


WHEATON

VOLUME 29 | ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2026



Special Issue: The *Faithfully Forward* Campaign





Banners across campus display
the campaign's theme verse in
Wheaton blue and orange.
Photo by Kayla Smith

*Let us hold
unswervingly
to the hope
we profess,
for He who
promised
is faithful.*

HEBREWS 10:23

WHEATON MAGAZINE

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1, WINTER 2026

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Contents

5 President's Perspective

News & Profiles

8 Campus

10 Students

12 Sports

14 Arts

16 Faculty

18 Profiles

Features: *Faithfully Forward*

28 *More than a Name*

30 *A Library's Lasting Value*

38 *Equipped for a Lifetime of Service*

40 *Let Us Have Athletics*

44 *A Dependable Treasure*

Alumni News

48 Alumni Profiles

52 A Wheaton College Heritage

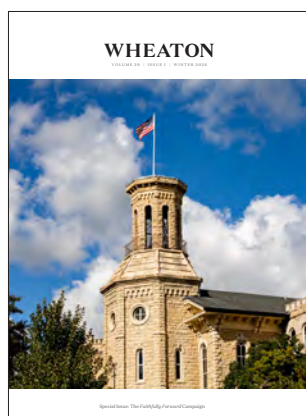
56 Homecoming 2025

60 Class Reunions

66 Class Notes

80 A Word with Alumni

Benediction



On the Cover

The Blanchard Hall bell tower.
Photo by Kayla Smith





The Most Beautiful Campus

Dr. Philip Graham Ryken '88
President

This summer, Lisa Maxwell Ryken '88 and I were privileged to visit Uganda Christian University in Mukono, not far from Uganda's capital city—Kampala.

The university is justifiably proud of its recognition as one of Africa's "most beautiful campuses." Lush green lawns run up UCU's long hillsides to a small forest at the apex of its 700 acres, which form a sanctuary for birds, monkeys, and other wildlife. The Bishop Tucker Building—which serves as the university's administrative headquarters—dates to the early 1900s and features a beautiful chapel and a classic lecture hall.

What makes UCU even more beautiful than its grounds are the Christ-followers who teach and study there. We witnessed this firsthand as we met university leaders and then celebrated with thousands of graduates in their commencement exercises. Like Wheaton alumni, Uganda's future lawyers, doctors, teachers, ministers, engineers, journalists, and business leaders give us bright hope for the future.

We, too, aspire to maintain a beautiful campus. From the hallowed precincts of Blanchard Hall to the research labs

in the Meyer Science Center to the stunning performance venues in Armerding Hall, we are blessed with wonderful spaces for liberal arts learning. Our lawns, trees, and flowers make a positive impression on prospective students and attract countless neighbors to stroll our lovely property.

But the most beautiful spot on Wheaton's campus for me is the stage of Edman Chapel, where I gaze upon 2,000 worshipers from 50 states and 100 countries and envision the future church.

We are committed to sustaining the beauty and functionality of our campus community. This includes our facilities—the buildings that shape us. Due to the early success of Wheaton's *Faithfully Forward* campaign, we will soon break ground on a major expansion of the Chrouser Sports Complex and a grand renovation of Wheaton's library.

We believe that the most beautiful campus is a place where each student is known and loved, where evangelical faith and practice are formed by Holy Scripture, and where sacred learning is dedicated to the honor of Jesus Christ. ●

News & Profiles

8
Campus

10
Students

12
Sports

14
Arts

16
Faculty

18
Profiles



Solar Panel Project Complete

In May, Wheaton College began constructing a solar panel system on portions of the roofs of Chrouser Sports Complex and Armerding Center for Music and the Arts, and on new carports in the east Billy Graham Hall parking lot. The solar panels were completed late fall. Together with a battery energy storage unit completed in the west parking lot of BGH, the solar energy system is capable of generating up to seven percent of the campus's annual electrical needs. Led by Chief Facilities Officer Jay Bieszke, the solar project will improve energy conservation on campus, contribute to Wheaton's commitment to sustainability, and help campus leaders continue responsible stewardship of the College's financial resources. ●

Words
Juliana Bacote '24

Photo
Lenny Weber

100 Years of WCSO

This fall, the Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra celebrated its 100th anniversary. The first concert of the year was on November 1. Events celebrating the anniversary during the fall and spring semesters include concerts, anniversary parties, an international tour, and a community-wide orchestra play-along at Homecoming 2025.

Amplify Conference 2025

This year's Amplify Conference took place from October 21 to 22 in the Armerding Center for Music and the Arts and Billy Graham Hall. With a focus on church growth and leadership, the conference provided leaders with training and guidance on how they can equip believers to spread their faith wherever they go. Conference speakers included Wheaton's Rev. Dr. John Dickson, Rev. Dr. Rick Richardson, and Rev. Dr. Angulus Wilson. These were joined by other Wheaton faculty and alumni who served as breakout group leaders and speakers throughout the conference.

2025–26 Core Book

When Breath Becomes Air (Random House, 2016) is this year's Core Book. *When Breath Becomes Air* is the memoir of Paul Kalanithi, a 36-year-old neurosurgeon and neuroscientist who receives a grave diagnosis and writes to the end of his life. Selected for the ways it explores how to live with wisdom and face death with courage, Kalanithi's book integrates faith and learning in literature, science, and philosophy, while prompting readers to consider what one's life and death mean.

New Graduate School Certificates

In the fall, the Wheaton College Graduate School began offering four new certificates: Sports Leadership and Coaching, Christian Camp Leadership, Humanitarian Leadership, and Foundations for Higher Education Leadership. The Pastoral Leadership concentration for the D.Min. was also renamed (without any major programmatic changes) to Ministry Leadership.

Vingwengwe: The Rhythm of the Fipa. Uncovering a Living Musical Tradition

In September, the documentary *Vingwengwe: The Rhythm of the Fipa. Uncovering a Living Musical Tradition* premiered on campus. The film was narrated and created by Dr. Johann Buis, Associate Professor of Music and Coordinator of Music History. The film, which is the result of 11 years of research, highlights Dr. Buis's exploration of three celebration dance styles among the Fipa people in western Tanzania.

Lecture by Tish Harrison Warren

In October, author and priest Tish Harrison Warren presented a lecture titled "Waiting on the Slow Work of God: How the Habit of Hope Transforms Us" in the Armerding Center for Music and the Arts. Sponsored by the Marion E. Wade Center's Stephen and Marjorie Mead Endowment for Spiritual Formation, the lecture addressed the benefit of believers strengthening their capacity for hope and included references to Wade authors. A book signing followed Harrison Warren's talk.

New Student Senate

The Student Government Association has implemented a new Student Senate, which comprises five senators per class. Senators have a once-a-month meeting commitment and possess the ability to effect change on campus by voting on new policies.

Missionary Book Mailing

This Christmas, alumni missionary families serving in 59 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.

- *Radical Like Jesus: 21 Challenges to Live a Revolutionary Life* by Greg Stier (Tyndale, 2024)
- *You Will Be My Witnesses: Theology for God's Church Serving in God's Mission* by Brian A. DeVries (Crossway, 2024)
- *10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity* by Rebecca McLaughlin (Crossway, 2021)
- *The Death of the Deadly Sins: Embracing the Virtues That Transform Lives* by Daniel M. Doriani and featuring chapters from Dr. Philip Ryken '88 and Jen Pollock Michel '96 (P&R, 2025)
- *Beautiful, Disappointing, Hopeful: How Gratitude, Grief, and Grace Reflect the Christian Story* by Drew Hyun (Zondervan, 2025)
- *Wheaton* magazine, Winter and Summer 2025 issues



Read more Wheaton stories
at wheaton.edu/news

#MyWheaton

Photos Kayla Smith



1 Friends reunite outside Edman Chapel on the first day of classes (photo by Alina Kovalev '22). **2** Moving in! **3** President Philip Ryken '88 and his wife, Lisa '88, greet students from a golf cart on campus. **4** Residence Life leaders ready to welcome new freshmen to campus.



5 Orientation Committee 2025–26. 6 Students take notes during a lecture designed to prepare them to lead clubs and organizations for the school year. 7 The Thunder Cheer squad during Orientation Week. 8 Friends and family help freshmen move into the dorms.



Creating Space for the Kingdom: Jordan Benford '26

Words
Hailey Pitcher '25

Photo
Kayla Smith

Jordan Benford '26, an outside hitter for Wheaton's volleyball team, lives her life both on and off the court with a desire to love others the way she's experienced God's love. She is devoted to creating welcoming spaces wherever she finds herself on campus. "I play volleyball to expand the kingdom—for people to see that there is something greater," she said.

When Benford first started playing volleyball at Wheaton, the sport consumed who she was. During a difficult transition to college, Benford was grateful for teammates who stepped up to support and welcome her like family. Gradually, Benford began participating in other activities across campus, such as the Storytelling Project arts group and 1-2-1, a mentoring program for multicultural students. The more Benford developed her identity outside of volleyball, the more confident she felt in her role on the court.



816

career kills

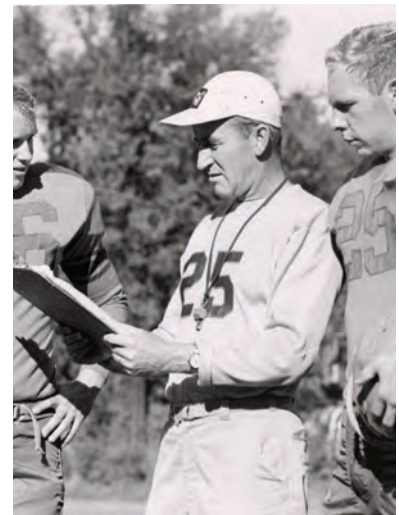
334

kills during her senior season

19

career-best kills in one game in 3-1 win against North Central

*as of end of 2025 regular season



Throwback: Harve Chrouser '34

Harve Chrouser made a large impact on Wheaton College as an athlete, coach, and athletic director. He had a four-year collegiate career in football and wrestling. After graduation, Chrouser returned to Wheaton in 1940 as the head football coach. In his 17 years of coaching, Wheaton Football racked up a 104-34-8 record, with nine CCI titles. He developed 60 All-Conference players and 15 Little All-Americans. In 1950, Chrouser succeeded Ed Coray '23 as the athletic director at Wheaton—a role he held for 25 years—and led the drive to build Centennial Gym.

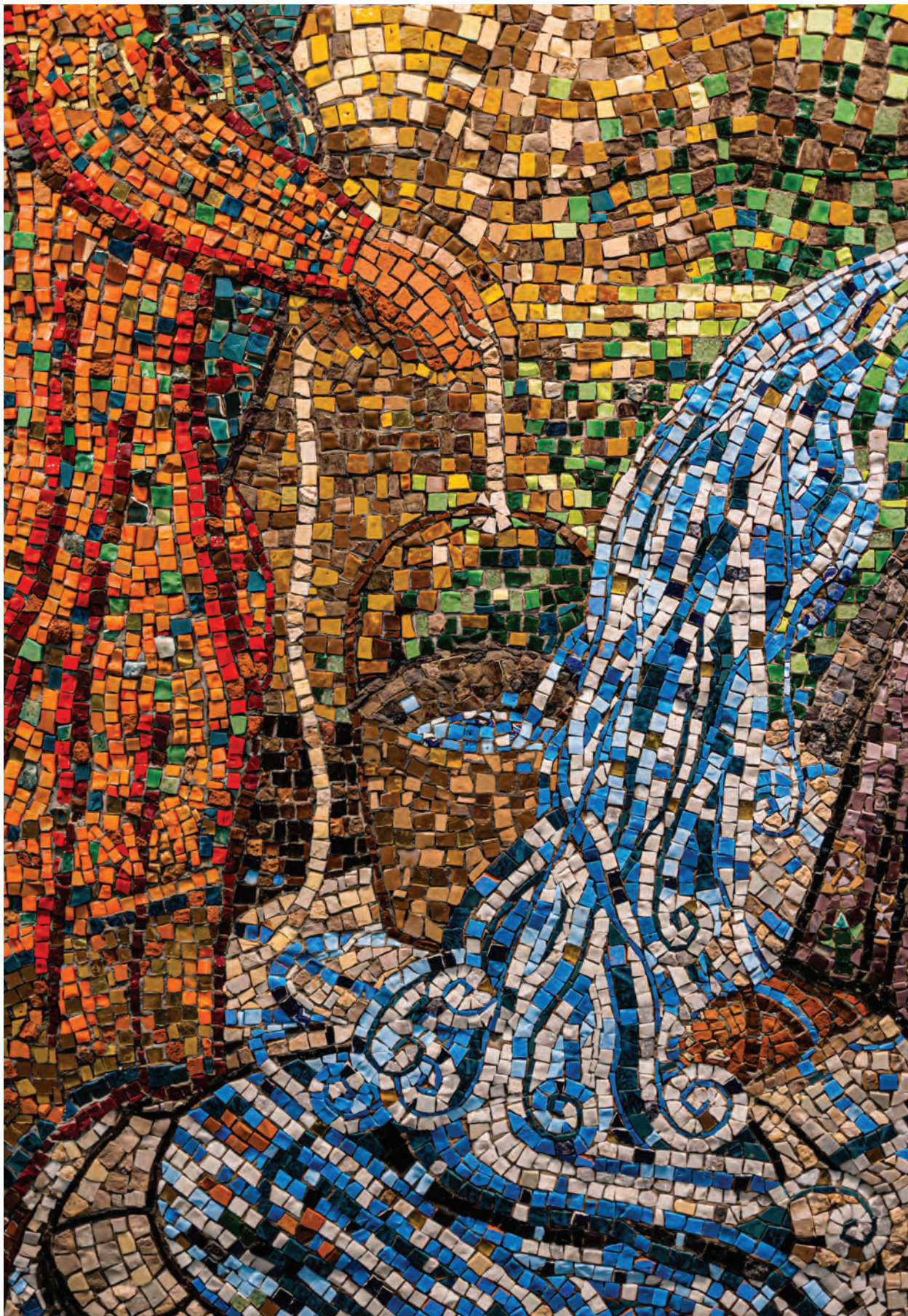
"I realized I wanted to be the best teammate possible and enjoy the sport the Lord placed on my heart rather than caring about the stats," she said.

Yet this framework shift helped Benford excel on the court. She became a versatile player, playing multiple positions aside from outside hitter, and served as a captain for the 2024-25 season. She thrived in these leadership roles, continuing to live by her goal to help others feel "seen, heard, and understood."

Amid the current capital campaign, Wheaton will break ground this spring on major additions to its athletics facilities. Benford has high hopes this will help athletes feel at home, especially those who travel across the country and give up other opportunities to play at Wheaton. In her final season, she is committed to continuing a legacy of welcome and hospitality to new athletes. ●



Support Wheaton athletes at
wheaton.edu/magazine-athletics



The President's Art Commission

Alumni, donors, and friends of the College reconnect with Wheaton through the visual arts.

Words

Juliana Bacote '24

Photo

Kayla Smith

Since its inception in 2012, the President's Art Commission has provided opportunities for campus-wide engagement with the visual arts through acquiring and installing individual pieces or galleries throughout campus. Each project helps enhance the spiritual and educational goals of the College. The commission aims to showcase art that reflects the diversity of human experience and the breadth and depth of the kingdom of God.

"Art is relational," said Professor of Art David Hooker, the current chair. "Yes, the objects are important, but in a way, the objects are important because they develop relationships. Viewers connect to the artist through their artwork and connect to each other through the artwork, too."

An art department faculty member typically leads the commission, comprising representatives from Student Development, Facilities, the Senior Administrative Cabinet, and the student body. This year, the commission's primary goal is to increase opportunities for connection between members of the campus community, alumni, and donors. This will be accomplished through docent

tour offerings, new exhibitions, and artist lectures.

The relationships formed through the commission's work over the past 13 years have inspired gratitude among its members. "We want to thank all of the people—including students, faculty, alumni, donors, and guest artists—who have made this happen," said Dr. Michael Wilder, Dean of the Conservatory of Music and Division of Arts and Communication. "As we anticipate what's coming next, we ultimately want to thank God for offering us these avenues to praise him through that which is visual."

As a result of this year's relational focus, most of the President's Art Commission's recent and upcoming projects place a spotlight on alumni from Wheaton's art department. Events during the fall included an exhibition called "Attention Bridge" by the Dovetail Practice, a ceramics studio led by Joshua Smith '98 and Margaret Park Smith '98. Upcoming events in the spring will include an exhibition by Cayce Zavaglia '94, a textile artist and painter based in Saint Louis. ●

Left: Close-up of *The Luminous One*, a commissioned mosaic on permanent display outside Barrows Auditorium in Billy Graham Hall. Wheaton art students, faculty, staff, and alumni contributed to the mosaic's design and construction from 2016–17.

Welcoming New Faculty



Row 1 (L-R): MAJ Joshua Bosley, Assistant Professor of Military Science; Hillary Wildt, Psy.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy, Interim Director of the M.A. Program in MFT; Gertrude Misornu Nartey, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication; Megan Stidham, Ph.D. '25, Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament; Kelsey Lafferty Walters '14, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics.



Read more about our faculty
at wheaton.edu/news

Row 2 (L-R): Bolton Howes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Earth & Environmental Science, Director of the Wheaton College Field Station; James Jewell, M.A., Executive in Residence (Business & Economics); Joshua Kincaid, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Engineering; Corbin Renken '16, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological and Health Sciences; Allie Ray, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics; Annika Stucky, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Music (Choral Conductor).

Not Pictured: CPT Daniel Bangcong, Assistant Professor of Military Science; Matthew Forsstrom, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics; Olivia Lee, M.F.A., Visiting Assistant Professor of Art (Graphic Design); CPT Amani Salih, Assistant Professor of Military Science; David Shin, Ph.D. '22, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies.

Photo by Kayla Smith

Faculty Publications



An Introduction to Chaotic Dynamics
by Dr. Robert Bishop
(IOP Publishing, 2025)



The Fires of Moloch
by Dr. Timothy Larsen '89, M.A. '90 (Oxford University Press, 2025)



Disability and Evangelism
by Dr. Rochelle Scheuermann (IVP Academic, 2026)



Hopeful Realism
by Jesse Covington, Dr. Bryan McGraw, and Micah Watson (IVP Academic, 2025)



The New Testament in Color
edited by Dr. Esau McCaulley, Janette H. Ok, Osvaldo Padilla, and Dr. Amy Peeler (IVP Academic, 2024)



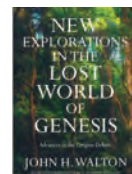
Freedom to Heal
by Dr. Tammy Schultz, Hannah Estabrook, and Adam David Dell (IVP Academic, 2025)



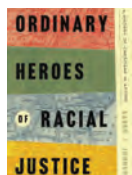
Working for Better
by Elaine Howard Ecklund and Dr. Denise Daniels '91 (IVP Academic, 2025)



The Mary We Forgot
by Dr. Jennifer Powell McNutt (Brazos Press, 2024)



New Explorations in the Lost World of Genesis
by Dr. John Walton M.A. '75 (IVP Academic, 2025)



Ordinary Heroes of Racial Justice
by Dr. Karen Johnson (IVP Academic, 2025)



Sanctifying Suburbia
by Dr. Brian Miller '04 (Oxford University Press, 2025)



The Client's Guide to Therapy
by Dr. Terri Watson M.A. '86 (IVP Academic, 2025)



What We Are in the Light
by Dr. Ryan Kemp (Post & Lintel Books, 2025)

Honoring Dr. Bill Pollard

Dr. C. William “Bill” Pollard '60, Ed.D. '18, died on June 6, 2025. In addition to his successful business career, he was a loyal participant in God's work at Wheaton College. Pollard served 31 years on the Board of Trustees, including two terms as Chairman of the Board. He and his wife, Judy, were the 1997 Alumni of the Year for Distinguished Service to Alma Mater.

Read more about Pollard's life at wheaton.edu/pollard.

Photo courtesy of Wheaton College Archives & Special Collections



Christian Tai '27

Undergraduate Student

While nearing his high school graduation, Christian Tai '27 only applied to Wheaton, trusting that if it was God's will, he'd be accepted. This decision led him to his current role as a STAM (student ambassador) and a place where he could explore many interests in his search for a major.

STAMs serve as liaisons between the College's student body and its alumni donors, attending donor events and sharing their stories with those invested in the College's mission. Tai's decision to become an ambassador was driven by both curiosity and a desire to help ensure students continue to receive opportunities like his at Wheaton. "I enjoy learning from other students and alumni, and I wanted to share with donors how their generosity has impacted students like me," he said.

Thanks to the Richard D. House Geological Endowed Fund, Tai attended a geology field trip to

Washington state early in his time as a Wheatie. That hands-on experience confirmed his joy in the subject and led him to take on a geology major in addition to business economics. "That trip completely changed how I view geology," he said. "We hiked near waterfalls, observed rock formations, and just enjoyed being in nature. My love for the outdoors grew even more."

Tai's time at Wheaton has also deepened his Christian convictions. Growing up a pastor's kid in a small church, faith was central to his life. "We were the first ones at church and the last to leave," he said. "But in high school, I started wondering: Was this my own faith, or just something I inherited? Being surrounded by people who live out their faith on campus has helped mine grow exponentially."

Tai sees his ambassador role as an opportunity to reflect on his academic and spiritual growth while

bridging the gap between donors and students. "I want donors to see how their generosity creates experiences they might never have imagined for us," he said. "Scholarships have allowed me to learn and do things I never expected, and I want that for others, too." ●



Equip undergraduates at
wheaton.edu/magazine-scholarships

Words
Bella McDonald '24

Photo
Kayla Smith



Susan Anderson Hunt M.A. '24, Ph.D. '28

Graduate Student

Susan Anderson Hunt M.A. '24, Ph.D. '28, believes the way God displays his power may still surprise us. A doctoral student of Dr. Esau McCaulley, Hunt is studying how the Gospel of John juxtaposes Jesus' power with the Roman conception of Caesar's power. She explained, "I'm considering the question: What is the theological significance of John identifying Jesus as God and Savior in a historical context where Caesar was also considered a god and savior?" Her dissertation emphasizes how John displays Jesus' divine power through his sacrificial death and resurrection, in contrast to Roman conceptions of divine power marked by violence and domination.

Hunt majored in biblical and theological studies at Covenant College. After earning an M.A. in biblical exegesis at Wheaton, she began pursuing a Ph.D. in New Testament. When she speaks with peers in other Ph.D.

programs, Hunt recognizes Wheaton's distinctiveness, specifically how professors engage students as fellow academics. She has especially benefited from McCaulley's wisdom as she explores biblical and cultural understandings of power. "He is careful and considerate when he interacts in the political sphere," she said. "He often reminds me that, as a Christian, my job is to share good news with my culture—to construct something helpful and not merely deconstruct what is unhelpful."

Because of her Wheaton experience, Hunt is passionate about the need for theological graduate programs. "It's a wonderful thing to fund a pastor's seminary education or a missionary's time on the field," she said. "But who's writing the commentaries these pastors are reading or the materials these missionaries are bringing over? Scholarship, as far as it articulates what is true about God

and his Word, is a vibrant expression of the church's vocation to share the Good News with the world."

Hunt is grateful for how Wheaton shapes her both as a scholar and as a follower of Jesus. Her professors often remind students that writing an excellent dissertation is secondary to growing in their faith, from which they are called. "There's a larger mission in mind here," she said. "Wheaton is a non-anxious presence in the world." ●



Support graduate students
at wheaton.edu/magazine-grad

Words
Grace Milligan Admiraal '20

Photo
Kayla Smith



Dr. Jeffrey Galbraith

Associate Professor of English

Dr. Jeffrey Galbraith's love for writing blossomed in a college classroom. While studying English literature and Spanish, creative writing piqued his interest, and he went on to earn his M.A. in the subject before earning his Ph.D. in English literature.

That love led him to Wheaton's English department. Now standing on the other side of the classroom, Galbraith's passion for poetry, satire, and 17th- and 18th-century literature shines through—a passion he hopes will inspire his students and invite them to be transformed by various works as he has been. "I love how literature can get through our defenses and work on us on a deeper level, so we can see ourselves and the world better without being directly addressed," said Galbraith.

Galbraith sees teaching as a cooperative art. He doesn't merely instruct his students; he learns alongside them. As he guides students

through texts old and new, Galbraith aims to help them achieve greater understanding, which he calls an "electric" moment.

Galbraith also wants his students to refine their craft, so he directs them to Wheaton's Writing Center. When he was a student, he benefited from his university's writing center and recognizes that even now, he has room to grow. "We all improve as writers over time and need input," he said. "If what you are trying to communicate is not coming across, you're not actually communicating. I encourage students to use this free resource the College provides, no matter where they are in their writing process. I think it's amazing."

By the end of each semester, Galbraith hopes to have developed meaningful connections with his students, in addition to fostering their writing. Through office hours and conversations about post-college life, Galbraith gains deeper insight

into each student's life. Ultimately, his love for students and the art of writing has welcomed every undergraduate who has walked through his classroom door for the past 14 years. "I'm thankful my students and I have the opportunity to reflect on and discuss meaningful works together," Galbraith said. "I truly value that time where I get to speak into their lives and help them grow intellectually and hopefully spiritually, as well." ●



Support academic flourishing at
wheaton.edu/magazine-success

Words
 Juliana Bacote '24

Photo
 Kayla Smith



Amy Keating '10

Regional Director of Development (Chicago Metro Area)

Amy Keating '10 describes her work as both a calling and a gift. For the past three years, she has connected with families, couples, and individuals to build relationships that inspire generosity toward God's work at the College. "My role with the College is a gift because I get to hear people's stories," she said. "I get to walk alongside them, see their challenges, and even pray with them. There's a lot of ministry woven into this work."

Keating's path to development was shaped by experiences long before Wheaton. After starting her career in marketing and communications at a formerly all-boys Catholic school—where she first encountered development work through a feasibility study—she later served at the University of Chicago. But when the opportunity arose to return to her alma mater, it felt like a homecoming.

Keating knows firsthand the transformative power of a Wheaton

education. "Working at Wheaton is such a privilege," she said. "It gave me so much, and now I get to serve alongside faculty who once poured into me as a student. That's a tremendous gift."

She is also passionate about the mission of the Wheaton Fund, which supports each area of campus life. "Every gift truly matters," she said. "There's real power in giving, whether large or small, because it reminds us that God is the source of all provision. Wheaton prepares students to be salt and light in the world—in business, politics, ministry, music—and it's amazing to build resources that make that possible."

Her affection for Wheaton extends beyond the campus to the lifelong friendships she built during her college years. Living out her value for relationships, Keating is deeply rooted in her Oak Park, Illinois, neighborhood and her church at Calvary Memorial. "I love the parish model I

grew up with, and being committed to my church community is something I treasure," she said.

For Keating, serving Wheaton is more than a professional role. It's a vocational act of gratitude, a continuation of the College's mission, and a way to help others invest in the kingdom work happening on campus every day. ●



Discover the Wheaton Fund
at wheaton.edu/magazine-wf

Words
Ashley Rydberg Bright '10

Photo
Kayla Smith



Features

28
*Faithfully Forward:
More than a Name*

30
*A Library's
Lasting Value*

38
*Equipped for a
Lifetime of Service*

40
Let Us Have Athletics

44
A Dependable Treasure

Faithfully Forward: More than a Name

Jordan Christner '11, MBA

Campaign Director



At Wheaton College, tradition and transformation walk hand in hand. For more than 160 years, the College has remained anchored in the Christ-centered mission to educate students to build the church and benefit society worldwide. Out of this unwavering commitment, the name for our campaign

emerged: *Faithfully Forward*.

The title is more than a theme. It is a declaration of identity and direction. *Faithfully* speaks to who we have always been. We are a community grounded in the truth of Scripture, committed to the authority of Christ, and inspired by generations of alumni who have lived lives of service, sacrifice, and witness. From our abolitionist founding, through wars, cultural shifts, and global change, Wheaton has never wavered from its spiritual core. The faithful legacy of those who have walked this campus before is not a relic of the past but a compass for the future.

And yet, to be faithful is also to be responsive to God's leading, the needs of the world, and the call to prepare students for service in complex and changing times. *Forward* affirms our resolve to innovate boldly, meet new challenges with courage, and equip students with knowledge, wisdom, resilience, and a deep love for Christ and his kingdom.

We believe that faith and forward-thinking are not paradoxes but partners in a reality where "the Word of God is living and active." In Christ, tradition fuels transformation. Conviction inspires creativity. The same God who has been faithful throughout Wheaton's history is the one calling us forward into a new season of growth, impact, and service.

Faithfully Forward is rooted in a holy tension of honoring our past while advancing with confidence toward the future, with Christ at the core. This campaign represents our commitment to build on our firm foundation of faith, while investing in the resources, programs, and people that will shape the next generation of servant leaders. This campaign expands scholarships to attract the best and brightest future Christian leaders, strengthens academic programs that unite faith and learning, and reimagines campus spaces for deeper community and collaboration. Every initiative is motivated by the purpose of glorifying God and better serving his world.

This name also reflects what we find every day in our students. They are hungry for truth in Scripture and eager to serve in every sphere of society. From classrooms to clinics, churches to the corporate world, mission fields to media platforms, they will be better prepared to shine the light of Christ. Wheaton will prepare them not just for success and achievement, but also for significance and impact rooted in eternal purpose.

As we step into this next phase of the campaign, we do so with joy and gratitude for the God who has been our help in ages past and will be our hope for years to come. We also do so with humility, knowing that this endeavor is not about us. It is about participating in God's ongoing work in equipping the church for the challenges ahead and preparing Christ-followers to serve with wisdom, love, and courage in a world hungry for the hope that only comes from Jesus.

Wheaton's mission has never been more relevant. And so, we move *Faithfully Forward*—inspired by our past, empowered by our hope and faith in Christ, and committed to shaping a future that honors him.

To God be the glory. ●

PHOTO BY LAURA ARMSTRONG; OPPOSITE PHOTO BY KAYLA SMITH



Campaign Events

March 7, 2026
Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel,
The Depot
Minneapolis, MN

March 14, 2026
Empower Field at Mile High
Denver, CO

April 18, 2026
Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre
Atlanta, GA

September 26, 2026
Skirball Cultural Center
Los Angeles, CA

October 24, 2026
Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
Washington, D.C.



Learn more at wheaton.edu/magazine-events





A Library's Lasting Value

Supporting Wheaton College's print resources and physical study spaces may be more important than ever.

Words Emily Bratcher
Photo Kayla Smith

Nearly 75 years since students first perused its stacks, and in a higher-education landscape that values print media less and less, the Wheaton College Library is still teeming with books and other printed resources.

In fact, out of all 116 governing member schools that are part of the Council of Christian Colleges & Universities, Wheaton possesses the second-largest collection of print books—384,961 at last count. It also places second for total number of books and media in circulation.

Those titles are housed in the Wheaton College Library—a large brick building striped with windows and capped with a cement roof, in a leafy center of campus, tucked just off Irving Street between Edman Chapel and Armerding Hall. Opened in 1952, the library got an update to the north wing in 1975 during the energy crisis, which influenced its architectural design. Before the Marion E. Wade Center got its own building, its collection (including the wardrobe that inspired C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*) also lived in the library in the Nicholas Wing.

Before that, the library's books lived in two repositories in Blanchard Hall: the Fischer Library, located on Blanchard's fourth and fifth floors, and the Frost Library,

nestled on the east end of the second floor.

Wheaton's collections currently occupy three floors of the library—though the main floor has perhaps fewer, holding instead the café, computer labs, offices, circulation, and diverse journals like *The Iowa Review*, *Faith & Economics*, and *Percussive Notes*.

There are so many books within the stacks located on the basement floor that the bookcases are sandwiched together in what's called a compact shelving system that runs on five tracks, manufactured by a company called Spacesaver. If a scholar needs a book on a shelf that is inaccessible, he or she can move the stacks with the click of a green arrow button. Above the buttons is black signage that reads, *Confirm Aisle Is Clear Before Resetting*. It's intimidating the first time, but students get the hang of it.

On those shelves, students will find titles on every topic imaginable. They'll find *The Papers of George Washington* spread across 23 volumes. They'll find an alcove dedicated to Shakespeare, adorned with a bust of the bard, along with every play and sonnet penned, as well as commentaries on it all. When arriving onto the lower floor from the stairwell, a hard-backed dictionary lies open on a pedestal.

Why all this focus on books?

“Researchers are finding that, for retaining information, the best pedagogical tool is the printed book, so we want to continue making space for the best teaching tools available,” says Brent Etzel, Dean of Library and Archives at the College.

Etzel is not alone in his abiding belief in the educational value of print materials. While it’s true we live in a digital age, many Wheaton College faculty, staff, students, and alumni think that the Wheaton College Library—and the campaign to support its redesign and resources—might be more important than ever.

“A library is a place that curates resources for responding to the media landscape that we’re now confronting,” says Dr. Jim Beitler, Director of the Wade Center and Professor of English. “It’s a place where there are resources to cultivate discernment around information use, and having a physical hub on campus that does that is very important.”

Countless studies have found that print is king when it comes to learning. Recent research suggests that when people continually hand off their cognitive tasks to digital tools, they’re limiting their own mind’s ability to absorb and understand complex information.

Reading on a screen versus on a page is more tiring; it creates more eye strain. Plus, if the goal of reading is to retain information, a digital version may suffice, but if it’s to think and engage with the text, a digital version is less helpful. Studies have also found that when students are reading digitally, they’ll switch away from that digital text every three to ten minutes, which decreases deep engagement with the text.

Dr. Aimee Callender, Chair of Undergraduate Psychology and Associate Professor of Psychology, has done her own research in this area, presented in “The Effects of Prior Knowledge Relevance and Organization on Text Comprehension and Memory.”

“This study looked at how the physical layout of the text contributes to a mental representation,” Callender said.

How do elements like headings, subheadings, and callout boxes within a textbook or digital text contribute to information recall? Callender found that when those formatting elements were preserved digitally, remembering where information came from between physical and digital versions was much the same. There was, however, a shortfall in recall when those elements weren’t preserved.

“Digital reading is fine for shorter texts, easier texts, and narrative texts that don’t require a lot of deep thought,” Callender said. “I’ll read articles online to get a sense of whether or not I want to read it more in depth later on, so I definitely think there’s a place for it. The biggest problem is that digital resources have replaced most of our reading, and we don’t realize that we engage with digital texts differently.”

Katherine Graber, an assistant professor of library science and team leader for the Archives & Special Collections, says Wheaton’s collection contains one-of-a-kind resources—maybe the only copy in the world or one of two copies in the world—and she often asks students who are handling materials like these: “Think about the value of this material—the object that you are holding versus a digital surrogate.”







Knowing this, many Wheaton professors send their students to the print resources shelved at the library. Each year, six figures' worth of visitors enter the campus library—many of them students checking out books, journals, and databases, including notable resources that support research for all of Wheaton's programs such as the American Theological Library Association Religion Database, Web of Science—a database that includes links to all sources listed in each article's works cited list—and Academic Search Complete and JSTOR, both of which cover thousands of research journals across disciplines, with many articles available in full text.

If the library doesn't contain a resource that a scholar needs, that's where the miracle of interlibrary loan begins.

Dr. Richard Hughes Gibson, Professor of English, is a self-professed big fan of interlibrary loan. "Interlibrary loan stays on its toes for me," Gibson said. "Our diligent librarians are constantly reaching out to other libraries to find me rare books or technical books of which there are only a handful of copies in the world, or scans of obscure articles in other languages—really hard-to-find resources."

Case in point: Gibson is currently working on a book about the history of generative AI. He spent his sabbatical in the library, accumulating all sorts of research materials. But he'd run into a puzzle. He needed to locate some books that dealt with word frequencies from the 19th century. "People had done these enormous analyses on how frequently words showed up in hundred-thousand-word collections of books," he said. "But I couldn't figure out,

first of all, what some of them were even called, and then secondly, how I could get my hands on them."

It turned out this was just the type of puzzle Wheaton's librarians were cut out for. Within just a few hours, Gibson got word that the materials had been located.

"My background is in history, and all historians are, to some degree, detectives at heart," said Associate Professor of Library Science Joshua M. Avery, who has helped Gibson and many others with their research puzzles. "Part of what I most enjoy about being a librarian is bringing those detective skills to bear, alongside a knowledge of the science of information architecture and search systems, to help students develop the persistence and skill to track down the best resources for their questions and projects."

That's another key aspect to an effective library—its librarians. Wheaton's six librarians can teach students to use new technologies, train classes of freshmen how to do research, manage the library's vast resources, and track down obscure resources for scholars, among other responsibilities.

They work in tandem with the leaders of Wheaton Archives & Special Collections, which contains extensive holdings documenting global evangelism, missions, and Christian history, and the Marion E. Wade Center, which holds a world-renowned collection of seven authors, including C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Dorothy L. Sayers, to bring unparalleled scholarly materials to the Wheaton community.

"At the Wade, we have resources that you literally

Photos: Architectural renderings of the new library expansion.

cannot see anywhere else,” Beitler says. “We have annotations by C. S. Lewis in books that he owned, and it’s a bit like reading over his shoulder. A lot of that material is unpublished, so people come from around the world to see what Lewis was writing in his books.”

Select students like Josh Kannard ’26 also help keep the library running. “It is a privilege that I cherish,” Kannard said. “It provides for my education and even helps further it as I acquaint myself with the content available in the library and the type of research developed in various fields—simply by interacting with book covers.”

A library is much more than the multitudes of books it contains. It’s a place to study, of course. At least it should be. A 2021 campus survey to students included a question about their favorite places to study. The most popular responses? Meyer Science Greenhouse, the fifth floor of Billy Graham Hall, the fourth floor of Blanchard Hall, the Office of Multicultural Development (located in the lower section of the Todd M. Beamer Student Center), and even the Game Room, also located in the student center. The library was not in the top five.

There are challenges with those spots. Beamer is a central stopping point for students between classes, and it can be noisy or otherwise filled with activity. The graduate school lounge on the top floor of BGH only seats a couple dozen people at a time. The same goes for Blanchard and the greenhouse. Dorm rooms, too, are places where loud music and video games are frequently present—making them at least sometimes distracting places to study.

Chloe DuBois ’25, an English major who also worked as an archival assistant in the Marion E. Wade Center, studied in the library almost every day, primarily in the mornings and in between classes. But even as a regular, she’d love to see the library make use of more natural light. “Spring of 2024, I studied abroad at Oxford University, where I fell in love with the Bodleian Library’s big windows,” DuBois said. “Oxford’s winter weather (like Wheaton’s) can be miserable, but studying in spaces with natural light helped alleviate my depression.”

The floor plans for the new library, Etzel says, feature ample natural light. A reading room will be the mainstay of the second floor, stretching across the entire south end of the building. New tall windows will offer students a panoramic view of campus, including Blanchard Hall, Adams Hall, and Wheaton’s many trees.

This is crucial, says Melissa Norton, Director of Learning and Accessibility Services. “The kind of rigorous academic work Wheaton students are doing or are called to do really requires those places—places to go do that work. To have somewhere where students can meet up and go study together or solo with an abundance of study spaces and natural light is unparalleled in the ways that it breaks down barriers to success.”

The library will also become a one-stop shop for students to receive additional support in a normalized setting. Currently, the Learning and Accessibility Services office is located across campus at the Student Services Building in a space that cannot accommodate its many functions, like proctoring exams for students with ADA accommodations or peer coaching programs. “It creates some real logistical difficulties that we’re not all in one place, so sometimes we’re running to and from Student Services to the library or the students are winding up at the wrong place for a meeting or exam,” Norton said.

In the new blueprint, LAS offices will be in the library and have ample space for students to meet with one another for peer coaching or taking exams. “We’re super excited to have all that centralized,” Norton said.

Accessibility is also a key factor for external changes to the building. “The architects have been very thoughtful in making the building physically accessible both for someone who is using a wheelchair or someone who is blind,” Norton said, pointing to elements like a sloping outdoor walkway and user-friendly indoor signage and wayfinding for students with or without disabilities.

The Wheaton College Writing Center, led by Senior Lecturer of English Dr. Alison Gibson, is also slated to get a refresh. This center enables undergraduate and graduate students across disciplines to work one-on-one with trained writing consultants to grow and develop effective writing skills. But in its current location, tucked around a corner of the library’s main floor, past a largely unused computer lab, the Writing Center can be difficult to find. It is also a cramped space, which can be inaccessible for some students seeking writing support.

“Writing is a vulnerable act, and it’s even more vulnerable



“An airport, like a good library, is a place where people arrive and depart. It’s a physical center that mediates all of these vast excursions and convergences. It makes such a difference if an airport or a library is spacious and accommodating or if it’s tiny and poorly resourced. When the people who work there are knowledgeable and well-resourced, it’s a wonder.”



to show someone your writing,” said Alison Gibson, who also serves as the director of first year writing. “The Writing Center needs to be visible and accessible to all students so they feel welcome receiving the help they need.”

In the new layout, the Writing Center will move from its hideaway to a high-traffic location on the main floor, right across from the circulation desk. The new space will include three consultation rooms, large enough for a small table and two chairs, or even a loveseat and a coffee table. Builders will also construct a larger meeting space that can accommodate up to 30 people and be used for lectures, classes, and other gatherings.

During the 2024–25 academic year, the Writing Center held 1,742 half-hour appointments. Gibson imagines those numbers will soar when the renovation is complete. “If we believe that Christians are called to be storytellers, and if we expect Wheaton students to develop effective writing skills during their time here, then we need to give them inspiring spaces in which to do it, as well as ample support,” she said.

Organic meetings and collaborations will be enhanced in a redesigned space, too. With clusters of tables and chairs, collaboration rooms, and an in-house café, students will have comfortable spaces to collaborate on their projects, which may or may not include the need for various technologies. “Increasingly, students are expected to work together, and the library should be the ideal spot for that,” Etzel said.

For example, more and more campus libraries have audio or visual recording spaces for students, as well as spots equipped with monitors where students can work together on presentations. The new floor plan has designated spaces for technologies like these, encouraging group projects and other collaborative work. “A library is a place where students can learn how to use those resources and access them together,” Etzel added. “We want to honor our students and collections with an appropriate building that meets the needs of both.”

In other words, Wheaton already has this vast, nation-leading collection of books and resources and a team of sharp, friendly librarians and patrons. It just needs an elevated space to accommodate it all and function more effectively.

Looking ahead, Richard Gibson likens the ideal traffic flow and activity hub of the library to an airport. “An airport, like a good library, is a place where people arrive and depart,” he said. “It’s a physical center that mediates all of these vast excursions and convergences. It makes such a difference if an airport or a library is spacious and accommodating or if it’s tiny and poorly resourced. When the people who work there are knowledgeable and well-resourced, it’s a wonder.” ●



Help build Wheaton’s library at
wheaton.edu/magazine-library



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Equipped for a Lifetime of Service

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A delightful surprise in this empty nest stage of my life is the frequent opportunity as a trustee to interact with Wheaton students. I often hear them describe their love for this community even while yearning for what lies beyond. This tension is exactly as it should be and resonates

with my own experience.

I came to Wheaton in the fall of 1987 from a hometown and public school experience which was, other than my nuclear family and small (but mighty) neighborhood church, thoroughly secular. I was enticed by the opportunity to live in an exclusively Christian community for four years.

Suddenly, my friends, teachers, peers, and mentors not only shared my faith in the God of the Bible but also lived and learned to integrate his truth with the value of modern academic pursuits. At Wheaton, I learned that while critical thinking is worthy, Christian critical thinking skills light up divine pathways to seeing and serving that can be uncovered by no other method.

For me, these tools were honed through a wide range of Wheaton opportunities. Dr. Norm Ewert's class discussions shaped my understanding of a wealthy Christian's cross-cultural responsibility in a post-colonial world. Tutoring with Christian Service Council in Cabrini Green compelled me to consider deeper questions about why this disadvantaged neighborhood looked strangely like another that I knew close to home. A summer with Student Missionary Partners helped me examine my faith more closely, especially when the career missionaries I visited asked me to share my testimony in a useful and relevant way in small Indonesian villages.

Even 35 years after graduation, I am grateful for these experiences, along with many others, which spurred me to see and learn better as a college student. Ultimately, I am thankful for the way I was equipped to worship God and serve his creation throughout my personal and vocational life, no matter what circumstances, challenges, questions, or blessings the path revealed.

Regular interactions with current students, faculty, and recent graduates—three of whom are my own children—reinforce my confidence in Wheaton's mission. I am inspired by their depth of thought and care for the world, as well as the courage and faith they bring to their future plans. Even in turbulent times, the College continues to foster Christian critical thinking skills that equip them to uniquely see and serve God's purposes throughout a lifetime of service for Christ and his kingdom. I witness students graduating not as products of an "education factory," but as fully formed human beings who have been empowered to live well.

There is so much more waiting for Wheaton students beyond what they can imagine. Therefore, I am thankful that they are being equipped with truth, compassion, skills, and experiences to engage all the good works God, in his providence, has prepared for them to do.

I am proud to have the opportunity to invest both as a trustee and a donor during this vital season, and I am grateful for a front-row seat as Wheaton continues to move *Faithfully Forward*.

Each student at Wheaton carries a story, a calling, and a purpose that can reach beyond the campus and into eternity. This campaign will help ignite those callings—fueling transformation, deepening faith, and sending equipped leaders into every corner of the world for Christ. ●

Let Us Have Athletics

As Wheaton prepares to break ground on a major athletics facility renovation, take a look back at the many places our athletes have occupied through the centuries.

Words Bethany Peterson Lockett '20

On the second floor of Adams Hall, a low-ceilinged studio is lined with long wooden tables and metal stools. In the corner, a heavy print machine sits next to cabinets stuffed with art supplies; a metal rack holds drying papers. On the far wall, three rectangular windows illuminate a shiny, pale-colored, narrow-laned wood floor with the traditional black markings of a basketball court.

Built in 1899, the original campus gymnasium included a basketball court (built only seven years after the game's invention), an elevated indoor track, and a basement bowling alley. Named Adams Hall in honor of John Quincy Adams (cousin to the U.S. president of the same name), who funded construction, the three-story brick building now houses the art department. "It's good stewardship if you can reuse a building," said Bruce Koenigsberg HON, semi-retired Wheaton architect of over 40 years. On an 80-acre campus, no inch goes to waste, but "our primary philosophy is to preserve the history and the aesthetics of the College to fit the educational needs of our students."

Wheaton has built three gymnasium complexes, along with a number of facilities for athletes to practice and compete in, such as McCully Stadium, Bean Field, Lawson and Leedy Fields, the tennis courts, and Lederhouse Natatorium. Each older building has been repurposed, preserving the original flooring or exterior design to keep Wheaton's legacy intact through its 165 years.

"I appreciate whoever had the wisdom to preserve the gym floor, which is now an art studio, because we bring recruits up there all the time," said Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach Mike Schauer '93, M.A. '96. "I don't know that anybody's made a decision to attend Wheaton because we have an old gymnasium on campus, but it's kind of cool for them to see."

Although the buildings' history may not sway a new recruit, the renovation plans included in the *Faithfully Forward* campaign just might. Like the gymnasiums of the past, the blueprints preserve working facilities and Wheaton history while introducing modern design elements that will be functional for years to come.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO NEW HEIGHTS

"Good students only are wanted. Persons who wish to spend their time in sports or social recreations are advised to remain at home until they wish to study or go elsewhere."

Wheaton's second president, Charles Blanchard, wrote these words in 1892 in response to a group of students raising support for athletics on campus after hosting the first athletic event, an interclass track meet, in 1891. Despite Blanchard's initial misgivings, Wheaton Athletics were formalized with a basketball team in 1900. That same year, the baseball team began playing on Lawson Field.



In 1914, the first “Physical Director for Young Men,” Jasper Turnbull, published a defense of athletics in the *Wheaton Record*. “We do not argue that we desire the modern man to be a beef-eating Spartan or a Horatius, lopping off heads by the dozen,” he wrote. “But we do think it desirable that the modern man exercise more or less so that his blood stream will be strong, so that his brain cells will be nourished, so that he can think. Therefore, let us have athletics. It is the only logical conclusion.”

Students must have agreed. Even beyond varsity sports, roughly 44 percent of the student body today participates in intramural or club sports, which became an integral aspect of campus culture as early as the 1920s, from archery to wrestling.

In the 1930s, ambitious plans for a new gymnasium and swimming pool fell short of funding, so President Raymond Edman tasked coaches Ed Coray 1923 and Harve Chrouser '34 to design a more modest proposal. In 1941, during a soccer tournament in Maryland, Chrouser saw a gymnasium that seemed like it could work for Wheaton. With permission, he brought back blueprints and presented

them to Wheaton leadership. When a trustee asked who would pay for it, Chrouser replied that the alumni would. He was right. Wheaton alumni raised \$85,000 for Alumni Gymnasium in less than three months, and the building was completed in 1942.

The new gymnasium featured a pointed exterior with four redbrick columns and three rectangular entrance doors framed by glass windows. Inside and through the lobby, a modern-size basketball court held folding bleachers on opposing walls. A handball court, wrestling practice gym, and weight room were in the basement.

“We didn’t have standing room because the boundaries for the court went right smack up against the bleachers, practically just enough room to walk,” remembered Ray Smith '54, former sports information director at Wheaton and cofounder (with Chrouser) of the Wheaton Athletics Hall of Honor. Due to the court’s tight quarters, a 12-instrument pep band played from a platform above the stairs to the locker rooms. “You got a huge sound in there, and the teams responded to that kind of support,” Smith said.



Coached by Lee Pfund '49, Wheaton's men's basketball of this era was one of the most successful teams in Wheaton's history. They won Wheaton's first NCAA Division III championship in 1957.

Besides Alumni Gym, Smith described a several-acre parcel four blocks north of campus named Old Lawson Field with a baseball diamond on the west side and soccer goals on the east. Before the annual homecoming game each year, students would build a 25-foot-high bonfire pyramid of railroad ties at the far corner of what's now McCully Field, updated in 1956 and named for football captain Ed McCully '49. "It would never happen in today's safety environment," Smith laughed. "But that was an era that added a lot of excitement, color, and enthusiasm to the games."

THE CENTENNIAL ERA

By 1958, Wheaton had decided to include a gym expansion as one of two projects during the centennial expansion campaign. But when Centennial Gym's doors opened for the first time, it was not for a basketball game or wrestling match—but a Billy Graham Crusade. In the last week of September 1959, the campus welcomed over 100,000 visitors for the events. The gymnasium was filled, and the overflow crowds spilled into a nearby field where Fischer Hall now sits, facing the entrance to a low, rectangular building with a speckled glass entrance, flags billowing in the wind, and giant block letters spelling out *100 years* and *For Christ and His Kingdom*.

It doesn't take a historic crusade to fulfill the College's motto. Discipleship and competition have always coexisted and strengthened each other in Wheaton sports history.

As a former Wheaton football player, longtime coach, and retired postmaster, Jeff Peltz '81 has fond memories

of competing on the gridiron but also of Friday football chapels with the team. "We would all stuff into this little room," said Peltz, who now serves as the Associate Director of Development for Athletics. "It was maybe 75 of us, and we'd have a senior give some kind of challenge, and then seniors would take turns, a couple every week, sharing their story." Football chapel was a tradition long before Peltz came to Wheaton, and he continued to invest in it as a coach for over 43 years. "I think it's the next best thing we do besides playing a game on Saturday," he said. "Athletics are a camaraderie builder. They're a rallying point. When you get the core part of the heart of your athletes, they can show how much they love each other by how hard they play and how they push each other toward Jesus."

That is not to say that Wheaton athletics has not been successful. In fact, men's and women's varsity teams have won 228 CCIW championships (the second-highest in CCIW history) and 6 Division III national championships. In addition to the more than 400 players recognized as All-Americans, individual athletes have brought home 37 NCAA championships throughout the years.

The move to Centennial Gym also coincided with a key period in women's athletics history. When the new building opened, the old space from 1942 became a women's gymnasium, renamed to Edward A. Coray Gymnasium in 1968.

Women's athletics have a vibrant history at Wheaton, but the CCIW conference didn't officially sponsor them until 1985. In the 1940s, women participated in "Playdays," featuring multisport competition with other local colleges, and by the 1960s a group of dedicated female coaches and advocates—including Chrouser's wife, Dorothy McDonald Chrouser '34; Marilyn Scribner HON; Martha Cole Baptista '45; and Ruth Berg Leedy '32 (for whom the softball fields are now named)—formed the first group of varsity women's

sports: field hockey, basketball, volleyball, and softball. In 1972, Title IX opened far more opportunities for female collegiate athletes and increased investment in women's athletic facilities.

When Head Women's Tennis Coach Jane Nelson '83 was a student at Wheaton, female athletes didn't have access to the weight room. A makeshift locker room was relegated to the Coray basement. As a tennis and basketball athlete, Nelson would run up and down the stairs in Fischer Hall and sometimes work out in a glorified closet. Since then, she notes, projects throughout the years have made Wheaton athletics an increasingly welcoming environment for both male and female athletes. "All of us in the athletic department are very excited about the new facilities," Nelson said. "We are grateful for the hard work the design team is putting into the renovation."

By the time Nelson returned to Wheaton as a tennis coach in 1986, the women's teams had moved to Centennial Gym and gained access to the weight and training rooms. Wheaton women's teams have more than made up for the lost time. As of September 2025, they have won 105 conference championships, which is a CCIW record. The women's soccer team has also brought home three Division III national championships (2004, 2006, and 2007).

THE NEW MILLENIUM

As varsity sports grew, it was clear they needed another complex—and not just for athletes. The \$15-million Student Recreation Center completed in 2000 was a different kind of gymnasium building. With high ceilings, airy skylights, and a spirited orange and blue lobby, what's now known as the Chrouser Sports Complex made athletics more accessible to every student and the surrounding community.

According to Koenigsberg, the SRC was part of a building campaign to improve student life (along with the Todd M. Beamer Student Center next door). In 1981, the College built its first-ever swimming pool, later named the Jonathan Lederhouse Natatorium after Wheaton's longtime swim coach, Jon '74. Later, in 2000, the SRC project was complete with new gyms, fitness centers, and offices, and the great hall entrance to King Arena, named for donor Leroy King. The 8,000-square-foot weight room, three recreational courts, climbing wall, second-floor dance studio, and indoor track are accessible to all of campus. Paid memberships are also available to the public.

For all its improvements to campus life, the Chrouser Sports Complex did not include updates to the athlete-only facilities, most notably the locker rooms last renovated with the Centennial Campaign in 1960—a time when Wheaton had a total of ten varsity sports, none of which were women's teams. "We have about 500 student athletes currently, and we have 414 lockers. Even I as the basketball coach can do the math; that is not enough," Schauer said.

According to Whitley Grey, Assistant Director of Facilities Planning and Design, the upcoming renovations meet four crucial goals: expand the training room with better equipment (such as hydrotherapy) and space for

treatment, provide dedicated locker rooms for every varsity team, create a new athlete-only weight room with specialized equipment (which frees up the current weight room for others to use), and add visiting team locker rooms to avoid congestion on game days.

David Stevenson '26, a swimmer and member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, said he has enjoyed the Lederhouse Natatorium facilities. Because they occupy a separate pool area, the swim team has more private lockers, showers, and equipment storage. "I realized that swimming has it pretty good when it comes to the amount of space and equipment we have, which is really, really nice, especially considering the size of our team," he said. Attending SAAC meetings made him realize the inconvenience other athletes face when they have to lug equipment across campus or leave it in unsecured spaces due to the locker room shortage.

A proponent of beauty, Koenigsberg said the plans are also about campus aesthetics. The same red brick that threads its way through campus will be used in the additions, which will be built into the north end of the Chouser building. The new athlete entrance on this addition will also create a more intuitive and comfortable experience for visiting teams and recruits.

When it comes to recruitment for her team, Nelson said that ultimately it's the community and culture that convince students to come to Wheaton. "The biggest selling point of our women's tennis program is the character and caliber of the young women in the program. Most of our athletic teams have been very successful over the years without A+ facilities. I'd like to think that we're already giving our best, no matter what type of locker room we have or don't have."

"Whether we think they should or should not, facilities matter," Schauer said. "I believe I was created as an athlete, and I don't perceive that makes me any different, or at least not much different, than somebody who's created with great musical gifts. During the last campaign, Wheaton built a beautiful conservatory, and this has a similar motivation. This is our giftedness, so we should pursue excellence in our athletics facilities too."

Wheaton's athletics facilities are worth preserving and expanding, not just for better sports performance in its own right, but for the sense of identity, belonging, history, and faithfulness they have helped uphold in the lives of students across the decades.

Therefore, let us have athletics. It is the only logical conclusion. ●



Continue Wheaton's rich athletics legacy
at wheaton.edu/magazine-athletics

A Dependable Treasure

Dr. Kirk Farney M.A. '98

Vice President of Advancement, Vocation, and Alumni Engagement



In 1524, Martin Luther sent an open letter to the cities of Germany urging citizens to devote greater resources to Christian schools. “You . . . cannot prepare a more dependable treasure for your children,” he appealed, “than an education in the liberal arts.” Such preparation made its recipi-

ents “fit for everything” that their callings might eventually demand. Luther concluded by observing that a community’s “best and highest welfare, safety, and strength consist in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable, and cultivated citizens”—outcomes produced and enhanced by Christian liberal arts education. I suspect that if the Professor of Wittenberg were to review Wheaton’s mission statement, when he read that our enterprise means to “educate the whole person to build the church and benefit society worldwide,” he would voice an enthusiastic “Ja, that’s what I’m talking about!”

Like Luther, we are fully dedicated to this mission. And also, like Luther, we appeal for our “citizens” to provide resources to assure excellence in this timely undertaking. That is why I am excited to share a perspective on our *Faithfully Forward* capital campaign. This campaign, with a goal of \$275 million, is designed to improve the Wheaton experience for our students for generations to come, through enhanced programs, upgraded facilities, and increased scholarships. Our objective is to prepare the College for the future while remaining firmly tethered to the theological and academic commitments that go back to our founding.

Wheaton College has what I believe is a divinely appointed purpose for existing and offers a unique value proposition for our students and prospective students, all centered on the integration of faith and learning with scriptural fidelity and academic excellence. That value proposition is recognized by many potential students, but the fact remains that we operate in an educational environment that is more competitive than ever, as colleges and universities seek to fill their classrooms from a shrinking

pool of college-bound students. A key outcome of a successful *Faithfully Forward* campaign will be our ability to attract more outstanding students, assuring that our hallways and seminar rooms, dorms and locker rooms, recital halls and chapels are filled with gifted students, developing leaders, and faithful Christ-followers.

A new, state-of-the-art **Library** facility will serve as the academic hub of our campus, facilitating rigorous exploration and research, featuring contemplative study spaces and collaborative project rooms, with ample print and digital resources. (Did you know that Wheaton students use library resources at one of the highest levels within national liberal arts colleges?)

A substantially increased endowed **Scholarship** pool will make a Wheaton College education financially viable for qualified students and help us attract highly sought-after, academically gifted students. Research clearly shows that scholarships are one of the highest-ranking decision factors for prospective students and their families, all across the spectrum of financial need. This is because scholarships ease the financial burden of a quality Christian education and demonstrate a college’s desire to attract the potential recipient student.

Upgraded **Athletics** facilities will assure separate locker rooms for every male and female varsity team, expand workout and treatment spaces, and broaden athletic opportunities for all students. These facilities will not only help our athletes compete at a higher level, but they will also help the College compete more effectively for talented student athletes.

Internships provide students with vital experiential opportunities for vocational discernment, workplace engagement, and door-opening relationships with potential employers. Yet many meaningful internships are not compensated or pay modest wages. Many students need to earn money during summers and cannot afford to pursue this type of internship experience. By building our endowment for internships, we can assure that more students can gain these valuable experiences during a crucial period in their education, by providing them with supplemental funds during such immersive experiences.



By the numbers

47

Leadership Gifts
of \$1M+

\$236M

Campaign Gifts and
Commitments

16,031

Campaign
Donors

77

Class Years
Represented

5

Upcoming National
Campaign Events

\$25M

Largest Gift

**Numbers updated as of 11/5/2025*

Our **Life With God Together** enterprise bolsters resources and provides a framework for building scriptural knowledge, fostering spiritual growth, and enhancing service opportunities for students, staff, and faculty. We are committed to genuine discipleship within our campus community and wherever our graduates engage in the world.

Additional *Faithfully Forward* goals include **Academic Success**, which will provide upgraded, tailored services, such as writing assistance and testing accommodations, which will ensure that our students will flourish. The **Graduate School Impact Fund** will strengthen our highly respected academic offerings and build our global impact on the church and society. The **Wheaton Fund**, which is part of the College's operating budget, will continue to keep the cost of a Wheaton education down for every one of our students. Finally, we are building a pipeline of **Planned Gifts** from loyal Wheaton supporters who wish to leave

an enduring legacy. These future financial resources will assure that Wheaton will remain the academically rigorous Christian beacon it is within higher education, the church, and the communities we touch.

My friends, I invite you to consider supporting our *Faithfully Forward* campaign with your prayers and your resources. Help us further enhance the excellence of Wheaton College for our current students and the generations to come. Help us perpetuate the "dependable treasure" of a genuine Christian liberal arts education. Help us to produce what Luther called "many able, learned, wise, honorable, and cultivated citizens." May God bless this worthy endeavor, For Christ and His kingdom. ●



Explore *Faithfully Forward* at
wheaton.edu/magazine-forward

Alumni News

48
Alumni Profiles

52
Generations

56
Homecoming 2025

60
Class Reunions

66
Class Notes

80
A Word with Alumni



A Champion of Higher Education: Dr. Elizabeth Henderson King '76

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Henderson King '76 always knew she would go to college. Her family highly valued education, and many attended Wheaton College, so despite Wheaton being half a world away from her home in the Philippines, she enrolled. King went on to earn a master's of education and a Ph.D. in higher education administration at the University of North Texas.

Pursuing higher education wasn't an easy path for King, however. Paying for college proved a financial challenge, and King worked 20 hours per week while carrying a full academic load to afford tuition. She worked full-time as she pursued her master's and doctorate.

"Working diminished my opportunity to participate in a number of activities I might have enjoyed," she said. This experience gave her a new grasp on the importance of alumni-funded scholarships for students, and fueled her passion for university advancement.

After college, King led a successful career in advancement. When she transitioned to Wichita State University, she became the youngest VP they had hired, and their second female VP.

King spent over 30 years at WSU, first in the advancement department, then as the President & CEO of the WSU Foundation and Alumni Engagement. During her tenure, King grew the foundation's assets from \$50 million to over \$400 million, and expanded the staff to over 60 people. Her list of accolades is long, including the 2020 *Wichita Business Journal's* Executive of the Year and a 2024 Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame inductee.

King knows that without her degrees, her life would look dramatically different. "Those who choose to get a college degree unlock a whole other world," King said. "Once I started working in higher education,

I knew it was where God wanted me to be."

King's involvement in higher education advancement doesn't stop at her professional life, extending also to her personal convictions. King and her husband, Donald (Don) King '76, support numerous scholarships at Wheaton, including the Donald L. King Fellowship Endowment for the Doctoral Program in Biblical and Theological Studies, and the Donald and Elizabeth King Scholarship. They are particularly passionate about alleviating financial burdens for missionary kids like King, allowing them to freely experience all that college has to offer.

"Our philanthropy would not have been possible if it had not been us as a couple, united in what we support," King said. "I tell young people all the time: The key to marriage is that you are united in your values and the Lord."

King is semi-retired now, working as a consultant with the Association of Governing Boards and serving on several other boards. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with Don, participating at church, traveling, spending time with their Wheatie friends, and visiting their sons, Lance and Brandon, and their families. She also enjoys the continued opportunity to mentor.

"Staying engaged with your alma mater doesn't just have to be financial," King said. "Wheaton has such a vast array of alumni with incredible experiences and jobs, and offering that network connection for students is another way alumni can give back. A vibrant, engaged alumni base makes a healthy institution." ●

Words
Melissa Schill Penney '22

Photo
Darrin Hackney



Support future Wheaties at
wheaton.edu/magazine-scholarships



A New Calling: Joshua DeMoss '20

When Joshua DeMoss '20 was unexpectedly let go from his role as a software engineer in 2023, he received a surprising response from his mother: "Praise God."

DeMoss had evaluated new vocational paths for quite some time leading up to that moment. With bachelor's degrees in music and computer science, he considered continuing his programming career or scaling back to pursue his dream of becoming a film score composer. He also felt nudged toward missions work, especially after connecting with international missionaries at a church luncheon. This sudden job loss posed a new question: "Am I really supposed to leave everything and go be a missionary?"

Originally from Chester, New Jersey, DeMoss chose Wheaton due to positive testimonies from his alumni siblings and his interest in the Conservatory of Music. He discovered an additional love for computer science by taking Discrete Math and Functional Programming with Dr. Thomas VanDrunen, and added that second major to his time in percussion ensemble, club lacrosse, and other intramurals.

DeMoss also explored off-campus avenues for his creative gifts. As a junior, he completed an internship with OneWay Ministries, a nonprofit in Aurora, Illinois, that conducts onsite missions to unreached people groups and employs media to mobilize Christians in prayer and missionary support. DeMoss received funding from Wheaton's Center for Vocation and Career to complete the internship, which would otherwise have been unpaid.

"The media staff at OneWay really believed in me," said DeMoss. "That really encouraged and inspired me to give my all that summer." One of his projects that summer was "The Salvation Series," a digital allegory about

conversion that incorporates musical imagery.

Although he didn't know it at the time, the CVC-funded internship proved pivotal for DeMoss's future. During that phone call with his mom, she suggested he reach back out to OneWay in case they had an opportunity for him. He was hesitant, but agreed to contact them. A few days later, DeMoss felt convicted by a depiction he saw of Nicodemus in the crowd-funded TV series *The Chosen*.

"He's somebody who's doing all the right things," said DeMoss. "But when he meets with Jesus in secret, Jesus says, 'Come, follow me.' In the show, you see this massive internal struggle for Nicodemus. He leaves money for the disciples following Jesus, but he can't get himself to go with them."

That night, DeMoss decided to seek the mission field, letting God direct the rest. He reached out to OneWay, and two weeks later, he was on a plane to Africa on a short-term trip.

Now, DeMoss serves as OneWay's media chief project manager and content manager, where he leads a small team of content creators "to rally the church to reach the lost." This includes producing news broadcasts about international missionaries and developing online prayer services, daily reaching an audience of over one million people.

"It's just been a joy," he said. "God still may want me to be a boots-on-the-ground missionary somewhere. In the meantime, he's been using me and my gifts to rally mobilization ministry." ●

Words
Grant Dutro '25

Photo
Tony Hughes



Support student internships at
wheaton.edu/magazine-intern

A Wheaton College Heritage

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

Photos: Mike Hudson



2nd Generation

Row 1 (L-R): Sailor R. Croston (Jon '91 and Kendra Ide Croston '97, parents); Kaleb J. Stamoolis (Joel '99 and Naomi Heppner Stamoolis '99, parents); Karena F. Anderson (Peter Anderson '96, father); Hope M. Severe (Mike Severe M.A. '05, father); Lucy A. Carter (Nathan '01, M.A. '03, and Andrea Koenigsberg Carter '01, parents); Bruce Koenigsberg HON, grandfather); Aria P. Newman (Chad Newman '89, M.A. '94, father); Analeigh R. Hoogerheide (Steve Hoogerheide '91, father); Zara M. Shadid (Silas Shadid '89, father); Milcah A. Turner (Manette Galvan Turner '92, M.A. '98, mother).

Row 2 (L-R): Lula R. Galván (Alonso Galván '96, father); Hadley N. Marston (John '99 and Jessica Klassen Marston '98, M.A. '99, parents); Amelia J. Hayward (Brian '01 and Melissa Ryan Hayward '01, parents); Anna J. Yancey (Wendy Penner Yancey '94, mother); Marna C. Ibs (Rachael Montes Ibs '02, mother); Edith J. Roloff (Nicole Reimer Roloff '00, mother); Madelaine Wentzel (Nate '01 and Nancy Elizabeth Bush Wentzel '00, parents); Izzy F. Ha (Sharon Ree Ha '99, mother); Ellie Y. Cho (Elise Kim Cho '95, mother); Lily G. Howard (Ryan '01 and Julie Long Howard '02, parents); Lydia E. Wisdom (Kyle '02 and Courtney Coffee Wisdom '02, parents); Grace L. Sethi (Steve '98 and Elisabeth Spencer Sethi '98, parents); Eva M. Hunderfund (Jeff '01 and Andrea Leep Hunderfund '01, parents); Julia E. Goetz (Matt Goetz '92, father); Calah G. Strong (Jonathan Strong '99, father); Annie J. Pyykkonen (Travis '03 and Katie Heuer Pyykkonen '05, parents).



Row 3 (L-R): Eszter A. Wilson (John Wilson '99, M.A. '15, father); Alethea J. Erbele (Phillip Erbele '93, father); Maya R. Long (Jason '96 and Heidi Ostergaard Long '96, parents); Riley S. Baird (Les '96 and Esther Lawrence Baird '96, parents); Ian D. Simpson (Benny '93 and Kathleen Wyrzten Simpson '93, parents); Caleb J. Hosier (Scott Hosier '93, father); Allison G. Henschel (Tim '91 and Connie Van Wynen Henschel '93, parents); Katie E. Flynn (Nathanael Flynn '97, father); Annika R. Batt (Bob Batt '99, father); Evangeline C. Guidry (Dustin Guidry '04 and Annie Messing '03, parents); Sophie N. Dew (Tim Dew '94, father); Jonathan C. Day (James '01 and Leslie Hrivnak Day '01, parents); Sofia B. Puleo (James Puleo '00, father); Sarah A. Thellman (Greg Thellman M.A. '04, Ph.D. '16, father); Josias L. James (Carissa Burnaman James '00, mother); Hailey A. Bennett (Daniel M.A. '03, M.A. '08, and Allie Welch Bennett M.A. '02, parents); Christian G. Pieters (Matthew '98 and Lisa Gabrielson Pieters '97, parents).

Row 4 (L-R): Noah K. Crumbly (Rachel Snyder Crumbly '97, mother); Daniel J. Varblow (Robyn Funk Varblow '93, mother); Forest J. Hines (Vanessa Harper Hines '98, mother); Lucas R. Vallières (J. P. Vallières '03, father); Reuben D. Fick (Jessica Lynn-Leep Fick M.A. '13, mother); Emerson A. Thieman (Tammy Haylett Thieman '94, mother); Matthias G. Everest (Michael '94 and Nancy Palm Everest '94, parents); Josh M. Hilde (Mark '04 and Sarah Myre Hilde '05, parents); Jackson N. Buzzard (Terry Buzzard '85, father); Andrew J. Simpson (Scott Simpson '01, M.A. '06, father); Silas J. Perry (Bryan Perry '92, father); Leif C. Olsen (Ted '96 and Alexis Beggs Olsen '96, parents); Michael S. Wilson (Scott Wilson '91, father); Abe A. Rynbrandt (Chad '94 and Mindy Austin Rynbrandt '95, M.A. '99, parents); Jonny D. Huber (Karl Huber '84, father); Owen N. Berbaum (Jon Berbaum '00, father); Emmitt J. Michel (Brent '97 and Laura Sullivan Michel '98, parents).



3rd Generation

Row 1 (L-R): Analisa H. Boshart (Peggy Kemna Boshart '93, mother; Dave '63 and Alice Paulsen Kemna '63, grandparents); Elisabeth K. Durbin (Eric '02 and Annika Whitaker Durbin '02, parents; Howard Whitaker '63, grandfather); Anna Mathews (Wesley '02 and Melinda Chole Mathews '02, parents; Paul Mathews '73, grandfather); Lia J. Southcombe (David '95 and Ericka Olson Southcombe '95, parents; Will Southcombe '69, grandfather); Corrie E. Morrison (Sarah Voelkel Morrison '51, grandmother); Grace F. Rumsey (Kristin Himes Rumsey '89, mother; Duncan '64 and Carol Smith Himes '64, R.N. '61, grandparents).

Row 2 (L-R): Jordan L. Miles (Megan Crockett Miles '96, mother; Ruth Riley Crockett '53, grandmother); Liza E. Timm (Bob '73 and Joan Hedstrom Dye '73, grandparents); Cynthia M. Sandahl Xujur (Nathan Sandahl '97, father; Phill '69 and Mary Jane Michener Sandahl '70, M.A. '79, grandparents); Grace M. Farr (Nate '98 and Heidi Funkhouser Farr '98, parents; Mark Funkhouser M.A. '87, grandfather); William F. Garrison (Beth Levi Garrison '96, mother; Frank Levi M.A. '71, grandfather); Elizabeth F. Lawson (Scott '91 and Rachel Miller Lawson '94, parents; Sherod '62 and Phyllis Anderson Miller '62, grandparents); Timothy S. Marson (Tammy Titcomb Marson '94, mother; Ed '66 and Mary Alice Mosemann Titcomb '66, M.A. '93, grandparents).

Row 3 (L-R): Theo A. Lundin (Matthew '96 and Cherith Lidfors Lundin '96, parents; Roger '71 and Sue Meloy Lundin '96, grandparents; Robert Lidfors M.A. '01, grandfather); Shep D. Schroeder (Dan '95 and Angie Goodfellow Schroeder '95, parents; Ray '65 and Carolyn Johnson Schroeder '65, grandparents); Samuel R. VanDixhorn (Henry VanDixhorn '63, grandfather); Peter J. Tompkins (Jason '95 and Natasha Pyles Tompkins '96, parents; Franklin M.Div. '68 and Gay Nell Wyland Pyles '65, grandparents); Anton C. Balish (Jana-Lee Germaine Balish '97, mother; Dick '60 and Jay Shepard Germaine '61, grandparents); Mary R. Hamann (Bob '99 and Kelly Hamm Hamann '99, parents; Mark Hamm '72, grandfather); Faith N. Giller (Barry '94 and Lisa Godby Giller '93, parents; Dave '68 and Jody Evans Godby '68, grandparents).



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

Row 1 (L-R): Charlotte G. Gerber (Adam '00 and Danielle Martin Gerber '01, parents; Mary Groth Gerber '77, grandmother; Burton '44 and Elizabeth Newsom Groth '45, great-grandparents); Paige E. Ferwerda (Ben '04 and Allison Nyberg Ferwerda '04, parents; Dan '76 and Cindy Ahlquist Ferwerda '77, grandparents; Nancy Carlson Nyberg '76, grandmother; Virginia Klap Ferwerda '46, great-grandmother; Rachel Benson Carlson '46, great-grandmother); Clara H. Snively (Mark '95 and Kelly Pierucki Snively '95, parents; John Pierucki '69, grandfather; Susan Baker Wolfe '70, grandmother; Dave Baker '42, great-grandfather); Jordan G. Johnson (Reid '97 and Danielle Eames Johnson '98, parents; Paul Johnson HON, grandfather; Irene Whitacre Johnson '46, great-grandmother); Haven S. Shedd (Andy Shedd '98, father; Jim Shedd '74, grandfather; Hudson Shedd, '47, great-grandfather); Esther S. Woodruff (Joel Woodruff '85, father; Stephen Woodruff '57, grandfather; Albert Woodruff '29, great-grandfather).

Row 2 (L-R): Joanna K. Miekley (Josh Miekley '00, father; Phil '70 and Heather McGehee Miekley '72, grandparents; Betty Humphreys McGehee '37, great-grandmother); Caden P. McClarty (Joyce Gordon Williams '78, grandmother; Paul '45 and Dottie Duncan Gordon '46, great-grandparents); Noah P. Martin (Amy Haugen Martin '00, mother; Phil '73 and Judi Guth Haugen '74, grandparents; Lucille Linden Haugen '41, great-grandmother; Chuck Guth '47, great-grandfather); Lewis A. Vanderschoot (John Jacobsen '61, grandfather; Rolf Jacobsen '36, great-grandfather; Margaret Bailey Jacobsen Voskuyl '38, M.A. '40, great-grandmother); Bradford K. Taylor (Jeremy '98 and Nancy Ryken Taylor '98, parents; Leland HON and Mary

Graham Ryken M.A. '88, grandparents; Ken '38 and Margaret West Taylor '39, great-grandparents); Heidi A. Jeromin (Oliver '02 and Summer Terhune Jeromin '00, parents; Dave Terhune '75, grandfather; Dan '51 and Joy Sturgill Terhune '48, great-grandparents); Lydia R. Hansen (Sandy Ribbe Hansen '89, mother; Bob Ribbe '59, grandfather; Walter Ribbe '35, great-grandfather).

Row 3 (L-R): Lucia E. Abuhl (David '02 and Sarah Baumgarten Abuhl '04, parents; Dorothy Dylhoff Baumgarten '68, grandmother; Merrill '51 and Helen Atkinson Skinner '51, great-grandparents); Leah J. Roe (Kathryn Elsen Roe '00, M.A. '02, mother; Paul '71 and Mary Beth Willson Elsen '71, grandparents; John '42 and Virginia Culver Elsen '42, great-grandparents; Pete '50 and June Coray Willson '50, great-grandparents; Mattias 1911, M.A. 1912, and Oliver Straw Elsen 1913, great-great-grandparents; Ed 1923 and Lillian Wightman Coray 1924, great-great-grandparents; Carrie Finch Straw 1881, great-great-great-grandmother); Rowan B. Cramer (Ben '05 and Liz Bunch Cramer '07, parents; Greg '80 and Martha Schlamann Bunch '80, grandparents; Nona Lawson Schlamann '51, great-grandmother); Josh T. Hartman (Casey '02 and Katie Pearson Hartman '02, parents; Sue O'Connor Hartman '75, grandmother; Joanne Spalding O'Connor '50, great-grandmother); Matt D. Anderson (Evan '95 and Catherine Barnes Anderson '96, parents; Ross '68 and Barbie Wessner Anderson '70, grandparents; David '69 and Marcia Boehme Barnes '69, grandparents; Ken '44 and Norma Cook Wessner '44, great-grandparents; Marion Barnes HON, great-grandfather); Michael D. Osielski (David '95 and Anne Hayward Osielski '96, M.A. '23, parents; Charles Hayward '54, M.A. '65, great-grandfather).

Launching *Faithfully Forward*

At Homecoming 2025, Wheaton College launched the Faithfully Forward campaign with special events and guest performers like TAYA and Fernando Ortega.

Photos: Alina Kovalev '22



1 Projectors light up Edman Chapel with Wheaton colors and *Faithfully Forward* signage. **2** Fernando Ortega (piano, voice) and Cameron Stone (cello) perform at the Gratitude Breakfast. **3** Students are led in worship by TAYA and the Wheaton College Chapel Band.



4 President Ryken announces *Faithfully Forward* campaign progress. 5 TAYA. 6 Trustee and Campaign Chair Lisa Brosious Beamer '91 presents keynote at the Gratitude Breakfast. 7 Chapel Band leading worship.

Homecoming Weekend 2025

Classes of 1995, 2000, 2005, 2015, and 2020 celebrated reunions at Homecoming 2025.

Photos: Jared and Bethanne Tremper



1 John Peays '00, celebrating his 25th reunion, delivered the Homecoming Chapel message. **2** Kay Lynn '05, Kaylen '15, and Kailyn '15 shared a memorable moment while celebrating their respective reunions. **3** A relaxed moment of conversation before the day's events.



4 Celebrating 20 years, the Class of 2005 showed that Homecoming is a weekend for the whole family. 5 Brooke Underwood Fischer '00 and Mehret Asgedom '00 enjoyed the Kickoff Party as they celebrated their 25th reunion. 6 Alumni and families gathered at Reunion Check-In as the weekend got underway. 7 The Class of 2020 celebrated its first reunion with a class dinner in the Billy Graham Museum.

Homecoming 2025: Class Reunions

Photos: Josh and Alexa Adams



Class of 1995

30-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Sophia Baron, Maria Baron, Adam Baron '95, M.A. '97, Jennifer Gordon Coleman, Katherine Greenman Roberts, Ashley Hoisington Cumings, Beth Goodin Cooper '95, M.A. '99, Kristin Lenehan Del Cid, Bethany McDowell Fiorello '95, M.A. '96, Rhaina Smeds, Leslie Danielson Olson, Jeannine Nyangira, Sarah Treder Acosta, Becky Norman, Jill Nyhus, Anna Goodwin Smith.

Row 2 (L-R): Sara Starks Zimmerman '96, M.A. '18, Douglas Zimmerman '95, M.A. '01, Dagny Huehnergath Wakefield '98, Scott Wakefield, Jason Darrah, Jill Darrah, Colin Darrah, Gavin Darrah, Pia Fahs, Sam Puckett, Nathan Stevens, May Tse Stevens, Nancy Kapp Lee '95, M.A. '11.

Row 3 (L-R): Mark Brown, Sarah DuMont Brown '98, Mike Baker '94, Destiny Poland Baker, Holly Brosious Gill, Heather Griffin Gosling, Kim Rockness Wood, Randy Wood, Beth Maas Walsh, Sean Walsh, Anne Hayward Osielski '96, M.A. '23, David Osielski, Bill Merrifield, Michael Lee.

Row 4 (L-R): Ed Malec, Dan Schroeder, Angie Goodfellow Schroeder, Steve Offutt, Paul Copeland, Erik Veerman, David Elsen, Evan Anderson, Kelly Pierucki Snavelly, Krista Avery Auker, Jim Auker '93, Alison Krug Good, Andrea Gurney.

Row 5 (L-R): Peder Swanson, Jeff Andrews, Jeremy Donaldson, Suzie Weber, John Weber, Rebecca Layne Beltman, Bethel Medina Gascho '95, M.A. '01, Adam Gascho '95, M.A. '98, Tim Akers, Jennifer Osborne Akers '92, Greg Salzman '95, M.A. '99, Marcia Tobey Salzman '94, Andrea Smith Bubar '96, Matt Bubar.

Row 6 (L-R): Jill Norman Richert '97, Ben Richert, Dustin Largent, Jason Tompkins, Eric Larimer, Jessie Kraftson Larimer '97, Matt Gruett '97, Ingrid Korsberg Gruett, Joy Godby McAuley, Thad McAuley, Mindy Austin Rynbrandt '95, M.A. '99, David Friedman, Jonathan Alexander.

Row 7 (L-R): Irene Kennedy Kraegel, Sally Carns Gulde, Jay Young, Chris Lindblade, Becky Alsop Lindblade, Amie Kyrlyuk, Amy Smith Bassett, Sonja Hoden Gifford, Aaron Donnell, Neal Christopherson, Alexandra Peterson Walmer '96, Travis Walmer, Heather Williams, Nate Williams, Chad Rynbrandt '94.



Class of 2000

25-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Josh Sanders, Jack Sanders, Jude Sanders, Luke Sanders, Eleanor Sanders, Lucy Sanders, Ethan Perciante, Carter Perciante, Shane Perciante, Valerie Tarnowski Perciante '01, M.A. '04, Abigail Perciante, Craig Perciante, Joshua Puckett '00, M.A. '02, Benjamin Anderson, Jen Muser Anderson '01, Luke Anderson '28, Patrick Sanford, Gregory Sanford, Philip Sanford, Beatrice Sanford, Katherine Sanford.

Row 2 (L-R): Chip Sanders '00, M.A. '08, Jessica Meldrum Sanders '99, Scott Beadle, Russ Vander Lugt, Rebekah Anders Vander Lugt, Kathryn Bull Apinis, Bryan Apinis, Ben Wilson, Ben Peays, John Peays, Rob Nash, Vance Felton, Brooke Underwood Fischer, Mahi Asgedom, Christi Parker, James Puleo.

Row 3 (L-R): Kelly Wood Farrow, Nate Hinch, Sarah Miller Hinch, Kiley Long Lee, Todd Hostetler, Sarah Grim Hostetler '01, Ben Sciacca, Sara Rusch Sciacca, Summer Terhune Jeromin, Heidi Jeromin '29, Quentin Banks, Elizabeth Chin Onderko, Nyah Onderko '28, Amy Nezda Adwalpalker, Elisabeth Woodbridge Diaz, Andrea Williams Frank, Sara Van Der Woude Anderson.

Row 4 (L-R): Henry Williams, Ann Tompkins Hallgren, Alice McFarlane, Erin Breidenbaugh Feffer, Lindsay Peakman Wylie, Nathan Beck '00, M.A. '03, Beau Brezina, Patti Brezina, Elijah Brezina, Kristy Storm Gammel '01, Bryan Gammel, Ellen Robia Holloway, Caroline Williams, Bethany Armstrong Nelson.

Row 5 (L-R): Miriam Williams, Amrita Williams, Cameron Williams, Christine Blauch Williams '01, Micah Williams, Sarah Swift Moreno '00, M.A. '03, Angela Oriti Farmer '00, M.A. '03, David Farmer, Vashti Meyer, Paul Meyer, Andrea Crowley Lewis, Michael Lewis, Ben Dykstra, Lisa Lutzer Dykstra, Arthur Kraai.



Class of 2005

20-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Jeffrey Morgan, Cecily Morgan, Lydia Morgan, August Ridley, Clement Ridley, Emily Baur Ridley '06, M.A. '10, Thea Ridley, Gary Ridley '05, M.A. '06, Esmé Ridley, Daniel Alexandroni, Grace Alexandroni, Peter Alexandroni, Cristina Pena Alexandroni, Amelia Canavan, Rebekah Williams Canavan, Asher Canavan, Ansel Canavan, Andrew Canavan '05, M.A. '10, Kay Lynn Nelson Brown, Abigail Cooley McFarthing, Johanna Darnall McDougall, Jil Christiansen '05, M.A. '06, Joshua Spencer, Gideon Spencer, Andrew DeCort.

Row 2 (L-R): Jim Wallbaum, Britta Hayne Wallbaum, Kerly Bernabe, Erin Sheehy Grant, Rachel Hand McClarty, Lindsey Christiansen Henry, Chris Henry '04, Joshua Haynes, Beth Martin Haynes, Chris Ewert, Daniel White, Star White, Flora White, Wallace White, Hugo White, Inga Wildermuth Emery, Jonathan Emery, Judd Spencer, Katie Spencer.

Row 3 (L-R): Pennie Morgan, Andy Morgan, Dawn Leung, Ruth Mudge, Emily Mabry McCarter, Katie Eades Bailey, Dan Bailey '05, M.A. '09, Jess Dean Modaff, Karisa Ogaard Scheifele, Janine Kallen, Rebekah Bohlman, Tessa Bohlman, Courtney Belcher Ellis, Daryl Ellis '05, M.A. '07, Lincoln Ellis, Wilson Ellis, Felicity Ellis.

Row 4 (L-R): Donald Reese, Colt Reese, Judson Reese, Christen Pokorny Reese, Katie Reese, John Wallbaum, Grace Wallbaum, Ben Watters, Rachael Zisch Watters, Ester Velasquez Wisdom, Benjamin Wisdom, Brandon Anderson '05, M.A. '07, Erin Fitzgerald Zell, Courtney Shourt Arment, Laura Bateman Robinson, Laura Michel Johnson, Hilary Boeck McDearmon.

Row 5 (L-R): Joel Erickson '05, M.A. '07, Bethany Pledge Erickson, Shane Wilkins, Angel McGrath Conner '04, Autumn Conner, Latham Conner, Nick Conner '05, M.A. '08, M.A. '09, Nathan Shenk, Clara White, Ben White, Nathan White, Henry White, Caroline White, Christina Jennings Lo '05, M.A. '06, Lian Lo, Micah Lo, Jimmy Lo, Lauren Piper, Barnabas Piper.

Row 6 (L-R): Jordan Sartell, Ruby Sartell, Clark Sartell, Laura Riddle Sartell, Maggie Stokes, Peter Stokes, John Stokes, Crissie Conner Stokes, Chris Stokes, Jennifer Glass Peyrot, Cosette Peyrot, Drake Peyrot, Adrian Peyrot, Revel Jones-Casey, Kelsey Jones-Casey, Ryan Jones-Casey, Kendra Langdon Juskus, Ryan Juskus '05, M.A. '13, Elias Juskus, Langdon Juskus, Gregory Sabarese, Enoch Hill.

Row 7 (L-R): Matthew Lindsten, Christine Afram Lindsten, Heather Morrison Bennett, Mark Hilde '04, Josh Hilde '29, Sarah Myre Hilde, Kristine Johnson Sims '05, M.A. '09, Providence Hahn, Daniel Hahn, Benjamin Hahn, Daniel Hahn, Rebecca Domke Hahn, Primrose Hahn, Judd Birdsall '05, M.A. '06, Mitch Rodriguez, Stephanie Wheatley, Chris Blumhofer.

Row 8 (L-R): Kate Hamm, Maggie Hamm, Mary Hamm, Ryan Hamm, Charlie Hamm, Israel Codispoti, Zion Codispoti, Sarah Wunderle Codispoti, Jericho Codispoti, Joshua Codispoti, Kristen Soneson Zeigler, Jason Zeigler, Kelly Linn Nicholas, Katie Gotaas Hanson, Han-luen Kantzer Komline '04, Paul Komline, Kenneth Komline, Elizabeth Komline, David Komline '04, Caris Hubbard Wood, Crystal Molenhouse Miller, Levi Miller.



Class of 2015

10-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Mike Park, Benjamin Park, Josie Park, Sammie Oh, Brooklyn Sahly, Jessie Sahly, Halston Sahly, Austin Sahly, Micah Sahly, Elizabeth Burt, Gage Burt, Tory Leonard, Justin Massey, Rob Robinson, Caleb Wiley, Elwyn Wiley, Anastaise Wiley, Whitney Hall Wiley, Hannah Sledge Smith, Silas Smith, Ezra Smith, Ian Smith, Levi Smith, Ian Smith Jr., Judah Smith, Josiah Sledge, Andrew Shadid, Caspian Shadid, Lucian Shadid, Lena Shadid.

Row 2 (L-R): Kailey Tachick, Thomas Speckman, Daniel Bradley, Allison Freet '15, M.A. '16, Luke Polito, Ashley Schoen Polito, Samuel Polito, Kelly McSparran Daigle, Johnny Daigle, Lucy Daigle, Samuel Smith, Micah Edelblut, Doug Addleman, Ryan Pfantz, Lucy Mae Pfantz, Megan Pawlak Bodett, Luke Pawlak Bodett, John Pawlak Bodett.

Row 3 (L-R): Tim Miller '15, M.A. '18, John-Michael Kvale, Amanda MacLurg Kvale, Russell Kvale, Forrest Ackerman, Jason Kircher, Grace Pyo, Derek Lee, Barnabas Lee, Lydia Overstreet, Katie Overstreet, Leah Overstreet, Luke Overstreet, Josh Winchell, Peter Herlin, Sarah Pankratz, Ellen Egerton, Theodore Dickens, Molly Pitkin Dickens, Lucy Dickens, James Dickens.

Row 4 (L-R): Baxter Helm, Kelsie Helm, Eden Helm, Julia Dennis, Chris Easley, Kailyn Love Van Schooten, Daniel Van Schooten, Micah Thompson, Luke Thompson, Emma Thompson, Bret Heddleston, Catherine Holt, Constance Lee Davidson, Joseph Hecker, Grant Hensel.

Row 5 (L-R): Matt Schappell, Josh Ward, Ellie Ryken, Josh Ryken, June Ryken, Anna Chovanes Ryken '16, Sarah Goertzen Stelzer, Catherine Caporaso, Kari DeHaven '15, M.A. '16, Hester Buell, Abigail Reese, Hannah Oury Rapp, Sophie Xiao, Abigail Canfield Sekar, Levi Sekar, Johnny Sekar, David Sekar, Alison Chang, Lena Maxey, Widi Maxey Moestopo, Ingrid Dyk Heres, Callum Heres, Jordan Heres.



Class of 2020

5-Year Reunion

Row 1 (L-R): Michael Melter, August Smith, Kayla Ruchti Smith, Michael Vieceli, Sophie Dines Bernardi, Felicity Bernardi, Asher Bernardi, Moriah Bernardi, Jeremiah Thompson, Hannah Dixon Thompson, Olivia Kusuma '20, M.A. '22, Jhan Wagenaar Skelton, Leo O'Malley, Grace Gantz Aiello, Dave Aiello '18, M.A. '20, Emma Bergstrom, Kevin Watson.

Row 2 (L-R): Danny Du, Cody Wollin, Bambi Yau, Jonathan Larson, Taddie Cook Larson, Clara Leo, Elissa Johnston, Tyler Long, Mary Flynn, Adriana Moore Doherty, Alec Doherty, Sophie Miller Meloch, Matt Meloch '22, Anna McCully, Hannah Ting.

Row 3 (L-R): Madeline Johnson, Grace Milligan Admiraal, Tristan Admiraal, Katherine Beech Franker '21, Joshua Franker, Tyler Waaler, Meredith Eades Waaler, Amy Kirk, Amanda Selin Lau, Cory Lau, Malaika Gilboy Penn, Kiva Penn, Melina Penn, Samid Penn, Luke Penney, Bethany Litteral.

Row 4 (L-R): Jack Meeker '20, M.A. '20, Charlotte Kirkham Meeker, Sarah Lambert, Riley Gustat, Camron Vick, Rebecca Carlson Bell '20, M.A. '22, Jack Bell, Timothy Lopez '20, M.A. '24, Katherine Benware Lopez, Katie Gillaspie Hoppe, Tristan Hoppe, Rachel Hand, Claire Lee,

Joel Penney, Nathan Van Eeckhout, Abigail Morris Van Eeckhout, Arthur Van Eeckhout, Meghan Razzini, Abigail Sickbert.

Row 5 (L-R): Gurney Buchanan, Hannah King, Annie Michaelson, Thurston Stevenson, Ana James Stevenson, Abigail Crowder '20, M.A. '21, Grace Gibbs Brown '18, M.A. '19, Jack Brown, Josh DeMoss, Aleks Nosewicz, Eric Anthony, Brendan Altieri, Ippei Togo, Eric Lewis.

Row 6 (L-R): Jesse Hayden '18, Kelly Parks Hayden '20, M.A. '25, Emily Smith, Sean Sorensen, Amy Shank Sorensen, Nicole Freeman Margason, Andy Margason, Jared Smith, Kayla Hurst, Josiah MacFarlane '21, Daria MacFarlane, Laska MacFarlane, Rachel Hong, Andrew Peters.

Wheaton College Alumni Association Board of Directors

Meet your new board members.



Leonard Blair Jr. '18
Aurora, Illinois

Leonard is the associate partner manager at ServiceNow, a software development company. He also serves as the youth pastor at Purpose City Church in Aurora. Leonard graduated from Wheaton in 2018 with a B.A. in communication and worked as an admissions counselor for the College after graduation. He is married to Bria Jenkins Blair '19.



Chloe Keene '18, M.A.T. '24
Chicago, Illinois

Chloe holds a B.A. in English with a teaching concentration and an ESL endorsement, as well as an M.A. in teaching. She has been an active alumna resource for Wheaton's Center for Vocation and Career. Chloe currently teaches 8th and 9th grade English at the Lindblom Math and Science Academy, one of her greatest challenges and joys.



Aslin Tanco '24, M.A.T. '25
Carol Stream, Illinois

Aslin is the Alumni Association Board's new young alumni director. She was a first-generation student at Wheaton who majored in English and graduated in May with her second degree from Wheaton: a Master of Arts in Teaching. Aslin currently works as a high school English language arts teacher at West Chicago Community High School.



Send us your nominations for the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

All alumni are invited to suggest Wheaton graduates for the Alumni Association Board of Directors by submitting an online form to the nominating committee. The committee will take into account graduation year, vocation, gender, race/ethnicity, and demonstrated commitment to Wheaton. Job description and nomination forms can be obtained and submitted online at alumni.wheaton.edu/boardnomination.



Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82

Cindra Stackhouse Taetzsch '82, Chief Alumni Officer and Executive Director of the Wheaton College Alumni Association, is leaving this role after nearly 20 years. After serving as Associate Director of Alumni Relations from 1992–96, Cindra returned in 2006 as Director of Alumni Relations/Executive Director of the WCAA. Her role expanded in 2011 to include oversight of the Parent Engagement program. In 2015, she re-envisioned the College's career development function and has provided strategic vision and oversight of the Center for Vocation and Career for more than ten years. The College and Alumni Association are deeply grateful to Cindra for her service.



A Word with Alumni

Jerard Woods '12
Alumni Association President

I'd like to start this piece with a question: What has Wheaton done for you lately? I fully recognize that this question can produce myriad responses (mostly positive, I hope), but I understand that's not always the case. Often, our responses are heavily dictated by our experiences, and usually the most recent one wins out.

Why do I ask this question? When it came to considering whether to give to Wheaton, this was where my mind would initially go. My first reaction was based on my experiences with Wheaton, both past and present. If my current experiences weren't ideal, my giving, or lack thereof, reflected that sentiment. I'm not saying this is necessarily a bad thing, but it did cause me to reflect on my intentions. This helped me understand that my giving couldn't only be about me. Serving in my current role as president of the Wheaton College Alumni Association has only enhanced that outlook.


For many of you, your generosity to Wheaton goes beyond measure, and for that we are grateful. When alumni

give back, it shows that you're willing to still participate in the journey because of what Wheaton has meant and still means to you. Yet there must be belief about and faith in what's still to come. As much as Wheaton has accomplished, I believe the best of what God has made Wheaton to be and to offer is still ahead of us. That is why we are so excited and motivated about the *Faithfully Forward* campaign. With an emphasis on scholarships, library and athletics facilities renovations, and much more, it's clear that the goal is looking ahead to a bigger picture of ongoing, Christ-centered work.

So, I now ask you a different question: What do you want Wheaton to become? Although all our individual experiences as alumni may be different, I do believe we can agree that we want the Wheaton of tomorrow to be greater than it is today. Your support will continue to make that happen. Thank you. ●

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 2026** Jim Black '94, M.A. '99, Mark Hilde '04 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2027** Brent Armstrong '91, Lisa Biehle Files '83, Hannah Tan Follett '06, Jim Hawthorne '88, M.A. '92, Aslin Tanko '24, M.A.T. '25 **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 Nelson '91 **Board of Directors Serving through June 2029** Leonard Blair Jr. '18, Chloe Keene '18, M.A.T. '24





Let us hold
unswervingly
to the hope we
profess, for he
who promised
is faithful.

HEBREWS 10:23 NIV



How Will Wheaton College Move

Faithfully Forward?

Equip

Students with Scholarships

Our commitment to offering competitive financial aid for future generations of students is a direct reflection of our mission. The *Faithfully Forward* campaign seeks to create an additional \$3+ million in new annual funding for need-based and academic scholarships.

Endowed Scholarships

\$70M

Spiritual Formation

is integrated throughout all the initiatives, carrying forward our historic commitment to whole-person education grounded in the truth and grace of the gospel.

Together, we will launch students For Christ and His Kingdom.

Elevate

The Campus Experience

The *Faithfully Forward* campaign includes targeted projects that will attract more students and enrich their experiences on campus. Renovations to our library and athletics facilities build consistency with the level of excellence for which Wheaton is known.

Library Renovations

\$54M

Athletics Facilities Expansion

\$23M

Expand

Wheaton's Missional Leadership

To prepare students to share their faith in every area of contemporary society, the *Faithfully Forward* campaign expands investment in career exploration, academic support, and Christian discipleship opportunities.

The Wheaton Fund

\$6M
annually

Life with God Together

\$3M

Academic Success

\$6M

Endowed Internship Fund

\$9M

Graduate School Impact Fund

\$9M

Planned Giving

\$20.5M



To learn more or make a gift, scan the QR code or visit wheaton.edu/forward

If you would like to give by mail, please send a check payable to Wheaton College to the address below. Please include the designation in the memo line.

Wheaton College Advancement Services
501 College Ave
Wheaton, IL 60187

Together, let's move *Faithfully Forward.*



WHEATON
COLLEGE

For Christ & His Kingdom

Marketing Communications
501 College Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

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CAROL STREAM, IL
PERMIT NO. 122

*“Wheaton already has this vast, nation-leading collection of
books and resources and a team of sharp, friendly librarians and
patrons. It just needs an elevated space to accommodate it all
and function more effectively.”*