

# WHEATON

VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2022



Wheaton in the Holy Lands  
Celebrates 50 Years

A Story of Wheaton College  
in 50 Objects

We're Still Here: Witness and  
Evangelism in Post-Christendom







WHEATON MAGAZINE  
VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1, WINTER 2022

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### On the Cover

Jonathan Blanchard's personal diaries (featured on page 36) from Buswell Library Archives & Special Collections.  
*Photo by Tony Hughes*



PHOTO BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS



## The Mary Blanchard Roses

*Dr. Philip Graham Ryken '88  
President*

**T**his issue of *Wheaton* magazine tells a story of Wheaton College in 50 objects. Make that 51, because this column features a bonus item: the Mary Blanchard roses.

When Mary Blanchard left the East Coast, she took some of her precious pink roses with her. Mary's roses traveled with her to Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and finally arrived on the campus of Wheaton College in 1860.

With each move, Mrs. Blanchard carefully took her roses, roots and all, found an ideal spot to transplant them, and then lovingly watered and pruned her flowers as she waited for them to bloom again.

Mary's roses must have flourished somewhere near the Blanchard home on the corner of Howard and University, where Smith-Traber Hall now stands. Eventually, some of them were transplanted to Westgate, current home of the Alumni Association, where today a sturdy rosebush holds a prominent place on the front lawn.

Not long after I came to campus in 2010, I asked our head gardener to take a few cuttings from the bushes at Westgate, grow them in our campus greenhouse, and plant them in our front yard.

The results have been remarkable! The rosebushes grew rapidly along my front walk. Today four or five bushes bear hundreds of beautiful pink blossoms in springtime—so heavy that the branches bend to the ground after a rainstorm.

Like Wheaton College, Mary Blanchard's roses are not inanimate artifacts, but living things that require ongoing care, feeding, and pruning. Fortunately, the Blanchard roses are unusually hearty. Trustee emeritus Harold 'Mac' Airhart '61 (a Blanchard descendant and expert gardener) believes that the flowers were hybridized in France sometime in the Middle Ages. Centuries old, they have persevered through many hardships and continued to bloom.

By God's grace, Wheaton College also lives and grows from generation to generation. The spiritual care, intellectual feeding, and practical pruning of this beautiful school have been entrusted to us for a season, through any and all hardships.

When I see abundant blossoms on Mary Blanchard's roses every springtime, and reflect on their rugged persistence through many cold winters, I take fresh hope that Wheaton College will continue to produce something beautiful for the kingdom of God. ●



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# News & Profiles

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## Arena Theater Performs “My Name Is Asher Lev”

Words  
Melissa Schill '22

Photo  
Josh and Alexa Adams

The play, adapted by Aaron Posner, coincides with Wheaton's 2021-22 Core Book, *My Name Is Asher Lev*, by Chaim Potok. The book and play follow the story of a Hasidic Jewish boy who feels torn between his call to faith and his call to artistry. Asher's interest in drawing clashes with what his Jewish community, and especially his father, deem valuable. As Asher grows in his artistic ability and passion, he is faced with the question of whether art and faith can truly work together. Senior Evan Doan plays the part of Asher Lev. As he was reflecting on the play and the process of taking on the character, he said, “The biggest thing I've learned over the past four years—and it's what the play really touches on—is that there is a way to be an honest artist and an honest Christian at the same time. If you're dishonest in either of them, you're doing a disservice to yourself.” ●

### HoneyRock Gets a Brand Refresh

While the mission remains the same, in an effort to better represent the organization, a new name has been announced: HoneyRock Center for Leadership Development. The name highlights the emphasis HoneyRock places on experiential leadership development for each person that comes through one of its various programs, from elementary school students to graduate students. Alongside the name, a new logo was also revealed. It features the iconic HoneyRock bridge and adheres to the new Wheaton College brand personality. See the logo at [wheaton.edu/honeyrockbrand](http://wheaton.edu/honeyrockbrand).

### Summer Research Program Highlights

During summer 2021, 25 students were named Undergraduate Research Fellows and participated in Wheaton's Summer Research Program under the guidance and partnership of their professors. Project topics included developing synthetic polypeptoids meant to stop protein breakdown brought on by COVID-19, dating minerals, researching how gender equity appears in program design among Christian nonprofits, and translating social connections in *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy into visual data.

### Annual Christmas Festival Makes Its Grand Return

Wheaton hosted the annual Christmas Festival Concert, this year entitled “Welcome All Wonders.” Women's Chorale, Men's Glee Club, Concert Choir, Symphony Orchestra, and the Percussion Ensemble all performed selections from composer J.A.C. Redford and classic Christmas carols.

Read more Wheaton stories  
at [wheaton.edu/news](http://wheaton.edu/news)

### Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations

Unidad, Wheaton's Latinx/Hispanic student organization, invited the student body to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15. Events included a chapel service, a Latin dance class, and the first annual Hispanic Heritage Festival: Mercado y Musica. The festival brought Latin-owned businesses from the Chicagoland area and local musicians to campus. The College will celebrate Black History Month in February and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in spring.

### Chapel Returns to In-Person Attendance

After making a move online due to COVID-19 restrictions last year, tri-weekly chapel services are happening in Edman Chapel again. Fall semester chapel speakers included Lisa Beamer '91 in remembrance of 9/11 and Juli Slattery '92, who did a three-day series on authentic intimacy. The campus also studied Ephesians, spending each Monday chapel working through a section of the book. The full chapel schedule and recordings of past services can be found online at [www.wheaton.edu/chapel](http://www.wheaton.edu/chapel).

### Semester in Jerusalem Program Launched

A cohort of 18 students, led by Visiting Associate Lecturer in Biblical and Theological Studies Dr. Chris Vlachos, embarked on the inaugural semester-long study abroad program in Jerusalem. The group was housed at Jerusalem University College on Mount Zion where they took classes and went on field study excursions to the Mount of Olives, Samaria, and the Dead Sea. They also traveled to Athens to complete another class on the “Journeys of Paul.”

### New Aequitas Fellows Program

The Aequitas Fellows Program—Wheaton's highly selective, four-year cohort program—launches new tracks including Public Humanities and Arts, Sustainability, and Urban Leadership in fall 2022. Aequitas Fellows are placed in themed cohorts, take a series of common classes, and participate in reading groups, campus events, funded summer experiences, internships, and special research projects. All Fellows receive a \$20,000 academic scholarship.

### New Pre-College Program

The Wheaton College Summer Institute will host its inaugural program during summer 2022. This premier pre-college program provides high school students an opportunity to engage in Wheaton's rigorous academic study, artistic expression, leadership training, and spiritual development with world-class Christian faculty—all on the beautiful campus of Wheaton College.

### Welcome Center Named in Honor of Melvin E. Banks

In a celebration on October 15, the Welcome Center was named the Melvin E. Banks Welcome Center. The late Dr. Melvin E. Banks Sr. '58, M.A. '60 was a trustee at the College for 16 years. During his career, Banks planted several churches, created an urban outreach program to connect pastors, and established a campground for urban youth. He also founded the largest independently owned African American publishing house and was awarded with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 1993 in recognition of his work contextualizing biblical literature for the African American Church.



# #MyWheaton



**1** Fireworks over McCully Stadium to celebrate the beginning of the year, by Katie Scott '22. **2** Orientation Committee welcomes new students, by Maddie Cook '23. **3** New students worship at Armerding Concert Hall during Orientation Week, by Yeting Li '22. **4** Stevener Gaskin M.A. '18 performing original spoken word poetry at All School Communion, by Miekko Yamamoto '22.

**5** International Student Programs student leaders, by Miekko Yamamoto '22. **6** Wheaton cheerleaders pose with Tor, by Maddie Cook '23. **7** Smiling for s'mores, by Maddie Cook '23. **8** Parents waiting for Passage students to arrive on campus, by Katie Scott '22.

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





## Christ, Camaraderie, and Competition

*For Luke Anthony '21, a record-setting career as a two-sport athlete pales in comparison to the relationships formed along the way.*

*Words*  
Abby Dorman '17

*Photo*  
Josh and Alexa Adams

In the span of nine months, two-sport athlete Luke Anthony '21 rewrote the record books in a way that many athletes only dream of. He competed in the 2019 Final Four tournament game with the men's basketball team, shooting 40 percent from three-point range on the season, and on the football field he threw a school record of 35 touchdowns during the 2019-20 season.

It was not only impressive, but Anthony's record-setting performance at Wheaton was also hardly traditional: He joined the men's basketball program halfway through their 2018-19 season as a midyear transfer from the University of Dayton.

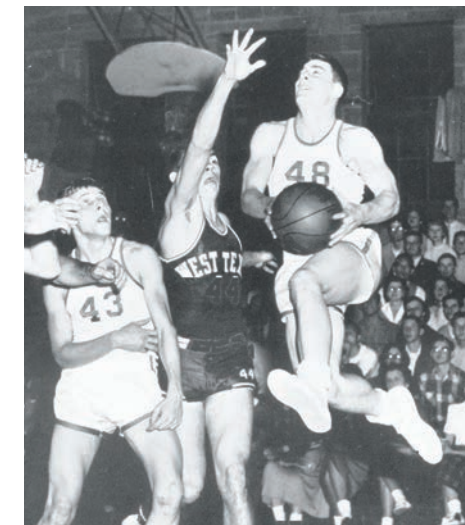
After facing unexpected challenges at Dayton, Anthony prayed that God would show him what to do next. Ultimately, his desire to grow in his faith brought him back to his hometown of Wheaton. "Right when I decided I was going to transfer, I knew I was going to Wheaton," he said.

"I knew that the coaches were strong Christian guys, and I needed that at that point in my life."

He also credits his teammates with helping ease his transition. As a member of two teams, Anthony experienced the close camaraderie of over 100 fellow student-athletes. He describes them as "guys who put Jesus Christ first and at the same time want to compete at the highest level."

When asked what has sustained him through the ups and downs of his career so far, he quoted Proverbs 19:21 (NIV): "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

For Anthony, the Lord's purpose led him back to a town where he thought he would never play again after his high school days of Friday night lights. Now one of the most prolific quarterbacks in Wheaton football history, his family ties are even deeper as he competes alongside his new band of brothers. ●



**#3**

in Division III football in passing efficiency (186)

**#9**

in Division III football in passing touchdowns (35)

**#10**

in Division III football in completion percentage (67.8%)

**10**

average points per game over his three seasons with the Thunder men's basketball team

### Throwback: Dick Helm '55

After graduating from Wheaton in 1955 where he played basketball, football, and track, Dick Helm went on to shape the next generation of athletes, first as an athletic director at Wheaton North High School and Judson College, then as the head basketball coach at his alma mater. In 1984, he accepted a position as an NBA Assistant Coach for the Seattle SuperSonics. He also went on to coach the Cleveland Cavaliers, Atlanta Hawks, Toronto Raptors, and New York Knicks. This year, in recognition of his work for each of these teams as well as his integral involvement in shaping the next generation of coaches through the National Basketball Coaches Association, Helm was given the Tex Winter Assistant Coach Lifetime Impact Award. Before moving into the national spotlight, Helm was inducted into Wheaton's Hall of Honor in 1983 for his stellar work as both a coach and as a student athlete, leading the 1952-1953 basketball team to the conference championship and placing fourth in the nation in free throw percentage, along with winning multiple CCI honors for all three of his sports.





## A Grand Celebration

*Festivities Held in Honor of the Completion of the Armerding Center for Music and the Arts*

*Words*  
Melissa Schill '22

*Photo*  
Josh and Alexa Adams

After a cumulative eight years of planning and construction, the completed Armerding Center for Music and the Arts was inaugurated with a Grand Celebration on September 25. The event also launched Wheaton's Gala Year of the Arts, Faith, and Imagination.

The celebration consisted of several musical showcases, including two concerts in the new 648-seat Concert Hall, featuring choral and instrumental performances. Guests were also invited to an open house where they could tour the facility and interact with conservatory students and faculty members.

A central component of the Grand Celebration was the unveiling of "Trumpet in the Universe (*soli Deo gloria*)" by Romanian sculptor Liviu Mocan. Situated in the center of the main atrium, the sculpture stretches from floor to ceiling at over 17 feet tall. The magnificent pillar is layered with brass spheres and supports, and the twelve-sided base is inscribed with various quotes and contributions from pivotal scientists, writers, theologians, and musicians, illustrating the liberal arts.

While the two-phase project was officially completed in August 2020,

festivities were limited due to COVID-19. In addition, spaces such as the Concert Hall and dance studio were being utilized for socially distanced classrooms throughout the 2020-2021 school year. In consideration of these obstacles, Dean Michael Wilder chose to postpone the Grand Celebration events until they could take place at full capacity.

As a result of the postponement, hundreds of community members, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Wheaton were able to attend. Liviu Mocan and his wife came from Romania to unveil the sculpture, along with two Armerding family members and donors from all over the country. Community School of the Arts students were also invited to attend and showcase their musical talents to the guests, alongside a student orchestra from West Chicago.

"It felt like the building was humming with energy and life and vitality and music," event manager Lacey Case said. Exactly as it was intended to be. ●

Left: Unveiling of "Trumpet in the Universe (*soli Deo gloria*)" by sculptor Liviu Mocan in the Armerding Center for Music and the Arts.



## Welcoming New Faculty



**Row 1 (L-R):** Claire (Kags) Ndethiu, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Christian Formation & Ministry; Diana Soerens, M.A., Visiting Assistant Lecturer in Spanish; E. Kate Min, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Business; Brita Beitler, M.A., Visiting Assistant Lecturer in Education; Carleigh Schoenleber, Ed.D., Visiting Assistant Lecturer in Education; Joshua D. Norton, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy; Katherine Graber, M.A., Special Collections Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science

**Row 2 (L-R):** Mandy Kellums Baraka, Ph.D., Visiting Associate Professor of Counseling; Ty Kieser, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology; Martha Van Zee, M.S.Ed., Visiting Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics; J. Brent Etzel, M.L.S., M.A., Dean of Library & Archives, Associate Professor of Library and Archives

**Row 3 (L-R):** Ki Byung Chae, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling, Director of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program; Charles M. Liu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology; Robert Knisely, D.B.A., Visiting Associate Professor of Business; Kent Annan, M.Div., Director of Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership, Associate Lecturer in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership; Jeremy Lundgren, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology; Taylor B. Worley, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Art History

## Faculty Publications



**The Laziness Myth: Narratives of Work and the Good Life in South Africa**

(Cornell University Press, 2020)

by Christine Jeske, Associate Professor of Anthropology

This text investigates whether and how work and the good life coincide with each other. It delves into why certain work is deemed desirable and the influences of racism on the perceptions of work.



**Rose Is a Verb: Non-Georgics**

(Slant Books, 2021)

by Karen An-Hwei Lee, Provost

This collection of poetry is inspired by Virgil's *The Georgics*, and parallels it in structure and motifs. The poems grapple with encounters of both beauty and hardship, ultimately pointing to the tastes of eternity with Christ amidst it all.



**We the Fallen People: The Founders and the Future of American Democracy**

(IVP Academic, 2020)

by Robert Tracy McKenzie, Arthur F. Holmes  
Chair of Faith and Learning

This book plumbs the history of American democracy and through it gleams insight on human nature and what can be learned for the sake of future democracy.

## Faculty Grants & Fellowships

**Dr. Christina Bieber Lake awarded Henry Resident Fellowship**

Dr. Bieber Lake is spending a year researching and writing a book about the transformational power of literary imagination through the Henry Resident Fellowship from the Carl F. H. Henry Center for Theological Understanding.

**John Templeton Foundation grant awarded to Dr. Ward Davis**

Director of Clinical Training and Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Davis was awarded a three-year grant from the John Templeton Foundation to spread awareness of the Open Science Movement and promote open science methodology among researchers studying religion.

**CCCU and SCIO grant for STEM research awarded to Wheaton College**

The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) and Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (SCIO) awarded Wheaton College the "Supporting Structures: Innovative Collaborations to Enhance STEM Research at CCCU Member Institutions." The grant will be put toward various projects including a new podcast, diversity training for professors, and sending faculty members away on research.

**President Philip Ryken named Senior Fellow at Newton House**

Newton House in Oxford, England launched in September and is a theological research center where Dr. Ryken will serve as a senior fellow working on research, mentoring scholars, and speaking at conferences.

**Dr. Denise Daniels receives grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.**

Alongside Rice University's Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund, Dr. Daniels is researching the intersection of faith in the workplace. The grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. is enabling them to continue the research and examine the recent impact of COVID-19 and racism.

**Art Seeking Understanding grant awarded to Dr. Taylor Worley**

Dr. Worley of Trinity International University received the "Art Seeking Understanding" grant through the Templeton Religion Foundation and will be serving as Visiting Associate Professor of Art History at Wheaton College for the duration of his research on conceptual art and the framework it provides for contemplation.

**Drs. Dan and Lisa Burden receive National Science Foundation grant**

Drs. Dan and Lisa Burden were awarded a three-year National Science Foundation grant that is going toward their studies on a toxin protein, learning how to modify it and discovering medicinal applications for it.

PHOTO BY DIANA SOKOLOV



## Charles Hermesmann '22

*Undergraduate Student*

Charles Hermesmann '22 grew up in New Jersey and was able to attend Wheaton on the GI Bill because of his dad's military service. From as early as third grade, Charles has been drawn to writing. He remembers sitting down with a yellow notebook (that he still has) and disciplining himself to write five pages a day until the notebook was full.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that Charles is now an English Writing major. He also participates in several campus publication groups.

"Some of my favorite memories from Wheaton are from the newsroom," he admitted, recalling the late nights working to finalize *The Record* for printing. Charles has become increasingly involved in the creative writing publications on campus, including *Kodon* and *The Pub*, working in the editorial departments for both. Charles is proud that

these publications have been able to continue creating a platform for student art and literature despite the challenges of remote learning. They have even made new strides, such as setting up the "Pubcast," a podcast featuring contributors and pieces from *The Pub*. Charles always wondered, however, if there were other interests and passions inside him besides writing.

He found a new passion in the Human Needs and Global Resources (HNGR) program. At first, Charles didn't know if he could successfully integrate English Writing with HNGR ideals, but it took only one intro class for him to realize that it was a unique experience to grasp.

"I found that learning about issues around the world—poverty and justice—that was it. That was what I was looking for to pair with my love of writing," he said.

This decision reminded Charles of something his dad once told him. "He said he'd be supportive of whatever I chose to do in life as long as I wasn't just doing it for myself, but I was also being helpful to another person or community," Charles recalled.

Charles' desire is to work with kids. He hopes his HNGR placement will involve working with youth and that after potentially attending graduate school he can pursue a career in teaching. ●

*Words*  
Marisa Foxwell Duttweiler '13

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes





## Emily Ding '21, M.A. '22

*Graduate Student*

Amidst the sounds and smells of Anderson Commons, good conversations are always happening. One of these took place when Emily Ding invited Dr. Yousaf Sadiq, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology, to share a meal. Emily, now in the accelerated master's program in TESOL, connected with Dr. Sadiq over shared experiences as Christian minorities in Malaysia, Emily's parents' home country, and Pakistan, Dr. Sadiq's home country. They talked about how unlikely it was that they both ended up at Wheaton, an institution virtually unknown in their home spheres.

As an international student and person of color, Emily hasn't always felt supported. But the conversation with Dr. Sadiq validated her experiences. "It was one of the most life-giving conversations I've had at Wheaton," Emily said.

Emily sees her major in anthropology as a part of her outworking of Christian calling. "Anthro teaches you to learn about people on their own terms," she said. "How else can we learn to love our neighbor well if we don't try to understand them first?"

As a sophomore, Emily received one of five research fellowships from the American Anthropological Association (AAA). She studied how anthropology prepares students for careers and presented her findings at an annual AAA meeting and to Wheaton's Center for Vocation and Career. Her findings led to several changes within the CVC—such as adjusting their staff dress code and approach to career coaching—that enabled them to better serve anthropology majors.

Recently, Emily participated in the Human Needs and Global Research program where she applied her anthropology undergrad and TESOL

graduate studies at a church-based ministry in Singapore for migrant children excluded from public education. "They can't enroll in school because they don't speak English, and being migrants, they fall through the regular social safety nets for Singaporeans." With her host organization, Emily advocated for these children to achieve entry into local schools and gain a sense of stability.

"Emily is a highly motivated, extremely brilliant, collaborative, and respectful person," said Dr. Sadiq. "She brings an in-depth understanding of diversity and culture to the Wheaton community." ●

*Words*  
Liu Chen Huska '09

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes





## Dr. Alan Savage

*Professor of French*

---

For Dr. Alan Savage, Professor of French, French is more than a language. It's a passkey to a new perspective.

"Being fluent in another language allows you to participate in other cultures, making life more meaningful and exciting, and enlarging the way you see the world," he said. Savage wants to grant his students that same eye-opening experience. He also wants them to understand that learning French is about more than just communicating or conjugating verbs. It's about learning to be open to "the other."

"By learning to listen to those who are different from us, and to their stories, we become more compassionate and more Christ-like," he said.

In his French and Quebecois Film class, students talk about what it means to be open to "the other," and not to be afraid of what is different.

This extends to discussions on immigration and diversity, equity, and inclusion. "Reaching out to other cultures is a means of sharing God's love and participating in God's creation," Savage said. "In turn, we learn more about God and realize he's present in all cultures."

Savage hopes that learning French changes how his students see God's presence in the world. For Savage, it helps him understand how big God is and grow closer to him. It also connects him to a rich spiritual tradition.

"While writing my first book, I had the opportunity to read 16th-century meditations on the Psalms from the Huguenots," said Savage. "Getting to delve into those texts in the original French significantly strengthened my spiritual life. I hope my students will have similar experiences as we read texts together."

Currently, Savage is sorting through a compilation of hymnals, psalters, and prayer books from the 16th to 18th centuries, collected during a recent sabbatical in Paris. He'll use them as inspiration for writing a French devotional.

The French section is also working on refashioning the French programs to increase the number of courses counting toward the major or minor. "I hope this allows more students to realize French can be an important part of their personal or professional life, and not just something to check off as a requirement," said Savage. ●

*Words*  
Katherine Braden '16

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes





## Shawn Polizotto Mrakovich '77

*Marion E. Wade Center Special Projects Assistant*

“**I** ride a unicycle, too.” Much like you might watch with surprise and delight as someone sails by on a unicycle, Shawn Mrakovich '77 has glided gracefully into many unexpected things in her life.

In sixth grade, she decided she wanted to learn to ride a unicycle. So she did. She learned French from a woman in the neighborhood in junior high, and went on to study the language at Wheaton.

When she and her husband worked with middle schoolers at church, she found she wanted to pursue teaching. At Wheaton Christian Grammar School, that meant everything from French and social studies to volleyball and basketball.

After staying at home with her children and substitute teaching, she heard about an opening at Wheaton's Wade Center from a friend. She

applied, and got the job as the office coordinator in 2003.

As she stared at a blank wall in the two-year-old Wade Center shortly after she started, she asked, “Why doesn't somebody make a display there?” The rest of the staff said, “Would you like to try?”

Shawn approaches ideas with both practicality and artistry. She is responsible for the detailed proof-reading of the Wade Center's scholarly journal *VII* and the bold, engaging displays that catch the eyes of children, college students, and adults alike, enchanted with the Center's authors. Her responsibilities themselves draw on skills that are a bit paradoxical side-by-side, but as a self-professed Anglophile and a thinker, she fits right in with the space made for pondering, wondering, and adventuring.

Thus, Mrakovich stumbled upon her ability to design displays like a

Pevensie climbing through fur coats into the winter snow of Narnia. “I didn't know I had any of these abilities at all,” she says. Nonetheless, she loves the creative process and catching little details.

With this combination of skills, Shawn can also be found piecing together jigsaw puzzles or stained glass work. She and her husband love to visit England, and Shawn enjoys a variety of outdoor activities.

And, of course: Keep an eye out for Shawn on Wheaton's streets. She still pulls out her unicycle from time to time, looking for unexpected discoveries. ●

*Words*  
Kailin Richardson '21

*Photo*  
Tony Hughes





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# Features

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*Wheaton in the Holy Lands  
Celebrates 50 Years*

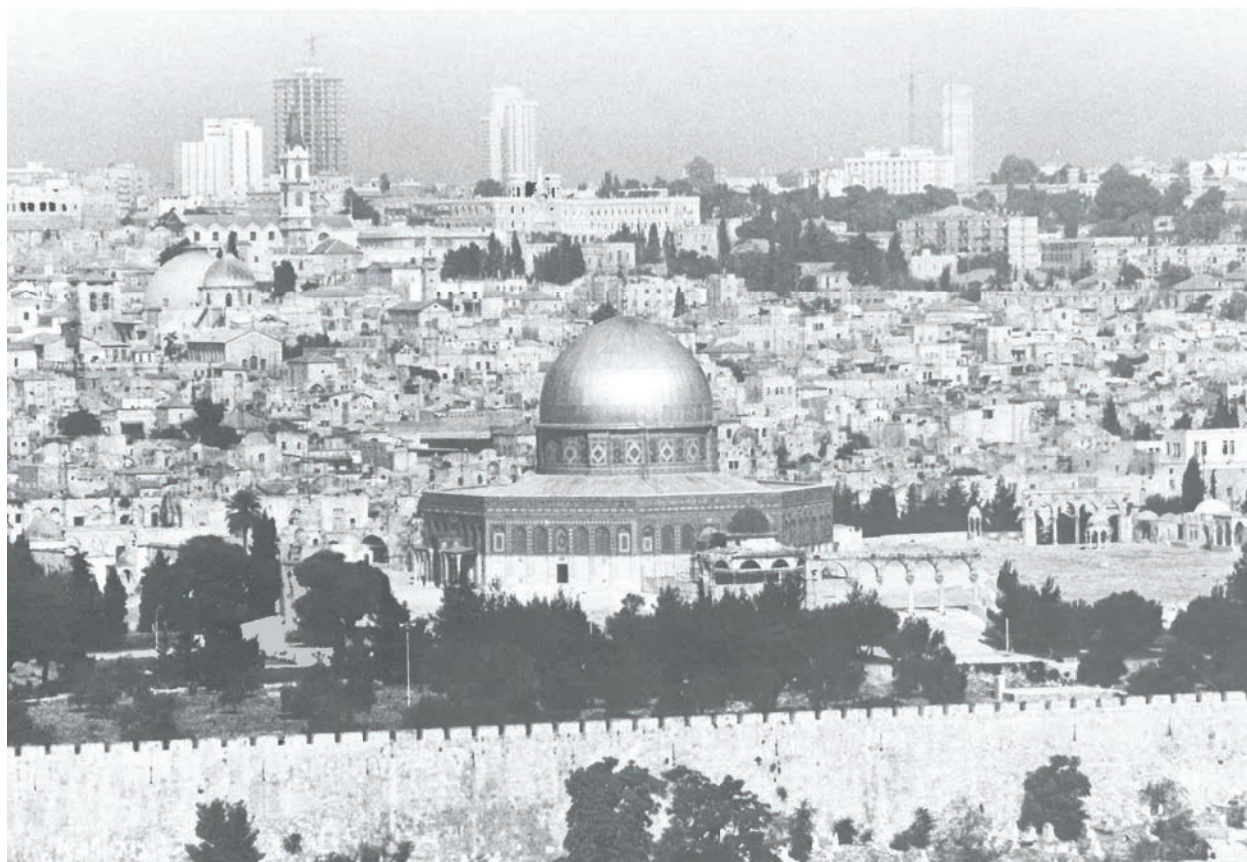
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*We're Still Here: Witness and  
Evangelism in Post-Christendom*





## Wheaton in the Holy Lands Celebrates 50 Years

*Generations of Wheaties recall decades of cross-cultural travel through biblical narrative*

Words Bethany Peterson '20  
Photos Tower Yearbooks

**A**mong the ruins of a small, ancient amphitheater in the Samaria region of Israel, Wheaton students gathered to worship.

Standing where the stage would once have been, the students sang the opening lines to “Revelation Song”:

*Worthy is the  
Lamb who was slain*

At their words, a Palestinian shepherd appeared over the ridge, leading a trail of sheep and goats across the field, as if part of the show. Moments later, as the song swelled to the chorus—*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty*—the shepherd’s son followed after his father, carrying a sheep too lame to walk.

“There wasn’t a dry eye in that group,” said Dr. Chris Vlachos Ph.D. ’06, the leader and director of the 2015 Wheaton in the Holy Lands (WIHL) trip. “If we would have gotten there two minutes later or two minutes earlier—if we would’ve worshipped somewhere other than there—we never would’ve seen that. That was an unbelievable moment, but it was just one of many.”

This year marks 50 years of Wheaton in the Holy Lands (WIHL), a six-week summer program for Wheaton students sponsored by the Biblical and Theological Studies Department.

In the current model, students begin their journey with an on-campus component before flying to Israel to study in Jerusalem, then on to Greece, and finally to Rome. The purpose is to walk through the biblical narrative, connecting the Old Testament focus on the land of Israel to the journeys of Paul to the spread of the gospel and the early church in the New Testament. In total, almost 3,000 years of biblical history is covered physically, academically, and spiritually throughout the trip.

Since the beginning of the program, WIHL has partnered with two organizations for the two main sections of the trip: Jerusalem University College (JUC) in Israel and the Hellenic Scripture Union (HSU) in Greece.

There are many things that students bring back from their trip through the Holy Lands: course credit, friendships, souvenirs, and, occasionally, a future spouse. But, according to participants throughout the 50 years of the program’s history, the most important takeaways are moments like the one Vlachos described—visual memories of a Palestinian shepherd carrying a lamb, an olive branch

Opposite: 1976, a magnificent view of the iconic Dome of the Rock and the surrounding city of Jerusalem.

growing out of a tree stump, the sunrise over Mount Sinai, or the view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives.

The current director of the WIHL program, Dr. George Kalantzis, likes to quote Dr. Paul Wright, the former president of Jerusalem University College (JUC), to describe the impact of the trip: “Many people say that they come to Israel so that the Bible may come alive for them. The Bible is always alive. It is we who come alive to the Bible.”

Fifty years later, this remains the main goal of WIHL.

### THE EARLY YEARS: 1970s & '80s

At 3 a.m. one summer morning in 1973, Joan Strutz Flitton '75 and a group of 38 Wheaton students plus faculty members left the monastery where they’d stayed the night before.

“I could hear the jackals howling in the distance,” she said. “I remember walking in the dark and holding hands with the person ahead of us and behind us as we climbed up this mountain.”

“This mountain” was Mount Sinai, on whose summit the faculty held a sunrise service that morning.

Flitton was on one of the first WIHL trips. The program was founded only two years before, in 1971, by former Professor of New Testament and Christian Ethics Dr. Alan Johnson.

In the first few decades of WIHL, students spent roughly three weeks on campus before traveling to Greece, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and Rome for about two months. At the time, Wheaton operated on a quarter system and strongly encouraged students to stay on campus or travel with an international program during the 12 weeks of summer vacation.

Flitton didn’t seem to mind the length of the trip.

“Jerusalem, the Old City, we knew forward and backward,” she said.

Jerusalem University College (JUC), previously known as the Institute of Holy Land Studies, has been a partner since WIHL’s founding. Students not only live on JUC’s campus (which is located on the wall of the Old City in Jerusalem), but also take classes from local professors.

Dr. C. Hassell Bullock HON, Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew Grammar for 36 years, led the program many times during the 1980s and '90s, and served as the director for nine nonconsecutive years. During this time, he standardized the program to eight weeks and cut the program to only one bus of 50 students—before 1982, there were two trip options every summer.

As an academic program, the opportunity to lead the trip with another faculty member, direct the program, and serve on the committee for WIHL rotates through faculty in the Biblical and Theological Studies Department.

“It was a great blessing to faculty, too ... Going to the Holy Lands is an expensive trip. And faculty could go and come back with that experience and have so many ways to look



at Scripture that they didn't have beforehand, and it really meant a lot to them as well as to the students," Bullock said.

The relationships built between students and professors is a core value of the program. One year, in 1980, students found out that it was Bullock and his wife, Rhonda's, 15th wedding anniversary. Rhonda came along, since family members are allowed to travel with faculty. They gathered donations and sent the Bullocks to a dude ranch for dinner by themselves to celebrate. But Bullock also recalls many mishaps, like when students got lost in Greece on a walk or stayed out all night exploring Jerusalem without telling anyone.

"Oh, there were moments like that," he laughed. "That's the nature of college students. I really enjoy college students. I just love their enthusiasm and their fresh perspective on things."

Joyce Etsuko Kitano '85, M.A. '87, who traveled with Bullock in 1983, said, "Our group became very close with each other and with the professors who led our group. We continued to have reunions for several years afterward, and I'm still very close to the Bullock family and some of the students who went on the trip even 38 years later."

The students also build strong relationships with the partner organizations. In addition to JUC in Israel, WIHL partners with the Hellenic Scripture Union (HSU) in Greece.

"They were so kind and hospitable," Gloria Ginn '85, M.A. '87, who also traveled in 1983, said of HSU. "They would always save up their water rations for a long time and then when we came, because there were 50 of us, they let us use their water rations for showering."

She remembers the relationships between WIHL and HSU being so strong that all 50 students were invited to a family wedding in Thessalonica.

#### A FULL ITINERARY: THE 1990s TO 2001

When John '96 and Karen Whitecotton Bonnell '97 arrived in Israel in 1996, the city of Jerusalem was preparing for an extravagant 3,000-year anniversary. For weeks, while studying at JUC and exploring the city in their free time, they watched while violinists were practicing and shop owners were setting out decorations.

Then, on one dramatic evening, their group sat on a rooftop and listened to the sound of the Israeli symphony orchestra reverberate around the Hinnom Valley while an hour-long fireworks display exploded above the Old City of Jerusalem beneath them, sparks from the crackling remains starting small fires in a nearby cemetery.

In a way, the WIHL trip is different every year. Geopolitical conflicts, trip leadership, and global events color everything from the exact course content to the trip itinerary.

Although it wasn't possible every year, participating students in the '90s were able to go to Turkey, Jordan, Egypt,

and even Syria during the duration of the program, more sites than any other era.

These sites not only illuminate the biblical narratives, but also introduce students to the modern Middle East. "We really valued being exposed to all the different people that were involved on the trip that leadership intentionally helped us interact with," John said. "The historical survey ... really helped me understand the ancient origins of the conflict and why genuine peace was and still is so difficult."

WIHL also historically offered an optional dig at the end of the program to help students become acquainted with archeological concepts.

Peter Weston '03, who traveled in 2001 on the last dig, was an archaeology major. "That was an incredible opportunity—an incredible experience just being able to dig down through dirt, sift different things, and potentially be the first human to touch an artifact that was deposited during the time of David or Solomon," he said.

Kjirsten Flitton Boeve '02, Joan Flitton's daughter, who also traveled in 2001, fondly remembers how the professors prompted them to interact with the sites. At the grave of Agamemnon in Greece, they reenacted a fake burial. Boeve was chosen to play the dead person in the skit.

"I mostly remember people trying to do crazy pictures—just having fun. Everybody was having such a good time but learning," she said.

#### A TURNING POINT: THE 2000s TO 2010s

After the summer trip in 2001, Professor of Archaeology Dr. Daniel Master was preparing for a similar itinerary, but after the terrorist attacks on September 11, everything had to change.

"The attack on the World Trade Center really changed how people thought about terrorism and how people thought about international travel. One of the issues that we faced right away was that insurance companies decided that they wouldn't insure travel to places with a State Department travel warning," Master explained.

Because Israel was one such place, the trips had to be canceled in 2002 and 2003.

However, these difficulties were also an opportunity to rethink the program's structure. Previously, the students went to Greece first, even though it didn't fit the biblical chronology, due to HSU's schedule and limitations on traveling to certain countries after getting an Israeli passport

Opposite: 1978, posing in front of some impressive ruins; 1979, President Hudson Armerding '41 gives a thumbs up for Wheaton in the Holy Lands; 1984, a religious leader holds up scrolls; 1981, students rest on ancient public toilets.







Opposite: 1985, a local framed in a doorway; students try out a camel ride; the cohort poses together for a group photo; a student poses with a local soldier.

stamp. When WIHL students were able to travel freely again, the chronology was restructured in the logical order with Israel first.

This reframing continued into the directorship of Kalantzis, who took charge in 2007. But Kalantzis' involvement with WIHL actually goes back 50 years. He was born and raised in the small evangelical community that hosts WIHL students in Greece. As a teenager, he helped welcome and host the WIHL program at HSU.

When asked about his first time attending the program as a Wheaton faculty member rather than a local host, Kalantzis said, "It was peculiar."

"We stayed in the same place, the same camp, at the Hellenic Scripture Union, where we had welcomed the Wheaton students from the first days of the program. We ate at the same tables, sat on the same chairs, looked at the same paintings on the walls, and more importantly, the same people were welcoming the group. Older now, but the same people. These were the people with whom I grew up. It was both a homecoming and a very weird experience being on the other side of the counter," he continued.

However, Kalantzis said it was also "immensely rewarding" because of one of the characteristics of WIHL and other such programs: It is not only what the students or faculty get from the program—it's also what the welcoming and hosting communities receive in return. In Greece, less than 1 percent of the population identifies as evangelical, so the arrival of 50 young evangelicals is a reminder that "you're not alone."

Kalantzis wants the trip to be more than just a fun traveling experience. He wants students to see themselves as part of the global church. One addition under his leadership was lengthening the on-campus program into a semester-long class to spread out the workload and dive deeper into the content.

"We think about the land, its history, its geography, its religions. We prepare ourselves so that when we enter the place—in this case, the first stop is Israel—we understand what we are seeing," Kalantzis said.

When Kalantzis went on sabbatical in 2015, Vlachos took over as director. The restructuring continued when Wheaton switched to the *Christ at the Core* curriculum in 2016. With the new *Christ at the Core* requirements, the

program was not able to offer Old Testament Literature, but still includes New Testament Literature, Christian Thought, and three optional 300-level Bible electives.

For Vlachos, the program is essential to give students "a global perspective, an appreciation and application of other Christian traditions outside of the Western world."

"It draws the students into a historical narrative where they no longer look at things that happened, they come back with the realization that they are part of the story that has happened and is happening," he said. In fall 2021, Vlachos led the first group of Wheaton students on a semester-long study abroad program at JUC.

Matthew Rueger '19, who traveled with Vlachos in 2017, agreed. One of his favorite memories of the trip was when a priest that Vlachos knew allowed the students into a private Armenian chapel underneath the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to have a Bible study. They decided to read through the passion narrative in Matthew and sing a few worship songs.

"That was super spiritually powerful. It was this awesome moment where we're under the Rock of Calvary and we're reading about the crucifixion ... it just felt very redemptive," Rueger said. They later realized that the entire church could hear them singing.

#### THE MISSED YEARS: 2020 & BEYOND

For the last two years, WIHL has been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Perhaps, like in 2002, this could be an opportunity for the program to adapt again to changing times and student needs.

One obstacle is a steadily increasing cost. Kalantzis, who became director again in 2019, hopes to build an endowment to help provide financial aid and scholarships in the future to make the program accessible to all students. He also hopes that parents and students continue to see the value of a program that is primarily academic, rather than professional.

He explained, "We want [students] to have engaged people different from themselves ethnically, culturally, linguistically, and religiously—and denominationally, of course—and to have gained a better understanding of the long tradition of the church and of the people of God. So, by the end of the program we will have traveled across 3,000 years of history with them. We want our students to understand better who they are in the long narrative of God."

As Master put it, "[WIHL] faces challenges going forward. But in the end we can say that for the last 50 years several generations of Wheaton students have had a chance to explore the world of the Bible and to be able to see the Bible in its context in a special way. That has been a great service to those who have graduated, who can look back at their Wheaton experience and say, 'This was really helpful to me for the rest of my life.'" ●



# A Story of Wheaton College in 50 Objects

*A selection of objects from  
Wheaton's past*

Words Eliana Chow '21

Research Donna Antoniuk and Buswell Library Archives & Special Collections

Photos Tony Hughes

## EDITOR'S NOTE

When we conceived of this article, I thought we would have trouble identifying 50 objects. I was wrong. As it turns out, there are countless physical remnants of a bygone Wheaton that are preserved in the College's archives, stored away in alumni attics, and living on in various places on campus. The College's archives alone hold over a thousand collections, some containing hundreds of items. Fifty objects was oppositely impossible—the work was more about sifting and winnowing than about digging and finding. The question was less “Where will we find these objects?” and more “What objects can we justly leave out?” No doubt, some will disagree with my selections.

I wanted to find *objects*—materials, physical things, realia. Three-dimensional things that could be perceived with the senses. Of course, that would include papers and photographs and such. Photography seemed too easy. I guessed that papers and documents were less likely to draw interest or pique nostalgia. So, I decided that I would reject anything without some weight or substance, including documents and photographs. This helped reduce our universe of possibilities to a single solar system.

Then came the question of significance. Which of the hundreds of objects bear some meaning or representation? What is iconic? The narrator in Brian Doyle's *Martin Marten* reminds me: “The fact is that there are more stories in the space of a single second, in a single square foot of dirt and air and water, than we could tell each other in a hundred years.” What is without story? Objects have subjects, and subjects verbs. All of the possible objects are pregnant with potential narratives—just imagine every Wheaton student, staff member, or professor who set foot on Blanchard lawn or rang the bell during our alma mater's 161 years. But I had to select the objects that signified something about Wheaton as a particular institution from our particular view in this particular moment in time.

And, while there were thousands of *things* from which to choose, we were also limited by the reality of existence—we could only select from what remains, is remembered, and can be found. What meaningful things have passed away, were forgotten to time, or simply lost?

I confess, too, that the objects are limited by my own narrow perspective—try as I might to take into account many other ways of viewing the objects. No doubt, you will remember something that rightly ought to have been included.

So, which storied objects were most significant and applicable to the College's overarching narrative? We have selected some that signify core values, some that point to notable moments, others that arouse nostalgia, some that represent people who helped shape Wheaton's legacy and reputation. A few are fun items likely deemed quirky to modern perceptions, and others are just the little, easily forgotten, everyday items. None of the objects tells the whole story, and each of them supplies only a moment in the narrative.

Staff of Buswell Library Archives & Special Collections have been integral in finding these objects. Rest assured that highly skilled and careful Wheaton staff are dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making accessible materials of the College and of notable adherents to the Christian faith. My momentary venture into the task of finding and determining value of things of the past has established, for me, that this is no small task.

What objects have you saved from your Wheaton days? Dig them out, dust them off, and send a picture and description to [editor@wheaton.edu](mailto:editor@wheaton.edu)



**1 Jonathan Blanchard's Personal Diaries (1834-1837)**

An active pastor, abolitionist, educator, and reformer, Blanchard founded Wheaton College in 1860.

**2 Jonathan Blanchard's Carpet Bag (ca. 1850s-1860s)**

As railroads proliferated in the United States in the 1840s-50s, people began traveling more than ever before. The need for cheap luggage was filled by carpet bags. By the 1860s, almost everyone from every social strata carried one of these bags, constructed from the unworn sections of old carpets and selling for \$1-\$2 apiece.

**3 Jonathan Blanchard's Writing Desk (mid-1800s)**

During Jonathan Blanchard's lifetime, before telephones came into common use and long before email and social media, handwritten letters were the primary means of communication between people separated geographically. Jonathan carried on extensive correspondence, both personal, to family members, and professional, in his roles as college president, abolitionist, and social reformer. He probably also used this desk in writing sermons, addresses, and books.

**4 Top Hats of Jonathan and Charles Blanchard (ca. 1860-1900)**

Top hats emerged in the late 1700s, replacing tricorne hats in popularity among urban middle and upper classes in the Western world. Originally made of felted beaver fur, by the early 1800s black silk became standard. Abraham Lincoln's preference for the "stovepipe" style made it the most common in that era in the United States. The use of top hats began to diminish in the 1900s and after World War II they were rarely used except in high society.

**5 Portraits of Jonathan Blanchard and his Wife, Mary Bent Blanchard (1872)**

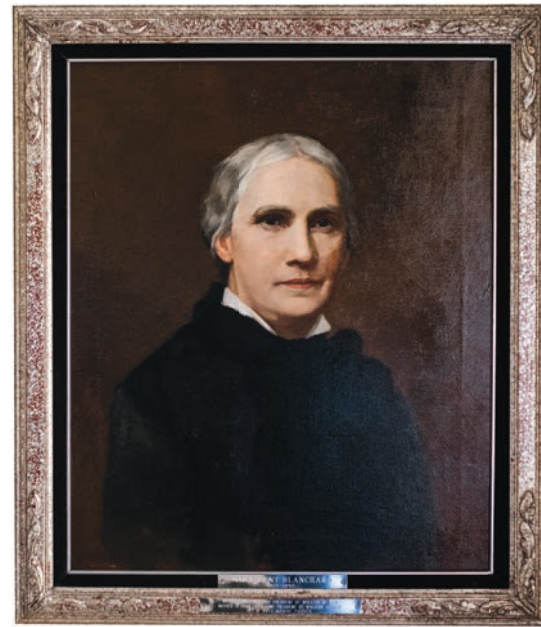
Jonathan Blanchard's portrait, painted by J. Phillips, was completed in December 1872. Information is not available about who painted Mary Bent Blanchard's portrait, which was donated to the College by the Fischer family. These portraits are currently housed in the Heritage Room of Edman Chapel (Jonathan) and the second floor of Blanchard Hall (Mary).

**6 Lock of Julia Waters Blanchard Fischer's Hair (ca. late-1800s)**

Julia, class of 1875, was the daughter of Jonathan and Mary Blanchard. She later married Herman Augustus Fischer Sr., class of 1870. Freshman dorm, Fischer Hall, was named after Julia's husband, and Herman A. Fischer Jr. '03, their son.



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**7 Burr Obelisk (mid-1800s)**

During the summer of 1841, James E. Burr and two college friends were seized and jailed by slave owners for attempting to help slaves escape from Missouri to the North. The three were sentenced to 12 years of incarcerated labor, but Burr was unexpectedly freed early in 1846. Before he died in 1859, he requested to be buried at Illinois Institute (the Wesleyan Methodist school that preceded Wheaton College in a smaller Blanchard Hall), a site known for its abolitionist commitments.

In 1929, the obelisk mysteriously disappeared which, considering the flat Illinois prairie of the time, was a feat of its own. In 2012, parts of the obelisk were unearthed during a dig to place new electrical lines on campus. The pieces were authenticated by David Malone M.A. '92, then an archivist and professor of library science at Wheaton, and the rest of the obelisk was recreated from limestone. The obelisk, including its original fragments, now stands in the lobby of Blanchard Hall.

**8 Blanchard Bell (1872)**

The tower bell was originally rung to mark class, chapel, and meal times. (Now, the steeple bells in Edman Chapel chime to mark every quarter hour.) Although there is no sure date, as early as the 1940s, students began going “up the tower” to ring the bell as a celebratory announcement of engagements and marriages. Couples’ signatures cover the stone walls of the tower’s interior, accompanied by mementos and keepsakes left by couples to commemorate their relationships.

**9 Wheaton College Record Vol. 1, No. 1 (1890)**

Documenting news, opinions, and feature stories of the College, this weekly newspaper has been fully student-run since 1900. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the print publication transitioned to a primarily online platform with special print editions.

**10 Pieces of the “Senior Bench” (1912)**

The class of 1912 is said to have brought a large concrete slab—known as “the Bench”—to campus for the sole use of the senior classes to come. In 1948, so the story goes, the junior class “stole” the top of the Bench, and so began one of Wheaton’s oldest rivalries between juniors and seniors vying for possession of the Bench. The tradition requires the Bench to make a public appearance three times during an academic year. Once, the class of ’59 hired a helicopter to fly the Bench over McCully Field during halftime at the Homecoming football game.

**11 James Oliver Buswell’s Bible (1938)**

James Oliver Buswell served as Wheaton’s third president from 1926 to 1940. During his term, the College received accreditation and launched its first graduate classes, among other advancements. Dr. Buswell’s wife, Helen, gave him this Bible, dated January 16, 1938.

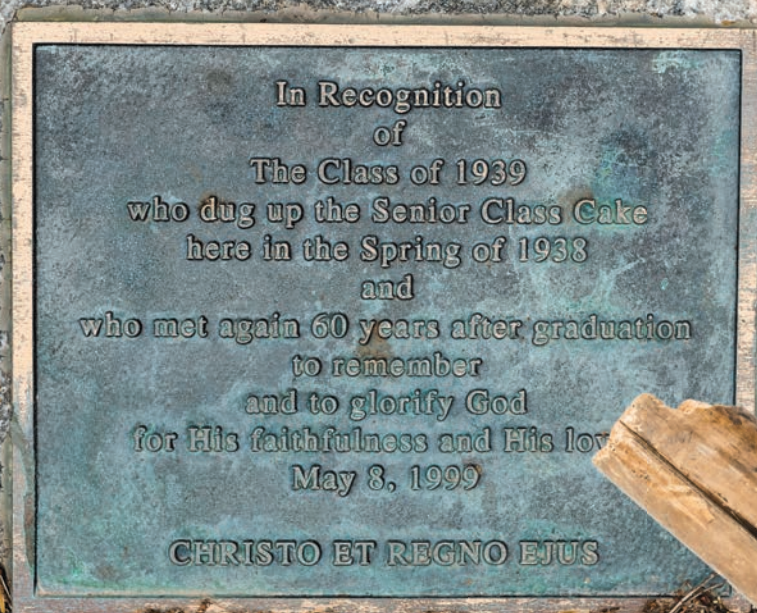
**12 Literary Society Pin (1880s)**

Literary Societies were the main form of student entertainment until after WWII. These Societies hosted large events on campus, consisting of public debates, speeches, and presentations. From the 1860s through the 1930s, nearly 95 percent of the Wheaton College student body belonged to one of the “Lits.”

**Green Corduroy Literary Society Dress (1940s)**

Literary Society competitions were accompanied by formal banquets, giving students a chance to dress up in their fanciest attire. This dress belonged to Irene Woodrow '43.





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**13 The First Issue of *Wheaton Alumni Magazine* (1920)**

To describe the intended role of the then-quarterly publication, Herman A. Fischer '03, the chairman of the Board of Trustees at the time, penned these poignant words:

To us the College will never appear just as it did, since we cannot again be just what we were. Yet the *Quarterly* can bring the College to us, though space separates as well as time. Not as we then thought it was, perhaps sometimes more as it really was, and with a softened light that heightens the appeal. The old tower stands in the amber glow of the new flood lights like a glimpse of an enchanted castle and yet the same tower of sweet memories. *The Quarterly* may give us the College again, not in the glow of expanding youth but in softer rays.

**14 V. Raymond Edman's WWI Uniform (1918)**

Edman served as the fourth president of Wheaton College from 1940-65. When he returned to Wheaton as a chapel speaker on September 22, 1967, Edman suffered a fatal heart attack while preaching to the student body a sermon title "In the Presence of the King."

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**15 Edman's Desk Telephone (ca. 1940)**

The class gift of the seniors of 1940 was an inter-office telephone system. President Edman's office telephone, shown here, was part of that purchase. In 1965, Ray Smith '54, then editor of *Telephone Engineer & Management* and president of the Wheaton College Alumni Association, dialed the first TouchTone phone call at Wheaton to none other than Billy Graham.



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**16 "Ape with Skull" (ca. 1940s-60s)**

This statuette, a replica of a sculpture by Hugo Rheinhold, sat on Edman's desk during his time as Wheaton's president, an amusing joke given the College's creationist views.



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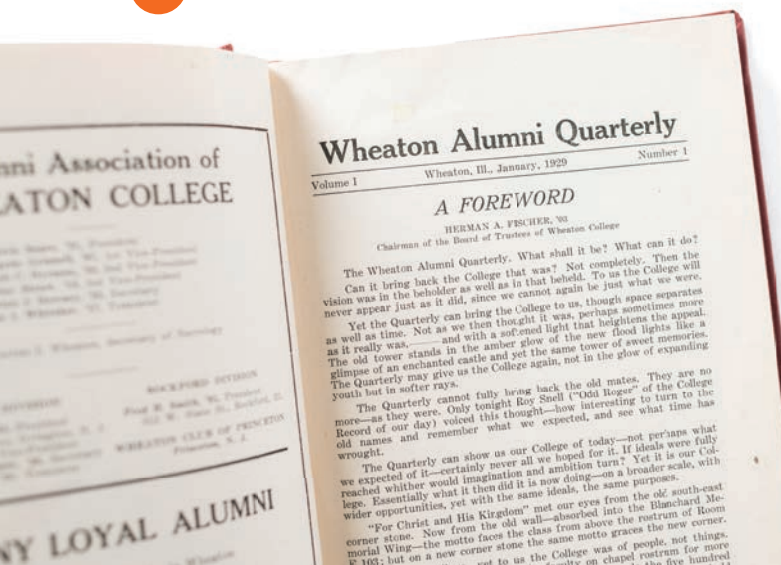
**17 Senior Cake Burial Boxes (1925-43)**

Per the Senior Cake tradition, which began in 1925, seniors would bury a fruit cake on the first day of the new academic year for the juniors to find before the last day of classes in May. The rivalry became so serious (with juniors digging massive holes all over campus) that the College administration had to impose limitations on where the cakes could be buried. One of many humorous discoveries: The class of 1938 unearthed the cake beneath six inches of concrete and three feet of clay.

**18 Brass Compact with the Wheaton Seal (1930s)**

Women commonly carried powder compacts to blot their faces and preserve makeup during class and for fancy events.

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**19 Silver Trumpet by J. Wesley Ingles '26 (1930)**  
This fiction novel is a love story set at “Wharton College,” with a fly leaf dedication to Charles A. Blanchard. The story drew many students to Wheaton during the 1930s and 1940s because of its romanticized message about finding a spouse while attending the College.

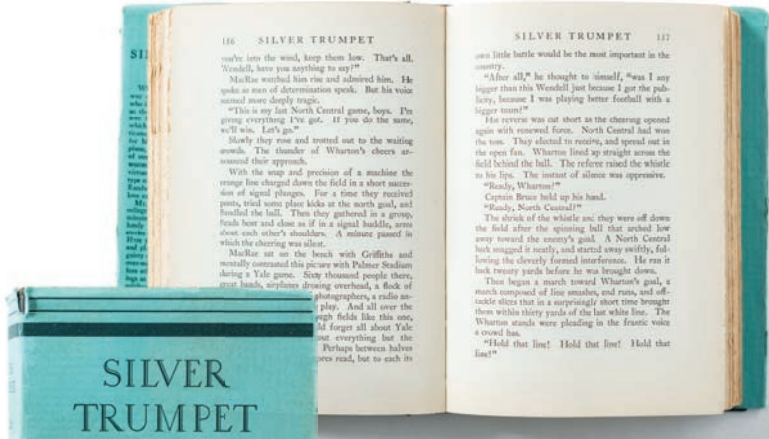
**20 Dinks (1920s-50s)**  
From the 1920s through the 1950s, seniors and juniors were known for setting up playful pranks on new freshmen. “Dinks”—small beanie caps—identified freshmen around campus, similar to the way present-day students can identify freshmen by their lanyards, orientation t-shirts, or their tray usage in the dining hall.

**21 WWII Pins, Buttons, and Patches (1940s)**  
Over 1,600 students and graduates served in World War II, 39 of whom gave their lives. The Memorial Student Center, located south of Blanchard Hall, was built and dedicated in 1951 to honor these individuals. These items belonged to Alice G. Howard '24.

**22 The First Issue of Kodon (1946)**  
*Kodon* is the College’s literary journal, publishing student artwork in a variety of written and visual genres. When the late American film director Wes Craven '63 was the editor-in-chief, the College administration suspended production of *Kodon* for a semester because of content that was—at the time—deemed inappropriate, including a story about interracial marriage.



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**23 Running Shoes (ca. 1952)**  
These shoes belonged to Stuart Kortebein '52, who wore them while running for coach Gil Dodds M.A. '48. During his tenure as the men’s cross country and track and field coach, Dodds led Wheaton to 9 Illinois cross country titles, 12 CCIW track titles, and 6 Midwest Indoor Relay Championships. He was inducted into the Wheaton Athletics Hall of Honor in 1993.

**24 Arthur Holmes’ Academic Regalia (1957)**  
Arthur Holmes '50, M.A. '52 began his 43-year tenure teaching philosophy at Wheaton in 1951 while completing a master’s degree at Wheaton, and then earning a Ph.D. in philosophy from Northwestern University (1957). He persuaded the College administration to make philosophy its own department in 1967. During his time at Wheaton the number of philosophy majors increased tenfold. One of the creators of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Holmes was named Senior Teacher of the Year in 1966 and 1983, and the *Chicago Tribune*’s Professor of the Year with highest honors in 1994.

**25 The Tower Yearbook (1922)**  
The first issue of *The Tower* debuted in 1922. Through the years the yearbook won many All-American awards. Due to decreasing student interest and a lack of available funding, the administration decided to end production of the College yearbook in 2016.

**Cassette Tape from The Tower Yearbook (1972)**  
*The Tower* student staff jokingly included a cassette tape of philosophy professor Dr. Stuart Hackett M.A. '47 and his band in concert with each copy of the 1972 yearbook.



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**26** "We Sing" (1940s)

This student-produced hymnal was a collection of original compositions from students and faculty in the Conservatory.

**27** Letterman Jacket (1940s-60s)

These jackets, also called varsity jackets, were worn by male athletes on campus. Athletes who "lettered," that is, were awarded a letter in a sport, would sew the letter on their jackets.

**28** West Suburban Nurse's Uniform (1940-1980s)

Wheaton and the West Suburban Hospital (now a part of Resurrection University) in Oak Park, Illinois, collaborated to offer two student nursing programs. Learning from Wheaton faculty and logging hours of experiential learning at the hospital, students could attain a diploma in nursing, optionally followed by an additional 60 hours to complete a degree in nursing education. Many program graduates went on to serve as domestic or foreign missionary nurses.

**29** Original "Stupe" Booth (ca. 1950s)

Beginning as a small office supplies store run by the Student Union in the 1880s, "The Stupe" later got its name from a combination of the words "Student Union" and "Physical Education," the then-sponsors. As the store expanded into a one-stop shop (bookstore, post office, laundry, and food and drink), it moved from Blanchard to Adams Hall, and then to the Memorial Student Center in 1951. Since 2004, "The Stupe" has been located in the lower level of the Beamer Center and acts as a student dining option run by Wheaton's food catering services. Students can purchase burgers, salads, and an assortment of other grab-and-go foods. The booths have become a sought-after spot for "study dates."

**30** Copper Printing Plate (1960)

Negative images were burned onto copper blocks for use in printing books, pamphlets, and other materials. This plate depicts the original Illinois Institute as it stood in Blanchard Hall, and was used to commemorate a special centennial edition of *The Tower* yearbook in 1960.

**31** Billy Graham's Traveling Pulpit (1950s-60s)

The famous evangelist and preacher attended Wheaton College from 1940-43. During that time, he studied anthropology, was personally mentored by President Edman, pastored a church in Wheaton, and met his wife, Ruth Bell '43. After graduation, Graham briefly preached in local churches and spoke at Christian conferences. In the late 1940s, he realized his call to be a full-time evangelistic speaker, and quickly garnered national attention after the media covered one of his sermons for the evangelistic campaign "Christ for Greater Los Angeles." He proceeded to travel around the country and the globe on "crusades," coordinating with church leaders in each location and attracting larger and larger crowds. In this way, Graham told hundreds of millions about Jesus, and his legacy continues through his written words and sermon recordings.



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**32 Waodani Spears (1950s)**

Jim Elliot '49, Ed McCully '49, and Nate Saint '50, along with Roger Youderian and Pete Fleming, were slain in 1956 after making contact with the Waodani in Ecuador. After Jim's death, his widow, Elisabeth Howard Elliot Leitch Gren '48, continued building relationships with the Waodani people. A woman named Dayuma was the first member of the community to become a Christian. She gifted these handcrafted spears to College President V. Raymond Edman, likely during her visit to Wheaton in 1958 when he baptized her at her request. Dayuma was instrumental in continuing to share the gospel with her people after American missionaries left the area until her death in 2014.

**33 HoneyRock Bridge (1954)**

The bridge—originally built during the summer of 1954 by Milt Seifert and his crew of engineers—is a popular location for send-offs, conversations, star-gazing, and marriage proposals at the College's outdoor wilderness site, HoneyRock Center for Leadership Development, founded by Harvey '34 and Dorothy McDonald Chrouser '34. The bridge is the portal to Cathedral Pines, a location known among HoneyRockers to be a truly sacred place apart.

**34 Edman Chapel Chair (1960)**

Since May 1960, Edman Chapel has hosted weekly chapel services, performing arts recitals, conferences, talks and lectures, and nearly 60 Commencement services. The auditorium seats around 2,500 people and was built when the student body outgrew Pierce Chapel, the previous location for chapel services and performances.

**35 Perry the Mastodon (1963)**

In 1963, during a dig to construct a man-made lake, an approximately 13,500-year-old mastodon skeleton was discovered on the Glen Ellyn property of Judge Joseph Sam Perry. Wheaton geology professor Dr. Douglas Block '43 was responsible for leading the excavation, and 55 percent of the total skeleton was uncovered. For the next 11 years, Dr. Donald C. Boardman '38 (then chair of the geology department) headed the restoration project to preserve the bones, and the Perry Mastodon Exhibit was officially dedicated in 1975. Legend has it that students informally coined the skeleton "Bonapart" for a time, a pun on the descriptor "bone apart." In 2010 the Perry Mastodon Exhibit moved from Armerding Hall to the newly constructed Meyer Science Center.

**36 "Wheaton College Monopoli" Board and Pieces (1972)**

In 1972, the student editors of *Kodon* and *The Tower* created a Wheaton spoof of the classic board game and printed off a copy for each Wheaton student. After the threat of a lawsuit from Parker Brothers, President Armerding ordered all "Wheaton College Monopoli" boards to be burned. Dr. Henry W. Nelson HON found this copy among his belongings in 1989 while he was serving as Vice President of Student Development.

**37 HoneyRock Vanguard Jacket (1970s)**

Wheaton's college transition experience at HoneyRock, Vanguard, was founded in 1969. Bud Williams M.A. '66 developed the first program at the encouragement of Harvey Chrouser '34. Women were first admitted in 1974, and the name changed to High Road in 1981. Now called Wheaton Passage, the program helps build spiritual character, faith, and resilience in its participants and serves as a rite of passage into college.





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**38 Bubba Church Sports Ministry Souvenirs (1970s-80s)**

Don “Bubba” Church ’57, who served on the faculty of Wheaton and as a coach from 1958 until 1997, was passionate about sharing the gospel and encouraging Christians around the world. He used track and field as a means of doing this, organizing sports ministry trips to Mexico, Africa, and Eastern Europe. These items, belonging to Ted Carlson ’81, came from his trips with Coach Church in 1978 and 1983 to Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Poland. Don’s vision and influence continue today through a summer study program for Eastern European pastors, the Faculty Missions Project, and the ministry trips that Wheaton sports teams take each year.

**39 The C. S. Lewis Family Wardrobe (1880s/1973)**

Dr. Clyde S. Kilby HON, an influential professor and director in the English department, began corresponding with C. S. Lewis in the 1950s. Thus began a personal interest in collecting various letters and papers from his favorite British authors, the collection which eventually became the Marion E. Wade Center. When Lewis died, the family gifted Dr. Kilby with several of Lewis’s personal items because of their friendship. The College purchased at an auction this piece, which had inspired Lewis to write *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The wardrobe was built in the 1880s by Lewis’s paternal grandfather, and came to Wheaton in 1973. Now the Wade Center also houses J. R. R. Tolkien’s writing desk and over 15,000 Lewis, Tolkien, Owen Barfield, G. K. Chesterton, George MacDonald, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Charles Williams manuscripts.

**40 BGC Statues (1980)**

The original statue displayed two figures, representing a counseling scenario, and were longtime fixtures in the Billy Graham Center Museum, dating to its opening in 1980. After a series of pranks and thefts—leaving one of the figures alone for posterity—the statue was removed from display around 2008.

**41 Beatrice Batson’s Shakespeare Folio (1600s/1990)**

Beatrice Batson M.A. ’47 taught in Wheaton’s English department for 33 years, serving as chair from 1973-87. She had a rich impact on the department’s growth, and is credited with bringing many famous authors to speak on campus, including Madeleine L’Engle and Frederick Buechner. Among English majors, however, she is best known for her love of Shakespeare’s work, and this collection established in honor of her retirement contains many unique items such as a leather-bound Fourth Folio of Henry IV, Part I and II (London, 1685) and two facsimiles of the First Folio (1623).

**42 Gospel Choir Gown (ca. 1990s)**

Organized in 1986, the Wheaton College Gospel Choir is committed to sharing worship of the Lord through Black gospel music. A culturally diverse group open to all interested students, the Gospel Choir has traveled from Chicago to South Korea and numerous places in between, evangelizing through music.

**43 Rodney Sisco’s Fish Tank (ca. 1990s)**

Rodney Sisco ’84 dedicated 34 years to serving Wheaton College through his commitment to unity within diversity across all facets of campus. After graduating in 1984, he worked in the Admissions Office before becoming the director of the Office of Multicultural Development in 1988, where he served until his passing on December 30, 2018. As director, Sisco led efforts to make Wheaton a more welcoming space for students of color, as well as to facilitate fruitful conversations between those who come from vastly different life experiences. To Rodney, the different types of aquatic life in the fish tank were a reminder that the Lord is the author of diversity. The Rodney Sisco Multicultural Resources Library, to be dedicated in his honor in spring 2022, is housed in a custom-built bookcase surrounding the fish tank.



**44 Gold Star Chapel (2004)**

First located in the Memorial Student Center, and now tucked away in a corner of Lower Beamer, the chapel is a quiet place set aside for student prayer, worship, and meditation, whether alone or in fellowship with others. The chapel is named after a WWII tradition in which families owned flags with blue stars for family members serving in the military, and gold stars for family members who had lost their lives in the War. Wheaton kept one such flag in honor of its students, alumni, and faculty who served in the military during WWII.

**45 Bas-Relief Dedicated to Todd Beamer '91 (2004)**

Beamer and two other alumni, Jeffrey Mladenik M.A. '95 and Jason Oswald '95, died in the terror attacks on September 11, 2001. Mladenik was on American Airlines Flight 11, which members of al-Qaeda hijacked and crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, where Oswald worked. Forty minutes into Beamer's trip on United Flight 93, other members of the al-Qaeda group hijacked that plane. Beamer and several others fought to take control of the cockpit, leading the plane to crash in southwestern Pennsylvania, thwarting the hijackers' plans to fly the plane into a target in Washington, D.C. Prior to the crash, Beamer recited the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23 with the Airfone supervisor to whom he had been relaying details as the hijacking unfolded. To commemorate his courage and faith, the newly built Todd M. Beamer Student Center was dedicated in 2004, replacing the Memorial Student Center as the main hub for student activities and dining.

**46 CPO Box (2004)**

Mailboxes were installed in Blanchard Hall in 1928. Previously, students had to wait outdoors to receive their mail directly from the postman. The College Post Office made several moves before its current location in the lower level of the Todd M. Beamer Student Center.



45

**47 Stertorous "Tor" Thunder, the College's Athletics Mascot (2011)**

In 1927, students began informally calling their sports teams the "Crusaders," but after 73 years, the name and mascot were removed due to being historical symbols unrepresentative of Wheaton's values. Wheaton athletics became officially known as the Wheaton "Thunder" in 2000, accompanied by the boisterous cheer, "roll Thunder." Stertorous, or Tor, introduced in 2011, is the largest mascot in the NCAA, weighing 90 pounds and requiring two people inside.



47

**48 The Luminous One (2017)**

This mosaic—which was commissioned by the President's Art Commission—was designed by Professor Jeremy Botts and constructed by students under the direction of Professor Leah Samuelson. The piece depicts the encounter between a Samaritan woman and Jesus at Jacob's well. The work is displayed at the entryway to Barrows Auditorium in Billy Graham Hall, and it embodies all disciplines studied in the Wheaton College Graduate School. Made with over 63,000 hand-cut tesserae (including pieces donated by the Department of Geology, faculty, staff, and alumni), the mosaic incorporates visual elements from ancient and classical western eras, early Christian art under the rule of Justinian, the Italian Renaissance, West Bank landscape, Midwest America landscape, Mennonite symbols, and recognizable places on Wheaton's campus.



44

**49 Krem Steinway Concert Grand Piano (2019)**

Originally in the home of George '63 and Ludene Hendricks Krem '66 since 2004, the couple generously gifted this grand piano to the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music in 2019. The instrument has since taken up residence in the Armerding Concert Hall. The Conservatory currently has over 100 pianos in its possession.



49

**50 Foldable Camp Chair (2020)**

When the College reopened its campus to students during the COVID-19 pandemic, they gifted orange chairs to every new student to encourage safe outdoor hangouts, dining, and studying.



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## We're Still Here: Witness and Evangelism in Post-Christendom

*Words*  
Ciera Horton McElroy '17

*Photos*  
Katherine Hysmith

The table is set. The candles are lit. Bread, hand-made and freshly baked, sits in golden slices on the table. Somewhere, there is music—piano hymns, familiar and holy. There is a quiet shuffle as people take their seats, as they hold hands and whisper the words of prayer, at once poetic and pleading and raw.

The believers eat. They talk and share stories. They participate in the rhythm of public prayer and Scripture reading. It is a portrait of the book of Acts: “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and

sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47, NIV).

This is a dinner party with liturgy. This is church.

In 2019, *Christianity Today* published an online article entitled, “Why Are Some Churches Trading Pews for Dinner Tables?” The answer? People were hungry for community, for churches where they could be together and minister “to the whole person in tangible ways.” It was an accessible and authentic form of evangelism—a way to welcome unchurched people to the table.



And then COVID-19 happened. Across the country, churches closed their doors. We exchanged church socials for social distancing. People went home. They slept in on Sundays and oriented themselves around a new way of life and worship. Pastors preached before cameras. Dinner churches took to Zoom. “Sunday best” became loungewear for streaming sermons on the couch.

Even before the pandemic, American Christianity was at a point of reckoning. Although there are more denominations than ever—4,700—Christianity has been steadily losing its historic position of power in the West. Misleading headlines and books warned the church was on a steep decline, threatening to die out. For example: In October 2019, Pew Research Center published an article titled, “In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace.” Similarly, as author Rod Dreher wrote in *The Benedict Option* (Sentinel, 2017), “There are people alive today who may live to see the effective death of Christianity within our civilization.”

Alarmist pundits claimed that secularization would quell the church and that millennials were leaving the faith in record numbers.

“These myths prove self-fulfilling prophecies, discouraging Christians about the future of their faith and making them hesitant to engage their communities with the gospel,” Dr. Ed Stetzer, Executive Director of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center (BGC), wrote. Stetzer has repeatedly pointed out the “survey fail” among Christians. In other words, Christians are inclined to panic without really understanding the data.

The misunderstanding has severe implications, however. If we believe that evangelism is futile, then why talk about Jesus at all? If we accept click-baiting statistics on the “disappearing church” as fact, then why tether ourselves to a sinking ship?

Dr. Rick Richardson is Director of the BGC Research Institute and the author of *You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith* (InterVarsity, 2019). The book draws from the BGC’s unparalleled study on 2,000 unchurched people, the majority of whom were open to spiritual conversations. Based on this, Richardson cited Luke 10:2 as a blueprint for the American church: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers” (NIV).

“As I talk to church leaders around the country,” Richardson wrote, “I often feel like I hear the opposite message: ‘The harvest is sparse, the workers are many, and the competition for the few interested unchurched people is intense. People in our culture just don’t care about the gospel anymore, and they don’t like the church.’”

But is this really true? As Richardson demonstrates, a nuanced reading of the data shows that there is every reason to be optimistic about the church in America. Faith is alive and well. However, especially in recent years, society has shifted and our influence has dwindled. Christianity is losing its foothold

in American culture. And maybe we shouldn’t try to get it back. Maybe we should focus on the things that make us Christians, not the things that made us popular.

POST-CHRISTIAN OR POST-CHRISTENDOM?

Many people mistakenly refer to our era as “post-Christianity,” though that term implies that Christ’s kingdom no longer exists. We are not post-Christian, but perhaps we are post-Christian-influence. In other words, “post-Christendom.”

“Christendom is that situation in society where Christian faith and congregations get preferential treatment, status, and privilege,” Richardson told *Wheaton Magazine*. “In return, the church legitimizes the government. Post-Christendom is the time when the church is more marginalized and also more distinctive in her identity and witness.”

In the years before Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, Christianity was antithetical to worldly gain. Conversion was dangerous. Christ-followers took literally the call to take up their cross and follow Jesus. The persecution of the early church meant that those who called themselves followers of The Way were truly committed and radical believers. They stood to lose everything—their work, their families, their lives—for the resurrected Messiah. And he was worth it.

After Constantine’s conversion in the fourth century, many converted to Christianity because there was now benefit to do so. Enter the “Nominal Christian.” Before the “Chreasters,” or, “Christmas-and-Easter-Onlys,” the church saw widespread growth and conversion as Christianity became the predominant religion in the West. Suddenly, members of the clergy were in positions of power. The pope was a political figure. Christian values became socially normative.

British historian Diarmaid MacCulloch referred to the dawn of Christendom as, quite literally, “the union between Christianity and secular power.”

This is not to paint historic Christendom as the “good old days” of the church. Any idealism of the past is misplaced nostalgia. Christian leaders throughout the centuries often abused their power, from financial manipulation to colonialistic agendas. In other words, this hegemony didn’t necessarily look like kingdom work.

But why the cultural shift away from Christianity’s place of power and prominence? The answer is as complex and nuanced as the church itself, but there are several key contributing factors.

First, and most evidently, the former Christian sovereignties are no more: the Holy Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and the British Empire, to name a few. In their places arose secular and pluralist leadership out of the Enlightenment.

The church itself also evolved on a similar trajectory of secularization. H. Richard Niebuhr, author of the pivotal work *Christ and Culture* (1951), charted the history of religious growth and decline.

“In his analysis,” said Dr. Richardson, “a key factor is that

when movements succeed they become more focused on worldly concerns and they become more like the culture that surrounds them. In that way, their causes become more akin to the cultural causes of the day, and they stop emphasizing evangelism, eternity, and the unique or distinctive characteristics and emphasis of vibrant religious faith. The bottom line: Churches decline because they succeed and become like the culture.”

The result of this assimilation is that the church is less distinct from the broader culture. And when the church is less distinct, it’s automatically less captivating. Thus, we arrive at the modern dilemma.

TO JOIN OR NOT TO JOIN

In the 1950s, it wasn’t uncommon for men to get off work and trade their briefcases for bowling shoes. They joined teams and bowling leagues. They had memberships. Today, the number of people who bowl has increased while the number of groups has decreased. This phenomenon is the central metaphor of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (Simon & Schuster, 2000) by Robert D. Putnam. And according to Dr. Timothy Larsen ’89, M.A. ’90, Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought, this metaphor illustrates a similar phenomenon for Christians: changes in church membership.

“We live in a deeply informal time period,” said Larsen. “It’s become much more countercultural to be a member of anything and to structure your time so that you’re committed to a weekly meeting.”

Especially before the ease of modern transportation, much of a family’s social life orbited around church. The weekly Sunday meeting in the old steepled building was where you found a spouse or learned about town news.

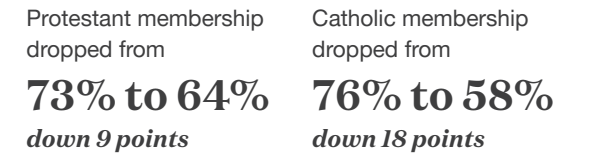
“It was an event,” said Larsen. “What happens over the course of the 20th century is that we find all kinds of ways to be entertained and fulfilled in our free time, which makes church look less appealing. It’s not that people stopped believing in doctrine or Christian thought and therefore stopped going to church. It’s the other way around. They still believe in God but church and the organization has been de-centered.”

This is where the misleading data comes in. According to the Pew Research Center, the number of adults describing themselves as Christians in the United States is down 12 percent in the past decade. This does not mean that 12 percent of born-again believers have walked away from the faith. Instead, this is the demographic of people who historically claimed to be “Christian”—perhaps because of social pressure—and do not anymore. As of 2019, 26 percent of the American population claimed to be atheist, agnostic, or “nothing in particular.” These are the “nones.”

“The word ‘nones’ probably does not mean what you think it means,” Richardson wrote in *You Found Me*. “They are not necessarily antireligious, anti-Christian, or even antichurch. Many are very spiritual, and more of them than you might expect are receptive to congregations and faith conversations. Nevertheless, it is a startling

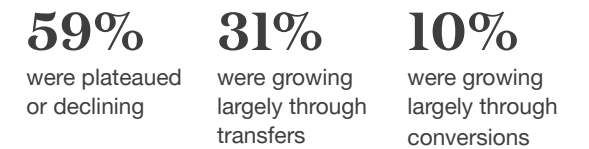
The Numbers

American membership in a “house of worship” dropped from 70% in 1999 to 47% in 2020



SOURCE: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/341963/church-membership-falls-below-majority-first-time.aspx>

Protestant churches in the US over the last three years...



SOURCE: You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith by Rick Richardson (IVP Books, 2019), page 7 [study conducted Aug. 29-Sept. 11, 2018]

Top three reasons unchurched stopped attending church



“Only 5% of unchurched individuals lost trust in God because of a negative experience in their lives for which they felt God was somehow responsible. In other words, despite having broken trust with the church, these individuals may still be very open to God and to faith. . . . Most of the 35 percent lost trust in a Christian or a church because of a bad experience. All of these people are not necessarily gone for good. Many of the previously unchurched people we talked to had left the church due to broken trust but then returned after trust had been rebuilt.”

SOURCE: You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith by Rick Richardson (IVP Books, 2019), page 7 [study conducted Aug. 29-Sept. 11, 2018]



statistic signifying a stunning trend in American society. Churches and congregations are losing their influence and social status for an increasing percentage of Americans, particularly where there are the most consequences for congregations of the future—that is, among emerging adults.”

Perhaps a better way of thinking about our current climate is that *church* has lost its appeal even more than faith itself.

#### THE CLARITY OF CONVICTION

What does all of this mean for the church post-Christendom and post-COVID?

Larsen stated it clearly: “The church is free to really be the church.”

In the absence of worldly gain and political capital, the church is again made distinctive by true gospel convictions. We give to Caesar what is Caesar’s. First John 2:15-17 is very clear: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (ESV).

As nominal Christians distance themselves from their religiosity, what’s left is a church of those who really want to be there and who really believe. Orthodoxy is, again, central to a Christian identity. This is a necessary refining as we untangle the faith from where it got caught in the weeds of politics and polarization.

As for evangelism and mission, Stetzer anticipates the future to be “more scattered, less gathered.” Our culture’s loss of respect and trust in religious institutions is not likely to change anytime soon. Still, the people of God have every opportunity to be a light in their work, neighborhoods, and local contexts. “There will be more gospel-sharing with people in relationships and fewer unchurched people showing up on Sunday morning,” he says.

This is necessarily distinct from the evangelistic crusades of the last century.

“The Billy Graham gospel was nice,” said Dr. David Fitch ’77, B. R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary. “Appealing. Calling people into a more personal faith out of their bland Protestantism in the 1950s. But that background doesn’t exist anymore.”

Gone are the days of mass altar calls in stadiums or revival tents. Evangelism post-Christendom may look less like handing out tracts and more like digital evangelism, putting the “social” back in social media to provide fellowship. It may look like providing for people’s physical needs—such as social justice outreach—as well as their spiritual ones. It may look like breaking bread together.

This is not without its challenges. With our dwindling influence in the public sphere has come a disrespect—a derision, even—for many aspects of the Christian tradition and ethic. The church is not blameless here, and we

must continue to repent for the ways that pride, racism, sexism, celebrity culture, and many other evils have hurt others and damaged our witness. “Unchurched people feel that Christians tend to be judgmental and therefore not the conversation partner around spiritual things that unchurched people would want,” observed Richardson. Our witness is most effective, therefore, when we find ways to engage in deep relationships and affirm someone in their search for truth.

“This is also a time when ethnic minority churches, churches ministering to populations that have suffered . . . have unparalleled opportunities for vibrancy and growth,” Richardson added. “Our best evangelists will come out of churches that have suffered poverty or oppression or pain. This post-Christendom time will be a time of great impact and influence and expansion for churches that know what it is to have suffered.”

It is from suffering—as Paul showed us time and time again throughout the Epistles—that the gospel message thrives. It is from weakness, not power. From washing feet and breaking bread. Ours is a faith of servanthood, not wealth and coercion or, even, a moral majority.

As James 1:27 tells us, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (NIV).

For Wheaton alumna Kendall Vanderslice ’13, author of *We Will Feast: Rethinking Dinner, Worship, and the Community of God* (Eerdmans, 2019), this is where dinner church succeeds. Based on the early church’s mode of outreach, dinner churches focus on providing an intimate community. After all, you’re more likely to talk to a stranger beside you at dinner than beside you in a pew. This focus on embodiment has made dinner church a popular evangelistic outreach.

“When you build your church around the table,” she said, “people who are physically hungry as well as spiritually hungry are drawn in.”

But dinner church is far from the only movement seeking to answer the question: “What is church?” The faith is flourishing in missional churches, house churches, church-planting networks, and microchurches, among others.

Especially after a year of online communication and social distancing, people ache for real community and authentic relationships with fellow believers. We need the Good News in this country. Now is the time for the church to really be the church.

“Everyone’s got to find a place to be among the hurting, the broken, the marginalized,” Fitch said. “Go and sit at the table. Eat what’s set before you. Be there. Listen.”

The harvest is plentiful, and the people are hungry. So, church, are you ready? Will you feed them? ●





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# Alumni News

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## Divine Interruptions

Jim Poole '82 reflects on Wheaties who play key roles in his life

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Although Jim Poole '82 enjoyed the intellectual stimulation and ample opportunities to explore the integration of faith and learning during his time at Wheaton College, he also reflects on how fellow Wheaton graduates continue to represent God's love and care to him today. "Wheaton forces me to rethink my faith every time I meet someone connected to the College," Jim said. "I see someone from Wheaton, I immediately think of my faith, and suddenly I'm more aware of things beyond myself, asking questions about how God is in play here."

Jim calls these "interruptions." These are moments in life when people intervene and remind him of God's goodness. He relates this idea to an experience he had as the Student Director of the Orientation Committee during his junior year at Wheaton. A fellow member of the committee was supposed to give the opening speech to a crowd of freshmen in Edman Chapel, but at the last minute, asked Jim to fill in out of a fear of public speaking. So, Jim did it on the fly. As this was supposed to be a "big inspirational speech," Jim would have to pull some of his own theatrical anecdotes to get the ball rolling. After some pithy remarks and quotes, President Armerding, sitting behind Jim in one of the throne-like chairs up on the chapel stage, audibly cleared his throat. That was Jim's cue—his "interruption." He needed to wrap things up and get back to his seat so other things could start happening. "That interruption episode perhaps foreshadowed future encounters with Wheatonites," Jim explained.

Some years after graduation, Jim was working as a freelance actor in Chicago, longing and praying to find creative ways to glorify God with his artistic craft. He crossed paths with Matt '82 and Arlene Johnson Heard '83, fellow Wheaton grads who actually did not know Jim all that well. They ended up persuading him to

get in on the ground floor of a church plant in Lincoln Park. (The church has since multiplied in other locations.) Their call to join in ministry "interrupted" Jim's life and he ended up serving as a creative director for the church for 18 years. "I enjoyed many golden years there integrating my faith and my art," Jim said. "It's this type of thing that tends to bolster one's belief in the possibility of answered prayer." Through the church, Jim also met David Fitch '77, who became a good friend and served as another healthy "disruption" in Jim's life.

Jim has also had opportunities to work with Wheaton College's Shakespeare in the Park. An old friend, Dave Reifsnnyder '82, called Jim out of the blue and invited him to perform in a few plays with other alumni and current Wheaton students. Before each performance, the actors would gather in a circle and pray, serving as joyous collaborators in an artistic production that both glorified God and brought the actors ever closer as brothers and sisters in the faith. Jim also spoke of past moments of genuine communion with fellow believers.

"There are many other examples of fellow classmates, like Ken Wicker '82, Jeff Meyer '82, Jeff '82 and Sonia Harris Semenchuk '83, among others, intersecting in and out of my life after college, interrupting it," Jim said. He went on to say that these people all represented aspects of God's kindness, care, and presence in ways that caused him to rethink his faith. "They don't even do anything in particular, just who they are makes God a bit more real to me."

Jim's life has been a testimony to the workings of the Holy Spirit through the corporate body of Christ. Jim needed the people of God, and the people of God needed him. Like an actor in a cosmic drama, he learned that we all have an important role to play in spreading Christ and His Kingdom. ●

Words  
Peter Biles '20

Photo  
Tony Hughes





## A Commitment to Authenticity

Bringing coffee, charcuterie, and clean air to Chicago

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Words  
Eliana Chow '21

Photo  
Tony Hughes

“Authenticity is not just about saying whatever you want whenever you want. It’s about being intentional with your realness,” said Melissa Villanueva ’12, CEO and founder of Brewpoint Coffee.

Her commitment to fostering honest and welcoming communities began with a wake-up call. Right out of college, Melissa landed a high-level job at a large corporation in the heart of Chicago.

“It checked off all the boxes of what I thought success meant post-college,” she said. “But I couldn’t shake the fact that I wasn’t happy.”

She stuck with the role for three years until she met her now-husband, Angelo. During their first official date, he encouraged her to leap beyond the normal expectations for a successful millennial and “dream about what I wanted to do with my life.” The very next day, Melissa quit her job—much to Angelo’s initial chagrin.

Melissa spent two months in the Philippines as a way of tapping into her Filipino heritage and growing in an understanding of how she wanted to contribute to the world. During that time, she became caught up in the potential to chase after her long-time dream of opening her own coffee shop. Upon returning to the States, she scoured the internet looking for an espresso machine, and providentially stumbled across a coffee shop in Elmhurst, Illinois, that was being sold on Craigslist. When she visited the space, she was certain this would be the site of her cafe. A few months and hundreds of work hours later, Brewpoint Coffee was open for business.

“An entrepreneur is someone who gets to build an ecosystem,” Melissa said, unpacking her motivations behind starting her own company. “The things that are most frustrating in this world right now often stem from the fact that many leaders have profit and power as their main measures of success. We’re not brought

up to think about how the decisions we make impact the Earth and those around us. But for us, this [business] is primarily about creating a world that’s fulfilling for everyone who is a part of it.”

Over the past seven years, Brewpoint has expanded to include a roastery, multiple cafes and partnerships, and Brewpoint Craft, a branded initiative built around “coffee, cocktails, charcuterie, and clean air.” Melissa and her husband also hope to work on an economic development initiative to use coffee shops as a means to build up communities of color.

They don’t want to stop at seeming “diverse” on paper, she explains. She wants to commit to living alongside and encouraging growth in socially marginalized communities from the inside out. “Diversity doesn’t have to look like an equation,” Melissa affirmed. “It’s ultimately about building relationships and intentionally living with people who have had a different experience of the world than you.”

“We have this platform that we want to steward to the best of our abilities in light of the values that we think are important,” she added. “At the end of the day, in terms of the *imago Dei*, people are made in the image of God and are immensely valuable, and we should treat them as such.” ●



## Wheaton College Alumni Association 2021-2022 Annual Report

Each year the Alumni Association's Board of Directors awards financial and nonfinancial grants and awards to faculty, students, and alumni. Funds for these grants flow from the annual Wheaton Fund, which makes a direct impact on the excellence and affordability of every student's Wheaton experience.

### Faculty Awards

#### ALUMNI FACULTY GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2021-22

Dr. Nadine Rorem  
Biology

Dr. Allison Ruark  
Applied Health Science

Dr. James Schroeder '09  
Physics & Engineering

Dr. Tammy Schultz  
Psychology, Counseling and Family  
Therapy

Science Division Block Grant for  
Faculty/Student Summer Research

#### JUNIOR ALUMNI FACULTY GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2021-22

Dr. Allison Dick '02  
Chemistry

Dr. Olga Dietlin  
Mission, Ministry & Leadership

Mr. Dan Haase '97, MA '02  
Mission, Ministry & Leadership

Dr. Emily McGowin  
Biblical and Theological Studies

#### FACULTY MISSIONS PROJECT 2021-22

Dr. Thomas Hueber '82  
*Uganda*  
Conservatory

Dr. Alan Seaman  
*Colombia*  
Applied Linguistics &  
International Education

### Student Awards

#### JUNIORS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEIR SENIOR YEAR

Brett Bauman '22  
International Relations and Spanish

Julia Chavez '22  
Economics Major, Biblical/  
Theological Studies Minor

Emma Folts '22  
Communication

Genevieve Nelson '22  
Physics

## Alumni Association Board of Directors



**ROW 1 (L-R):** Noah Chung '12, Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12, Eric Fowler '81, Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, Renae Schauer Smith '91, Mary Ashley Miller '69, Jerard Woods '12

**ROW 2 (L-R):** Becky Gray Jordan '88, Manette Galvan Turner '92 M.A. '98, Brian De La Cruz '21, Barbara Bates Alexander '77, Jim Wilkes '79, Leigh Naraine Pylman '08, Kari Shook Anderson '91, Chris Peterson '93, Lissy Verseput Jones '08

*Not pictured: Bryan Eklund '89, M.A. '14, JeŽ Shafer '96*

### NEW MEMBERS



#### Noah Chung '12 *Chicago, Illinois*

Noah is the pastor of Park Community Church in Hyde Park and works part-time as Director of Strategy and Impact at Resource Global. After Wheaton, he earned a Master of Divinity degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. As a student, Noah served as a leader in Koinonia, Global Urban Perspectives, and Solidarity Cabinet. He and his wife Sophia Yoo '12 have two small boys.



#### Brian De La Cruz '21 *Waukegan, Illinois*

Brian is our young alumni representative. He graduated from Wheaton with a degree in Business Economics and works as a Business Operations Coordinator for the American Medical Association in Chicago. While a student, Brian was an Innovation Scholar at the Center for Faith and Innovation, a member of the National School Project, and a marketing assistant for Graduate and Undergraduate Admissions.



#### Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12 *Chicago, Illinois*

After working in higher education and at a faith-based non-profit organization, Priscilla is currently serving as Young Life's Chicagoland Associate Regional Director. Priscilla holds a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from Bethel Seminary. While at Wheaton, Priscilla was involved in Diakonoi, the William Osborne Society, B.R.I.D.G.E., 1-2-1, and served as a student chaplain. She and her husband, Scott '12, have an infant son.

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

All alumni are invited to suggest qualified candidates for the Alumni Board of Directors by submitting an online form to the nominating committee. The committee will take into account class year, vocation, gender, ethnicity, and demonstrated commitment to Wheaton. Job description and nomination forms can be obtained and submitted online at [alumni.wheaton.edu](http://alumni.wheaton.edu).

PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON



## A Wheaton College Heritage: Sons and Daughters of Alumni

*Photos of second-, third-, fourth-, fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-generation Wheaties.*



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation – A

**Row 1 (L-R):** Aiden P. West (Hope Jacobsen West '94, mother); Thomas A. Ban (Adi M.A. '94 and Ema Gheorghita Ban '95, parents); Hannah G. Poole (Jennifer Schmidt Poole '96, mother); Emma L. Jackson (Wes Jackson '94, father); Kaleb A. Martiny (Andre Martiny '02, father); Christina N. Carper (Nick Carper '85, father); Evangeline C. Hoskins (Steve '99 and Sarah Goodwin Hoskins '99, parents); Krista J. Suzuki (Paul Suzuki '88, father; Christine Murakami Ng '87, grandmother). **Row 2 (L-R):** Josie K. Sisson (Rhonda Swanson Sisson '96, mother); Lydia G. Hill (Troy '89 and April Anibal Hill '90, parents); Lorien G. Walker (Jason '96 and Beth Hamilton Walker '97, parents); Grace E. Johnson (Kevin Johnson '84, father); Grace D. Johnson (Keith Johnson '79, father); Rebekah F. Belonga (Mark Belonga '96, father). **Row 3 (L-R):** Bonnie A. Rilea (Rod M.A. '90 and Kimberly Boyd-Rilea '90, parents); Ethan I. Walter (Doug '98, M.A. '02 and Carolyn Christensen Walter '99, parents); Charlotte H. Fawcett (John '84, M.A. '02 and Margie Clark Fawcett '91, M.A. '96, parents); Ellie K. Swigle (Bret Swigle '93, father); Margarette J. Clegg (Chris '93, M.A. '96 and Rachel Rodgers Clegg '93, parents); Axel K. Erickson (David Erickson Jr. '86, father); Seth John L. Beaird (Jeff '92 and Margaret Ryken Beaird '93, parents); Leland HON and Mary Graham Ryken M.A. '88, grandparents). **Row 4 (L-R):** Cole J. Flowers (Jamie Flowers M.A. '97, father); Christopher M. Whelan (Chris '97 and Sarah Rosborough Whelan '98, parents); Brennan Walter (Nate '97 and Faith Hsun Wen Walter '97, parents); Hanna V. Cagwin (Jeff '97 and Ingrid Hyle Cagwin '98, parents); Noah M. Chapman (Brian Chapman M.A. '05, father); Ty R. Vanker (Donny Vanker '01, father); Henry M. Gruett (Matt '97 and Ingrid Korsberg Gruett '95, parents); Jacob J. Wiggins (Kirt '89, M.A. '91 and Jennifer Stephens Wiggins '90, parents).



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation – B

**Row 1 (L-R):** Emma N. Wasson (Amy Franklin Wasson '95, mother); Joy M. Brown (Jeff '96 and Becky Hoyt Brown '95, parents); Kylie J. Orphan (Kari Swanson Orphan '92, mother); Claire J. McAlister (Jeff McAlister M.A. '93, father); Addy G. Hyatt (Steven '97 and Elissa Bannow Hyatt '97, parents); Trista M. Felker (Karen Chamberlain Felker '93, mother); Jada A. Kamau (Kwesi Kamau '94, father). **Row 2 (L-R):** Kathryn G. Yonan (Chris Yonan '94, father); Nicole G. Allen (Matt '98 and Sonya Steele Allen '98, parents); Beth Rea Tebbe M.A. '97, grandmother); Emma F. Howes (Rusty '91, M.A. '93 and Meredith Wilson Howes '92, parents); Elise H. Peterson (Jon Peterson '94, father); Libby M. Personius (Jill Miller Personius '87, mother); Ruth E. Harrison (Shawn Harrison '91, father); Elena K. Ritter (Kris '99, M.A. '02 and Amy Vinson Ritter '99, parents); Lora R. Rendall (Peter '95 and Lora Warton Rendall '95, parents). **Row 3 (L-R):** Jack D. Murphy (Todd Murphy '87, father); Charity C. Lurvey (Kimberly Baer Lurvey '85, mother); Micah G. T. Daling (Mike Daling M.A. '04, M.A. '06, father); Liza R. Wilson (Todd '98 and Katie Isch Wilson '98, parents); Abigail A. Beck (Jon '89 and Mary Kay Lapeyre Beck '88, parents). **Row 4 (L-R):** Jacob A. Knot (Brian Knot '94, father); Ethan R. Roth (Ken '96 and Emily Beplat Roth '96, parents); Aidan J. Kingsbury (Bob '89 and Michelle Menard Kingsbury '89, parents); Stephen J. Garrison (George Garrison '84, father); Sam R. Banta (Robert Banta '94, father); Teddy J. Webster (Ken '97, M.A. '98 and Jen Ridl Webster '97, parents); Isaiah W. Carlson (Esther Patterson Carlson '92, mother); Jacob V. Estep (Ruth Carman Estep '82, mother).

PHOTOS BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS





**3<sup>rd</sup> Generation**

**Row 1 (L-R):** Elisabeth C. Jacobs (Liz Franks Leutwiler '61, grandmother); Eliana G. Ziman (Bruce Barton '65, grandfather); Kailie M. Rockness (Dave Rockness '92, father; David '65 and Miriam Huffman Rockness '65, grandparents); Gracey K. Rockness (Jonathan '99 and Joanna Stutz Rockness '99, parents; David '65 and Miriam Huffman Rockness '65, grandparents); Phil '67 and Val Zandi Stutz '73, grandparents); Alexia T. Salzman (Greg '95, M.A. '99 and Marcia Tobey Salzman '94, parents; Ron '67 and Nancy Turner Salzman '68, grandparents); John Tobey '65, grandfather); Bethany R. McClatchey (Scott '81 and Anita Gathman McClatchey '82, parents; Stuart '58 and Ann White Gathman '57, grandparents); Mia E. Olsen (Eirik '87 and Jeanne Woodburn Olsen '87, parents; John Woodburn '56, grandfather); Esther N. Lam (Anita Stafford Lam '91, mother; Tim '60 and Marilyn Cornelius Stafford '63, grandparents); Ava G. Dreon (Nathan Dreon '95 and Jill Solem Andrews '96, parents). **Row 2 (L-R):** Bryan A. Sandahl (Nathan Sandahl '97, father; Phill '69 and Mary Jane Michener Sandahl '70, M.A. '79, grandparents); Hope M. Smoak (Thomas '86, M.A. '03 and Susanna Spradley Smoak '88, parents; Marilyn Carnett Spradley '65, grandmother); Anna R. Black (Jim '94, M.A. '99 and Laurie Brock Black '98, M.A. '99, parents; Carolyn McFarland Brock '66, grandmother); Abigail J. Wells (Brian '91 and Debby Sevall Wells '91, parents; Bill Wells '64, grandfather); Annabelle K. Schroeder (Dan '95 and Angie Goodfellow Schroeder '95, parents; Ray '65 and Carolyn Johnson Schroeder '65, grandparents); Bradley R. Lauber (David '89 and Dawn Holt Lauber '90, parents; Dick '59 and Marilyn Duff Lauber '59, grandparents; Don '57 and Lolita Larson Holt '60, grandparents); Benjamin D. Zimmerman (Doug '95, M.A. '01 and Sara Starks Zimmerman '96, M.A. '18, parents; Dave '57 and Kay Sprunger Starks '58, grandparents); James R. M. Scott (Jon '88 and Pam Yoder Scott '88, parents; Jack Scott '61, grandfather); Jack W. Booker (Suzie Storer Booker '89, mother). **Row 3 (L-R):** Noah G. Cassetto (Gregory Cheatham M.A. '76, grandfather); Tim D. Steiner (Lois Bartel Pringle '57, R.N. '55, grandmother); Andrew A. Lamb (Del Lamb '83, father; Evelyn Miller Lamb '54, grandmother); Samuel J. Dunbar (Tim '92 and Jennifer Horney Dunbar '92, parents; Patricia McElroy Dunbar '60, grandmother); Ethan A. Keyes (Eric '93 and Kristi Granitsas Keyes '95, parents; Gary '63 and Jan Nyberg Keyes '65, grandparents); Steven C. Preston (Molly McCartney Preston '83, mother; Gib '61 and Susan Carter McCartney '60, grandparents); Andrew T. Burkhart (Nate '96 and Becky Patnode Burkhart '98, parents; Dick '65 and Jeanne Churchill Burkhart '65, grandparents); David G. Sutton (Todd '87, M.A. '90 and Elizabeth Sletten Sutton '87, parents; Harold '51 and Miriam Jordan Sutton '51, grandparents); Wesley E. McAuley (Thad '95 and Joy Godby McAuley '95, parents; Dave '68 and Jody Evans Godby '68, grandparents).



**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Generations**

**Row 1 (L-R):** Lillian E. Koppin (Gordon '99 and Shoshana Corwin Koppin '00, parents; Gordon '73 and Martha Baumann Koppin '73, grandparents; Gilbert '43 and Lillian Ironside Koppin '43, great-grandparents; Henry Ironside HON, great-great grandfather); Gloria Grace Poland (Christian '88 and Jennifer Gioffre Poland M.A. '92, parents; Larry '61 and Donna Petersen Poland '62, grandparents; Donald '35 and Inez Hulting Petersen '37, great-grandparents); Arabela M. Escareño (Christine Yoder Escareño '94, mother); Grace E. Snavelly (Mark '95 and Kelly Pierucki Snavelly '95, parents; John Pierucki '69, grandfather; Susan Baker Wolfe '70, grandmother; David Baker '42, great-grandfather); Bianca E. Flores Stam (Clara Stam Flores '09, mother; Paul Stam '44 and Jane Levring Stam Miner '46, great-grandparents); Alison E. Taylor (Jeremy '98 and Nancy Ryken Taylor '98, parents; Leland HON and Mary Graham Ryken M.A. '88, grandparents; Kenneth '38 and Margaret West Taylor '39, great-grandparents); Emily A. Dixon (Matthew '95 and Anne Cragg Dixon '95, parents). **Row 2 (L-R):** Nancy R. Taylor (Heather Siml Taylor '92, mother; Kenneth '38 and Margaret West Taylor '39, great-grandparents); Kaile A. Pollard (Brian Pollard '89, father; Bill '60 and Judy Wyngarden Pollard '60, grandparents; Clarence '32 and Elizabeth O'Hair Wyngarden '34, great-grandparents); Natalie B. Conrad (Nate '97 and Kara Veerman Conrad '97, parents; David Veerman '65, grandfather; Marvin Veerman '40, great-grandfather); Marguerite L. Veerman (Erik Veerman '95, father; Paul '69, M.A. '77 and Darian Faull Veerman '71, grandparents; Marvin Veerman '40, great-grandfather); Kirsi E. Harding (Drew '00 and Janna Barram Harding '00, parents; Peter '72 and Gail Soderstrom Barram '72, grandparents); Abigail B. Snyder (Bradley Snyder '91, father; Chuck Snyder '67, grandfather; Janet Sanders Miner '69, grandmother; Brooks Sanders '47, great-grandfather); Allie E. Sawyer (Jon Sawyer '91, father; Joe '60 and Ann McClenny Sawyer '62, grandparents; John '21 and Kathleen Sears Sawyer '21, '25, great-grandparents; Dex McClenny '31, great-grandfather). **Row 3 (L-R):** Samuel J. Obitts (Krista Winter Obitts '95, mother; Stanley Obitts '55, '58, grandfather); Ethan T. Yoder (John '92 and Suzy Enstrom Yoder '93, parents; Ed Enstrom '62, grandfather); Niklas P. Anderson (Kristopher '89 and Heather Morrison Anderson '89, M.A. '92, parents; Edwin Anderson '62, grandfather; Bill '63 and Bev Hogberg Morrison '63, grandparents; Florence Glover Morrison '30, great-grandmother); Nick J. Shafer (Jeff '96 and Shelly Storer Shafer '96, parents); Jayden J. Rascher (Kory '94 and Kirstin Masteller Rascher '96, parents; Jim '65 and Sally Patterson Masteller '68, grandparents; Ken Masteller '34, great-grandfather; John '42 and Jo Darzes Patterson '42, great-grandparents); Sam D. Elsen (Paul '97 and Christine Barnes Elsen '97, parents; Paul '71 and Mary Beth Willson Elsen '71, grandparents; David '69 and Marcia Boehme Barnes '69, grandparents; John '42 and Virginia Culver Elsen '42, great-grandparents; Pete '50 and June Coray Willson '50, great-grandparents; Marion Barnes HON, great-grandfather; Matthias '11, M.A. '12 and Olive Straw Elsen '13, great-great grandparents; Carrie Finch Straw 1881, great-great-great grandmother).

PHOTOS BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS



# Homecoming 2021

*Classes of 1991, 1996, 2001, 2011, and 2016 were welcomed home to celebrate reunions*



1 Fans of all ages cheered on the Wheaton Thunder at the football game. 2 Stephanie Cherry Haugen '01, Stephen Kelly '01, Lindsey Marcus '01, and Trina King Kelly '11 at the 20<sup>th</sup> reunion dinner. 3 Classmates caught up while buying dinner from food trucks. 4 Alumni gathered underneath tents for their reunion celebration.



5 Stephen Han '11, Annie Han, and their kids decorated pumpkins at the Homecoming Fall Festival. 6 Alex Galloway '91, Lindy Kaye, and Mike Anderson '91 at the 30<sup>th</sup> reunion dinner. 7 Kevin Mann '16, Michael Sawyer '16, Anna Ploegman '16, and Robert Salazar at the 5<sup>th</sup> reunion ice cream social. 8 Guests enjoyed apple cider donuts and other fall treats at the Homecoming Fall Festival.

PHOTOS BY JOSH AND ALEXA ADAMS



# Homecoming 2021: Class Reunions

*Photos by Josh and Alexa Adams*



**Class of 1991**  
*30-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Lindy Kaye Anderson, Mike Anderson, Sherri Sonnenberg Brady, Kelly Brady, Jeff Otterby, Maple Otterby, Sparrow Otterby, Justin Smith '24, Matthew Smith, Emma Smith, Andrew Smith, Renae Smith, Julie Davis, Gayle Koehler, Aasha Blakely-McRoberts, Lottie McRoberts, Bryan McRoberts, Kirsten Grossenback Miller, Brian Miller **Row 2 (L-R):** Connor Murray, Jeff Murray, Drew McMillan '23, Scott McMillan, Merry McMillan, Tammy Henninger Schulz, Kathy Knapp Haley, Penny Stamp, Lara Stamp, Maria Deters Stamp, Kevin Huiskes, Anne Huiskes, Elizabeth Snezek Fedec **Row 3 (L-R):** Phil Polgreen, Andrew Polgreen, Vivian Polgreen, Lillian Polgreen, Linnea Samuelson Polgreen, Wendy Stranahan Gee, Abe Doncel, Heidi Doncel, Alex Galloway, Kara Lundstrom Aalfs, Pam Hill Brunette, Grace Hutter Kline, Sandy Oyler,

Lisa Brosious Beamer **Row 4 (L-R):** Hope Brown, Lydia Brown, Rose Brown, Sophie Brown, Sharon Ho Brown, Ransom Brown, Russel Brown, David Hall, Fran Haddock Titcomb, Cheri Stough Lynn, Susan Neary Andrews, Laura Andersen Miller, Scott Miller, Lisa Hutchcraft Whitmer, Rick Whitmer **Row 5 (L-R):** Meredith Wilson Howes '92, Emma Howes '25, Rusty Howes, Andrea Wilson, Mary Kellstrom Woodson, Brian Wells, Debby Wells, Laura Farnsworth Chelsen, Paul Chelsen, Brian Mast, Kristie Mouw Mast, Sean Mills, Kelly McMillan Schauer, Doug Schauer **Row 6 (L-R):** Jason Henry, Margaret Henry '92, Shannon Jacobson Panjwani, Dave Panjwani, Mark Nelson, Hillary Conley Nelson, Audrie Ana Galvan Gardner, Kari Anderson, Chris Fritz, Kris Penneu Engel



**Class of 1996**  
*25-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Ian Hernandez, Nathan Cumings, Kristen Cumings, Lydia Cumings, Ashley Hoisington Cumings '95, Vicki Blaser, Michelle Reinke Young, Natalie Young, Tom Chilton, Elliot Chilton, Noah Kolb, Grace Kolb, Amy Kolb, Jason Kolb, Luke Kolb, Daniel Kolb **Row 2 (L-R):** Alexis Beggs Olsen, Ted Olsen, Carolyn Wiggins Eckert, Jon Eckert, James Cumings, Geoff Ziegler, Jennifer McCullough Ziegler, Matt Johnson, Carie Whitfield Eriksen, Karin Stock Buursma, Bethany Buursma, Joel Buursma **Row 3 (L-R):** Sarah Hammershaimb, Lisa Ackland Carriere, Anita Johnson Walz, Corrie Sumner Johnson, Daniel Barker, Becky Nelson Hunter, Evan Hunter, Scott Barnett,

Bryan Henninger, Nancy Henninger, Tim Seneff, Jennifer Schmidt Poole **Row 4 (L-R):** Sam Walford, Ginger Gouch Walford '97, Megan Dulkynys, Melissa Wong Johnson, Janelle Souder Sweet, Jenny Busch, Diane Krusemark, Sue Knapp Funk '98, Todd Funk, Ryan Funk, Brittany Funk, Laura Martin Atkinson **Row 5 (L-R):** Josh Dortzback, Cherith Lidfors Lundin, Matt Lundin, Heidi Ostergaard Long, Jason Long, Karen Whitecotton Bonnell '97, John Bonnell, Ginny Murphy Noble, Jason Noble '95, Susan Batt, Jason Walker, Beth Hamilton Walker '97





**Class of 2001 – A**  
20-Year Reunion

**Row 1 (L-R):** Jennifer Domschke-Bowman, Nicholas Domschke, Lila Evans, Linsey Evans, Ethan Evans, Norah Evans, Josh Evans, Hawk Gates, Angelica Gonzalez Harper, Cristina Gonzalez Harper, Daniela Gonzalez Harper, Andrés Gonzalez Harper, Andrew Williamson **Row 2 (L-R):** Nathaniel Bowman, William Drew, Steven Hall, Dylan Hall, Micah Hall, Andrea Reuter Hall, Susan Sperry, Warren Skipper, Toby Eng, Ariel Eng, Kingston Eng, Cassie King Eng '04, Stella Eng **Row 3 (L-R):** Carsten Gammel, Catherine Dyson Paraskewich, Kristin Beard Bowman, Matthew Edmond, Lauren Tanana Frith, Amy Ruff Smitherman, Heather Davis Nelson, Katherine Jackson Donnithorne,

Andrea Koenigsberg Carter, Nathan Carter, Katy Carter **Row 4 (L-R):** Alexis Chapin Venter, Simeon Gammel, Kristy Storm Gammel, Oren Gammel, Bryan Gammel '00, Josh Adams, Chris Fallow, Micah Hayward, Melissa Ryan Hayward, Amelia Hayward, Brian Hayward, Jennifer Lindquist Elsen **Row 5 (L-R):** Amelia Barnard, Jaime Horstman Barnard, Mark Haugen, Sam Haugen, Ellie Haugen, Stephanie Cherry Haugen, Tad Williams, Makenzie Mosher, Carrie Peterson Mosher, Sawyer Mosher, Caidan Mosher, Nathan Mosher, Brynneleigh Mosher **Row 6 (L-R):** Lori Day, Kristin Sprague Hilger, Jaron Hilger, Benjamin Hilger, Owen Hilger, Jonathan Day



**Class of 2001 – B**  
20-Year Reunion

**Row 1 (L-R):** Zachariah Williamson, Livia Williamson, Janna Burkhart Williamson, Steve Williamson, Joel Handy, Joseph Handy, Julia Scally Handy '02, Samuel Handy, Kelly Taylor Lessel, Ben Ortlund, Chloe Ortlund, Jeremiah Ortlund, Stacey Steele Ortlund **Row 2 (L-R):** Sean Kelley, Alison Kelley, Lauren Morris, Byron Morris, Claire Olver, Isaac Olver, Nathan Ortlund, Zachary Ortlund, Dane Ortlund **Row 3 (L-R):** Mary Carter, Lucy Carter, Ryan Richert, Lenea Richert, Beth Julien Richert, Matthew Olver, Kristin Casey Olver, Lacy Noetzel Smith, Jed Smith, Gabe Smith, Emma Smith, Adrin Smith '02 **Row 4 (L-R):** Lindsey Narcus, Andrew Seymour, Henry Seymour, Lisanne

Barnes Seymour, Leslie Walmer Shogren, Andrew Shogren, Jon Shogren '99, Aaron Shogren, James Shogren, Caleb Shogren, Trina Kelly, Stephen Kelly **Row 5 (L-R):** Elizabeth Black Carter, Jared Alcantara, Megan Lantz, Cami Head Wallace, Blake Hawson, Klarissa Oh, Abby Hata **Row 6 (L-R):** James Day, Ryan Day, Leslie Hrivnak Day, Betsy Misselt Peterson, Shelley Oliver, Katie Evans Coons, Oliver Jeromin, Summer Terhune Jeromin '00, Leslie Troutman Verner, Jenna Walton Hood





**Class of 2011**  
*10-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Mark Sommerfeld, Jorie Voss Green Sommerfeld, Tad Sommerfeld, Finn Sommerfeld, Joy Magee O'Reagan, Caitlyn O'Reagan, Angela Bae, Mandy Adams DiMarcangelo, Mike DiMarcangelo, Jordan Christner, Erin Cuculi Christner, Adelyn Christner, Miles Christner, Crew Christner, John Frankman, Will Thompson **Row 2 (L-R):** Annie Zagorski Sidebotham, Amy Vautin, Katrina Gehman, Grace Liaw Bliss, Christa Hoover, Heidi Flitton, Karin Hudak Womack, Tyler Womack, Ryn Manby, Bryan

Bachman, Allison Berthel, Elena Berthel, Corin Berthel **Row 3 (L-R):** Stephen Han, Peter Wickwire, David Holck, Matt Ely, Erie Rubio, John Baer, Justin Berger, Erik Lune, Emily Rice Alexander, Joshua Williams, Joselyn Williams **Row 4 (L-R):** Sam Chastain, Bethany Carvey Chastain '10, Grant Diamond '10, Solomon Tong, Kaela Tong, Mathis Tong, Robert Myers, Mark Wilkerson, Julie Nussbaum Helm '12, Noah Helm



**Class of 2016**  
*5-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Ian Zanski, Josh Fort, Carl Feddeler, Sammy Mallow, Anneliese Petersen, Kevin Mann, Michael Sawyer, Kalei Hosaka, Caroline Wildman **Row 2 (L-R):** Wesley Peterson, Victoria Holmen Peterson '15, Katey Calhoun Balikian, Fallin Denne, Sara Kearney, Emily Willson Wenger,

Michelle Kelley, Anna Ploegman, Gwen Farber Hill **Row 3 (L-R):** Nate Hills, Kristi Johnson, Alyssa Williams, Madeline Mulkey Daniels, Alex Daniels, Kindrina Stough, Allison Dalton, Katie Brown, Amy Kim





## A Word with Alumni

*Dr. Kirk D. Farney M.A. '98*

*Vice President for Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement*

I hope that you enjoy this issue's feature, "A Story of Wheaton College in 50 Objects," as much as I did. The objects chosen provide a representative panorama of Wheaton's unique history since its founding in 1860. While compiling such lists are fun projects, they also tend to produce some mild disappointment as readers question why an object they felt was significant didn't make the list.

The items listed are all within our physical possession and, in many cases, are truly treasured due to their relationship to our foundational leaders. With that in mind, and in light of this season of Advent and the approach of Christmas, I find myself wishing that we could add one other foundational object, but alas, we don't have it in our possession. It's a manger from a stable in Bethlehem.

For an educational institution established with "Christo et Regno Ejus," "For Christ and His Kingdom," as its motto, it is not an exaggeration to say that the Bethlehem manger was indeed a foundational object of the College. As the makeshift bassinet of the King of Kings, it held Wheaton College's reason for eventually coming into

existence. And it held the reason that, by God's grace, we remain firmly committed to our mission.

That mission is not without challenges, and 2021 brought an abundance of them. As the year draws to a close, perhaps we would profit from contemplating the manger, the crude receptacle of the infant Lord of Hosts, even though it is not in Wheaton's possession. As we do that, my prayer is that we are renewed in our awe of God's willingness to embrace lowliness for our benefit. My prayer is that we are refreshed in our work "For Christ and His Kingdom," as we are reminded that we continue the Kingdom work established in seemingly less-than-ideal circumstances long ago. My prayer is that we trust in God's perfect plan, as Mary and Joseph did in the stable, without knowing all of its details.

The manger is certainly part of the story of Wheaton, even if it's not part of our special collections." May we each possess it, however, in the reliquaries of our hearts. ●

**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** Dr. Beverly Liefeld Hancock '84, Eric B. Fowler '81, Renae Schauer Smith '91 **Board of Directors Serving through 2022** Bryan Eklund '89, M.A. '14, Manette Galvan Turner '92, M.A. '98, Christopher Peterson '93 **Board of Directors Serving through 2023** Kari Shook '91, Dr. Elisabeth Verseput Jones '08, Rebecca Gray Jordan '88, Jeffrey Shafer '96, Brian De La Cruz '21 **Board of Directors Serving through 2024** Barbara Bates Alexander '77, Mary Ashley Miller '69, Leigh Naraine Pylman '08, James Wilkes '79, Jerard Woods '12 **Board of Directors Serving through 2025** Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12, Noah Chung '12



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THE LORD  
BLESS YOU  
AND KEEP YOU;  
THE LORD MAKE  
HIS FACE TO SHINE  
UPON YOU, AND  
BE GRACIOUS  
TO YOU;  
THE LORD  
LIFT UP HIS  
COUNTENANCE  
UPON YOU,  
AND GIVE YOU  
PEACE.