

# WHEATON

VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2025



Sharing Sacred Space

A Look Back at Intramural and Club Sports

Head & Heart Knowledge





1972 Undergraduate  
Commencement in Edman  
Chapel. *Photo courtesy of  
Wheaton College Archives  
& Special Collections*



WHEATON MAGAZINE  
VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1, WINTER 2025

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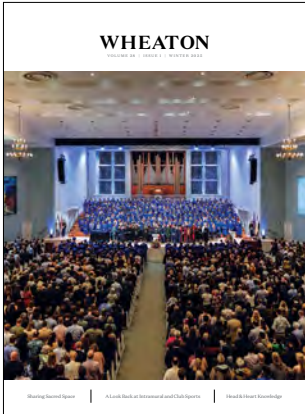
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*On the Cover*  
2024 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony in Edman Chapel. *Photo by Alina Kovalev '22*





PHOTO BY NEIL GATES; OPPOSITE PHOTO BY KAYLA SMITH



## Home Is Where the Hospitality Is

*Dr. Philip Graham Ryken '88*  
*President*

**I**t felt like we were back living in Fischer this summer, or maybe Smith-Traber.

With anywhere between four and eight Wheaton students and/or young alumni staying with us between May and August, the house got noisier after 9 p.m., when everyone gravitated toward the kitchen for snacks, meals, and companionship. Later, we could hear laughter from some of the bedrooms, as well as snatches of phone calls with girlfriends and friendly but spirited disagreements about church, sports, and politics.

For the past 14 years, at least one of our children has been a Wheaton student. Since we live next to campus, our Wheaties often stop by for food, laundry, encouragement, or transportation. Usually, they bring a friend or two.

Each school year, we host bonfires, Bible studies, birthday parties, game nights, house parties, pumpkin carving contests, faculty dinners, Christmas parties, Easter dinners, student club events, and more. This September, we began hosting a Sunday night dinner for international students. Once a month, students from all over the world (literally!) find their way to 318 East Lincoln Avenue for food and fellowship.

Welcoming countless students into our home has proven to be one of the best blessings of our Wheaton experience. Practicing hospitality makes our lives more fun and more interesting. We also learn a lot about the ups and downs of student life, which helps us in our leadership.

These simple acts of hospitality also bless our students. We know this from their comments and thank-you notes, in which they tell us how much they appreciate spending time in our home, saving money through rent-free accommodation, learning practical lessons by observing everyday family life, and so on. Christian hospitality is a mutual blessing both for those who offer and for those who receive.

Lisa Maxwell Ryken '88 and I experienced generous hospitality when we ourselves were Wheaton students. We remember well spending Sunday afternoons with alumni families from church, visiting faculty couples like the Howards and the Hawthornes, and having dinner with Trustee Bud Knoedler '51 and his wife Betty '50.

Now it is our turn. Our hope is that the hospitality our students receive—not only at our house but also in many other staff and faculty homes—will become their own life-long habit. ●



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# News & Profiles

## News & Profiles

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## Wheaton College Launches the A. Duane Litfin Divinity School

Words  
Juliana Bacote '24

Photo  
Kayla Smith

The A. Duane Litfin Divinity School merged two formerly separate branches in the Wheaton College Graduate School to provide the best training possible for today's Christian leaders. The Litfin Divinity School blends two strengths of the College: biblical and theological studies and ministry, leadership, and evangelism programs. With the creation of the Litfin Divinity School, students can continue to grow in biblical scholarship, ministry leadership, and cultural engagement, prepared for the challenges of being a Christian leader in a complex world. With an expanded flexible learning format, now available for all master's-level Bible and theology degrees, students around the globe will have greater access to the Divinity School's graduate programs. ●

### Dr. Theon Hill Appointed Inaugural Assistant Director of Multicultural Recruitment

Based in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Associate Professor of Communication Dr. Hill will partner closely with Director of Admissions Evan Bennett. Together, they will support and oversee recruitment strategies and relationships to enhance the multicultural student experience. Hill will serve as the intercultural adviser for undergraduate admissions and manage the BRIDGE pre-college program. He will also continue his teaching responsibilities as a faculty member.

### 50 Years of the WCBG Scholarship

In 2025, the Wheaton College Billy Graham Scholarship program will celebrate 50 years. It began in 1975 as a Billy Graham Center ministry when two businessmen who valued missions started endowed funds at the College. These funds have provided scholarships for over 1,000 recipients to pursue a graduate-level education at Wheaton. The program continues to enable Christian leaders to receive training and positively impact the ministries they are involved in worldwide.

### HLC Reaffirms Wheaton College Accreditation

In August, the Higher Learning Commission reaffirmed the College's institutional accreditation after the commission's comprehensive site visit in April 2024. The HLC reported that Wheaton met each criterion for accreditation, such as integrity and a clear mission that guides the institution. The HLC also praised numerous aspects of the College, including the relationships maintained within and outside the school's community.

### Core Book: Homer's *Odyssey*

Homer's *Odyssey* is this year's Core Book, a work chosen yearly that illustrates important themes from Wheaton's Christ at the Core curriculum. *The Odyssey* is a Greek epic poem that prompts readers to reflect on various themes, from marriage and ethics to suffering and politics. There are many resources available for the Wheaton community to engage with the text this year, including discussion panels, poetry-reading sessions, and the new *Core Book Podcast* hosted by Wheaton faculty.

Learn more at [wheaton.edu/corebook](https://wheaton.edu/corebook)

### Student Government Association

Student Government has a new name and structure to better serve the student body. The restructured Student Government Association now includes two separate entities. The Executive Board—consisting of the Student Body President, Vice President, and committee VPs—focuses on proposals for campus change. The Commons is a group of representative student leaders who meet monthly to discuss issues across campus and vote on proposals from the Executive Board. Class presidents now comprise a separate student organization, Inter-Class Council, while continuing to focus on class-specific needs.

### Fourth Lausanne Congress

More than 100 Wheaton College students, faculty, staff, and alumni attended the Fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization from September 22–28 in Seoul-Incheon, South Korea. The historic gathering drew more than 5,000 Christians from around the globe, both in person and remotely, to engage through large-group discussions, topical or

regional sessions, and speaker presentations. Wheaton College President Philip Ryken '88 presented a plenary address on "Christlike Servanthood," drawing from the Book of Acts.

### International Missionary Book Mailing

This Christmas, alumni missionary families serving in 64 countries outside the United States will receive the following gifts, thanks to publishers who donate books and the College's Board of Trustees, which provides funds for shipping costs.

- *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry* by Ruth Haley Barton '81 (IVP, 2018)
- *In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character* by Jen Wilkin (Crossway, 2018)
- *Overflow: How the Joy of the Trinity Inspires Our Mission* by Michael Reeves (Moody, 2021)
- *No Shortcut to Success: A Manifesto for Modern Missions* by Matt Rhodes (Crossway, 2022)
- *Pilipinto: The Jungle Adventures of a Missionary's Daughter* by Valerie Elliot Shepard '76 (P&R Publishing, 2023)
- *The Hand of God* by President Hudson Armerding '44 (Wheaton College, 2004)
- *From Wheaton to the Nations* by David Howard '49 (Wheaton College, 2001)
- *Wheaton Magazine*, Winter and Summer 2024 issues

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



# #MyWheaton: Orientation Week

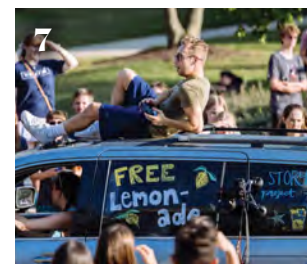
*Photos by Kayla Smith*



**1** Student leaders from the International Student Programs office. **2** Arena Theater student actors promote their Shakespeare in the Park production.



**3** The Rykens greet first-year students from a Wheaton College van. **4** Members of the Tolkien Society don robes and club T-shirts.



**5** The Wheaton College Thunder mascot, Tor, hangs out with the cheer squad. **6** Wheaton College lacrosse athlete. **7** Storytelling Project spreads the word of their creative group with a decorated van. **8** Wheaton College Gospel Choir members wearing one of their many different performance robes.







## Athletics and Discipleship: Katherine Ashley '25

*Words*  
Abby Dorman '17

*Photo*  
Kayla Smith

**T**he soccer career of Katherine Ashley '25 is a testament to her passion for the game and her commitment to service. Recruited as a goal-scoring center forward, she's earned the respect of her teammates and coaching staff by playing almost every position on the field depending on what would best help the team. Head Coach Patrick Gilliam describes Ashley's character with the saying, "How you do anything is how you do everything." In all the roles she fills, Ashley strives to do everything in a way that glorifies God.

In addition to being a student athlete, Ashley volunteers as a coach for six- through eight-year-olds, where she uses her platform to impart life lessons and soccer skills. "It's been nice to be able to subtly explain to the girls how to have good character on the field, like picking up your teammate if she falls," she said.

Ashley also takes steps to develop her own character as an athlete. This past summer, she played on a women's college summer league team affiliated with the Charlotte Eagles, an organization that offers a competitive soccer platform combined with Christian discipleship for athletes from all walks of life. "We learned what it means to live and play soccer as a Christian and how to act on the field—to reflect what you believe and what you're doing it all for," she said. To her, that often looks like giving all-out effort and putting others before herself.

As a health science major at Wheaton, Ashley hopes to put the gospel into action by pursuing a future career in a medical field. But first, she'll use her final soccer season to live out the gospel on the pitch. ●

**8**  
goals and  
eight assists in  
her Wheaton  
career

**18**  
shutouts she  
has helped lead  
for the Women's  
Soccer team

**2023**  
year Ashley  
was a Second  
Team All-  
Conference  
honoree



### Throwback: Jeremy Amos '01

Jeremy Amos '01 was a standout wide receiver and kick returner on the Wheaton College football team. In his four years on the field, Amos set records for career receptions and career receiving touchdowns and earned First Team All-American recognition as a senior. Amos also achieved the third-highest single-season receiving yardage total in program history at the time of his graduation. He contributed to Wheaton's success by setting the program's single-season record for kick return yardage, as well. There are two lessons that Amos describes learning from his time with Wheaton Football. The first lesson was "the value of hard work," which helped him develop "a work ethic and toughness" that has influenced his post-college life away from the field. The second lesson was to "put the team over self," which has helped him take better care of his current team, his family. Amos was inducted into the Wheaton Hall of Honor in 2016.





# 75 Years of the Wheaton College Artist Series

*Words*  
Juliana Bacote '24

*Photo*  
Kayla Smith

For 75 years, acclaimed artists from around the world have graced the Artist Series stage with their craft and excellence. Beginning with the Robert Shaw Chorale in 1950, these performances have drawn hundreds of thousands of concert-goers, featuring dance companies, string quartets, choirs, full symphony orchestras, and more. Over the decades, artists and directors have engaged directly with audiences through pre-show conversations and notes, building a unique community experience.

One of the most-appreciated aspects of the Artist Series is each performance's accessibility to local audiences, made possible by affordable ticket prices and discounted subscription offerings. Audiences also often voice appreciation for the program's support of Chicagoland artists, including Black Oak Ensemble, Ballet 5:8, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Yet the Artist Series has always emphasized bringing the world of the arts to Wheaton, inviting groups from regions outside Illinois both domestically and abroad. United States artists have included the Harlem Gospel Choir, Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, and the U.S. Army

Field Band. Global performers have included the National Dance Theatre of the Ukraine, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, and the National Chorus of Korea.

"Planning an Artist Series year after year that inspires and satisfies a wide variety of interests was no small task," said Dr. Tony Payne '79, who served as general manager of the program for 41 seasons and recently retired. "We worked very hard to broaden the palate of our patrons by presenting artists who, while grounded in 'classical' concert music, excelled as improvisers and expressed their own diverse interests in the limitless dialect of music."

While the high-quality programs are what make up the Artist Series, there is something deeper at the heart of it. Thanks to the contributions of generous partners and concert-goers, the Artist Series also benefits the community in many ways. As the only classical series in DuPage County, the performances are a form of outreach to local residents and those in surrounding areas. Seen as a gift by the locals, it provides "a taste of heaven on earth," as one longtime subscriber describes. ●

Left: Doorway to the Armerding Concert Hall.



Welcoming New Faculty




**Row 1 (L-R):** Eunice Hong, Ph.D., Director of Research and Assistant Professor of Ministry; Jessamin Birdsall, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology; Emily Hervey, Psy.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology; Derek Rosenberger, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology.

**Row 2 (L-R):** Stephen Wunrow, M.A. '17, Ph.D. '23, Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament; Bradley Cameron, M.A. '17, Visiting Instructor in Old Testament; Megan Happel, M.A. '20, Psy.D. '23, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology; Smyrna Khalaf, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Counseling.

Not Pictured: CPT Salvatore Ardizzzone, Assistant Professor of Military Science; Hyejin Cho, D.M.A., Guest Lecturer (Piano); Jonathan Cruz, Instructor in Military Science; Charles King, Guest Lecturer (Music Theory); Corbin Renken, M.Phil., Assistant Professor of Biological and Health Sciences; Noel Streacker '17, Percussion Ensemble Conductor; John Swedberg, Guest Lecturer, Men's Glee Club Conductor; Lydia Vermeesch '17, Guest Lecturer, Women's Chorale Conductor; Kelsey Walters, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

Photo by Kayla Smith

 Read more about our faculty at [wheaton.edu/news](https://wheaton.edu/news)

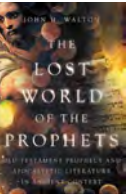
Faculty Publications



**The Beautiful Immunity**  
by Dr. Karen An-hwei Lee (Tupelo Press, 2024)



**Hebrews (Commentaries for Christian Formation)**  
by Dr. Amy Peeler (Eerdmans, 2024)



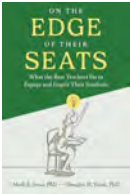
**Religion in a Changing Workplace**  
by Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund, Dr. Denise Daniels, and Dr. Christopher P. Scheitle (Oxford University Press, 2024)



**Know the Theologians**  
by Dr. Jennifer Powell McNutt and Dr. David McNutt (Zondervan Academic, 2024)



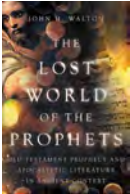
**Lord Jesus Christ (New Studies in Dogmatics)**  
by Dr. Daniel J. Treier (Zondervan Academic, 2024)



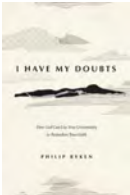
**On the Edge of Their Seats: What the Best Teachers Do to Engage and Inspire Their Students**  
by Dr. Mark Jonas and Dr. Douglas W. Yacek (Post & Lintel, 2024)



**The Theology of Fear in Thomas Aquinas's Summa Theologiae**  
by Dr. Nathan Luis Cartagena (Lexington Books, 2024)



**The Lost World of the Prophets: Old Testament Prophecy and Apocalyptic Literature in Ancient Context**  
by Dr. John H. Walton (InterVarsity Press, 2024)

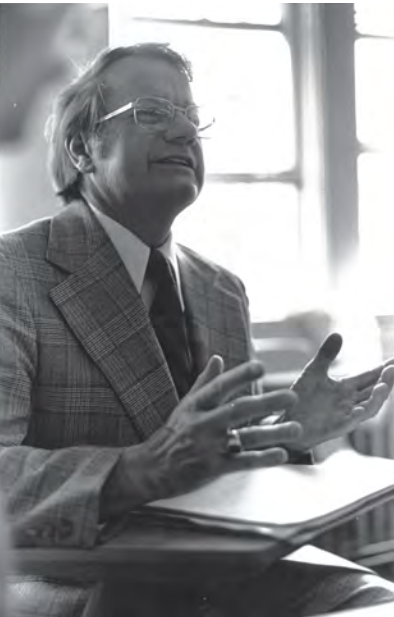


**I Have My Doubts: How God Can Use Your Uncertainty to Reawaken Your Faith**  
by Dr. Philip Ryken (Crossway, 2024)

Honoring Dr. Richard (Dick) Rung

Dr. Dick Rung, machinist's mate 2nd class, taught political science for 27 years at Wheaton College before retiring in 1990. In Normandy this year, on the 80th anniversary of D-Day, he received the French Legion Medal of Honor for his service the day of the attack at Omaha Beach, including honors from French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. President Joe Biden. Rung celebrated his 100th birthday in September 2024.

Left: Rung in uniform, source unknown.  
Right: 1976, photo by Peter Thulson, courtesy of Wheaton College Archives & Special Collections.





## Matthew Mederos '25

*Undergraduate Student*

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Matthew Mederos '25 never planned to go to college. As someone with ADHD and OCD, Mederos found school a consistent challenge and couldn't imagine four more years of intensive study.

Amid high school and COVID-19, he and his family moved from Miami to Atlanta. School became difficult not only academically but also socially. "I was lacking Christian community, so my prayer for two years was that the Lord would provide that," he said. During his senior year, his mom convinced him to submit a few college applications and, ultimately, to tour Wheaton. He visited on an overcast spring Saturday with pandemic restrictions still in place. Students interacted outside—six feet apart and masked. Despite those realities, he'd never seen such a vibrant community. "As soon as I got to campus,

I was immediately convinced that this was where the Lord wanted me," he said.

Since enrolling, Mederos has continued to find academics difficult, but he has not faced the challenge alone. "I've found so many people who struggle like I do," he said. Fellow classmates have offered him their notes and their time as study partners. Professors have given him slides to review before class and grace to finish assignments at a pace that works best for him. As an interpersonal communication major, he appreciates how his classes help him to understand and love others.

Beyond connections in the classroom, Mederos has found community through Men's Glee Club, his on-campus job with Academic and Institutional Technology, and his brother-sister floor from his years in Smith-Traber Hall. This year, his

friend group managed to get units on the same floor of the campus-owned Saint and Elliot Apartments, maintaining the close connection they established during their freshman year.

As Mederos enters his final year, he's looking back on how he's grown. He credits this growth to his friendships, specifically how his friends have prayed for him and spoken biblical truths to him in challenging times. "The church is alive and brimming full of life here at Wheaton," he said. The community that first drew him to Wheaton College has carried him through. ●

*Words*  
Grace Milligan Admiraal '20

*Photo*  
Kayla Smith





## Tanya Levchuk M.A. '25

*Graduate Student*

While war wages in their country, Christian parents in Ukraine are still sending their kids to camp. Intrigued by this phenomenon, Tanya Levchuk M.A. '25, turned to graduate studies in outdoor and adventure leadership. "Understanding how—even if—Christian camping can help our youth deal with the trauma of a war-torn country is very relevant right now," she said.

The ministry of Christian camping is a lifelong passion for Levchuk. She has dedicated her life's work to Christian camping and how it influences generations of young believers. When in Ukraine, Levchuk worked full-time for the Ukrainian office of Christian Camping International. While completing her master's degree and working at HoneyRock, the Center for Leadership Development of Wheaton College, she continues to work part-time for CCI. As part of her role, Levchuk develops

and teaches courses for counselors and program leaders.

Christian camping gained popularity in Ukraine in the early- to mid-1990s. According to Levchuk, Christian leaders in Ukraine don't have much original research to draw from in building their programs, most of which are influenced by Western examples. Researching Western Christian camping—and the role it plays in Christian culture—remains an informal process hindered by distance.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Levchuk fled. Through the faithfulness of the Lord, Levchuk found herself on staff that summer at HoneyRock. It became a second home for her, a place where she could connect to camping despite the heartbreak unfolding at home. "I love the mentoring side of our programs at HoneyRock and how we walk alongside young people," she said of her current role working with

Vanguard students. "We're not providing answers for them, but teaching them how to wrestle with questions."

Levchuk envisions expanding the Christian camping experience to honor and embody her home country. Ultimately, she feels called to serve in and apply her research among communities in Ukraine, but until she can return, she is committed to faithfully serving those in her current context at HoneyRock. "This time has been such a blessing for me in so many ways," said Levchuk. "I love my classes. They are so applicable. I love the community of HoneyRock. It has been a very healing experience for me." ●

*Words*  
Ashley Rydberg Bright '10

*Photo*  
Isabella Streyle





## Dr. David Van Dyke '91

*Director of the M.A. Program in Marriage and Family Therapy,  
Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy*

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Dr. David Van Dyke '91 initially enrolled at Wheaton College with a pre-medicine major. However, during a Student Missionary Partners trip to the United Arab Emirates one summer, he realized he didn't enjoy the more bodily aspects of healthcare. After helping local doctors with everything from blood draws to birthing, he returned to campus and promptly switched to a psychology major.

Fresh out of college, he worked at Central DuPage Hospital in the crisis stabilization ward. There, he learned several clinical approaches and techniques for care, including marriage and family therapy. The therapeutic framework seized his interest, and he has remained passionate about MFT's focus on families and communities, not just the individual.

"When I was introduced to MFT, I was drawn to the idea that pathology is not just internal to an individual

but also relational," Van Dyke said. "When parents bring a child in to see a psychologist, it's not just the child's problem. It's the whole family's."

Van Dyke went on to earn his M.S. from Fuller Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. In 2012, he returned to Wheaton to build the College's master's in MFT from the ground up. In collaboration with colleagues, he designed the curriculum, hired faculty, and later launched the Wheaton College Marriage and Family Therapy Clinic, which serves the Wheaton area and broader Chicagoland.

His approach to teaching has always been community-focused and integrated with faith, especially the relationship between believers and Christ. These core values also exist at the center of the relational work done in the MFT program. The outward-facing MFT clinic provides a developmental training model for students of the

program, who spend their first eight weeks observing faculty-client sessions before working with clients of their own under faculty supervision. In their second year, they complete clinical hours with local partner organizations and practices. This emphasis on student-faculty relationships embodies the very therapeutic approaches they seek to apply in their work.

Van Dyke also maintains these values in his own work as a therapist.

"When I work with MFT clients, I tell them, 'I think you should be part of this. I want you to be included,'" he said. "Therapy sessions become about working together rather than doing something to someone." ●

*Words*  
Bella McDonald '24

*Photo*  
Kayla Smith





# Joelle Merrifield

*Accessibility Specialist*

Joelle Merrifield's passion for equipping students stretches across distance and ability. Born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, she came to the United States to pursue a graduate degree in counseling. After completing her studies and meeting her husband, Merrifield returned home to Beirut to start her career and a family.

"I did a little counseling here and there, but in Lebanon, counselors weren't a thing," she said. "There wasn't really a place for me." So Merrifield pivoted to put her efforts toward those like her: parents raising kids with disabilities. She spent some time visiting schools throughout Beirut to research the types of support services they offered for students with learning disabilities.

Eventually, Merrifield was invited to apply to the American University of Beirut as director of the Accessible Education Office. "I felt like it used

all my gifts in one place," she said. That's where Merrifield's epiphany hit. "This is it," she realized. "This is what I want to do."

Merrifield began looking for other jobs in accessibility services, and her search brought her overseas again, this time to the Learning and Accessibility Services Office at Wheaton College, working with students who live with everything from ADHD to chronic medical conditions. "Disability services are about access," she said. "It's thinking through the lens of 'How can we include as many people as possible here?'"

Adopting this perspective inspired her to create a wide range of solutions, from connecting students to resources on campus to a monthly series on "College 101" skills. Beyond helping students when they're struggling, she says accessibility is also about empowering them. To that end, one of her proudest accomplishments

is helping to establish, alongside her colleagues at LAS, a peer support group for neurodiverse students on Wheaton's campus. "It can be really powerful for students to feel like they're around people who get their experience," she said.

Sitting beside a wall covered in posters featuring resources, workshops, photos of Wheaton students, and a painting of Christ, Merrifield said, "There's not a prototype or stereotype of a Wheaton student. We want to welcome all students, including those that experience disability. The body of Christ is not complete without them." ●

*Words*  
Noah Throw M.A. '23

*Photo*  
Kayla Smith





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# Features





## Sharing Sacred Space

*A legacy of hospitality at Wheaton extends from the present back to the College's earliest years.*

Words Jen Pollock Michel '96  
Photos Kayla Smith

When alumni from the '50s and '60s come through the front door of Westgate, the home of the alumni engagement team, they point toward the dining room: "I remember having dinner with Prexy and his wife right here!" Chief Alumni Officer Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 says these former students are relieved that little seems changed from their memories of the two-story home on Washington Street, in which they were hosted by President V. Raymond Edman and his wife, Edith.

Before President Hudson T. Armerding turned over the keys to the Alumni Association in 1980, Westgate served as residence to three College presidents. The house, a College purchase in 1936, was presented as a surprise to Edman's predecessor, Rev. James Oliver Buswell, on

the tenth anniversary of his tenure. As reported in *The Wheaton Alumni News*, a precursor to *Wheaton* magazine, the gift of this "splendid President's residence" was of "fine proportions, of brick with green tile roof and is in every way adequate to serve the College as the home of its President."

Reading through this scanned file, I was struck by the adjectives *splendid* and *adequate*. Did Westgate's 1936 "adequacy" suggest a propriety of size and décor—a not-too-small, not-too-showy Goldilocks interior for the home of a Christian college president? (By the "mingled emotions" on Buswell's face when the gift was publicly revealed, it might have been more "splendid" in his estimation.) The words *adequate* and *splendid* also pose the question: What spaces best accommodate the kind of hospitality for which Westgate was surely intended?

Dr. Mortimer Lane, a Wheaton political science and economics professor in Edman's era, and his wife, Mary, were well known for their hospitality to Wheaton students, including the late Rev. Billy Graham '43. Like many other undergraduates who strolled past the Lane house on the way home from church on Sunday evenings, Graham was often invited inside and shown to the dining room, where a large table was laden with cold meats and refreshments. Archival materials at the College document Graham as recalling, "Quite well-off, they entertained students in their large, comfortable Victorian home near the campus."

In a consumer society, hospitality is often equated with outsized material expectations. Even Martha Kilby—who, according to Marjorie Lamp Mead '74, M.A. '06, Associate Director of the Marion E. Wade Center, was never known for her home cooking but rather the warmth of her welcome—hosted students with a simple elegance learned in her turn-of-the-century, wealthy Southern household. She'd never learned to cook or clean while growing up, as those tasks were assigned to the family's coterie of domestic servants. So the wife of Dr. Clyde S. Kilby, founder of the Wade Center and former English professor, was famed for a hospitality that was more likely to include Constant Comment® tea and store-bought pecan sandies on fine bone china.

According to Marilee Melvin '72, former Vice President of Alumni Relations, "For a student in the '70s, that felt like the soul of elegance."

“Most understandings of hospitality today have a minimal moral component,” writes Christine Pohl in *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* (Eerdmans, 1999). “Hospitality is a nice extra if we have the time or the resources.” But long before the single-family home and expensive dishware, God’s people practiced hospitality as a way to re-enact the gospel drama of God as host, humanity as guest. To be sure, in the Christian tradition, hospitality is food and table because the Lord Jesus gave us a meal by which to remember him. But hospitality is more than a material act; it is also a quality of presence. To be truly hospitable, one prayerfully prepares an interior space to embrace the other and see in one’s guest reflections of both oneself and the image of God.

Space material and immaterial has been prepared for over 40 years running in the home of professors emeriti Dr. Sharon Coolidge '72 and Dr. Norm Ewert HON. “I came for the speakers, and I stayed for the natural light—and the food, especially the curry,” said one attendee of Mennonite Dinner, hosted on Thursday nights. In an article published in the *Journal of Mennonite Studies*, Human Needs and Global Resources professors Dr. Laura S. Meitzner Yoder and Dr. James Huff reveal that Coolidge and Ewert didn’t originally intend an average weekly gathering of 50-some people. Had they anticipated the growth of their efforts,

their 900-square-foot house, one block from campus, might have seemed less than adequate for the work.

Eventually, the couple designed and constructed a second story and a 21-foot solarium to accommodate their dinner guests and the snaking queue that forms, week after week, in the entryway, covered in shoes. “When I look back on this Mennonite experience,” one student mused, “it is more about the presence and the attentiveness: the attentiveness to the food, to the speaker, and the quiet listening.” Although the food is modest and students arrive early to set up (and stay late to clean up), the meal requires three full days of preparation: Monday for menu planning, Tuesday for food shopping, and Wednesday for preparation and cooking. Such time-intensive hospitality makes for what another attendee calls “a lively, sacred space.”

Beginning with the College’s first presidents, Jonathan and Charles Blanchard, who boarded students of color in their homes, Wheaton’s administration, faculty, and staff have actively created space to welcome students. It was 1993 when I first crossed the threshold of Dr. Lyle and Mrs. Mary Dorsett’s home on Howard Street, a stone’s throw from Smith-Traber Hall. I was six months new to the death of my father, and when I sought him out for counsel in his office, Dr. Dorsett, then a professor of Christian formation and ministry, called Mary. “I’m sending Jen over to meet you.”

When the Dorsetts first arrived on campus in 1983, they were freshly grieving the sudden death of their ten-year-old daughter, Erika. To pay for the broken furnace that first lonely winter, Mary began working in Archives & Special Collections, where she met Sandy, a student worker whose mother had just died. When I reconnected recently with Mary over the phone, she recounted how the two women bonded over grief. “I realized how much she needed someone who could help her,” Mary said, underscoring that students unacquainted with loss often evade their grieving classmates for fear of saying the wrong thing. “From that one tragedy of my own daughter’s death, my ministry to grieving students was born.”

In the stories of many members of the Wheaton College community, hospitality grew organically from shared experiences. First-generation students learned from first-generation professors at campus events designed for these kinds of interactions. Third-culture kids (TCKs) learned from staff and other volunteers who had successfully navigated the challenge of crossing borders and cultures. For example, Sarita George Davis '19 testifies to her experience with regular TCK “family dinners,” launched in 2013 by Josh Okerman '07 and his wife, Mara. Davis found comfort in a context of worship in multiple languages and safe conversations about American cultural norms. “The assumption for once in our lives was that the answer to the question, ‘Where are you from?’ was going to be a long, complicated history,” said Davis, a missionary kid from Peru. “People understood this.”



“We invite our third-culture students into a family dinner atmosphere,” said Okerman, who serves as the Director of Digital Communications and Alumni Programs in the alumni engagement office. “We sit down, enjoy a family meal, talk, get to know each other, share the space. When adults ask, ‘What can I help with?’ I always tell them, ‘Be here. Talk. I don’t need your help with the food.’” Still, the food is not peripheral to the event, and dinner hosts need flexibility to cook for a group that may range from 15 to 55, depending on the given week.

“No matter the meal, there’s always rice,” Okerman said.

Another home that regularly welcomes students for a meal is that of Dr. Chris Keil, Professor of Environmental Science, and his wife, Maureen. “Keil Dinner” takes place on Sunday nights for a group that might swell, on occasion, to 24. “We let God decide who needs to come each week,” said Maureen. On Sunday nights, the Keils set a simple table of fresh bread and homemade soup. “If the numbers change, I pour more water in the soup pot,” Maureen said. On occasion, Chris and Maureen are left without chairs. That the space is sometimes tight, that the fare is always modest, is never an obstacle to hospitality, however. “No one fusses about the food or worries about scarcity,” Maureen said. “The students don’t care about that. They’re just so hungry to be in a home and have a tighter sense of community.”

Maureen is one of several volunteer faculty wives leading other hospitality efforts across campus, extending a welcome to students beyond dinner invitations. Most notably, together with Kim Walton (married to Professor of Old Testament Emeritus Dr. John Walton M.A. ’75) and Cindy Bretsen (married to Professor of Business and Law Dr. Stephen Bretsen), Maureen helps supervise operations for the Corinthian Co-op. The initiative serves the Wheaton College community by providing a place to give and receive used clothing and household items. A host of volunteers collects and sorts donations, washes and repairs clothing, organizes seasonal sales, and even ensures that electronics are in good working order. MKs, TCKs, and international students coming from warmer climates often express relief for having first dibs on the inventory of winter coats in preparation for frigid temperatures.

“We want people to feel loved and taken care of,” said Maureen, who doesn’t equate the practice of hospitality to “special food and having your table look just so.”

To be welcomed in—out of the dark and bitter cold of the world—is to experience the grace of God in a very tangible way. But welcome doesn’t happen accidentally, says Steve Ivester ’93, M.A. ’03, Dean for Student Engagement. He uses words like *depth*, *thoughtfulness*, and *vision* to characterize the ways he tries to engage in gospel-minded hospitality at home and on campus. Ivester’s Wheaton home, which he designed himself, embodies his intention to welcome people into a space where formation—and transformation—into the image of Christ can happen.

“I listen loudly,” Ivester said, describing his interactions with the many who enter through the revolving door of “Grand Pointe,” the name he’s given his house. “Listening well helps me love well and celebrate the other who is different from me.” Learning from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Henri Nouwen, and Christine Pohl, Ivester understands the work of hospitality less as a discrete list of tasks and more as space we cultivate by prayer and presence, vision and blessing. “At the heart of hospitality, we’re embodying the word *welcome*,” he added. “We’re saying that the coming of this person is well and good, and this is informed by God’s hospitality to us as strangers. He opened up the world of creation and beauty for us.”

This good news of God’s hospitality to humanity is helping to heal the heart of Jonathan Old Horse, a Lakotan pastor and current Billy Graham Scholar. Separated at birth from his indigenous mother and adopted by a white family, he was invariably severed from his sense of family heritage. In a majority context growing up, Old Horse suffered contempt for being Lakotan. “They laugh at us,” he said. “They make fun of us. They say that we are mistakes.” Despite these many traumas, through the love of his father-in-law, he experienced the love of God and learned the truth of Tunkasila Jesus.

Years ago, a relationship between Old Horse’s South Dakota congregation, Woyatan Lutheran Church, and Wheaton College first developed when Associate Professor of Music Dr. Johann Buis invited Old Horse to speak to students at the Wheaton College Field Station in the Black Hills about Lakotan spiritual hymns. This “sharing of knowledge,” as Old Horse describes it, became a way to reciprocate hospitality. Although mistrust still often exists between indigenous people and Christians, repair is happening between the Woyatan congregation and the Wheaton College community. Every summer, students at the Black Hills Station worship at Woyatan Lutheran Church and sing, with their Lakotan “relatives” in Christ, the opening hymn, “All Are Welcome.”

*All are welcome, friend and stranger,*

*At the banquet of the Savior.*

*All are welcome, all are welcome here.*

“Wheaton students are amazed that Lakotans, who were and in some ways still are oppressed by a weaponized Christianity, welcome them as ‘relatives,’” said Chris Keil, who holds a deep friendship with Old Horse.

On campus for his first orientation as a graduate student, Old Horse was grateful for the welcome he received from members of the Wheaton College community. “There are so many gifts Wheaton has given to me,” he said. “They love me. They see me as a human. They have given me the best of everything, including a Billy Graham Scholarship. This helps me with my traumas, and they have helped to heal my heart.”



*“Hospitality is a spiritual  
capacity of the heart. The self  
is there for the other person just  
as Christ is here for us.”*

Old Horse dreams of a future generation of Lakotan children coming to study at Wheaton. “I want our congregation to know Wheaton is kind,” he said.

“The practice of hospitality,” writes Pohl, “forces abstract commitments to loving the neighbor, stranger, and enemy into practice. . . . The twin moves of universalizing the neighbor and personalizing the stranger are at the core of hospitality.”

To see hospitality in this way is to see its promise for healing the national wounds that have formed around obvious fissures of difference: political, racial, confessional, demographic. In a world where individuals are increasingly wary of the other, Christian hospitality practices a curiosity and vulnerability that creates space for unlikely relationships in the name of Jesus, whose love reconciles and redeems. This demands resources beyond square footage. It requires patience, vulnerability, and time.

Donovan Michel ’25, a Bible and theology major, “entered the world” of Associate Professor of Geology Dr. Andrew Luhmann ’06 when he was invited mid-semester, along with his classmates, to share a meal with the professor and his family. “Wow, I’m seeing this man’s entire life right here,” thought Michel at the time, acknowledging the intimacy and vulnerability of the occasion. “You can trust someone a lot when you get to see their house, their kids,” he added. “That level of openness is crazy. It transcends the age gap and the power difference. You even say to yourself, ‘Maybe I could live like that.’”

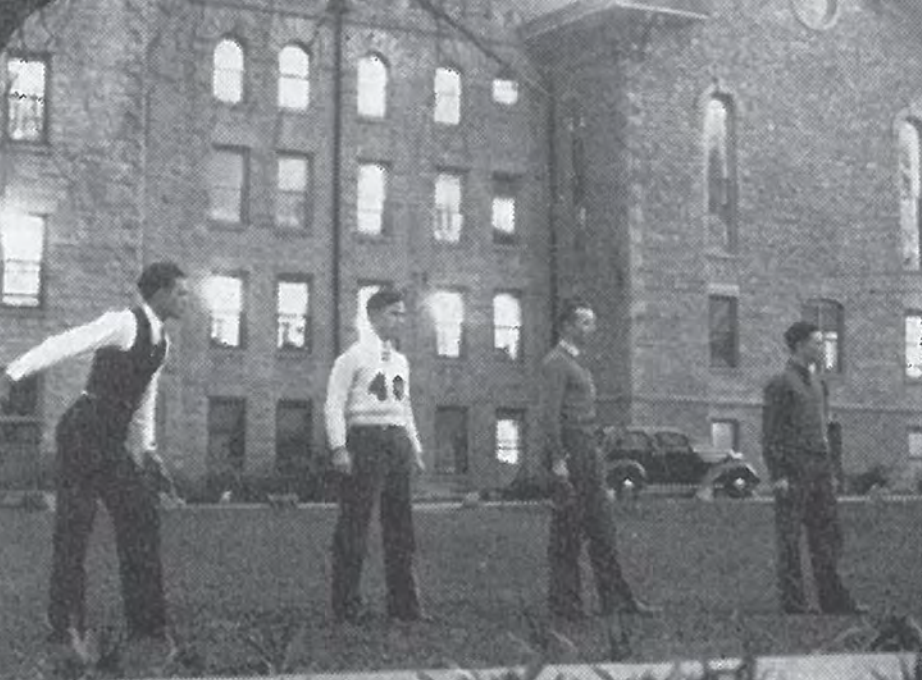
Mead defines hospitality as “a way of welcoming people in the name of Christ.” She added, “You can give people hospitality in different ways, depending on your circumstances.” In Melvin’s case, she gladly gives Wheaton students the time she’s enjoyed without responsibilities to a husband or children. Since teaching a section of “Freshman Experience” starting in the mid-1990s, Melvin began meeting with a small group of women and inviting them into her home, “Pilgrim’s Rest,” for tea and discipleship on Sunday afternoons. Over her fireplace mantel hangs a sign inscribed with a Latin phrase: *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est*. “Where charity and love are, there God is.”

“The students have loved circling up around that sign with conversation and resting in the Lord’s presence,” Melvin said.

Guest is the identity of every human being graciously welcomed into the world God made and seated at the table laid with the body and blood of Jesus. In the words of the psalmist David, “Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers” (Ps. 39:12, ESV). As evidenced in the gospel, hospitality is a gift we humbly receive long before it is a gift we freely offer.

“Hospitality is a spiritual capacity of the heart,” Ivester said. “The self is there for the other person just as Christ is here for us. My welcome comes from that.” ●





## A Look Back at Wheaton College Intramural and Club Sports Throughout the Decades

*Words*  
Melissa Schill Penney '22

*Photos*  
Tower Yearbooks and Wheaton College Archives & Special Collections



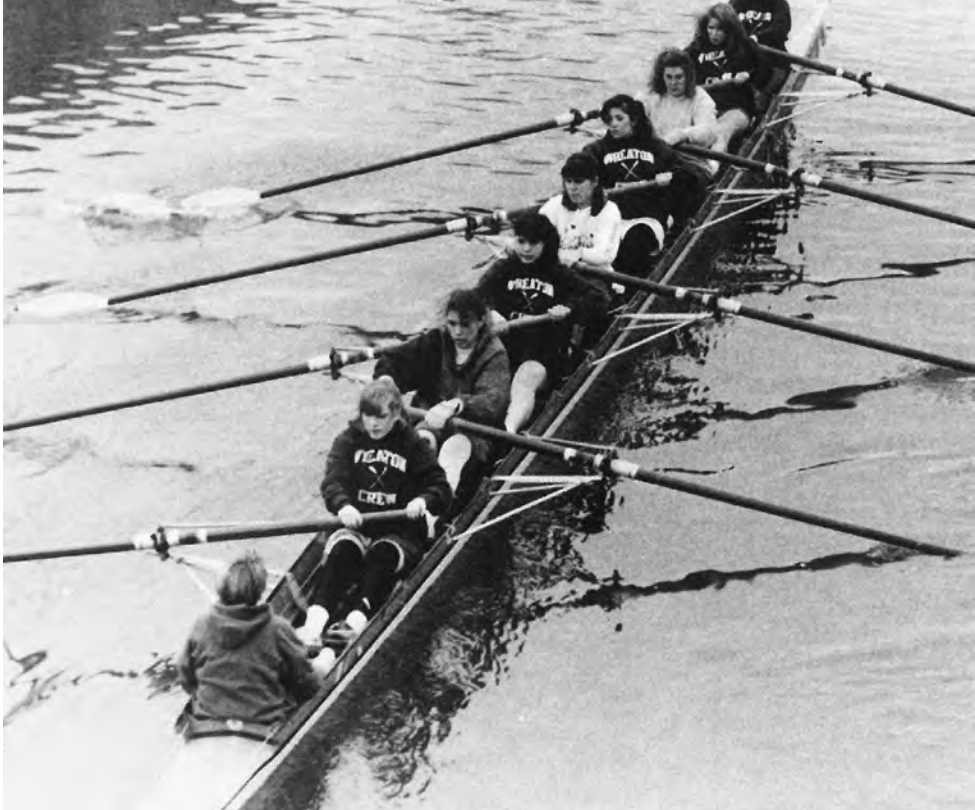
**I**ntramurals at Wheaton received their first formal mention in the 1927 student handbook: “Intramural athletics are coming each year to occupy a more important place in Wheaton’s program. ‘Athletics for all,’ is encouraged to the limit.”

The “athletics for all” mantra remains the heart of IMs at the College. Wheaties compete against Wheaties regardless of previous experience or skill, creating an accessible outlet for competition and exercise. Faculty have also been longtime participants in IMs. President Philip Ryken ’88 is known around campus as an avid intramural fan, and also regularly participates in IM soccer, basketball, and other sports.

Club sports, on the other hand, are intercollegiate teams run by students, who organize meets and games with teams from other local institutions. Although the term “club sports” is a newer concept that gained national traction in the 1980s and 1990s, Wheaties participated in similar intercollegiate teams long before then.

Regardless of name, IM and club sports are an integral part of many students’ experiences at Wheaton College. The years of wins, losses, scrapes, and scores come together to create a rich, ongoing legacy of athletic fun.





**Left to Right:** 1938, basketball; 1990, women's crew; 1991, Katherine Gumpy Crawford '91 completes an equestrian course; 1976, men's gymnastics.

**Previous Page:**  
Row 1 (L–R): 1939, the Class of 1940 were the IM horseshoes champions; 1964, volleyball; 1943, archery.

Row 2 (L–R): 1990, cheerleaders on the football field; 1938, Carol-Jean MacLeod Weiss '38 and Mary Emma Woodruff Allison '39 play softball.

Row 3 (L–R): 2000, Torrey Babson '01 on the lacrosse field; 1922, girls' athletics group; 1962, Bob Grimmer '66 goes bowling.

*An asterisk (\*) indicates a current intramural sport.  
A caret (^) indicates a current club sport.*

**Archery:** Archery was popular in the late '30s and early '40s, with both intramural and intercollegiate competitions. Participants typically competed in the Columbia round, with 24 arrows shot from 30 yards, 24 arrows shot from 40 yards, and 24 arrows shot from 50 yards.

**Badminton:** Badminton was one of the first IMs in the late 1930s, and stuck around through the '70s, with men's, women's, and co-recreational teams.

**Baseball / Softball:** Baseball preceded the dawn of IMs on campus and holds the distinction of being one of Wheaton's first three organized sports. Once IMs were introduced in the late 1920s, baseball was, of course, one of the offerings.

**Basketball\*:** Basketball is one of the College's longest-running organized sports. In addition to standard basketball games, various iterations have made their appearance throughout the years, including 5v5 and 3v3.

**Bowling:** Bowling was beloved for many years at Wheaton. In fact, Adams Hall once had a bowling alley in its basement. Students and faculty would gather to play a few rounds and hope to make the "200 Club," an honor bestowed on bowlers who scored 200 points or more.

**Cheerleading^:** While cheerleading's categorization in the early years is unclear, it is currently considered a club sport.

**Crew^:** Rachel Mariner '89 brought rowing to Wheaton during her senior year after learning to row while studying

abroad at Oxford University. Wheaton was the third college in Illinois to have a crew team, after Northwestern University and University of Chicago.

Rowing is notoriously strenuous, and since teams consist of only eight rowers and a coxswain, it can be competitive to make the team. The first week of practice is historically dubbed "Iron Will Week," where new members prove their chops by completing land workouts every morning before dawn. It is only after the first grueling week that they begin water training.

**Equestrian:** A group of female equestrians formed a Riding Club in 1933 and met once a week at stables in Glen Ellyn. The following semester, a group of male students followed suit and formed the Boot and Saddle Club.

After a two-decade hiatus, another group of equestrians congregated to form the Wheaton College Equestrian Club in 1990. The riders rode once a week and competed in national competitions. Laura Robinson '93 told the *Record*, "Despite the sore legs, it's a really good break to ride once a week." Peggy Kenma '93 also commented, "It's nice to do something different even though you come back smelling like manure."

**Fencing:** In 1939, students brought fencing to the Wheaton spotlight thanks to their previous training. A Fencers Union met in the wrestling room for practice.

**Football / Touch Football / Flag Football\*:** While football is more widely known as a varsity sport, Wheaton has had many IM teams. Wheaton also hosts a Powderpuff tournament in which female students battle it out with a game of flag football, a tradition that's been around since the 1980s.

**Golf:** Golf had a short-lived IM life, becoming a varsity sport in 1938. However, recreational golf teams have cropped up sporadically through the years, as have one-day IM competitions.

**Gun Club:** Wheaton had a gun club, open to male and female students, in the 1930s and 1940s. Fowl shooting was also an IM sport in 1938.

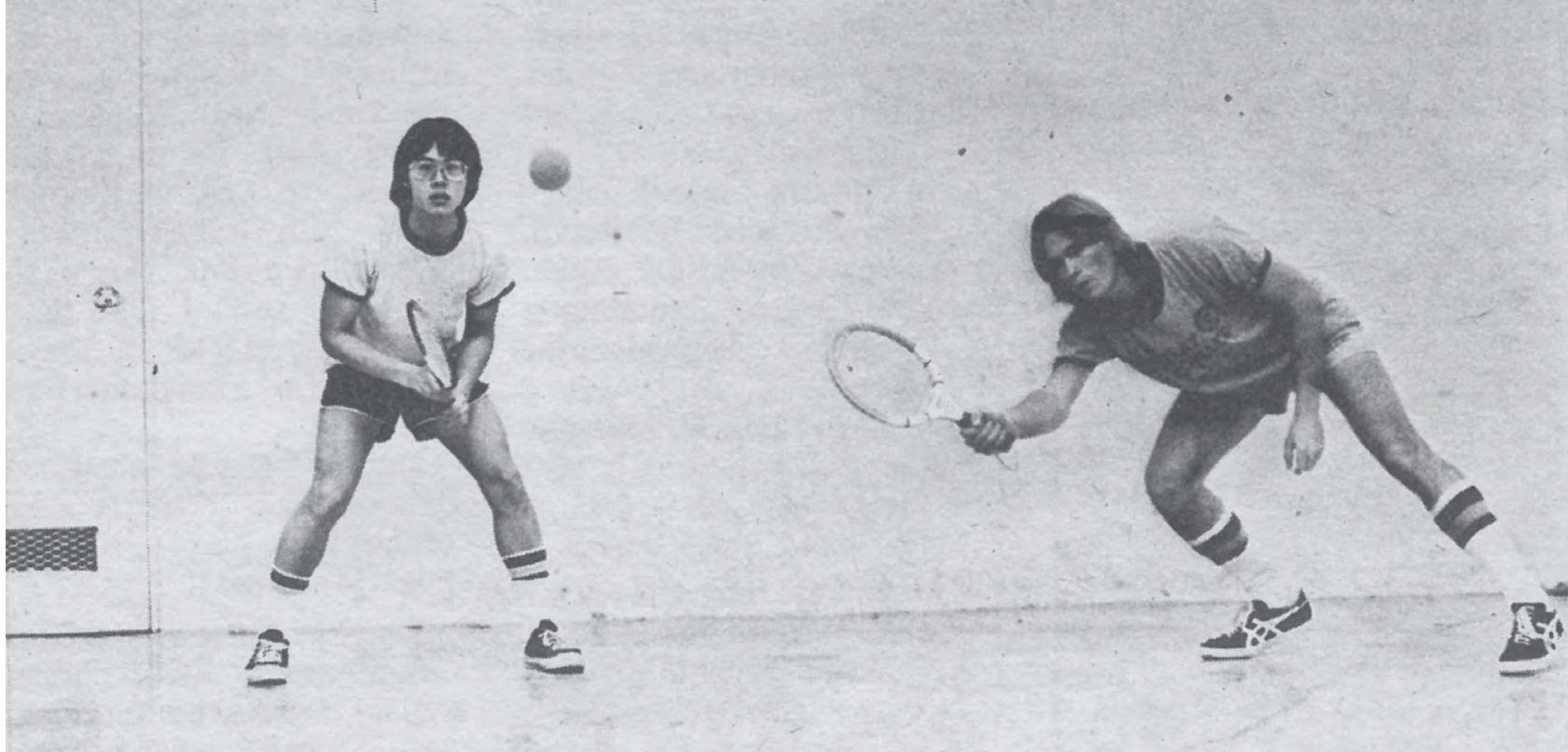
**Gymnastics:** In 1930, a group of male students formed a novice tumbling team. What began with weekly team sessions and daily individual training marked the start of over 50 years of Wheaton gymnastics, later including athletes such as Jim Elliot '49.

**Handball:** Handball started at Wheaton in 1944 with a tournament open to faculty and students. With World War II on everyone's minds, the competition was civilians versus soldiers. According to a *Record* insert advertising the event, Wheaton wanted to forge better ties between civilians and soldiers on campus, and the handball tournament was meant to help the environment: "We'll do a little about improving civilian-soldier relationships and continue to keep Wheaton-dear-old-Wheaton, actively athletic."

**Horseshoes:** Horseshoes made a brief IM cameo in 1938 and 1939.

**Ice Hockey^ / Box Hockey / Field Hockey / Floor Hockey\*:** Ice hockey goes back to the 1960s at Wheaton and remains a current club sport with an avid fanbase. However, the team experienced its fair share of hurdles in its history. During the 2001–2002 year, the team did not compete due to a substantial debt. But their fundraising





efforts paid off, and a team was re-formed for the 2002–2003 school year. The team got off to a rough start, with a 1–15 season, but that one win? It was spectacular. “The fans, often the most numerous (and loud) of any team in the league, illustrated a fervor for the team that might not be expected with a less-than-stellar record,” one *Record* article recounted. Additional forms of hockey have also had their moment among students, including field hockey, floor hockey, and box hockey, a variant where players stand on either side of a box and attempt to hit the puck through various dividers.

**Lacrosse^:** Students first brought lacrosse to Wheaton in the early 1970s. After several years’ hiatus, a men’s lacrosse club team was reinstated in the 2023–2024 school year.

**Mugby:** Mugby had a brief moment on campus in 1989. A flyer advertising the sport described it as an “excellent opportunity to get together with your guy and girl friends to have a playful, entertaining, physical, not-too-strenuous time.” Unfortunately, the exact rules of the game seem to be an undocumented mystery.

**Netball:** Part of Wheaton’s IM lineup in the late 1930s and early 1940s, netball is similar to basketball, but the ball is not dribbled, only passed.

**Pickleball\*:** The modern-day pickleball fervor has not been lost on Wheaties. The tennis courts on campus are lined for pickleballers to play on.

**Ping-Pong / Table Tennis:** Ping-pong tables have long been a recreational feature on campus. Eva Lane ’42 picked up

the game in her first few months at Wheaton. Despite her newness to the sport, she went on to become the freshman class’s ping-pong star, beating out their formidable sophomore competitors.

While the sport is no longer an organized IM, students can still be found at ping-pong tables around campus, battling it out over the net.

**Pool / Pocket Billiards:** Although pool is no longer an organized IM like it was in the 1970s, students still frequent the pool table in Lower Beamer year-round.

**Racquetball / Paddleball:** Paddleball was offered in the mid-1970s, and racquetball came shortly afterward in the mid-1990s. These sports are similar in concept but have a few key differences, including racquet type, serving methods, and scoring.

**Soccer^\*/ Indoor Soccer\* / Hoc-Soc:** Soccer is a long-standing IM and club offering, in addition to the College’s Division III teams. One unique offshoot, hoc-soc, got its start in 1962. True to its name, the game is a combination of hockey and soccer. Initially played by the College’s DIII soccer team as a way to stay in shape during the offseason, interest spread and hoc-soc eventually became a very popular IM. After his senior team’s win at the 1979 playoff game, Dave Elsen ’79 commented to the *Record*, “They’ll be talking of this one in the Stupe for years.” Forty-five years later, the talk has died down a bit.

**Spikeball\*:** Spikeball is a relatively modern sport, invented in 1989. Students began bringing their personal sets to campus and the sport grew in popularity, eventually becoming an organized IM.

**Tae Kwon Do^:** In 2007, the Tae Kwon Do Club hosted a Martial Arts Expo where, according to a quote in the *Record*, participants were able to “demonstrate the martial arts as a form of self-expression.”

**Tennis:** It’s 1929, and “the demand for further inter-collegiate competition is being felt more each year,” according to the student handbook, so the College expanded its tennis offerings from exclusively IM to intercollegiate. This is one of the first examples at the College of an IM gaining enough traction to initiate a larger program. The College currently has male and female Division III tennis teams.

**Ultimate Frisbee^\*:** Although not formally recognized as an IM until 1989, ultimate frisbee had a following on campus as early as 1979.

In 2002, ultimate frisbee was the most popular co-ed IM on campus. The *Record* ran a feature on the sport, describing the players congregating at the cafeteria in a humorous light: “Bandanas hold back their sweaty hair, dirty cleats clatter on the tile floor, and mud and grass stains vie for supremacy on their clothing and bodies. They find an available table and deposit their silverware among a growing heap of beat-up Nalgene [water bottles] and well-worn Frisbees. And then, as if to complete the experience, a boombox starts blasting ‘Eye of the Tiger’ across the crowded dining hall for all to hear. They call it ‘dirty dinner.’”

**Volleyball\* / Sand Volleyball\*:** Beginning in the early 1930s, volleyball has been one of the most consistent IM sports, with sand volleyball affectionately associated with Fischer Lawn. Currently, students enjoy sand volleyball IMs during the warmer months and indoor volleyball the rest of the year.

**Left to Right:** 2002, Peter Marshall ’05, Ryan Casey ’05, and Esther Lee Cruz ’06 during Ultimate Frisbee; 1978, Scott Takushi ’80 and Mark Luttio ’80 play racquetball; 1943, ping-pong doubles match.

**Walking:** In 1921, the first women’s athletic group was formed: a walking club. The group started out strong, with 30–40 members. Eighteen of the female students earned their insignia, a coveted badge, by walking a whopping 400 miles.

This inaugural walking group paved the way for the formation of the Women’s Athletic Association. By 1929, over one-third of the female population on campus participated in IMs. “Every girl who gave herself and something of her time felt amply repaid at the end of the season, not only because of the fun she had had, but because of the fellowship and the satisfaction of having been a member of a team whether for victory or defeat” (Student Handbook, 1921–1922).

**Water Polo / Innertube Water Polo\*:** Innertube water polo is exactly what its name describes: athletes play by water polo rules while floating above the water, confined in an unwieldy inflatable ring.

**Wiffleball:** Although Wiffleball was not an extensively documented IM, it had its moment on campus in the mid-1990s.

**Wrestling:** Wrestling, another varsity sport at Wheaton, is occasionally offered as an IM, including in the late 1930s and in 1991. ●



# Head & Heart Knowledge

*How the M.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies Equips Students Across Vocations and Life Stages*

Words Jenna Watson '21  
Photos Courtesy of Alumni

A doctor in Chicago. A lawyer in Florida. A mother with pastoral duties. A prison ministry leader. A retired orthopedic surgeon. These are just some of the vocations represented in current or recent classes of the master's in Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS) at Wheaton College. With the option of a flexible schedule for distance learners, students can attend from all stages of life and corners of the country. This breadth of experience and diversity of perspective not only enrich the classroom experience, but they also create ripple effects that go out into many industries, ministries, and communities.



**David Davoust M.A. '25**

David Davoust owns a business that operates software for the administration of elections, as well as a nonprofit that supports sustainable education in Nigeria and Ethiopia.

He entered the BTS program to enrich his leadership and biblical knowledge in both these endeavors and was pleased to find professors and fellow students who care about both heart and head formation. "Professors aren't just teaching academically," he said. "It isn't just head knowledge. It's 'What difference does it make in your heart, in the church, in the world?'"

Davoust sees the continuity of God's heart for his people throughout Scripture and applies that to the teams he leads. "To us, there is no difference between Sunday and Monday and Tuesday," he said. "It's all about the kingdom of God. To us, the people are the only thing that's eternal. Our company is not eternal. Who knows how long it will last? But our employees and our customers and our competitors are all eternal."

Living this out looks like informing competitors when he notices a problem with the software they both use. It looks like strengthening his preaching skills for when he visits his educational partners in Nigeria and Ethiopia. It looks like letting a contractor go peacefully, without retribution, when they are caught stealing. "That's part of sharing the love of Christ—by how we treat people. Knowing the Scriptures better helps in that everyday ministry."



**Chris Hazelip '81, M.A. '25**

Chris Hazelip was thrilled to return to his *alma mater* more than 40 years after his undergraduate degree to deepen his knowledge of the Bible. Alongside an active career as a trial lawyer, Hazelip lives out his spiritual gift of teaching by frequently speaking and teaching the Bible at various church and parachurch ministries. He entered this program to deepen his ability to teach well in those contexts. "It has been an even richer experience than I expected, and I had pretty high expectations," he said.

Hazelip finds that the teaching and culture of this program help him resist a personalized reading of Scripture. "It's easy in the individualized culture in which we live to overemphasize our personal faith," he said. "There's a tendency to view the Scriptures as a love letter to me. I get that sentiment, but I have learned in this program to start with understanding that it was written to specific people at a specific time who are in a specific cultural and

historical context. What was it saying to them? Does that have meaning and application to me? This has taught me a whole different way to approach Scripture, and I think it's a much more accurate way to handle it skillfully."

In practicing this approach, Hazelip is increasingly interested in the marginalized voices in the Bible. "Those voices are really resonating as I'm trying to learn, because I certainly haven't been marginalized in my voice, and I'm trying to see and understand that better."



**Scott Highberger M.A. '24**

Scott Highberger started a master's to steward well the influence the Lord was giving him in his growing prison ministry. After encountering Christ through a church service while incarcerated, Highberger left the life he knew and, after his release,

committed to a local church. He gradually rose in leadership at the church and grew his own prison ministry, ultimately becoming a licensed pastor, getting married, writing a book called *Behind the Wire: A Prisoner's Journey to the Pulpit* (S&D Enterprises, 2009), and inspiring a missional movie called *Pardoned by Grace*.

*"It equipped me to be a better-*

*informed Christian man, leader,*

*pastor—to do more of what God*

*has called me to do in my context."*

"I needed a new set of people, and God gave me the body of Christ," he said. "Today, my wife and I get to be that new set of people for men that are coming out of incarceration."

As he grew his ministry, Highberger felt called to further his education and "know the Bible better." While obtaining his bachelor's degree at Grace College, he learned about the Wheaton College Charles W. Colson Scholarship for the formerly incarcerated. After a rigorous application process, Highberger received the scholarship to attend Wheaton tuition-free.

"The program really enriched my understanding of God, humanity, and how they connect together," he said. "It equipped me to be a better-informed Christian man, leader, pastor—to do more of what God has called me to do in my context."



**Jie Liu M.A. '25**

Despite the call to gracious solidarity she saw in Scripture, Jie Liu found a tendency for legalism or moralism in church communities when she shared the struggles she was facing.

“This confused me, because when you handle God’s Word properly, it gives you power, strength, and joy,” she said. “I thought I should spend my life digging into it myself, so I could learn to handle God’s Word correctly—not only to help myself, but also to help others who are struggling too.”

Alongside her roles as a full-time mechanical engineer and a mother, Liu is learning sound methods for engaging with Scripture in ways that release its blessing and power as God intended. She is also encouraged by her professors, who live out what they teach. And in learning alongside classmates who have been similarly honest with their seeking and transparent with their struggles, she finds more of God’s presence revealed. “It’s a great enrichment to this program—the diversity of believers, of faith from all over the world,” she said. “A lot of things I probably would just read in books or newspapers, but now it’s a real person beside me, sharing his or her personal experience. That’s how we witness God in our life. Real people show you the real God, just like the wind blowing the leaves tells us the wind is there.”

Feeling more equipped to walk alongside others who are struggling in the church, Liu now serves as a caregiver to women in need who are facing similar challenges.

**Kevin McPeak M.A. '25**

With a background in the creative arts and music education, Kevin McPeak never expected to be the executive pastor of an eight-location church in Southern California and Mexico. But

after a journey that continued to open doors in ministry, he found himself in this leadership role and desired to invest in formal education for what he had been learning independently. “If I’m going to pastor people well, I need to really shore up this part of my skill set,” he said.

When he began the BTS program, McPeak was delighted to find a community of professors and students that represented theological diversity and were committed to sound teaching. “One of the things I found appealing about Wheaton was the diversity of theological viewpoints within the faculty,” he said. “I didn’t want

to be trained in a specific denominational viewpoint but wanted to access a wide variety of perspectives. The students are similar because the program attracts students from a variety of backgrounds. That’s been really exciting to be around.”

As a distance learner, McPeak finds the program ideal for his busy schedule while still enabling a sense of community with his fellow learners. He and five other students decided to rent an AirBnB together for the in-person session this summer, walking to campus together each day and sharing meals. “I’ve formed some really meaningful friendships with these guys in the program, which is not what I was expecting to happen in an online environment,” he said. McPeak also jokes that the biggest problem with this program is that it’s making him consider getting his doctorate.

**Marianne Peterson M.A. '24**

Marianne Peterson attended a Christian college, spent years working for a Christian ministry, and always felt at home in the church. But when both her parents died within two years of one another, she entered a period of deep anger and confusion toward

the Lord. She found herself asking, “Have I really dug deep into what I believe? Because I’m now believing in a God that is breaking my heart into a million pieces.”

A few years later, the advent of COVID-19 reopened Peterson’s doubt. Amid a busy life as a stay-at-home mom to three children, she turned to this program to ask questions, seek answers, and find confirmation of a faith she feared losing. “My journey to Wheaton was not a vocational one,” she said. “It was mostly personal and spiritual.”

Through classmates, professors, and the biblical figures she grew to know better along the way, Peterson found not only solace in her seeking but also companions in her grief. She found comfort in how David and Job expressed deep anguish to the Lord, even hurling accusations at God, yet were declared blameless. “Every class fed my desire for knowledge, but even more so they fed my soul,” she said.

Peterson graduated with a fuller sense of her calling in the church. Her questions of women and the church (“Is this system misogynist? What is up with women and the Bible?”) were met not with simplistic answers, but with new frameworks for approaching Scripture’s intent and audience that have led her to pursue teaching and preaching to the youth, and occasionally the wider congregation, in her church.

*“That’s part of sharing the love of Christ—by how we treat people. Knowing the Scriptures better helps in that everyday ministry.”*

**Sheetal Philip M.A. '25**

For Sheetal Philip, what she’s learning in this program is helping her make biblically informed decisions at her workplace. Philip works as an internal medicine doctor at a specialty clinic in Chicago where many patients

experience severe mental health challenges, homelessness, substance use, and reintegration into society after institutionalization. Despite being in church leadership with 30 years of Christian life under her belt, Philip was encountering new and profound questions through this work. She turned to this program in distress at the depth of pain and suffering humans can cause one another. She was also seeking wisdom on how to navigate workplace values that did not always align with hers when it came to gender identity, hormone therapy, and more.

“I felt like I was walking through mud and I couldn’t get the mud off me at the end of the day,” she said. “But Scripture talks about being washed by the Word and how it renews us. I realized that’s what I need: I need the Word of God to renew me, protect me, and wash over me. So that started this journey of wanting to know the Word better.”

As Philip learns about God’s value for life and the *imago dei* that exists in each human being through her classes, she finds herself strengthened in her convictions at work and better equipped for conversations with her three children about their own gender and identity as children of God.

Ultimately, she feels equipped to return to her workplace with greater compassion and mercy. “I hope I am able to love my patients better, seeing them not for the decisions they might have made but as someone God values and has a plan for,” she said. “I ask, ‘How can I display the grace and mercy and compassion that God has poured out on us, to you?’”

**David Watt '76, M.A. '26**

David Watt began his educational journey at Wheaton as an undergraduate chemistry major, and he’s glad to be back on campus for his master’s. In fact, he will earn his graduate degree exactly five decades after

his undergraduate. He never went far, working as the orthopedic surgeon for all Wheaton athletes and serving in the athletic training room weekly during school years. But after Watt retired, he found himself yearning for a deeper knowledge of Scripture that wasn’t being met by Sunday sermons and Bible studies. “For me, knowledge is what helps lead me to faith,” he said.

So Watt began his M.A. in BTS, eager to make the most of a retirement he sees as a gift (though he keeps himself busy providing medical coverage for Wheaton College football games and the U.S. Snowboard team at World Cup competitions). “I don’t see retirement as something to just sit back and do nothing with,” he said. “I’m healthy. I’ve got all my faculties. I want to be able to contribute. I want to be able to learn, to grow.”

One of the most rewarding parts of the program for Watt is the diversity of students he learns alongside. “Having gone through some life and experience, our different levels of outside reading and backgrounds and everything just absolutely enrich the experience,” he said.

As a result of this new education, Watt was invited to begin training for eldership at his church. He is now more involved in small group leadership at church. He and his wife have even begun reading ahead on upcoming sermon topics, now able to feed a desire for biblical knowledge they had long felt but never felt as equipped to pursue. ●



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# Alumni News

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## Stewarding Wheaton College's Evangelical History

*For his wise stewardship of the Wheaton College Library's Archives & Special Collections and his collaborative and peace-making leadership in crucial moments of institutional transition, the Wheaton College Alumni Association is pleased to honor Paul Ericksen M.A. '82 with the 2024 Distinguished Service to Alma Mater Award.*

Words Liuan Chen Huska '09  
Photos Ian Rempel

Coming from missionary work in the Philippines, Paul Ericksen M.A. '82 began his missions and intercultural studies graduate degree at Wheaton unsure what would come next. During the program, he took on an independent study project under then-department chair John Gration, researching the exit of China Inland Mission from China in the 1950s. At that point, Ericksen says, "I caught the archives and research bug."

Since then, Ericksen has worked in the College's archives or library in many roles, including as Director of the Billy Graham Center Archives and Museum, Interim Director of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center, and Interim Dean of Library and Archives.

### BUILDING A UNIQUE COLLECTION

Ericksen likens archival work to doing a puzzle. "You figure out how the pieces work together, what factors contribute to a story, and try to make sense of missing information," he said. "You track down information that might help fill gaps."

Starting out as an assistant archivist in what is now the Evangelism and Missions Archives, Ericksen has arranged and described the papers of evangelists and organizations including Billy Graham '43, Leighton Ford '52, Luis Palau HON, and the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

"He has helped build a unique, world-class collection," said fellow archivist Bob Shuster '73. Shuster hired Ericksen upon his graduation and they've had adjacent offices for over four decades. Ericksen has persuaded individuals and groups to entrust their records to Wheaton, Shuster said, "by emphasizing the need for true history, the responsibility of the present generation to explain itself to future generations, and the need for an organization to be able to tell their own staff the origins and development of the

organization—so that it could be told as part of the larger history of the church."

The Evangelism and Missions Archives are used by students, faculty, the general public, and scholars from around the world. This on-campus archival work, along with the College Archives & Special Collections, supports Wheaton's task of training students as gospel-centered leaders in society and participants in the church. "We try to facilitate an understanding of a particular slice of evangelical history," Ericksen said. "It helps reinforce the College's commitment to evangelism and missions."

It takes meticulous work to get to the point where people can use a collection in the Manuscripts Reading Room on the third floor of Billy Graham Hall. For instance, in 1988–1989 the College received over 400 boxes of materials from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. From there, Ericksen and his colleagues wrote descriptions of the correspondence, reports, and other administrative files to facilitate researchers's access to the records. They ordered them in a way that continues to be accessible to the organizations who provided the material as well as to researchers.

Ericksen has seen the collections through multiple technology shifts, including DECmate computers, dot matrix printers, and converting microfiche to CDs to digital files. Now all the archival "finding aids"—the descriptive materials that allow researchers to decide what boxes or folders to request from the collection—are available online.

Numerous research projects and books have been possible through the upkeep of these collections, such as Lucy Austen's recently published biography of Elisabeth Elliot (Crossway, 2023), Edith Blumhofer's *Songs I Love to Sing: The Billy Graham Crusades and the Shaping of Modern Worship* (Eerdmans, 2023), and David Swartz's *Facing West: American Evangelicals in an Age of World Christianity* (Oxford, 2020).



*“His pastoral, peace-making leadership style meant long hours  
dedicated to praying with his faculty and staff colleagues. . . .*

*He did so with joyful and patient dignity.”*

#### FINDING THE HUMAN VOICES

When someone arrives in the Reading Room, whether an undergraduate student just starting out in serious archival research, a curious visitor, or a visiting scholar working on a book or dissertation, Ericksen has often been the friendly and encouraging first face they encounter, helping them find what they’re looking for. Lisa Richmond, former Dean of Library and Archives, supervised Ericksen when the Evangelism and Missions Archives transitioned from the Billy Graham Center to become part of the library. “Scholars would regularly comment on how astonished and grateful they were for the quality of assistance they received,” said Richmond, who is now vice president of research at the nonpartisan Canadian think tank Cardus. “Many of these scholars would thank Paul by name in the acknowledgments section of the books they published.”

Ericksen also taught classes orienting students to the Archives and hosted annual lectures where scholars presented on research that drew from the collections. “Thousands of people have come to Wheaton from all over the world to use those collections,” Shuster said. “The fact that Wheaton has this collection has been the deciding factor for some students who enrolled in the College.”

Ericksen continues as an archivist today in Archives & Special Collections, where he also gets to work on oral histories several times a year. He recently traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina, to conduct multiple days of interviews with Leighton Ford ’52, the brother-in-law of Billy Graham ’43. They covered Ford’s work with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, leading the Lausanne global missions movement, and other key moments in Ford’s life.

Ericksen sees helping people tell their stories as a fun part of his work. “It’s challenging trying to be ready to know what questions to ask, and there are always more questions than there’s time to ask—things that come up in the course of the conversation that pose new questions,” he said. After the interviews, he and his teammates spend hours transcribing each recording.

Ericksen has also interviewed John Perkins HON; Rene Padilla ’57, M.A. ’60; David Howard ’49, M.A. ’52; SIM Director Ian Hay, and many other grassroots missionaries.

“The work of an archivist can be tedious, repetitive, and dusty,” said Katherine Graber M.A. ’12, M.A. ’20, Team Leader for Archives & Special Collections. “But Paul consistently finds the human voices and unique stories within the mountains of paper.”

#### WEARING MULTIPLE HATS

In 2002, Ericksen became Director of the Billy Graham Center Archives and two years later also took over directing the Billy Graham Center Museum. In this role, he helped organize exhibits such as Tim Botts’ calligraphic interpretations of biblical themes, He Qi’s East-West blend of Christian art, and Japanese printmaker Sadao Watanabe’s pieces. “It was a lot of work, but it was very invigorating,” Ericksen said.

During that time, Ericksen was mentored by then-director of the Billy Graham Center Lon Allison. “Lon was always the one telling me, ‘Why don’t you try this?’” Ericksen said. “He was always encouraging me to step more into my role with leadership and responsibility.”

Upon Allison’s resignation in 2013, Ericksen stepped in as interim director amid uncertainties about the BGC’s future. He served in the role until a permanent director was hired in 2016. “He provided strong leadership during a difficult time when the institution needed leadership and encouragement,” said Shuster.

When Richmond took another role in 2019, Ericksen stepped in as interim dean. COVID-19 hit soon after, as well as the first round of academic reprioritizations at the College. According to Provost Karen An-hwei Lee, Ericksen’s leadership was stabilizing in a tumultuous time. “His pastoral, peace-making leadership style meant long hours dedicated to praying with his faculty and staff colleagues,” Lee said. “He did so with joyful and patient dignity.”

Ericksen and his colleagues now joke about his role as “professional interim.” He never intended to fill these positions permanently, believing they required more professional training and administrative experience than he felt he had or wanted to pursue. Humbly, he relied on his colleagues’s expertise, collaboration, and his own project management skills to fill the gaps in leadership until they could hire the right candidate.

“The one thing I learned being the interim dean of library and archives was I didn’t have to completely learn to be the dean,” Ericksen said. “Instead, I needed to lean on the people I worked with in the library just to navigate all of the issues the library deals with, like solving for user access and making sure we’re taking good care of our students and employees.”

Ericksen’s leadership style is relational and collaborative, according to Graber. “He is an excellent mentor, encouraging his direct reports to explore possibilities and

projects that excite them and develop their gifts and skill sets,” she said. “Paul is the first to ask his teammates for life updates as well as project updates.” Being part of a team that enjoys each other as well as their work is a feature Ericksen has cultivated over the years.

When the College found a permanent dean of library and archives in 2021, Ericksen returned to his hands-on role as an archivist.

#### STILL HAVING FUN

Today, Ericksen works four days a week in Archives & Special Collections, helping researchers find materials in the Reading Room on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

Recently, Ericksen brought two of his grandchildren down to the Archives’ basement storage to meet “Mr. Chalmers,” a life-size figure, one of two created by liturgical artist Marjorie Nystrom Gieser ’59 for trustee emeritus Bill Pollard ’60. The Archives had received some art pieces from Pollard’s collection, and when asked if they would also like the male figure, Ericksen replied, “Absolutely.”

“His colleagues are also grateful for the humor he brings to the office and his love of pranks,” Graber said. “No new Archives & Special Collections employee escapes the onboarding process without an introduction to Mr. Chalmers.”

Reflecting on 42 years of working alongside Ericksen, Shuster recalls sharing each day’s work, problems,

opportunities, surprises, and disappointments all with Ericksen’s running commentary and wry comments. To Shuster, Ericksen embodies the spirit of this DSTAM award: “Paul has been an example of a person who loves Jesus Christ and applies his faith to his vocation and his life,” Shuster said.

Ericksen looks back on the many who mentored and influenced him leading up to and during his studies and career at Wheaton, including Lisa Espineli Chinn M.A. ’72—his supervisor at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of the Philippines—and former Provosts Stan Jones HON and Margaret Diddams ’83. “I’ve been really fortunate and blessed to work at Wheaton,” Ericksen said. “Wheaton has given me a way to live out what I have found to be the things I love doing, am equipped to do, and contribute to the global effort to better understand and facilitate the spread of the gospel.”

Outside of work, Ericksen spends time with his wife, Phyllis M.A. ’05; their three sons; and nine grandchildren. He reads award-winning children’s books, leads his church’s young children in their worship, enjoys jazz recordings and concerts, cooks Sunday dinners, and solves jigsaw puzzles of fine art, like a 1,000-piece puzzle of a Jackson Pollock painting.

Ericksen turned 70 this year. People sometimes ask if he’s ready to retire yet. He replies, “I’m still having fun.” ●







## Practicing Law and a Love for Learning

Jasmine Stein Akre '16

*Words*  
Emily Bratcher

*Photo*  
Sam Hurd

Jasmine Stein Akre '16 grew up less than ten miles down the road from Wheaton College in Villa Park, Illinois. Nearby Wheaton was an obvious choice for Akre, who'd attended a Christian pre-K-12 school and whose two older sisters also attended the College.

But, she said, "There was so much more to Wheaton than I initially comprehended. In hindsight, that really was such a great option for me."

Now, Akre lives on the Virginia side of Washington, D.C., with her husband, Tom, and her young son, Theodore, having just wrapped up a clerkship with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. While she enjoys written and oral advocacy, her drive to serve others and the country motivated her to pursue a law degree at Yale and the superlatives on her LinkedIn profile: stints at global law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLC, and a clerkship with the Honorable Amul R. Thapar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

It was at the Christian liberal arts institution in a western suburb of Chicago that Akre caught a vision for how a rooted faith can move mountains, which in this case was a mock trial team that defied the odds.

Not long after starting her freshman year, Akre joined the then-fledgling mock trial team. That too was, in a sense, a natural extra-curricular for her. Her mother had coached the high school mock trial team, and Akre had been involved in the activity since elementary school.

But Wheaton's mock trial team was small—maybe a dozen or so students with two coaches, Brooks Locke '98 and Diane Michalak. It didn't have the deep coaching bench of other powerhouse schools like Harvard or the University of Virginia, nor did it have the benefit of a long legacy or robust funding.

Even so, the team practiced with dedication and scrounged together

carpools, airfare, and accommodations to compete in mock trial competitions held all around the country. Winning rounds of these would give the team eligibility to compete in the national competition which, to everyone's surprise, they did. In fact, the team made it to the nationals each year, even placing ninth in 2013.

"No one expected that," Akre said. "It truly opened my eyes to what a group of motivated, talented people could do, even with few resources."

Competing in mock trial bolstered Akre's skills in persuasive writing, public speaking, and leadership, and helped her win an All-American award at the 2016 Nationals in Greenville, North Carolina. But these experiences also brought into focus a larger lesson impressed on her by an institution that esteems the integration of faith and learning.

"When you start with this foundation that there is an intelligent creator—there is a God who created the world and he is revealing his attributes through what you're studying—that totally changes the way you study subjects, the import and the impact of them," Akre said.

That foundation has helped Akre maintain a deep sense of meaning in her various roles: as a law school student or law clerk, as a wife and a mom.

"There's this sense of joy and fulfillment—even if the day-to-day varies—that I'm using my time, talent, and resources to further his kingdom," she said. ●





## Raising the Next Generation of Leaders

Wee-Yeong Eyou M.A. '23

*Words*  
Bethany Peterson Lockett '20

*Photo*  
Gilbert Cortes

His passion for campus ministry is rooted in his own experience as a teenager. When Wee-Yeong Eyou M.A. '23 was 15 years old, his family moved from Malaysia to New Zealand, which resulted in him struggling with identity and faith. While a student at the University of Auckland, he attended a campus event hosted by missionaries from Every Nation, a church-planting network. "That's when I was confronted with whether to stay with my faith or walk away," he said. "And by God's grace, I decided to go all-in for God."

After working 13 years in the corporate world, Eyou became an Every Nation campus missionary and pastor. Five years in, Eyou knew he needed a novel approach. He'd always used the popular philosophy of campus ministry: Offer free food and they will come. But the new generation in New Zealand, now labeled a post-Christian nation, was skeptical of anything religious.

Whenever Eyou asked students about their faith, they were often defensive or uninterested. "One day I just had one too many of these conversations that I felt so frustrated," Eyou remembered. "I was praying, 'Lord, how can I rebuild trust with young people?'"

So Eyou started asking a different question: "Is there anything I can help you with?" To his surprise, students were eager to answer. They shared struggles about finding their purpose, wanted advice on choosing a major, and asked questions about how to get their first job. Inspired, Eyou held topical events on life skills like leadership or job interviewing. Soon, these were the organization's most well-attended programs.

Excited and hopeful but in need of resources, Eyou received two invitations in 2019 that elevated his approach. The first was from an acquaintance, Yvonne Godfrey, who founded a life skills program for

teenagers called "Making It On My Own" to help young people on their journey to adult independence. She offered Eyou the organization and all her materials. "She's taken the time to build it, and then she's going, 'Here, it's yours,'" Eyou said.

The second was an invitation to join an Every Nation cohort at Wheaton College pursuing a master's in evangelism and leadership. "It made me hungry to learn more because I was inspired by these great lecturers," Eyou said. He recently began a doctorate of ministry in youth, family, and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary, studying "how to engage post-Christian young people with the gospel."

Today, Eyou juggles four roles as "NextGen" pastor (serving ages zero to 30), director of MIOMO (which they've developed into an online platform), doctoral student, and married father to two teenage boys.

"I feel like we're at the cusp of a new generation," Eyou said. "They just get out there and make things different. What they need are adults like me to believe in them, support them, and go for it with them. I really believe that whatever solution I find through studies won't be led by me; it'll be led by Gen Z and Gen Alpha." ●



# Wheaton College Alumni Association Board of Directors

Meet your new board members.



**Celeste Elsenheimer Barnett '04**  
*Warrenville, Illinois*

A 2004 graduate with a B.A. in communication, Celeste worked as the Wheaton Clubs Coordinator in the Alumni Office prior to starting a family. She is now an active member of her local parent/teacher association. Celeste and her husband, Luke '03, have four children.



**Allison Haugen Borton '04, M.A. '13**  
*Wheaton, Illinois*

Allison holds a B.A. in sociology and an M.A. in evangelism and leadership from Wheaton. Prior to working as a realtor with The Thornton Team at Keller Williams Premiere Properties, Allison worked in local churches doing youth ministry. Allison and her husband, Travis '04, have three children.



**Cynthia Hall Haag '75**  
*Wheaton, Illinois*

A 1974 graduate with a B.A. in elementary education, Cynthia later earned a certificate in early childhood education and an M.A. in reading education. Before retiring, Cynthia taught high school remedial reading and was a substitute teacher and early childhood educator. Cynthia and her husband, Jeffrey '75, have four children.



**Mark Hilde '04**  
*West Chicago, Illinois*

Mark graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in philosophy with a business/economics integration. A market leader at Edward Jones, Mark is also a Board member at Wheaton Christian Grammar School. He and his wife, Sarah Myre Hilde '05, have five children.



**Courtney Holt Crowder '94**  
*Bedford, New Hampshire*

Courtney graduated in 1994 with a B.A. in elementary education. As an alumna, she has been an event speaker and chair of her 25th and 30th class reunions. She is a grassroots advocacy organizer for World Vision's central and northeast regions. Courtney and her husband, Hall '93, have four children.



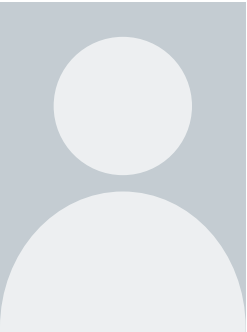
**Alicia Vallejo Gorski '82**  
*Wheaton, Illinois*


Alicia graduated in 1982 with a B.A. in music education and later earned an M.A. in teaching and learning from the University of St. Francis. Previously an elementary music teacher, she now teaches fourth grade in the East Aurora school district. Alicia and her husband, Philip, have two children.



**Mark Nelson '91**  
*Wheaton, Illinois*

A 1991 graduate, Mark majored in Christian education and Bible/theology, then earned an M.Div. at Trinity International University. Prior to working in institutional sales at First Trust Advisors, Mark worked in pastoral ministry. Mark and his wife, Hillary Conley Nelson '91, have three children.



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

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).

PHOTOS BY MIKE HUDSON



## In Pursuit of Engagement and Excellence

*Consistent alumni response generates meaningful, actionable data*

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

Vice President for Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement



In early 2024, Wheaton College engaged its alumni in the thorough Alumni Attitude Study (AAS) survey. The respected Performance Enhancement Group designed the questions to give insight into how alumni feel and how we can continually improve how well we work together.

The last time we did this was in 2017. More than 350 educational institutions have used the AAS process, providing a strong source of comparable data that Wheaton can use to better understand its survey findings.

We are sorting through the particulars of our results, but there are immediate findings we would like to share with you here. I direct you to our graphics on the following pages, where you can see an accessible breakdown of the response rate by the decade of your class, gender, ethnicity, location, theological alignment, which programs had the most impact on you during your time at Wheaton, and how well you feel Wheaton College prepared you spiritually. Further, we will share more information during the next several months using different avenues, including social media, video, and additional email communications. We are excited to enhance an already robust relationship with our alumni that sets us apart from many other institutions of higher learning.

Our results fall into Actionable Results, Prioritized Improvement Opportunities, Enhanced Brand Recognition, and Alumni Partnerships categories. For example, we see a clear opportunity to build greater alumni involvement. Specifically, we have many alumni with lower levels of connectedness who still readily recommend the College to prospective students and parents at a much higher level. This is engagement we can deliberately pursue.

I am pleased to say that 93% of respondents reported their choice to attend Wheaton College as either a good or great decision. And, given that many of our best ambassadors are present and past students, it was very heartening

to learn that 86% of respondents say they proactively promote Wheaton at least occasionally. Our alumni believe strongly that the education received at Wheaton prepared them most effectively for further graduate education and understanding of biblical perspectives. This was reasonably consistent across cohorts of graduation eras.

Wheaton alumni also noted key factors that affect their decisions to give, such as high-quality faculty, knowing that gifts have an “impact beyond Wheaton College,” and providing financial support to current students. Alumni placed a strong emphasis on “knowing that Wheaton graduates people with a strong ethical and moral foundation.” Significantly, 81% of Wheaton College alumni believe that Wheaton performed at a good to excellent level when they were students for “developing moral/ethical decision-making abilities.”

Even a college with an average relationship with its alumni base needs to monitor and consider all responses. But God has blessed Wheaton with a unique strength. Our graduates engage with us in droves and with heart-felt opinions. Out of 26,500 alumni who received the survey, a staggering 5,161 of you responded. That 19% response rate is substantially higher than the average institution’s 3–6% response rate.

Not only is the *percentage* response rate exceptional, but the number of individuals who responded gives us an enormous statistical advantage in gleaning useful, accurate information. Statistical best practices say that any number between 1,000 and 1,500 responses is enough to have a statistically significant analysis. You have reached the 95% confidence interval when you hit that range. Thus, Wheaton’s more than 5,000 results validate our findings at a high level. In statistical terms, you provided the “magic numbers” needed to understand alumni opinions not just as a whole but even the statistically valid numbers needed to hear and understand individual classes.

So, we thank you. Your dedication to your *alma mater* and its mission is unswerving, which provides true encouragement to those of us who work at or attend Wheaton College. ●

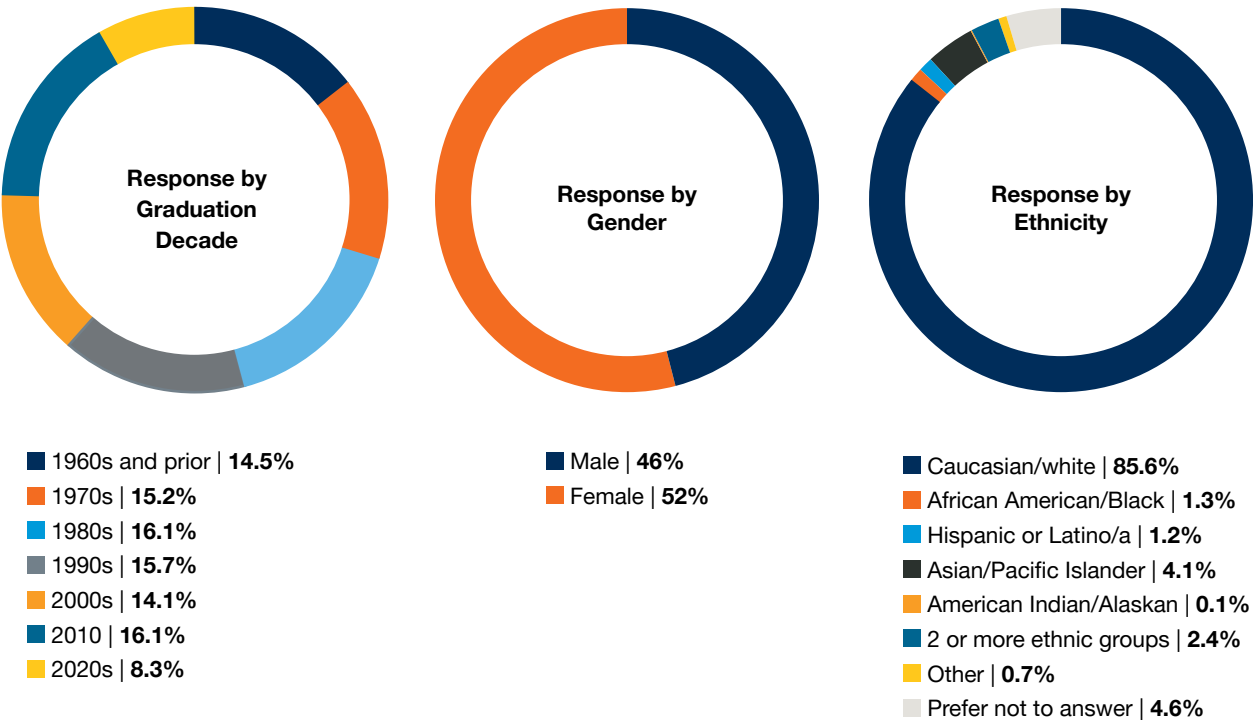
PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON; OPPOSITE PHOTO BY TONY HUGHES



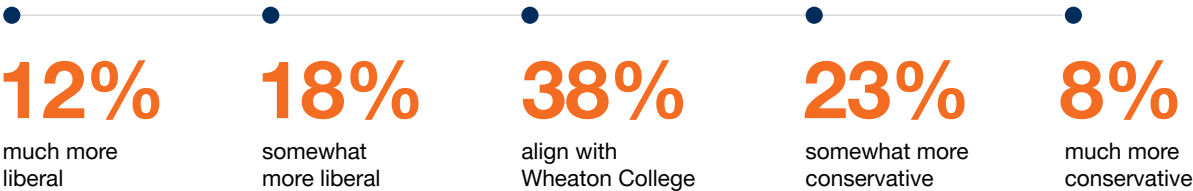
**Survey Results**



# Alumni Attitude Study: Survey Highlights



What best describes your current theological alignment with Wheaton College?



Top four programs or activities that had a special impact on alumni while they were a student:



Wheaton College was "good" or "excellent" in the ways it prepared you for:





# A Wheaton College Heritage: Sons and Daughters of Alumni

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



## 2nd Generation – A

**Row 1 (L–R):** Ava M. Pardue (Steve Pardue ’06, M.A. ’07, Ph.D. ’12, father); Frances Ingalls (Micah ’03 and Heidi Herzog Ingalls ’01, parents); Rebekah Zimmerman (Mark Zimmerman ’89, father); Ella Djojonegoro (Carol Riady Djojonegoro ’05, mother).

**Row 2 (L–R):** Auden W. Spencer (Caleb ’99 and Brooke Saxon-Spencer ’99, parents); Brittany J. Funk (Todd ’96 and Sue Knapp Funk ’98, parents); Natalie J. Chapman (Ron Chapman ’82, father); Lily J. Newell (Pete ’96 and Lori Fox Newell ’96, parents); Hannah G. Bartlebaugh (Mark Bartlebaugh M.A. ’05, father); Chloe C. Dew (Tim Dew ’94, father); Hannah J. Knot (Brian Knot ’94, father); Fionna E. Davis (Jeffrey ’83 and Ruth Richards Davis ’94, parents).

**Row 3 (L–R):** Hosea B. James (Carissa Burnaman James ’04, mother); Caleb D. Owens (Daniel ’99, Ph.D. ’12, and Heather Schepperley Owens ’00, parents); Grayson C. Brezina (Bart Brezina ’94, father); Luke B. Anderson (Ben ’00 and Jen Muser Anderson ’01, parents); Tyler L. Helwig (Leighton ’96 and Jennie Prigodich Helwig ’96, parents); Christopher D. Helwig (Leighton ’96 and Jennie Prigodich Helwig ’96, parents); Lukas A. Wierenga (Brad ’05 and Sharon Carrick Wierenga ’04, parents); Evangeline J. Bechtle (Jon Bechtle ’92, father); Annika Lindquist (Todd ’87 and Kirstin Skytte Lindquist ’87, parents).

**Row 4 (L–R):** Blaine J. deWeber (Eric ’04 and Laura Clark deWeber ’03, parents); Marcus C. Hershberger (Jeff Hershberger M.A. ’05, father); Ben J. Smith (Evan ’95 and Becky Bouwens Smith ’97, parents); Caleb D. Hunter (Evan ’96 and Becky Nelson Hunter ’96, M.A. ’03, parents); Josiah B. Fawcett (John ’84, M.A. ’02, and Margie Clark Fawcett ’91, M.A. ’96, parents); John D. Shank (John Shank ’89, father); Colson H. Hartness (Laura Woodside Hartness ’93, mother); Ethan T. Sweatman (Paul ’89 and Kerry Ronne Sweatman ’90, parents).

PHOTO BY MIKE HUDSON



## 2nd Generation – B

**Row 1 (L–R):** Sophia N. Ndjerareou (Sarah Wollslager Ndjerareou ’02, mother); Eden A Sciacca (Ben ’00 and Sara Rusch Sciacca ’00, parents).

**Row 2 (L–R):** Abi C. Edwards (Troy Edwards ’94, father); Aubrey A. Swanson (Peder Swanson ’95, father); Autumn M. Vander Lugt (Russ ’00 and Rebekah Anders Vanderlugt ’00, parents); Rachel S. Dickerson (Nathan Dickerson ’95, father); Abby P. Pothier (Dave Pothier ’98, father); Gabrielle M. Burk (Nate ’94 and Kim Pettitt Burk ’94, parents); Hannah E. Hyatt (Steve ’97 and Elissa Bannow Hyatt ’97, parents); Emma G. Witt (Kirsten Rydman Witt ’81, mother); Erin M. Davis (Susan Hawley Davis M.A. ’84, mother).

**Row 3 (L–R):** Caroline A. Wilhite (Mark ’86 and Amy Grosenbach Wilhite ’88, M.A. ’91, parents); Ryan J. Funk (Todd ’96 and Sue Knapp Funk ’98, parents); Anna C. Bailey (Peter Bailey ’96, father); Charlotte E. Lewis (Elizabeth Kavalich Lewis ’93, ’96, mother); Kathryn E. Boyd (Tony M.A. ’99 and Tracy Smith Boyd ’93, M.A. ’99, parents); Audrey J. Mohrmann (Ryan Mohrmann ’93, father); Faith M. Nash (Rob Nash ’00, father); Leah Meadows (Katrina Sack Meadows ’94, mother).

**Row 4 (L–R):** Christopher M. Brezina (Ben ’97 and Ann-Marie Otis Brezina ’96, parents); Brody K. Barrett (Brock Barrett ’88, father; Lorrie Koelikamp Barrett ’89, mother); Garrett A. Lundgren (Carolyn Bowler Lundgren ’93, mother); Caleb A. Looyenga (Leigh Ann Carey Looyenga ’98, mother); Zachary L. Zimmerman (Mark Zimmerman ’89, father); Micah N. Thompson (Nathan Thompson ’95, father); Ellis S. Cho (Jim ’98 and Christine Chang Cho ’97, M.A. ’98, parents); Peter H. Cagwin (Jeff ’97 and Ingrid Hyle Cagwin ’98, parents).





3rd Generation

**Row 1 (L–R):** Moia Kingsley (Matt Kingsley ’03, M.A. ’04, father; Phil ’74 and Cheryl Hipple Kingsley ’74, grandparents); Emma O. Barnes (Richard ’62 and Nancy Reager Barnes ’63, grandparents); Hannah R. Dunbar (Tim ’92 and Jennifer Horney Dunbar ’92, parents; Pat McElroy Dunbar ’60, grandmother); Ellie G. Dryden (Marilyn Ruttle Dryden ’74, grandmother); Ella K. Malone (Joe Malone ’98, father; Carole Rondelli Malone ’60, grandmother).

**Row 2 (L–R):** Tirsa L. Smith (Peter ’95 and Wendy Tuggy Smith ’96, parents; Marilyn Brady Smith ’56, grandmother); Josephine H. Pankau (Frank Drake ’62, grandfather); Molly M. Strike (Ken ’65 and Joanne Loth Strike ’65, grandparents); Annemarie R. Zimmerman (Doug ’95, M.A. ’01, and Sara Starks Zimmerman ’96, M.A. ’18, parents; Dave ’57 and Kay Sprunger Starks ’58, grandparents); Emmarie K. Marino (Bradley Metcalf Harris ’70, grandfather); George L. McGhee (Mark ’03 and Jewell Stanford McGhee ’05, parents; Tom McGhee ’70, grandfather); Karenna R. Henneker (Marsha Yuen Henneker ’87, mother; Marjorie Young Yuen ’53, grandmother).

**Row 3 (L–R):** Hendrik B. Justus (Mark ’91 and Stephanie Ault Justus ’93, parents; Dan ’64 and Barb Doornbos Justus ’65, R.N. ’63, grandparents); Davis P. 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); Ella R. Larramore (Kristi Bennema Larramore ’96, mother; Dennis ’65 and Casey Welborn Bennema ’68, grandparents); Lily J. Gauger (Chad ’95 and Gretchen Holzhauer Gauger ’96, parents; George Holzhauer ’70, grandfather); Riyad D. Merrifield (Bill Merrifield ’95, father; David ’64 and Judy Crabtree Merrifield ’66, grandparents); Joshua R. Cross (Doug ’93 and Jennifer Bates Cross ’92, parents; Donna Cross M.A. ’99, grandmother); Oliver E. Smith (Marilyn Brady Smith ’56, grandmother); Emma L. Erickson (Gina Morrison Erickson ’65, grandmother).

PHOTOS BY MIKE HUDSON



4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Generations

**Row 1 (L–R):** Kenneth P. Rogers (Carol Taussig Rogers ’97, mother; Paul ’72 and Martha Croxton Taussig ’73, grandparents; Bob ’44 and Mary Marth Taussig ’45, great-grandparents); Austin S. Blomquist (Jon ’93 and Jen Berberich Blomquist ’93, parents; Stew Blomquist ’64, grandfather; Vivienne Blomquist ’44, M.A. ’46, great-great aunt); Zach D. Johnson (Jesse ’00 and Joy Clark Johnson ’01, parents; Harry Johnson ’72, grandfather; Carl ’40 and Eleanor Loizeaux Johnson ’37, M.A. ’40, great-grandparents); Jaden G. Taussig (Tommy ’99 and Hoan Lamson Taussig ’99, parents; Paul ’72 and Martha Croxton Taussig ’73, grandparents; Bob ’44 and Mary Marth Taussig ’45, great-grandparents); Eliza J. Donohoo (Jennifer Johnston Donohoo ’94, mother; Philip ’66 and Margaret Fiess Johnston ’66, grandparents; Ray ’39 and Ruth Baumgartner Johnston ’39, great-grandparents; Norman ’40 and Caroline Berry Fiess ’39, great-grandparents); Elizabeth D. Dennison (Jeffrey Dennison M.A. ’03, father; Ginger Graham Dennison ’67, grandmother; Bob Graham 1928, great-grandfather); Ellen G. Johnson (Virginia Crossett Morris ’59, grandmother; Vincent ’30, M.A. ’48, and Margaret Elliot Crossett ’29, great-grandparents).

**Row 2 (L–R):** Lucas H. Klingler (Tim ’93 and Leslie Hawthorne Klingler ’95, parents; Jim ’65 and Dotty Fischer Hawthorne ’66, grandparents; Howard ’38 and Ruth McBride Fischer ’39, great-grandparents; Charles Fischer 1905, great-great-grandfather; Herman 1870 and Julia Blanchard Fischer 1875, great-great-great-grandparents; Jonathan Blanchard HON, great-great-great-great-grandfather); Barrett D. Klopfenstein (Todd Klopfenstein ’89, father; David ’64 and Dotty Shufelt-Klopfenstein ’65, M.A. ’90, grandparents; Stratton ’34 and Marj Isel Shufelt ’34, great-grandparents; Lois Stratton Shufelt 1911, great-great-grandmother; Samuel 1865 and Mary Goodrich Stratton 1865, great-great-great-grandparents); Jude R. Hubbard (Peter ’03 and Elizabeth Sandberg Hubbard ’02, parents; Phil ’72 and Patsy Elsen Hubbard ’73, grandparents; Roger ’75, M.A. ’76, and Rebecca Miller Sandberg ’74, grandparents; John ’42 and Ginny Culver Elsen ’42, great-grandparents; Jerry ’52 and Dee Deter Miller ’52, great-grandparents; Matthias 1911, M.A. 1912, and Olive Straw Elsen 1913, great-great-grandparents; Carrie Finch Straw 1881, great-great-great-grandmother); Isaac M. Dortzbach (Josh ’96 and Donna Karhan Dortzbach ’97, parents; Karl ’71 and Debbie Mull Dortzbach ’71, grandparents; Bill ’45 and Addy McClintick Mull ’46, great-grandparents); Jaxon W. Colquitt (Rick ’04 and Kendall Terhune Colquitt ’04, parents; Dave Terhune ’74, grandfather; Dan ’51 and Joy Sturgill Terhune ’48, great-grandparents); Isaac J. Bubar (Matt ’95 and Andrea Smith Bubar ’96, parents; Bud Smith ’65, grandfather; Ruth Hughey Bubar ’45, great-grandmother).



## Homecoming 2024

*Classes of 1994, 1999, 2004, 2014, and 2019 celebrated reunions at Homecoming 2024.*



1 Enjoying some of the sweet treats offered throughout the weekend. 2 Alumni joined students, staff, and faculty for a special Homecoming Chapel. 3 Arriving for reunion check-in. 4 Kent Lee '94, Dave Su '94, David Sung '94, Jim Black '94, M.A. '99, and Hubert Kim '94.

5 All smiles for seeing old friends and classmates after years apart. 6 Looking for parents in Tower yearbooks. 7 Reminiscing on good times. 8 Catching up during Friday evening events.

PHOTOS BY JARED AND BETHANNE TREMPER



# Homecoming 2024: Class Reunions

Photos by Josh and Alexa Adams



**Class of 1994 – A**  
*30-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Nate Paulson, Jennifer Schilbe Paulson, Tricia Brown Rosina, Emily Langan, Esther Jhun, Aubretia Black Meadows, Laurel Stone Stevens, Jackie Madison Huggins, Ben Huggins '92. **Row 2 (L-R):** Nathan Duell, Doug Jones, J.D. Bickle '92, Anne Winnes Bickle, Brenda Moore Ryan, Christine Yoder Escareño, Amy Norman Vandenberg. **Row 3 (L-R):** Jeannine Bush Clinton '93, M.A. '08, Henry Crawford, Michelle Crawford, Jason Crawford, Rachel Miller Lawson, Marcy Sheler, Kristen Rolund JanFrancisco, Julie Arthur Evans, Amy Rose Blanton, Shelley Didrickson Shamp. **Row 4 (L-R):** Chris Fritz '91, Aimee Paulson Fritz, Chris Hudson, Nathaniel Wade, Destiny Poland Baker '95, Mike

Baker, Jim Black '94, M.A. '99, Steve Potts, Keith Duff, Janice Rudolph Gilmour. **Row 5 (L-R):** Greg Liddle, Dacia Christensen Liddle '99, M.A. '02, Kate Martin Duff, Denise Johnson Lazar, Susan John Sheen, John Sheen, Kathy Marsh Baxter '94, M.A. '99, Karen Kottmann Edwards '94, M.A. '97, Denny Hoffner, Cheryl Joerres Hoffner. **Row 6 (L-R):** Jered Helwig, Diana Helwig, Lance Kinzer '92, Michelle Hekman Kinzer, Susan Hensley Scott, Sheri Carlson Gilbert, Carolyn Moore Littlejohn, Kimberly Pettitt Burk, Nathan Burk, Ted Hughes, Rob Painter. **Row 7 (L-R):** Brian Knot, Wade Wollin, Amy Sporleder, Trina Conner Schaetz, Steve West, Amber Yonan, Katie Yonan, Samuel Yonan, Chris Yonan, Pete Fox.



**Class of 1994 – B**  
*30-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Tim Dew, Courtney Holt Crowder, Hall Crowder '93, Matt Cole, Bart Brezina, Nathalie Ramsborg Johnson, David Rendall '94, M.A. '98. **Row 2 (L-R):** Anne Sarkisian, Steve Sarkisian, Hans Anderson, Vanessa Rullán Anderson, Nino Japaridze, Natasha Engblom Martin, Amy Thomas Shaw, Lori Regier Steger, Craig Steger. **Row 3 (L-R):** Joaquin Antilla-Garza, Julie Antilla, Stacy Gosselin Mercurio, Sara Derby Grieb, Shannon Crowder Lins '94, M.A. '01, Susan Hanak Erickson, Matt Erickson '95, Peter Heltzel, Tamara Harvey. **Row 4 (L-R):** Doug Gilmour, Hubert Kim, Min Joo Chang Kim M.A. '97, Kent Lee, Regina Ahn, Dave Sue, David Sung, Brent Pender,

Jon Ruwe, Dan Hanson, Dave Harvey. **Row 5 (L-R):** Craig Webster, Mary Webster, Laura Moran, Suzanne Knepper Oss '95, Paul Barton, Melissa Tobey LaBelle, Dené Paget Joubert, Kristianne Goff. **Row 6 (L-R):** Chad Rynbrandt, Mindy Austin Rynbrandt '95, M.A. '99, William Weaver, Matt Chambers, Kaylee Chambers, Sara Chambers, Greg Salzman '95, M.A. '99, Marcia Tobey Salzman. **Row 7 (L-R):** Josh Fox, Deena Fox, Lara Bell, Amy Fox, Kory Rascher, Kirstin Masteller Rascher '96, Isabelle Dupuy, Brad Dupuy, Jason Harrod.





**Class of 1999**  
*25-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Bill Carter M.A. '21, Ben Carter, Nate Carter, Kathryn Wright Carter, Hope Carter, Jon Carter, Ian Wraight, Dang Hai Daniel Wraight, Huy Peter Wraight, Luan Mong, Paige Lyon, Reese Lyon, Soraya Sethi, Bethany Mall Sethi, Sonia Sethi, Asha Sethi, Michael Sethi '00, Jack Sanders, Josh Sanders, Jude Sanders, Luke Sanders, Zachariah Hendricks, Heidi Hagglund Hendricks, Josiah Hendricks. **Row 2 (L-R):** Steve Petry '98, M.A. '99, Janine Brown Petry, Elijah Petry, Stephen Petry, Anna Petry, Justice Womack, Craig Henninger, Sarah Hanlon Henninger, Gordon McCarty, Chris Greenway, Maggie Hoover Greenway, Sam Fisher, Rachel M. Fisher, David Ferguson, Jessica Meldrum Sanders, Eleanor Sanders, Chip Sanders '00, M.A. '08, Lucy Sanders. **Row 3 (L-R):** Jason Stuck, Kristen Bernthal Stuck, Jessica Klassen Marston '98, M.A. '99, Grant Tregay, Betty Staniels Tregay '97, Becky Calderwood Toly, Noah Toly '99, M.A. '12, Jesse Karls, Aaron Hemphill, Christy Larson Hemphill, Derek Hamilton, Walter Cuprys, Katie Stephen Cuprys, Jennifer Streeter. **Row 4 (L-R):** Kristie Turner Monteiro, Paul Monteiro, Stefanie Morton '99, M.A. '01,

Lorena Gonzalez Vicente, Elizabeth Hanna Pitts, Carolyn Christensen Walter, Doug Walter '98, M.A. '02, Robert Carnes, Lindsey Carnes, Wendy Paff Smith, Carrie Cort Friesen, Sarah Wilson Curry, Chris Teichler, Sarah Ortiz Teichler. **Row 5 (L-R):** Bennet Brummel, Gabriella Brummel, Jessica Andrews Brummel, Abigail Temple, Martha Lacefield Temple, Julie Sterrett Gerber, Allison Yoder Bonga, Bruce Bonga, Adam Groves, Brent Brollier, Carrie Sonstroem Geiger, Christopher Geiger, Laura Camp, Aaralyn Camp, Katie Gieser Brink, Noah Brink. **Row 6 (L-R):** Cassie Cordero, Josiah Cordero, Heather Harms Cordero, Everard Carlson-Eastvold, Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Jonathan Eastvold, Phoxay Ridley, Charles Ridley, Travis Klingforth, Silas Klingforth, Meshack Klingforth, Lydia Payne Klingforth '99, M.A. '03, Jacquelyn Hartzler Nystrom, Wesley Whitson, Kit Mills, Christi Whitekettle, Jen Indelicato. **Row 7 (L-R):** Scott Brown '98, Jennifer Brown Brown, Michelle Lyon, Richard Lyon '99, M.A. '05, Leigh Claybrook Morad, Steve Morad, Ben Brown, Lidia Brown, Matt Brown, Ana Victoria Brown.



**Class of 2004**  
*20-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L-R):** Luke Schoenrock '06, Nicholas Schoenrock, Beatrice Rusu Schoenrock, Alister Schoenrock, Stephen Gordon, Allison Scott Gordon, Peter Gordon, Cecily Gordon, Claire Gordon, Julia Gordon, Elisabeth Gordon, David Nelson '03, Katy Boyd Nelson '04, M.A. '05, Rachel Mazorol Seale, Zoey Seale, Emily Parker Kehinde, Zaria Kehinde, Emily Snyder Mancia, Alicia Mancia, Heather Bakker Ghormley, Thaddeus Ghormley, Amanda Holm Rosengren, Andrea Sorensen Hamler, Christy Fleming Gudim, Liesl King, Dirk King, Justin Van Wart '05, Luke Miller, Peter Miller. **Row 2 (L-R):** Jim Beitler '02, M.A. '04, James Beitler, Brita Kempe Beitler, Arne Beitler, Lani Chinn Koontz, Courtney Marcus Mc Nerney, Etta Moeri, Sarah Nun Moeri, Nolan Moeri, Nathan Moeri, Lula Moeri, Kara Handy, Annie Messing '03, Dustin Guidry, Jamelyn Lederhouse, Greta King, Ben King, Reggie King, Liz Kellogg King, Mindy Miller Van Wart, Christa Wilson Earl, Karen Weber Miller, Brian Miller. **Row 3 (L-R):** Sarah Kerr Puryear, Kristin Kiefer Fuller, Colleen Nelson Strachan, Connie Keung, Jon Barbar, Nate Lee '04, M.A. '06, Erin Sell Huber, Daniel Price, Kyler Mulhauser '04, M.A. '11, Jenn Swank Shuffle, Henry Shuffle '02, Gilead Shuffle, Wyatt Shuffle, Virginia Shuffle, Cora Shuffle, Rowan Shuffle, Jud Earp, Jayma Earp, Jace Earp, Julie Bullock Earp, Sarah Myre Hilde '05, Kate Hilde, Isaac Hilde, Emma Hilde, Leah Hilde, Josh Hilde, Mark Hilde. **Row 4 (L-R):** Ryan Peterson, Kim Elzinga Karlsgodt, Mark McIntosh, Travis Eliason, Jeremiah Johnson, Katie Bland Johnson, Jenna Lindsell Isaacson, Brittany Kok Perkins, Titus Perkins, Katie Perkins, Lizzie Perkins, David Perkins '03, Luke Perkins, Beth Gates Cilenti, Betsy Curtis Winters, Jon Winters '03, Jared Johnson, Jessica Awig Johnson, Heather Waybright Green, Geoffrey Poore, Ben B. Barnes

'05, Jeremy Neill. **Row 5 (L-R):** Allison Haugen Borton '04, M.A. '13, Travis Borton, Robert Crawford, Nathan Tan, Micah Hughes, Avrey Ikel Hughes '05, Mandie Hamill Kaminski, Shaun Kaminski, Paul Nix, Mariah Crawford Nix, Constance Nix, Jim Watkins, Morgan Knighton, Christina Crowley Quick, Liz Pasarilla Richardson, Joie Oldberg Burchell, Ezra Burchell, Will Burchell '28, Kajsa Burchell, Nate Burchell, Peter Burchell, Taylor Armerding, Connie Hammond Armerding '02, Nate Clemensen, Allison Nyberg Ferwerda, Ben Ferwerda. **Row 6 (L-R):** Colter DuBos, Ben Noonan '04, M.A. '05, Adam Brandon, Sean Connor, Judd Birdsall '04, M.A. '06, Alison Hopkins Cairns, Peter Cairns, Clayton Keenon '05, M.A. '10, M.A. '11, Brian Tatnall, Patrick O'Hara, Jeff Mino, Andrew Pride '04, M.A. '09, Brad Wierenga '05, Eliana Wierenga, Lukas Wierenga '28, William Wierenga, Sharon Carrick Wierenga, Regina Barber Booton, Avery Booton. **Row 7 (L-R):** Grace DuBos, Nollynn DuBos, Jennifer Griffin DuBos '04, M.A. '06, Rick Colquitt, Allan Andersen, Isaac Watkins, Rowan Watkins, Emily Wingard Watkins, Athan Watkins, Jonathan Ludeman, Chris Henry, Jordan Winder, Gustave Woerner, Whitney Reiman Woerner, Susan Follett Davis, Becky Meurlin Kaufman, Clare Richardson Cook, Meredith De Haan Kent, Oliver Kent, Wesley Kent, Stratton Kent, Natalie Kent. **Row 8 (L-R):** Chris DuBos, Barrett DuBos, Laura Gibson, Jennifer Finell, Angel McGrath Conner, Erin Hoekstra, Celeste Elsenheimer Barnett, Eric Schaeffes, Joel Sage, Sean Galvin, Stephanie Ewert Galvin, Brandon Lochstampfor, Jeff Griffin, Brian Davis, Jacob Bancks, Isaac Spears, Chrissy Spears, Gabe Spears, Emmy Spears, Nick Flugstad, Rob Flugstad, Danny Flugstad, Erin Murphy Flugstad, Evan Flugstad, Elaine Flugstad.





**Class of 2014**  
*10-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L–R):** Matthew Werstler, Naomi Werstler, Justine Nham Werstler, Daniel Flavin, Katie Flavin, Everett Flavin, Matthew Lohse ’11, M.A. ’15, Isaiah Lohse, Nadia Quiggle Lohse, Ezra Lohse, Kayla Witcik, Katie Nussbaum, Kelsey Voydanoff Dewar, Henry Dewar, Erik Dewar, Daniel Conroy, Ewan Conroy, Lindsey Befus Conroy ’18, Kristin Glastad Nankervis, Erik Nankervis, Lee Nankervis, Charlie Nankervis, Arthur Nankervis. **Row 2 (L–R):** Isaac Smoak, Sarah O’Connell Smoak, Lauren Gin Curry, Meredith Hawkins, Brittany Anderson, Maria Panaggio de Vilca, Ismael Panaggio de Vilca, Lydia Gantz, Hannah Taetzsch ’14, M.A. ’19, Grace MacKenzie Hess, Rowan Hess, Elwyn Hess, Finley Hess, Daniel Davis, Hannah Fluker Davis. **Row 3 (L–R):** Riley Nastase, Chelsea Hutchings Nastase,

Owen Nastase, Liam Nastase, Meghan Cuthbertson, Johanna DeHaven ’13, M.A. ’14, Josh Hershberger, Lucas Talken, Chelsea Medic, Phoebe Wilson, Jessica Parsons, Ben Baker, Carl Kay, Gretl Kay, Eloise Kay, Colette Kay, Stephen Zawicki, Alicia Zawicki M.A. ’24. **Row 4 (L–R):** Andrew Keeler ’13, Emily Richardson Keeler, Kyle McCordic ’14, M.A. ’16, Rebecca Russ McCordic ’13, Lauren Carini Burand, Grace Burand, Tony Burand, Jonathan Burand, Lily Burand, Matthew McMillan, Allison McMillan, Emily Ciesil, Courtney Goll, Joshua Andrasko, Calvin Wetzell. **Row 5 (L–R):** Will Pugh, Matt McCrary, Daniel Green, Mitch Foor, Elizabeth Loewer, Elizabeth Marsch ’14, M.A. ’15, Molly Bender Roose ’14, M.A. ’18, Trevor Roose, Lucy Mentzer Burt, Sam Burt ’13.



**Class of 2019**  
*5-Year Reunion*

**Row 1 (L–R):** Max Pointner ’18, Elinor Pointner, Madeleine Ruch Pointner, Ruthie Kornegay Planamenta, Yihong Hu, Ismael Domínguez, Sarita George Davis, Alliya Hicks Padiak, Rebecca Stigler, Christy Bodett Lukins, Claudia Lukins, Noah Lukins. **Row 2 (L–R):** Fei She, Stephanie Bagley She, Hayes Snodgrass, Reese Pustover, Caroline Wildman ’16, Ruth Lin, Sarah Pope, Christianna Tai, Hannah Appleyard, Jonny Nham. **Row 3 (L–R):** JoAnna Smith, Wyatt Anderson, Claire Smeltzer, Stina Anderson, Elise Hill, Caroline Lauber, Sadie McCloud, Laurel Nee Wear, Austin Merck, Steven McColloch, Eddie McDougal.





## A Word with Alumni

*Jerard Woods '12*  
*Alumni Association President*

When I became an alumnus of Wheaton College in 2012, my first thought was that I would probably become an afterthought. I don't say that from a place of judgment, but to express my initial belief that since I was no longer a student, the College didn't need to prioritize my feelings or my opinions. Yes, I understood that my degree would always allow me to have a bond with Wheaton, but in practice, graduation could mark the end of our relationship.

Well, I was wrong. Within a short timeframe, I was receiving emails, being invited back for on-campus events, and even being sent gifts (to this day, I still use my "Wheaton Alumnus" mug). Instead of a goodbye, it was just a slight move to a new extension of my continued Wheaton connection.

Some of you may have felt the same way I did, but I hope by now you've also realized that the College's connection to our alumni remains consistent and intentional. Collectively, we represent Wheaton in the world and remain examples

of what it looks like to walk out our mission: For Christ and His Kingdom. This is why we care about your feelings and your opinions and are driven to make Wheaton even better with your help.

Earlier this year, many of you completed our Alumni Survey, which is crucial for us in gathering insightful information and perspectives. You told us a lot, some of which we are excited to share in this issue. Ultimately, two themes were clearly evident throughout the many responses: You still care, and you still want to be involved.

Being on the Alumni Board these past few years has helped me see this truth and recognize the importance of not only showing you how much you're needed but also appreciating who you are and what you bring. We know there is much work to be done, but we are confident in the fulfillment of God's mission here. And because you, our alumni, will continue to play a major role in us fulfilling that mission, we are forever grateful. ●

**Vice President for Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement** Dr. Kirk D. Farney M.A. '98 **Chief Alumni Officer** Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 **Alumni Association President** Jerard Woods '12 **President-Elect** Doug Goebel '90 **Past President** Eric Fowler '81 **Executive Director** Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82 **Alumni Trustee Representatives** Jerard Woods '12, Doug Goebel '90, Eric Fowler '81 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2025** Naïssa Charles '21, Noah Chung '12, Priscilla Barclay Kibler '12 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2026** Jim Black '94, M.A. '99 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2027** Brent Armstrong '91, Lisa Biehle Files '83, Hannah Tan Follett '06, Jim Hawthorne '88, M.A. '92 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2028** Celeste Elsenheimer Barnett '04, Allison Haugen Borton '04, M.A. '13, Courtney Holt Crowder '94, Alicia Vallejo Gorski '82, Cynthia Hall Haag '75, Mark Hilde '04, Mark Nelson '91



LET US THEN WITH CONFIDENCE  
DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF  
GRACE, THAT WE MAY RECEIVE  
MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP  
IN TIME OF NEED.

HEBREWS 4:16 (ESV)





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*“In a world increasingly wary of the other,  
Christian hospitality practices a curiosity and  
vulnerability that creates space for unlikely  
relationships in the name of Jesus, whose love  
reconciles and redeems.”*