team of volunteers seek to build relationships and community, and break down barriers to serve those who need warmth.

W

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

"I believe my personal experience of loss has equipped me to become a better leader in the humanitarian and disaster space."

Samantha Ervin M.A. '19



GRADUATE
STUDENT PROFILE

HOMETOWN:
PRINCETON, MA
DEGREES: M.A.,
HUMANITARIAN &
DISASTER LEADERSHIP,
WHEATON COLLEGE (IL);
M.S., MANAGEMENT, B.S.,
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
MANAGEMENT/
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES, WORCESTER
POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE
FUN FACT: SAMANTHA
ONCE WENT SHARK CAGE
DIVING OFF THE COAST
OF CAPE TOWN

BY JASMINE
YOUNG '13

SAMANTHA ERVIN M.A. '19 has accompanied her family on mission trips to rural Guatemala since the age of 11. She has always been drawn to the stories of those who have survived tragedy. One day in May 2017, a life-altering phone call brought disaster closer to home. "My sister called to tell me lightning struck a tree outside our home in central Massachusetts and caused a fire," Samantha says. "The whole house burned down and we lost everything."

Losing their home was a great tragedy for Samantha and her family. Even though no lives were lost in the fire, the coming months were filled with great grief. "There is a lot of emotion attached to material possessions, although they were never meant to be permanent," says Samantha. "At the same time, I was mourning the memories I had, and the memories that could have been."

After earning B.S. and M.S. degrees from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Samantha did not plan to return to school. However, she believes Wheaton's Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership program was started at the right moment for her to pursue work in disaster relief missions, particularly aiding children in recovery. "While I would not compare my experience to tragedy on a mass scale, I believe my personal experience of loss has equipped me to become a better leader in the humanitarian and disaster space," says Samantha. "It helps to understand loss and grief in order to truly help others."

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PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

Yulee Lee



STAFF
PROFILE

HOMETOWN: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
TITLE: DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
DEGREES: M.A., PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO; B.A., POLITICAL SCIENCE, TUFTS UNIVERSITY
FUN FACT: YULEE STUDIED BALLET FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THROUGH COLLEGE AND DREAMED OF BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL BALLERINA. SHE FINDS WAYS TO INCORPORATE DANCE INTO HER WEEKLY ROUTINE AND STILL HAS HER OLD BALLET SHOES

BY EMILY
STACKHOUSE
TAETZSCH '18

YULEE LEE, director of the Office of Christian Outreach, is a self-described “change agent” who values taking time to build relationships with others. “For me, change means partnering with Christ in his plan toward flourishing for all people.”

Yulee was born in South Korea and raised in Salt Lake City, where she enjoyed skiing and snowboarding. She has lived in the Chicagoland area for about 20 years, most recently serving in a pastoral role at a local church. Yulee became director of the OCO about a year ago and is nearing the completion of a Ph.D. in Educational Studies with a concentration in Organizational Leadership at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Of her time in the OCO, Yulee says, “I’ve received emails from alumni who don’t even know me, but they heard I was new and wanted to share stories with me.” Yulee recognizes the unique legacy of the OCO and its alumni: “You know that phrase ‘We stand on the shoulders of those who come before us’? It describes the OCO really well because there are so many generations of saints who have gone through the OCO and who have left their imprint in the world as ministers of the gospel.”

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PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

“I had a number of professors here who invested deeply in my life, and my thought was always that I’d like to be able to do something like that.”

Dr. David Setran '92, M.A. '94



FACULTY
PROFILE

HOMETOWN: LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK
TITLE: PRICE-LEBAR CHAIR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND MINISTRY
DEPARTMENT: CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND MINISTRY
YEARS AT WHEATON: 20
EDUCATION: PH.D., HISTORY OF EDUCATION, INDIANA UNIVERSITY; M.A., EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES, WHEATON COLLEGE; B.S., BIOLOGY, WHEATON COLLEGE
FUN FACT: AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT WHEATON, DR. SETRAN TOOK PART IN A LIVE-GOLDFISH-EATING CONTEST

BY MARGARET
MCKENZIE '18

DR. DAVID SETRAN '92, M.A. '94 does not merely teach about Christian formation—it is something he witnesses and participates in every day. As a graduate student at Wheaton in the '90s, Dr. Setran was torn between two career paths: teaching in higher education or going into ministry. And then he realized that, at a Christian liberal arts school like Wheaton that cultivates “whole-person formation,” he didn’t have to choose. “I had a number of professors here who invested deeply in my life, and my thought was always that I’d like to be able to do something like that,” says Dr. Setran.

One of Dr. Setran’s favorite Wheaton-related activities is the year-end retreat that takes place every spring for graduate students in the Department of Christian Formation and Ministry. He describes it as an emotional time of reflection and commissioning prayer by the faculty over the students. He recently visited Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, where he met up with eight former students who all work in student development there. “They were all sharing about how meaningful the retreat was in terms of their own sense of calling; to be in the midst of that with them was really special,” Dr. Setran says.

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PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

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BONHOEFFER: THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

AS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE NATION FACE A PRECIPITOUS CLIFF OF ENROLLMENT CHALLENGES, WHEATON STRATEGICALLY POSITIONS ITSELF FOR THE FUTURE.

BY SILVIO E. VAZQUEZ,
CHIEF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT OFFICER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAN MATUTINA

HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA IS accelerating toward a cliff. Due to a “birth dearth,” the number of potential college students is declining and the demographics of eligible students are shifting faster than some institutions can adjust. At the same time, if education is seen merely as a means to landing a specific job, then the value of a broader liberal arts education is in question. And of concern for Christian colleges specifically, it has been well documented that we are now in a post-Christian culture, which raises its own unique challenges.

You don’t have to look far to find reports and articles detailing the harsh realities on the horizon for higher learning. In his 2018 article “Panicked Universities in Search of Students Are Adding Thousands of New Majors,” published in the leading higher education journal *The Hechinger Report*, Jon Marcus writes about how several colleges are creating increasingly specific degree or certificate programs in an effort to appeal to niche audiences of students. In the Midwest, “at least four colleges and universities....have added certificate or associate degree programs in beer fermentation, brewing, brew management and wine and viticulture technology, among the 41,446 degree or certificate programs colleges and universities have added since 2012.” These degrees and programs speak to the innovation that many are attempting in order to meet the declines in particular populations. Yet they are certainly a far cry from the holistic and moral development we strive to provide for Christians who will graduate from Wheaton and engage the culture in their spheres of influence.

Chronicling the closing of Sweet Briar University in his *EducationNext* article titled “Private Colleges in Peril,” Stephen Eide notes: “Enrollment is dwindling. Deficits are mounting. And more closures are looming; that’s the prediction of many higher-education

experts, who are concerned about the future of small private colleges in America.”

At the time of this writing, two New England colleges recently announced that they will no longer recruit first-year students to their campuses. Facing declining enrollments, tuition-driven institutions are announcing closures or mergers, cutting academic programs, and reducing faculty and staff positions in order to meet the budget demands caused by fewer students bringing their tuition dollars to college campuses.

With the cliff approaching, one must ask: In the years to come, how will Wheaton adapt to the changing demographic and cultural factors that are threatening higher education? How will we survive?

How will we survive?

DECLINE IN COLLEGE-AGED STUDENTS

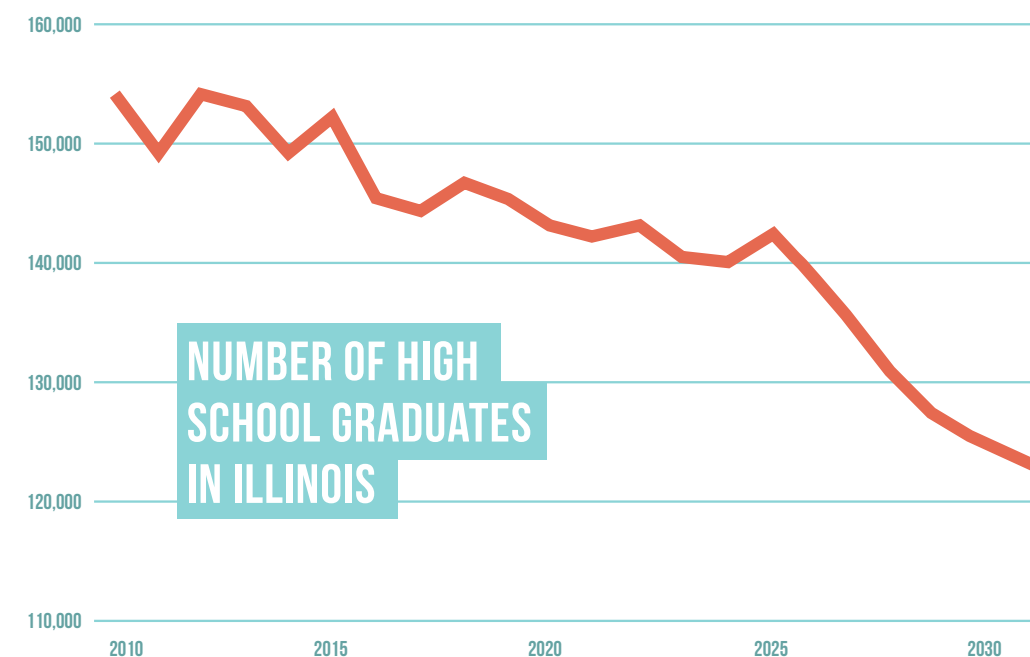
Since 2007, the nation’s total fertility rate has dropped more than 12 percent, and national demographic forecasts reveal the population of 18-year-olds has already begun to decline. The decline will be especially stark in the latter half of the 2020s. In his book *Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education*, Carleton College’s Professor of Social Sciences Nathan Grawe demonstrates how colleges have seen and will continue to see dramatic drops in enrollments, especially among current majority populations. This is not news to us. However, Grawe’s in-depth factor analysis of fertility rates by ethnicity, migration, immigration patterns, and parental education and income levels challenges us to think comprehensively about the decline in college-aged students.

Grawe categorizes institutions of higher learning into the following sectors: two- and four-year public schools; regionally and nationally ranked colleges; and the elites, or hyper-selective universities. The data reveals that the drop in enrollment numbers varies significantly depending on the type of institution. According to Grawe, it is the regional institutions that rely heavily on their surrounding populations that will struggle more than the nationally ranked or elite

universities. This is data worth noting, because 48 percent of Wheaton’s students come from the American Midwest, with about 22 percent from Illinois. Most demographers declare that this region will see a greater than 15 percent decline in populations seeking private education. When considering Illinois alone, the prognosis is sobering, with predictions that we will reach the “cliff” in 2025—18 years after the 2008 economic collapse—as a result of a dramatic drop in birth rates.

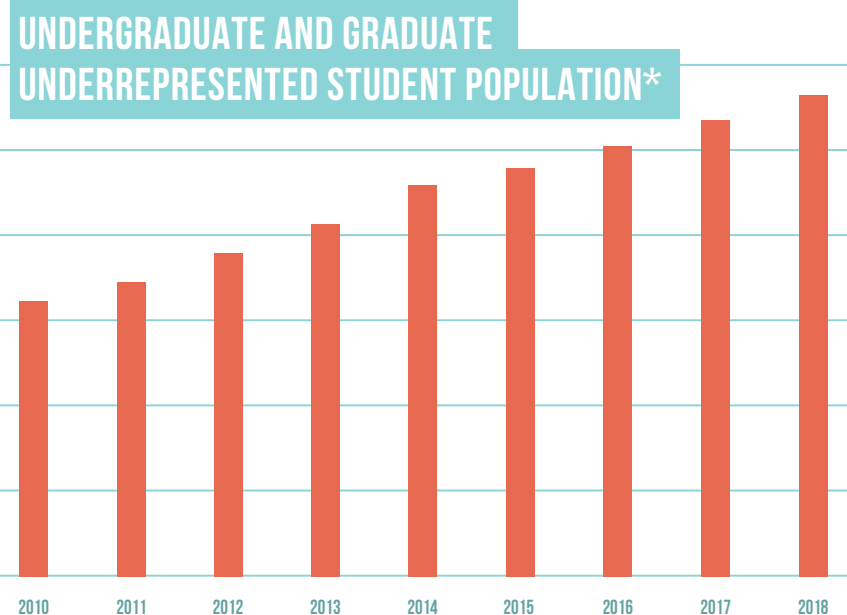
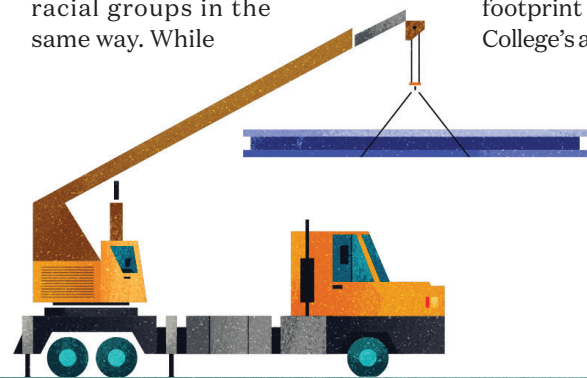
The good news, however, is that according to Grawe’s calculations, Wheaton fits into the nationally ranked grouping, meaning that change is coming but the predicted loss is not as great as it would be if we were simply a regional school. While Wheaton does have a strong regional presence, we draw promising students from across the country and the globe. While no college will be immune from the forthcoming demographic decline, the elites and nationally ranked colleges will not be as dramatically affected, given their reputations and endowments.

SOURCE:
WESTERN INTERSTATE
COMMISSION FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION
(WICHE), “KNOCKING AT
THE COLLEGE DOOR”



SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS

The average college prospect of the past—a white male from an upper middle-class family living in the Northeast or Midwest—will not be the average college student of the future because populations in the United States have changed and will continue to change. Colleges and universities in the United States have traditionally depended upon students from the Northeast; yet Grawe's research shows that there is no state in the Northeast right now with a fertility rate great enough to replace its own population. Internal migration also plays a role: People within the United States are moving from region to region like never before—trending away from the Pacific and Northeast coasts and into the South and West. Additionally, roughly a million people from outside the United States become lawful residents each year, including many from developing nations. Lastly, while overall fertility rates have declined likely due to the recession of 2008, this trend has not affected all ethnic and racial groups in the same way. While



*UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS: INTERNATIONAL-NON U.S. CITIZENS, HISPANIC/LATINO, BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN/NON-HISPANIC, AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE, ASIAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER, TWO OR MORE RACES

the country's non-Hispanic white population declines, its Hispanic and Asian populations have risen considerably, guaranteeing a shift in the country's average college-goer of the future.

Wheaton College is deeply aware of these shifting trends and is already taking measures to expand its student demographic, always with the goal of making Wheaton a more accurate image of the worldwide church. With 50 states and 90 countries represented in its undergraduate and graduate student body, Wheaton has the opportunity to lead in this area given its global footprint and worldwide legacy. The College's approach to recruiting applicants, which emphasizes diversity that reflects God's kingdom, is foundational to our recruitment efforts. Of course, kingdom diversity in our enrollment objectives also means holding to our central Christian foundation, even as we

transcend norms and perceptions to equip our students. The data is clear that we have a great opportunity to continue our mission by equipping students from diverse backgrounds and that we need to increase our application pool from regions outside of the Midwest. Enrolling an ethnically diverse class is not solely an admissions function, however. It takes a community committed to attracting, enrolling, and graduating first-generation and underrepresented populations—a community that understands the unique challenges these students face. In community, we seek to live out Revelation 7:9, which exemplifies the rich mosaic that is God's kingdom, where tribes of many tongues and nations gather to worship the Lamb on his throne.

THE VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION: A GOOD AND MEANINGFUL LIFE

A drop in birth rates and shifting demographics are not the only challenges we face. Today, many see a college education as a commodity and are unable to appreciate the value in a liberal arts education that develops men and women able to think critically, write well, and live lives of significance in their homes, communities, and workplaces. The perceived purpose of higher education has shifted from holistic

SOURCE: WHEATON COLLEGE 2018 ANNUAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT



formation to preparation for a specific professional or earnings outcome. Education has been reduced to a raw material to be used to meet an immediate need. The dominant cultural perspective seems to be that one should just get a degree and get a job, preferably one that pays well. It's no wonder that students are lured by niche programs that promise immediate returns.

A Wheaton education is not designed to prepare students for a mere livelihood, but for a good and meaningful life. Wheaton students are prepared for free, faithful, and fruitful citizenship in the kingdom of God.

Interestingly, data from the College's Center for Vocation and Career (CVC) confirms that a Christian liberal arts education at Wheaton, while forming students for a meaningful life, also prepares students for their career and vocational pursuits. They have highly marketable skills that employers look for, skills like analytical reading, critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving. Wheaton is a place of rigorous education, and graduates come out with strong academic credentials. They are people of character, who have a strong foundation in moral virtue and ethical reasoning. They are aware of their gifts and strengths, and they are broadly prepared to excel in a variety of callings over the course of their lives.

One recent graduate, Griffin Walker '19, is a great example. She was a physics major who spent two summers working at large research universities doing research as part of a program with the National Science Foundation and she held leadership roles on campus; and yet she wasn't sure where those experiences would take her after Wheaton. Because of her interactions with the CVC, Griffin was able to better understand and articulate the skills she had developed, what captivated her interest, and the values that were important to her as she thought about the future. Over the summer, she began a job as a Technical Services Problem Solver at Epic, a healthcare software company that selected Griffin for her strong communication and analytical skills.

Pursuing a liberal arts education and securing employment upon graduation are not mutually exclusive. In the area of career preparation, Wheaton College yields fantastic outcomes that surpass its peer institutions. The CVC recently reported that 99 percent of the class of 2018 was employed, interning, or pursuing further education within six months of graduation. Wheaton's recent graduates are working in a variety of fields at leading companies and organizations worldwide. Many in the class of 2018 who are pursuing further education are at the country's top graduate universities. In other words, Wheaton College does well when it comes to education leading to positive career and vocational outcomes. But we also believe that a Wheaton education is so much more. While our students land good jobs after graduation, they also become leaders in their fields and serve as whole people formed for all of life's vocations. Wheaton College offers an education leading to the good life, not only a good job.



COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

A final issue that Wheaton College must address concerns the changing number of self-identified Christians in our country. In recent decades, a shift has occurred in the United States away from what some have termed "cultural Christianity" toward a more secular worldview. Dean of the School of Mission, Ministry, and Leadership Dr. Ed Stetzer outlines this cultural shift in his recent book *Christians in the Age of Outrage*. If one divided up the United States population into four religious categories, Stetzer suggests, you might have something like this: 25 percent non-Christian, 25 percent cultural Christians, 25 percent congregational Christians, and 25 percent convictional Christians. "Non-Christian" are people who hold to a different religion or no religion; "cultural Christians" identify as Christian primarily because they aren't clearly something else, and because they were born into a historically Christian family or country; "congregational Christians" are connected to a local church and probably attend on holidays; "convictional Christians" are decidedly and devotionally Christian, attend church regularly, and strive to live lives aligned with Christian values. Stetzer's research reveals that the latter three categories—cultural, congregational, and convictional Christians—were the mainstream of the past. It used to be that people in America were "vaguely Christian, but for years, those with loosely held religious beliefs have been dropping them."

As increasing numbers of Americans prefer to identify as non-Christian

"A WHEATON EDUCATION IS NOT DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR A MERE LIVELIHOOD, BUT FOR A GOOD AND MEANINGFUL LIFE."

and have shifted toward a more secular worldview, self-professed committed Christians find themselves in the cultural minority. While the minority, this group of convictional Christians is showing stability, so there's no fear in this population dwindling completely.

This shift away from cultural Christianity was recently illustrated for me when I heard about one high school student who, when he learned about a Christian liberal arts college, said that "Christian liberal arts is the same as hocus-pocus liberal arts. It doesn't exist." And again when I heard of another high school student who, on a field trip during which he visited a church building, commented that it was the first time he had set foot in a church building.

I also find that some devoted Christians don't recognize the value of a place like Wheaton. For example, parents may think that since their child went to a Christian high school, they can face the realities of a public

or non-sectarian university. Christian higher education is not about living safely in a Christian bubble. The real bubble is on a secular campus where matters of eternity are not considered relevant. Learning to think, live, and relate within a kingdom mindset is about developing one's heart, mind, and talent for vocation and service in the world.

In the past, larger numbers of Americans who self-identified as Christian may have had an affinity for a Christian liberal arts education; in the future, Wheaton College will be the place for truly committed Christians. Wheaton College is special: it is the school for committed Christians seeking a formative and rigorous liberal arts education.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

Wheaton has scoped out the landscape—observing the cliff ahead—and is preparing for the future with a new Division of Enrollment Management, launched in the fall of 2017. Composed of the offices of Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate Admissions, and Student Financial Services, this new division develops strategic approaches to face the challenges of the future. As

Wheaton's inaugural Chief Enrollment Management Officer, it is my privilege to join this vibrant community of faculty, staff, and students dedicated to kingdom work.

With the establishment of the enrollment division, Wheaton has ramped up its efforts to work across the institution by partnering with faculty and departments to more effectively convey the unique quality of a Wheaton education to students of "Generation Z." While there is much data on how generations differ one from another, I hold firmly to the belief that most 17- and 18-year-olds considering college want to live a life of significance—to make a difference in this world—knowing that their life means something. Young Christians want to know what it means to follow Jesus, inside and outside of a church building.

In 2018-19, our first year under this enrollment model, we have restructured the undergraduate admissions office to strengthen our approach to recruitment. We have also created new positions to leverage areas of strength and create new opportunities to reach students who may want to enroll at Wheaton.

Close to home, we have created the Alumni, Parent, and HoneyRock Liaison position. While working with our

committed alumni and parent volunteers to assist in our outreach campaigns, this new position will also work with the more than 250 high school HoneyRock campers and their families to create seamless opportunities for applying and enrolling at Wheaton. At the same time, we are also redoubling our efforts to promote the Vanguard Gap Year program at Wheaton, emphasizing that a student who successfully completes the gap year can continue on to full-time enrollment at Wheaton.

Outside of Wheaton's campus, we are launching a new office in East Asia to work with alumni, parents, schools, and churches to strengthen existing ties there as well as to develop new relationships. The Director of Admissions and Development – Asia Pacific will work closely with international admissions counselors from both undergraduate and graduate admissions offices while also strengthening relationships with alumni and friends who are investing in Wheaton College from across the globe.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Higher education in America may be heading for a cliff, but Wheaton College is strong and enduring, and

well-equipped to meet the challenges ahead. We will continue to expand our demographics, proving that Wheaton's enrollment trends can be agile and adapting. We will continue to demonstrate that Wheaton is an ideal place for Christians seeking a valuable Christian liberal arts education. And our mission to equip committed believers in the generations to come will continue as we strive to pursue faithfulness to our calling.

For the fall 2019 semester, we received a five-year record high number of applicants from across the United States and from over 30 nations around the world. From that application pool, we welcomed over 650 new students. We are thankful for God's faithfulness in bringing generations of fine young men and women to our campus, and we look forward to a future of growth for Christ and his kingdom.

These numbers give us confidence in Wheaton's future, but we humbly ask you to take an active role in the ongoing strength of our institution by providing us with student referrals, prayers, and financial support that help us to continue to identify resources for families to afford and attain a Wheaton diploma. The world needs colleges like Wheaton. But it is up to the Wheaton family near and far to ensure that promising students continue to be led here.

The undergraduate and graduate admissions offices along with the campus community are committed to doing their best to keep Wheaton's applicant pool strong. Will you join us? **W**





“But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” (1 Cor 12:18-20, ESV)

All For God’s Glory

How God is leading Wheaton to address faith and disability as a kingdom-building calling.

BY KATHERINE HALBERSTADT ANDERSON '90

PHOTO BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS

▲
Dr. Thomas Boehm discusses a book he uses in his Special Education classes that aligns well with his vision.

WHEATON.EDU/
FAITHANDDISABILITY

“WE WANT TO POSITION OUR WORK so that Jesus is the center, and so that Wheaton becomes a place where we see the way disability is used to glorify God,” says Dr. Thomas Boehm, Ann Haskins assistant professor of special education.

Wheaton College hired Dr. Boehm to establish what is now the Ann Haskins Special Education Program, designed to prepare Wheaton’s education students to teach the estimated 6 million students with exceptional needs in the United States, and more around the world.

Dr. Boehm’s vision, however, encompasses so much more.

Uniquely prepared with degrees in psychology, theology, and special education, and personally invested as the parent of a child with a disability, Dr. Boehm hopes to reframe the entire approach to disability at Wheaton, other schools, and churches through what he calls, “big-tent biblical disability discourse to empower disciple-making movements.”

The breadth of his vision is just beginning to unfold thanks to the kick-off of Wheaton’s Faith and Disability Initiative in March. Wheaton’s Provost Dr. Margaret DuPlissis Diddams ’83 explains, “We need to develop a thick theology of disability. Wheaton is positioned well to bring all of our resources to this. To offer support for families that is grounded in the Good News....We are not embracing the entire body of Christ when we marginalize those [with disabilities] who also desire to exercise their gifts for Christ’s kingdom.”

Wheaton has already taken one concrete step toward this larger vision. “We are in the process of officially changing our diversity statement to reflect our desire to focus more intentionally on including students who are differently abled,” says Dr. Sheila Caldwell, chief intercultural engagement officer.

The roots of Dr. Boehm’s vision stretch back 25 years, when individuals with severe disabilities changed the life trajectory of Dr. Erik Carter ’96, a man who would become Dr. Boehm’s mentor and friend.

“Like many people, I grew up in a world that functionally did not include people with disabilities,” explains Dr. Carter, now Cornelius Vanderbilt

professor of special education at Vanderbilt University.

“As a college student, I stumbled into the lives of some people with intellectual disabilities for the first time,” he explains. “I was captivated by the friendships that were formed, and by the faith they shared with me. It was their faith, their love for Jesus, that threw me into deep faith.”

Dr. Carter came to Wheaton hoping to merge his new-found interests in faith and disability, but disability issues weren’t then part of the conversation, so he left Wheaton with a degree in Christian Education and a desire to help others who were missing out on opportunities to connect with all the members of Christ’s body.

This desire—which led Dr. Carter to write six books, pioneer research, and contribute to Vanderbilt’s inclusive higher education program for students who have intellectual disabilities—inspired Dr. Boehm, who became Dr. Carter’s coworker in research that will likely guide how the church welcomes people with disabilities for years to come.

“It is like God to unveil his glory through the witness of individuals with severe disabilities and to ignite a work to redeem and fill a void that was here,” notes Dr. Boehm.

Laying the Foundation

In March, Wheaton’s new Faith and Disability Initiative began with a public lecture titled, “Engaging Autism: Honoring God.” Dr. Grant Macaskill, Kirby Laing chair of New Testament exegesis at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, highlighted the clear, biblical foundations for valuing every member of the body of Christ, while also providing an overview of the history and current thinking about autism spectrum disorder.

Dr. Macaskill said, “God arranged the members of the body as he chose. He gives each member of the body to the other members of the body. Once they are appreciated first as a gift, their capacity to be able to give begins to emerge.”

This principle was beautifully illustrated the night of the lecture when Daniel Bovell, a young man with autism who said, “I have a disability, but I am fearfully and wonderfully made,” played several piano pieces.

Rev. Rick Bovell, Daniel’s father and a member of the newly formed Faith and Disability Advisory Council, a group of leaders committed to advancing the Initiative, said, “We have prayed since Daniel was tiny that God would use the gifts he has given him for his glory, so this event was an answer to that prayer.”

Next came a three-day Faith and Disability Symposium. More than 20 thought- and practitioner-leaders converged on campus to contribute and review abstracts for a special issue of the *Journal of Disability & Religion* (to be published this fall), to develop relationships, and to further one another’s research, practice, and scholarship.

Dr. Brian Brock, professor of moral and practical theology at King’s College in Aberdeen, Scotland, and editor of the journal, said of the symposium, “Wheaton is one of the few places where evangelicals are asking these questions in a serious way, and the conversation in the group was as high here as anywhere else in North America.”

For Rev. Mark Stephenson, director of disability concerns for the 1,100 Christian Reformed Churches in North America,

Pioneering Together

Ric Baptista celebrated his 60th birthday in April with a party at College Church in Wheaton, where he serves as an usher and takes part in the STARS ministry. Ric's party came just two weeks after the kick-off of the Faith and Disability Initiative, an event made possible by the endowment given in his name that was orchestrated by his mother Martha Cole Baptista '45, who served as assistant dean of students and coached women's basketball. "This was my mother's passion for the last year of her life," explains Rob Baptista, Jr. '70. At 93 years old, Martha met with Damon Winters '09, regional director of development, who told her about Dr. Thomas Boehm's work.

Motivated by Dr. Boehm's vision, Martha spearheaded a giving campaign, writing letters to the wide circle of family and friends of her and her husband, Dr. Robert C. Baptista, Sr. '44, who was vice president for academic affairs and men's soccer coach. "A lot of soccer and basketball players lived with us over the years—and a lot of them contributed," says Rob, adding, "She even told me how much I was going to give."

Ahead of their time, the Baptistas had also led classes for children with disabilities, and taught a class for Wheaton students called "Recreation for the Disabled."

After collecting the responses, Martha then surprised Damon and Dr. Boehm, presenting them with stacks of letters. Damon says, "There were gifts from both coasts and a litany of people. Clearly, when she called, people answered with a 'Yes, ma'am.'" Trusting that the giving would continue, Martha asked that Ric's birthday, April 10th, serve as a reminder to give.

Laurel Baptista Pond '74 met her husband, Jeff, thanks to Ric (center), pictured here celebrating his 60th birthday. Ric has worked at Spectrum Vocational and at Subway for over 20 years.



the symposium allowed time and space to "step back and think about the big picture, and to learn from those who are doing research and interviewing families so that we can bring all that back to our churches."

For Dr. Tim Taylor, assistant professor of international relations, the symposium served as an introduction to issues surrounding faith and disability. He says, "When we talk about diversity, there is deafening silence with respect to disability. We need to train students, as future leaders in the church, to be serving people with a variety of abilities."

Having worked at the intersection of disability and ministry since his college years, Dr. Jeff McNair '78, professor of education at California Baptist University, believes, "What is desperately needed is the preparation of the Christian community to love their neighbors with disabilities—and that cuts across every discipline. My dream for Wheaton is that students would not be able to leave this campus without having an interaction with a person with a disability, and Lord willing, would leave with a friend with a disability."

During the symposium, Dr. Boehm captured over half of these leaders on video, creating 30 mini-lectures, which he has made available to Wheaton faculty members across every discipline. With a desire to make this symposium an annual event, and through meetings with administrators and chairs of every department, Dr. Boehm hopes Wheaton will "embrace God's heart for people with disabilities," and that the College will then act, "equipping the church and engaging the world with inclusive schooling and ministries that will both expand and mature God's family," he says.

With the College still very much in the planning stages, Provost Diddams says of the future, "I want Wheaton College to be an innovation lab for the church. How can we be a campus that recognizes the needs of the whole body? Let's posture ourselves to keep up with what the Lord is doing."

Schools: Engaging the World

Born in 1948, Ann Haskins was a beloved daughter who lived a contented and helpful life, though the education system did not address her learning limitations. In Ann's honor, her mother, Mary Haskins, endowed a Chair of Special Education at Wheaton.

"It's really a miracle that this would occur," says Mac Airhart '61, who served on the board for the Haskins Foundation, knew Ann and Mary, and understood not only Mary's frustration, but also her vision.

"After searching the country for schools that would help Ann reach her potential," he says Mary was moved to help provide excellence in both teacher training and schooling opportunities for other children with disabilities.

With Dr. Boehm at the helm of Wheaton's program since 2015, the first class of students to earn the special education (LBSI) endorsement graduated in 2017. Since then, 30 more students have joined the program, and every education major now benefits from required classes taught by Dr. Boehm.

"The highest teacher shortage in our country is for special education teachers," he says, adding there are profound international needs for special education resources, and private Christian schools are also often sadly underresourced. While the greatest percentage of Wheaton's teachers go on to teach general education classes in the public schools, most of these will have students with disabilities in their classes, and all will be better prepared to support the individual needs of every student.

Austin Chu '18 came to Wheaton with an interest in special education and received the Ann Haskins Scholarship upon joining the second cohort. "The great thing about Wheaton is that you get plugged into schools right away," he says. "This opened my eyes to a lot of the opportunities, and helped me see how general education and special education come together."

Now a seventh grade special education teacher at Marquardt Middle School in Glendale Heights, Illinois, who also co-teaches in general education classes, Austin says, "Wheaton taught me to have a real, positive joy about being a special education teacher. It makes your job that much more fulfilling when you notice the improvements students make and the ways God is at work."

Abby Lawson '19 stepped out in faith and decided to take an extra year to complete her special education endorsement, receiving an Ann Haskins Scholarship in the process, and becoming the first music education major to join the program.

Thanks to two remarkable opportunities—one as a full-time paraprofessional at the Marklund Day School for a summer, and the other as a volunteer at a Joni & Friends Family Retreat—Abby gained invaluable experience, which she hopes to use as a general education music teacher. She says, "I loved my experience as a music teacher at G. Stanley Hall Elementary in Glendale Heights. I saw all students in grades 1-5, including the students with disabilities, and I was able to incorporate what I had learned in my special education classes to differentiate the instruction."

Churches: Strengthening the Witness

Dr. Boehm and Dr. Carter share a vision for inclusive faith communities, as well as a passion for research that provides insights for the church. Several telling studies point to the need for change. In a study of more than 400 parents, Dr. Carter and his colleagues found one-third had left their churches because their child with intellectual and developmental disabilities was not welcomed or included. More than half of parents (56 percent) said they kept their children from participating in religious activities because support was not provided.

Dr. Boehm then joined Dr. Carter in a series of studies examining both the supports in faith communities and the felt needs of families, in an effort to highlight where change is most needed. Out of this research came a guide for welcoming people with developmental disabilities and their families into congregations that can be found on Dr. Boehm's Wheaton College webpage.

This is just the beginning of the resources Dr. Boehm hopes to provide. He hopes to answer questions like those of Dina Kapernekas, a member of the Faith and Disability Advisory Council, whose daughter Zoe was born with severe congenital hydrocephalus and requires one-on-one care 14 hours a day. Dina asks, "What might the church's response be to families who have extraordinary burdens on a daily basis as a result of caring for individuals with disabilities?"

Dr. Boehm also hopes to enable the church to respond the way God the Father would to his children with diverse abilities. Chantal Huinink, coordinator of organizational and spiritual life at Christian Horizons, a service organization in Ontario, Canada, was born with cerebral palsy into a Christian home. "I grew up understanding God had a good and perfect plan for my life," she says. Chantal, who was a manuscript reviewer for the symposium, shared a powerful message for the church.

Since she uses a wheelchair, the responsibility is often left to Chantal to figure out how she might be included. "In my teen years, I didn't want to do much of anything, because I didn't want to burden others. I just learned to excuse myself from events," she says. Then her neighbor invited her to a new youth group with a youth pastor who had no experience, but simply said, "We'll figure out a way." She was 15 when he carried her in his arms onto the school bus so that she could join her friends.

Chantal now writes theological articles, helps implement family camps in Canada, and regularly speaks at schools and churches. She says, "I know the Christian witness is that much stronger when it surpasses societal wisdom. What does it mean not to do the minimum of what is required, but instead to do what we are called to do, which is to carry one another, whether we have disabilities or not?"

Like Dina and Chantal, Dr. Mimi Wohlschlegel Larson '89, M.A. '99, visiting assistant professor of Christian formation and ministry, raises important questions. She wonders what it might mean to have reciprocity—a willingness to give, receive, and minister alongside? "I hope we will be able to point to the beauty of what might be, and cast that vision for the church universal," she says.



JEFFREY SWIDER-PELTZ '19, "HEILONGJIANG SPEEDSKATING HALL," 2019.
ACRYLIC, SPRAY PAINT, PENCIL, TAPE, GESSO. 22 X 22 INCHES

READ AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ARTIST AT WHEATON.EDU/MAGAZINE

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

WHEATON ALUMNI AND FACULTY ENGAGE THE GERMAN MARTYR

BY LAURA MERZIG FABRYCKY '99

WHEN OUR FAMILY MOVED TO BERLIN, Germany, in July 2016 for my husband's (David Fabrycky '00) next diplomatic assignment at the U.S. Embassy, we found evidence of Dietrich Bonhoeffer—the German theologian, pastor, and anti-Nazi resistance member—everywhere. Even his last home in Berlin was not far from our new house. Simply put, we had moved into his neighborhood.

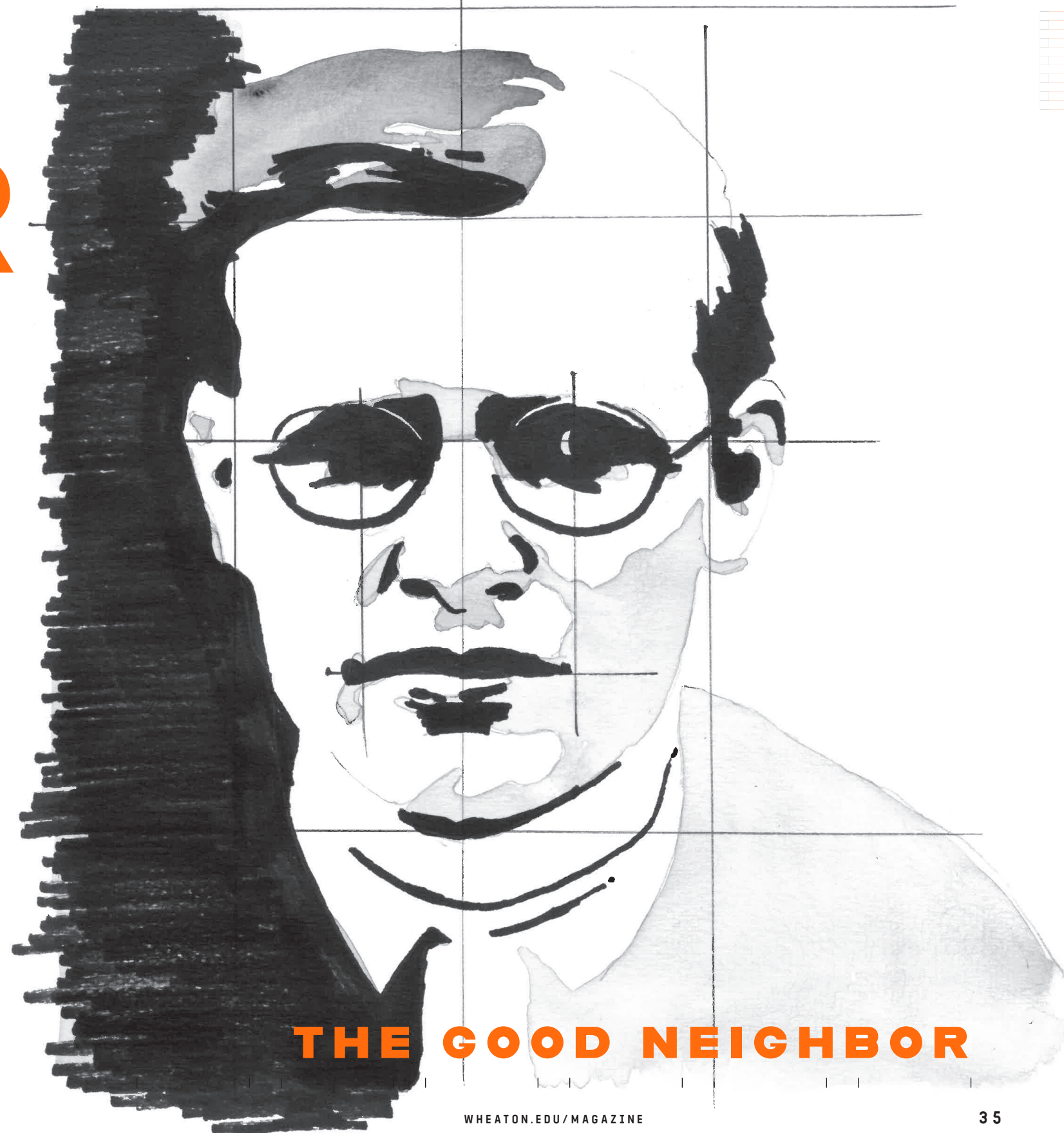
Our family visited the Bonhoeffer-Haus later that fall. Dietrich's parents built it when his father retired in 1935, but the Bonhoeffer family enjoyed little retiring there as the Nazi grip tightened on daily life. The Bonhoeffers' home was always one of culture, curiosity, and courage, but it also became a place of conspiracy. Dietrich was arrested in this house in April 1943, his upper-floor bedroom the last place he stood as a free man.

Put to death by the Nazis at the age of 39 in April 1945 for conspiring against Hitler, Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and writings still inspire and challenge scholars, general readers, and *Hausfrauen* like me. From 2017-19, I served as a volunteer guide at the Bonhoeffer-Haus, opening its doors to visitors from around the world, telling Dietrich's story, and inviting reflection on the questions he asked in life and answered both in his life and death.

Even with historical and cultural distance, many Wheaton College alumni and faculty continue to find Bonhoeffer a neighbor worth listening to, a friend to think with and be challenged by. They share his influence on them in a number of new and forthcoming books.

One is Wheaton's Professor of Urban Studies Dr. Noah Toly '99, whom I welcomed to the Bonhoeffer-Haus for a 2018 visit with his eldest son. After graduating from Wheaton, Toly worked with a community development organization in Wilmington, Delaware, where he witnessed firsthand how inseparable environmental policies were from social justice concerns. As part of his 2006 job interview at Wheaton, Toly delivered a lecture on that subject, and asserted a sweeping policy idea. After a satisfying discussion, he took one last question that stumped him: Why *that* policy in light of so many other good ones? That ethical dilemma haunted Toly for years, even though he got the position.

The question's tight knot began to loosen when Toly, now as a faculty member, took a course on Bonhoeffer taught by Wheaton's Gunther H. Knoedler Professor of Theology Dr. Daniel Treier. "We read Bonhoeffer's *Ethics*," Toly said, "and I was struck by Bonhoeffer's insistence that 'the



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR

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definitive context for responsible action' is one in which 'right collides with right,' a reference to the Greek poet Aeschylus." Toly knew that collision of goods well; it was central to his research on environmental policy and global governance. But he now saw how facing that tragic reality of competing goods—one that many try to avoid with "nihilism, moral skepticism, and paralysis"—was critical to responsible Christian living. "Our everyday lives are full of situations in which right collides with right," said Toly.

Bonhoeffer's insistence that Christ freed us from self-justification helped Toly see that Christ also freed us to be responsible, to wrestle with complex policy challenges as thoughtfully, humbly, and prayerfully as we can. Renewed in that hope, Toly returned to that hard, haunting question, answering it in his most recent book, *The Gardener's Dirty Hands: Global Environmental Politics and Christian Ethics* (Oxford University Press, 2019).

With Bonhoeffer as his muse, Toly said, "We need to respond [to environmental ethical challenges] in ways that bear the costs so that others might benefit."

While scholars like Toly find ballast in Bonhoeffer's thought, more general readers of Bonhoeffer know his adventurous life story thanks to a growing number of popular and academic English-language biographies and the 17-volume *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works in English* (Fortress). Bonhoeffer's more

devotional writings, like *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Life Together*, are considered classics. Many Wheaton students who read Bonhoeffer as undergraduates find that his work grows with them.

That such a wide range of people find nourishment in Bonhoeffer demonstrates just how rare a figure he is, said Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought Dr. Timothy Larsen '89, M.A. '90. "Our devotional writers are rarely leading scholars and thinkers now; our theologians are rarely brave actors in great world dramas."

Fellow theology professor Dr. Keith Johnson agreed, "Bonhoeffer is one of the few modern thinkers whose writings span the divide between popular-level devotional literature and the highest levels of academic theology. He helps those in both groups grow in new ways."

Together, Larsen and Johnson co-edited *Bonhoeffer, Christ, and Culture* (IVP Academic, 2013), with papers from leading scholars and participants in the 2012 Wheaton Theology Conference on Bonhoeffer.

Living in the midst of complex moral and political failures in both society and the church, Bonhoeffer "saw what others didn't see as quickly or as clearly," said Dr. Daniel Treier. "Bonhoeffer held together a radical commitment to Christ's lordship over all aspects of reality and the elements of [the two kingdoms doctrine] that could keep the church from being too perfectionistic or too power-hungry about transforming society here and now."

Bonhoeffer's commitments stimulate fresh thinking about Christian discipleship and ethical responsibility in a variety of contexts, including places like Ethiopia, which Dr. Andrew DeCort '05 now calls home.

DeCort knew how Bonhoeffer's story ended. But after spending an entire year reading every surviving published word of the theologian, he still wept when he read Bonhoeffer's last words. "It felt like one of my dearest friends had just been murdered," DeCort said.

Bonhoeffer scholars have lauded DeCort's *Bonhoeffer's New Beginnings: Ethics after Devastation* (Lexington/Fortress Academic, 2018) as a groundbreaking book in the crowded field of Bonhoeffer scholarship. A rising academic and practitioner, DeCort considers the tough question: "How can we start over after we have lost our way or been devastated?"

DeCort first learned about Bonhoeffer in his high school youth group and was captivated by the martyr's well-known words, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." He began to read Bonhoeffer and continued doing so during his undergraduate days at Wheaton. Between his junior and senior years, DeCort traveled to Ethiopia and returned to the country soon after graduating. Helping plant a new church in Addis Ababa in 2005, DeCort was writing a discipleship curriculum when deadly political turmoil broke out, with violence and mass arrests affecting his congregants and their fellow citizens. In that difficult context he wrestled with what it meant to obey Christ's command to love one's neighbor.

DeCort met his wife, Lily, in Ethiopia, and the couple moved to the United States so he could begin doctoral studies in theological ethics at the University of Chicago. A series of personal devastations—some serious family crises and the passing of his beloved adviser, Jean Bethke Elshtain, and Eyob, a young man he met suffering on the streets of Addis—left him reeling. DeCort clung to Bonhoeffer's principle that new beginnings emerge out of apparent endings. Those difficult years proved to be the seedbed for his book.

DeCort also returned to Wheaton, bringing his friend Bonhoeffer with him. He developed a seminar and study abroad program for Wheaton students called "Authority, Action, Ethics: Ethiopia," which he led from 2014 to 2016. Each day, the group recited together Bonhoeffer's words: "The other person... is God's claim on us; indeed, it is the holy God in person whom we encounter."

Challenged by Bonhoeffer's insight that following Christ means "being human for others," Andrew and Lily returned to Addis in 2016, where Andrew began teaching at the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology. He also founded the Institute for Christianity and the Common Good with the mission of sharing presence, strengthening theological education, and promoting neighbor-love within Ethiopia and beyond. And he has recently released an eight-hour course, available online, called *Neighbor-Love: A Revolutionary Idea that Could Save Our World*.

In 2016, protests erupted in Ethiopia with calls for political and social reforms and an end to human rights abuses. Attempting to quell the protests with a heavy hand, the government also declared a nationwide state of emergency. With turmoil raging outside, DeCort delivered a public lecture on Bonhoeffer. "Telling Bonhoeffer's story and discussing his ethics of making a new beginning after devastation in this context was extremely moving, especially in light of the Ethiopian churches' deafening silence in the face of mass political injustice and violence." DeCort wants to encourage and equip "Ethiopian Bonhoeffers."

The DeCorts visited the Bonhoeffer-Haus in the summer of 2018. (Alas, I did not serve as their guide.) Lily said after their visit that "it felt like visiting the house of a family member," their lives having been so informed by his.

Karen Wright Marsh '83 and her husband, Charles, share that deep friendship with Bonhoeffer too. Growing up in the church, Karen knew of Bonhoeffer as a hero and martyr of the faith. After graduating from Wheaton, she married Charles Marsh, who focused on Bonhoeffer in his graduate studies in philosophical theology. (Charles Marsh has since published several books about Bonhoeffer, including the critically acclaimed biography *Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer* [Vintage, 2014].)

A formative post-graduate fellowship allowed the Marshes to live and study in Zurich, Switzerland. There, as her command of German strengthened, Karen Marsh read more of Bonhoeffer for herself. She was riveted by his insights about community and his profound, even costly commitment to others in relationship.

After they returned to the United States, Charles took a position at Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland, and together, in 1990, they founded Theological Horizons, a non-profit ministry committed to "vibrant theological scholarship and authentic Christian community," values that Bonhoeffer so treasured. In 2000, they transposed this ministry to Charlottesville, Virginia, and Karen became its executive director.

Their own "Bonhoeffer House" in Charlottesville seemed to find them. "A friend called us to say he had found a perfect place for us to live out our vision. With its red tile roof and stucco façade, the house even resembles the Bonhoeffers' house in Berlin," Karen Marsh said. Naming it after the German theologian, they opened their home as a place to gather neighbors from their university community, offering good food and drink alongside thoughtful intellectual and spiritual conversation.

"The house's name means I'm often called Mrs. Bonhoeffer by mistake," Marsh said, chuckling. "But it also allows us to talk about Dietrich's life and about living in this world, and loving our neighbors, even with all our manifold differences."

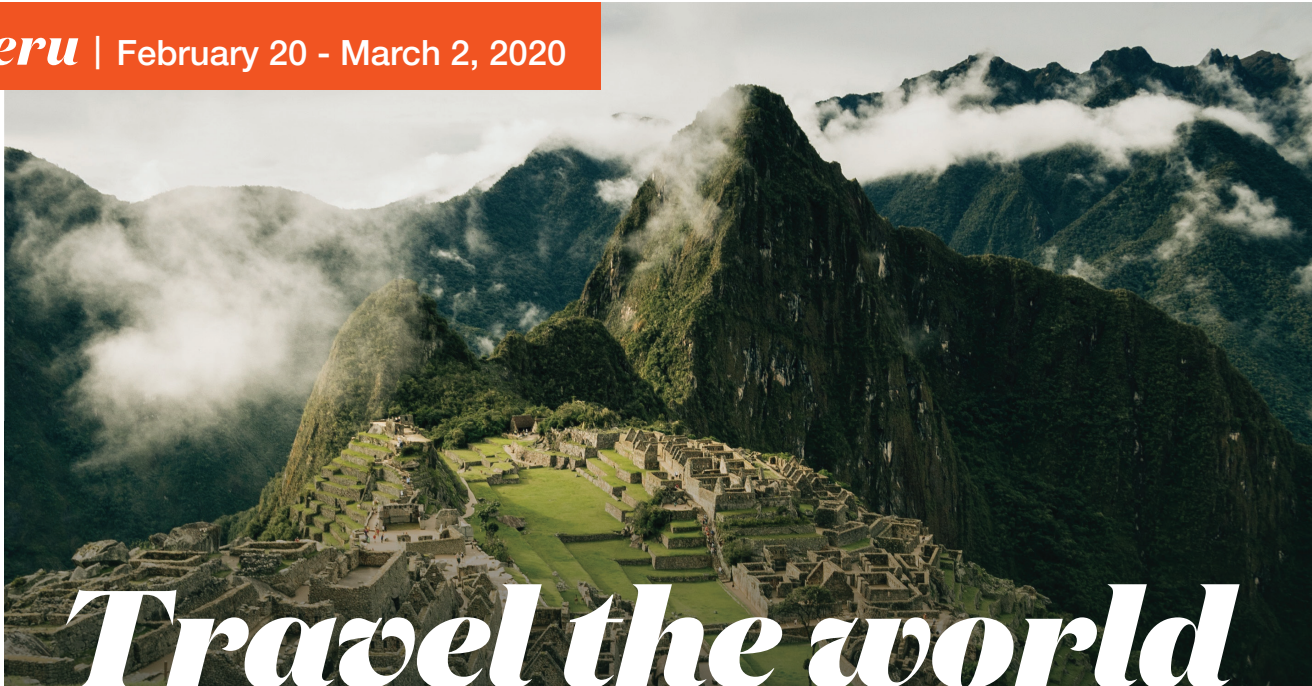
Every Friday, for years, Marsh has offered lunch and stories of "vintage saints" to the often 60 to 70 people who come—usually university students from a variety of faith backgrounds. Marsh introduces a Christian figure, and the group reads and discusses related primary texts. These lunchtime stories served as the foundation of her award-winning book, *Vintage Saints and Sinners* (IVP, 2017). In it, Marsh offers evocative human sketches of 25 Christians in history—Dietrich Bonhoeffer among them.

"Dietrich was a hero, no doubt," said Marsh. "But it's his love of life that I find so compelling. He loved bringing people together. He loved adventure and traveled widely—from Rome to Libya, from New York City to Mexico, all through the American South—and always in a suit! He loved good food, music, art, and poetry. He even cared about his wardrobe! And in prison, he longed for the people he loved and for glimpses of the sky and trees."

"The older I get, the more I live in this world, the more I see and savor how much Bonhoeffer loved this world and life in it, which makes his sacrifices for it even more astounding," Marsh said. "He is a true Christian brother and a truly human one too. If anything, that's what we need more of—people who love this world enough to defend it."

The Toly family joins in that loving defense at dinner, reading a portion of Bonhoeffer's *Prayerbook of the Bible* aloud, followed by a psalm. The DeCorts share presence and practice neighbor-love in Ethiopia. Karen Marsh prepares another Vintage Lunch. And though I have now surrendered my keys to the Bonhoeffer-Haus, I share what I learned there about being a Christian, a citizen, and a neighbor in my book, *Keys to Bonhoeffer's Haus* (Fortress, forthcoming). Around the world, the legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and faith lives on. **W**

Peru | February 20 - March 2, 2020



Greek Islands | September 16 - 28, 2020



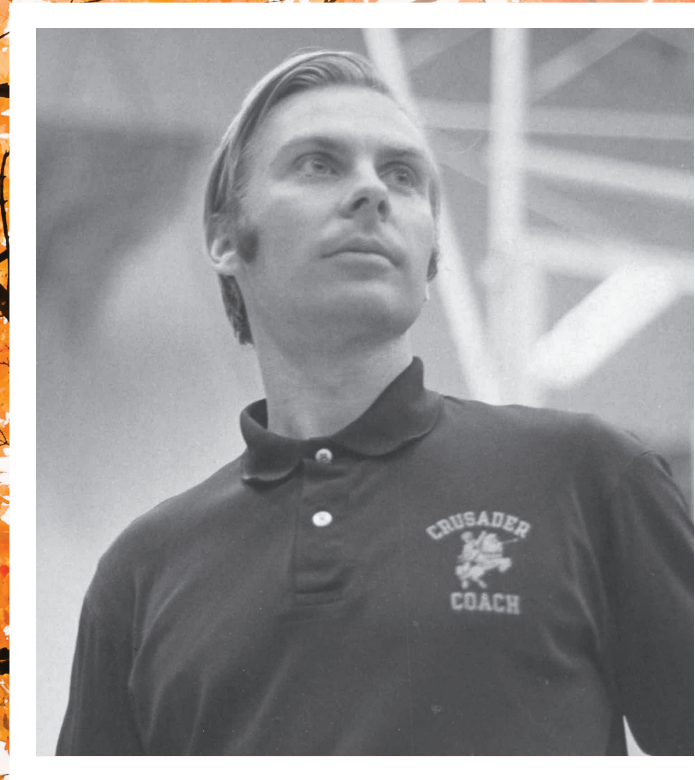
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ALUMNI

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ALUMNI PROFILE
DR. JOANN HARRIS-BOWLSBEY '53



p.60

IN MEMORY
DR. GEORGE "BUD"
WILLIAMS JR. M.A. '66

NEWS



“I WOULD LIKE TO RISE very high, Lord; Above my city, Above the world, Above time. I would like to purify my glance and borrow your eyes.”

I was introduced to these poetic words by theologian and writer Michael Quoist while a student at Wheaton, and I carried them with me when I left for nursing school in Chicago. As my view changed from Blanchard Hall and its front lawn to the Chicago skyline and its expressways, these words helped me refocus my eyes.

The transition to urban life and nursing was intense. As I moved into a world of concrete, I encountered poverty, and I cared for people who were in the midst of health crises. I prayed to have God’s eyes to see the city, the people I encountered in the hospital, and classmates and neighbors as God would see them. By the end of nursing school, I had experienced a remarkable transformation and gained a new perspective. God had not only given me eyes to see but a heart that desired to stay in the city to serve. The same desire was stoked in my soon-to-be-husband, and we made Chicago our home.

Thirty-six years later, I continue to pray for God to give me eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit is

A Word With Alumni

BEVERLY LIEFELD HANCOCK ’84
President, Wheaton College Alumni
Association Board of Directors
2019-2021

“THIRTY-SIX YEARS LATER, I CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR GOD TO GIVE ME EYES TO SEE AND EARS TO HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS DOING AROUND ME EACH DAY.”

doing around me each day.

Recently I have been immersed again in the Wheaton community as a parent of two alumnae and now as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. I am reminded of the richness of a liberal arts education that gives students the opportunity to engage in learning from the perspective of multiple disciplines. Borrowing the Creator’s eyes, students can understand the world through varied lenses, from sociology to math to urban studies to education. Expert and caring faculty guide students as they develop their thinking and identity in Christ, challenging them to probe and stretch, to explore “the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God.” Wheaton’s unique community, with students hailing from all over the world and a variety of backgrounds, offers the opportunity for a fuller understanding of God’s perspective as students engage in conversation, navigating the joys and challenges of living in community.

Wheaton is a place for students to purify their glance and borrow God’s eyes, and in so doing, develop more wholly their relationship and response to an eternal and loving God. May each of us alumni, wherever our life journey has taken us, do the same. **W**



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT, VOCATION, AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT Dr. Kirk D. Farney M.A. ’98 SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR VOCATION AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch ’82 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT Dr. Beverly Liefeld Hancock ’84 PRESIDENT-ELECT Eric B. Fowler ’81 PAST PRESIDENT Renae Schauer Smith ’91 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch ’82 ALUMNI TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES Beverly Liefeld Hancock ’84, Eric B. Fowler ’81, Renae Schauer Smith ’91 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING THROUGH 2020 Claudia Kraftson Brice ’78, Paul Compton ’09, Susan Follett Davis ’04, Ruth Lageschulte Johnson ’67, George Kohl Jr. ’76 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING THROUGH 2021 Austin Chu ’18, Bruce Gin ’83, Jeffrey Golz ’89 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING THROUGH 2022 Bryan Eklund ’89, M.A. ’14, Julie Miesse Feyerer ’91, Christopher Peterson ’93 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING THROUGH 2023 Kari Shook Anderson ’91, Dr. Elisabeth Verseput Jones ’08, Rebecca Gray Jordan ’88, Jeffrey Shafer ’96

PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON ’89

Wheaton College Alumni Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-19



Board Directors ROW 1 (L TO R): Esther Lee Cruz ’06, Lee Eakle Phillips ’77, Kurt Tillman ’78, Renae Schauer Smith ’91, Eric Fowler ’81, Beverly Liefeld Hancock ’84, Morgan Jacob ’17. ROW 2 (L TO R): Claudia Kraftson Brice ’78, Susan Follett Davis ’04, Bruce Gin ’83, Christopher Peterson ’93, Paul Compton ’09, Bryan Eklund ’89, M.A. ’14, Gary Keyes ’63, George Kohl Jr. ’76, Jeffrey Golz ’89. NOT PICTURED: Julie Miesse Feyerer ’91, Ruth Lageschulte Johnson ’67

SEND US YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS. ALL ALUMNI ARE INVITED TO SUGGEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY SUBMITTING AN ONLINE FORM TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CLASS YEAR, VOCATION, GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO WHEATON. JOB DESCRIPTION AND NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AND SUBMITTED ONLINE AT ALUMNI.WHEATON.EDU.

WHEATON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2018-19 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.



PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON ’89

Faculty Awards

ALUMNI FACULTY GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2019-20

- Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R. Argentina Biblical & Theological Studies
- Dr. Elisha Eveleigh Psychology
- Professor Sara Vroom Fick M.A. ’13 Education
- Professor David Hooker Art
- Dr. Daniel Horn Conservatory of Music
- Dr. Adam Miglio M.A. ’01 Biblical & Theological Studies
- Dr. Raymond Phinney Psychology
- Dr. John Trotter Conservatory of Music
- Science Division Block Grant for Faculty/Student Summer Research

JUNIOR ALUMNI FACULTY GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2019-20

- Dr. Aubrey Buster ’09, M.A. ’11 Biblical & Theological Studies
- Dr. Nathan Cartagena Philosophy
- Dr. Matthew Forsstrom Business & Economics
- Dr. Kristin Garrett ’07 Politics & International Relations
- Dr. Emily McGowin Biblical & Theological Studies

FACULTY MISSIONS PROJECT 2018-19

- Dr. M. Daniel Carroll R. Argentina Biblical & Theological Studies
- Dr. Theon Hill Indonesia Communication
- Dr. Scott Ickes Kenya Applied Health Science
- Dr. Shawn Okpebholo Uganda Conservatory of Music
- Dr. Vitaliy Voytenko M.A. ’02, M.A. ’09, Psy.D. ’05 Ukraine Psychology

Student Awards

JUNIORS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEIR SENIOR YEAR (L TO R)

- Rose Wright ’20
- Lora Boll ’20
- Bethany Faulds ’20
- Mingxuan “Danny” Du ’20
- Cody Wollin ’20
- Jordan Dunnewind ’20

Alumni Awards

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS 2018-19

- Marjorie Lamp Mead ’74, M.A. ’06 For Distinguished Service to Alma Mater

- Dr. JoAnn Harris-Bowlsbey ’53 For Distinguished Service to Society

Alumni Weekend 2019

ALL PHOTOS BY MIKE HUDSON '89



Dottie Peterson Haugen '59, Nancy Heslinga Greener '64, Ken Greener '64, Gilbert Kahle '64, Sue Kahle



In honor of their 70th reunion, Jack Swanson '49 leads his fellow '49ers in their class song



Daniel Sharp '69 and Nancy Lindsell Sharp '71



Pete Adams '69 and Daphne Adams



Jane Armerding St. Clair '69, Elliott Jones '69, Tom Lindholtz '69



Dr. JoAnn Harris-Bowlsbey '53, the 2019 Alumna of the Year for Distinguished Service to Society



Duane Lehman '54 and Ray Smith '54

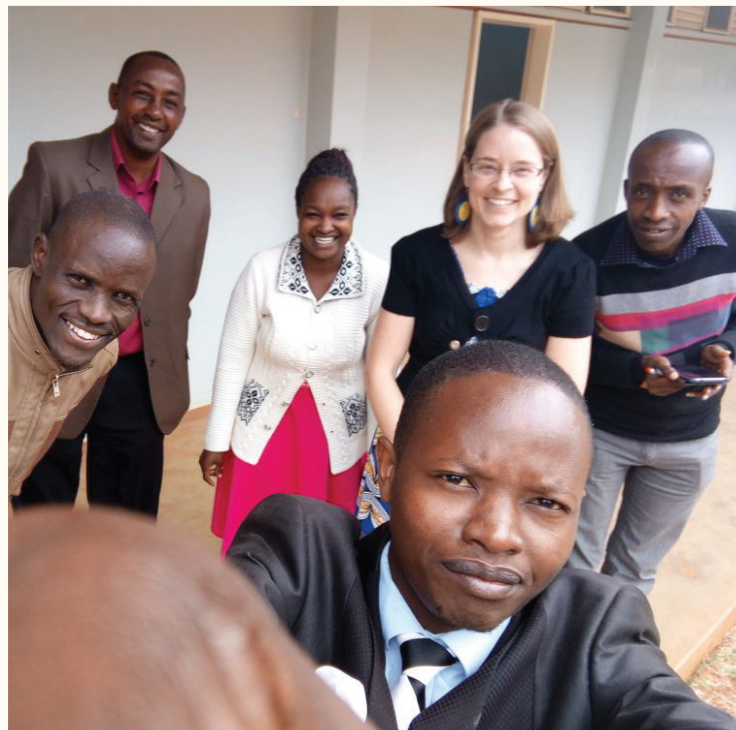


President Philip Ryken '88 welcomes alumni back during the all-alumni Spring Luncheon

Celebrating 1989, 1994, 1999, 2009, 2014
More information and registration at
alumni.wheaton.edu/homecoming

Wheaton College
HOME COMING

Oct 4-5
2019



To Kenya With Love

Stephanie Lowery Ph.D. '16 serves the global church in Kenya

BY MARISA FOXWELL DUTTWEILER '13 WHEN STEPHANIE LOWERY PH.D. '16 and her family left Kenya for a health emergency in 1996 after serving there as missionaries for 13 years, Stephanie knew she would return one day. She did not, however, know the educational twists and turns God would take her through first.

Stephanie's education had already been a whirlwind, bouncing from a Kenyan school to homeschooling to a one-room schoolhouse to boarding school and finally public high school in the United States.

After attaining a Master of Divinity degree and teaching for a year, the tug on Stephanie's heart to return to Kenya was stronger than ever, but she sensed God's calling in a different direction when three different mentors came to her separately suggesting she obtain a Ph.D. Stephanie was pleasantly surprised when Wheaton College accepted her application to study African models of the church, a very specific area of focus, with a scholarship.

In 2016, Stephanie was finally able to return to Kenya, and in January 2019, she accepted a full-time lecturer position at Africa International University in Nairobi. She also facilitates pastoral training sessions at a rural institute and serves at a local church.

Stephanie has observed that for young Christian leaders in Kenya, planting successful churches is not a question of faith or willingness; it is a need for leadership training that parallels the rate of growing churches. Her role is to prepare people for lifelong ministry so that the church may continue to grow and thrive in Kenya under a new generation of leaders. **W**

EQUIPPING LEADERS FOR THE URBAN CHURCH

Don Davis '88, M.A. '89 educates ministry leaders in cities and prisons nationwide

If you were at Wheaton between 1985 and 1989, you might have known Don Davis '88, M.A. '89.

Don was a distinguished student during his four years at Wheaton—not only because he was active around campus, graduated with a B.A. in Biblical Studies, an M.A. in Systematic Theology, and earned recognition for his academic achievements—but also because he would have stood out as a 30-year-old married undergrad with three children who had a career in urban ministry.

"I came to Wheaton laser-focused on learning everything I could in biblical training from an evangelical perspective so I could bring seminary-level theological training to the poor who don't have that chance," he says.

By the time he finished his M.A. and was preparing for a Ph.D. in Religion at the University of Iowa, Davis had plans to start The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI).

"I began to think, what if God were to use me to create an enterprise that would equip ministry leaders among the poor? How can I use what I'm learning at Wheaton to create such a thing?" he says.

For nearly 25 years, that is exactly what Dr. Davis and TUMI have been doing in hundreds of satellite locations within urban centers and prisons in 20 countries around the world. Davis can list many people whose lives and ministries are flourishing because of TUMI's affordable, culturally and academically accessible, and thoroughly biblical courses. These people include individuals returning from prison, working as truck drivers, or planting churches in poor neighborhoods.

"We should use our best minds for radical service to the poorest of the poor. We need to continue Wheaton's revolutionary commitment to serve those in need," says Davis. **W**

BY JOSHUA LITTLE '12

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE LOWERY PH.D. '16

"All children are beautiful when they are loved."



ALL THE BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN

Molly Holt '64 has dedicated her life to serving children with special needs

EDITOR'S NOTE: MOLLY HOLT '64 DIED ON MAY 16, 2019, SHORTLY AFTER THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN.

BY DAWN KOTAPISH '92

OFTEN CALLED the "Mother Teresa of Korea," Molly Holt '64 remembers the precise moment she committed her life to Korea's orphans.

It was December 1954, and her parents had just seen a World Vision documentary chronicling the tragic state of Korea's war orphans. Inspired by their recently renewed Christian commitment and the survival of Molly's 45-year-old father from a near-fatal heart attack, the couple vowed to help.

"I told my mother that I would spend my life caring for the orphans of Korea, and I have not thought of any other work since," recalls Molly, who in 2000 was elected chairperson of Holt Korea Children's Services in Seoul.

Founded in 1956 by Molly's parents, Holt Children's Services has grown into one of the world's largest adoption and child welfare agencies, having united more than 100,000 orphaned or abandoned children with adoptive families since its inception.

Molly has dedicated her life to the Holt Ilsan Center in Korea, caring for its more than 200 children with special needs.

Molly entered Wheaton College in 1958. Arriving from the loving yet austere setting of the Korean orphanages was, she recalls, "sort of like going to heaven."

She loved how the chimes called her to chapel, teachers prayed aloud, and the Bible was taught in class. On the other hand, she found the dining services so overwhelming (one serving of meat equaled a week's portion in Korea) that she received permission to eat elsewhere.

Molly completed her B.S.N. at the University of Oregon and earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and special education from the University of Northern Colorado.

Now 83 and in declining health, Molly continues to champion orphans and all those with special needs worldwide, perpetuating her parents' legacy by living out the exhortation captured by her mother's favorite saying: "All children are beautiful when they are loved." **W**

SERVICE AND SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Dr. JoAnn Harris-Bowlsbey '53 is the celebrated recipient of the Wheaton College Alumni Association's 2019 Distinguished Service to Society Award.

BY ALLISON ALTHOFF STEINKE '11

PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON '89

JOANN HARRIS-BOWLSBEY '53 has spent her life investing in others. She knows what it means to work hard and love sacrificially. Enrolled in Wheaton as an undergraduate at age 15, she took a full course load and worked part-time jobs on campus. She also helped care for her grandmother, who suffered a stroke on the first night of JoAnn's freshman year.

"I had very little social activity because of my academic work and care for my grandmother—I had to schedule classes in the afternoon while my mother was at home, and I took care of Grandmother in the morning."

JoAnn lived in a home with her mother and grandmother on Adams Street during the 1950s and 1960s. Her mother worked as a cook in the College's cafeteria, and her work supported JoAnn's Wheaton education—children of College employees at that time could attend for free. In thanks to her mother for this gift of a fully funded college education, JoAnn established the Annie E. Harris Scholarship Fund for Wheaton undergraduate students in 2014. It has underwritten numerous students and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

"I hope and pray students can leave Wheaton without a lifetime of debt," Dr. Harris-Bowlsbey says. "We all know the statistics about the size of debts students have. That's why I've established the Annie E. Harris Scholarship Fund—so fewer students will have big bills. I also hope and pray that Wheaton students will remain strong in the spiritual foundation formed in their years at Wheaton so that they can be salt and light in this dark world."

As an undergraduate, JoAnn pursued a double major in both Spanish and chemistry. She really wanted to be a Spanish teacher after graduation, but her mother encouraged her to get a degree in something she considered more "practical"—in this case, Chemistry—and both paid off in the long run. As a teacher in public school, JoAnn put her skills to use as a Spanish teacher, counselor, and director of guidance. In addition to a double major, JoAnn worked in Wheaton's mimeograph office on Saturdays, and during the summers at Sanford, Inc., where she tested ink and paste samples to "make sure children's paste wouldn't harm them and that inks wouldn't fade too soon." Social activities JoAnn enjoyed included the "Senior Sneak" to Wisconsin and a post-graduation trip to Europe with Clyde and Martha Kilby.

JoAnn's 65-year career has been a career of breakthroughs.

"If you're going to pursue systematic career planning, especially delivered by a computer, and now on the web, you have to think rationally about the steps a person needs to go through to do exploration and decision-making that leads them to a well-informed choice of education and occupation," JoAnn says. "That requires scientific thinking."

The system JoAnn created—the Computerized Vocational Information System (CVIS)—quickly spread across the nation and eventually the world.

"I think the discipline of science and mathematics that I developed at Wheaton supported my ability to design systematic career planning systems that have been delivered since 1968 by computer and now by the web. They're still the same thing, just in a different form."

JoAnn recognizes that, after she sent out her first application to teach at York High School, she never had to send out an application again. Throughout her career, every position she attained was offered to her. She notes an experience at Willowbrook High School in Villa Park in the early 1960s as a formational one. While one of a staff of 12 full-time counselors, she was called into the principal's office. He asked why she hadn't applied to be the director of guidance; she replied by saying that she didn't expect a woman would get it anyway, because a woman would never expect to be promoted in that way at that time. The principal told JoAnn he wanted

her application on his desk the next morning, and she became director of guidance at Willowbrook High School shortly thereafter.

She went on to obtain her doctorate at Northern Illinois University, became a college professor there, and continued to develop computer-assisted career guidance systems thanks to federal government funding and support from IBM. ACT acquired the resultant system, called DISCOVER, by merger in 1982.

JoAnn went on to become executive director of the ACT Educational Technology Center, president of the National Career Development Association, and executive director of product development at Kuder, Inc. Over the course of her career, JoAnn has consulted for global organizations, including Nippon Manpower Co Ltd. in Japan, which used the career adviser curriculum she wrote to train nearly 20,000 career advisers to date. The United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons also invited Dr. Harris-Bowlsbey to develop curriculum for Offender Workforce Development Specialists, paraprofessionals on U.S. prison staffs who help prisoners gain the skills necessary to attain and keep jobs when they are released. McDaniel College awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2016.

"My hopes and dreams and prayers are that Wheaton will remain a school committed to the training of young people so they will serve Christ and his kingdom," Dr. Harris-Bowlsbey says. "We sometimes think of service for Christ and his kingdom as being that of a minister or missionary, but I think that every one of us is in full-time Christian service, and I've tried to live my life in that way."

"I ALSO HOPE AND PRAY THAT WHEATON STUDENTS WILL REMAIN STRONG IN THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION FORMED IN THEIR YEARS AT WHEATON SO THAT THEY CAN BE SALT AND LIGHT IN THIS DARK WORLD."

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **Beloved, we are God's children now,** and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because **we shall see him as he is.**

1 JOHN 3:1-2 ESV

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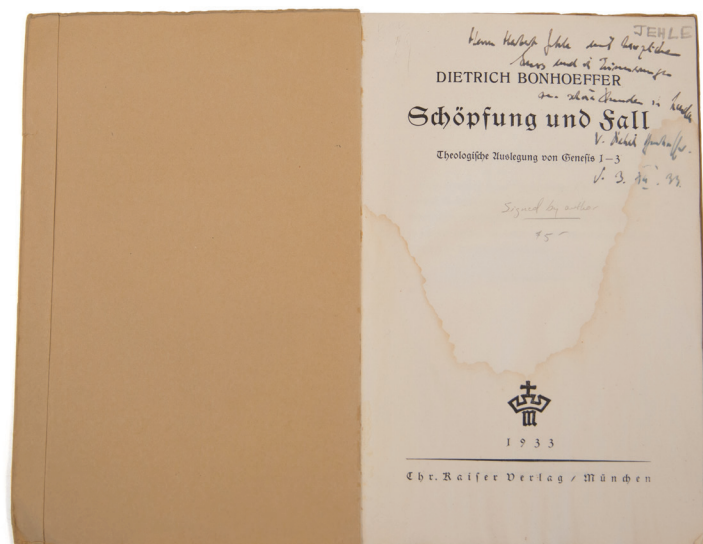
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