



WHEATON

VOLUME 23 // ISSUE 2 // 2020 MASTERS OF CRAFT P. 22

**Masters of  
Craft**

**Serving Justice**

**The Power of  
Liturgy**



“It’s so beautiful to see how God has been readying me at Wheaton for things I’d only ever imagined. As I look towards graduation, I’m hopeful that I can be a difference maker in this beautiful world God created and use my artistic talents and love to help people, as God has done for me.”

— Charity May '20

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](https://wheaton.edu/refer).



# features

VOLUME 23 // ISSUE 2 SPRING 2020

WHEATON

“They’re doing it to serve the Lord.”



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↑ **MASTERS OF CRAFT/ 22**

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## President's Perspective

DR. PHILIP G. RYKEN '88

PRESIDENT

**T**O THE PEOPLE who faithfully serve Christ and his Kingdom at Wheaton College, often quietly and without public recognition...

... to the administrative assistants who help faculty members and campus administrators prioritize and accomplish their daily work...

... to the information officers, media specialists, and graphic designers who tell the story of what God is doing at Wheaton College through academics, athletics, and music...

... to the custodians who work all night long to make sure our campus is clean, safe, and ready for action at the dawn of each new day...

... to the technology team members who solve technical problems to keep computer systems up and running...

... to the nurses, counselors, and student development staff members who shoulder a weight of care for student needs...

... to the accountants and registrars who keep careful financial and academic records...

... to the advancement staff who invite, receive, document, and express gratitude for thousands of gifts from faithful donors...

... to the faculty members who go above and beyond the call of duty to teach and mentor students in mind and spirit...

... to the athletics, facilities, conservatory, and alumni staff members who host hundreds of games, concerts, and

**"I EXPRESS GENUINE GRATITUDE, WITH SINCERE THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR MINISTRY."**

other programs for tens of thousands of campus guests...

... to the public safety officers who safeguard people and property...

... to the advancement and admissions representatives who travel the country (and the world) to invite people to invest in and experience the value of a Wheaton education...

... to the deans, directors, and other staff members who disciple and discipline with wisdom and patience...

... to the landscaping crews that make Wheaton's campus safe and beautiful through all kinds of weather, in every season of the year...

... to the human resources team members who hire and train employees and bless them (and their families) through payroll, health, retirement, and educational benefits...

... to the operations teams that set up furniture, maintain automobiles, repaint walls, repair electrical fixtures, and run heating and air conditioning systems all over campus...

... and to everyone else whose work at Wheaton is precious to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, even if their names and pictures never appear in the pages of this magazine...

... on behalf of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and administration, I express genuine gratitude, with sincere thanksgiving to God for the gift of your ministry. **W**



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

ILLUSTRATION BY BERND SCHIFFERDECKER

BACKGROUND PHOTO BY ALEXA AND JOSH ADAMS

# NEWS

WHEATON  
FOOTBALL

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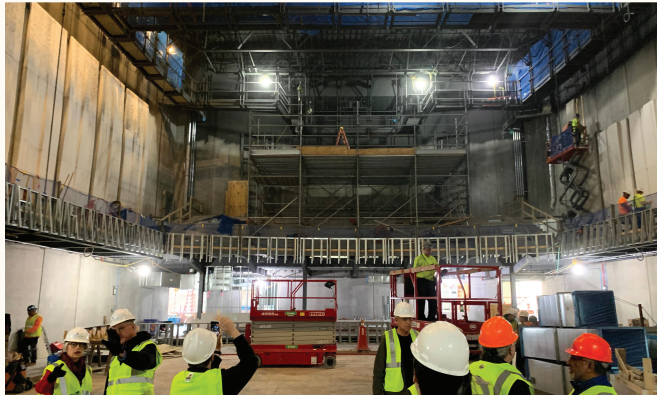
SPORTS  
CELEBRATING THE  
35-YEAR COACHING  
LEGACY OF MIKE  
SWIDER '77



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STUDENT NEWS  
FOLLOW @WHEATONCOLLEGEIL  
ON INSTAGRAM FOR REAL-TIME  
UPDATES ON CAMPUS LIFE

# PROFILES



## UPDATE: ARMERDING CENTER FOR MUSIC AND THE ARTS

The Concert Hall of the Armerding Center for Music and the Arts is on schedule to open Fall 2020, ringing in Wheaton's Year of the Arts, Faith, and Imagination. The year will be a celebration of what God has done through the arts throughout the past decade at Wheaton. The 2020-21 academic year will be punctuated with special programming and performances to christen the beautiful Armerding Center for Music and the Arts and the brand new Armerding Concert Hall.

 LEARN MORE AT [WHEATON.EDU/NEWS](https://wheaton.edu/news)

## WADE CENTER HANSEN LECTURESHIP

Dr. Matthew Milliner '98 draws connections between G.K. Chesterton and Native American art in the Midwest



**DR. MATTHEW MILLINER '98, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF** art history, lectured for the 2019-20 Hansen Lectureship Series entitled "Turtle Island Renaissance." The lectures, given in October and February, used insights from G. K. Chesterton as a guide to understanding the broad sweep of Native American art, particularly in the Midwest. "To extend Chesterton's vision to Native American culture is not a quirky or exotic connection....It is a connection he expressly stated he wished he had time to make," Milliner said in his second lecture. Each of the lectures focused on a Chesterton work: *The Everlasting Man*, *Resurrection of Rome*, and his little-known volume of poems entitled *The Queen of Seven Swords*. The lecture series drew broad interest and provoked conversation, including a professor respondent at each session hosted at the Marion E. Wade Center. View the lectures online at [wheaton.edu/wade](https://wheaton.edu/wade).

W

PHOTO BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS



WHEATON COLLEGE WAS RANKED #34 OUT OF 603 FOR "BEST ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOR THE MONEY" BY COLLEGE FACTUAL.



WHEATON COLLEGE LISTED AMONG THE TOP FULBRIGHT-PRODUCING BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY.



OVER 1,100 PEOPLE ATTENDED "THE SPACE IN BETWEEN," A BALLET DEPICTION OF C. S. LEWIS'S *THE GREAT DIVORCE*, HOSTED ON CAMPUS BY THE WADE CENTER.

## Dr. Bernice King at Wheaton in February

**DR. BERNICE KING**, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered the keynote lecture entitled "The Fierce Urgency to Follow Christ" at The Rodney Sisco Symposium for Transformational Leadership, Diversity, and Equity Practices, hosted in partnership with the Association for Christians in Student Development (ACSD).

## New Center for Family and Relational Health

The School of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy announced that The Center for Family and Relational Health is scheduled to open October 2020. Wheaton College's M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy will be Illinois' first and only faith-based, accredited program to have its own training clinic open to the public.



# WHEATON'S ACADEMIC CENTERS & INSTITUTES

Evangelical Scholarship for the World and the Church

YOU MAY HAVE VISITED C.S. LEWIS' WARDROBE AT THE Marion E. Wade Center, spent a summer at HoneyRock, or attended a global evangelism summit at the Billy Graham Center. Each of these endeavors is made possible by Wheaton's academic Centers. Provost Margaret DuPlissis Diddams '83 says that the Centers are "the fluid boundaries between the College, its community, and its constituents." While they span a variety of fields, Wheaton's Centers are united in applying Christian liberal arts to the needs of the church and society.

When the **Billy Graham Center** opened in 1980, Billy Graham '43 said that he hoped the Center would be a "world hub of inspiration, research, preaching, and training that will glorify Christ and serve every church and organization in preaching and teaching the gospel to the world." The Center continues to pursue that mission by offering academic programs, producing revolutionary scholarship, hosting annual conferences and summits, conducting webinars for a global audience, and housing institutes and initiatives.

The **Center for Applied Christian Ethics** engages scholars and students across disciplines to ask pressing questions with

a Christian worldview. Dr. Vincent Bacote, associate professor of theology and director of CACE, says that "Our job is to connect what Christians believe with their participation in the world and its various concerns." He continues, "We work to help the campus and surrounding community to be more thoughtful not only about their lived theology but in creating ways for people to live out holistic discipleship."

The Director of the **Center for Urban Engagement** Dr. Noah Toly '99, M.A. '12 says that "Students are graduating into the most urban society our world has known." The Center has dozens of local community partnerships, a diverse advisory board, and core and supporting faculty across campus. It promotes scholarly thought, programming, and engagement for Wheaton students and Christians in urban communities. "If Christians are going to promote thriving communities for the foreseeable future, that work has an increasingly urban face," says Toly.

Led by Dr. Rob Ribbe '87, M.A. '90, **HoneyRock, the Outdoor Center for Leadership Development of Wheaton College**, actively promotes the development of the whole person through learning inside cabin classrooms

and outside in God's creation across the 1,000-acre campus in Wisconsin. Ribbe says founder Harvey Chrouser '34 captured HoneyRock the best: It is an Experiential Leadership Laboratory. Ribbe expands, "You don't learn leadership sitting in a classroom talking about it. You learn it in the trenches." HoneyRock hosts budding scholars, active students, and over 50 faculty each year.

**Human Needs and Global Resources** offers an academic certificate program in which undergraduates integrate multidisciplinary coursework and a six-month internship in communities throughout Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The John Stott Endowment has broadened this Center's impact by supporting faculty development, research, and creative projects, and enabling academic departments to host visiting international scholars and artists who participate in College life by sharing about their engagement in church-based responses to human needs. These initiatives exist to inspire people to develop life-orienting commitments to justice, intercultural humility, compassion, hospitality, environmental health, and peacemaking as a part of the global church.

The **Humanitarian Disaster Institute** is the first faith-based academic research institution of its kind. HDI exists to equip the church to properly and productively engage with underserved and vulnerable populations challenged by disasters and humanitarian crises. It promotes pioneering research on disaster response, provides evidence-informed resources for survivors and the greater public, and hosts lectures, panels, and an annual conference to equip church leaders and interested humanitarian response leaders. The Institute offers a master's degree in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership, which develops Christian leaders to approach humanitarian crises and disasters with research-based, gospel-centered strategies.

**The Institute for Cross-Cultural Training** offers courses, special workshops, publications, and consultation on learning new languages and cultures and teaching English to speakers of other languages. The Institute provides resources to those currently working in their non-native communities. It extends the impact of Wheaton College by training Christian disciples to thoughtfully and effectively evangelize in communities worldwide.

The **Marion E. Wade Center** is home to the world's largest archive of works by seven iconic Christian British authors, including C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien. Housed in a quaint stone building across from Edman Chapel, the Center is open to the public, including its lectures and panels. Co-directors Dr. David Downing and Dr. Crystal Downing say, "We want the Wade to be facing forward, rather than backward, to energize new acts of imagination through a Christian lens." The Center reinvigorates "the timeless truths expressed by the authors" to an ever-changing audience.

The **Wheaton Center for Early Christian Studies** fosters systematic study in the field of Patristics and early Christian literature and connects contemporary evangelicalism with the historical roots of Christianity. Founded by Director Dr. George Kalantzis, professor of theology, the Center aims to provide a space for Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox Christians to engage with one another and with the shared roots of the faith. Kalantzis affirms, "Our faith is not new. We're the inheritors of communities of faith throughout history." The Center provides academic programs and actively engages with world-renowned scholars through lecture series, conferences, and an annual academic gathering of theologians and historians.

The **Wheaton Center for Faith and Disability** provokes biblical, ecumenical discourse on disability as it influences families, schools, and congregations. The Center seeks to fos-

ter a robust biblical understanding of disability, provide training resources, and facilitate practical support that will empower communities to become places of belonging for all. The Ann Haskins Assistant Professor of Special Education Thomas Boehm, who leads CFD, says that "Wheaton is positioned and equipped to provide national and international leadership in addressing disabilities through a biblical lens in a way that equips schools and the church—and engages the world for kingdom-building purposes."

Director of the **Wheaton Center for Faith and Innovation** Hannah Stolze says that CFI asks the question, "What does it look like to be a disciple of Christ in the workplace?" Both Stolze, associate professor of marketing & supply chain management, and Dr. Keith Johnson, co-director and associate professor of theology, are developing constructive tools to equip people to pursue work as worship. "Our goal in our research and content creation is to provide tools for Christians in the marketplace to worship God every day of the week," Stolze shares. CFI has signed on nearly 60 executive members; it supports 20 faculty research projects; and it has conducted pilot programming.

**Wheaton Center for Faith, Politics & Economics** is a bridge between two independent but intersecting sectors—politics and economics—and it seeks to engage both from a Christian liberal arts perspective. The Center exposes students to a global view of politics, work, and the church through on-campus lectures, international internship and research grants, and publications. Captain David Iglesias '80, J.D., director of FPE, says, "We want to carry on Wheaton's historical role of sending out missionaries. We're equipping students to do that in the business and political world."

These academic centers provide accessible scholarship and programming to equip students, staff, and faculty to be leading contributors to society and the global church. **W**

# Honoring Dr. Dorothy Chappell’s 43 Years of Service

Dr. Dorothy Chappell retires this spring after 43 years of service. She began her career at Wheaton College in 1977, and has served as professor of botany, two terms as Faculty Vice-Chair, and Chair of the Biology Department. In 1994, she transitioned to Gordon College. “Both Wheaton and Gordon have been blessed by Dot Chappell’s administrative acumen, her wise and strategic thinking, and her faithful commitment to Christ,” says D. Michael Lindsay, president of Gordon College. “She is a pioneering scientist whose witness and leadership has paved the way for tens of thousands of women and men who have followed her example of being committed to Christ-honoring excellence in the sciences.”

Chappell continued her commitment to Wheaton College by serving on the Board of Trustees and then returned to Wheaton as Dean of Natural and Social Sciences and Professor of Biology, roles in which she diligently led the Natural and Social Sciences Division.

Besides her work as an academic administrator, one of her greatest legacies at Wheaton is the Meyer Science Center. “Dr. Chappell was involved in almost every aspect of the building’s design,” says President Philip Ryken ’88, “including its spectacular murals.” Ryken continues, “The success of Wheaton students and faculty in collaborative scientific research is due in no small part to her advocacy and success in gathering equipment, securing grants, and helping to construct one of the best science facilities at any liberal arts college in the world.”



While considering her legacy at Wheaton—beyond hiring decisions, teaching, leading renovation and construction projects, and publishing notable research—Chappell reflects, “All the other things aside, it’s the lives of the students and peers that I sought to shape. How have I influenced people for Christ? For me, that’s the most important thing in my years of service.”

Her colleagues agree. Dr. Bryan McGraw, dean of social sciences, says that “Dot has always been deeply committed to the success of the College as a whole and worked extraordinarily hard to advance its mission. What I appreciated about her especially was her encouragement for junior faculty.” Dr. Kirk Farney M. A. ’98, vice president for Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement, remembers when he first assumed his duties at the College, “Dot was the first person outside of my division to come to my office for a visit. She assured me of her prayers and support,

and explained that she understood how vital advancement work was to the mission of Wheaton. Since then, she has supported our work both personally and professionally. More importantly, her engagement has gone beyond just those projects that benefited her department.”

Throughout her career, Chappell has published research ranging from the cell biology of green algae to topics related to science and Christian scholarship. She has received awards for research and teaching, including the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award at Wheaton College, Outstanding Educator of the Chicago Region, and a Fulbright Scholar’s Research Award to research in Australia, Fiji, and New Zealand.

Wheaton College is deeply grateful for the service and dedication Chappell has demonstrated in serving Christ at the College for over four decades. **W**

PHOTO BY ALEXA AND JOSH ADAMS



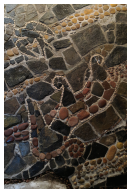
## FACULTY WORKS



*Rédiger un texte académique en français*  
(OPHRYS, 2018)  
CO-AUTHORED BY DR. ALAN D. SAVAGE, PROFESSOR OF FRENCH; FRENCH SECTION COORDINATOR



*Being Saved: Explorations in Soteriology and Human Ontology*  
(SCM, 2018)  
CO-AUTHORED BY DR. MARC CORTEZ, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY



*Confessions & Civitate Dei*  
(WHEATON, 2019)  
BY JEREMY BOTTS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART, DEPARTMENT CHAIR, TRANSLATED INTO MOSAICS BY LEAH SAMUELSON '02, ASSOCIATE LECTURER OF ART, AND GRETA SWANSON '18



*Bluebell Mural*  
(ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM, ENGLAND, SPRING 2019) BY LEAH SAMUELSON '02, ASSOCIATE LECTURER OF ART



*The Flourishing Teacher: Vocational Renewal for a Sacred Profession*  
(IVP ACADEMIC, 2020) BY DR. CHRISTINA BIBER LAKE, CLYDE S. KILBY 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, 2020.

### EMERITUS

**DR. DOROTHY F. CHAPPELL**, Professor of Biology Emerita  
**DR. ROBERT L. GALLAGHER**, Professor of Intercultural Studies Emeritus  
**DR. SALLY E. MORRISON**, Associate Professor of Education Emerita

### TENURE

**DR. M. DANIEL CARROLL (RODAS)**, Blanchard Professor of Old Testament  
**DR. KAREN J. JOHNSON**, Associate Professor History  
**DR. IL-HEE KIM**, Associate Professor of Education  
**MS. CHERITH LUNDIN**, Associate Professor of Art  
**DR. CARLOS SOSA SILIEZAR**, Associate Professor of New Testament  
**DR. DANA K. TOWNSEND**, Associate Professor of Applied Health Science

### PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND TENURE

**DR. THEONE E. HILL**, Assistant Professor of Communication  
**DR. CHRISTA B. TOOLEY**, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Anthropology

### PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE LECTURER

**MS. REBECCA A. TOLY**, Assistant Lecturer of Spanish

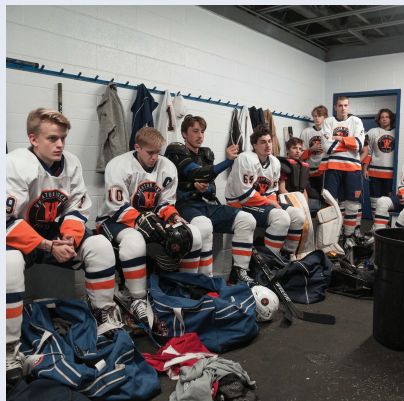
### PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

**DR. CHRISTINE R. JESKE**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

### PROMOTION TO PROFESSOR

**DR. ROBERT C. BISHOP**, Associate Professor of Physics and Philosophy; John and Madeleine McIntyre Chair of Philosophy and History of Science  
**DR. KEITH L. JOHNSON**, Associate Professor of Theology  
**DR. MARK E. JONAS**, Associate Professor of Education and Associate Professor of Philosophy  
**DR. SHAWNE. OKPEBHOLO**, Associate Professor of Music  
**MR. MICHAEL E. STAUFFER**, Associate Professor of Communication

## #MYWHEATON



#MYWHEATON (PHOTOGRAPHERS IN SEQUENCE FROM TOP CENTER):  
 1) MEDIA TEAM MARSHMALLOW ROASTING, BY ANDY EATON '21, 2) THE SAM'S TEAM AT AIR JAM, BY MARY LYLE DEVANEY '20, 3) RES LIFE BONDING AT HONEYROCK, BY ANDY EATON '21, 4) WHEATON IN ENGLAND REFLECTION, BY ELIANA CHOW '21, 5) PUPPY FINALS THERAPY, BY KAILIN RICHARDSON '20, 6) ISP WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS, BY HAYNE CHO '21, 7) THE ISP SQUAD, BY GRACE KIM '21, 8) WATCHING THE SUNRISE IN CHICAGO, BY SAMANTHA ST. CYR '21, 9) THE HOCKEY TEAM PREPS BEFORE A GAME, BY ETHAN EDMUNDS '21, 10) TOR IN KOREA, BY HAYNE CHO '21



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

ILLUSTRATION BY MEL BAXTER

*"Times like these help me realize the blessings and beauty of living in community."*



## WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Residents of Traber Hall unite for a "wild" night of transformation and unity

BY ASHER BERNARDI '20

AFTER NINE STRAIGHT HOURS OF decorating, our floor was finally ready. The bathroom looked, smelled, and felt like an actual jungle. The lounge was dark and terrifying. One room was rigged for plastic spiders to drop creepily from the ceiling. It was Oktoberfest, an annual tradition of Smith-Traber Hall, one of the freshman dorms on campus, where students can come to experience a themed traversal of each floor. My fellow floormates and I had chosen "Jumanji" as our theme, and we were ready to dazzle!

As groups of students began coming onto our floor, we assumed our characters and played them faithfully: a lion, a monkey, a dinosaur, and myself as a wild man, straight from the jungle. Guys who didn't want to act helped behind the scenes by starting the music or changing the lights on cue. We came together like a well-oiled machine, each man doing his part, and it was fulfilling to create something collectively. That night was long and exhausting, but so fun and so worth it.

Times like these help me realize the blessings and beauty of living in community. Even though each individual is unique, we united as a floor into one identity: a microcosm of the Body of Christ. **W**



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHEATON'S RESIDENCE HALLS, VISIT [WHEATON.EDU/RESLIFE](http://WHEATON.EDU/RESLIFE)



# Building Something that Lasts

Wheaton’s Head Football Coach Mike Swider ’77 retired at the end of the 2019 season, but his legacy lasts on and off the field

BY KATHERINE BRADEN ’16

WHEATON’S HEAD FOOTBALL COACH MIKE SWIDER ’77 has spent the last 35 years building two things: a winning football team and a culture of men fighting for a higher cause.

His impressive stats catch your eye first. During his 24 years as head coach, Swider was selected as College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin’s Coach of the Year seven times, and he ranks first among Wheaton’s 21 head football coaches in both his 209-52 record and 80.1 percent winning percentage. Under his leadership, Wheaton Football reached the National Collegiate Athletic Association playoffs 10 times, winning 9 CCIW titles and producing 48 All-Americans and 230 All-Conference players.

Look closer, and you’ll see a man whose passion, dedication, and influence span farther than the field. “Coach Swider’s impact has had a generational effect,” says Neal Nethery ’93, who named his second son after Swider. “He taught us how to ‘stay tough’ as Christian men, making us better husbands and dads.” Former NFL player Andy Studebaker ’08 echoes the sentiment: “Coach Swider used football as a tool to build men of character and integrity to become godly leaders. Not a day goes by that Wheaton Football doesn’t impact my life.”

The key to leaving a lasting influence? “Inspire and encourage while also challenging and confronting,” says Swider. For him, the regular “thank you” calls

LOOK CLOSER, AND YOU’LL SEE A MAN WHOSE  
PASSION, DEDICATION, AND INFLUENCE  
SPAN BEYOND THE GRIDIRON.

3

CONSECUTIVE YEARS FOR WHICH FAVOR EZEWUZIE ’20 WAS NAMED THE FEMALE TRACK ATHLETE OF THE MEET AT THE 2020 CCIW INDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE FIRST STUDENT-ATHLETE TO WIN THE AWARD THREE TIMES.

6

CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES THE THUNDER WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM HAS MADE IN THE NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AS OF ’19-’20.

31,000

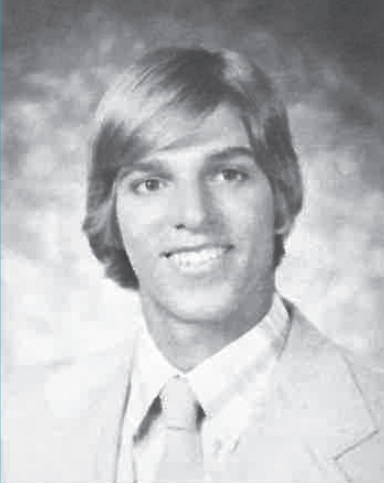
VIEWS IN THREE DAYS ON SOCIAL MEDIA OF NYAMEYE ADOM’S GAME-WINNING SHOT DURING WHEATON’S 80-79 VICTORY AGAINST ILLINOIS WESLEYAN ON FEB. 15.

from former players and their families are even sweeter than championship wins. “I set out to build something that would last: men who fight for the cause of Christ and family and Wheaton football,” says Swider. “Wins, losses, and fame fade. It’s what you leave in people that transcends you.”

It’s time for Swider to step off the field, but he’s confident what he’s built will endure. For now, he urges Wheaton Football to “keep reflecting the sign at the front of campus: ‘For Christ and His Kingdom’—and keep winning.”

PHOTO BY ALEXA AND JOSH ADAMS  
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHEATON SPORTS, VISIT [ATHLETICS.WHEATON.EDU](https://www.wheaton.edu/athletics)

# ATHLETIC THROWBACK



COACH SWIDER

Swider has been involved in Wheaton football for 39 seasons, beginning with four years as a student-athlete on the football team (1973-76). He returned to Wheaton as defensive coordinator, serving in that role for 11 seasons from 1985-95. He has served as head coach for 24 seasons (1996-2019).

Wheaton Athletics Director Julie Davis says, “Swider has invested his life in every young man who has come through this program in the last 35 years.”

# Thomas ‘TJ’ Whitfield ’20



UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENT PROFILE

**HOMETOWN:** TINLEY PARK, IL  
**MAJOR:** B.A. IN COMMUNICATION, MINOR IN GRAPHIC DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY  
**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, WHEATON FUND, STUDENT MEDIA TEAM, TAE KWON DO CLUB, COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
**FUN FACT:** ONE OF TJ’S MOST MEMORABLE CREATIVE MASTERPIECES WAS A 4,000-PIECE LEGO DEATH STAR BATTLE STATION FROM STAR WARS

**BY ASHLEY MOSTELLER RABINOVITCH ’10** **TJ WHITFIELD ’20** revels in the “tedious work” of creating something that matters. “A lot of people love to see the finished project, but it’s the process of sketching out an idea, designing, messing up, coming back, and diving deep that I enjoy most,” he says. The communication major has long harbored a passion for drawing and sketching, but learning graphic design at Wheaton has opened up a new world of possibilities for him. “I want to use the gifts Christ has given me to embody the beauty he created in the world around us,” says TJ. From his perspective, there’s nothing more beautiful than telling stories of the people he interacts with daily. “At Wheaton, I’ve had the opportunity to really sit and talk with a wide variety of students to gain a better understanding of their experiences,” says TJ. “No two people share the same story.” After graduation, TJ aspires to establish a career in the creative realm, using his gifts to “truthfully interpret people’s experiences and celebrate their differences.” **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

# Eliza Stiles M.A. ’20



GRADUATE  
STUDENT PROFILE

**HOMETOWN:** BERLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**DEGREE PROGRAM:** M.A., SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY  
**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** SECRETARY OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL  
**FUN FACT:** ELIZA AND HER UNDERGRAD ROOMMATES HAD A PET GOLDFISH THAT THEY NAMED FRIEDRICH SCHLEIERMACHER, AFTER THE GERMAN THEOLOGIAN

**BY MARGARET MCKENZIE ’18** **DOES HAVING A BAPTIST PASTOR FOR A FATHER** and a practicing Catholic for a mother make for some fascinating dinner-table conversations growing up? If you ask Eliza Stiles, the answer is a resounding “yes.” For Eliza, those conversations have sparked a lifelong interest in theology, first as she pursued her undergraduate studies in Christian ministry at Gordon College and now as she earns her graduate degree in systematic theology at Wheaton. Eliza was referred to Wheaton by her mentor, Wheaton alumna Amy Hughes M.A. ’08, Ph.D. ’13, a professor at Gordon College. “She really encouraged me that we need women’s voices in theology,” Eliza says. Her experience at Wheaton has been the fruit of that encouragement, as she has studied theology, applied what she’s learned as a youth minister at Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church, and helped coordinate Wheaton’s annual “Where are the Women?” conference. What is Eliza looking forward to upon graduation? “I’m pulled in two different directions—academia and the church,” she says. One thing Eliza does know is that she wants to connect her theological education and her work in youth ministry by creating a Christian curriculum for young women that reframes how churches teach them about their bodies. **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

# Julie Schmela Davis '91



STAFF  
PROFILE

**HOMETOWN:** VENTURA, CA  
**TITLE:** ATHLETICS DIRECTOR  
**YEARS AT WHEATON:** 16  
**EDUCATION:** : B.A., PSYCHOLOGY; MINOR IN SPANISH, WHEATON COLLEGE  
**FUN FACT:** JULIE TAUGHT SOCIAL STUDIES AND COACHED SOFTBALL, VOLLEYBALL, AND BASKETBALL AT PAN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL FOR TWO YEARS

BY ASHLEY  
RYDBERG  
BRIGHT '10

**A FORMER WHEATON COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER,** Athletics Director Julie Schmela Davis '91 now oversees the day-to-day operations of the Wheaton College Athletics Department. "The mission of the Athletics Department is to foster the development of Christian faith, character, and leadership in Wheaton College student athletes," says Julie. "Beyond my day-to-day role, my goal is to make sure all Wheaton coaches have the tools they need to impact our student-athletes' lives."

The Athletics Department is the student-athlete's community and connection to the College, and often the doorway to a spiritual journey, too. That was the case for Julie, who considers herself the beneficiary of a transformational relationship with her basketball coach at Wheaton, Beth McKinney Baker '77. "Beth has an amazing personal testimony that she lived out in front of us," says Julie. "She modeled walking through whatever the Lord calls you to walk through, and she did so in an authentic way."

Julie says her experience as a student-athlete at Wheaton shaped who she is today personally, spiritually, and professionally. The example shown by Coach Baker informed Julie's life as a Christian and a coach. Julie's goal now is to empower coaches in the vital work they do, both before and after the whistle.

"Wheaton College coaches and student-athletes are always ready to rise to the occasion and make strides for Christ and his kingdom," says Julie. **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

*"There's more to this life than meets the eye."*

# Dr. Robert O'Connor '79



FACULTY  
PROFILE

**HOMETOWN:** GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
**TITLE:** ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
**DEPARTMENT:** PHILOSOPHY  
**YEARS AT WHEATON:** 30  
**EDUCATION:** PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME; M.A., WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY; B.A., WHEATON COLLEGE  
**FUN FACT:** IN HIS SPARE TIME, O'CONNOR ENJOYS OFF-ROAD AND MOUNTAIN UNICYCLING

BY CIERA  
HORTON  
MCELROY '17

**DR. ROBERT O'CONNOR** celebrates the hard questions. "Do you really believe in evolution?" asked a student sitting across from the associate professor of philosophy during office hours. "As a first-semester freshman who had grown up with a different view, he found it hard to believe that a Wheaton professor was open to even the possibility of the evolutionary account," says O'Connor, who ultimately considers himself agnostic as to whether evolution can fully account for the origin of human beings.

And yet, in the classroom, the beloved philosophy professor hopes to foster an atmosphere of serious inquiry. "I think a lot of students find in philosophy a kind of freedom and congeniality for asking questions," O'Connor says. "You have the luxury to step back and think very carefully through the issues that you will confront later in life."

For O'Connor, studying philosophy is like taking a "quest" to understand one's faith commitments and to prepare for coming challenges. This is something he knows from experience. O'Connor and his wife lost their oldest daughter, Anna '07, M.A '11, to cancer at the age of 26. Enduring that terrible loss "simply affirmed my sense of calling in philosophy because of the power and freedom that she had," says O'Connor. "Her experience convinced me that there's more to this life than meets the eye." **W**

PHOTO BY GREG HALVORSEN SCHRECK

# New Testament scholar preacher Bible decoder



**Dr. Douglas Moo**  
Chair of the Committee  
on Bible Translation  
**Kenneth T. Wessner**  
Professor of New Testament

Discover how faculty, students,  
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 **Wheaton College  
Graduate School**  
*For Christ and His Kingdom*

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Dock Coordinator,  
Central Stores

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# MASTERS OF CRAFT

*Celebrating the excellence and faithfulness  
of Wheaton's Facilities Department staff*

BY BETHANY PETERSON '20 WITH PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS

**M**aria Hix,

*Wheaton's paint shop manager, is stacking cans of lavender and charcoal gray paint in the closet of the Office of Christian Outreach (OCO) when the director of the OCO, Yulee Lee, comes out of her office.*

*"I told her on the phone about the paint you're donating, and she was so grateful and excited," Lee tells Hix.*

*Hix, who is lifting an entire box of paint cans by herself onto the upper shelf, tells her that it was nothing, and she was happy to do it.*

*"We're going to repaint the whole teacher's lounge with this," Lee says excitedly. "Maybe we should FaceTime you in to thank you!"*

"Oh no, I hate hearing my voice on FaceTime," Hix laughs, her Alabama accent coming out strong.

Though her office is located in the Chase Service Center, Hix is well-acquainted with the OCO and its work. Besides securing a paint donation from her vendors for an OCO service day at a public school in Chicago, she also serves as a leader for one of the OCO's most in-demand BreakAway Spring Break trip locations: Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. For the last 12 years, Hix has taken a group of Wheaton students down to Louisiana during their March break to minister at Angola Prison, an all-male maximum security facility.

"You'll find that within the facilities team, there are so many of us who are involved in other things with the students here, so it's not just about work," Hix says. "It's not just about the vocation that we do. We are involved in building the campus up in a lot of ways."

Hix works as part of the maintenance department. Previously, she was a gemologist and jeweler, but she began painting as a means of self-employment when she was at home raising her two daughters after her family moved to Illinois from Alabama. After hearing about the opening at Wheaton from a friend, Hix decided to apply. She was the first full-time female member of the "trades" team, which includes the paint shop, carpentry, plumbing, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), and she is now going into her 14th year at Wheaton.

On most days, you can find Hix in her paint shop, located somewhere past the Public Safety office, conference rooms, and carpentry shop. It's one tall, narrow room with two floors. Up a set of stairs, there are shelves of paint cans like the ones Hix loaded into the closet for the OCO project.

The main area is more eclectic, with Hix's desk in one corner and more storage in the other, mismatched chairs and tables filling the rest of the space. One armchair is covered entirely in paint, and I recognize it from an art event a few years ago, when students were allowed to paint whatever they wanted on a white chair. (Although there's not much of the original color still visible, I think I can even see where I painted some polka dots along the side). One of the walls sloping up alongside the staircase is covered entirely with student handprints in various primary colors (and one set of footprints too high up on the wall to not have been an impressive logistical feat).

"These are representative of all the students who have come through the paint shop," Hix tells me happily. "A lot of them have gone on to have families and brought their kids back to put their hands or feet on the wall."

Every summer, the paint shop employs about 20 student workers, mostly students from other colleges who are back in the area for break. According to Hix, their team views the summers as a time not only to get to know these students and teach them hard skills, but also to foster character development.

During the year, Hix and three other full-time staff take care of work orders and other paint jobs on campus. That could mean painting a new faculty member's office to prepare for their arrival or it could mean repairing peeling paint in the Lower Beamer Center.

While painting might appear to be a purely aesthetic contribution, it's a necessary part of caring for students and the College buildings. For example, Hix and her team recently spent two weeks repainting the Chrouser



*There are many who have been faithfully serving for 10, 20, 30 years because of their commitment to kingdom work."*

Gymnasium at the request of the athletic director, who said that baseball team members were having trouble seeing the ball against off-white walls. Hix says that this issue was a safety concern for the students, but also that she had always wished the gym looked more "collegiate" so the teams could feel like it was their facility and not just any recreation center. They painted the walls a "Wheaton blue" and re-touched the rest of the facility with more spirited details.

"Color can really change how someone feels. I take delight in the fact that we can bring in a little bit of joy to a space that people inhabit. We are made in God's image, and if you look, everything is not black and white or even gray. There is lots of vibrant color out there, and so I'm thankful that we've been given the task of putting some color on the campus, as well as keeping it maintained," Hix says.

## ● FORM AND FUNCTION

As it turns out, there is much more to the campus than meets the eye. Besides the faculty and staff with whom students interact in classes or departmental offices, there are 110 members of the Facilities Department working every day to keep the campus clean, beautiful, and comfortable. The Wheaton Facilities Team is grouped into four sectors: Facilities Operations (office and custodial teams), Construction Services and Maintenance, Utilities and Energy Management, and Facility Development (architecture and interior design).

"A lot of what we focus on is high reliability. People don't like it when the lights go off!" Director of Facilities Scott Okesson says, laughing. "We're like our own little city."

Wheaton is unique in its commitment to the Statement of Faith for all staff members. Every individual working for facilities shares their testimony during the hiring process. According to Okesson, who has worked at Wheaton for the past nine years, this spiritual dimension shapes the dynamic of the team and the excellence of their work.

"I think people here genuinely have a deep commitment to the mission," Okesson says. "Wheaton College is a very special place. It's very strategic in God's kingdom as a Christian school, but as a premier Christian school ... People really have a sense of that."

In the mornings, the teams meet for optional devotionals at 7:30 a.m. before going out to do their work for the day, whether that's filling work orders placed by Residence Life, overseeing the latest building projects, or maintaining the system of underground piping that heats the entire campus with steam.

Essentially, the primary goal of the Facilities Department is to provide spaces that are functional and beautiful.

Whitley Grey, Wheaton's interior designer, focuses on three aspects of design when she starts a new project, whether that's picking colors for the Welcome Center lobby to present the College well to prospective students or helping faculty members get a more comfortable office chair so they can work better: What will this space be used for? What do they need for it to serve their needs? And how can we make it beautiful?

"We want to create these special spaces that work well for people. When we've thought [a design] through, people don't have to think about it, they just use it, and it works great for what they do. Then they can focus on whatever they're trying to create," Grey says.

Vice President for Finance and Operations Chad Rynbrandt '94, who began working at Wheaton just last year, has been impressed by both the faithfulness and the skill of the facilities team. He spent 25 years in the corporate world and can see the impact of a shared faith foundation on the work of Wheaton's teams.

"There are many who have been faithfully serving for 10, 20, 30 years because of their commitment to kingdom work. And they have very high standards because they are working for the Lord. You can see it walking through campus—in the beautiful homegrown flowers, or the wonderfully designed Welcome Center. And when the new Concert Hall opens, we'll get to enjoy music in a venue with world-class acoustics. There is a faithfulness and an excellence that is inspiring," says Rynbrandt.

In addition to functionality and aesthetics, Director of Construction Services and Maintenance Randy Norbeck '87 emphasizes the importance of stewardship.

"Our biggest challenge is making sure we use the dollars as efficiently and effectively as we can, because most of the projects that I do are funded by donations from friends of the College and alumni, and it's very important that we use every one of those dollars to maximize what we can provide, not only for the students, for the staff, and for the faculty, but because we have a kingdom mission," he explains.

Norbeck's goal in approaching every building project is to build lasting facilities that are easy to maintain. "We want to build a building that will last 100 years. Will we update it, will we modernize it during that 100 years? Yes, but we want the infrastructure and the main building to be able to last, so that we're getting the most value out of the dollars that are given to the College."

Okesson also places sustainability for campus energy usage and recycling at a high priority. In the last four years, Wheaton's energy intensity has gone down by 18 percent,



**1**  
**GREG DIXON, FREDDIE WASHINGTON, AND JAMES DRUCKEMILLER**  
Members of the night custodial team clean campus overnight.

**2**  
**TODD FOWLER**  
The Fleet Services Manager works on one of the College's many vehicles.

**3**  
**MARIA HIX**  
The Paint Shop Manager paints a wall in the new indoor training facility for the golf teams.

**4**  
**LUKAS MITCHELL**  
The groundskeeper and arborist manages and maintains the campus trees.



5

ANDY KOVALEV, KURT SOMMERVILLE, CHRIS WAGNER, VIJAY VERGHESE, AND IRVING LIM

Members of the HVAC and Utilities/Energy teams pose in front of one of the campus boilers.

6

JORGE CONTRERAS

The Greenhouse & Flower Coordinator poses in the greenhouse where he prays for and grows plants and flowers for the campus.



6

saving money and reducing the College's carbon footprint. Many campus buildings have switched to LED lights and low-flow plumbing. During the Armerding construction project, after Breyer Hall was torn down to make room for the new Conservatory building, all of it that was salvageable was recycled into the building process.

The Facilities Department's near-term goals include a major renovation of Traber Hall and the first phase of conversion from a central steam heating system to the newer technology of using central hot water. Sustainability goals include continued energy reduction, rehabilitating the wetlands immediately south of the Meyer Science Center, and implementing a campus garden.

Many members of the campus may not realize that Wheaton has its own greenhouse, where another facility team member, Flower Coordinator Jorge Contreras, grows the flowers used for landscaping.

"As I walk our campus, I see many examples of faithful workmanship and attention to detail," says President Philip G. Ryken '88. "Our mums last autumn were resplendent. This wasn't a surprise, but a visible testimony to both Jorge's gardening skills and his fervent prayers for our campus flowers."

Wheaton's campus now stretches across 1.8 million square feet. It's a lot to maintain, but the facilities team works hard to ensure the spaces are well cared for. Some even work through the night.

## ● FAITHFUL SERVICE

Night Custodian Gregory Dixon is by far the most pastoral custodian I have ever met. He starts his sentences out slowly, but the more he gets going, the faster he talks, the farther he leans forward, and the wider his hands gesture, as if he's caught onto something essential—something spiritual that demands a greater intensity.

When he speaks, I find myself unintentionally falling into a call-and-response style, as if I'm a member of his congregation, and he's pausing for me to say "amen," but I opt for a chorus of *yes, yeah, alright, for sure, you're right, of course*. As I follow him around his night shift at midnight in Armerding Hall, I feel compelled to reply affirmatively as he talks, even though it requires shouting from the opposite end of the hallway and maneuvering my way around his sweeper by jumping in and out of doorways to keep up with his pace. Every few minutes, Dixon counters my questions with his own: Where do I go to church, and how often do I go? Do I see my work as a ministry? How long have I been doing this? When do I graduate?

Dixon is, in fact, a pastor. He proudly pulls out his minister's license from his wallet to prove it to me, although I already believed him. He serves as pastor of Universal Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago and holds a degree in biblical studies from Trinity College. One might wonder how theology could apply to being a part of Wheaton's night custodial team, but Dixon sees his position as an extension of his ministry.

"I'm committed to making sure that people are pleased when they come in. They come in, and they see their office,

and it's tidy and clean. It gives me pleasure to give back because it shows that my work has been more than just cleaning. I try to give spiritual encouragement as well. Not preaching to nobody, but just motivating them and letting them see Christ in me. We have the opportunity to do that because we pass many faces through the night and the day," Dixon says.

According to Rynbrandt, the work of many facilities teams doesn't always get much attention, especially those that work through the night, but "they're doing it to serve the Lord. When that's your motive, because you are a follower of Jesus, I think it enables you to serve faithfully maybe without a lot of acclaim, visibility, or sometimes even gratitude."

While the custodial team as a whole includes 38 people, Dixon is one of four members on the "projects crew," which is a special team that handles longer-term maintenance responsibilities like cleaning carpets, waxing the floors, and getting the campus ready for important events like Commencement and Homecoming. On a typical workday, Dixon shows up to Wheaton at 11:00 p.m. and works through the night until 7:30 a.m.

Dixon, who has been working for Wheaton for 14 years, grew up on the West Side of Chicago— "All my life," he says proudly. He has pastored the church now for seven years but has been involved for 38. "I started out as a deacon, I was in the choir, I served as a minister, assistant pastor, pastor; it's been a long journey," he remembers. Dixon now lives in Oak Park with his wife, who recently retired from her position at the post office. Their four children and five grandchildren live nearby. "We're family-oriented—we do everything together," he says.

For Dixon, Wheaton has the same family feel. "I want to feel like I'm more than just an employee. I want to feel like I'm part of something more than just work," he explains. "[At Wheaton], when you see your boss coming, you know they're not just coming to check on [your work], they're coming to see how you're really doing. That means more to me than the cleaning, because once I know that you care about me, then I care about what I do."

Four times a year, the Facilities Department holds "family meetings" where the custodial team gathers together for a time of fellowship and learning about what else is going on at the College. They meet at 6:15 a.m. for breakfast and have time for fellowship with people they don't always get to see daily.

"A lot of people don't get to see us at night to thank us for what we do, so when we do have the family meeting, it's an opportunity for them to tell us how they really feel about it, and it makes us feel good," Dixon says.

During these meetings, Director of Facilities Scott Okeson talks about new facilities on campus and plans for new buildings.

I point out to Dixon that there are a lot of projects going on right now on the campus.

"It's really a blessing. Y'all have got a lot of buildings coming up this year," he agrees.

"More to clean?" I ask.

"You know I like that; cleanliness is next to godliness." Then he grins. "And as long as there's something to clean, that means we've got a job!"

W



By Lydia Granger '19

Illustrations by  
Frances MacLeod

**A** JUST SOCIETY RECOGNIZES THE EQUAL standing of individuals before the law. In the Creation narrative in the Book of Genesis, humanity holds equal dignity before God. Similarly, the Constitution explicitly affirms equality. Justice—whether it is delivered via a just ruling or just contract or just decision—is to be pursued from all angles and at all levels.

Today, dozens of Wheaton alumni, led by preceding generations, serve as lawyers, judges, and clerks in courtrooms, private offices, at nonprofit organizations, and as in-house counsel at multinational corporations.

It is not surprising that Wheaties equipped with a Juris Doctor degree are pursuing justice in a diverse set of occupations. As a top-ranking liberal arts college, Wheaton students graduate with promising skill sets and are equipped to pursue justice for the glory of God.

Trevor Neil McFadden '01, J.D., shares that “the general ethos at Wheaton that all truth is God’s truth is inspiring. You don’t have to become a pastor or minister to glorify God.”

McFadden currently serves as U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia. He was previously Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division; Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia; Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General; and was a clerk for Judge Steven Colloton on the U.S. Court of Appeals Eighth District. He is a living testimony that believers can reject the false dichotomy between a righteous vocation and a secular career. Instead, every path can be a part of one’s higher and holy calling, including nearly any job after law school.

On average, 20 Wheaton alumni enter law school each year, but the legacy of Wheaton students in the judicial and legal fields extends across decades, with 471 alumni since 2001. Notably, an overwhelming percentage of those graduates have served as clerks—a highly exclusive opportunity to work directly with a judge. As judicial clerkships provide recent law school graduates unique exposure to legal theory put into practice, they are reserved for the highest achieving students. Alumni with undergraduate degrees ranging from English to Economics, Theology to French, have experienced success in law school and thereafter. These lifelong students of the law understand their vocation as faithful pursuers of justice in a highly critiqued field. Their work is not in tension with the Christian faith; instead, it is motivated and bolstered by God’s explicit call on each of us to “act justly” (Micah 6:8).

As one might imagine, asking exactly how these Wheaton alumni found their way to the legal field reveals an eclectic set of stories.

The seed was planted in Charlie Zagnoli '08, J.D., back in the sixth grade when his teacher commented that he gave a presentation like a lawyer. Since then, Zagnoli earned a law degree from the University of Chicago and served as

## WHEATON'S PRE-LAW PROGRAM

In recent years, roughly 20 Wheaton College graduates have gone on to law school annually. Based on the latest statistics from the Law School Admissions Council, Wheaton seniors, on average, scored nearly eight points higher on the LSAT than their national peers, placing them at the 85th percentile. “The Pre-Law Program strives not only to prepare students for law school and the admissions process but also to explore the practice of law as a vocational calling,” says Stephen Bretsen, J.D., who is the William Volkman Professor of Business and Law at Wheaton.

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a clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit before becoming an associate at a large firm, representing clients in commercial disputes, corporate governance, and transactional litigation, and securities matters.

Mariel Eben Brookins '09, J.D., who has served two clerkships—one with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and one with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit—felt her interest in a legal career was confirmed when she wrote a used car contract in William Volkman Professor of Business and Law Steve Bretsen's Business Law class.

Ed Bedard '12, J.D., realized halfway through a Christian Education major that he could serve the Lord while pursuing his interest in the law. He switched majors to political science, attended the University of Virginia Law School, and now serves as an associate in trial and global disputes at an international law firm in Atlanta.

For Bryan Neihart '11, J.D., it was a lecture by the Director of the State Department's Office for International Religious Freedom that prompted “an overwhelming sense of God placing a burden on [his] heart for the persecuted church and religious freedom in general,” ultimately leading him to work at a religious freedom advocacy organization. Neihart clerked for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado before taking up his current role at Alliance Defending Freedom.

Other alumni experimented with alternative career paths before committing to a career in the legal field. Though she came from a household of lawyers, Jasmine Stein '16, J.D., studied sociology at Wheaton and tried just about everything before conceding that her national successes in Mock Trial could translate to a full-time career as a lawyer. Ben Meyer '13, J.D., realized after his first week as a physics teacher that he was in the wrong field. He originally joined Teach for America in diametric opposition to several disillusioning finance internships. As he now reflects on these juxtaposed experiences, “It's fine to pursue radical, service-oriented professions, but at the end of the day, you should be simply seeking to serve through whatever vocation God made you to serve in.”

Meyer, along with many other Wheaton alumni in the legal field, is doing what God made him to do, prepared with a Juris Doctor degree.

The distinct paths that led each of these alumni to pursue the same degree are united by the commonality that God gave them the mind, patience, and interest to study law. While the call to “act justly” belongs to each of us, they have found the space to carry it out in various legal professions.

“No matter how much you believe in God's provision and direction, it's always incredible to see how God brings you through to where you are,” Bedard reflects, with a tone of amazement.

Whether law school conjures up iconic lines from *Legally Blonde* or gives you goosebumps thinking about the Socratic

method, each of these alumni emphasized the high level of preparation they had experienced already upon entering law school.

“Wheaton, as a liberal arts school, puts a strong emphasis on reading and writing and prepares you well for law school. The professors expect a lot and demand you put in the effort, and that pays off come grad school,” Zagnoli says.

Not only have these alumni credited their academic success to Wheaton's liberal arts education, they also say Wheaton provided them with a foundation for engaging well with their post-Wheaton communities.

“I frequently found myself in disagreements with the popular opinion at UC Berkeley,” Jordan Varberg '16, J.D., says. “But I didn't try to be the bomb thrower. I worked to be the person finding common ground and presenting sides differently.”

Beyond law school, “Wheaton prepared me to have the perspective of faith influencing all of our lives, at all times. It's not reserved for Sunday mornings,” says Zagnoli, thinking about his work in a global firm's Chicago office.

Justice is administered in daily exchanges and through the nitty-gritty of contracts as well as in grand rulings. Both the everyday work of an attorney and the influential rulings of a judge fulfill the unified call—in distinctly different ways—to seek justice for people and procedures in their particular spheres.

## PURSUING JUSTICE AND PRESERVING THE LAW

When Judge Robert Holmes Bell '66 reflects on his 43 years as a judge, 30 of those years serving as an active Federal District Court Judge for the Western District of Michigan, he focuses his attention on the pursuit of a just and fair ruling in accordance with the law. For whoever appeared before him in the courtroom, it was vitally important to him that litigants understand that they would be heard. “That is my duty as a judge. That is my duty as a Christian,” Bell says.

While many countries' laws dictate that every individual ought to be treated as equal under the law, a just ruling is not always a favorable ruling. Varberg, amid his U.S. Court of Appeals clerkship, shares, “It's the role of the court to apply the law fairly to all who come before them. Everyone is supposed to be treated the same way under the law. Sometimes, judges have to rule in a way that they personally disagree with, because it's what the law requires.”

Varberg continues, “The job is incredibly satisfying and fulfilling. It is meaningful to help my judge as he writes opinions that clarify the law, and to participate in a small way in seeing the law develop.”

Both Christian and non-Christian judges, clerks, and lawyers are called to preserve the law. And yet, how Christians interact with people should reflect the truth of the Ultimate

Law: that all people are made in the image of the Creator, and we are to pursue justice for every individual in God's already-but-not-yet kingdom.

## JUSTICE FOR ALL

Brookins readily agrees that justice matters for every person at every level. “It's hard to argue with that. Justice for the incarcerated. Justice for those wronged. But also justice for shareholders. Justice for people who experience the subsidiary effects of wrongs. We need to work for aggregate justice. We need to look out for everyone,” she confidently states.

In essence, justice ought to expand. Justice should be pursued at all layers of governance. Brookins continues, “We want people at every level of the system to go through and look at how the world is unfolding, not just anecdotally, but for the people affected by a choice or system.”

Bedard, who served as a judicial clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, also encourages the Wheaton community to think about justice more broadly. For example, “establishing fair contracts is key ... all these general elements of law are crucial to establishing and maintaining order,” Bedard says. Our society requires the right and proper execution of the law for the greater economic and social landscape to function properly.

Meyer echoes this sentiment. After a judicial clerkship for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, he currently works on mergers and acquisitions at one of the world's largest law firms, and he spent hundreds of hours doing pro bono affordable housing work during law school. He is motivated mainly by this mentality of pursuing justice at all layers.

Meyer reflects, “While at Wheaton I saw professors faithfully working on their vocation, and I think that prepared me for finding my vocation, regardless of how visible it is, and doing it well.”


Most people would not think about sorting through affordable housing contracts as a service of justice. Most people would not think about crafting the legal language in a merger or acquisition as pursuing justice. This type of legal work may not end up on television or in a glossy end-of-year report, but it matters. It matters because every person and every layer of justice matters. **W**



COLT SEAGER '16. LEFT: "YELLOW PRAIRIE #1"; 34" X 42"; OIL AND PENCIL ON CANVAS FRAMED IN CEDAR.  
RIGHT: "YELLOW PRAIRIE #3"; 42" X 56"; OIL AND PENCIL ON CANVAS FRAMED IN CEDAR.



READ AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ARTIST AT [WHEATON.EDU/MAGAZINE](http://WHEATON.EDU/MAGAZINE)



# THE POWER OF LITURGY

—  
WHEATON STUDENTS, FACULTY,  
AND ALUMNI CONSIDER THE  
ROLE, HISTORY, AND RITUAL OF  
LITURGICAL WORSHIP.  
—

BY KAILIN RICHARDSON '20  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MAYUKO FUJINO



# I

STAND FROZEN BETWEEN MY TWO Wheaton peers as they cross themselves—an act I am honestly uncertain how to perform—fingers to the forehead and across the chest.

I have worshipped next to the same people in different places and positions: arms raised at All School Communion in Edman Chapel; eyes glued to glowing PowerPoint lyrics at my nondenominational home church; smiling over hymnals at the elderly choir in my friend's Baptist church. Surely, joining a community of diverse believers was bound to be filled with moments that surprised and confused me, simply because I was unfamiliar with them—theologically or experientially.

At this moment, though, amid the congregation of a local Anglican church, I am reminded that these experiences in an Anglican worship setting have been the strangest to me. Under the glow of dim lighting, a perfectly scripted service of repeated words and methodical actions unfolds, each step directed by a thick paper booklet, priests, and deacons—all of which make the liturgical tradition feel oddly foreign to me.

Yet this is not the case for the multitude of Wheaton students, professors, and alumni who fill liturgical church congregations each Sunday. Many of these people, like me, do not come from liturgical backgrounds. They seem to be seeking something different, something outside the distractions of the current trends in an attempt to discover what constitutes a full and God-honoring worship experience.

## EVANGELICALS ON THE CANTERBURY TRAIL

This movement to recover resources of ancient Christian traditions was advanced by Dr. Robert Webber, a professor at Wheaton in the 1970s. Webber's journey led him to spearhead a push back toward the liturgical tradition. His book, *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail*, published 35 years ago, caused a number of evangelicals to shift toward liturgical practices, sparking controversy among other evangelicals who were concerned that such a tradition might be too similar to Catholicism. Webber believed, however, that though the evangelical theology of grace was vital, perhaps essential values and attitudes had been lost during the Reformation. Ritual, it would seem, could be a vessel for grace.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew S. C. Olver '01, assistant professor of liturgics and pastoral theology at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, teaches a class on ritual studies and talks about ritual in a way that is much more accessible for modern-day evangelicals. In his words, "Ritual is intrinsic to what it means to be human."

Dr. Olver often uses the example of marriage to explain this claim. "The oneness of a husband and wife, while something that God effects, can nonetheless only be known ritually or symbolically. It isn't the big things a husband and

wife do for each other that cultivate love and 'oneness,' but rather the ritual stuff, such as putting the dishes away or giving a kiss on the cheek. Similarly, actively engaging in the liturgy—especially the Eucharist—can be a consistent act of drawing near to God by giving of yourself."

Dr. Esau McCaulley, assistant professor of New Testament and a recent addition to Wheaton's School of Biblical and Theological Studies, uses a similar analogy. He, however, describes the flipside of it: God's role in ritual. In the liturgical tradition, there is a framework in place that allows for God to show himself in unique ways. "The church can sometimes be too apt to think about innovation as this central element of what it means to encounter God," he says. "But sometimes we encounter God precisely in things that are predictable. It's in the routine that God can manifest himself."

Dr. McCaulley, raised Baptist, discovered the power of the liturgy through the church calendar when he joined the Anglican church. From Advent to Lent to Easter, the liturgy of the church suggests ways to think about each season of life in holistic and human ways. "The liturgy gave me a way of orienting my entire life—my days, weeks, months, and years toward God," he says.

For Dr. Amy Peeler, associate professor of New Testament, the power of repetition drew her both physically and spiritually. After she and her husband began to feel that God seemed too comfortable in their previous worship services, they made their first visit to an Episcopalian church. Upon entering this service, they immediately noticed that there was "a holiness and a reverence here that we hadn't experienced at other places."

If the holiness of God requires a physical reaction, the liturgy provides a structure.

"God is enthroned, and God is sovereign, and I'm so grateful for all that God has given me, I just want to fall down and bow...but in the Holy Spirit, you're also able to stand, and that act happens for me in the liturgy," Dr. Peeler says.

The combination of bowing and standing tall in the same service is powerful as participants embody two meaningful responses toward a God who is both transcendent and immanent.

"God is holy. And then God reaches out to us," she says, her eyes bright with awe.

## LITURGY IN CONTEXT

Initially instituted by the canon law of the Roman Catholic church to guide both services and days, the liturgy focused on the Eucharist. After the Reformation, it began to adapt as other styles of worship developed. The practice of repeated actions and words provided a biblically shaped form for worship that guided believers through the seasons of the church calendar. Though the meaning of the Eucharist has been debated among Christians, liturgy's primary goal was always to remain centered on Christ.

The centuries-old liturgical tradition still draws in the community of Wheaton today. As young evangelicals



searching for what Dr. Peeler labels a “denominational home,” many Wheaton students are thrilled to be drawn into Christianity’s historical roots. For example, this summer, Wheaton in England students—myself included—began a literary pilgrimage in Canterbury, physically carrying out Robert Webber’s vision.

After receiving the Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral, I remember filing back to my seat and wondering why some of my peers were so emotional. Ripples of awe made their way through our two rows when someone whispered that we had just taken the Eucharist from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

At the time, it was difficult for me to grasp the full weight of worshipping in the birthplace of the Anglican church. When I came home, even when I continued to wrestle with the crutch that tradition could become, I found myself searching for the significance of those experiences from cathedral to cathedral. My peer, Lucy Bruno ’21, explained it as “stepping into Christianity instead of trying to curtail Christianity to a specific group of people.”

Professor of Evangelism and Leadership Rick Richardson believes that liturgy can provide cultivation of the whole person in worship. Liturgy, through the incorporation of symbolism and imagery in the context of the church year, is “stimulating to the imagination.” The liturgy has helped him depend on “the intuition” as “a way of knowing God and getting out of our heads into wonder and awe and worship.” In a sense, Dr. Richardson, Dr. McCaulley, and Dr. Peeler are all advocating for liturgy’s place in discipleship, as it consistently calls believers to respond in thought and action to the holiness of God.

While liturgy can play a role in discipleship, some questions remain. For example, where does the Holy Spirit fit in during a service?

## LITURGY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Though raised “anti-traditional” in the charismatic church, Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought Dr. Timothy Larsen ’89, M.A. ’90, a former student of Webber’s, offers a balanced position. He attends a local charismatic church that also employs a form of liturgy during the service. Dr. Larsen explains that this model of “blended church” is what Webber was championing.

“The fact that today we have churches that are liturgical and evangelical and charismatic is really a blending of

things people thought could not go together in the past,” Dr. Larsen says.

There is space now to explore various methods of church practice and to find compatibility where previously concepts like liturgy and the spontaneity of the Holy Spirit were perhaps cordoned off in separate sanctuaries. Dr. Larsen sees the blended church as an opportunity to embrace the movement of the Spirit while still maintaining the “steady continuity of Christian life and growth” implemented by liturgy. “What Robert Webber was saying we needed to bring back in was rhythms of ordinary spiritual growth,” he says. Webber was calling his brothers and sisters in Christ to be open to re-thinking church practice for maximum spiritual growth, and not necessarily to a particular denomination.

Perhaps these increasingly “convergent” models of church are what cause professors such as Dr. Larsen and Dr. Peeler to exhibit caution over prescribing one denominational practice for others.

“Probably like my own journey, I think for some in the Wheaton community longing to find historical connection or beauty or reverence they haven’t seen before ... it [liturgy] is a wonderful thing. I tend to think about denominations a bit like the parts of the body rather than like factions,” Dr. Peeler says. “We all capture a different part of the essence of God, and that’s a good thing.”

## LITURGY ACROSS DENOMINATIONAL BOUNDARIES

Why have some made a denominational transfer, then? Some find themselves in an emotional rut at some point in their faith, particularly related to worship. A shift in worship experience might allow for refreshment in the face of exhaustion. Spiritual exhaustion is an easy pitfall for Wheaton students, even if the Christian community and education are a privilege of this unique college experience.

Feeling exhausted during a typical nondenominational worship service is the reason why you might now spot Dr. Emily McGowin, associate lecturer of theology, celebrating the Eucharist at a local Anglican church.

Icons, a plethora of Harry Potter posters, and children’s art scatter the turquoise walls in her office. Though rich in color, the dimly lit room is cozy, not unlike that of the smaller Anglican churches in the area. Here, she seems both comfortable

and confident enough to be honest about the role depression played in her movement toward the liturgical tradition.

“I knew intellectually that I was saved by grace through faith as a good evangelical Protestant,” she says. “But experientially, when it came to the worship of the church, it really felt like when I came to worship, it was my responsibility to prove that I was saved, week in, week out.”

Amid painful emotional turmoil, Dr. McGowin found herself unable to muster up the energy to “produce the right kind of emotion.” She was unable to carry herself through the faith. But a visit to a friend’s Anglican church with her husband changed her stance in worship.

“You physically walk up with your hands out empty. And Jesus literally gives himself to you. And all you can do is receive it. I was able to experience with my body and my emotions and my mind what I knew theologically was true,” she says. Liturgy removed her from the center: “It carries you.”

## LITURGY AT WHEATON

During Chapel, Chaplain Timothy Blackmon hopes to offer Wheaton students the same relief experienced by Dr. McGowin. “I don’t want there to be this pressure on Wheaton students to have these phenomenal spiritual highs that they have to conjure up week after week,” Blackmon says.

A more liturgical structure for chapel services could perhaps protect against such pressure.

“God’s going to be worshipped whether or not it is giving me ‘the feels’ right now,” Blackmon says, settling back in his leather chair. “I think there’s something actually really calming about that.”

This understanding of worship resonates with student Megan Kim ’21. With no previous liturgical background, she began attending an Anglican church and discovered that it “combated those individualist messages I grew up with that placed the burden of unique sensational or emotional encounter on me as a measure of spiritual ‘wellness.’” For Kim, the liturgical service gave her “a broader understanding of what it is to listen to God.” This was something I also desired, but I was not certain that the liturgy could be more than legalistic or rote for me.

If worship teaches us what we should desire, then it is important to consider how a particular form of worship might be shaping our desires in specific ways. Put simply, “Worship educates,” says Dr. McGowin.

Blackmon is therefore concerned about how some churches attempt to attract believers today. “If the church is drawing people in with a massive spectacle, with a huge show, with lights and smoke machines and drama, that’s actually also what you’re drawing them to,” he says. “What you win them with is what you win them to.”

Though God may speak through such spectacle, the question remains: How can churches draw its members closer to Christ, more directly to God? Rather than keeping us entertained as consumers, true worship should refresh, rejuvenate, and carry us toward Christ when our abilities fall short, as they inevitably will. Liturgy, then, could be an option.

## RENEWAL IN WORSHIP

For the Rev. Dr. Joel Scandrett ’84, M.A. ’88, director of the Robert E. Webber Center at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, his move toward the Anglican church speaks not to the power of one denominational practice over another, but rather to the fundamental need we all have when we come to worship. “For me, it was really all about Jesus—it wasn’t primarily about the liturgy, except insofar as the liturgy is a gigantic pointer to the person of Jesus Christ.”

Through the liturgy, human actions and words can combine with the power of the Spirit to create a true encounter with God that re-centers our lives around Christ.

“It’s really about union with Christ. That’s the theological center of it,” Dr. Scandrett says. “My life is not just my own solitary life, but it is a life that is now re-grounded, re-rooted in God through Jesus Christ.”

Despite my previous unfamiliarity, even discomfiture with the liturgical tradition, I recognize the search for a worship experience rooted in Christ as my own. Beyond a culture of consumption, in the midst of theological debates and uncertainties, and despite worship fatigue, the seeking, longing, and need for Christ remain. Webber writes: “Although all of life is sacred, there is something in life that has the specific function of taking us to Christ, and that is his church.”

The liturgy of the church has drawn many to Jesus Christ. Whether or not the liturgical tradition serves that function for others or myself, we all need a constant re-centering on Christ. If our search in church practice is a search for Christ, renewal in worship will follow.

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# ALUMNI

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IN MEMORY  
DON "BUBBA"  
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ALUMNI NEWS  
CENTER FOR VOCATION  
AND CAREER: AN ENGINE OF  
CAREER POSSIBILITIES

# NEWS



A Word With Alumni

CINDRA STACKHOUSE TAETZSCH '82  
Executive Director, Wheaton College  
Alumni Association  
Senior Director for Vocation and  
Alumni Engagement

FACULTY AND friendships. When alumni reminisce about their time as students, faculty and friendships are usually the two things they recall most fondly. As a parent of three Wheaties, my appreciation for our faculty has grown immensely.

Every December, I review 70-75 applications from juniors for the Alumni Association's student scholarship awards. Each student must submit a reference, and most students ask a professor to write on their behalf. Imagine the time it takes, outside of required teaching and research/writing, for these women and men to write long, carefully crafted letters of reference. I am impressed every year.

Wheaton has a program called "Dine with a Mind" through which students are encouraged to use pre-paid coupons provided by the College to host a professor for lunch. I often see faculty eating with students, wrestling with substantial questions or bowing their heads in prayer. If students show an eagerness for a particular subject, faculty dive right in and give students as much time as they need. My daughter Sarah '20 recently scheduled an appointment with her Old Testament professor to get more clarity on an upcoming paper. Sarah and Dr. Aubrey Senyard Buster '09 talked about the

"IS THERE A FACULTY MEMBER YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK?"

paper for five minutes, then continued to discuss the Old Testament for a full hour.

Many faculty are transparent about their personal journeys and struggles when they teach in the classroom. Young adulthood can be a tough time, and the fact that professors share their stories is profoundly encouraging to students who look to them for guidance and motivation.

Our website says that "Wheaton offers the men and women of its student body quality instruction and attention from a Christian perspective in an environment of academic excellence." This is true whether you graduated in 1950 or plan to graduate in 2020. But beyond "instruction and attention," Wheaton faculty spend countless hours pouring into their students' lives—challenging them to think deeper and more carefully, encouraging them to write more clearly, and caring for them beyond the rigors of the classroom.

Is there a faculty member you would like to thank?

If so, I invite you to send me an email at alumni@wheaton.edu, and I would be happy to pass along your note. If your favorite faculty member is no longer living, your memories will still encourage the Alumni staff and Board of Directors, so please pass them along. Thank you!



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

PHOTOS BY ROBB DAVIDSON

Center for Vocation and Career: An Engine of Career Possibilities

The CVC unveiled a brand new 5,000-square-foot space in January 2020.

BY LATONYA TAYLOR

PHOTO BY MAXINE MELLA



This spring, prospective students who visit campus can see the College's refreshed commitment to career and vocational preparation on full display.

For the first time, Wheaton's Center for Vocation and Career (CVC)—recently relocated and remodeled—is a stop on the tours offered by Undergraduate Admissions.

CVC Director Dee Pierce M.A. '17 wants potential students to circle back after the tour is over. "We say, 'If you have questions, or you want to meet with a coach, stop by,'" she says.

That sense of hospitality—and, specifically, the desire for Wheaton students to drop in and stick around—permeates every element of the \$2 million redesign, which is part of a \$6 million remodel of the Student Services Building. The new space opened in January 2020.

The site is centrally and strategically located on the first floor of the SSB directly across from the Todd M. Beamer Memorial Student Center. College Architect Bruce Koenigsberg designed a long diagonal hallway spanning the northeast and southwest entrances of the building, drawing foot traffic to the CVC as students use the hallway to pass through between campus buildings.

The 5,000-foot space, triple the previous footprint, features natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows; industrial fixtures like exposed pipes and Edison bulbs; reclaimed wood; and tile saved from the demolition of Breyer Hall. Leather couches, soft wingback chairs, a hospitality station, and the open, collaborative workspaces Pierce researched.



These features were also chosen to entice students in the Gen Z cohort. These students, who witnessed the 2008 recession in their formative years, place a higher value on career development and achieving financial independence than the generation that preceded them.

"They want to stand on their own two feet," Pierce says. "They care not only about the academic experience they will draw here but also about what will happen afterward as they pursue a career."

Pierce and her team want students to see the space as a hang-out—and, along the way, to experience career development as a routine part of the Wheaton experience. "It's intentionally a warm, welcoming, and inviting space for students," Pierce says. "We know from best practice research that engagement with a career center increases about 30 percent when you're in a high-traffic area, when there's a lot of glass, when the space is comfortable and enticing so that students want to go in and be part of it."

Students enter through the "Studio," an energetic lobby space buzzing with music and activity, where they can drop in for a meeting with a career coach or just hang around with a cup of coffee. Its purpose, Pierce says, is to encourage casual, exploratory interactions. The space includes seating areas and tables, plenty of electrical outlets for laptops, large screens, and a bookshelf with staff-recommended titles.

The flexible space can also accommodate CVC events like mock interview events, job fairs, and Taco Tuesdays, dinners where students connect with alumni over tacos to talk about their role, industry, or career path.

PHOTOS BY ROBB DAVIDSON

As students progress through the space, they discover open areas that facilitate collaboration among the CVC's 11 full-time employees and 23 student workers. Associate Director of Coaching Adam Temple '09 says this part of the center is set up to facilitate impromptu collaboration between the career coaches, who are each responsible for working with majors and faculty in particular academic departments, along with the event planner, and the employer relations manager.

"We're able to collaborate more easily on questions students are asking us, on our event planning, and on sharing ideas," he says. The setup was done intentionally to support this open flow of information.

Advanced technology selected with input from the College's Academic and Institutional Technology department was also chosen to help students present themselves at their best.

"More and more, we're seeing that employers want to do initial interviews via video, and some of the really big firms are not even putting a person on the other end—you have to record yourself answering questions," Pierce says.

Five soundproof interview rooms are available for meetings or interviews with employers. Three of them are tech-enabled for video interviews, with cameras and lighting strategically placed so that students know where to look during interviews and can avoid the awkward shadows that can appear when doing interviews on a laptop. A large interview room will allow the CVC team to participate in professional development webinars to keep them abreast of the latest trends in the industry. A "green room" in the southeast corner provides dedicated space for the recruiters and alumni volunteers who come to campus each year to connect with students. Pierce describes the room as an oasis for guests who need to take a break or catch up on work during a full day of on-campus recruiting.

"Last year we engaged 239 alumni in-person with students, and 40 recruiters," she says. "This is a place to provide hospitality for those who support us."

Completion of the new location is the latest significant step in Wheaton's renewed commitment to equip students to use their liberal arts education to thrive in careers.

"About five years ago, we determined that we needed to do a much better job of preparing students for life after Wheaton," says Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82, senior director for vocation and alumni engagement and executive director of the Wheaton College Alumni Association.

Wheaton moved its career development center from the Student Development Division to Advancement and Alumni Relations and under Stackhouse Taetzsch's leadership in 2015. Pierce became director of the new Center for Vocation and Career in 2016, tasked with developing a comprehensive new vision.

The CVC staff more than doubled in size, and, in the words of alumnus Grant Hensel '15, transformed the operation "from a resume polishing service to an engine of career possibilities." Generous giving from donors during the From the Heart, For the Kingdom campaign—including a \$2 million matching grant—provided funding for the CVC's new space and operations.

"I'm so excited about this new space because I'm convinced more students will want to take advantage of what's going on in here," Stackhouse Taetzsch says. "This is what we're all about: Preparing students to be salt and light, and to have a clear sense of what to do after graduation."

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## A Hero of the Faith

*Will Thompson '11 is bringing sports ministry to Japan, home of the world's second-largest unreached people group.*

BY ANDREW THOMPSON '13 TO OLYMPIC ATHLETES, HE'S A CHAPLAIN FOR THE 2020 Tokyo summer games. To the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), he's the man with a vision to bring sports ministry to Japan. To me, he's the person I've looked up to for as long as I can remember. Few people get to meet their heroes, but I'm fortunate enough to have grown up alongside mine — my older brother, Will Thompson '11.

We grew up in Tokyo while our dad worked for IBM. Will latched onto Japanese culture from the start and never looked back, even when life took us back to the U.S. He played baseball at Wheaton, attended the Chicago Japanese Mission Church, and led the Japan prayer group on campus with math professor Dr. Paul Ishihara.

When former Chicago Cubs outfielder Matt Murton went to play for the Hanshin Tigers, he hoped he could share his faith in Jesus with the fans. He had the heart, but he didn't have the language abilities or time to set up a ministry. In 2010, he turned to his friend Will, whom he met through an FCA connection, with an idea to bring sports ministry to Japan.

Japan is a highly developed country of 127 million people, though less than one percent are Christian, which makes the Japanese the world's second-largest unreached people group.

"It's an exciting challenge, and God ignited my love for both Japan and sports early in my life," says Thompson. "Even now, few things have been more significant to me than seeing a Japanese coach or athlete get to know Jesus."

Will continues to reach people through sports ministry and has worked extensively with survivors of Japan's 2011 earthquake and tsunami. He has also served at Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) events and the 2019 Rugby World Cup. **W**

## MAKING THE WORLD'S KINGDOMS OUR LORD'S

*Vance Henry '88 brings justice to the neighborhood streets of Chicago as Mayor Lightfoot's Advisor and Chief of Faith-Based Initiatives.*

The year Vance Henry '88 graduated from Wheaton, Chuck Colson gave the commencement speech, quoting from Revelations 11:15 and the "Hallelujah" chorus: "The task of the church is to make the kingdoms of the world the kingdoms of our Lord." Those words lit a fire within Vance, confirming God had called him to be an agent of change, no matter where he was sent.

As a young pastor and grassroots organizer on Chicago's West Side, Vance poured himself into his community, advocating for safer streets, affordable housing and better schools. His passion caught the eye of the 24th Ward Alderman, who invited him on as chief of staff.

"I went into government with the burning desire to see God's idea of justice and kingdom values impact the business of government in Chicago. I wanted to represent God's voice and hands of mercy to the marginalized and voiceless citizens," says Vance. "My mission was to be a catalyst for the biblical idea of justice and to help build the 'beloved community,' often heralded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Twenty-five years later, Vance has served under three Chicago mayors. As the Executive Director of Community Policing under Mayor Daley, he implemented the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) program, helping police and neighbors work together to create a safer community. His service continued under Mayor Rahm Emanuel as Deputy Chief of Staff for Community and Faith-based Partnerships. And now, he serves as Mayor Lightfoot's Religious Affairs Advisor and Chief of Faith-Based Engagement.

"Chicago has extraordinary access to resources but also great areas of need," says Vance, a West Side native well-acquainted with the gun violence and gaps in resources on the West and South Sides of Chicago. "I fight every day, using the leverage I have, to make sure we are doing right by the least of these." **W**

KATHERINE BRADEN '16

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL THOMPSON '11

*Bobbi's artwork, such as this self-portrait, is displayed in museums all over the country and across the globe.*



## THE PERIPATETIC ARTIST

*Bobbi Adams '61 has pursued zoology, education, and art in the United States, Europe, and Africa.*

BY ADRIANNA WRIGHT '01

ARTWORK BY BOBBI ADAMS '61

THROUGHOUT HER LIFE, BARBARA J. "Bobbi" Adams '61 has been unafraid to change course. When financial realities prevented her from becoming a medical missionary in Africa, she instead used her background in zoology and education to teach in Sierra Leone for five years.

Upon returning to the States, Bobbi resumed teaching in her home state of New Jersey and took art classes on the side. Soon, Bobbi knew it was time for another change.

"I really wanted to be an artist," Bobbi said.

After graduating from the National Academy of Design in New York City, Bobbi became the artist in residence for the South Carolina Arts Commission, a position she kept for 30 years, teaching and exhibiting in art shows all over the state.

"I worked with individual schools to do murals and paintings with kids," Bobbi said. "Each county who hired you wanted a different thing."

In her fifties, tragedy struck when both of her parents and her husband died within five years.

"Then I asked: What did I want to do with the rest of my life?" Bobbi said.

Since she enjoyed living abroad and creating art, Bobbi pursued a master's degree in studio art at New York University, which enabled her to study in Venice for two summers. There, she learned how to make paint and create her own paper.

"I finally became my own person artistically," Bobbi said.

Bobbi has also written three books filled with her art, thoughts, and photos. She has earned certificates as a master gardener and master naturalist, and she has written a weekly newspaper column in the Lee County Observer called "The Peripatetic Gardener" for 20 years.

"Opportunities have been presented in ways I never could have imagined," Bobbi said. "But God has given me talents, and I have always felt led." **W**

## RADICAL, BUT ORDINARY

*For extraordinary leadership as a bestselling writer and speaker known for his honesty and curiosity, Philip Yancey M.A. '72 receives the 2020 Distinguished Service to Society Award from the Wheaton College Alumni Association.*

CIERA HORTON MCELROY '17

FEW CHRISTIAN WRITERS have had the international reach and impact as Philip Yancey M.A. '72, author of *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Yancey brings this honesty and conviction to his books, which have sold more than 15 million copies and been translated into 40 languages. He knows firsthand the meaning of suffering, doubt, fear, and grace.

Yancey was raised in a fundamentalist church in the segregated south. As a young boy, he experienced a “crisis of faith” in response to the hellfire messages preached from the pulpit. Books like *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Black Like Me* had a profound impact on Yancey as he witnessed the blind racism in his community. “I felt a real sense of betrayal,” Yancey says. “If I couldn’t trust what the church said about race, how could I trust what they said about Jesus in the Bible?”

What followed was a time of spiritual wandering. “Cautiously, warily, I returned,” writes Yancey, “circling around the faith to see if it might be true.”

Yancey cites three reasons for his renewed faith: (1) the majesty of nature, (2) the soul-reaching power of classical music, and (3) and the joy of romantic love. Ultimately, he says, gratitude for the beauties and wonders of the world led him back to the hands of a gracious God. Paraphrasing G.K. Chesterton, Yancey notes, “The worst moment for an atheist is when he feels a deep sense of gratitude and has no one to thank.”

His years spent in the Wheaton College Graduate School provided the necessary space for inquiry: “At Wheaton, I was free to let out the questions that had already been there. Before, I’d had no arena in which to voice them.”

After graduating with Highest Honors in Missions in June 1972, Yancey worked as a journalist in the Chicago-land area. He served as editor of *Campus Life* and editor-at-large for *Christianity Today*, while writing for various publications, including *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Chicago Magazine*.

Yancey says he primarily writes books for himself: he begins with his own uncertainties. “I started writing about questions. *What’s So Amazing About Grace?* *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*”

Over the years, Yancey gained a reputation for his willingness to explore the challenging topics of the Christian life, such as the reality of doubt, the importance of grace, and the presence of suffering. Two of his books were named “Book of the Year” by the Evangelical Publishers Association: *The Jesus I Never Knew* and *What’s So Amazing About Grace?* He has also been the recipient of 13 Gold Medallion Awards. He has interviewed presidents (Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton), dined with celebrities (Bono), and covered famous writers (Annie Dillard and John Updike, among others). Fellow Wheaton alumnus Billy Graham '43 even famously noted, “There is no writer in the evangelical world that I admire and appreciate more.”

“Philip has lived out his faith in the public eye, encouraging fellow pilgrims to be honest with their questions, struggles and yearnings about faith,” says Beverly Hancock '84, President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. “Few achieve the level of recognition and impact that Philip Yancey has attained through his extensive writing and speaking.”

Through it all, Yancey remains humble and unassuming.

He fondly recalls a particular day when he was booked for back-to-back speaking engagements. First,

Yancey attended a VIP political event at a convention center in Denver, dressed in suit and tie. Second, he spoke at a graduation service for inmates at a federal prison, who were receiving seminary degrees. “I feel so much better about my use of time in the prison,” he says. “I was amazed at the flourishing of faith in the least likely place.”

This attitude of giving back is central to Yancey’s work and platform. Fame was never his goal. “I wasn’t expecting success or effectively working toward it. I was just writing my books,” he laughs. “When I experienced success, there was a crisis of spiritual discipline. My challenge now was going to be to properly steward what God had given me.”

Yancey’s wife Janet, a former missionary kid, encouraged him to pursue international travel and share their resources with the church abroad. “We got to see the kingdom of God through different eyes,” says Yancey. Together, they have traveled to 87 countries. “I was in Russia a month after communism caved; in Germany shortly after the Berlin wall fell; in India for the Mumbai bombings,” Yancey recalls. This past year alone, Yancey visited Cambodia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Lebanon. “Those places don’t pay,” he says. “But that’s part of how I steward the success: by spending my time among people who couldn’t afford it if I were charging.”

Other times, Yancey’s speaking engagements bring him to the heart of suffering here in the United States. In 2007, just weeks after Yancey suffered a broken neck from a near-fatal motor accident, he was asked to speak at Virginia Tech. The community was reeling from the recent school shooting, which claimed 32 lives. Survivors faced the same question Yancey posed in his 1977 book, *Where Is God When It Hurts?* Though warned by his doctors that a flight could be fatal, given the precariousness of his recovery, Yancey was determined to be present with the grieving. And so he went.

When he’s not sequestered in front of his desk, he can be found hiking the fourteeners in Colorado, skiing, jogging, or reading Russian novels. The more his work has become defined by contemplation and reflection on spiritual issues, the more he desires to be out experiencing God’s world.

“Everyone has a different calling. I have a different calling than you do,” says Yancey. “Don’t ever get so comfortable with the ordinary part of life that you forget to be radical.” **W**

**“DON’T EVER GET SO COMFORTABLE WITH THE ORDINARY PART OF LIFE THAT YOU FORGET TO BE RADICAL.”**



## LOVE ONE ANOTHER MORE AND MORE...

LIVE QUIETLY,  
MIND THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS,  
RESPECT THOSE WHO LABOR AMONG YOU.

## BE AT PEACE AMONG YOURSELVES...

ADMONISH THE IDLE,  
ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED, HELP THE WEAK,  
BE PATIENT WITH THEM ALL.

## MAY THE GOD OF PEACE HIMSELF

SANCTIFY YOU COMPLETELY,  
AND MAY YOUR WHOLE PERSON BE KEPT BLAMELESS  
AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.  
HE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL; HE WILL SURELY DO IT.

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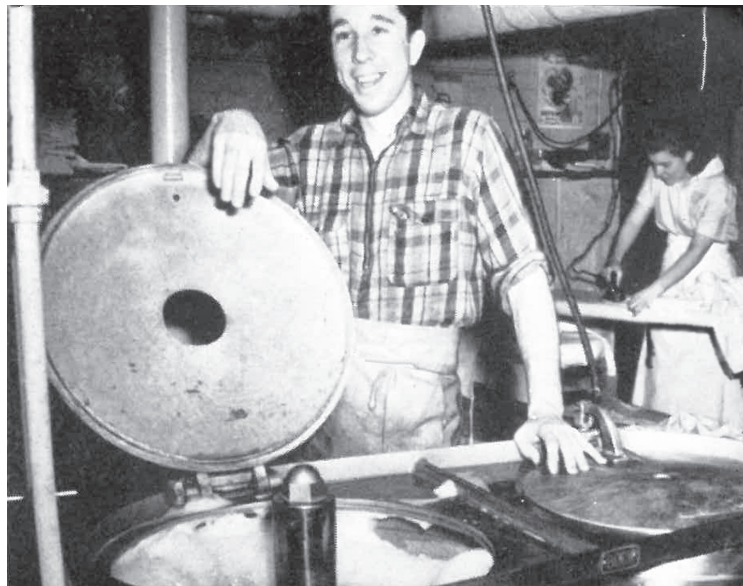
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