

WHEATON

VOLUME 24 | ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2021



Literature for Life

Witness and Wanderlust

Faithfulness, the Gospel,
and Care for Creation

A female blue crab of the genus *Callinectes* in the invertebrate zoology lab in Wheaton's Meyer Science Center.



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VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2, SPRING 2021

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CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Josh and Alexa Adams, Anna Powell Denton,
Nicola Harger, Darren Hauck, Tony Hughes

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS
Allison Althoff Steinke '11, Adrianna Wright '01

COPY EDITORS & PROOFREADERS
Nancy Albright Nehmer '82, Emily Stackhouse Taetzsch '18

CLASS NEWS EDITOR & FACTCHECKER
Donna Antoniuk

EDITORIAL INTERN
Eliana Chow '21



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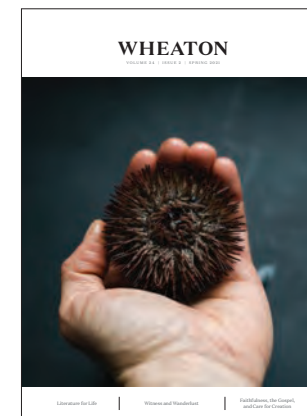
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Benediction



On the Cover

Dr. Nadine Folino Rorem, Professor of Biology, showed our photographer around Wheaton's invertebrate zoology lab in the Meyer Science Center. Pictured here is a sea urchin (*Lytechinus variegatus*) with its mouth in the center. *Photo by Tony Hughes*



PHOTO BY TONY HUGHES



When Christians Disagree

*Dr. Philip Graham Ryken '88
President*

Liberal arts learning is a conversation as ancient as Plato's dialogues with Socrates and as recent as the dormitory discussion that started last night after dinner and continued past midnight.

This enduring conversation assumes that we often disagree—about ideas and their consequences, about our goals for our beloved community, about biblical interpretation and application. Because we disagree, we discuss, and even argue.

In our increasingly polarized society, the disagreements have become sharper. We see this in the church as well as in the culture at large. Our political differences, social concerns, and theological convictions often provoke contentious words and scornful attitudes.

Wheaton College is no exception. When disagreements spark controversy on our liberal arts campus, some of the heartfelt responses that students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents post on social media, for example, are less charitable than they could be.

It is good for all of us to revisit Paul's teaching in Romans 14 about how to honor God when we disagree.

The apostle's argument assumes that there are right and

wrong answers to the questions that divided the first Christians in Rome, as there are in the disputes of our own day. Because there are right answers, one of the proper goals of liberal arts learning is to pursue truth through dialogue.

Yet Paul is less concerned about getting and giving the right answer than he is with how Christians treat one another. Convincing someone else that they have the wrong view is not the goal. The goal, rather, is to "pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding" (v. 19).

So, Paul tells the Romans not to "quarrel over opinions" (v. 1), and not to "despise" or "pass judgment" on Christians who disagree (v. 3). When disagreements do arise, it is good for us to be "fully convinced" in our own minds (v. 5). But it is more important for us to keep "walking in love" (v. 15).

These wise words help us test our political, social, intellectual, and theological discourse. Are my convictions making me contentious? How can I pursue peace with other Christians when we disagree? What difference does it make when Christ-like love truly animates the continuous conversations we have at a Christian liberal arts college?

Wheaton College will keep asking these questions—and striving to live out the answers. ●

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Wyangarden Hall Mural

New mural depicts diversity of human “ecosystem”

Words
Eliana Chow '21

Photo
Josh and Alexa Adams

During the fall semester, Associate Professor of Art Kaye Lee Patton's Community Art class and Wheaton's Language Resource Center collaborated to paint a community art mural located in Wyngarden Hall, across from Buswell Library. Students, faculty, and staff contributed ideas and craftsmanship to the mural, which celebrates the diversity found in human culture and natural spaces.

The mural was designed to visualize the role of language and art in telling the stories of physical spaces, as well as the vulnerability required to learn or create something new. “As both of our goals did not specifically stop at ‘art making’ or ‘language learning,’ but rather expanded and evolved into the realm of community formation and connection, we realized it was an exciting way to come together and collaborate across departments,” Patton said. The piece features bright colors, words in different languages, and depictions of plants from around the world. ●

Billy Graham Center Receives \$1 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

This grant will be used to establish and launch a new African American Church Evangelism Institute. Wheaton will partner with influential African American senior pastors to develop curricula and cohorts to address ministry and evangelism needs in their churches across the country and, ultimately, around the globe. The College is one of 92 other institutions and organizations funded by the Lilly Endowment's Thriving Congregations Initiative, dedicated to strengthening Christian congregations so they can flourish and contribute to building local and global community.

Cassia Waligora '21 Awarded Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship

Currently an international relations and Mandarin Chinese double major, Waligora will join the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service as a U.S. Diplomat upon completion of the two-year program. She is the first Wheaton student to achieve this prestigious accomplishment. The fellowship will help fund Waligora's graduate work and follow her through two U.S. government internships: one with a member of Congress and one with an embassy or consulate.

Artist Series Livestreams Fifth House Performance

Featuring music from Mason Bates, Dan Visconti, and Professor of Music (Composition, Music Theory) Dr. Shawn Okpebholo, Fifth House “traces the life cycle of water from its metaphorical descent from the heavens as rain, to its long journey in streams and rivers informed by conservation experts and ecologists,” according to the event page.

Mask-querade Replaces 2021 President's Ball

Although the President's Ball was not able to occur in downtown Chicago due to COVID precautions and guidelines for campus and state, College Union collaborated with the administration to host a “Mask-querade” in the Beamer Center on February 15. The black tie event featured food, games and prizes, a photobooth, and curated music.

CVC Launches Career Communities

In a new initiative to help students prepare for life after college, the Center for Vocation and Career now offers alumni-led sessions tailored to provide industry-specific advice based on student disciplines and interests. Students in any year and major are invited to join, whether they are looking to land a job soon or simply exploring possible next steps. Groups include “Creatives, Arts, Performance, Publishing, Media;” “Government, Public Policy, Law;” “Marketing, PR, Advertising, Sales;” “Serving Black Students;” “STEM;” and many more.

New Spiritual First Aid Online Training & Certificate

Released by the Humanitarian Disaster Institute (HDI), this 10-hour, virtual course is designed to equip individuals in offering peer-to-peer spiritual and emotional support during the pandemic. The course is primarily geared toward lay leaders, church leaders, and first responders, but is open to mental and physical health care providers as well as any others seeking to improve their capacity to help others in the face of disaster and other stressors.

Dr. Michael McKoy and Pastor Raymond Chang '06 Receive 2021 Rodney K. Sisco Diversity Students' Choice Awards

The third annual award, in honor of the late Rodney K. Sisco, who served as the director of the Office of Multicultural Development, recognizes one faculty member and one staff member for exceptional work in cultivating diversity, inclusion, justice, and unity on Wheaton's campus. Dr. McKoy is an assistant professor of politics and international relations and has been on faculty since 2014. Alongside his pastoral duties in supporting Wheaton's chaplain, Chang helps lead and organize Discipleship Ministries, which consist of student-led Discipleship Small Groups (DSG), Strongholds, and Family Groups.

The Return of Wheaton Sports

Wheaton Basketball, Swimming, Wrestling, and Track and Field returned to the competition scene alongside other Illinois college and university teams for the spring season after a semester with limited training and pandemic-related delays and cancellations. Wheaton Baseball and Softball started their seasons outside in March. Spectators are not able to attend the events, and teams are taking care to abide by COVID-safe guidelines set by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Read more Wheaton stories at wheaton.edu/news

#MyWheaton



1 All smiles for snow, by Ada Yuan '22. 2 Members of the Student Media Team working to capture the perfect shot, by Jed Edgar '24. 3 Students enjoyed games, music, snacks, and learning about campus clubs during October's Fall Fest, organized by College Union, by Katie Scott '22. 4 Williston Hall, by Ada Yuan '22.

5 A student studies in Meyer Science Center, by Katie Scott '22. 6 A group photo of College Union members during their "Pixar and PJ's" movie event, by Ada Yuan '22. 7 Students lead peers in song and prayer during Koinonia Worship Night, by Wilson McMillan '22.

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



Diligence in Her Craft

Marin Halvorsen '21 and her teammates share life together on and off the course.

Words
Abby Dorman '17

Photo
Josh and Alexa Adams

In her four-year career at Wheaton, Marin Halvorsen '21 has emerged as one of the top golfers in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) history. Starting with a dominant individual conference championship win in 2018 and another win in 2019, she has built her legacy in the CCIW record books as only the third women's golfer in conference history to record multiple individual championships. With the outcome of her final season still undetermined, she focuses on making progress one day at a time.

"I try not to think about that [the pressure of repeating as a conference champion]," Marin said. "Instead, I try to think about each hole and each decision, one step at a time."

Marin's diligence in her craft drives her to work tirelessly toward improvement throughout the year. Her hard work doesn't go unnoticed by Head Coach Paul Craig, who said, "Marin has self-confidence, is poised under stress, and wants to compete. You don't win two CCIW titles without those attributes."

Marin points to the influence of her coaches and teammates as keys to her success. From conversations about life and faith on the golf course to competing in drills, the golfers' camaraderie helps them maintain perspective while doing what they love. Ultimately, Marin says, they make it their goal to apply the question, "How can we be walking through life together, not just playing golf?"

A business/economics major with an art history minor, Marin looks for meaningful connections in all areas of life. Her study abroad experience in Rome as a sophomore helped her to appreciate ancient art and consider how her career could combine creativity and analytical thinking.

When it comes to her future, she'll continue to take it one step—and swing—at a time. In the midst of an unusual year, Marin reflected, "I've realized how little my plan has to do with anything, and how much bigger God's plan is." ●



1

Marin Halvorsen '21 is the only women's golfer to repeat as CCIW Champion in the current three-round format.

3

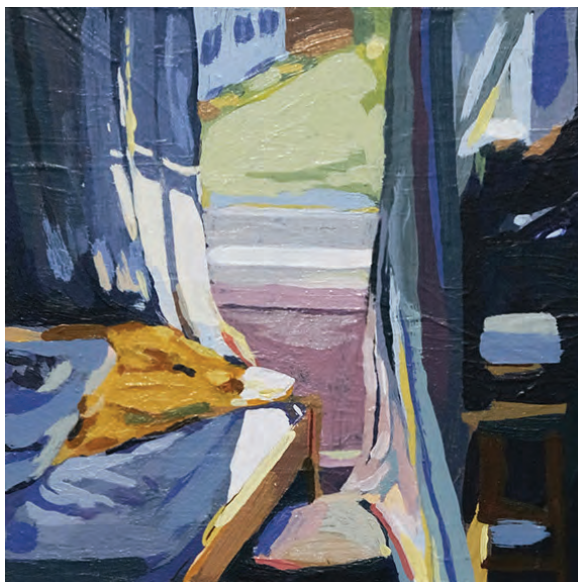
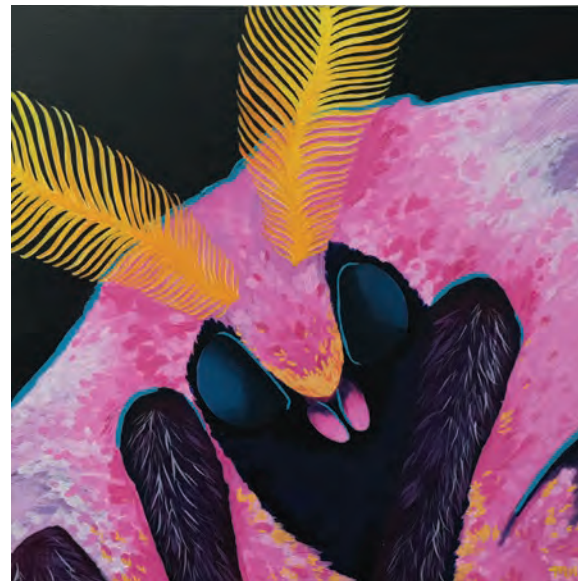
Halvorsen is the third women's golfer in CCIW history to win multiple CCIW Championships.

10

Halvorsen has 10 career top 5 tournament finishes, including 4 tournament wins (heading into spring 2021 season).

Throwback

Dr. David Watt '76 finished 7th in the all-around event at the 1976 NCAA Division II Men's Gymnastics Championships, missing All-American recognition for his performance by .05 of a point. That same year, he helped lead Wheaton as a team captain to third place among Division III schools in the Championship and a 14th place overall finish. Dr. Watt remembers his coach, Dr. Bud Williams, Jr. M.A. '66: "Bud had a big influence on me, not just as a gymnastics coach, but in growing my character, particularly teaching me perseverance." After graduating with a B.S. in chemistry and completing his medical training, Dr. Watt worked in private orthopaedic practice, specializing in shoulder and knee injuries. He served as Wheaton Athletics' team physician from 2001 to 2020. He was inducted into the Wheaton Hall of Honor in 2004.



Presence in Absence

'Proximity' ties artists together through reckoning

Words
Eliana Chow '21

Last fall, the 8th annual “12x12x12x12” art show (or “12x12” for short) created space for reckoning with bewilderment and grief. The show was conceptualized as a communal celebration of the artistry and interests of Wheaton’s Art Department. Each featured piece, submitted by faculty, students, and alumni, fit within a 12x12 frame or volume or, in the case of time-based works such as video and audio, 12 seconds.

Mindful of how digitized life has become, and in keeping with the now-coveted physical nature of art, Studio Associate and Gallery Manager Sheldon Till-Campbell ’15 and student curators put together and mailed copies of a zine, or printed booklet of artwork and descriptions, in lieu of emailed text. They also assembled mini versions of the show for contributing alumni who were unable to attend in-person: A piece of the original drywall from the exhibit and tiny cutouts of the displays were bordered in the same 12x12 frame as those in the exhibit, built in the woodshop by art students.

“This year [the show] felt extra necessary because of the context of the pandemic . . . partly because of how box-like our existence is right now,”

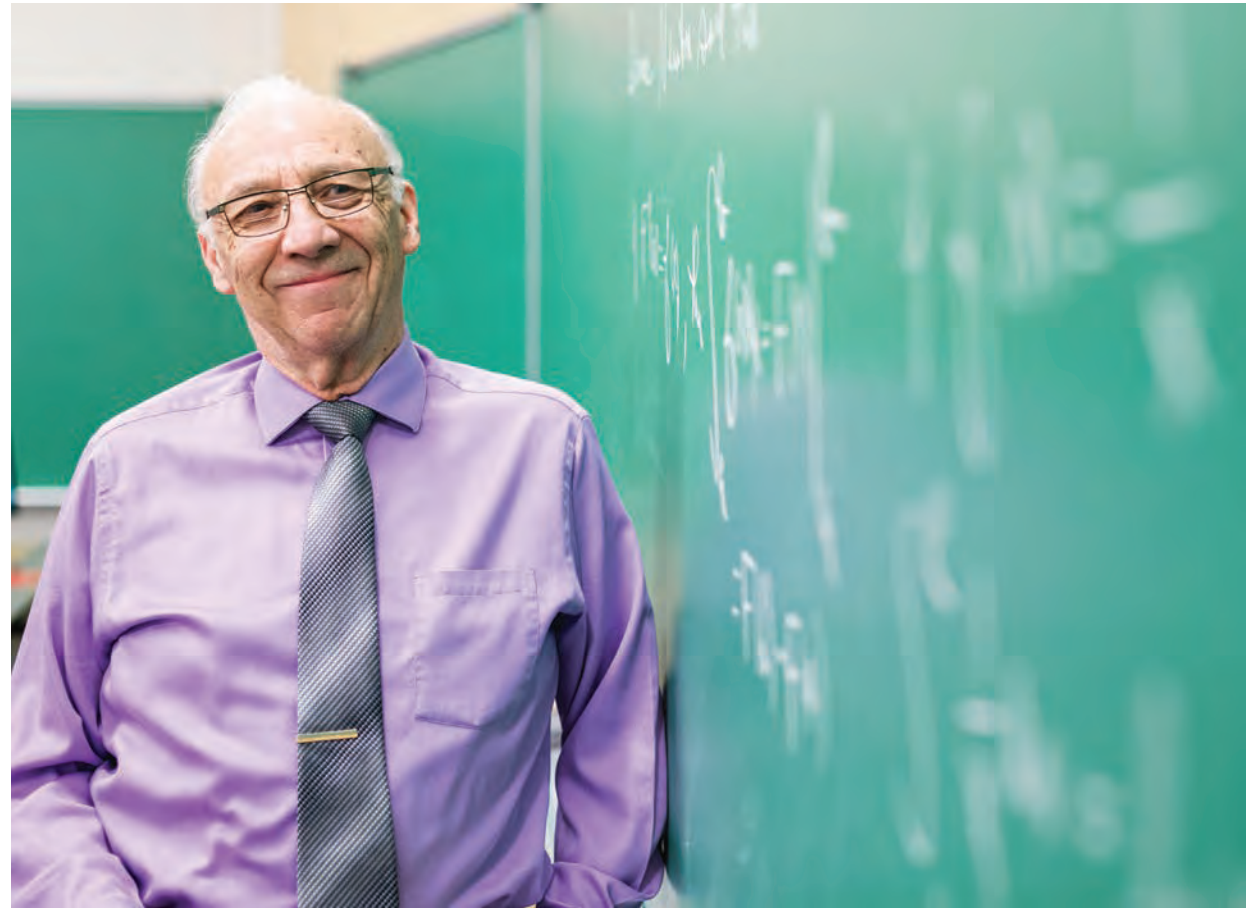
said Till-Campbell. The art took up space that human bodies were unable to, even as each work was confined to its own frame, box, or soundbite. “Proximity,” the theme of this fall’s show, grieved the absence of embodied fellowship even as it offered redemptive presence through art. One painting by Claire Waterman ’18 depicted the back of a human hand, outstretched, featuring the words, “Who holds our grief? How can we carry it together?” The gallery space afforded one such attempt at bringing honest human experience together.

Often, the phrase ‘gallery art’ invokes visions of the greats: Impressionists, Realists, and Modernists alike take center stage, bold in gilded frames or sitting on lofty marble pedestals. The “12x12” show challenges such expectations, inviting artists and participants to sit in uncertainty and imperfection. When life feels fragmented and fragile, humanity often turns to art—to those pieces of companionship that find their way into craft. Art itself seems to embody a piece of its creator’s presence, and a unique kind of fellowship takes place in these spaces of discovery and questioning. ●

Left: A selection of student and alumni submissions from the 8th annual “12x12x12x12” art show.

Decades of Service

Celebrating Faculty Emeriti



**Dr. Robert L. Brabenec '60,
Professor of Mathematics**

On Faculty Since 1964

Early in his career, Dr. Brabenec spent two years on active duty as an Army captain in missile intelligence. He returned to Wheaton in 1967 to teach and chair the newly formed Department of Mathematics. As a student, he studied with Dr. Art Holmes '50, M.A. '52. Later, when Dr. Holmes' book on the integration of faith and learning became the center of Wheaton's academic and spiritual goals, the move motivated Dr. Brabenec "to develop an integrative capstone course for senior math majors that I have taught with delight for almost 50 years."



**Dr. Daniel A. Sommerville,
Professor of Music**

On Faculty Since 1994

Dr. Sommerville has conducted and directed the Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra since 1989.



**Dr. Cheri Lee Pierson,
Associate Professor of
Teaching English to Speakers
of Other Languages**

On Faculty Since 1996

Dr. Pierson has taught and mentored students who have gone on to serve globally as well as in local Chicagoland communities.



Dr. Karin R. Edwards, Professor of Music

On Faculty Since 1987

Dr. Edwards has most enjoyed working with her students "as people and as musicians," which she says "has been inspiring, challenging, and rewarding and has led to my own spiritual and professional growth." She has performed as a solo pianist and guest artist with orchestras in both Canada and the United States, including the Milwaukee Symphony and the New Philharmonic. Among many other accomplishments, she recorded a solo album for piano featuring the works of Chopin, Liszt, and Eckhardt-Gramatté.



**Dr. Paul C. Egeland, Associate
Professor of Education**

On Faculty Since 1995

Dr. Egeland has significant experience leading and teaching outdoor leadership and education. He also served as the Education Department Chair.



**Dr. Andrew E. Hill,
Professor of Old
Testament**

On Faculty Since 1984

Dr. Hill served as the Bible and Theology Studies Department Chair from 1998 to 2001. He is the author of *Enter His Courts with Praise!* (1996). Through his time at Wheaton, he says he has "developed an appreciation for the masterful work of the Holy Spirit in the teaching-learning process in the Christian liberal arts context as that faithful Helper in transforming us into disciples of Jesus the Messiah."



**Dr. Annette H. Tomal,
Professor of Business**

On Faculty Since 1995

Dr. Tomal's expertise and research focuses on the roles of gender, religion, and education in society and the economy. From visiting Human Needs and Global Resources interns to leading study abroad trips all across the world, Dr. Tomal is grateful for Wheaton's "unexpected blessings."



**Dr. Gerald R. Root,
Professor of Evangelism
and Leadership**

On Faculty Since 1996

Dr. Root has cherished being able to see students "fall in love with Jesus." He has written or co-authored nine books, including in-depth studies of the theology and philosophy of C. S. Lewis.

Decades of Service

Celebrating Faculty Emeriti



**Dr. Jillian N. Lederhouse '75,
Professor of Education**

On Faculty Since 1990

Dr. Lederhouse came to Wheaton after teaching in the Chicago Public Schools. One of her “great delights” has been “coordinating a 23-year partnership with a wonderful multicultural K-8 Chicago public elementary school,” she said. She is the author of *Life Lessons Through a Teacher’s Eyes* (2009) and *Teach Like a Disciple* (2016).



**Dr. Peter Walters, Professor
of Applied Health Science**

On Faculty Since 1996

Dr. Walters wrote *Christian Paths to Health and Wellness*, the textbook used in most of Wheaton’s general education wellness classes.



**Dr. Richard E. Butman
'73, Professor of
Psychology**

On Faculty Since 1964

During his four decades of service to Wheaton, Dr. Butman remembers “countless rich conversations with students and colleagues,” which gave him opportunities to help others “dream bold dreams for their futures.” He adds, “I simply love the daily challenge of communicating truth in word and deed.” A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Butman’s areas of expertise are bereavement and psychopathology. He has also co-authored two books—*Modern Psychotherapies: A Christian Appraisal* (2011) and *Modern Psychopathologies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal* (2016).



**Dr. Rodney J. Scott,
Associate Professor
of Genetics**

On Faculty Since 1989

In addition to his research on conservation genetics of animal species, Dr. Scott was actively involved in leading conference workshops and developing tools to aid laboratories in DNA studies and genetics training. He is “genuinely in awe of how much this place has shaped me” when he considers the “amazing chapel messages and seminar presentations” and “conversations with brilliant and devoted colleagues and students.”



**Dr. Carolyn A. Hart,
Professor of Music**

On Faculty Since 1999

Dr. Hart (soprano) has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and the U.K., as well as Hong Kong, Korea, and Paris.



Dr. W. Jay Wood, Professor of Philosophy

On Faculty Since 1982

Dr. Wood’s areas of expertise include epistemology and the philosophy of religion. His books include *Epistemology: Becoming Intellectually Virtuous* (1998) and the ambitious-sounding *God* (2011). “I am blessed to have been able to fulfill one of my life’s chief interests,” Dr. Wood says of his teaching career at Wheaton, reflecting on the “opportunity to share my love of philosophy with great colleagues and students, some of whom I count as deep friends.”



**Dr. Terry L. Huttenlock, Associate
Professor of Library Science**

On Faculty Since 1999

Alongside her professorship, Dr. Huttenlock has been the subject librarian for applied health science, biology, education, intercultural studies/ TESOL, and psychology.

Faculty Promotions

Tenure

Dr. Aimee Callender,
Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. Tammy Schultz,
Professor of Counseling

Dr. Ed Stetzer,
*Billy Graham Professor of Church,
Mission, and Evangelism*

Dr. Mark Yarhouse,
*Dr. Arthur P. Rech and Mrs. Jean
May Rech Professor of Psychology*

**Promotion from Assistant
Professor to Associate
Professor and Tenure**

Dr. Thomas Boehm,
*Ann Haskins Assistant Professor of
Special Education*

Dr. Enoch Hill,
Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr. Jacob Johnson,
*Assistant Professor of Marriage and
Family Therapy*

Dr. Michael McKoy,
*Assistant Professor of Politics and
International Relations*

Dr. Hana Yoo,
*Assistant Professor of Marriage and
Family Therapy*

**Promotion from Associate
Professor to Professor**

Dr. Jamie D. Aten,
*Blanchard Associate Professor
of Humanitarian and Disaster
Leadership*

Dr. Vincent Bacote,
Associate Professor of Theology

Dr. Brian Miller,
Associate Professor of Sociology

Dr. Sandra Yu Rueger,
Associate Professor of Psychology

Genesis Morris '21

Undergraduate Student

As a Panamanian American who spent her childhood in central China and her latter teens in Madrid, Spain, Genesis was no stranger to international relations even before discovering the major at Wheaton. After considering schools in various countries during her college search, Genesis decided on the United States, one of her home countries with which she had limited experience, to try to gain a better understanding of American culture.

Culture shock at Wheaton was a challenge, but Genesis connected with Wheaton's Ladder program, which facilitates connections between student mentors and incoming international students. Genesis also benefited from a few friends with whom she felt comfortable enough to ask things like how to use an American vending machine or make microwave popcorn. These friends

were patient and enjoyed learning from her, too.

"I think this speaks to the community at Wheaton," Genesis said. "People are willing to be open to something super different from themselves while finding joy in their own lives and experiences to share with others."

Early on in her studies as an international relations major, Genesis found herself excited to learn about concepts like conflict reconciliation commission simulations, which are historically based practices to help restore relationships between people with vast cultural differences.

"I loved looking at cases from across the world: how government works, the ways decisions and policies affect the lives of people, and what it looks like to create an environment where people can flourish," she said.

Genesis is also pursuing the Peace and Conflict Certificate offered at Wheaton, alongside a language minor in Chinese, and knows she is drawn to opportunities to work toward peace and justice on the community level.

As a resident assistant, she has also tapped into a deep value of hospitality and journeying with people, and hopes to transfer that into a mission context or overseas nonprofit work with people from different backgrounds. Her goal is to "do life with people in a way that fosters flourishing, all while seeking justice and reconciliation." ●

Words
Marisa Foxwell Duttweiler '13

Photo
Tony Hughes



Drahoslav M.A. '21 and Zuzana Poloha M.A. '21

Graduate Students

The Polohas have a love story reminiscent of a Shakespeare play. When they met, Drahoslav was engaged to another woman and Zuzana was in a relationship with Drahoslav's roommate.

Fast forward, and after more than 20 years of youth ministry in Slovakia, Drahoslav and Zuzana Poloha's lives took another dramatic turn. They uprooted their lives in Europe to chart a new course of ministry as the first-ever married dual recipients of the Billy Graham Center Scholarship Program in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at the Wheaton College Graduate School in the fall of 2019.

The Polohas met working in youth ministry and have pursued ministry together ever since. As they served Slovak youth and youth leaders, they discovered a gap in the Christian ministries available to Slovaks. Even

as youth were being led to faith in Jesus Christ, they were going home to unstable environments where their faith was not nurtured or sustained.

Although they were thankful for the church's role in young Slovak lives, Drahoslav and Zuzana saw that there appeared to be no Christian therapy being practiced in Slovakia and nowhere to turn for Christian family counseling. With this need in mind, the Polohas began their Wheaton College journey. While pursuing their master's studies, they are also raising their three children, Oliver (17), Johanna (15), and Viktor (13). Upon completing their degree programs, they plan to move back to Slovakia.

"The program has transformed our perspective on faith-based therapy," said Zuzana. Drahoslav added, "From this study, we've discovered ourselves more deeply and have reframed how

we will bring the gospel into our work through our own faithful living."

With extensive discipleship experience, the Polohas will apply their marriage and family therapy studies to the vast need for Christian therapy in their home country. They continue to seek guidance through prayer, and they hope to be salt and light in Slovakia, serving their country as marriage and family crisis navigators. ●

Words
Ashley Rydberg Bright '10

Photo
Tony Hughes



Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler

Associate Professor of New Testament

What does Scripture say about women? Dr. Amy Peeler, Associate Professor of New Testament, has been asking that question for decades. An ordained minister, she advocates for women in ministry who have been called by the Holy Spirit, yet she knows not everyone feels the same.

For students who believe women shouldn't be in leadership roles that involve teaching in the church or in teaching Scripture, it can be difficult to take a New Testament class with a female professor, much less one who is ordained.

"I seek to create a space for students to articulate why they hold the position they do," said Peeler. "If we don't agree, I still deeply respect them as believers, and we remain united by Christ and his leadership."

It's an important conversation both in and out of the classroom for Peeler.

"Though Wheaton is not the church, it is a faith-based institution, and we do church-like things together," she said. "Women and men are supposed to be equal at work, yet where is a woman's place in preaching in chapel or serving the Eucharist? We're not seeking to change anyone's convictions, but we want to spark an honest conversation among students and faculty."

While Peeler is a staunch proponent of equal opportunities for women, she is also adamant about retaining traditional biblical language. That means asking hard questions like, "What do we do with the fact that God is referred to as the Father and that Jesus is male?"

It wasn't until recently, while writing her forthcoming book on Mary's role in Scripture, *Mother of God*, that she realized that the truth that God became human through a woman should shape everything we believe.

"In Jesus' day, women were second-class citizens. The fact that God entered the world through a woman, was parented by a woman, and appears to women first after the Resurrection demonstrates that he values women alongside men," said Peeler. "But we must remember he remains sovereign, and neither gender is lord over the other. Instead, both should remain in a posture of submission before the cross. That may be the best way for us to demonstrate equality together." ●

Words
Katherine Braden '16

Photo
Tony Hughes



Bob Shuster '73

Archivist, Wheaton College Billy Graham Center Archives

Bob Shuster '73 has been an archivist at the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center Archives for decades, helping countless researchers learn from the past to understand the present.

Bob is someone who finds the new in the old—new facts, patterns, and relationships that reveal how the many “yesterdays” led to today. This could be helping a doctoral student find sources for a dissertation or curating new pieces for the collection. Predictably, he loves history—especially early church history, ancient history, the American colonial period, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Bob's career includes many significant moments, including discovering human interest stories like that of evangelical entrepreneurs Percy Crawford '29 and Paul Rader or the sinking of the *Zamzam* with

137 missionaries aboard. He also captured stories from the 1995 Wheaton Revival while it was happening and immediately afterward.

“The Wheaton College Billy Graham Center is unique in that we are collecting material on the history of evangelism—people telling other people about Christ, whether it is one-on-one or to a stadium with tens of thousands of people, over the airwaves, in a prison, or in a youth camp,” said Bob. “People around the world use our collections, but they are especially intended for the church—to inspire, encourage, warn, and teach.”

He is guided by the Archives' verse, 2 Peter 1:13-15 (NIV): “I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will

always be able to remember these things.”

Bob recognizes the significance of his work as well as the broader role of the College today. “I think Wheaton is a humane place, doing a divine work—giving people the intellectual and social skills for their own nurture and to serve as God's people and witnesses in an increasingly secular world.” ●

Words
Andrew Thompson '13

Photo
Tony Hughes



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Literature for Life

How Reading Shapes Our Worlds

Words Eliana Chow '21
Photos Tony Hughes

Narrative shapes personal and group identity. The stories of those who have gone before us challenge us with new perspectives, expand our intellect, invite us into spaces where we didn't think we were welcome, and make us feel less alone in our own experiences and wrestlings. And when faith is woven into the very fabric of our lives, reading becomes an avenue to discover more of God. Whether through the *imago Dei* of another's experience, the artistic wonder of a poem, or a scientific description of creation's complexity, the art of reading helps us to stop and listen, to seek beauty, and to meditate on truth.

If one takes such a high view of reading, a worthwhile question might be: "What book (besides the Bible) has changed my life?" Recently, 40 individuals from around Wheaton's campus offered an answer, and their responses are collected here.

***Journey to Topaz* by Yoshiko**

Uchida — When I was a girl, I read this young adult novel and learned about the detrimental effects of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. It was the first book I'd ever read that featured a Japanese narrator—an Asian American girl like me. I was shocked to learn about this aspect of American history, and it opened my eyes to the reality of entire histories that are neglected by our textbooks. Our destinies crossed when I embarked on graduate studies at Berkeley, where Yoshiko Uchida once lived, studied, and attended church, too. She was a formative presence in my literary and historical imagination.

Dr. Karen An-Hwei Lee, Provost



***The Art of Divine Contentment* by Thomas Watson**

— I have often told my students that the word I want written on my gravestone is “grateful.” Watson’s book is one I have returned to many times over the years as a guidebook for contentment within our troubles.

Dan Haase ’97, M.A. ’02, Associate Lecturer of Christian Formation and Ministry

***Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery** — As a 10 year-old girl, that book captured my imagination and was the beginning of my love of books and reading. It inspired me to want to be an author someday, and that desire fueled my decisions as a college student and my subsequent decision to pursue a master’s degree. While I was getting my master’s degree, God directed me to my vocation of teaching at the undergraduate level, which led to completing my Ph.D. in communication. In addition, I still love reading books and have spent more hours reading to my children daily than I can possibly count.

Dr. Rebecca Border Sietman, Assistant Professor of Communication & Director of Forensics

***Confessions* by Augustine** — I decided to read the North African Bishop’s *Confessions* after hearing a college professor read this line: “Lord, give me chastity—just not yet.” I remember thinking, “Wow, I’ve never heard a Christian theologian say something like that! What else does he say in that book?”

Sifting through the pages of this fourth-century text, I felt as if Augustine knew me, as if he was writing for me. Here was a fellow *mestizo*—someone whose parents are of two radically different cultures—struggling to survive in an Empire that belittled his Berber heritage, and pressured him to assimilate. Here was someone else who wanted life-giving intellectual answers to painful questions about evil, including the evils of conquest and colonialism. Here was someone who ran from God, too. Here was someone excavating Scripture and philosophy. And here was someone who ultimately came to love God and the Church. Witnessing Augustine’s journey to and with God changed me; I saw afresh that God could be for me.

Dr. Nathan Cartagena, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

***Piers Plowman* by William Langland** — I first read it in graduate school and it has been with me ever since, through many re-readings. It changed my life because it made me ask how a Christian might do good work in the world, and not to accept platitudes as answers.

Dr. Benjamin Weber, Assistant Professor of English

***Strength to Love* by Martin Luther King Jr.** — Reading this book of Dr. King’s sermons showed me how much Dr. King was guided by truly biblical, Christian principles, and that Christian principles can provide the foundation for an active political philosophy. It has inspired me to further seek after a fully Christian politics and to not accept that politics is too complicated or too “dirty” for Christian principles. Most especially, reading this showed me that love can be the foundation for a Christian politics, including and especially a love for your enemies.

Dr. Michael McKoy, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Relations

***Rose* by Li-Young Lee** — When my English professor gave me this book, I felt like I was reading the words of an older doppelganger of myself. It gave me a window into possibilities I did not know existed: Asian American poetry!

Dr. David Cho, Director of the Office of Multicultural Development

***The Origins and History of Consciousness* by Erich Neumann** — A recent trend in Ancient Near Eastern archaeology posits that the suppression of the Ancient Near Eastern goddess Asherah in the Old Testament (e.g., Deuteronomy 16:21) was an unnecessary and even violent suppression of authentic female spirituality. While there are a variety of ways to object to this characterization, the Jewish psychologist Erich Neumann, one of Carl Jung’s most brilliant disciples, shows that worship of violent and bloodthirsty goddesses like Asherah was a psychological disaster, and therefore to promote her today is not even remotely a compliment to women. It is thrilling to watch Neumann make this case across the history of art decades before Asherah’s more recent fans emerged. Neumann’s tour de force caused me, as a Christian, to trust in the wisdom of the traditional biblical narrative, and to look with fresh wonder at the miracle of the Incarnation, which does not posit a mother goddess but something far more daring: namely, that God himself would have a mother!

Dr. Matthew Milliner ’98, Associate Professor of Art History



***Ender's Game (series)* by Orson Scott Card** — I felt like an outcast growing up and identified with many of the themes in the books. That said, Ender loves supremely and sacrificially and often his actions result in flourishing. That was inspirational at a time when I had pretty poor self-image. Ender also thinks very rationally about decisions, even moral decisions. I'm inclined to do the same; it's probably why I'm an economist. Yet in the books he values relationship and love above perhaps anything else. It was helpful growing up to realize that you could do both.

Dr. Enoch Hill '05, Assistant Professor of Economics



***The Way of Trust and Love: A Retreat Guided by St. Thérèse of Lisieux* by Jacques Philippe —**

This little book is only 140 pages, and I have marked up nearly every page. Thérèse was a poor, young woman in 19th-century France who embraced a life of trust in God and devotion to him that has had a tremendous impact on my own spiritual practices.

Dr. Sarah Miglio M.A. '04, Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs,
Assistant Professor of Core Studies and History

***We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the 19th Century* by Dorothy Sterling** — Black women’s stories are often omitted from the American history curriculum, yet Black women have made significant contributions to this country. We possess stories that should be told. As a Black woman, I have been inspired to carry on the legacy of the Black women who made possible the opportunities I have today. In learning about these women, I have learned more about myself and who God created me to be. This book is one of the reasons I decided to pursue a Ph.D. centered on the racial and identity development of Black undergraduate women at predominantly white institutions.

Crystal Cartwright '08, Director of the Student Activities Office



Let the Nations be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions by John Piper '68 — Piper's emphasis on worship and God's glory as the ultimate goal of the church was so helpful for me as I worked to reconcile my calling as a scientist with my calling to further God's kingdom. I think my perspectives on missions and the most impactful forms of Christian service were very narrow [as an undergrad]. I was focused on people and redemption of people as the end goal. Piper says it well: "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't." This shift in thinking was foundational for me and is applicable in so many areas. There is room for a physicist to participate in missions, as traditionally defined. But there is far greater ability for a physicist to plug into the enterprise of worship and help that to fuel missions at many levels.

Dr. Darren Craig, *Professor of Physics*

Parting the Waters: Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement 1954-1963 by Taylor Branch — Branch's Pulitzer-prize-winning history educated me on the intersections of leadership, justice, politics, and faith within the context of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. I keep it on my shelf as one of the most formative books I've ever encountered.

Dr. Theon Hill, *Associate Professor of Communication*

The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard — I read *The Divine Conspiracy* after graduating college. Everything I'd read before portrayed the kingdom of God as an entirely future reality without any real significance for my daily life. Willard shows how we can, by cooperating with the Holy Spirit, begin to experience an eternal quality of life today, rather than simply biding our time until heaven.

Dr. Emily McGowin, *Assistant Professor of Theology*

Chief Inspector Armand Gamache (series) by Louise Penny — I have often reflected that this community of people in the little village of Three Pines is one I would like to know. As a musician, I think I gravitate to descriptions of people and life issues that I want to use as support for seeking expressiveness in my music making.

Dr. Mary Hopper '73, *Professor of Music (Men's Glee Club, Women's Chorale), Director of Performance Studies*

The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoyevsky — This book taught me about how to confront my faith at the end of the day. I realized that you couldn't prove God through intellectual arguments—only through action and love, as Alyosha discovered in the book.

Bennett Killough '22, *Editor in Chief of The Pub*

The Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latino/a Social Justice, Theology, and Identity by Robert Chao Romero — This book has been really impactful for me because it is the first time I've seen a complete Latinx theology that does not minimize its own history. Rather, it boldly testifies to the truth. From Spanish colonialism, U.S. imperialism in Central America, the oppression of farmworkers, or the current exploitation of undocumented immigrants, the Christian faith sustained an overlooked community.

Estefanía Hernandez '21, *Student Body President*

More life-changing and otherwise meaningful texts from the Wheaton community:

The New Trinity Hymnal

Dr. Philip Ryken '88, *President*

The Soul of Shame by Curt Thompson

Dr. Paul Chelsen '91, *Vice President of Student Development*

An Elementary Introduction to the Wolfram Language, by Stephen Wolfram

Dr. Henry Kim, *Associate Professor of Sociology*

The Gift of Therapy by Irvin Yalom

Dr. Christin Fort '10, *Assistant Professor of Psychology*

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster

Dr. Chris Keil '87, *Professor of Environmental Science*

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Dee Pierce M.A. '17, *Director of the Center for Vocation and Career*

Journal d'un curé de campagne (Diary of a Country Priest) by Georges Bernanos

Dr. Alan Savage, *Professor of French, French Section Coordinator*

A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Christine Jeske, *Associate Professor of Anthropology*

Knowing God by J. I. Packer

Dr. Min-Dong Paul Lee, *Norris A. Aldeen Professor of Business*

The Presence of the Kingdom by Jacques Ellul

Dr. Noah Toly '99, M.A. '12, *Professor of Urban Studies and Politics & International Relations, Director of the Center for Urban Engagement, Director of the Aequitas Program*

The Pastor: A Memoir by Eugene A. Peterson

Dr. Francis Umesiri, *Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry*

The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness by Tim Keller

Dr. Steve Ivester '93, M.A. '03, *Dean for Student Engagement*

The Meaning of Service by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Jared Falkanger '13, M.A. '19, *Interim Director of the Office of Christian Outreach*

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

Davante Jones M.A. '21, *Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

Boundaries by Henry Cloud and John Townsend

Patty Ramirez M.A. '21, *Marriage and Family Therapy*

Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament by Ellen F. Davis

Amy Allan, *Ph.D. Student in Biblical and Theological Studies (Old Testament)*

Fearless by Eric Blehm

Katy Coley '21, *Editor in Chief of The Wheaton Record*

Bully Nation by Charles Derber and Yale R. Magrass

Melissa Montiel '21, *President of Unidad*

"I cannot give you a book (besides the Bible). I must, instead, give you authors," said Dr. Jerry Root, Professor of Evangelism and Director of Evangelism Initiative. He provided a list of 15 different authors including Aristotle, Dante, George Herbert, and Frederick Buechner. Still, C. S. Lewis holds the top spot as most influential for Dr. Root. "I made him my life author after a friend told me I would not get an education in college but only lay a foundation for one. He said, 'Pick an author who will take you places, and make him/her your life study.' The point was to choose something that will hold fascination for you and widen your world. I picked Lewis. He opens more than wardrobe doors." ●



Witness and Wanderlust

50 Years of The International Study Program

Words Ciera Horton McElroy '17
Photos Center for Faith, Politics & Economics

Leningrad, 1985: Not somewhere you'd want to be at 3:00 in the morning. But this is where Dr. Mark Amstutz found himself, winding through the darkened streets with his Soviet guide.

The destination? An underground prison where two unassuming Wheaton students were held by the secret police.

The mishap began as dusk settled over the communist city. Two students on the International Study Program (ISP) rendezvoused with Russian traders in a downtown park, eager to trade American goods like shoes and denim for black market souvenirs. Usually, this was fine. But tonight, the dealers brought high-value contraband: Russian Orthodox icons.

"An undercover agent spotted the group," recalled Amstutz, who advocated for the students in the middle of the night. "They were released when it became clear that they had not traded icons. . . . [It] was one of the most unforgettable experiences in my many years directing ISP."

Wheaton's International Study Program was marked by immersion, living history, and just a little bit of mischief. This was not just any study abroad program. Throughout ISP's early years, students witnessed the stark contrast between East and West Berlin, swam in the straits of the Bosphorus, met future spouses, toured British parliament, sang for the Queen of the Netherlands, and even faced unwarranted arrest. Most importantly, given the program's focus on economic and political policy, Wheaton students encountered significant global shifts in post-war Europe.

For many, it was the adventure of a lifetime. "I had to sell my car in order to go," said Captain David Iglesias '80, director of the Wheaton Center for Faith, Politics and Economics. "It was the best sale of my life."

The International Study Program returns this year in spirit and name for a 50th anniversary revival. Captain Iglesias has led the charge in rebranding Wheaton's Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI) study abroad experience to honor the original program. In 2021, students hope to travel through Scandinavia and meet with political and religious leaders, carrying on the program's legacy.

ISP: THE EARLY YEARS

In 1971, the Soviet Union launched the first space station, Walt Disney World opened to the public, and Wheaton sent its first ISP group to Western Europe. The International Study Program was the creation of Economics Chair Bob Bartel '53. Bartel was a missionary kid who spent much of his early education in China, graduating from high school in Hong Kong before attending Wheaton in the '50s. His goal as a faculty member was to introduce students to a world beyond the Wheaton bubble.

Opposite: 1978, Castle de Haar, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

For Karen Kennedy Gehl '89, raised on a South Dakota farm, the program did just that. "Boarding that plane was my first experience of leaving the country," she said. "It was life-changing for me. I've had wanderlust ever since."

By studying abroad with an economic focus, ISP students would gain irreplaceable skills in an international context. The only problem? Logistics.

"This was done in an age of overseas telegrams, airmail letters, and occasional phone calls," said Sarah Bartel Bradley '80. She was only a seventh grader when she attended the inaugural trip with her parents and two brothers. "There weren't even faxes yet. I can't even fathom how you put together a program for fifty-some people—meals and housing and speakers—all through either telephone or letters."

Shirley Danenhour Bartel '52, Bob Bartel's wife, was the miracle worker who made the program possible behind the scenes. She organized the accommodations, managed the calendar, and oversaw meals and disbursement of money for day trips. Most of all, she served as the "camp mom" for the students, many of whom had never left home before attending ISP. In its formation, the program began with six weeks in Wassenaar, a seaside town on Holland's western coast. Students, faculty, and family members lived together in an old estate manor, Parousia.

"My dad really felt that community was important," said Bradley. "So we all lived under this one roof and tried to get Dutch cooks to understand that Wheaton football players ate a lot of food!"

At the time, this was the first program of its kind to allow Wheaton students to study social sciences abroad. During the week, students engaged in strenuous coursework at the manor. But Wednesdays were special and set apart for day trips to embassies, automobile factories, companies, and other heritage locations. Bob Bartel was well-known for having high-profile friends. He drew upon his vast network to connect students with Nobel Prize winners and heads of state, along with other leaders like the former president of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Assembly, Sir Patrick Duffy. Though the program always maintained a focus on political and economic systems, ISP drew from various departments. Bartel was joined by different faculty members year to year, namely Dr. Mark Amstutz, Professor of Political Science Emeritus; and Dr. Chuck Henry, former Psychology Department Chair.

In their free time, students explored the surrounding countryside, often on bicycle.

"Fifty American kids showing up does not go unnoticed by a little town," laughed Bradley. "In Wassenaar, my dad befriended the owner of the local little theater and they would rent it out for us. I remember watching *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*."

After six weeks in Holland, Bartel hired a tour bus and led the Wheaties on a grand trek through Austria, France, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, and Belgium. The close proximity of the European countries allowed for thorough study into their various economies. But though Wassenaar was quaint and charming with its scenic coastline and bike

paths through the village, much of Western Europe was still haunted by war.

“As we went through Germany, there was still quite a bit of damage from all the bombing,” recalled Mark Mooney ’77, who attended in 1975. “There were large churches that had not yet been reconstructed after World War II.”

Mooney’s father fought on the ground in Germany during the war. “My father would have landed in Africa, then crossed over to Sicily, Italy, France, Germany. The tour that we had covered all of those Western European countries, which is pretty amazing.”

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

In the summer of 1987, President Ronald Reagan stood before the people of West Berlin and demanded that Mikhail Gorbachev “Tear down this wall!” The Berlin Wall—with its concrete barrier, barbed wire, and deadly “no man’s land”—was a symbol for division and destruction.

Captain Iglesias recalled, “I hadn’t given much thought to the failed nature of communism until I . . . walked in both East and West Berlin. The dramatic difference made me realize that capitalism worked and communism did not.”

By the 1980s, the Bartels had left Wheaton and moved to the West Coast, entrusting the program to Amstutz. ISP shifted between 1980 and 1987 to match the current political climate. Now, Wheaton students left Chicago and landed in Helsinki, Finland. From there, they boarded the train that would take them behind the Iron Curtain.

“The Cold War is at its worst when we get there,” remembered Eric Enstrom ’86, who attended in 1985. “That year,

Ronald Reagan meets with Mikhail Gorbachev for the very first time. And we’re interested in this because we go over there thinking we could get nuked any day.”

As the train rolled into the U.S.S.R.’s border checkpoint, students encountered communism firsthand for the first time. Patrol guards frisked all the travelers and searched every bag before anyone could enter the Soviet state. Amstutz’s copy of *The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court* by Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong was deemed subversive literature and confiscated.

“We went to Russia when Russia was not ready for visitors,” said Sarah Bartel Bradley. “You had to go through a Russian travel agency, a Russian guide accompanying you at every moment. The hotel we were booked into wasn’t finished. We didn’t have doors hung.”

First up on the itinerary? Leningrad—now Saint Petersburg—a Baltic port city and the site of an infamous 900-day blockade. “We were extremely cognizant that the people living there had survived the Siege of Leningrad in World War II,” said Enstrom.

Since the days of Josef Stalin, Leningrad had become worn and spartan, strained by the economic toll and the continual push for urban expansion. “Everything was so dark,” Bradley recalled. “It was oppressive. . . . People only wore black. The skies were gray. The buildings were black with soot. . . . It was not a happy place.”

Despite the city’s darkness, the sun stayed low in the sky through all hours as students encountered the famous polar White Nights of Leningrad.

“Because of the intensity of the Cold War, there was deep distrust between the United States and the Soviet Union,” said Amstutz, who arranged meetings with high-level communist leaders. “Our briefings on topics such as nuclear arms, NATO, and economic and social policies provided an invaluable opportunity to learn about different political and economic systems and to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the freedom and liberty found in our own country. For me the most valuable aspect of ISP was the opportunity to engage government officials, professors, and senior political leaders on important issues of the time.”

And while some students personally encountered the heavy hand of the Soviet Union—before being rescued

by Amstutz—most found ways to trade safely with locals. Many Wheaties brought American gear like Nike shoes, Levi’s, or sports paraphernalia and exchanged these for medals, military uniforms, nesting dolls, or riding boots. But the Soviet black market provided more than souvenirs and anecdotes. The Slavic Gospel Mission, a Christian ministry launched by refugees from the U.S.S.R., had given the Wheaton students small Bibles in Russian.

“They said not to hide them,” said Gehl, “to lay them on top of your bag. They sent us with the Bibles on purpose because they wanted them to get into the black market.” Sure enough, checkpoint guards impounded the Bibles—but this was exactly what the mission wanted.

The U.S.S.R. had long waged a militant campaign against religion, even while safeguarding its antique icons. Dr. Paul Froese, a sociology professor at Baylor, wrote: “The Communist Party destroyed churches, mosques, and temples; it executed religious leaders; it flooded the schools and media with anti-religious propaganda. . . . But in the end, a majority of older Soviet citizens retained their religious beliefs and a crop of citizens too young to have experienced pre-Soviet times acquired religious beliefs.”

The trip behind the Iron Curtain allowed Wheaton students to witness what ordinary Christians faced. Many churches had been converted into museums, but some still operated with government supervision.

“There was worship going on,” Gehl said of a church service they attended. “I remember standing there and hearing them singing the hymn ‘Holy, Holy, Holy’ in Russian. That has always struck me. I didn’t understand the words, but I knew what they were singing because I knew the tune of the song.”

After Leningrad, students traveled to Kyiv (today’s capital of Ukraine) and Moscow. Through the Soviet states and back into Western Europe, students encountered political leaders and academics, many of whom offered valuable insight into the future of the U.S.S.R.

“We were able to hear some prophecies of things that completely came true,” said Enstrom. “The breakup of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany—these were all fascinating things to learn from people who were there, telling us the future. And they were right.”

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

After 1987, Wheaton’s International Study Program became more sporadic until making a resurgence as the Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI) program in 2010. Like its predecessor, ISI combined coursework with on-site learning at key historic sites. However, the program expanded its focus, taking students to places like Panama, Cape Town, and Seoul.

But this year—in memory of the Bartels and the program’s lasting impact—Captain Iglesias is taking the program back to its ISP roots. The Summer 2021 International Study Program will take current Wheaties to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland. Students will take courses in Nordic politics and globalization to better understand how their host countries have kept peace since the end of World War II. Captain Iglesias will be joined by Dr. Timothy Taylor, Assistant Professor of International Relations; Dr. Min-Dong Paul Lee, Norris A. Aldeen Professor of Business; and Dr. Kathryn Alexander, Assistant Professor of Politics.

The program’s legacy lives on in the memory of those who attended. “My four years at Wheaton were some of the best years of my life,” said Mark Mooney. “And the ISP program—and this will sound corny—was like the icing on the cake.”

Now a new generation of Wheaties will have the chance to experience this cultural and political immersion.

But for Bradley, ISP’s return is also a tribute to her family’s original vision. In 2018, she returned to the seaside town of Wassenaar with her husband. “We hired a driver for the day and drove all around the places in Wassenaar . . . all those fun memories.”

To Bradley’s surprise, the driver pulled up to Parousia, where she’d stayed with her parents and the Wheaton students all those years ago. He rang the gate bell and explained in Dutch that Bradley had lived there and would like to see the house. The owners welcomed them in.

“I got to walk through the whole building,” she said fondly. “It was my first time back to that house since 1977.” ●

From left to right: 1978, Brandenburg Gate, West Berlin, looking toward East Berlin; 1978, Heidelberg Castle, Heidelberg, West Germany; 1978, Rothschild Castle, France, David Iglesias ’80, swinging over the moat during a wait; 2019, Singapore. ISI students touring the city state and in front of the iconic Marina Sands Hotel; 2015, Machu Picchu. ISI students touring the famed Inca site.





Faithfulness, the Gospel, and Care for Creation

Loving our neighbors faithfully means taking seriously the pressing socio-ecological challenges facing so many people around the world. All things are the object of God's love and restoration. Our loving Creator calls God's people into God's mission of mending the entire creation under Christ's rule.

Words

Ben Lowe '07 (Environmental Studies)
Rachel Lamb '12 (Environmental Studies/International Relations)
Ruth Padilla DeBorst M.A. '87 (Theology)

Photos

Tony Hughes

Pg 48: An Aloe plant in the Biology Department Greenhouse in Meyer Science Center

Below: Dr. Nadine Folino Rorem, Professor of Biology, holds Biology Department “pet” “Clawdette,” a horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) in the invertebrate zoology lab. Dr. Rorem told us that this organism is known for its use in medicine for the *Limulus amoebocyte lysate* (LAL) test for drugs.



As the small bush plane neared the coastal Native Village of Tyonek, the remote Alaskan wilderness parted to reveal several buildings nestled close to the water. Rising sea levels and harsh storms had eroded nearly the entire beach, drawing seawater up to the buildings' front steps.

The plane was carrying a team from Anchorage to help the village assess their climate resilience and install new air and water monitors. Over a community meal, village elders shared reports of how environmental changes were disrupting their way of life, threatening the salmon harvest from the Ch'u'itnu watershed, and challenging their ability to pass down traditional knowledge and customs to their grandchildren. While they embodied a spirit of resilience, the future of the Tyonek (*Tebughna*) people remained irrevocably caught up in a rapidly changing environmental crisis they had little responsibility in creating.

One of us (Rachel Lamb '12) has researched and spent time on the front lines of the climate crisis for over a decade with organizations including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Carbon Monitoring System and the U.S. Climate Alliance. Rachel spent a summer in 2011 working with Indigenous communities in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska to document and share tribal responses to climate change as part of Wheaton's Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) program.¹ This immersive experience made concrete and personal the often-abstract issue of global environmental change, grounding its impacts in particular people and places with familiar names and faces.

Another of us (Ben Lowe '07) serves in leadership roles with multiple national and international Christian environmental organizations and was awarded a fellowship by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for research on the human and religious dimensions of environmental change. Ben was similarly confronted with the impacts of changing climate patterns during the summer between his junior and senior years at Wheaton while participating in an international research project along the Tanzanian shore of Lake Tanganyika.

One of the African Great Lakes, Lake Tanganyika is a biodiversity hotspot and sustains a critical regional fishery that provides livelihoods and nutrition for millions of people in the surrounding countries. Tragically, increasing temperatures and weakening seasonal winds across the region are disrupting nutrient flows and undercutting the lake's ecological productivity.^{2,3} This is resulting in fewer fish being available for a growing number of fishers, leading to unsustainable harvests, climbing market prices, and concerns around socio-political instability.^{4,5}

Last but not least, another of us (Ruth M.A. '87) is a theologian and missiologist based in Costa Rica where she lives in Casa Adobe, an intentional Christian community, and leads the Comunidad de Estudios Teológicos Interdisciplinarios. She recently served as the John Stott Visiting Scholar at Wheaton. Through various leadership roles over the years at Resonate Global Mission, World Vision International, the Latin American Theological Fellowship, the International Fellowship for Mission as Transformation

(INFEMIT), and more, Ruth has witnessed the importance of pursuing integral mission, building community across the global church, and listening to the voices of marginalized communities. As Rev. Leith Anderson, then president of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), put it in a landmark NAE report:

While others debate the science and politics of climate change, my thoughts go to the poor people who are neither scientists nor politicians. They will never study carbon dioxide in the air or acidification of the ocean. But they will suffer from dry wells in the Sahel of Africa and floods along the coasts of Bangladesh. Their crops will fail while our supermarkets are full. They will suffer while we study.⁶

BIPARTISAN POLITICS AND BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

As impacts from climate disruption intensify across the world, one of the barriers to action we face is that environmental issues in general, and climate change in particular, have become viewed by many as controversial and politically partisan. While the polarization surrounding these issues is acute in the United States, it is also relatively recent. There are numerous Christian conservatives today—such as former U.S. Representative Bob Inglis⁷ (R-SC) and Ericka Andersen⁸—who are outspoken advocates for climate solutions founded on free enterprise and innovation. While climate and environmental protection often involve policy solutions, they are not inherently partisan concerns, and we have been grateful through the years to work with leaders from across the political spectrum who care deeply about God's world.

At a more fundamental level, however, before these are even political issues, they are first and foremost biblical issues. For us and countless others across the global church, our commitment to caring for creation and addressing climate change is motivated by our love for Christ and deeply rooted in historic Christian faith and doctrine. Biblical theology helps us understand that these are not just environmental, social, political, or economic problems. Rather, they are symptoms of deeper ills including greed, pride, selfishness, apathy, and idolatry. In other words, they are moral problems, spiritual problems, sin problems. And we can no more save ourselves than we can save our communities or God's earth.

Amid this bleak reality, however, there is good news of great hope. For there is a solution to sin and all its pervasive and deadly repercussions. The Good News—the gospel—is that, in Jesus Christ, the Creator God entered into the created order to make right all that is broken, “to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:19-20, NIV). God's reconciling love includes individuals being set right with God but it also encompasses so much more. All things—i.e., the entire creation—are the object of God's love and restoration. And

the loving Creator calls God's people into God's mission of mending the entire creation under Christ's rule.

Loving our neighbors and caring for the rest of creation—which in this era necessarily include addressing climate change—are integral to the Good News of the kingdom and reign of God, and we can step into this dimension of biblical mission in full confidence that one day there will be no more groaning for us or the rest of creation (Romans 8). For all things will be renewed, shalom will be restored, God Almighty will dwell with us, and we will rule together in harmony as it was in the very beginning (Revelation 21-22).

Even now, however, we can be part of restoring the people and places where God has called us. For every one of us is created as an image bearer to reflect God's character and represent God's rule out into the world (Genesis 1-2). We are at once both recipients of and partners in the good news of the kingdom of God; we are being reconciled to reconcile, transformed to transform, and restored to restore.

These are not new ideas. Creation care has long shaped the work and witness of Christians around the world, even if it has become a blind spot in some of our churches and Christian institutions. For instance, note the words, beliefs, and values of the Lausanne Movement, founded by the Rev. Billy Graham '43, Litt.D. '56, and Rev. Dr. John Stott. At their Third Lausanne Congress in 2010—at which one of us (Ruth) was a key note speaker, and which *Christianity Today* described as “the most representative gathering of Christian leaders in history”—the group reaffirmed the relationship between the good news and creation.⁹

The Bible declares God's redemptive purpose for creation itself. Integral mission means discerning, proclaiming, and living out the biblical truth that the gospel is God's good news, through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, for individual persons, *and* for society, *and* for creation. All three are broken and suffering because of sin; all three are included in the redeeming love and mission of God; all three must be part of the comprehensive mission of God's people.¹⁰

At the core, we cannot love God fully without caring for the good world that God made, sustains, redeems, and entrusts into our stewardship. Similarly, we cannot love our neighbors faithfully unless we take seriously the pressing socio-ecological challenges that so many people face around the world. While we are all ultimately affected by climate and environmental problems, it tends to be those already marginalized and vulnerable who are impacted the earliest and the most acutely—and yet have the least resources and capacity to adapt.

GROWING AWARENESS AND CONCERN

In light of such inequities, what does it mean to stand in unity with our sisters and brothers in the United States and around the world as we seek mutual flourishing for all people and places? This is an important question facing the church in this era, when human activities are now shaping

the world even more profoundly than natural processes.^{11,12} In recent years, younger generations in particular have been stepping up to raise their voices and take greater responsibility for the world they are inheriting.

A national survey one of us (Ben) recently conducted with students at Christian universities across the United States, including Wheaton College, is shedding new light on shifts in attitudes and engagement that appear to be taking place.¹³ Over 80 percent of the students surveyed affirmed that the climate is changing with over 75 percent affirming that humans are contributing to these changes. Three quarters of respondents said that addressing global warming should be a medium or high priority for themselves as well as for their campus and for Christians in general. These levels increased to approximately 80 percent when students were asked how much addressing biodiversity loss should be a priority.

Meanwhile, about 60 percent said that their campus is doing too little to address either climate change or biodiversity loss, with less than 2 percent of students saying their campus is doing too much. Church engagement is perceived to be even more lacking here, with about two thirds responding that their church is doing too little, and less than 1 percent reporting that their church is doing too much. These numbers help highlight a growing need and opportunity for Christian communities to model and disciple God's people in greater faithfulness around these growing challenges. The gospel has much to offer here, interest and concern are growing across the church and society, and, as the three of us have experienced, institutions like Wheaton College have a transformative role to play in student formation.

ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AT WHEATON

As Wheaton alumni, it was the rigorous and integrative liberal arts training we received across the natural and social sciences, humanities, and biblical and theological studies that God used to connect the dots between a changing climate system and our calling to be faithful disciples and witnesses in today's world. Our Wheaton education provided an integrated worldview and theological grounding that has helped us better value all of God's creation, understand what is happening across the world and how we fit in, and find purpose and hope in God's redemptive mission.

Wheaton has a long history as a leader in Christian environmental thinking and scholarship. Francis Schaeffer, who gave a series of famous lectures at Wheaton College in the 1960s, authored a seminal book on this topic titled *Pollution and the Death of Man* (Tyndale House, 1970; reprinted edition Crossway, 1992), which remains in print today. Another notable example is the major climate change conference that took place on campus in 2007 and featured Sir John Houghton, an outspoken evangelical, renowned climatologist, and the longtime scientific leader of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-WG1). Sponsored by Wheaton's



Transplanting aloe plant to a larger pot in Biology Department Greenhouse.

A sea urchin (*Lytechinus variegatus*) in the invertebrate zoology lab.



Center for Applied Christian Ethics, this conference drew Christian leaders and student representatives from CCCU institutions across the country.

Throughout this time, numerous professors from across the natural and social sciences as well as biblical and theological studies have been conducting rigorous research and teaching that has contributed a vast wealth of knowledge and resources that engage climate and environmental issues from distinctly Christian perspectives. Some of the faculty we have personally been blessed to learn from and collaborate with include (in alphabetical order): Drs. Jamie Aten, Vince Bacote, Daniel Block, M. Daniel Carroll, Dorothy Chappell, Jim Clark, Norm Ewert, Jeff Greenberg, Susan Greener, P. J. Hill, Chris Keil, Ray Lewis, Andrew Luhmann, Douglas Moo, Steve Moshier, Alvaro Nieves, Kristen Page, Sandra Richter, Paul Robinson, Nadine Rorem, Noah Toly '99, M.A. '12, Fred Van Dyke, and Laura Meitzner Yoder.

As a result of this rich heritage, Wheaton students and alumni have been instrumental in helping to start and lead numerous fruitful climate and environmental efforts on campus and across the church and society. This includes Young Evangelicals for Climate Action (yecaction.org), which is a growing movement of young Christians across the United States who are “coming together and taking action to overcome the climate crisis as part of our Christian discipleship and witness.”¹⁴ The three of us are also heavily involved with A Rocha, an international Christian conservation organization active in 20 countries across 5 continents (and which John Stott supported) that has sponsored a student chapter at Wheaton College for nearly two decades.

On campus, Wheaton offers a range of highly relevant courses and programs including both a major and minor in environmental science as well as a certificate in environmental sustainability. The Center for Applied Christian Ethics, Human Needs and Global Resources, the Humanitarian Disaster Institute, the Center for Urban Engagement, and the Center for Faith, Politics, and Economics also bring significant leadership and resources to bear in engaging climate and environmental issues from their various interdisciplinary areas of focus. In diverse and inspiring ways, these groups are demonstrating love for God and neighbor by pursuing creation care and climate action. They offer a multitude of opportunities to support, amplify, and participate; and effect positive change.

TOWARD GREATER FAITHFULNESS

We face many serious challenges, and the growing harm from climate disruption and environmental degradation is one we cannot ignore. Caring for and cultivating the earth and each other are some of the very purposes for which we are created as God’s image-bearers. Rising to address these challenges provides an opportunity for more faithful discipleship and witness in the world today. There is much good, grace-filled work yet to do in cultivating deeper and healthier relationships with each other and the rest of creation. This includes prayerfully reflecting, repenting, and reforming our individual and collective attitudes, behaviors, and systems

so that they do less harm and bear good fruit instead—for we are ultimately not created to be less of a curse but more of a blessing.

As we press into these issues, we will increasingly find that the problems we face are often interconnected. We cannot address climate and environmental concerns without engaging issues of development, health, human rights, immigration, poverty, race, and more. One thing ecology helps us understand is that all things are connected, and the gospel gives us hope that all things are reconciled through Jesus. As in all areas of faith and life, this is an ongoing journey that we are all called to travel together. Success in this journey is defined by faithfulness, which involves continuing to take prayerful and worshipful steps forward and never tiring in doing God’s good work as we continue to grow together into the likeness of Christ, the Creator, Sustainer, and Reconciler of all things. ●

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11 Paul J. Crutzen, “Geology of Mankind,” *Nature* 415, no. 6867 (January 3, 2002): 23.

12 Simon L. Lewis and Mark A. Maslin, “Defining the Anthropocene,” *Nature* 519, no. 7542 (March 11, 2015): 171-80.

13 This study was conducted in the Spring of 2020 and sampled 1,667 undergraduate students in select general education and introductory science courses at 35 CCCU institutions across the United States. The results are in the process of being submitted for publication and inquiries may be directed to benlowe@ufl.edu.

14 Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, “About Us,” <https://yecaction.org/about-us/what-we-do.html>. See also Rachel L. Lamb, Benjamin S. Lowe, and Kyle J. Meyaard-Schaap, “Renewing Evangelical Engagement on Climate Change: The Birth and Growth of ‘Young Evangelicals for Climate Action,’” *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 71, no. 1 (March 2019): 50-4.

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Orchestrating Impact

David T. Clydesdale '75 struggled at times to harmonize his love for gospel music with his classical education at Wheaton. He went on to become one of the most prolific Conservatory alumni in history

Words
Ashley Mosteller Rabinovitch '10

Photo
Nicola Harger

In seventh grade, David T. Clydesdale '75 orchestrated a hymn for his church.

"I have no idea how I did it because no one had ever taught me," he admitted.

From two tone deaf parents came a prodigy who was composing and orchestrating entire musicals before graduating from high school.

Two weeks before his high school graduation, Clydesdale won a Musician of the Year award in his native Philadelphia that funded a full year of college at a music conservatory of his choice.

"My mom had heard the Wheaton College choir sing, so we got on the phone with Dr. Best, the head of the Wheaton Conservatory, while I played the piano and cello in the background," he remembered. "That's where it all began."

Clydesdale stepped off the plane at O'Hare with his cello in one hand and his suitcase in the other, taking the first of many leaps of faith that would define his remarkable 46-year career as a songwriter, arranger, and conductor. As he immersed himself in studying composition and education, his passion for gospel music met resistance.

"I've written gospel songs my whole life," he explained. "I sold and published my first song at the age of 14, and I continued to arrange and orchestrate for gospel artists while studying at Wheaton, much to the disappointment of my professors."

Clydesdale remembers clashing frequently with Dr. Harold Best, now dean emeritus, who believed that his student could become one of the world's greatest composers if he would only focus on classical music.

Even though Clydesdale was a self-described "oddball" within the Conservatory, he can look back and recognize the ways his Wheaton education prepared him for the next leg of the journey.

"Wheaton demanded excellence," he affirmed. "My professors pushed me to learn my craft. As a result, I know how to conduct classical music. I can stand in front of the London Symphony and conduct Beethoven and Mozart."

According to Dr. Tony Payne '79, a veteran professor of music at Wheaton, Clydesdale went on to become one of the most influential alumni the Conservatory of Music has ever produced.

"David is a remarkable man with a mountain of musical accomplishments," said Payne.

A recipient of 2 Grammy awards and 26 Dove awards, Clydesdale has collaborated with and written songs for musical artists such as Sandi Patty, Steve Green, and Point of Grace. By his latest count, he has worked with more than 300 artists, created more than 3,000 arrangements, and conducted 50 symphony orchestras around the world.

"While I've worked in the secular space, 95 percent of what I've created is for the church," shared Clydesdale. "More than impressing people with my music, I want to inspire them. I want to touch lives."

When people ask Clydesdale about his path to success in the music industry, he is quick to recognize the moments when God presented an opportunity, starting with the unexpected offer to study at the Wheaton Conservatory.

"I simply tell them that I put one foot in front of the other," he said. "I walk in God's grace every day." ●



A Sacred Space

Liesel Mindrebo Mertes '06 considers what it means to 'show up' in hard times

A few years ago, as the Midwest winter slumped into February, Liesel Mindrebo Mertes '06 felt desolate. The month marked the birthday of her third child, Mercy Joan, who was born February 15, 2011 and died a week later. Mercy had been born with a neural tube defect.

"She was a beautifully formed baby," Liesel said.

That day, Liesel felt the loss deep in her bones and reached out to those closest to her. Her mother responded: "I hear you feel hollowed out. I see it almost in that womblike imagery, as creating a space that can hold other people—their stories and sadness."

Her mother's words continue to unfold in Liesel's work today as a workplace empathy consultant.

"When you have a sad story, you become a collector of sorts of other people's sad stories," Liesel said.

As she has heard from others and reflected on her own losses and life disruptions, she notes that some people are really helpful at coming alongside others. Others, however, have really good intentions but have no idea what they're doing. Liesel founded Handle with Care Consulting in 2018, and the podcast a year later, to help employers apply empathy skills to their management and processes.

Empathy is an essential leadership skill, Liesel said, especially in 2020 when everyone experienced life disruptions: "I want to make work a place that people want to go when times are hard."

Liesel's journey into this role has been "distinctively nonlinear." As a political science major, she and her husband Luke Mertes '06, M.A. '07, dove into international development and microfinance after graduation. Upon returning stateside from a stint in Nairobi, Kenya with two young children, Liesel started an MBA program at Indiana University. During this program, she carried and lost her daughter Mercy.

At the end of her program, Liesel took a break to let her recent experiences sink in. She also brought two more children into the world, including their last child who had heart problems and required multiple surgeries. Liesel's work at Handle with Care emerged from engaging the question, "What does it look like for people to show up in a meaningful way in hard times?"

Liesel draws from her time at Wheaton to answer this question.

"Wheaton gave me a theological and community framework out of which to encounter the devastating things that life can bring to you." Wheaton didn't offer silver bullets, but "a sense of psychological and emotional safety" to ask the hard questions.

Liesel sees Christ's incarnation as a "radical act of empathy."

"We have a tremendously responsive, empathetic God," she said, who values what it means to be hungry or sad, and lived those experiences. "We get to do [God's work] when we come alongside people."

Though Liesel lost Mercy in 2011, the sacred space that Mercy opened up within her remains.

"I get to figuratively carry her and be with her," Liesel said, "in a way I never thought possible." ●

Words
Luan Chen Huska '09

Photo
Ann Powell Denton



A Word with Alumni

*Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82
Senior Director for Vocation and Alumni Engagement
Executive Director, Wheaton College Alumni Association*

Every January 1, I spend a couple of hours looking back over my family and work calendars from the previous year, an annual ritual that reminds me how faithful God has been. This year, a look back at my calendars reminded me of why I am so weary—and more than ever, how faithful God continues to be. I know that many of you are also experiencing deep weariness after the exhausting events of the last year. So, instead of sharing more of my own thoughts, here is something much better: a familiar and comforting Scripture verse and words from a hymn written in the mid-18th century by English hymnwriter and minister Joseph Hart, “Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy.”

Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, NLT).

Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy by Joseph Hart

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready, stands to save you
Full of pity, love and power

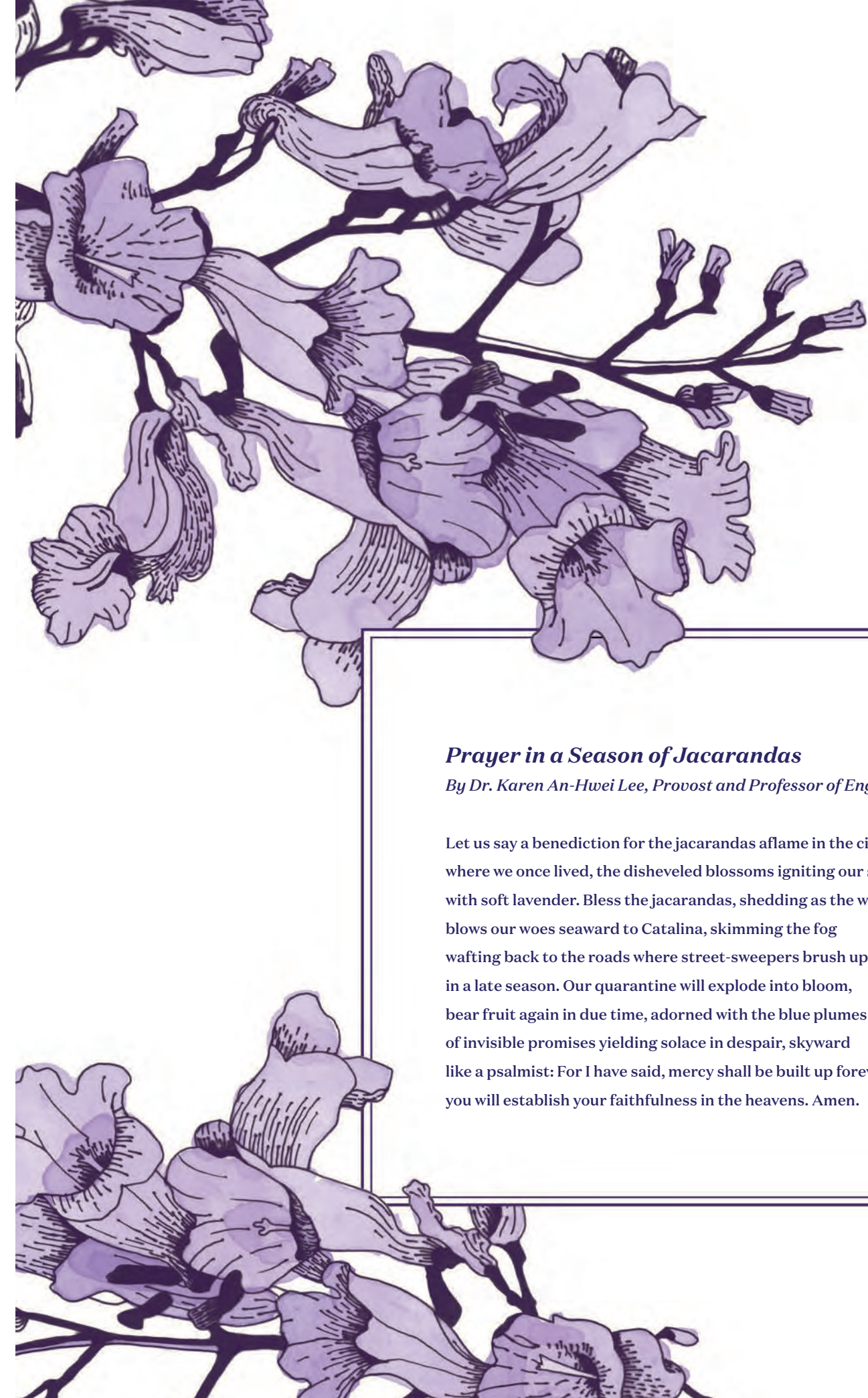
I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior
Oh, there are ten thousand charms

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome
God’s free bounty glorify
True belief and true repentance
Every grace that brings you nigh

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden
Lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry ‘til you’re better
You will never come at all

I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior
Oh, there are ten thousand charms

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Prayer in a Season of Jacarandas

By Dr. Karen An-Hwei Lee, Provost and Professor of English

Let us say a benediction for the jacarandas aflame in the city where we once lived, the disheveled blossoms igniting our souls with soft lavender. Bless the jacarandas, shedding as the wind blows our woes seaward to Catalina, skimming the fog wafting back to the roads where street-sweepers brush up pods in a late season. Our quarantine will explode into bloom, bear fruit again in due time, adorned with the blue plumes of invisible promises yielding solace in despair, skyward like a psalmist: For I have said, mercy shall be built up forever; you will establish your faithfulness in the heavens. Amen.



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reading becomes an avenue to discover more of God.”*

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