



WHEATON

VOLUME 22 // ISSUE 2 // 2019 UNFORGOTTEN: ANDREW AND NORINE BRUNSON P.21 ↓



**Unforgotten:
Andrew & Norine
Brunson**

**A Hidden Work of
Prayer**

Honduras Project



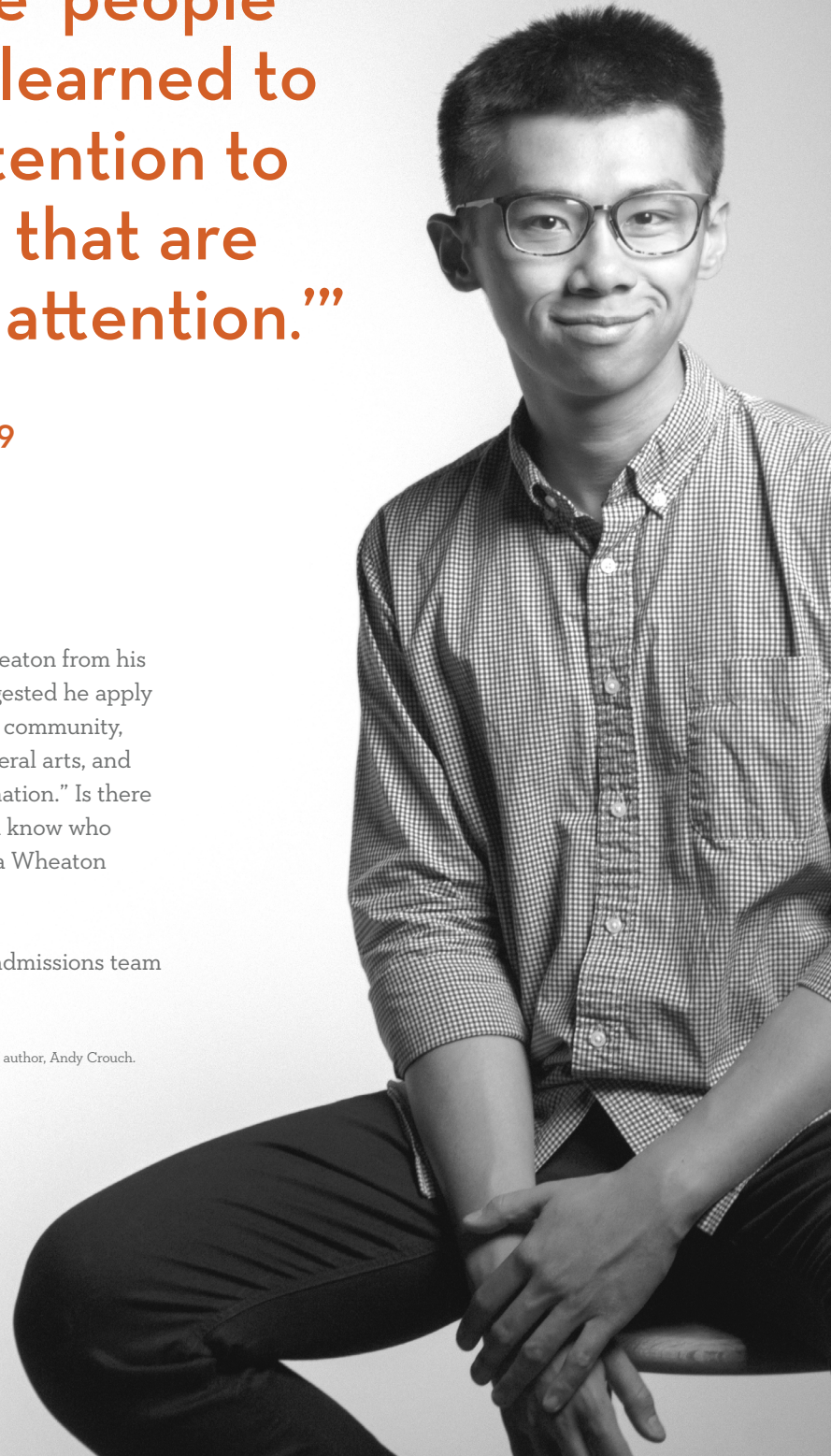
“ The beauty of a Wheaton liberal arts education is that it prepares us ‘to engage the full depth and breadth and width of the world we are called to love.’ To become ‘people who have learned to sustain attention to the things that are worthy of attention.’”

— Joshua Tjahjadi '19

Joshua first learned about Wheaton from his godfather in Jakarta, who suggested he apply to Wheaton for its “residential community, strong and proven rigorous liberal arts, and commitment to Christian formation.” Is there a family member or friend you know who would benefit from the gift of a Wheaton education?

Please let our undergraduate admissions team know at wheaton.edu/refer.

Quote used with permission from Joshua's favorite author, Andy Crouch.



features

VOLUME 22 // ISSUE 2 SPRING 2019
WHEATON

“I kept telling Andrew,
‘God is in this.’”



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"THE ALUMNI ARE THE SECRET SAUCE. THEY EXUDE INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY AND ARE DOING WONDERFUL THINGS IN THE WORLD."

DEE PIERCE M.A. '17, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR VOCATION AND CAREER

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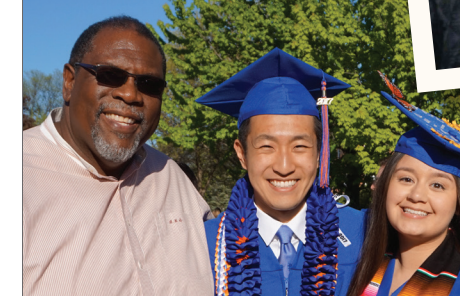
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COVER PHOTO BY ALEXA AND JOSH ADAMS



President's Perspective

DR. PHILIP G. RYKEN '88
PRESIDENT

IN OCTOBER OF 2016, WE received the disturbing news that after decades of faithful church planting, two of our alumni—Andrew '88 and Norine Steiner Brunson '89—had been taken prisoner in Izmir, Turkey.

I recognized their names instantly because Andrew had been on my floor at Wheaton and ended up graduating with my class in 1988. Although we were not close friends, I knew that he had missions in his blood and he was serious about following Jesus Christ.

Norine was soon released; however, the news about Andrew kept getting worse and worse. His tormentors held him without charge and would not permit him to speak with a lawyer. Then they transferred him to a different prison, where he suffered harsh conditions.

When Andrew finally appeared in court, anonymous witnesses falsely accused him of being a terrorist and a spy. The Turkish government attacked him in the media and used him as a scapegoat for public unrest. If convicted, he faced a sentence of up to 35 years in prison—a virtual life sentence.

Meanwhile, the Brunsons' plight was teaching our campus community valuable lessons about the call of missionary work and the cost of discipleship.

Although there were letters for us to write and government officials to contact, the only thing that seemed as if it could make a difference was

“THE NEWS OF HIS FREEDOM WAS GREETED IN EDMAN CHAPEL THE NEXT MORNING WITH AN EXPLOSION OF JOYFUL, GRATEFUL PRAISE.”

prayer. So, we prayed for Andrew, Norine, and their children. We prayed for Andrew's release, yes, but also for his perseverance in the face of persecution and faithful witness to the gospel. We prayed for the church in Turkey, which is under constant threat of intimidation.

As we continued to pray, from time to time we would hear news of Andrew's personal struggles in prison. He had doubts and fears, with gloomy days of unremitting grief and long nights of soul-crushing despair. This was another learning opportunity for us: suffering is real, and even the most faithful Christians may have to wait years for their deliverance.

The Brunsons' long struggle ended with Andrew's dramatic release on October 12, 2018. The news of his freedom was greeted in Edman Chapel the next morning with an explosion of joyful, grateful praise.

Through the example of these missionaries, our students can learn to follow Jesus faithfully. When I was a student at Wheaton in the 1980s, we sometimes wondered which of our classmates would be added to the missionary board in Blanchard Hall. Now students can trace the names of Andrew and Norine Brunson alongside many other faithful witnesses.

By the grace of God, today's Wheaton students will become tomorrow's missionaries, willing to go any distance and suffer any hardship to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. **W**

EMAIL EDITOR@WHEATON.EDU WITH FEEDBACK AND STORY IDEAS.

ILLUSTRATION BY BERND SCHIFFERDECKER

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY JOSH ADAMS

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CAMPUS NEWS
ASTON FRANCES '19
MAKES BASKETBALL
LOOK EASY



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CAMPUS NEWS
CHECK OUT INSTAGRAM
TO FIND OUT WHAT OUR
STUDENTS ARE UP TO



ARMERDING CENTER FOR MUSIC AND THE ARTS PROGRESS UPDATE

Wheaton College Conservatory of Music praises God for your generosity and prayers that made possible \$50.7 million in gifts and commitments from more than 1,200 households. Your support through the *From the Heart, For the Kingdom* campaign enabled the College to create a new state-of-the-art performing arts center at the heart of campus, which includes the completed recital hall, studios, practice rooms, rehearsal rooms, and classrooms. The second phase of construction, including the 648-seat Concert Hall, is expected to be complete by August 2020.

In February, the Conservatory of Music announced the establishment of the **John and Anita Nelson Center for Sacred Music** and the **John and Anita Nelson Distinguished Chair of Sacred Choral Music and Conducting**, Wheaton's first endowed faculty chair in the arts. Also announced was the new **Certificate in Worship Arts**, along with a supporting faculty position, **Associate Chaplain of Worship Arts/Associate Professor of Music**, allied with the Chaplain's Office and the Conservatory of Music, which will prepare leaders for artistic and theological excellence.

For more information, visit wheaton.edu/conservatory.



Where Are the Women? Student-led conference invites the College community to consider what it means to be a Christian woman.

WHEN CAMILLE FREY '18 was on her Human Needs and Global Resources internship, she had a conversation with Dr. George Kalantzis, professor of theology. Camille voiced her concern that women in biblical and theological studies at Wheaton have few examples of BIRTH alumnae using their degrees. That conversation sparked an idea for a conference exploring this issue. Five students—Hannah Hempstead M.A. '19, Laura Howard '19, Katherine Beech '21, Eliza Stiles '22, and Katherine Goodwin M.A. '19—collaborated to develop the conference. During the event, they invited the College community to consider the question “Where are the women?” from two angles: Where are women who were theologically educated at Wheaton and where are women in churches, schools, and society? The conference started in February with a chapel presentation from Dr. Amy Hughes M.A. '08, Ph.D. '13, and then alumnae and faculty presented or participated in moderated discussions on topics such as vocational discernment, leadership, relationships, sexuality, reconciliation, history, and theology. The conference was supported by the School of Biblical and Theological Studies; the Office of the Provost; Opus; the Center for Vocation and Career; the Wheaton Center for Early Christian Studies; the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement; and others. **W**

PHOTO BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS



WHEATON LAUNCHED ITS NEW M.A. IN HIGHER EDUCATION & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT. MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL



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READ WHEATON NEWS AND BLOGS AT WHEATON.EDU/NEWS

Marc Chagall and the Bible Exhibition

FROM NOVEMBER TO MARCH, an exhibition featuring etchings and lithographs of Marc Chagall's imaginative interpretation of the Old Testament and Christ's crucifixion was on display in the Billy Graham Center Museum. The exhibition was co-sponsored by Core Studies, the Department of Art, and the President's Art Commission.

Ethan Roser Memorial Scholarship

WHEATON COLLEGE and the family of Ethan Roser announced the availability of the Ethan Roser Memorial Scholarship, an endowed scholarship established in memory of the freshman transfer student who was known for his love for God and for others, his commitment to evangelism, and his ministry service with Young Life.



WHEATON'S CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

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 needed resources in the areas of scholarship, spiritual development and evangelism, and practical assistance.

Humanitarian Disaster Institute

Director: Dr. Jamie Aten

Founder and Executive Director of the Humanitarian Disaster Institute
Blanchard Chair of Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership

HUMANITARIAN DISASTER INSTITUTE founder and executive director Dr. Jamie Aten published *A Walking Disaster: What Surviving Katrina and Cancer Taught Me About Faith and Resilience* (Templeton Press) in January. The book weaves together Aten's personal experiences and research, drawing out lessons about the power of the human spirit to endure trauma with courage. In February, HDI co-hosted a poverty simulation with HOPE International. Students were able to take part in an immersive experiential learning opportunity designed to help participants glimpse the difficulty inherent in a lifetime of poverty. The first class of the M.A. in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership will graduate in August, after spending the summer completing internships with relief and development organizations around the globe. Student Leif Van Grinsven '19, who is part of the accelerated M.A. program, was selected as a 2019 Humanitarian Crises, Refugees, and Human Rights Fellow, as a part of the Duke Global Policy Program. He will spend the summer as an intern in Geneva, Switzerland. **W**



 LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/HDI

ILLUSTRATION BY DEQUE WU

Marion E. Wade Center

Directors: Dr. Crystal Downing and Dr. David C. Downing
Co-Directors and Co-Holders of the Marion E. Wade Chair of
Christian Thought

MARION E. WADE CENTER archivist Laura Schmidt '03 presented a lecture in January on the early work of J. R. R. Tolkien, titled "Tolkien's Beginnings: Friendship, War, Love, and Writing." Dr. Crystal Downing presented "The Wages of Cinema: Dorothy L. Sayers's Spiritual Montage" in March. The 2018-19 Hansen Lectureship was held by Dr. Jerry Root, professor of evangelism, who lectured on C. S. Lewis's poem *Dymer*. Dr. Matthew Milliner '98, associate professor of art history, will present the 2019-20 Hansen Lectureship series. As part of the Muriel Fuller Endowment for the Imagination and the Arts, Ballet 5:8 will perform in the fall *The Space in Between*, a ballet inspired by C. S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. In preparation for the ballet, Dr. David C. Downing, co-holder of the Marion E. Wade Chair of Christian Thought, will present his inaugural lecture on *The Great Divorce*. Additionally, the Wade launched a podcast featuring interviews and discussions with leading scholars, authors, and figures related to the Wade's seven authors. **W**


 LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/WADE

“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 Center for Faith, Politics & Economics (FPE)

FPE is pleased to welcome new board members: Bonnie Pruett Wurzbacher '77, former Chief Resource Development Officer for World Vision International (2013-2017) and Sr. Vice President at Coca-Cola (1984-2012); and Martha Holley Newsome '87, CEO and President of Medical Teams International. FPE thanks outgoing board members Ken Elzinga and Kristin Colber-Baker '86 for their generous and wise service. FPE held its inaugural Faith in the Marketplace Mentorship course this fall. Students had the opportunity to hear personal accounts of how Christian faith has affected the careers of successful practitioners who have served as entrepreneurs, presidents of corporations and investment companies, top managers for cutting-edge businesses like LinkedIn, and high-level government officials. FPE hosted Steve Preston, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on September 24 for a lecture on "The Financial Crisis of 2008: A View from the Inside." Arthur Brooks, President of the American Enterprise Institute, lectured on his newly released book, *Love your Enemies* (Broadside Books, 2019), in April. During the summer, FPE will run its Iron Sharpens Iron: Southeast Asia program, during which students will see for themselves the relationship between public policy and international business while traveling to Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Singapore.

 LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/FPE

Billy Graham Center

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Center for Applied Christian Ethics

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/CAE

Center for Urban Engagement

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HoneyRock — Outdoor Center for Leadership Development

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Human Needs and Global Resources

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Institute for Cross-Cultural Training

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/ICCT

Opus: The Art of Work

LEARN MORE AT WHEATON.EDU/OPUS



DR. AUBREY BUSTER

Faculty Recognition

DR. JEFFRY DAVIS, dean of humanities, was elected to the Delegate Assembly of the Modern Language Association. During his three-year term, he will have an opportunity to recommend actionable items regarding the objectives and practices of the MLA and vote as a member of the governing body.

DR. TIMOTHY LARSEN, Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought, was named an Honorary Fellow of the Divinity School at the University of Edinburgh.

DR. KIMBERLY SASSER, associate professor of English, was named Senior Fellow at the University of Chicago's Martin Marty Center, where she is working on a monograph on magical realism and religion.

DR. MICHAEL WILDER, dean of the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, was elected as vice president of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

DR. HEATHER M. WHITNEY, associate professor of physics, was awarded a \$396,673 grant by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health that will fund research efforts by Dr. Whitney, four undergraduate students from Wheaton College, and faculty collaborators.

Overheard in the Classroom

"The Bible itself is designed to move not only our minds, but also our emotions in the right way. The Bible moves us. Go for it. Be swept away."
DR. AUBREY BUSTER, assistant professor of Old Testament, in "Old Testament Literature and Interpretation"

"Doing history well requires compassion."
DR. JENNIFER POWELL MCNUTT, associate professor of theology and history of Christianity, in "Reformation"

"Mission, ministry, and vocation begin with recognizing our own inadequacy and God's majesty, holiness, and presence."
DR. DAVID SETRAN, Price-LeBar Chair of Christian Formation & Ministry, in "Christian Formation and Ministry Integrative Seminar"

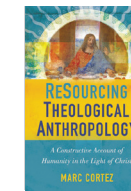
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FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



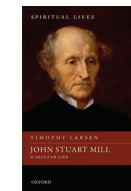
Media, Journalism, and Communication: A Student's Guide (Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition) (Crossway, 2018) by **READ MERCER SCHUCHARDT**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION



ReSourcing Theological Anthropology: A Constructive Account of Humanity in the Light of Christ (Zondervan, 2018) by **MARC CORTEZ**, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY



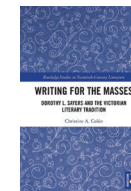
You Welcomed Me: Loving Refugees and Immigrants Because God First Loved Us (IVP Books, 2018) by **KENT ANNAN**, DIRECTOR OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER LEADERSHIP



John Stuart Mill: A Secular Life (Oxford University Press, 2018) by **TIMOTHY LARSEN**, '89, M.A. '90, CAROLYN AND FRED MCMANIS PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT



Painstaker: Poems (Wipf and Stock, 2017) by **JEFFREY R. GALBRAITH**, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH



Writing for the Masses: Dorothy L. Sayers and the Victorian Literary Tradition (Routledge Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature, 2017) by **CHRISTINE COLÓN**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Faculty Receive Promotions and Tenure

The following faculty promotion, tenure, and emeritus status actions were approved by the Board of Trustees in February and are effective July 1, 2019.

EMERITUS

DR. GENE GREEN, Biblical and Theological Studies
DR. STANTON JONES, Psychology
DR. TOM SCHWANDA, Christian Formation and Ministry
DR. JAMES WILHOIT, Christian Formation and Ministry

TENURE

DR. ANDREW ABERNETHY, Biblical and Theological Studies
DR. DANILO DIEDRICHS, Mathematics
DR. JAMES HUFF, Human Needs and Global Resources
DR. ALEXANDER LONEY, Classical Languages
DR. HANNAH STOLZE, Business
DR. JOHN TROTTER, Music

PROMOTION FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TENURE

DR. JEREMY COOK, Economics
DR. JEFFREY GALBRAITH, English
DR. ADAM WOOD, Philosophy

PROMOTION FROM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

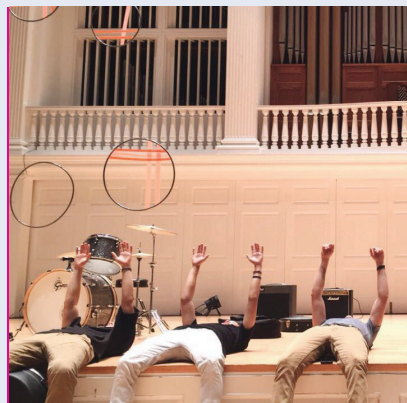
MS. CHERITH LUNDIN, Art
MS. CHRISTA STRICKLER, Library

PROMOTION FROM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO PROFESSOR

DR. CHRISTINE COLÓN, English
DR. DARCI DELZELL, Mathematics
MR. MARK LEWIS, Communication

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

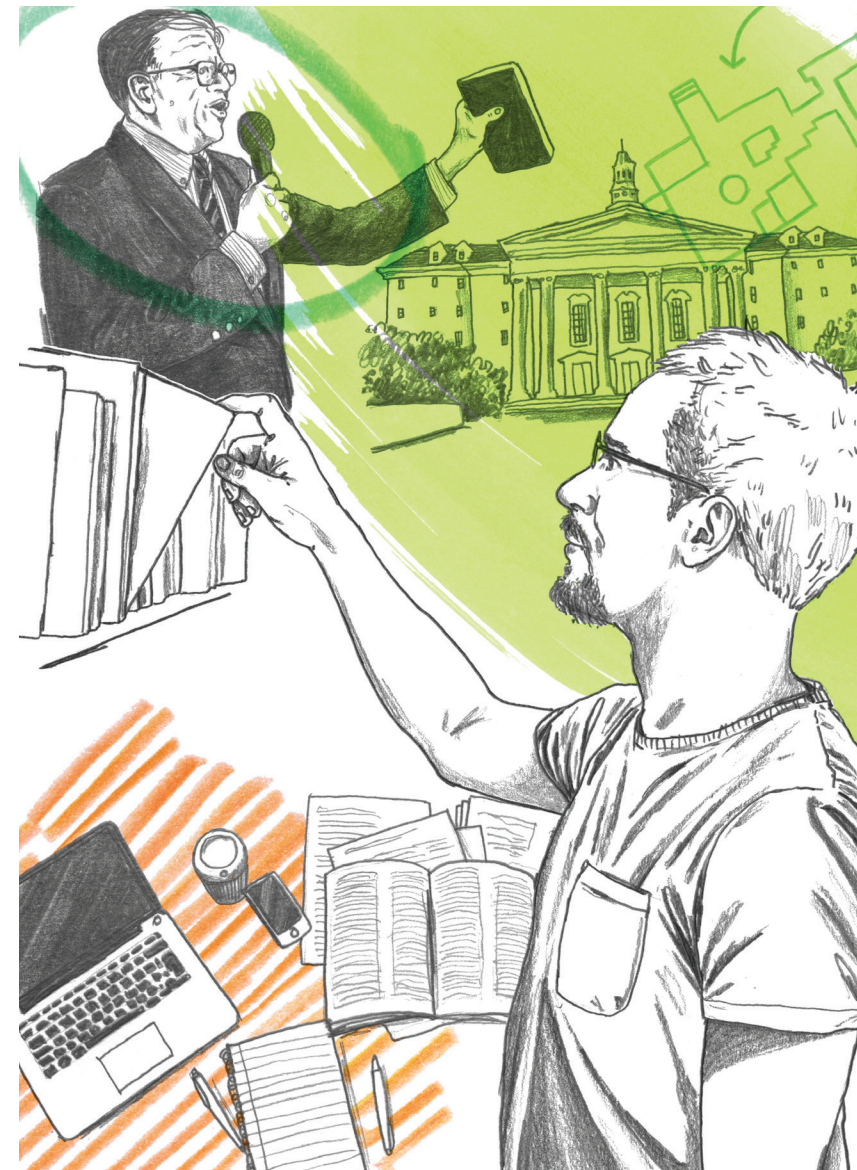
#MYWHEATON



#MYWHEATON (PHOTOGRAPHERS IN SEQUENCE FROM TOP CENTER): 1) ANNA HORTON '19, 2) MISEKAR WINGATE '20, 3) EDWARD VERE '20, 4) PIPER CURDA '19, 5) ELLIOT YOUNG '21, 6) MERCY BARRIAL '19, 7) ESTHER KIM '21, 8) ISABELLE HARTOKOLIS '19, 9) DELANEY YOUNG '20, 10) JARED SMITH '20.

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

"...the scholar is not solitary, as is often suspected, but one who is enriched in community with other scholars ..."



TUMBLING HEADLONG INTO THE PAST

Graduate student makes use of Wheaton's robust archival resources.

BY ALEXANDER CALLAWAY M.A. '19

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID SPARSHOTT

NEXT TO THE PERSONAL ATTENTION of world-class scholars, such as Timothy Larsen '89, M.A. '90 and Jennifer McNutt, the most enriching part of my experience at Wheaton has been exploring its archival holdings.

When I was a student worker with Special Collections, Buswell Library, I was tasked with writing detailed descriptions for the Records of the National Association of Evangelicals. I spent dozens of hours going through the massive 190-box collection.

It was during that time that I first experienced what historian Herbert Butterfield described as "tumbling headlong into [the past] ... and being immersed in it for its own sake."

Before I came to Wheaton I had earned an M.Div., but felt God's leading to pursue academic history. I knew that I would need more focused training before pursuing a Ph.D. in history, and Wheaton provides that training along with extensive archival holdings to plumb in the Manuscripts Reading Room.

The opportunity to come to Wheaton College Graduate School came through the support of Karen Swanson, Director of the Institute for Prison Ministries, and with a generous Charles W. Colson scholarship.

Those hours spent with the Records of the National Association of Evangelicals only served to whet my appetite for archival research—I have since spent many more combing through primary sources. This immersion is essential to the work of the historian. I have also discovered that the life of the scholar is not solitary, as is often suspected, but flourishes only within a scholarly community and with the invaluable collaboration of expert archival teams. **W**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHEATON'S ARCHIVES, VISIT WHEATON.EDU/ARCHIVES



Christlike Composure On and Off the Court

Wheaton record holder Astor Francis '19 identifies the most important task in life: to live as an "image-bearer for Christ"

BY KATHERINE BRADEN '16

ASTON FRANCIS '19 MAKES BASKETBALL LOOK EASY. The Texas native led Division III in three-pointers per game in both his junior and senior seasons and he leads the NCAA in average points per game in a season. He was named the 2018 and 2019 CCIW Most Outstanding Player and D3hoops.com's Central Region Player of the Year. In 2019, he became the first Wheaton basketball player to win the prestigious Jostens Trophy.

"Aston is the best pure scorer that I've coached in 26 years," says Head Men's Basketball Coach Michael Schauer. "He simply finds ways to put the ball in the basket."

The hardest part about basketball for Aston? Maintaining his Christian identity while competing. "As Wheaton College students, we want to always be good image-bearers for Christ," says Aston. "This means we have to keep our composure and, in some manner, show love to our opponents."

Aston believes a person's true character is revealed during competition, and he struggled with his on-court demeanor in high school.

"Playing basketball at Wheaton helped me learn to carry myself in more of a Christ-like manner on and off the court," says Aston. Now, it's "a tough but welcome challenge."

THE STRONG CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIPS HE'S
MADE AT WHEATON HELP GROUND HIM.

Aston finds his encouragement in "the brotherhood of the Wheaton basketball community." Connecting with teammates through devotions has helped him grow spiritually, and he turns to alumni regularly for life advice. The strong Christian friendships he's made at Wheaton help ground him.

A business major, Aston aims to carry the same Christlike composure he's learned on the court into the front office of an NBA team someday. For now, though, the cheers from King Arena are still ringing in his ears. **W**

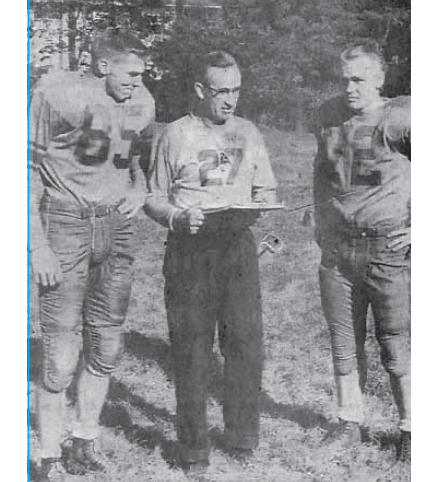
PHOTO BY JOSH ADAMS

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

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BLOCKS BY THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ON NOVEMBER 28, 2018—THE HIGHEST SINGLE-GAME BLOCKED SHOT TOTAL BY AN NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM AT ANY LEVEL IN 2018-19.

ATHLETIC THROWBACK



1958 FOOTBALL TEAM

The star players for Coach Harvey Chrouser '34 had graduated, but that didn't deter him. Instead, he changed his strategy, leading Wheaton's first undefeated and untied football team to a spotless 8-0 record and a CCIW record of 6-0. The team was ranked seventh nationally in Division III.

"He put the emphasis on the 'we,'" says 1958 co-captain Bob Bakke '59. "It's a lesson for leadership in adapting to circumstances and participants while integrating everyone into a coordinated effort."

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POINTS BY ASTON FRANCIS AGAINST MARIETTA IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT, BREAKING THE ALL-TIME NCAA DIII TOURNEY RECORD.

179

NOMINEES FOR THE 2018 NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD, WITH WHEATON SENIOR ERIC STEVENSON AS ONE OF 13 RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD (THE ONLY DIVISION III RECIPIENT).

Sara Pineda '19



**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT PROFILE**

HOMETOWN: EL PORVENIR, HONDURAS

MAJOR: INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (SOCIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY/WRITING)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: GOSPEL CHOIR, MANAGER OF THE LANGUAGE LEARNING CENTER, SPANISH CONVERSATION ASSISTANT

FUN FACT: SARA HAS NEVER BROKEN A BONE

BY MARGARET MCKENZIE '18

SARA PINEDA '19 was born and raised in Honduras, and sometimes she feels the distance between Chicagoland and home. However, she's found her Wheaton College family in Gospel Choir. As president of Gospel Choir, she sings soprano. "Singing through trouble, singing through

busyness, singing through so many things has been uplifting and restoring," she says.

Manager of the Language Learning Center and a Spanish conversation assistant since her freshman year, Sara loves languages. Spanish is her first language, but she learned English at a young age. She also studied Greek, which became one of her favorite classes at Wheaton. "Dr. [Doug] Penney '78 is real, and he makes Greek so much fun," she says, noting that he is one of the few people who can "get my crazy laugh out."

A first-generation college student, Sara has crafted a one-of-a-kind major through Wheaton's interdisciplinary studies program, with an eye toward working with women who have survived sexual abuse. She focuses on "how storytelling can be an aid in the healing process." Sara plans on taking time after graduation to gain relevant work experience and to consider what she might study in graduate school. **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

"Almost 90 percent of who we are now [as the AIC] is because missionaries started these congregations, schools, and hospitals."

Mussa Magwesela M.A. '19



**GRADUATE
STUDENT PROFILE**

HOMETOWN: GEITA, TANZANIA

DEGREE PROGRAM: M.A., HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

EDUCATION: M.A., CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, KENYA; BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY, MAJAHIDA BIBLE SCHOOL, TANZANIA

FUN FACT: BISHOP MAGWESELA'S FAVORITE AMERICAN DRINKS ARE HOT CHOCOLATE AND SWEETENED ICED TEA

BY LIUAN CHEN HUSKA '09

IN 1913, a couple from Africa Inland Mission (AIM) walked over 90 miles from the first missionary outpost in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) to Shinyanga, a remote village. They pitched tents around a tamarind tree and began offering medical treatment to locals. By 1962, Shinyanga was a well-established mission station and eventually the place where Bishop Mussa Magwesela M.A. '19 was born.

Today, Mussa is Archbishop of the Africa Inland Church (AIC) in Tanzania and uses his time at Wheaton to study the history of AIM and the AIC (which sprung out of AIM). In the Billy Graham Center Archives, he discovered the origin story of the missionary outpost where he was born.

"Almost 90 percent of who we are now [as the AIC] is because missionaries started these congregations, schools, and hospitals," he says.

Bishop Magwesela's research focuses on the daily struggles of AIM missionaries and the transition of leadership to local Christians. He plans to turn his research into books and curriculum for AIC's theological colleges in Tanzania. At Wheaton, he's encountered dialogue-based teaching and methods of archival record preservation, some of which he hopes to bring back home. **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

Mark Cruse



**STAFF
PROFILE**

HOMETOWN: GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS
TITLE: INTERIM MANAGER OF ELECTRIC SHOP
DEPARTMENT: FACILITIES MAINTENANCE
YEARS AT WHEATON: 36
EDUCATION: GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
FUN FACT: CRUSE HAS VISITED ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, BELGIUM, ROMANIA, FRANCE, AND SENEGAL ON MISSION TRIPS

BY CIERA HORTON
McELROY '17

ELECTRICIAN MARK CRUSE shines a light at Wheaton in more ways than one. As head of the football team's chain crew (which signals the downs and distances) and the recent recipient of the Wheaton Athletics Service Award—Cruse hopes to be a “lighthouse in the locker room.” Whether he's on the road with the football team or with fellow bikers, Cruse inspires others to live with audacity.

Every summer, Cruse rides 1,000 miles to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, where thousands of bikers congregate. Cruse first attended in 2003 with Chaplain Emeritus Stephen Kellough '70. Decker in leather, they joined half a million bikers and connected with other Christians. Each year at Sturgis, Cruse serves his fellow bikers through prayer vigils and “bike blessings,” where they pray for the bikes and riders' safety, and through hosting a camp for Christian riders. Outside Mount Rushmore National Memorial, he helps provide free boot shines, which he compares to Jesus washing the disciples' feet. “We offer to pray for them,” he says. “I've never been turned down.” He is currently vice president of the Illinois chapter of Black Sheep Harley Davidsons for Christ.

Cruse hopes to expand his ministry so that members of the Wheaton community can become involved in the evangelistic opportunities. “You can use your hobbies for Christ,” says Cruse. “Be outside your comfort zone. You never know what can happen.” **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

Nadine Folino Rorem



**FACULTY
PROFILE**

HOMETOWN: DAYTON, OHIO
TITLE: PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT: BIOLOGY
YEARS AT WHEATON: 25
EDUCATION: PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE; M.S., UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE; B.S., UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
FUN FACT: DR. ROREM THROWS POTTERY IN HER FREE TIME, EVEN ASSISTING IN SOME CERAMICS CLASSES

BY MERCY
BARRIAL '19

A MARINE BIOLOGIST BY TRAINING, Dr. Nadine Rorem didn't expect to teach at Wheaton longer than a few years. Despite the many virtues of Chicagoland, it has a conspicuous lack of marine life. Now, however, she's celebrating 25 years at the College and feels confident in where God has placed her.

“The best part of teaching is getting to mentor students and interact with them. I get to know them personally, spiritually, and academically. I learn from them and they learn from me. God really uses those relationships in powerful ways,” Dr. Rorem says.

Whether in the lab or in the field, Dr. Rorem continues to fall deeper in love with her discipline, especially the invertebrate “critters.” The hydroid Cordylophora, a tiny underwater organism, is one of her areas of expertise and provides a welcome opportunity for her to work alongside research students at Wheaton and witness their growth as scholars.

Dr. Rorem's passion for exploring God's creation motivates her pursuits outside the classroom. “It gives my whole heart and soul freedom,” she says about being outdoors while biking, gardening, SCUBA, or cross-country skiing. “There's always something new to learn and that's true while learning alongside students as well.” **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

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UNFORGOTTEN

"Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."
(Hebrews 13:3 esv)

22	26	34
UNFORGOTTEN: ANDREW & NORINE BRUNSON	A HIDDEN WORK OF PRAYER	THIS IS HOW WE WORSHIP GOD



The Brunsons visited campus in March 2019.

HOW NORINE BRUNSON '89, STUDENTS, FRIENDS, AND ALUMNI REMEMBERED ANDREW BRUNSON AS IF THEY WERE BOUND WITH HIM IN PRISON.

BY JEREMY WEBER '05
PHOTOS BY GABI SATOLA

In the 30 years since he shared a floor in Traber Hall with Dr. Philip Ryken '88, a lot has changed, says Andrew Brunson '88. “Now I’m a convicted terrorist, and he is president of Wheaton.”

The two will share the stage at Commencement this spring, where Andrew and his wife Norine '89 are the featured speakers. The couple’s names are among the scores of alumni missionaries listed on the wall in Blanchard Hall. And now they are certainly among the most well known after Turkey imprisoned Andrew for two years on false terrorism charges.

In solitary confinement, Andrew feared being forgotten amid all the world’s crises. Meanwhile, Norine helped lead family, friends, and Wheaton alumni to create a worldwide prayer movement on behalf of her husband—and for the Turkish Christians they had served in Izmir (biblical Smyrna) for 25 years.

“We have no regrets. We would do

it all over again,” says Andrew, though the grueling challenge caused them to miss their daughter’s wedding and forced them to leave their adopted country, likely for good. “The Lord was accomplishing more in my imprisonment than in my being free.”

Andrew, who grew up in Mexico as a missionary kid, studied history and philosophy at Wheaton and graduated in just three years because he was “in a hurry to get out to the mission field.” He’d felt a strong call to missions since age 4. It was then that his mother took him to Hudson Taylor’s protégé Stanley Soltau and asked that the missionary to Korea lay hands on Andrew and “set him aside for missions.” Taylor, the famous missionary to China, had done the same for Soltau’s mother.

However, Andrew stayed on campus long enough to find Norine, a fellow missionary kid who grew up in Europe. They met at a table in Buswell Library, and he invited her as his date to a “cookie push” at a professor’s house weeks later. After graduating,

they went to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School for two years and then spent a year in the United Kingdom while Andrew was a personal assistant to George Verwer, the founder of Operation Mobilization.

Andrew expected to return to Mexico—even taking Norine there on their honeymoon to prepare her. Instead the couple developed a conviction about going to a Muslim-majority country. They wanted Egypt; their denomination wanted them to go to Turkey. “I said, ‘it’s number 20 on my list,’” says Andrew, “which means ‘not really.’ It was one of the places I least wanted to go.”

Nevertheless, they went—and the rest is now geopolitical history. “I know that both President Trump and Vice President Pence were deeply involved in this matter and played a key role in the discussions that led to Pastor Brunson’s release,” says Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats '65. “In my line of work, I don’t always see a lot of positive news, so it makes me

happy that this story has a positive outcome for a fellow Wheaton alumnus.”

The best piece of ministry advice Andrew received came from his lifelong mentor, Wheaton evangelism professor Lyle Dorsett: “You concentrate on the depth, and let God take care of the breadth.” By focusing on a deep relationship with God at their small church in a quiet corner of western Turkey, Andrew and Norine had quite a testimony to share when it came time for their words to ricochet around the globe. Every media outlet wanted to hear their story after Andrew’s October 2018 release, and the Brunsons’ faith in God was essential to the story.

They told everyone from the Associated Press to *World* magazine and The 700 Club how Andrew was held hostage by the Turkish government in a failed attempt to extract concessions from the U.S. government. To a watching world, they also modeled trust in God and love for their enemies.

WORLDWIDE PRAYER

“God was involved. It makes no sense that they held me as long as they did, considering the price they paid for it,” says Andrew. “But then I look at the worldwide prayer movement that started, and the number of people involved and their geographical distribution is astounding.” He received photos of churches in Brazil praying and heard stories of churches in Iran doing likewise. A house church network in China printed one million brochures featuring his imprisonment and how to pray. “It was very moving to hear that Chinese and Iranian believers who have suffered so much were praying for me,” says Andrew. “I felt very unworthy.”

“We were incredibly grateful to have all this prayer,” says Norine. “I kept telling Andrew, ‘God is in this.’” During their weekly visits, she would bring him examples of encouragement from the public Facebook page and private prayer partner emails



“ON OUR LIST OF 10 POSSIBLE ROUTES FOR ADVOCACY, PRAYER HAD BEEN ALL THE WAY AT THE BOTTOM AT NUMBER 8. IF THERE IS ONE THING I LEARNED, IT IS THAT PRAYER SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE FIRST ROUTE OF ACTION IN EVERYTHING.”

she organized. “I tried to keep all the prayer going toward him,” she says. “It became overwhelming to answer everyone who wrote. But I was glad that I had that problem.”

“God’s Word says we should remember those in prison as if we were in prison ourselves,” says David Byle ’91, a street evangelist in Istanbul who speaks from personal experience. He has been arrested six times for deportation, but has been saved by the courts each time. Authorities finally succeeded last year in expelling him from Turkey—the week after Andrew’s release, no less. David had decided to abstain from drinking coffee until Andrew was freed. Each time he was offered coffee—and this was Turkey, after all—was turned into a chance to explain Andrew’s plight and to pray for his release. “I thought he would be out in two to four weeks,” says David. “To have to go two years without coffee sure made me pray for him!”

Another example of how the Brunsons were covered with extraordinary prayer: Mary Dorsett M.A. ’91, wife of

Lyle Dorsett HON, has a CaringBridge page to update family and friends on her incurable cancer. It mentions the Brunsons more than 100 times. “For months, my page was more about Andrew than about me,” says Mary. “I have an army of people praying for me, and I wanted that for him too.”

On Wheaton’s campus, advocacy was led by Students for Religious Liberties, which started with a letter-writing campaign. The students made a list of 50 people to contact, from Andrew’s jailer to Turkish President Recep Erdogan. But it turned out to be “quite difficult,” says leader Eddie McDougal ’19. “We were at a standstill.”

Then President Ryken advised them: “It’s not easy to predict how the Lord might work in this situation. And it might not be through letter writing; it might be through prayer.”

So the students switched to prayer vigils. The night before Andrew’s October hearing, they held a joint event in Pierce Chapel with World Christian Fellowship (WCF) and sang “You Are Worthy of My All,” the hymn Andrew

wrote in prison [see page 64] because it was “full of surrender and compliance” instead of anger. “It’s a model for how Christians can respond to suffering,” says Eddie. “Not jaded or callous, but focused on how the Lord can work through it as a witness.”

After three hours of prayer for Andrew’s release, they went to bed. They awoke to the news that God had answered their prayers. “On our list of ten possible routes for advocacy, prayer had been all the way at the bottom at number eight. If there is one thing I learned, it is that prayer should always be the first route of action in everything,” says Eddie. “It is a powerful gift that we are all given. ‘The prayer of a righteous person availeth much.’”

The week before, Wheaton’s class of 1988 reunited at Homecoming for their 30th reunion and spent time in prayer for Andrew and Norine. “In the providence of God, the main thing Wheaton could do was to pray and leave it in God’s hands,” says Dr. Ryken. “When the people of God are praying in a dedicated, serious way,

God accomplishes a lot of good things through it.”

“Andrew and Norine are ordinary people, and their support team were ordinary people. But we have a great God who moved and answered our prayers,” says Mary. “It’s not that you have a great faith; it’s that you have faith in a great God.”

“God was using my imprisonment to raise up the people of God to pray for Turkey like never before,” says Andrew. “I believe God was raising this prayer up to prepare for a harvest.”

Andrew says God spoke to him in 2009 with a clear message: “Prepare for harvest.” He was surprised, given that the history of missions is “long decades of sowing before there is reaping,” and Turkey had received such little sowing over the century that Operation World names it one of the least evangelized nations (5,000 believers out of 80 million people). So Andrew had thought only his grandchildren would “see the fruit of our labor.” Now he believes their story will inspire more future missionaries.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

“I hope that people are not turned away from missions,” says Andrew. “I think the opposite will happen. I think if we tell people there is hardship that calls for a deeper level of commitment, people will rise to the occasion.”

Dr. Ryken agrees about this call to commitment. “Because Andrew and Norine are very normal people and not spotlight-seekers at all, rather than sensationalizing the cost of discipleship I think it has normalized it,” he says.

“As Christians, we should know that we will have to go through suffering,” says David ’91. “This is not just for a privileged few; this is a normal expectation for the Christian life, and we should be expecting that. Satan is trying to intimidate us and make us discouraged, regretting what has

happened. But Scripture commands clearly that we are supposed to rejoice when people suffer for the sake of the gospel.”

Andrew learned this the hard way. “I had a romanticized vision of prison from reading missionary biographies: ‘It will be hard; but I will be filled with joy, and I’ll have a real sense of God’s presence, and his grace will pour over me and I’ll have tremendous strength,’” recalls Andrew. “I was seriously disappointed in all those areas. I was not filled with joy. Mine was a very hard battle. The first year I was broken; the second year, the Lord rebuilt me.”

“I don’t think we should be reckless, but we do need to be obedient,” says Andrew. “And God often puts his people at risk. Throughout history, some have been persecuted and some lose their lives. Jesus said that would happen. And he is worthy of it.”

In fact, when his mother visited him in solitary confinement, she told Andrew, “A long line of people have been persecuted for the sake of Jesus, from today to 2,000 years ago. And now it is your turn to stand in line.”

“I didn’t want to hear that,” says Andrew. “I just wanted to get out of there. But it is true.”

THE CONTINUED CALL

Andrew and Norine still feel the call to missions. “We are waiting for our next assignment from the Lord.” In the meantime, Andrew asks that fellow Wheaton alumni keep praying for Turkish believers and their perseverance amid mounting difficulty.

“Andrew has been released from captivity, but there is ongoing hardship and harassment that Turkish believers have to deal with every day,” says Dr. Ryken. “There can be a sense that this is now over. But there are many people in Turkey for whom there will never be an ‘over.’”

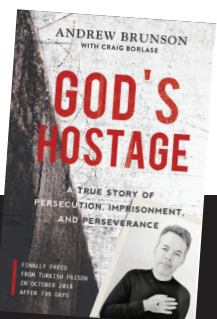
“Just because there is no big news event about Christians doesn’t mean that problems aren’t happening,” says David. “We need to pray for the persecuted church all the time.”

The Brunsons and other Wheaton alumni active in Turkey see the former Ottoman Empire as the key to unlocking the Muslim region for the gospel. “A tsunami of prayers has now crashed into it,” says Andrew. “There is a harvest coming.”

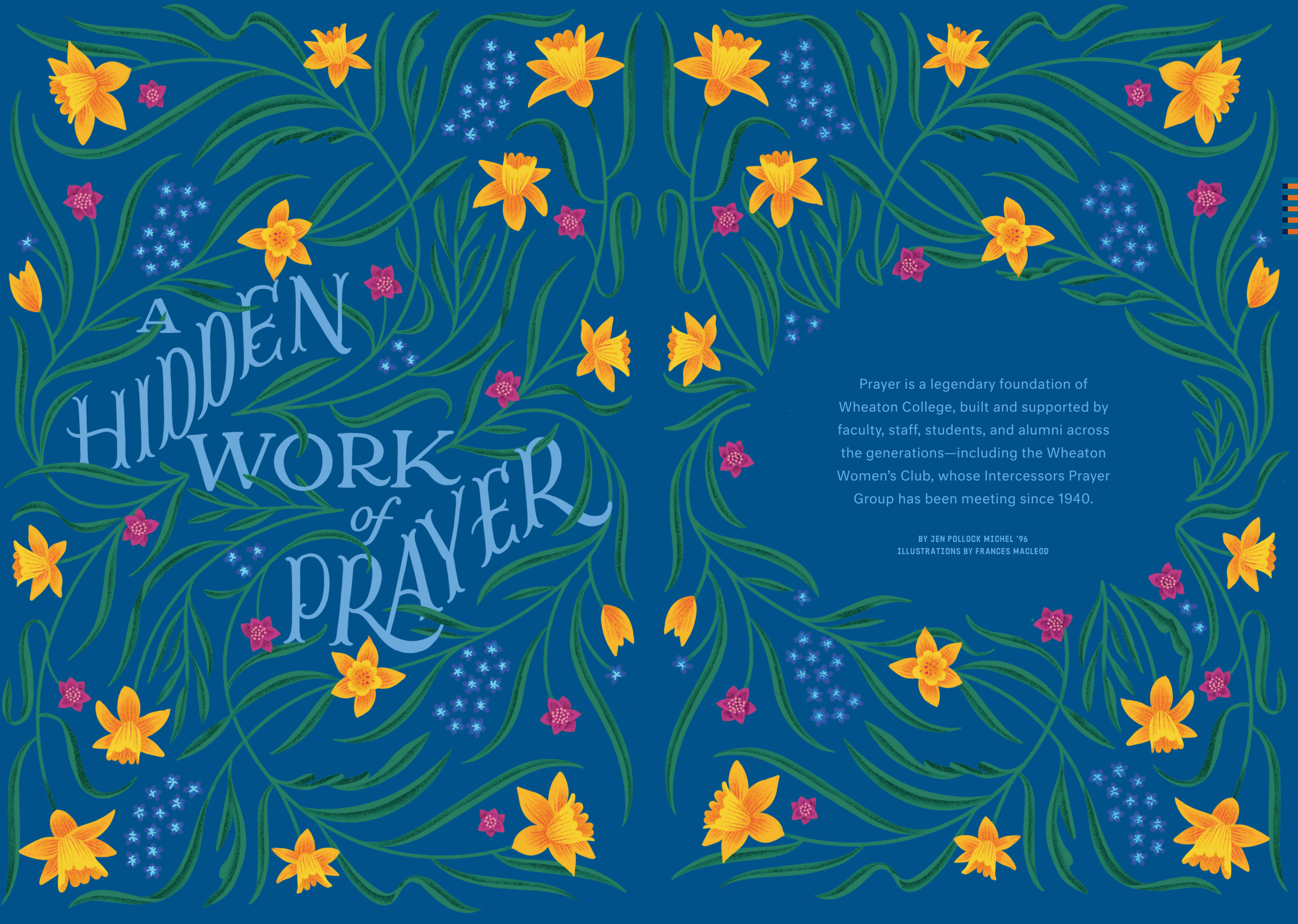


When one of the Turkish believers in Andrew’s Izmir church learned the size of his prayer movement, she said, “Can you imagine what we can do with all this prayer that has been poured out upon us now?”

Some of his intercessors have shared a vision of 4 million new believers. “I don’t have any idea about numbers,” says Andrew. “That would be a lot more than the 5,000 there now. But I hope there are even more than that. Let every stream of prayer become a Niagara of God’s grace pouring into Turkey. I have certainty we will see it in my lifetime.” **W**



Andrew’s book, *God’s Hostage: A True Story of Persecution, Imprisonment, and Perseverance* (Baker Books), will be released October 2019.



A HIDDEN WORK of PRAYER

Prayer is a legendary foundation of Wheaton College, built and supported by faculty, staff, students, and alumni across the generations—including the Wheaton Women's Club, whose Intercessors Prayer Group has been meeting since 1940.

BY JEN POLLOCK MICHEL '96
ILLUSTRATIONS BY FRANCES MACLEOD



The daffodils were blooming the day my father died. It was 1993, and I was a freshman. A stranger, appointed by a family friend, found me around a crowded table at SAGA. “Are you Jen Pollock?” I nodded yes. “You need to call home.” I mutely followed her to the pay phone and reached my mother. Hours later, I found myself in some lonely O’Hare terminal, my life, without warning, having been emptied like a pocket.

I had not chosen Wheaton for its praying community, but its praying community held me up in long-winded grief. Friends and

strangers prayed for me, and that group of strangers would likely have included the fervent group of women called Intercessors who, since 1940, have gathered on Thursday mornings to pray through weekly lists of prayer requests related to the College. These women have not only believed in the power of prayer; they have sought to exercise it, many on their knees.

Mary Graham Ryken M.A. ’88 attended her first Intercessors meeting in the late 1960s in the living room of Miriam Bailey Armerding ’42. (Miriam had arranged childcare for little Philip, now President Ryken ’88, in order for his mother to attend.) As Mary recalls, many of the women gathered that morning were quite elderly, but “they got down on their

knees and prayed for the students who were ill, the work of the College in general, and for some alumni who were ill or in hard situations.”

If My People

Systematic, corporate intercessory prayer is a long tradition at Wheaton since the inception of the College. According to the College’s first archivist, Mary Bent Blanchard HON carried a small book with her to “mothers’ meetings.” In this book, “the names of the children of those mothers who attended were written in a book and read over in meetings, that no one should be forgotten in prayer.”

The Intercessors Prayer Group began many decades later as an initiative of the Wheaton College Women’s Club, founded in 1929 by Mrs. Helen Spaulding Buswell in order to extend friendship and service opportunities to Wheaton College staff and faculty women. The minutes of a September 1939 Women’s Club gathering chronicle an invitation to a prayer meeting the next Thursday. That prayer effort seems to have formalized early in the

tenure of Dr. V. Raymond Edman HON and his wife, Edith HON, whom he called “a prayer warrior and intercessor.” Minutes from a 1941 meeting noted that the prayer meetings were well attended, and by 1955, records indicate that the gatherings, now organized by Edith Edman, were regular and being held in the Edman home.

In her 1994 lecture to the Women’s Club, Ruth James Cording ’33 remembered Edith Edman’s personal commitment to prayer. “She gathered us together to pray for the College administration, the faculty and the students, as well as the alumni. She believed wholeheartedly in the power of intercessory prayer.”

Lisa Maxwell Ryken ’88 has also heard of Edith Edman’s example of passionate prayer. “I know that both Dr. and Mrs. Edman used to get up in the early hours of the morning. They used to pray for as many students as they could name. Mrs. Edman also went to HoneyRock in the summers and prayed for every camper and every staff member. [The Edmans] took Scripture very seriously and knew that we were called to be a praying people.”

But it may not only have been a general conviction about prayer’s necessity that prompted Edith Edman to gather women to pray for the College. As one current Intercessor anonymously shared, Edith had confided to her, years after her husband’s death, that particular tensions on campus during her husband’s tenure had made prayer even more urgent. When the campus turned to tumult, Edith Edman turned to prayer. Since that era, Intercessors has looked to support the College in similarly divisive times. “When there has been opposition to the College, we have definitely felt a special burden,” says Mary Ryken.

“What a lot of people don’t know,” Lisa Ryken, who now hosts the group, said in our phone interview, “is that in the midst of several of the really, really hard things for the College, we’ve had some pretty major medical issues with our kids. Those have been going on concurrently. It’s definitely been helpful to know that these people are praying.”

When Ruthie Knoedler Howard R.N. ’75 sees President Ryken on campus, he’s quick to thank her for her involvement in Intercessors. “I can’t tell you how much we rely on the prayers of this group for the College,” he tells her. Ruthie is encouraged: “We have a president who believes in the power of prayer.”

An Ordinary Thursday

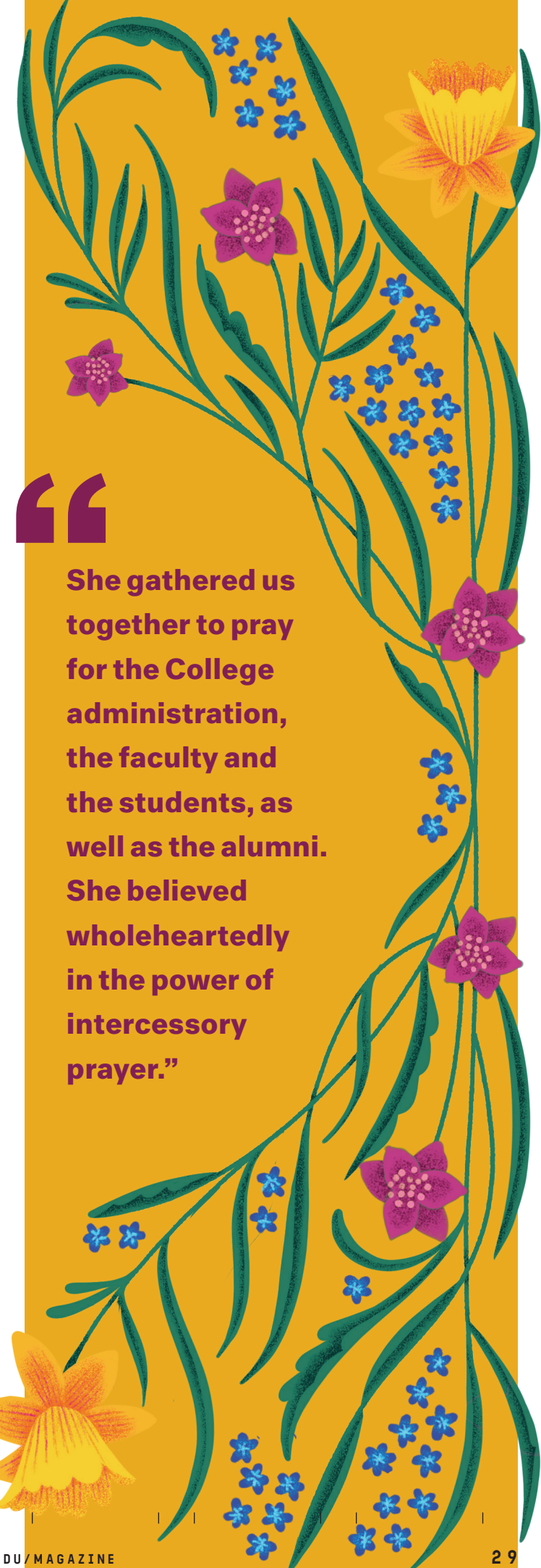
Today, members of Intercessors arrive at the home of President and Lisa Ryken at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings—earlier if they want a cup of coffee and conversation—and stay no longer than an hour.

“These women are very, very serious about prayer,” Lisa explains. “There is not a lot of chit-chat.”

Those attending are retired faculty members and wives



She gathered us together to pray for the College administration, the faculty and the students, as well as the alumni. She believed wholeheartedly in the power of intercessory prayer.”



WHEATON PRAYS

Years ago, Dr. Terry Perciante ’67, former chair of the mathematics department, began gathering his colleagues to pray; they have continued to pray every Thursday morning for Mathematics majors. Dr. Robert Brabenec ’60, professor of mathematics, leads the Wheaton Cares ministry from his home on Sunday afternoons. He and a small group of students pray for needs of faculty, stu-

dents, staff, and alumni they know personally, many of whom are not included on the weekly list that Ministry Associate Marilyn Brenner M.A. ’88 assembles each week. The Facilities Management staff meets every morning at 7:30 a.m. to pray for the needs of family members and friends. As an initiative of Dr. Amy Peeler, associate professor of New Testament, and Dr. Jim Wilhoit, Scripture Press Chair of Christian Formation and Ministry, faculty and staff gather for morning prayer on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. in the Beamer Fireside Room. April McLaughlin, BGC

scholarship program coordinator, organizes prayer for the Billy Graham Scholarship Program every Thursday morning for an hour beginning at 7:15 a.m. Dr. Jon Eckert ’96, professor of education, meets every Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. for breakfast with his undergraduate research team, and they pray for WheTep (Wheaton Teacher Education Program) graduates. During the seasons of Advent and Lent, Dr. Matthew Milliner ’98, associate professor of art history, leads voluntary prayer gatherings thrice weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

“It’s not what everyone notices. It’s the quiet, hidden work where God accomplishes his blessing for his people. Prayer is like that at Wheaton.”

of retirees, current staff members and wives of current staff, even mothers of both alumni and administrators. Some, whose grandmothers and mothers prayed as Intercessors, have inherited this legacy of prayer.

The prayer requests are promptly distributed to the attending members: requests from the Chaplain’s Office, from the Graduate School, still others from the department(s) being featured that week. (In advance of the weekly meeting, Lisa, the leader of the group, calls the respective department chair to ask for student and faculty requests.) Before prayer popcorns around the room, a small passage of Scripture is read—usually a Psalm selected by Lisa—to “align our desires with God’s.”

Sherry Litfin HON remembers the increased concern for privacy during the years her hus-

band, Dr. Duane Litfin HON, served as president, and today’s requests strike a balance between specificity and generality. Last names, especially of students, are suppressed—and often even first names. Other efforts are made to preserve confidentiality, including shredding the list of requests after the Thursday meeting or, in winter months, tossing it into a roaring fireplace.

“Nothing is distributed digitally,” says Maureen Payton Keil ’88. “It would be too easy for it to go astray. It would be too easy to walk away from a computer and to have someone walk past. Or, someone might make a mistake and forward it accidentally.”

The list of prayer requests isn’t just composed of student prayer concerns; it also includes the names of aging and ailing faculty members, many long ago retired, making it a very “personal list” according to Keil. But even when names aren’t made available, members of Intercessors don’t doubt the effectiveness of their efforts. “God knows who they are. We don’t need to know,” says Ruthie Knoedler Howard, whose family has a collective history of 78 years of praying for the College.

Throughout the years, the Intercessors group has met in a variety of places, favoring locations close to campus. They’ve met at the homes of Wheaton presidents as well as the homes of faculty members. For a while, in the 1970s, the group was hosted at the home of Wheaton’s first chaplain, Dr. Evan Welsh ’27, D.D. ’55, and his wife, Olena Mae Hendrickson Welsh ’41. Their home was one of the houses on the land where the Billy Graham Center now stands. Whenever a home was unavailable for a season, the group met instead in various spots on campus.

As these stalwart Christians gather to pray for others, younger members of the group strive to ensure that the needs of senior members are considered. For example, a portable ramp stored in the Rykens’ garage is brought out each Thursday morning to accommodate those with concerns about

STUDENT PRAYER INITIATIVES

Student chaplains Philip Kwong ’20 and Brennan Burrows ’20 have led regular prayer and worship gatherings on Saturday nights in the Gold Star prayer space in Lower Beamer. People interested in attending find notice through the GroupMe app with a simple text message: “Gold Star is happening this week.” When Jeff Glosenger ’19, also a student chaplain, sent out requests to students, asking them to join a team committed to praying for the 3,970 Wheaton College faculty, staff, administrators, and students, he had 100 volunteers almost immediately for the comprehensive prayer effort, which relies on a massive spreadsheet maintained by student intercessors. If the first round of pray-ers misses any names, a second string is called in for backup. Senior Colin Wolgemuth ’19 is involved in what began as a tri-campus prayer initiative between Moody, Trinity, and Wheaton, and which has now extended to other campuses across Chicagoland. The group, composed of hundreds of students, meets one Friday night a month and prays from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Other student prayer initiatives include the student chapter of International Justice Mission, which meets for prayer every Tuesday morning, and World Christian Fellowship, which sponsors various prayer groups to pray for global needs. Says Wolgemuth, “We’ve been grateful for God’s work among us because it’s certainly developed this community into one that is more joyful, more gracious, and more effective at its mission.”

climbing the steps leading up to the Rykens’ home. Even as the realities of aging may make it more difficult to attend, these faithful women continue to hear and heed the call to intercessory prayer. Before the death of Betty Burtness Knoedler ’50 in 2013, she declared to Joanne Simon Hollatz ’55 that “Intercessors is the last group I’m giving up.” Her last official attendance was at the annual Christmas cookie exchange in 2012. “Do you need to sit down?” Joanne asked Betty, then 84, when she arrived. “No, I’m fine,” Betty assured.

After several minutes, she reconsidered. “Well, maybe I’d better.”

A Hidden Work

Margaret Ryken Beard ’93, daughter of Dr. Leland HON and Mary Graham Ryken M.A. ’88 and sister to the president, describes the role of intercessory prayer as “hidden” work. “I’m glad you’re writing about this,” she told me, “because I think it is an important and secret component of God’s blessing over the school that women have been meeting to pray for the College since day one.”

“It’s not what everyone notices. It’s the quiet, hidden work where God accomplishes his blessing for his people. Prayer is like that at Wheaton.” She added, “We are tempted to think that prayer isn’t as important or strategic [as other glamorous roles].”

To Beard’s point, there is little to be learned of the history of Intercessors from archival records, despite its near 80-year existence. Ruth James Cording ’33 was the first to set down some of the record in her lecture for the Women’s Club entitled “Romance, Roses, and Responsibilities: The Wives of Wheaton College Presidents.” Nita Martindale, the late wife of Dr. Wayne Martindale HON and longtime Intercessor, also apparently took interest in the group’s history, though her work has not been preserved.

When Sherry Litfin arrived on campus and assumed her role as leader of Intercessors, she tried to learn more about the origin of the group.

“I wish I could tell you more,” she lamented. “It’s not for lack of asking around, but nobody seems to know the history. It just kind of evolved.”

Perhaps the history of these praying women has gone unrecorded because they haven’t considered their efforts remarkable.

“None of us is special,” insists Ruthie Howard. “We’re plain old women of faith. We love the Lord, we believe in the power of prayer, and we love Wheaton College.”





KELSEY BOES WILLIAMS '14, "CONSERVATORY SILHOUETTES," 2018.
WATER-BASED SCREEN PRINTING INK ON COTTON FABRIC. 57" X 60"

THIS IS HOW WE WORSHIP GOD

Honduras Project has 40 years of history behind it. Here's the story through the eyes of alumni across the generations.

BY EMILY BRATCHER

When Larry Reed '80 decided to run for student government president at Wheaton College, he didn't know that he'd spend the next year so busy with planning a service project in another country that he'd earn "incompletes" in all of his courses. But he also didn't know that Hurricane David would blow through the Dominican Republic (the DR) that year, devastating the small Caribbean island and killing more than 2,000 people.

That hurricane not only changed the trajectory of Larry's life—he later went on to make a career of international development—it also precipitated a student-run service project which became known as "Honduras Project." This year, Honduras Project (HP) will celebrate its 40th year.

Back in 1979, Larry did indeed become Wheaton's student body president. He and running mate Ted Moser '80 ran on a "Catch the Vision" platform, with an aim to mobilize students to meet the world's humanitarian



needs. After the hurricane hit, Larry connected with Dr. Wayne Bragg '53, M.A. '57, the first leader of Wheaton's Human Needs and Global Resources program, and Dr. Samuel Shellhamer HON, then the dean of students, and they decided to organize a service project in the DR, which would take place over Thanksgiving break.

When Wheaton students heard about the project, their response was "overwhelming," according to Larry. In fact, there was so much interest that Larry decided to expand the project to two cities in the DR: Jarabacoa, where 62 families had lost their homes to the floods, and Nigua, which had also been leveled.

There were just two problems. The leadership estimated the group would need tens of thousands of dollars for the trip. And they had just six weeks to raise the funds.

Generating that kind of money in such a short amount of time would be challenging for full-time fundraisers, let alone a few dozen college students with full academic loads.

"But what happened was the whole campus got behind it," Larry says. The team did the usual things, like writing up a sample letter that students could send to their families and churches, asking for support. But they also got creative.

"They went to the director of SAGA and asked to close it down for the day," says Lydia Griffith '20, one of the student cabinet members for this year's project. He

was hesitant, but the team persisted and asked Wheaton's students to vote: Would they be willing to forgo the dining hall for one day if it meant that Honduras Project would receive the funds SAGA would've spent on food?

"They needed 85 percent to vote yes, but 98 percent voted yes, so they closed SAGA for a day and had a campus-wide day of fasting," Lydia explains. They raised \$3,500 that way.

Incredibly, the team ended up making its funding goal, though the challenges were far from over. After touching down in the DR, the 60 students split into two groups, one led by Ted and the other by Larry. In Nigua, Ted's group found that the wood they'd been promised for constructing homes had been sold, leaving the team without the necessary material. In Jarabacoa, Larry's team found that the families, who were sheltering in the local schoolhouse because their homes had been destroyed, didn't want Wheaton students' new shelters.

"The people were afraid that once they left the schoolhouse, the government would forget about them and not provide the food that they were getting," Larry says.

To alleviate their concern, Larry and Wayne traveled the 90-some miles to the capital city of Santo Domingo to get pledges from government officials that the aid would continue, even after the community moved out of the schoolhouse and into their temporary dwellings. That convinced them. Back at Nigua, Ted's team used their spare time forming relationships with the locals, and fortunately, another shipment of wood came in just a couple of days later.

Still, one day, in the late afternoon, Larry got word that the Nigua group was short on supplies. Larry and a friend decided to make the trip up the mountain to bring new supplies, fording streams and bushwhacking trails along the way. Night was falling by the time they reached Nigua, and Larry recalls telling his friend, "How are we ever going to make it back in the dark?"

"And then it turned out to be this clear night and the stars were out," Larry says. "It was just starlight that lit our way back and it was such a beautiful experience to just feel a part of creation like that, and to see how God's love and God's beauty shines on everyone."

During that 12-day trip in November, Wheaton students built 130 corrugated plastic houses, roofed 50 houses and two churches, and constructed a schoolhouse and a cannery. They'd raised \$95,000 to do it all.

Several years after graduating from Wheaton, Larry traveled back to the DR, and he saw the location where he and his friends had constructed home after home of corrugated plastic.

"It had become a thriving community," he says. "People had built their own homes, the kids were in school, parents were working, and it was because our trip there ... was a catalyst for a long-term intervention."

The *Chicago Tribune* covered the trip on November 13, 1979, with the headline: "Wheaton College students to aid Dominican hurricane rebuilding." So did United Press International (UPI)'s wire service: "Hurricane victims are provided plastic homes." The Dominican government paid attention to the project, and other international relief programs took note as well.

"That really was what convinced me that God really loves people in need," Larry says.

Several years later, in 1982, a new Wheaton College student government representative by the name of Peter Clark '84 took office. Peter grew up in Honduras as a missionary

(LEFT) MARCH 1983—WHEATON STUDENTS CONSTRUCT A MILKING BARN AT THE EL SEMBRADOR BOYS FARM SCHOOL IN CATACAMAS, HONDURAS. (TOP RIGHT) DECEMBER 1983—PETER CLARK '84 SERVED AS THE TEAM LEADER OF A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO BUILT A HEALTH CLINIC ON ROATAN ISLAND, HONDURAS DURING THEIR CHRISTMAS BREAK THAT YEAR. (BOTTOM RIGHT) MARCH 1983—THE CHOLUTECA GROUP RODE TO WORKSITES LIKE THIS EVERY MORNING TO WORK ALONGSIDE LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BUILD HOMES.

kid, but at Wheaton he was mostly concerned about performing well as a midfielder for the Wheaton College soccer team. But when “you get elected, you have to do something or it looks bad,” he jokes.

One day, Peter was digging through student government files in the College archives when he came across a binder that Larry and Ted had put together. Peter said it was fascinating to read about how effectively they mobilized the campus to raise money for their 1979 trip.

Around that time, Franklin Graham came to campus, having recently stepped into the role of CEO at Samaritan’s Purse. He suggested that students organize a service project oriented around the refugee camps in Beirut, Lebanon.



MARCH 1983—STUDENTS GATHER WITH STUDENT LEADER ROY KAMPHAUSER ’84 IN FRONT OF THE MILKING BARN THEY BUILT AT THE EL SEMBRADOR BOYS FARM SCHOOL IN CATACAMAS, HONDURAS.

“We got all excited about that,” Peter says. “We actually started raising awareness and recruiting people and it was gathering momentum.”

But then Israel invaded Lebanon, and massacres started occurring in those refugee camps, and parents started calling Peter, saying, “My kid is not going to Lebanon—not with a war on.”

They were back to square one, but Peter said the team never thought about giving up on the idea of a service project. He met with executives at World Vision, which was then located just up the road from the College. A chance encounter with the Latin America director eventually led Peter to develop service projects at three locations in Honduras: building adobe houses in Choluteca, which had been hard hit by tropical storm Aletta; constructing a milking barn in Escuela El Sembrador in Catacamas; and working in the eastern jungle at the Mocerón refugee camp.

“Looking back, I think we really had conviction that this is something we should do—a very innocent faith that God was leading, and a commitment to pray over each step in the journey,” Peter says.

This time, the group was a little larger: 70 students ended up going on the trip, out of a pool of about 250 applicants.

The fundraising goal was bigger too, but the team ended up surpassing their \$120,000 goal a week before their flights were scheduled to take off for Honduras.

“I think God honors real faith, and I think we just had that starry-eyed ‘we want to do something’ feeling, and we prayed a lot as a team, as a board,” Peter says. “We just felt that this was something we needed to do, and I think we also really emphasized that we were going to learn, going to serve, and going to love.”

Peter and his team didn’t see themselves as saviors to the people of Honduras, but rather as co-laborers: “It’s not about how great you are—it’s about what God wants to do with and through you and what you can learn and what you can do together to improve the lives of

those who might not have the same level of resources you do but who are fully created in the image of God and have a lot of potential and character and vitality.”

In Choluteca, Wheaton students took instruction from local Honduran leaders about where and how to build houses. Thomas Smoak ’86, M.A. ’03, was a freshman on this trip. He had grown up in Colombia as a missionary kid and remembers getting down into a pit alongside Honduran work partners, stomping straw into mud and slapping it into a frame to make adobe bricks.

“It was hard work,” he says. Each brick weighed 50 to 60 pounds, so it would take two people to lift them to form a wall.

This trip also had its challenges. Thomas recalls several students getting very sick on the trip, including one woman who suffered a 105-degree fever. Because the nearest clinic was an hour away, the students tried to get her fever down by submerging her body in the cool water of a creek in the middle of the night.

Being in Honduras also provided some very poignant moments. Dr. Jeffrey Davis ’83 was a senior on the 1983 trip. He recalls one Honduran woman making a meal of tortillas for him.

“Situations like this—where I was honored by people who gave things to me not from their abundance, but from their scarcity—moved me deeply,” he says.

Thomas shared Jeffrey’s experience and would, years later, go on to name his first daughter “Lillian” after one such “giving and precious” Honduran woman.

“It was a transformative experience for many of the students,” Peter says. It was so transformative, in fact, that many students became involved in development work in their careers, says Sam, who was on the project’s faculty advisory committee until he retired in 2008.

After Peter graduated, Honduras Project made a connection with a Honduran engineer and coffee farmer named

Arnoldo Alvarez, who was working to bring gravity-fed water systems to communities around the country.

With Arnoldo on board, Wheaton’s Honduras Project became a water project—and it was a “perfect partnership,” Lydia explains, adding that Arnoldo knows how to implement the water systems in the villages, the locals know how to dig ditches for the water pipes, and Wheaton students know how to fundraise and bring encouragement.

Dr. Noah Toly ’99, M.A. ’12 participated in Honduras Project in 1998. He remembers watching from his seat in the airplane as Tegucigalpa’s lush hills and the Toncontín International Airport’s runway, which threaded between them, got closer and closer. Then suddenly, bang! “The plane landed so hard, it felt like we bounced,” he says.

The rough ride continued as Arnoldo transported the team in a flat-bed truck from Tegucigalpa to the small community of Betania, located hours away. The

Honduran sun beat down and they stopped along the way at a watermelon stand for refreshments.

When they arrived at the site of the project, the students joined up with local Hondurans to dig trenches for the PVC pipe that would carry water from home to home.

“It became really clear to me that those experiences were not primarily about me bringing my gifts or talents to some community on the other side of the world, but were primarily about me serving alongside and learning from and listening to our partners in those communities,” Noah says.

At mealtimes, students cooked alongside their Honduran hosts. Each evening, they would join the locals in a worship service.

“It is a moment of communion—of fellowship together—across ethnic, national,



and linguistic divisions,” Noah says. “But it is also a moment during which the Wheaton team has to wrestle with what it looks like to be a good guest. What is the right way to come alongside a worshiping community that is not your own, for a short time, and in a display of Christian unity, rather than a display of ethnocentrism (subtle or not so subtle)? What ways of service and collaboration in worship are glorifying to God?”

A particularly gifted guitarist, who Noah remembers had two gold stars on his teeth, taught them a song, “This Is How We Worship God,” which became the anthem of Honduras Project for years.

“Traveling out of your comfort zone, and having significant experiences with other human beings, people from places very different than what you would call home, has the potential to mark your soul for life, especially if you do not dictate the terms of interaction,” Jeffrey says. “A genuine liberal arts education should move you, quite literally, to become humane. You cannot develop this capacity, however, unless you practice intercultural engagement. Every serious student of the liberal arts should plan a trip to another part of the globe, with a conscious openness to learning from others. In so doing, students may be surprised to discover something important about humanity.”

“SITUATIONS LIKE THIS—WHERE I WAS HONORED BY PEOPLE WHO GAVE THINGS TO ME NOT FROM THEIR ABUNDANCE, BUT FROM THEIR SCARCITY—MOVED ME DEEPLY.”



EACH YEAR, A GROUP OF STUDENTS HAS GONE TO A DIFFERENT RURAL VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF HONDURAS TO HELP INSTALL A GRAVITY-FED WATER SYSTEM AND TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST INCARNATIONALLY.

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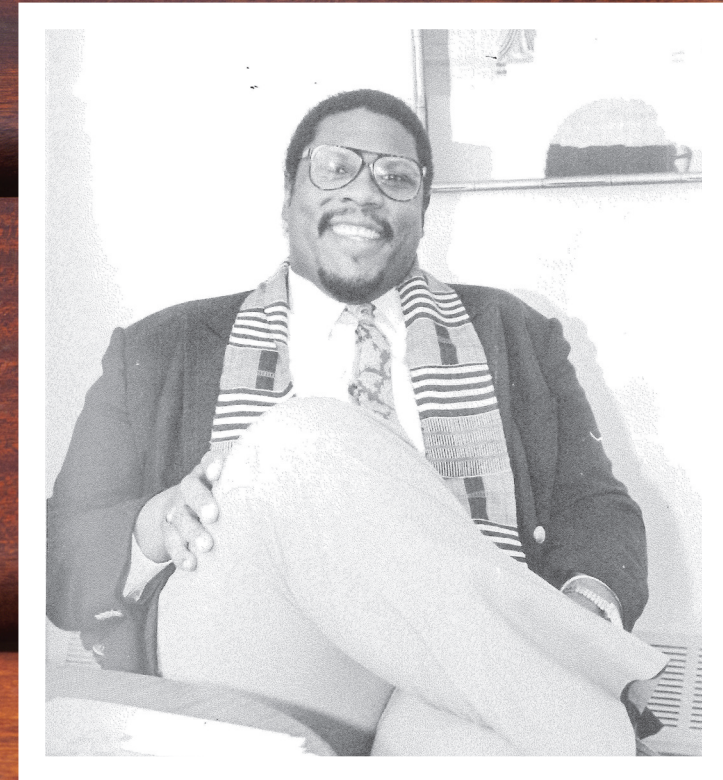
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IN MEMORY
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NEWS



A Word With Alumni

CINDRA STACKHOUSE TAETZSCH '82

Senior Director for Vocation and Alumni Engagement

I DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE. Sure, I knew a few famous names like "Graham" and "Elliot," but when I graduated from Wheaton, I didn't have a clue that the Alumni Association was such a gift.

As a student, I heard alumni speak in chapel on occasion, but I don't recall personally meeting any alumni, and I certainly didn't have the opportunity for a one-on-one relationship with someone older and wiser than me.

My, how things have changed.

Today's students have all kinds of opportunities to connect with alumni—both on campus and off. And while networking and career development are critical, many of these alumni connections are not only professional but also profoundly personal.

Our Student Alumni Board (SAB) offers popular events for students like "Surprised by Life," a panel of alumni who share real, often painful, stories of life after Wheaton. These are stories that describe God's faithfulness in the midst of pain and disappointment, and stories that make students laugh and occasionally wince. SAB has also started a mentoring program that offers students and alumni the oppor-

"THE MOST INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS ARE DEEPER AND BROADER."

tunity to meet one-on-one for in-depth conversations and prayer.

In my role overseeing both the Alumni Association and the Center for Vocation and Career, I often have conversations with students about life after Wheaton. As a born "connector," I enjoy helping students learn how to network with alumni. But the most interesting conversations are deeper and broader: how to discern God's will, whether work/life balance is ever possible, overcoming barriers in leadership positions, and how to stay faithful in a world that doesn't often encourage faithfulness.

Thanks to thousands of you who have made yourselves available, most current students know that the Wheaton alumni family, over 45,000 strong, is not a faceless, nameless entity.

Students understand that the Wheaton College Alumni Association is made up of *real* people who were once *real* students and who have had *real* struggles and successes in their lives. Thank you for your willingness to build the church and benefit society worldwide by encouraging our students and lending them a hand. **W**

Finding the Treasure of Wheaton's Alumni Network

Wheaton students engage with vast alumni network

ASHLEY RYDBERG BRIGHT '10

The impact of the Wheaton alumni network is no secret to alumni, and for many, it has been a treasure discovered through the passage of time after graduation. Many can relate to the feeling that meeting a fellow—and previously unknown—alumnus/a in the wild of the world is a true homecoming of the heart.

Alumni open their arms wide for each other, and the shared experience of studying at Wheaton College is an instant bond, no matter the graduation year. While many of us have enjoyed these often-serendipitous experiences, the groundwork for relationships between alumni is constructed on campus with great intent, building the community of the alumni network before students even graduate.

Alumni have always been drawn to connecting with and investing in one another, and the opportunities to do so continue to grow.

From the College's early days, alumni have played an important role in students' lives. For example, graduating classes in the 1800s shared in an annual Commencement dinner hosted by alumni, meant to celebrate the graduating seniors.

Over the last few years, the offices of Alumni and Parent Engagement and the Center for Vocation and Career (CVC) have joined forces to maximize these connections for students before and after graduation from Wheaton College. Wheaties are students for a short time, but alumni for life.

"Alumni bring great talent and perspective to the institution and we want to give them opportunities to connect and give back in ways that are meaningful to them," says Senior Director for Vocation and Alumni Engagement and Executive Director of the Wheaton College Alumni Association Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82. "And by engaging more alumni, we give students the opportunity to build relationships, glean wisdom, and benefit from the spiritual insights of alumni."

With the College's decision in 2014 to align the CVC with the Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement Division, the opportunities have grown immensely for the staff to collaborate on creative and strategic engagements between students and alumni.

Ten current students comprise the volunteer **Student Alumni Board**, which exists to create meaningful interactions and experiences that unite the Wheaton family of students and alumni to glorify Christ and his kingdom. This group is peer-led by two co-presidents and includes sophomores, juniors, and seniors. They take full ownership of a slate of



ILLUSTRATION BY ASAKO MASUOCHI

PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON '89



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 Renae Schauer Smith '91 PRESIDENT-ELECT Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84 PAST PRESIDENT Kurt T. Tillman '78 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 ALUMNI TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES Renae Schauer Smith '91, Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, Kurt T. Tillman '78 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING THROUGH 2019 Esther Lee Cruz '06, Morgan Jacob '17, Gary Keyes '63, Lee Eakle Phillips '77 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 Bruce Gin '83, Jeffrey Golz '89 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SERVING THROUGH 2022 Bryan Eklund '89, M.A. '14, Julie Miesse Feyerer '91, Eric Fowler '81, Christopher Peterson '90

annual events and programs designed to connect current students with alumni.

“The Student Alumni Board is an open space where the student leadership team can try different approaches and build a community around alumni connections,” says Christy Krumsieg Vosburg ’11, associate director of student and young alumni programs.

Now in its sixth year, the Board’s focus is on fostering student-alumni relationships, especially with nearby Chicagoland alumni. Events and programs include informal meals, on-campus events, spiritual encouragement, and sessions with alumni providing general life advice.

While the Student Alumni Board’s mission is to build relationships, **Externship Day** seeks to expose current students to the career side of post-Wheaton life. During Externship Day each February, Chicagoland alumni host current students at

their workplaces for a job shadow day. Externship Day is in its fifth year, and as a shared initiative of the Alumni and Parent Engagement office and the Center for Vocation and Career, it continues to grow in size each year.

The goal of Externship Day is to allow students to explore career paths they might be interested in. Alumni register online and fill out a profile describing what the Wheaton College student can expect throughout a typical day in the life of their job. Once the alumni have been registered,

students browse the choices and rank their top five preferences. Then Wheaton staff match students with alumni, in groups as large as fifteen or as small as one.

During the Externship Day experience, alumni spend quality time with their assigned students. They share about their majors, their journeys after Wheaton, and the things they have learned along the way. Alumni can speak directly to the career aspect of post-graduation life and how the Wheaton College framework shaped that trajectory.

This year, 176 students went to 71 different host sites. Over the past five years, a total of 659 students have been matched with 295 alumni host sites. Some students have even received job offers borne from the relationships built during Externship Day. Students find the experience helpful because it serves

as a glimpse into their field of interest. Talking to alumni can help guide their next steps forward or prompt a change of direction. Shadowing alumni provides students with an open environment to ask questions and explore. The experience has proven to be positive for alumni, too. **An astonishing one hundred percent of alumni who hosted last year indicated they would like to participate again in future years.**

While Wheaton College is fortunate to have many alumni in the local area to work with, students can connect with thousands of alumni all over the globe through Wheaton in Network, an online platform designed primarily for students who are seeking advice about internships, careers, and graduate school.

More than 3,000 alumni are registered on the network. The Alumni Office has helped study-abroad students use the platform to connect with alumni living in foreign countries, taking the student-alumni connections all over the world. More information can be found at win.wheaton.edu.

Taking advantage of the global alumni network is a big focus for the **Center for Vocation and Career** in particular. Last year, the CVC engaged nearly 300 alumni through their programs, which seek to guide students through early self- and career-discovery processes. The CVC team frames its approach through a pyramid: at the base, it helps students get to know themselves, inviting them to explore careers; at the next level, it helps students think beyond themselves; then, it helps students explore careers with alumni throughout the world.

“Wheaton College has the best alumni in the world,” says Dee Pierce M.A. ’17, director of the CVC. “The alumni are the secret sauce. They exude incredible generosity and are doing wonderful things in the world. We always look to our alumni base first when we build career exploration programs.”

The CVC creates opportunities in a variety of settings—everything from casual “meet and greets” or comfortable



Taco Tuesday discussions to Networking Nights and Leadership Lunches with C-suite executives.

The CVC’s **Meet and Greets** are a chance for students to sit with an alumnus in person or via video call from anywhere in the world and simply chat.

Taco Tuesdays are—you guessed it—taco dinners on Tuesdays during which students learn from alumni about specific careers. They have been particularly successful because they present a low barrier for students to explore different industries. The topics are either industry or role focused, and alumni participate in person at Anderson Commons or via video call. The number of Taco Tuesday sessions has grown every year, with a total of ten sessions this year.

Networking Nights introduce students to the skill of networking. This gives them a place to practice making strategic professional connections with others in a supportive environ-

ment, aided by coaches. The evenings include a panel discussion with career coaches and alumni.

Leadership Lunches offer students the unique opportunity to hear from C-suite leaders on everything from business to faith in the workplace.

Each of these alumni-student interactions offers an interesting perspective from which students benefit in their scholastic, vocational, personal, and spiritual lives. The number of alumni involved in these programs continues to grow year after year, with many agreeing that the interactions with students are an enjoyable way to give back to the Wheaton community.

Hundreds of alumni are giving students the keys to unlock doors to a world of post-collegiate life and build meaningful alumni relationships early. These initiatives are creating an ever-stronger Wheaton alumni network that serves both younger and older alumni alike.

“The alumni are the secret sauce. They exude incredible generosity and are doing wonderful things in the world. We always look to our alumni base first when we build career exploration programs.”



Uncovering the Mysteries

Scientist Dawn Wright '83 dives below the surface of God's creation

BY ADRIANNA WRIGHT '01 **GROWING UP IN HAWAII, DAWN WRIGHT '83 DECIDED SHE WANTED to be an ocean geologist at the age of eight. This passion for the sea led her to study geology at Wheaton College, the alma mater of her mother, Jeanne Grove Wright '56.**

"At Wheaton, I was clearly taught that God is the author of creation and of science—one who delights in seeing us uncover more of the mysteries of his creation," Dawn recalls.

Throughout the course of her career, Dr. Wright has had many opportunities to uncover mysteries far below the ocean's surface. She has participated in over 20 oceanographic research expeditions to some of the most geologically active regions of the planet. In 1991, she was the first woman of color to dive in the deep-sea submersible Alvin.

Dawn is considered a leading authority on the use of geographic information systems (GIS) in her field. She and her colleagues pioneered the first data model of the ocean, which assists scientists working in areas such as seafloor mapping, monitoring shoreline change, and climate change analysis.

Today Dawn serves as chief scientist of Esri, the world's largest GIS company, where her role is to foster good science within the organization and support the broader scientific community. She also serves as an affiliate professor at Oregon State University, where she has taught and directed a research lab in geography and oceanography since 1995.

"The Lord has allowed my wildest dreams to come true—diving to the ocean floor and traveling all over the world—while challenging me to remain true to Romans 12:12: 'joyful in hope, patient in troubles, constant in prayer,'" Dawn says. **W**

LIVING TO DECLARE THE WORKS OF THE LORD

Ronald Olson '49 reflects on World War II, Wheaton, and his time as a missionary in Argentina.

Ronald Olson '49 wasn't yet a Wheaton alumnus when his infantry battalion landed in France 25 days after D-Day. In fact, he was barely out of high school. Most of the men in his graduating class went to war, too.

He was considered one of the "replacement" infantry troops to fill the role of the wounded or fallen soldiers. He served in four major campaigns throughout France, Belgium, and Germany. As he dodged Nazi bullets, the Bible verse that sustained him was David's cry in Psalm 118:17: "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord" *KJV*. Ronald was injured in the war and spent three months recovering in London, ultimately receiving two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service in World War II.

Ronald left the military in 1945 and started classes as a Bible major at Wheaton soon after. He views his college years as a time of intellectual and spiritual preparation for his work as a missionary planting and growing churches in northern Argentina, first with Bolivian immigrants and then with the European Argentines. His housemate at Wheaton, Jim Elliot '49, also went on to serve as a foreign missionary, ultimately losing his life in 1956 at the hands of the Huaorani people in Ecuador.

Ronald first heard the call to serve as a missionary at the age of 13. About a decade later, he met his partner in ministry and wife of 66 years, Darlene, while at Northern Baptist Seminary in Chicago. Each of their five children attended Wheaton College. Now 93 years old and living in Lexington, Kentucky, Ronald reflects fondly on his time at Wheaton. "I'm still proud to be a graduate of Wheaton College." **W**

BY ANDREW THOMPSON '13

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWN WRIGHT '83

"Ruth seeks to help cross-cultural sojourners navigate their own paradoxical stories of pilgrimage."



PHOTO OF RUTH FRAME VAN REKEN '67 AND MAE BETH FRAME WILLIAMS '66 COURTESY OF RUTH VAN REKEN '67

A PARADOXICAL PILGRIMAGE

Ruth Van Reken will receive an honorary degree—a Doctor of Letters—for her lifelong and visionary advocacy for third-culture kids.

BY DAWN KOTAPISH '92

FOR RUTH FRAME VAN REKEN '69, R.N. '67, the tipping point came when her eldest daughter Sheri Van Reken Underhill '92 left home at age 14 to attend high school in the United States. Home at the time was Liberia, where Ruth and her husband, David '67, served as medical missionaries.

Watching Sheri board the plane, Ruth felt the same "choking feeling" she had experienced decades earlier when, at age six, she left her own parents—Charles '40 and Betty Varnell Frame '39, missionaries in Nigeria—to attend boarding school.

The sad memory surprised Ruth. She had always loved life as a missionary kid. Ruth explored these contradictory feelings through journaling, realizing that Jesus himself allows for the paradoxical coexistence of pain and faith. Her entries eventually became the book *Letters Never Sent: A Global Nomad's Journey from Hurt to Healing*.

Ruth has devoted her life to studying the story of pilgrimage, initially focusing on third culture kids (TCKs). First identified by sociologist Ruth Hill Useem in the late 1950s, "third culture kids" have parents who live and work abroad and who spend their developmental years outside their passport country. Ruth Van Reken has proposed the alternative, more broadly defined term "cross-cultural kid" (CCK) to describe individuals who have lived in two or more cultural environments during developmental years.

Ruth seeks to help cross-cultural sojourners navigate their own paradoxical stories of pilgrimage, including the challenges of multiple cycles of separation and loss, while at the same time welcoming with joy the many gifts also received. With David C. Pollock and Michael V. Pollock, Ruth coauthored *Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds*, widely considered the "TCK bible."

At commencement in May, Wheaton will confer Ruth with an honorary doctorate for her legacy. **W**

IN MEMORY: RODNEY K. SISCO '84

A tribute to Wheaton's Director of Multicultural Development

BY LATONYA TAYLOR

Everything about Director of Multicultural Development Rodney Sisco '84 was large.

There was his towering frame and imposing figure—"particularly good-sized," by his own description. At his funeral, Sisco's roommate and best man, Brad Sommerfeld '84, joked that his faith was strengthened during the two years that they roomed together because Sisco had the top bunk.

There was his sonorous voice, which he shared with Men's Glee Club as a student—a voice he later used to lead worship at church with his wife, Hasana Pennant Sisco '86, to call the Gospel Choir to attention, and, in 2010, to announce the beginning of the inauguration ceremony for Dr. Philip Ryken '88.

There was his broad, easy smile, and there were his legendary, all-enveloping hugs.

There was also Sisco's expansive vision for diversity and inclusion in Christian higher education that sustained his exceptional 34-year tenure at Wheaton College.

He went home to be with the Lord on December 30, 2018, after a five-month battle with cancer.

"Rodney Sisco was a faithful, courageous, gentle, joyful servant of Christ on the campus of Wheaton College," Ryken says. "He is uniquely irreplaceable in terms of his impact on student life. He persistently and singularly embodied the vision of Christ-centered diversity in a way that was legible to students, faculty, and staff on campus."

Dr. Samuel Shellhamer, retired Vice President of Student Development, remembers developing a relationship

with Sisco, then an exuberant freshman, in 1980. "His faith and his joyful spirit were much, much bigger than his physical stature," Shellhamer says. "For many Caucasian students who had never had a significant relationship with a person of color, he was the first person they got to know. It was not always easy, and he and I talked about that. But he had a very positive impact."

After graduation, Sisco worked in Admissions before transitioning into Student Development, where he blossomed.

"Rodney had wonderful relational skills, and he could relate to anybody," Shellhamer says. "He was able to confront issues. He was able to speak the truth in love. He was also very effective in not trying to be the lone person

SISCO SERVED AS A SPIRITUAL AND PROFESSIONAL MENTOR, A SURROGATE FATHER, A COMPASSIONATE COUNSELOR, AND A HUMBLE, OPTIMISTIC CHANGE AGENT.

trying to resolve a situation. He used a collaborative, team approach in trying to address issues that would come up on campus."

For many Wheaton students of all ethnicities, Sisco served as a spiritual and professional mentor, a surrogate father, a compassionate counselor, and a humble, optimistic change agent.

Tuwa Karnley M.A. '20 served as a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Development last year. "Rodney would talk about the vision a lot," she says. "I think it just oozed out of him, whether he was literally saying 'this is our vision' or in the way he thought about situations. He was always bringing it back to, 'We want to have everybody flourish, we want everybody to learn from one another, and we really want a true shalom body of Christ.'"

Dr. Ray Lewis, associate professor of biology, served with Sisco on the Faculty Diversity Committee and on the Multicultural Affairs Subcommittee that preceded it.

"Working together on those committees gave me an opportunity to learn from his example," he says. "Rodney's demeanor spoke volumes every time. He was gentle and firm—not going to waver when it comes to confronting issues of discrimination—but such an affable person, who always had respect for 'the other.' He was very much a co-worker, a friend, and an advocate."

Lewis remembers a workshop exercise in which Sisco divided participants into two groups, then allowed one group to discriminate against the

other based on a trait beyond participants' control.

"That was particularly formative for me because Rodney took us to a very brave space," Lewis says. "He helped me understand the issues of racial and ethnic discrimination, yet he made it safe to do that. That was something he was able to do and to make it work."

In addition to his leadership on campus, Sisco provided national leadership on diversity in Christian higher education. He served on the Racial Harmony Commission of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU); the Board of the National Christian Multicultural Student Leaders Conference Inc.; and on the Diversity Task Force of the Association of Christians in Student Development, which recognized him with its Jane Higa Award for Racial Harmony.

Dr. Pete Menjares, provost of Vanguard University of Southern California and a former CCCU Senior Fellow for Diversity, says Sisco provided a model for him to emulate when he was new to the world of Christian higher education in the 90s. "He just had a wisdom about him, a confidence and a calm, that, in this work, especially in the early days—which were very heated—stood apart."

He remembers collaborating with Sisco on a diversity audit for another Christian college.

"He was so profound in his thinking, so sharp in his analysis of the culture of that particular college, and very much in touch with the student experience of both students of color and white students," Menjares says. "He offered incredible counsel and



guidance on how this college should proceed in navigating racial division and in possibilities for racial reconciliation and coming together interculturally there."

In a field that is known for high rates of turnover, Sisco offered a rare model of longevity. That allowed him to offer support, guidance, and a listening ear to other diversity professionals at Christian colleges.

"Rodney is one of the few who has remained in one institution, and has built a legacy," says Dr. Glen Kinoshita, director of Imago Dei Initiatives at Biola University. Kinoshita and Sisco met in the 1990s when diversity work in Christian higher education was in its infancy. Over the decades, the two partnered on what are now national-level conferences and initiatives.

"He understood how biblically rooted this work is, and that's an anchor—something that grounds you," Kinoshita says. "He was able to see the

spiritual and biblical truth of what he was trying to do. His love for students was just so evident, and he loved his community, and that allowed him to continue his work with conviction. And I think the Wheaton community loved and supported him."

"That's why he stayed, and why he has a throng of people, or a community of witnesses, that call him their mentor."

Crystal Cartwright '08, associate director of student activities, describes herself as one of those many mentees—first as a student, and then as a co-worker. "When Rodney Sisco left us his shoes to fill, they were large enough for all of us," she says. "He is counting on each of us to protect and continue the journey he started. We may have to stuff the shoes he left, but I believe we are ready. Because we owe it to Rodney. Because we loved Rodney." **W**

IN MEMORY: DR. VIDA CHENOWETH

A tribute to Wheaton's professor of ethnomusicology

BY DR. KATHLEEN KASTNER, PROFESSOR OF MUSIC



DR. VIDA CHENOWETH was the first marimbist invited to play in Carnegie Hall. She also issued the first recording of works for the marimba. In the midst of this rising career, an accident to her hand and then its miraculous healing inspired her to change paths: she took up Bible translation with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Chenoweth taught at Wheaton for almost 20 years, having studied marimba at Northwestern University with the legendary Clair Omar Musser, and having earned a Ph.D. from the University of Auckland, where she studied music, anthropology, and linguistics.

The work of translation and the techniques she learned from linguistics informed and combined with a new approach of detailed analysis of unwritten music systems. This groundbreaking approach encouraged the creation of indigenous Christian hymns among preliterate peoples. The translation, analysis, and hymn creation process allows indigenous peoples to experience Christian music from their own cultures rather than from another.

Recognizing Chenoweth's unique approach of combining Christian faith with the music of indigenous people, former Conservatory of Music Dean Harold Best brought Chenoweth to campus. As Wheaton's professor of ethnomusicology, Chenoweth took groups of students overseas each year for field work in places including Senegal, Cameroon, the Solomon Islands, Peru, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, where she had translated the New Testament for the Usarufa people years earlier.

After retiring in 1993, Chenoweth cataloged 900+ field recordings, along with their meticulous documentation, which are now housed in The Library of Congress. This pioneer in ethnomusicology died December 14, 2018 at the age of 90. **W**

IN MEMORY: DR. E. BEATRICE BATSON

A tribute to a Wheaton mentor and litterateur

BY DR. JILL PELÁEZ BAUMGAERTNER, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH EMERITA



FREDERICK BUECHNER once said of Dr. E. Beatrice Batson that even those who entered her office with a firm resolve to say no to her requests, left that office having agreed to whatever she had asked. That was my own experience in the summer of 1980 when I agreed to meet with Dr. Batson to discuss taking on a part-time position in the English department. After an hour with that very convincing and elegant woman, who presented me with an impassioned argument for what she considered a singular opportunity to teach eager students in a college with like-minded professors who took Christian faith seriously, I signed on without hesitating. Her energy, her resolve, and her vision were captivating.

She was the mentor every student and every faculty member needed, especially young women, whom she ardently supported. At a time when professing the love of literature became unfashionable within the profession, she professed that love and dedication with conviction—in her teaching, in her considerable scholarship in seventeenth-century studies (especially Shakespeare and Bunyan), and in the standards she upheld as English department chair from 1973 to 1987. She broadened the vision of students by bringing into the department for lectures and residencies such notables as Madeline L'Engle, Frederick Buechner, John Frederick Nims, Walter Ong, and so many others. Even after she retired, she chaired several conferences for professors of Shakespeare interested in faith issues.

This beloved professor and colleague died January 22, 2019 at the age of 98. She taught at Wheaton for 33 years, having earned a B.A. from Bryan College, an M.A. from Wheaton, and the Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University. Her imprint is on several generations of students and all of the faculty who came into her orbit. May light eternal shine on her. **W**

Refrain

Refrain

YOU ARE WORTHY, WORTHY OF MY ALL.
MY TEARS AND PAIN I LIFT UP AS AN OFFERING.
TEACH ME TO SHARE IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF YOUR SUFFERING.
LAMB OF GOD, YOU ARE WORTHY OF MY ALL.

Refrain

YOU ARE WORTHY, WORTHY OF MY ALL.
ADOPTED AS A SON, A BROTHER TO MY KING...
INDEED I WILL SHARE IN YOUR GLORY IF I SHARE YOUR SUFFERING.
JESUS YOU, YOU ARE WORTHY OF MY ALL.

Refrain

WORTHY, WORTHY OF MY ALL,
BUT MY HEART FAINTS, DROWNED IN SORROW, OVERWHELMED.
MAKE ME LIKE YOU, CROSS-BEARER, PERSEVERING, FAITHFUL TO THE END.
TO STAND THE TRIAL, AND RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE.

Refrain

WORTHY, WORTHY OF MY ALL.
THIS IS MY DECLARATION IN THE DARKEST HOUR.
JESUS, THE FAITHFUL ONE WHO LOVES ME, ALWAYS GOOD AND TRUE.
YOU MADE ME YOURS. YOU ARE WORTHY OF MY ALL.

Refrain

I WANT TO BE FOUND WORTHY TO STAND BEFORE YOU ON THAT DAY.
WITH NO REGRETS FROM COWARDICE, THINGS LEFT UNDONE.
TO HEAR YOU SAY, "WELL DONE, MY FAITHFUL FRIEND, NOW ENTER YOUR REWARD"
JESUS, MY JOY, YOU ARE THE PRIZE I'M RUNNING FOR.

JESUS, MY JOY, YOU ARE THE PRIZE I'M RUNNING FOR!

Refrain

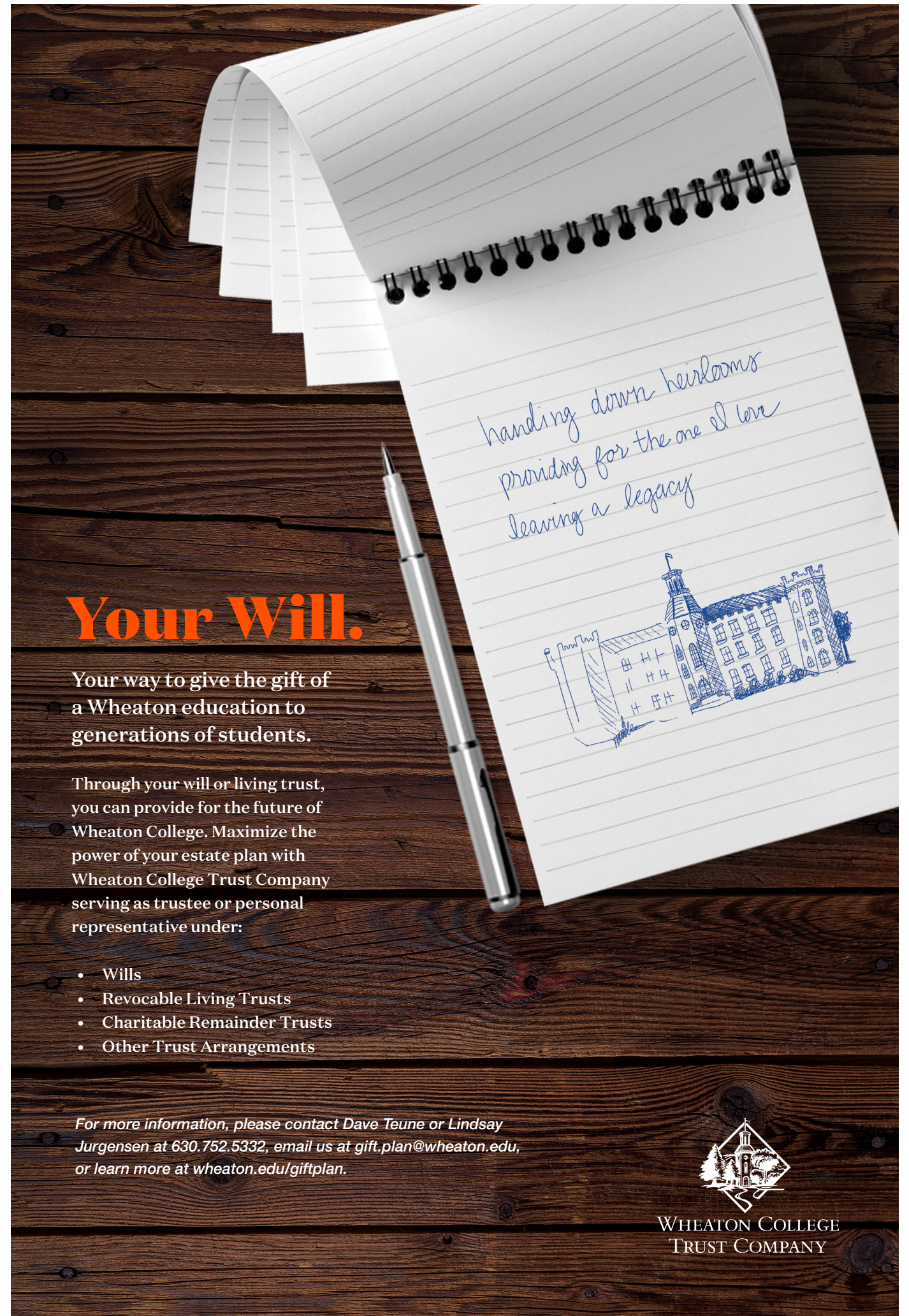
YOU ARE WORTHY, WORTHY OF MY ALL.

YOU ARE WORTHY, WORTHY OF MY ALL.

WHAT CAN I GIVE TO THE SON OF GOD, WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME?

HERE I AM, YOU ARE WORTHY OF MY ALL.

"Worthy of my All," a hymn written by Andrew Brunson '88 while he was imprisoned in Turkey.



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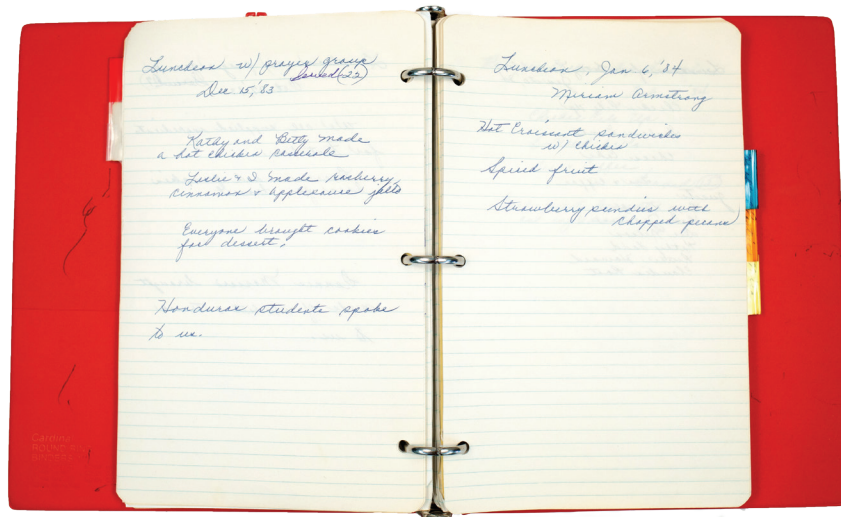
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MARY CHASE'S RECORD OF GUESTS IN HER HOME, 1982-1993. MARY CHASE AND HER HUSBAND, WHEATON'S SIXTH PRESIDENT J. RICHARD CHASE, HOSTED A PRAYER LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 15, 1983 WITH HONDURAS PROJECT STUDENT LEADERS. MARY KEPT A RECORD OF ALL THE MEALS SHE HOSTED, INCLUDING THIS PAGE, WHICH NOTES THE MENU AND GUESTS. VISIT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, BUSWELL LIBRARY ON CAMPUS OR AT WHEATON.EDU/LIBRARY.