



Spring 2017

The Rock, Spring/Summer 2017 (vol. 86, no. 2)

Whittier College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/rock>

Recommended Citation

Whittier College, "The Rock, Spring/Summer 2017 (vol. 86, no. 2)" (2017). *The Rock*. 8.
<https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/rock/8>

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Poet Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Rock by an authorized administrator of Poet Commons. For more information, please contact library@whittier.edu.

THE ROCK



CREATING
ARTFUL
CAREERS
THE WHITTIER WAY

WHITTIER
COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

SPRING/
SUMMER 2017

>> ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK THROUGH CHINA

>> WHITTIER'S FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR >> NEW POET TRACK & FIELD



POET LEGACIES

A CAMPAIGN FOR WHITTIER COLLEGE

- > CELEBRATING PHILANTHROPIC LEGACIES LEFT BY ALUMNI & FRIENDS
- > SECURING THE COLLEGE'S FUTURE

The **Poet Legacies Campaign** seeks 300 individuals to pledge a gift to Whittier through their estate or enter into a life-income arrangement with the College. The total impact of these commitments could very likely surpass \$30 million and will provide a critical source of funds for students, faculty, facilities, and programs.

Generous individuals who have made estate commitments to Whittier or have entered into lifetime trust and annuity contracts with the College are enrolled in **The Philadelphian Society**. Members will receive special benefits and recognition during the **Poet Legacies Campaign**.

LEAVING YOUR LEGACY

Notify Whittier of your bequest intention or learn more about how you can achieve your philanthropic and financial goals through charitable estate planning.

> **WHITTIERLEGACY.ORG** > **(562) 907-4841**



Contents

Spring/Summer 2017
Volume 86, Number 2

FEATURE

The Creative Arts at Whittier College 20

With a unique liberal arts foundation, many Whittier graduates find their way into the creative arts. Through music, acting, film, writing, and visual arts, Poets across the world are creating the type of work that entertains, challenges, inspires, and awes audiences.

DEPARTMENTS

President's Corner 3

Campus News

Around the Rock. 4

Faculty Files 12

Society Pages 14

Athletics 16

Alumni News

Poet to Poet. 34

Senior Moment IBC

ABOUT THE COVER: Actor Geoff Stults '98 at the Hollywood Premiere of his film, *Unforgettable*.
Photo credit: Rich Fury / Getty Images



EDITOR

Ana Lilia Barraza

MANAGING EDITOR

Ericka Iniguez

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Edna Becerra

Michael McFall

POET-TO-POET EDITOR

Mirka Pojoy '17

COMMUNICATIONS INTERNS

Alvaro Bravo '18

Priscilla Lam '18

KamRon Perry '18

ART DIRECTION

Lime Twig

CONTRIBUTORS

Steven Burns

Kim Fox

Lance Franey '09

Tony Leon

The Quaker Campus

PRESIDENT

Sharon D. Herzberger

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Steve Delgado

THE ROCK, Spring/Summer 2017

Volume 85, Number 3

Copyright© 2017 Whittier College

THE ROCK is published by
Whittier College

Our mailing address is:

THE ROCK

Office of Communications

Whittier College

13406 Philadelphia St.

P.O. Box 634

Whittier, CA 90608

Phone (562) 907-4277

Fax (562) 907-4927

Email: therock@whittier.edu

Whittier 2017

WEEKEND October 27-29

SAVE THE DATE



REUNITED

AND IT FEELS SO GOOD!

- > RECONNECT WITH YOUR POET FAMILY
- > CELEBRATE MILESTONE REUNIONS
- > RECOGNIZE FELLOW ALUMNI FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
- > CHEER ON POETS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS
- > AND SO MUCH MORE!



STAY CONNECTED >> [f](https://www.facebook.com/whittiercollege) [i](https://www.instagram.com/whittiercollege) | WHITTIER.EDU/WHITTIERWEEKEND



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

THE MEANING OF THE ARTS IN OUR SOCIETY



As President Trump considered defunding the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), people around the country pondered the impact of its demise on artists and arts organizations in their communities. If the NEA and its funding were to disappear, would states and local governments take the place of the feds? Would private philanthropists provide the needed resources to keep theatre companies going and museums open? If not, how many people will care?

Driving along the freeway in L.A. one day, listening to the radio as well-intentioned people debated various sides of this topic, I got to thinking: "What would a semester without art look like on a college campus?" One obvious answer is that our students would miss out on the over 200 courses in theatre, film, music, art history, studio art and design, literature, and creative writing that Whittier offers each year. Students would not be able to build their talents through such popular courses as video production, music technology, screenwriting, and acting. They would not learn about digital photography or Dada or surrealist art. They would not travel with Whittier

professors to study art and architecture in Greece and Rome. They would not be interning at the Getty, LACMA, L.A. Phil, or even the Whittier Museum, just down the road.

What else would disappear? We would miss performances of the dance team, choir concerts, theatre department plays, a film series at Faculty Master houses, and the monthly musicales in Memorial Chapel. One hundred students or more would miss the opportunity to submit short films to the L.A. Campus Film Fest. There would be no exhibits by professionals at the Greenleaf Gallery, no poetry readings or senior art shows. No Presidential Purchase prize would enable me to collect new works of student art to grace our campus. In fact, imagine if there would be no art at all on campus—no paintings, no murals, no sculptures. We would have no design work done as we pull together *The Rock*, and no photography to place in it. The renowned Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts and the professional-quality Chowdry Digital Music Laboratory might be shuttered, and all of our pianos would be carted away.

When you stop to think about a world—or a campus—without art, you realize what we often take for granted as we go about our daily lives.

If you hang out on a college campus or at a high school, you can hardly escape from hearing people talk about the importance of studying STEM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. More and more, however, STEM has been replaced with STEAM—adding the Arts to the lineup of disciplines that educated students must conquer.

“Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere.”

Why? It could be that 95 percent of employers surveyed seek to hire people who will bring innovation to the workplace. It could be that the arts stimulate creativity by providing new ways to look at the world and its people. And it could be that, as Einstein famously said, “Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere.” Art is all about imagination.

This issue of *The Rock* offers glimpses at the variety of arts education at Whittier. You will read about some of our alumni who are making it in the vast world of creative arts. These alumni are joined by so many others working as artists or supporting the arts as lawyers, business executives, and marketers.

Completely independent of the political arguments swirling about, we cannot help but notice that the study and production of arts greatly influences our lives. I am proud of Whittier's contributions to this grand effort.

Go Poets!

Sharon

COMING IN
FALL 2017.
A retrospective of
President Sharon
Herzberger's tenure
at Whittier College.



GLOBAL EDUCATION.

In an effort to foster the development of more global citizens like Max Hoversten '17, Whittier College recently announced the new Global Poet Scholarship Fund (GPS). GPS will award \$2,000 to every student enrolled as of fall 2016 and who studies abroad through the College's Office of International Programs. Hoversten is pictured in Guanajuato, Mexico.



LEARNING LESSONS IN DEMOCRACY

POET HEADS TO PEACE CORPS

Political science and Spanish double major **Max Hoversten '17** spent three weeks last summer in Chile studying how the Pinochet dictatorship of 1973–1990 has affected the subsequent development of democracy in that country. The Jeffrey Lindstrom '94 Fellowship in Political Science funded his research and travel to the capital city of Santiago.

Despite the brevity of his trip, Hoversten said he gained a better understanding “about the political landscape of Chile than most tourists”—at times getting a first hand view of student

protests and police activity in the city, as well as interviewing local university professors, nonprofit leaders, and public sector managers.

“Hearing those [varying] perspectives and coupling them to what I was witnessing myself in my time there made for a very interesting trip,” said Hoversten, who previously studied abroad in Argentina. With the support of his advisor, Professor of Political Science Deborah Norden, Hoversten ably interpreted the raw data he collected into meaningful conclusions that became part of his senior project.

While maintaining a high level of academic excellence, Hoversten has been very active on campus, focusing on issues related to social justice and volunteering with the Food Recovery Network, Students for Education Reform, and the ASWC Senate.

Next up for Hoversten will be a two-year commitment with the Peace Corps.

“I’m going to leave for Belize in late June, where I will spend 27 months as a community health volunteer and educator,” said Hoversten excitedly. “It’s the next big chapter in my life and I can’t wait for it to come.”

2017 FEINBERG LECTURE FEATURES ISRAELI EXPERT

EMORY UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
KENNETH W. STEIN DELIVERED THE
2017 FEINBERG LECTURE, *Arab-Israeli
Negotiations: Why they worked in the
'70s but not now.*

Stein's lecture painted a picture of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the 1970s and the role the U.S. played. He drew comparison between those negotiations and the current situation in the Middle East, which illustrates how the struggle has evolved, with embedded struggles remaining unchanged.

Stein has been at Emory since 1977 and teaches contemporary Middle Eastern history, political science, and Israeli studies. He has authored four books on the topic and is the founder and current director of the Emory Institute for the Study of Modern Israel and president of the Center for Israel Education.

The Feinberg Lecture Series is made possible through an endowment established by the late Sheldon Feinberg, a former trustee of Whittier College, and his wife, Betty, in order to invite major scholars to the College to discuss broad historic, religious, and political issues encompassed by Judaism and its role in a changing world.



DIGLIBARTS 2020 RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM MELLON FOUNDATION

GRANT TO HELP EXPAND DIGITAL LITERACY AT WHITTIER

With the help of a three-and-a-half-year, \$700,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Whittier College will expand its Digital Liberal Arts (DigLibArts) program and continue to infuse digital media into a broad spectrum of Whittier courses through the DigLibArts 2020 Initiative. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to ensure Whittier students graduate with strong digital literacy skills prepared for advanced study as well as living and working in a digitally saturated world.

"This new initiative grows out of the digital pedagogical and scholarly innovations made by more than 70 faculty and staff across campus over the past few years with prior support from The Mellon Foundation," said Associate Professor of English Andrea Rehn, director of the DigLibArts program.

The grant will support faculty training, student stipends, the hiring of three new faculty members, and visits to campus by digital experts. During year three of the grant, a DigLibArts conference will be held at Whittier College to share methods and results from this project with fellow institutions.

DigLibArts also disseminates its work through a blog, diglibarts.whittier.edu, and on social media as @diglibarts.

In addition, Whittier will build on existing relationships with three nearby universities—beginning with UCLA—for the mutual benefit of their doctoral students and our faculty and undergraduates through collaboration on digital humanities projects both large and small.

"The Mellon Foundation grant will allow us to provide digital education for all of our students," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Darrin Good. "It will allow them to become flexible learners who can teach themselves new skills as technologies change, as well as imagine alternative uses for existing technologies."

LEARN



More about the exciting DigLibArts projects being produced by Whittier faculty and students at whittier.edu/MoreRock.



POETS TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED THROUGH CHINA

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK GIVES STUDENT UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE



Meeting with villagers, exploring rural towns, examining forest soil, hiking a mountainside, shopping at open markets, visiting well-known landmarks, and collaborating with poets and scholars—these were some of the ways Whittier students and faculty explored the complexities of China’s environmental landscape.

Twenty-six Whittier students, led by seven professors, participated in the 2017 alternative spring break trip to China. Students chose one of two tracks for this trip. One group, led by English professors Tony Barnstone, Michelle Chihara, and Scott Creley, focused on literature and the environment. Their experience revolved around two writers festivals on the topic, one in Beijing and one in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province in southwest China. Students interacted with Chinese poets and wrote their own flash fiction prose

and poems exploring the interplay between humans and the environment.

The second group examined various aspects of the environment and tourist industry in and around Dali, led by an interdisciplinary team of professors, Project Director Jake Carbine (religious studies), Cinzia Fissore (environmental science), Ken Berthel (Chinese language), John Bak and Ash Soltani (both in film studies). Activities and fieldtrips often took on a blended approach under the guidance of Chinese filmmaker Shi Lihong, trip coordinator **Denise Wong Velasco '13**, and others. For example, in one day students separately and together explored biodiversity, visited a Buddhist temple, met with local artisans, collected medicinal plants, and visited Tiger Leaping Gorge—one of the world’s great geological wonders.

While in Jingsha Town, 250 miles north of Dali, participants stayed at

Uncle Yao’s Homestay and met with local farmers and environmental activists who successfully stopped the construction of a major dam—the first time this happened in Chinese history—effectively saving their ancestral farms and the great biodiversity of this region. This movement was the focus of Gary Marcuse’s and Shi Lihong’s 2011 documentary, *Waking the Green Tiger*.

“Traveling that far and interacting with the culture there solidified my belief that people are fundamentally the same everywhere,” said English major **Brianna Martinez '18**.

At the end of the trip, both groups came together in Kunming at Yunnan University for a final conference designed to tie everything together. And, after returning from China, participants presented their findings at the ASIANetwork conference, at Whittier College, and other venues.

LIASE.

Alternative spring break is part of the Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE) program at Whittier and is sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation. Funding for student travel was provided by the Hubert Perry Scholarship funded by the Intex Corporation.



3



4

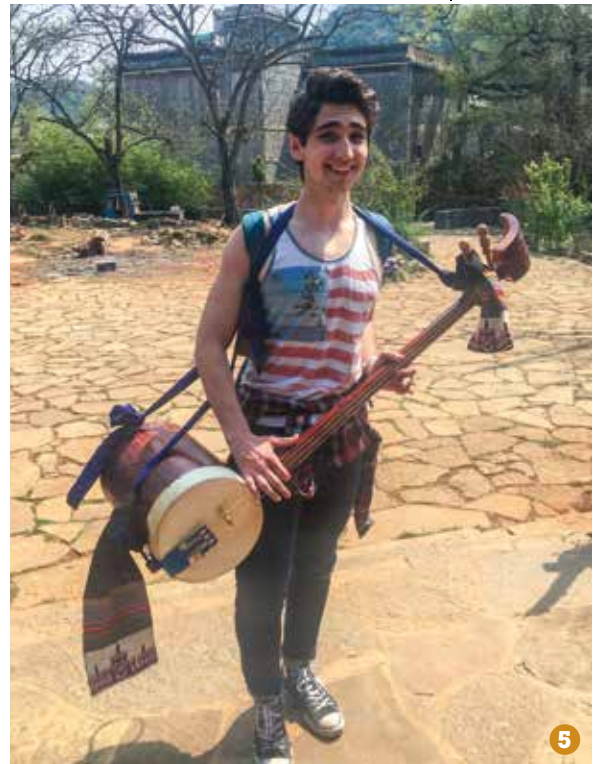


2



EXPLORING. LEARNING. DOING.

1. Dali group at the Yangtze, the largest river in Asia.
2. Cassidy Smith '20 gets a music lesson from Chinese musician.
3. Michael San Angelo '17 and Uncle Yau on artisan rocking horse at community center.
4. Tiger Leaping Gorge.
5. Zayne Repp '20, picks up a new instrument.
6. Literary group visits the Forbidden City.



5



6

SEE



More photos
from alternative
spring break at
[whittier.edu/
MoreRock](http://whittier.edu/MoreRock).



POETS EXPLORE THE CITY OF ANGELS

PROFESSOR HOWARD TEACHES IN URBAN CLASSROOM



STREET ART. Whittier College students studied this and similar murals that exist throughout Los Angeles.

REMEMBERING PROFESSOR HOWARD.

At press time, we learned of the passing of Professor Les Howard. *The Rock* will remember him the Fall issue.

From Skid Row to Beverly Hills, students explored Los Angeles in Professor **Les Howard's '62** well-known JanTerm course, Workshop in Urban Studies. The class utilizes the city as a classroom for studying urban development, with special attention

to the design and use of public space. Howard and students also discuss the issues of homelessness and gentrification.

On their trips to various locations, participants were encouraged to use public transportation. They also visited Whittier City Hall where they met with

members of the Metro Board, who explained how expansion of public transportation works.

One assignment was to go on a scavenger hunt around the city of Los Angeles and identify official and unofficial art. The purpose of the assignment was to observe how different mediums of public artworks influence the space and the participating community within that space.

"At these different places, my partner Oliver and I found some of the most beautiful art as well as graffiti," said **Iyesha Ferguson '19**, who took the course on the recommendation of one of her English professors. "We had to travel around via public transit and we became very familiar with the different train and bus lines and systems."

Howard teaches the course outside and in his very own living room. Ferguson liked this structure of the course and explained that it "helped make students open to ideas in a more comfortable setting where they can talk about their points of view."

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL POET RICHARD BLANCO VISITS WHITTIER COLLEGE

INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED POET RICHARD BLANCO visited Whittier College over the course of two days to give class lectures, offer a craft talk, and give poetry readings as part of the Whittier Writers Festival. Blanco, of Cuban heritage, was chosen as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history and read his poem *One Today* at President Barack Obama's second swearing-in ceremony. He is the youngest, first Latino, first immigrant, and first gay person to serve in such a role.

He is the author of three poetry collections: *Looking for the Gulf Motel*, *Directions to the Beach of the Dead*, and *City of a Hundred Fires*; and two memoirs: *The Prince of Los Cocuyos: A Miami Childhood* and *For All of Us, One Today: An Inaugural Poet's Journey*.





NEW TRUSTEE ON THE BOARD

AS CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER, **JASCHA KAYKAS-WOLFF '98** leads Mozilla's global marketing strategy and one hundred-plus person organization. Mozilla, the not-for-profit champions of the internet, help to keep the web healthy, open, and accessible to all. As a part of their endeavors, Mozilla develops the Firefox browser used by over 350 million people worldwide each month.

Prior to joining Mozilla, Kaykas-Wolff most recently served as CMO for BitTorrent and before that senior management roles at multiple public and private B2C and B2B organizations. Since graduating from Whittier his career has helped him become globally recognized as an influential CMO for his expertise in product positioning, marketing strategy, marketing technology, brand building, agile marketing, and sales enablement.

Kaykas-Wolff is a volunteer and mentor with TheLastMile.org. He published *Growing Up Fast* with Kevin Fann in 2014. He lives in Marin County with his wife Rebecca and their three children.



More about another new Whittier College Trustee, Miguel Santana '91 on **Page 36.**



2017 GRADUATE AWARDED FULBRIGHT ETA

POET SEEKS TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE WORLD

In the fall, sociology major **Christina Ibarra '17** will be teaching English in Mexico as part of the prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) program. A sociology major and Latino studies minor, Ibarra will represent the country as a cultural ambassador helping to enhance mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and Mexico.

Chosen from applicants across the U.S., the Fulbrighters are placed in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to the local English teachers.

"It is very rewarding to know that I was chosen not only among a pool of undergraduates, but also graduate students, for this program. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to do work in Mexico," said Ibarra, who plans to volunteer with an immigration rights or education reform non-governmental agency while in Mexico.

"I grew up in East L.A. and I chose to major in sociology and Latino studies because I wanted to help create positive change in my community and better understand what is happening there," said Ibarra. "Now, after graduating from Whittier I want to get into public policy, with a focus on urban development or immigration. I feel like going to Mexico and learning what is going on over there and bringing it back here makes sense for my future studies and career."

At Whittier, Ibarra was a leader in MEChA and a fellow with Students For Education Reform Action Network, promoting academic achievement for Latino and first-generation college-going students.



Leading by example, Ibarra was a member of the sociology honors society, Alpha Kappa Delta and was awarded the Whittier College Charles J. Browning Prize in Sociology. In addition, Ibarra received the John '45 and Jan Cauffman Fellowship, designed to provide students opportunities to work with faculty on the development and implementation of new and improved courses utilizing digital technologies.

As part of the fellowship, Ibarra worked with Associate Professor of Social Work Paula Sheridan for her Social Welfare of Children course, which partners with Lydia Jackson Elementary School. Ibarra helped develop a digital magazine to promote literacy skills and provide local resources for families. In addition, she edited the class syllabus and led a few class workshops.

After completing her Fulbright ETA, Ibarra plans to attend graduate school in public policy.



FROM WHITTIER TO NASA IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

VIRTUAL INTERNSHIP OPENS DOORS FOR WHITTIER STUDENT

Location, location, location. This may still ring true for real estate, but location is no longer a barrier for internship opportunities. Virtual internships are the wave of the future—and Hawaii native **Bryceton Scurr '19** is riding that wave as a content hacker and creative writer for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"A NASA internship is a dream come true," said Scurr, who majors in the 3-2

engineering program. "This internship gives me course credit and will serve me well for engineering school later on."

The highly competitive NASA internship is one of many offered by the Virtual Student Foreign Service (VSFS), the largest virtual internship program in the world. Scurr's entire internship was remote with team meetings held online.

As a NASA intern, Scurr started working from Whittier in the fall and was able to apply some of his physics

knowledge as well as his creative writing skills. For eight months, he worked five to 10 hours a week along with seven other undergraduate and graduate students around the country. They tackled NASA projects related to employee engagement, innovation, collaboration, and reinventing the way employees receive critical onboarding information through a new employee handbook.

One of Scurr's first assignments was to curate digital content and post it on Twitter using the hashtag #NASAproud. The goal was to promote stories highlighting NASA's people and their work.

Other internship projects included interviewing NASA employees for focus groups, researching existing documentation, and drafting agency-wide workforce communications. He concluded the internship working on a NASA Passport project for supervisors—a guide of sorts for management-level employees. Scurr also had the opportunity to present new products to senior leadership at the end of the internship.

This summer, Scurr is in Albuquerque, at the University of New Mexico's Center for Micro-Engineered Materials as part of an REU (Research Experience for Undergrads) in the Advanced Materials Laboratory owned by Sandia National Laboratories.

An avid video game player, Scurr plans to pursue a career in video game design, computer engineering, or civil engineering.



“A NASA internship is a dream come true. This internship gives me course credit and will serve me well for engineering school later on.”

CAREER READY. ▶
The Center for Career and Professional Development helps students like Bryceton Scurr '19 get valuable internships.



WHITTIER COLLEGE RECEIVES \$250K GRANT

PARSONS FOUNDATION SUPPORTING SCIENCE EDUCATION

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation has awarded a \$250,000 grant to Whittier College for the Science & Learning Center (SLC), the largest capital project in the College's 130-year history. This marks the second significant award made by Parsons toward this project, following a \$500,000 grant given in 2014. The renewed SLC opened in fall 2016 and houses seven departments—biology, chemistry, environmental science, kinesiology and nutrition science, math, physics, and psychological sciences. It features flexible classrooms, large open lounge areas, group study spaces, and indoor/outdoor classrooms on the rooftop.

The SLC was envisioned as a catalyst for continuing the College's momentum in expanding upon a first-rate science program and advancing curricular innovations across all disciplines to benefit its talented and diverse student population. As anticipated, the building is already having a profound impact on instruction. For the 2016–17 school year, more than 90 percent of students have taken courses in the SLC and 100 percent will have a class in the new facility before they graduate.

The revamp of the building has had an overall positive effect on campus with much feedback on the improved design and functionality of the space.



"It has been phenomenal to have the SLC open and even more exciting to see how well it is serving, and will continue to serve, our students and the overall community," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Darrin Good.

POETS ADVOCATE FOR CAL GRANTS



POETS SAMANTHA VEGA '17, a political science major, and **MANUEL HERRERA '20**, a biology major, traveled to Sacramento in March to advocate for Cal Grants and urge lawmakers not to cut funding to this vital program.

The grants, awarded to more than 27,000 students across the state, have already been

reduced over the past 10 years. The maximum Cal Grant award to private, nonprofit students is once again facing a cut of over \$1,000. Vega and Herrera both count on the Cal Grant award as part of their financial aid package.

"I studied abroad this spring in China, and it's things like that that I wouldn't be able to afford had I not received a Cal Grant," said Herrera, who is considering becoming a doctor. "Those definitely do help a lot. I mean, every little dollar counts when you're in college."

During their visit to the state capital, Vega and Herrera had a full day of meetings with legislators and influential policy staff, even catching the ear of California State Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon.

Meeting Calderon in his office wasn't only an opportunity to champion Cal Grants. Vega

has been an admirer of Calderon's career; he's the youngest majority leader in Assembly history. Meeting him, realizing how "down-to-earth" he is, and the focus he has on the schools in his district (including Whittier College), gave Vega hope for her own journey into politics.

Herrera and Vega also met alumnus **Dorian Almaraz '14**, a member of Senator Tony Mendoza's staff. Almaraz invited the two onto the senate floor, where a giant electronic sign welcomed Whittier College. The moment made Vega "proud to be a Poet and so grateful that Dorian and I share the same education, seeing as we have similar goals for the future," she said.

The trip was organized through the Sacramento-based Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU).



PROFESSOR GIL GONZALEZ APPOINTED AS FACULTY MASTER

NEW FOCUS ON FIRST-GEN STUDENTS

Professor of Theatre Gil Gonzalez and his wife Katie Liddicoat, along with their daughters Isabell and Celia, will take residence of Hartley House beginning fall 2017.

"Gil will bring his dedication, along with insights gained from his experience as associate dean for first year programs and an excellent record of successful collaboration across campus, to develop innovative programs related to our top institutional priorities of student success and satisfaction—particularly in the first and sophomore years," President Herzberger said.

Hartley House is part of the College's Faculty Masters Program, which combines education and social programming in an intimate

and informal setting and is modeled after similar programs at Oxford and Cambridge universities. Located in the heart of campus, the masters houses are each awarded to a faculty-in-residence, whose multi-year assignment is to plan and host a variety of experiences exploring a designated theme.

Passionate about serving first generation and other students underrepresented in higher education,

Gonzalez plans to infuse diversity and energy into an array of curricular and co-curricular programming at Whittier.

"I'm excited about opening up my home to students and creating events specifically for them," said Gonzalez. "[The program] is a student-centered initiative...and when they are helping make decisions, the programming is not just about what they want, but also who they are."

“I’m excited about opening up my home to students and creating events specifically for them.”



NEW WHITTIER SCHOLARS DIRECTOR NAMED

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

ANDREA REHN has been appointed associate dean and director of the Whittier Scholars Program (WSP). Rehn is currently associate director of WSP and founding director of DigLibArts.

"Rehn excels both as an inspiring teacher and a masterful advisor. She brings to this new role her expertise as a highly-regarded Victorianist, Ed Tech guru, and rock climber," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Darrin Good.

Charles Eastman, senior lecturer and director of the writing program, will be interim associate director. Both posts begin in fall 2017.

BUSINESS PROFESSOR NAMED ONE OF ORANGE COUNTY'S GAME CHANGERS

DECKER ADVOCATES FOR TAXPAYERS

Professor of Business Administration Jeff Decker, retired basketball player Kobe Bryant, and recording artists Gwen Stefani are among the "OC's 100 Most Influential" individuals, according to the Orange County Register.

The annual list, compiled by the newspaper's editors, highlights people who "changed lives in 2016" and includes innovators and newsmakers in education, business, health, government, faith, sports, philanthropy, civic life, and the arts.

Decker was chosen for his role in helping to fight water rate increases in the city of Yorba Linda. He currently serves as chairman and co-founder of the city's taxpayers association. Working

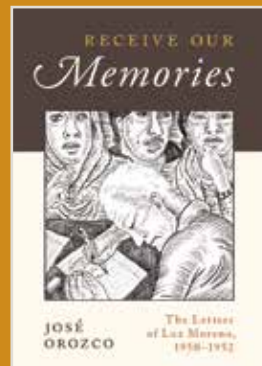


with the association, Decker was successful in collecting more than 5,500 signatures against a \$25 monthly rate increase approved by the Yorba Linda Water District board in 2015.

LETTERS FROM THE PAST BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

IN HIS NEWEST BOOK, *RECEIVE OUR MEMORIES*, history professor José Orozco shares 80 translated and edited letters, written by his great-grandfather Luz Moreno, telling both a personal family story as well as shedding light on the history of immigration, labor, and politics of Mexico and the United States during the 1950s.

Orozco worked over many years—sifting through more than 200 letters—to bring this narrative to light. Moreno's letters were written to a daughter who emigrated from Mexico to Stockton, Calif. in the 1950s. Even though Moreno was poor with very little education, he learned to read and write in order to keep in touch with his daughter.



The topics addressed in the letters range from daily concerns to political events, and rumination on culture and religion to extensive deliberations on philosophical questions that preoccupied the mind of the elderly and sick man.

"Having these many letters from a poor person talking about his life and its meaning is so rare," Orozco said. "He talks about various topics that people don't normally talk about."

Original pen and ink drawings by artist Jose Lozano accompany the letters.



SOCIETY MEMBERS AS CAMPUS LEADERS

REFLECTION BY WILLIAM PENN SOCIETY MEMBER AMER RASHID '17

Political science and global cultural studies double major **Amer Rashid '17** looks back on his experiences as a member of the William Penn society and a student leader, roles that Rashid explains go hand in hand.



“Being in a society means being proficient at event planning, time management, marketing, and challenging yourself to take on the issues you’re passionate about. Societies also provide an invaluable support system.”

As a graduating senior reflecting on the last four years at Whittier College, I can undoubtedly affirm that I have grown and learned the skills that have prepared me to enter the “real world.” Of all these skill sets, it is the ability to be an effective and efficient leader that I was luckiest of all to master.

As a freshman, I pledged the William Penn Society. I gained a group of brothers who will forever be part of my life. And I joined a decades-old tradition at Whittier. I recall fondly serenading President Herzberger during new member education.

At the same time, I was presented with unexpected leadership opportunities within the Penns and the larger Inter-Society Council (ISC). The ISC allows members from different societies to work together to better Whittier College and organize events and programming for all students.

I learned that society members make up 20 percent of the student body and reflect the wide diversity of our campus. I also learned that in this vast network was a strong support system which valued effective communication, visionary leadership, and innovative problem solving all through the lens and framework of the College’s founding principles and values.

I’m sure all members of any society can agree with me on this: our on-campus “family” expands beyond just our own respective societies, but is rather a vast conglomerate of all societies. It is only with this family that I have been challenged to be more of an active listener, to take to heart our values of equality and justice that our namesake fought so hard for, and also to recognize my own potential.



The confidence I gained in this setting set me up to pursue broader leadership roles on campus. I ran and was elected to the posts of ASWC vice president and president; roles that I took very seriously. In particular, during my time with the ASWC, I worked to improve communication between students and administrators on various issues. On a personal level, I established Students for Justice in Palestine, a student group whose aim is to educate others on the conflict in Palestine, aid with the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement, and encourage constructive dialogue on human rights and international affairs surrounding the Middle East.

My story isn't unique. Societies produce countless campus leaders. Some find a place within student senate or campus clubs, others lead through academic, athletic, and/or artistic achievements. Being in a society means being proficient at event planning, time management, marketing, and challenging yourself to take on the issues you're passionate about. Societies also provide an invaluable support system.

Don't take my word for it, just look at the countless activities on campus that are driven by society members—Homecoming/Whittier Weekend events, the painting of the Rock, campus research conferences, student dances and social events, and the first annual Whittfest concert, just to name a few.

So, as I look back on my time at Whittier and spruce up my resume before sending it out to future employers, I can't help but take a moment to recognize the invaluable education I received from my society brothers and sisters. I will be forever grateful.



PALMER BECOMES PRESIDENT FOR A DAY

IN EARLY SPRING, PALMER DANIELA VEGA '19 STEPPED INTO THE SHOES OF PRESIDENT SHARON HERZBERGER FOR A DAY. Her many presidential duties included meeting with senior administrators, a board member, and students; filming a video to thank donors; and speaking before the faculty at their bi-weekly meeting.

"At this very moment, while I have the honor of speaking to you, my mom is picking basil under the blazing sun," Vega told the faculty. "My dad has been the head foreman for a farming company for more than 15 years. I was raised in a community in which hard work and determination were essential. I have learned that in order to succeed, I must not give up—no matter how difficult it may seem."

Vega comes from the Imperial Valley, a farming community in southeast California, near the border with Mexico.

"I consider myself very lucky to be where I am right now," she added.

Vega hopes to pursue a career in academics. In the distant future, Vega hopes she too can have her own presidential office and establish a first-generation college student center to provide resources and aid students throughout their academic career.

2016-2017

POETS' CAMPAIGN



1



2



3



4



5



6

FALL 2016 AND WINTER 2016-17

- 1 Men's Basketball** (Season 11-13; SCIAC 6-10) **2 Women's Basketball** (Season 9-16; SCIAC 8-8)
3 Men's Cross Country (SCIAC 3rd) **4 Women's Cross Country** (SCIAC 5th) **5 Football** (Season 0-9; SCIAC 0-7);
6 Women's Swimming & Diving (SCIAC 3-5) **7 Men's Soccer** (Season 4-13-1; SCIAC 3-12-1)
8 Volleyball (Season 9-18; SCIAC 5-11) **9 Men's Waterpolo** (Season 19-13; SCIAC 8-3);
Men's Swimming & Diving (SCIAC 3-5)



7



8



9

Photos by Tony Leon/Action West Photography

FALL & WINTER INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

► MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY: Julian

Sandoval '19 led the Purple and Gold with his best career finish earning the individual Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) championship title. He also received SCIAC Runner-of-the-Year and SCIAC Athlete of the Week honors. **Ruben Solorza '17** and **Osvaldo Cerda '17** placed 7th and 8th, respectively, during the championship while **Kevin Huey '17** rounded out the top 20 finishing 15th. The top three runners took home All-SCIAC recognition and Solorza received the Ray Adkinson Character Award, which is determined by his SCIAC peers. Sandoval, Solorza, Cerda, Huey, and **William Howells '20** were honored as All-Region award recipients helping their team qualify for the Division III National Championships.

► WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY: Julissa

Tobias '18 and **Jessica Iribe '18** placed 2nd and 7th respectively during the SCIAC Championships. Both made the first team all-conference. Tobias qualified for the Division III National Championships.

► **FOOTBALL:** **Austin Brasher '17** and **Mark Kozhaya '17** were named to the SCIAC second team for the second year in a row. Offensive tackle Kozhaya was also selected to take part in the National Bowl Game presented by East Preps.

► **MEN'S SOCCER:** Team captain **James Suri '17** earned second team All-SCIAC honors.

► **WOMEN'S SOCCER:** Senior midfielder **Kaela Reisfelt '17** was awarded a spot on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-West region third team and All-SCIAC first team. Defender **Jenna Muise '19** and goalkeeper **Alexi Cruz '17** were named to the All-SCIAC second team.

► **MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING:** For the second year in a row, **Tony Martir '17** qualified for the NCAA Division III National Championships in the 100 Breaststroke leading the Whittier College men's swimming and diving team to a fifth place finish during the SCIAC Championships.

► WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING:

Sophomore **Becca Ayers '19** qualified for the NCAA Division III West Regional. She and her teammates earned Academic All-American status from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA). The team finished with a 3.43 combined GPA.

► MEN'S WATER POLO: Massimiliano

Mirarchi '18 was named to the SCIAC 1st Team and, for the third consecutive year, on the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC) first team after leading the Whittier College Men's Water Polo team to a 2nd Place finish in the SCIAC standings. **Aidan Tol '18** received Honorable Mention recognition and was named an All-American for the first time in his career. **Murat Ersoz '20** was named to the All-SCIAC team and **Christopher Ibarra '17** was also named to the All-SCIAC Sportsmanship Team. Five Poets received ACWPC All-Academic awards: **Mirarchi, Mihailo Vuja '17, Tim Aakhus '18, Carlos Campos-Moya '17, Nikolas Gregov '17.**

► **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** **Rebecca Slattery '17** landed on the 2016 volleyball All-SCIAC teams for the third consecutive year. Joining her was teammate **Jasmine Tong '17** who represented Whittier on the SCIAC Sportsmanship Team. Slattery and **Olive Anagu '18** were also named to the All-Tournament team.



TRACK AND FIELD COACHES SET SIGHTS ON GROWTH

\$1 MILLION COMMITMENT LEADS BOOSTER SUPPORT TO BENEFIT HUNDREDS OF POET ATHLETES

Poet track and field athletes set their blocks for a new season with the guidance of new head coach Robert Neely and assistant coach Aaron Lund. Neely and Lund began the season looking to build upon the success of the cross country team, which in the fall of 2016 sent one woman and a team of men to nationals—a first for the Poets. Long-distance runners make up about a third of the track and field team. More significantly, Neely sought to develop his runners and create unity among the group.

“When it clicks, it feels effortless; some of the best achievements just happen so long as everything else is taken care of,” he said. Neely and Lund are also actively planning for the long term—looking to significantly grow the team, which currently consists of 40 competitive athletes. In a sport with various events, numbers make a difference. The coaches hope to grow the program to at least 90 competitors in the coming years.

When recruiting new talent, Neely and Lund proudly boast about

Whittier’s focus on academics and co-curricular learning. Both the cross country and track and field teams have consistently been recognized for academic excellence. “The combination of an intimate, liberal arts education, NCAA Division III mentality, and prime Southern California location give Whittier track and field athletes so many opportunities to be successful,” said Neely.

At the same time, upgraded facilities will enable Whittier to greatly expand the track and field program.

COACH, MENTOR, AND TEACHER.

New Poet coach Robert Neely confers with his runners KamRon Perry '18, Julissa Tobias '18, Billy Howell '20, and Ruben Solorza '17 before practice.



In the summer of 2017, the College is undertaking substantial renovations to Wallace “Chief” Newman field and Aubrey Bonham track, located in Memorial Stadium. This \$1.4 million project will directly benefit nine athletic teams—football and men’s and women’s track and field, soccer, cross country, and lacrosse—as well as hundreds of student athletes who participate in intramural athletics.

“This project, which will enhance the competitiveness of many of our teams, wouldn’t be possible without

the generosity of our incredible supporters,” said Executive Director of Athletics Robert Coleman. Prominently, a \$1 million leadership commitment provided by **Carole Pickup ’57** and **Richard H. Pickup ’55** will help with the track and field renovation as well as enable Whittier to make other strategic investments in its athletic programs. Other alumni and friends making significant commitments to the project include **Christopher Martin ’94**, **Richard** and **Linda Ruben**, **John ’57** and **Robin DeWitt**, **Donald J. ’74**

and **Cheryl Herrema**, **Austin ’85** and **Tamara Major**, **Jack ’55** and **Sandi Fox**, and **Zach Gerbarg P ’07** and family. The track will be refurbished with a state-of-the-art synthetic running surface. A new gray color scheme with purple graphics will celebrate Poet pride while adding a sense of uniqueness to the venue. A ribbon-cutting celebration to open the renovated venue will be held on September 23 prior to the football home opener against Arizona Christian.

LEADING THE PACK

Dual-sport Poets **Ruben Solorza ’17**, **Julissa Tobias ’18**, and **William Howells ’20** had a stand out season in cross-country and brought that momentum to track and field this spring.



RUBEN SOLORZA ’17

One of the team’s veterans, Solorza describes his team members as “driven and goal oriented.” A highlight of his Whittier running career came during his sophomore year during the SCIAC championships. “I remember it being so loud and everyone was cheering! It was amazing and helped me get through the race to a second place finish.”



JULISSA TOBIAS ’18

As a Poet, Tobias has broken and set new records. She picked Whittier not only because of its strong focus on athletics, but also because of the academic offerings, namely child development. A true scholar-athlete, last year she studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark.



WILLIAM “BILLY” HOWELLS ’20

A native of Missouri, Howells has been running competitively since he was 13. Attracted to Whittier’s location and competitive program, the first-year runner is excited to see new improvements to the track.

Story by KamRon Perry ’18

“The combination of an intimate, liberal arts education, NCAA Division III mentality, and prime Southern California location give Whittier track & field athletes so many opportunities to be successful.”

— COACH ROBERT NEELY



ACTING



FILMING



PAINTING



WRITING



PERFORMING

CREATING ARTFUL CAREERS THE WHITTIER WAY

SITTING IN A DARK THEATRE WATCHING A SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER. WALKING AROUND A MUSEUM ENJOYING MODERN MASTERPIECES. SINGING ALONG TO THE *HAMILTON* SOUNDTRACK WHILE DRIVING TO WORK. READING THE LATEST BOOK CLUB PICK. These are ways that the creative arts are an intrinsic part of life. While the arts can scare and thrill us, it's not just about entertainment. They also encourage us to think critically, see the world from different angles, love more deeply, empathize with others, and challenge our preconceived notions of reality.

At Whittier, the creative arts are taught with these ideas in mind. This is achieved by embracing a unique interdisciplinarity, guided by creative mentors—the College's talented professors. Our faculty embolden thespians to study politics, film students to ponder hard philosophical questions, aspiring professional musicians to scrutinize business plans, and young painters to master the use of Bunsen burners. Likewise, the creative arts infuse every other discipline at the College—social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences—by enabling a freedom of expression, encouraging intellectual risks, and play. At Whittier, students explore a range of subjects that ignite passions and catalyze future achievements.

For those who are bold enough to choose a career in the creative arts, Whittier equips them with excellent artistic training to go along with the liberal arts foundation from which to build a rewarding career. Through music, theatre, writing, acting, visual, and other creative arts, Poets across the world are producing work that entertains, challenges, inspires, and awes audiences. As you flip through the pages ahead, you will be introduced to talented alumni working in film, theatre, art, music and literature—all who were propelled by Whittier.

GEOFF STULTS

IS CREATING AN UNFORGETTABLE CAREER

"Whittier put me on the right track and gave me the opportunity to grow."



Photo credit: Rich Fury / Getty Images.

WITH A LEADING ROLE in a major motion picture, a recurring role in a popular TV sitcom, and two additional feature film roles in 2017, **Geoff Stults '98** is in a great place in his career.

"I am in a position to be selective about the projects I take. I have time to be a little more strategic about what I do next," said Stults, who has been working steadily since graduating from Whittier College and has appeared in multiple roles in both television and film, notably *The Wedding Crashers*, *October Road*, *The Finder*, and *7th Heaven*, where he appeared alongside his brother **George Stults '98**.

Most recently, Stults starred in the Warner Brothers thriller *Unforgettable*, directed by Denise Di Novi. He played a man caught between his current fiancée (Rosario Dawson) and his "dangerously unbalanced" ex-wife (Katherine Heigl).

"This is my first real lead in a big feature film, it was a great opportunity for me," said Stults, who admits to being a little intimidated when arriving on the set

to meet his new colleagues. "This movie starred and was directed and produced by some very powerful women—I loved being a part of that."

While Stults' talent, passion, and charm radiate both on and off the screen, he modestly credits his work ethic—one that Whittier College helped to foster—for his success. "I am a real believer that work begets work and good work begets better work...and better opportunities. My goal is to work with great people who are inspiring and who you learn from and be able to make a living doing what I love to do."

KEEPING YOUR NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE

At Whittier, Stults majored in political science and was a dual-sport athlete, playing football and track and field. "Being in school and being in athletics—learning how to work hard, that is one thing that college did for me. Whittier put me on the right track and gave me the opportunity to grow," added Stults.

Being part of the football team lead to an unexpected opportunity to become a performer at Whittier.



"I was in freshman football camp and I was in the locker room and here was this big dude singing away."

That unabashed vocalist was fellow football player Benjamin Stephens '96 who was a member of the choir. Stephens cajoled his teammate into trying out for the group. Stults, who was not quite prepared for the audition, sang *Happy Birthday* for then-director Steven Gothold. The director was impressed and told him to come back.

Stults indeed came back, earned a talent scholarship, and had the opportunity to sing on campus as well as in New Orleans, Colorado, Northern California, and Hawaii. "To be on stage in front of people, singing solos, certainly helped me become a performer," said Stults.

Performing live continues to be a favorite part of the job for Stults who most recently appeared as "Murph"—a retired NFL football player—on CBS's *The Odd Couple*, a multi-camera comedy shot before a live audience.

"*The Odd Couple* was so fun for me to do," he said. "I love the energy you get off the crowd. It came a little more natural to me, maybe it goes back to the performance days at Whittier."

ALWAYS A STUDENT

Popular culture and art have always been a reflection of society. It's not surprising then, that as an actor and political science major who aspired to study law, Stults keeps abreast of politics and world affairs. Sometimes pining for his days at Whittier.

"Particularly with the political climate right now, I wish I could have been in Professor [Fred] Bergerson's classroom listening to him talk. He's just such a brilliant guy with a great perspective on everything," said Stults. "It would be so fun to be there now."

"At Whittier, you have the opportunity to learn from people that come from different places. That is a great thing that we need more and more in the world."

NEVER STOPPING

Coming up, Stults will be seen in the drama *Granite Mountain*, due out from Lionsgate in September. It also stars Miles Teller, Taylor Kitsch, Jeff Bridges, and Josh Brolin. He was also recently cast in Nicolai Fuglsig's *Horse Soldiers*, opposite Chris Hemsworth, Michael Shannon, and Michael Peña. The film follows the true story of a U.S. Special Forces Team and their untested captain sent to a rugged region of Afghanistan in the weeks following September 11.

Stults takes his success in stride and has straightforward plans for the future: keep learning, keep growing, and keep working. "I never plan on stopping or slowing down. I love what I do and I am grateful I have the opportunity to do that."

Top: In 2017, Geoff Stults '98 starred in the Warner Brother's thriller, *Unforgettable*, with Rosario Dawson.

Bottom: Playing Poet football, Stults made life-long friends including Spencer Carter '99, Michael C. Dobrzycki '98, Tony Lercara '00, Marcos Ramirez '99, Angel Rivas '99, Victor M. Ruble '98, Scott M. Shraiberg '99, and brother George Stults '98.



Photo by Karen Ballard





THEATER AND LIFE AFTER WHITTIER?

Current Department Chair and Professor of Theatre and Communication Arts **Jennifer S. Holmes** has directed dozens of Whittier College stage productions, the most recent being the musical *Next to Normal*. She brings her love of the visual arts and dance, along with her passion for storytelling and performance, to all of her productions.

“ I taught Directing and Actors Lab in the spring. We had a feedback circle after the second performance and, had you not known what class it was, you would have thought that the students were talking about how to succeed in life. They spoke about how the directing and performing experience had taught them to not fear failing, of having confidence in who they are, and of not second guessing themselves. Through the performance process, students learn to respect and trust collaboration; they become disciplined and experimental thinkers, which are concrete takeaways.

Theatre students realize that failure and mistakes are beneficial learning tools. They come to understand communication as a craft and the importance and contribution of every person. You're not just 'a star' on your own because without the many people behind the person at center stage, theatre wouldn't happen. I believe that theatre students learn about the importance and impact of community in bringing ideas to fruition. And, that's also where the dedication comes in. If you don't show up for rehearsal, or if you're irresponsible, there are many other passionate and disciplined people to take your place. ”



FILM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Professor of Film Studies **Ashkan Soltani** is an award-winning filmmaker. Some of the courses he teaches include fundamentals of cinema, film and media production, and American independent cinema. As a professor, one of his goals is to expose his students to different ways of communication and storytelling.

“ As a teenager, a film professor introduced me to a series of European art films. The famous filmmakers—Bergman, Pasolini, Fellini—and after watching some of those films I had a eureka moment. I knew that was what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.

As a professor one of my primary goals is to expose my students to different ways of communication and storytelling and art in general by exposing them to lesser-known, obscure, artistic films.

I think film and visual communications is more of a 21st century language. It's very effective. We have a much shorter attention span and studies suggest that if you cannot catch someone's attention within the first 10 seconds, especially the younger generation, you are most likely going to lose them. So this makes film and visual communication even more relevant to what's happening now. ”



KEVIN SUN

SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH A NEW LENS



TELEVISION CAMERA ASSISTANT Kevin Sun '12 had a bit of a homecoming recently while working on the set of the hit Showtime TV show *Ray Donovan*. In February, the show had a daylong shoot in Uptown Whittier, a few blocks from campus.

"We shoot out on location and at the Sony Studios in Culver City," said Sun, who was also recently on location in Las Vegas and will be heading out soon to New York City.

LEARNING FROM THE PROS

His current trajectory, which includes credits in a number of films and TV programs, began with a call from a long-time client who urgently needed a camera assistant for his feature film project, *Pop Star*, the first film from *Saturday Night Live*'s Lonely Island trio. Sun was employed at Panavision, his first job out of Whittier. There, he worked alongside industry veterans, learning the ropes of working with all manner of lenses and creating an impressive professional network.

"Being in Panavision was as close to Candyland as you get...When part of your job is to outfit all the different filmmaking accessories from the analogue world and the digital world to a wide array of cameras, how to trouble shoot, and problem solve—working with aerial units, underwater teams, skydiving with a 150,000 camera strapped on you, things start becoming second nature, you can start doing things with your eyes closed."

He needed to make a quick decision that would mean becoming a freelance union worker, leaving a steady gig at Panavision, a Hollywood industry leader.

"I suppose much of my decision to leave Panavision was a gamble," he adds. "I thought, 'How do I keep myself working from show to show to show?' But I took a leap of faith. I said yes to the feature film, and to my surprise, I have not stopped working for two years now."

As *Ray Donovan* wraps up, Sun will soon begin a six-month journey with HBO's *Westworld* that will take him to the Four Corners—Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico.



"In the short term, I want to continue working on high quality shows; shows that break the rules, bend the rules, and take an edgier standpoint."

ACTION.
Kevin Sun '12
working on set.

AIMING HIS LENS TOWARD THE FUTURE

Sun's ultimate goal is to become a director of photography for feature films and television. Having worked alongside talented professionals in that role, he understands the importance of continuing to learn to refine his skills.

"On the learning front there are miles and miles of learning to do, to constantly sharpen my eye, and improve my skills in the cinematography realm: to be observant and proactively seeking new frontiers in cinematography."

Always an enthusiastic student, Sun recalls lessons learned in philosophy professor Paul Kjellberg's class. "He emphasized to his students how to learn to 'self-correct' and become 'self-aware,' which, perhaps, were the single most vital tools I took away when I stepped into the real world."



THE ARTS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

Associate Professor of Art **Daniel Jauregui** works in a variety of media including painting, drawing, photography, and sculpture. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in venues such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Bowdoin Museum, Museo Rufino Tamayo, San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, Estacion Tijuana, and the Power Plant in Toronto, Canada, among others.

“Art, in the liberal arts context, teaches students to be creative. I like to say that we’re not teaching students how to paint with oil or draw with charcoal, although we are doing that. But what we’re really doing is teaching students how to approach a problem from a different perspective. We’re teaching them that there are solutions to solving a problem in a way that maybe they never would have thought of before.

Given the advancements of social media and the internet, we’re constantly inter-facing with images and those images have an impact on us. They shape who we are and how we think about the world. I think that in art, that’s one of the main things that you learn how to do, become literate in deciding what those images mean.

Things are rapidly changing and I think that the skills you learn in art classes are skills that are sort of applicable in that rapid fluid nature of the culture we live in.”

KAREN

SETTING THE SCENE

WHEN KAREN MANESS ‘95 was in high school, she walked into a university gallery and stood before her first vertical paint frame, an artistic expression larger than life, and she began to shake.

She had seen large paintings before, but not like this. Following her artistic mother into the theater, Maness began painting the backdrops for her mother’s productions as a teenager. But at the feet of this monumental work, one question raced into her mind: “I can paint this big?”

Now, she does. Thanks to a self-designed degree in studio art and theatre at Whittier College and a hunger for work, Maness is now the principal instructor of scenic art and figurative painting for the theatre department at the University of Texas, Austin and scenic art supervisor at Texas Performing Arts. Taking set designers’ concepts for the worlds behind the performers, Maness effectively blows up that vision to a gigantic scale.

SHARING THE MAGIC

She passes on her knowledge of the craft as a teacher, as well as in her newly co-authored book, *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*, a fittingly large love letter to a century of movie magic.

SEE



More of Karen
Maness’ work
online at
[whittier.edu/
MoreRock](http://whittier.edu/MoreRock).



MANESS

FOR AN ARTIST'S LIFE

The book shines a light on artists who helped craft the backdrops for cultural touchstones like *The Wizard of Oz* and *Ghostbusters*. The five-year project was “completely passion driven,” said Maness, who delved into 100 years of gorgeous motion picture history with her co-author, Richard Isaacs.

“As a painter, to get to really see this level of extraordinary excellence, I was in heaven,” Maness said.

With movies increasingly relying on computer-generated backdrops, Maness hopes the book finds its way into the hands of young directors and production designers. While digital technology is an unprecedented and important tool, in real sets, “there is a hand and warmth that people connect with.” The magic of filmmaking is in combining that with the digital, she said.

Maness, too, has been combining art forms throughout her life: studio art and theatrical design.

“And I think it’s really lovely that this book had emerged,” she said, “which is the culmination of my love for monumental paintings and that’s what drove me into theatre in the first place, because I wanted to paint large.”

DISCOVERING HER VOICE

Knowing that she wanted to be an artist, Maness opted for Whittier, over a more traditional fine arts college or conservatory, because it offered a wide breadth of experience and the interdisciplinarity needed to create her own path.

Her Whittier mentors include theatre professor Brian Reed, art history professor Paula Radisich, and former art professor Kim Russo, who stands out in Maness’ memory as someone who helped open her fledgling artist’s mind and develop her voice on the canvas.

“She took a very traditionally trained studio artist and kind of forced me to break myself open,” Maness said.

“She really taught me how to speak as a painter, but also how to get kind of uglier and dirtier as a painter so I can begin asking the question of why do I make my work and what do I want to say as an artist.”



Choosing Whittier also placed Maness in the Los Angeles area. The whole time she was studying she was also painting in professional shops. She started “at the bottom,” washing buckets and paint brushes. But she learned from the pros around her, she made her connections, and soon one job led to the next.

Now at UT-Austin, Maness is returning that favor to the young artists around her. Side by side, they paint scenes for plays, dances, operas, and more, creating something the students never imagined possible.

“I find students’ hunger and passion just completely intoxicating, and if I can do anything to elevate them and propel them in their futures I am happy to,” Maness said.

Maness also continues to speak as an artist through her private studio, Red Rust. Her paintings have been exhibited nationally and are held in private collections worldwide.



Top: Karen Maness '95 and her student Kara Konop work on a backdrop for a production of *Dialogue of the Carmelites*.

Under: The cover of Maness’ latest book, *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*.

Left: *Wager* (oil on panel), a Karen Maness original figurative painting.



ADAM PAVA

IMAGINATION AND HARDWORK—THE SECRET

"I'm just a normal guy who can sit down and talk through the problems with the director and producer and studio executives."



WHEN YOU HAVE A LEAKY PIPE, you call a plumber. When you have a great movie that needs its plot ironed out, you call **Adam Pava '99**.

Pava, whose credits include projects for several major studios, has made a career as a Hollywood screenwriter by being the person who can approach an idea from a unique angle.

"I'm just a normal guy who can sit down and talk through the problems with the director and producer and studio executives, and ideally synthesize their concerns into fixable solutions," said Pava.

"That's most of the job," he added. "Writing script pages and jokes is the easy, fun part after that."

And Pava's been having a lot of fun since graduating from Whittier College, where he developed his voice and gained invaluable experiences for his resume.

The Boxtrolls? That was his script. *The Lego Movie*? He worked on that, too. *Johnny Bravo*? Also in his credits.

LETTING HIS IMAGINATION FLY

Now, Pava is working for Disney, adapting *The Stuff of Legend* comic book series into a live-action adventure movie. Set during World War II, a boy is transported to a fantasy world inside his closet, where his toys have come to life.

"It's basically a story of a boy feeling abandoned, and dealing with that loss through his vivid imagination," Pava said.

TO HIS SUCCESS

Pava, too, has made great use of his own imagination. He recently completed the script for an original stop-motion animated musical for LAIKA, the stop-motion studio behind *Coraline*, *Kubo and the Two Strings*, and *Boxtrolls*.

"This project is an original idea that I came up with, which is a rarity in today's world of movies," explains Pava. "I wrote the story and co-wrote the lyrics, collaborating with a songwriter on a dozen songs."

Pava also recently completed work on a sequel to *The Lego Movie* and is currently writing an original movie for Legendary Pictures based on a popular sports brand, but Pava is mum on details until it's announced. (All he will say is that cartoons and humans will be sharing the screen.)

PAVING THE PATH FORWARD

At Whittier, Pava majored in creative writing and took full advantage of his College experience. He was an editor for the *Quaker Campus*, wrote a weekly humor column, acted in theatre department productions, wrote and directed one-act plays, and even completed a full-length musical for his Whittier Scholars Program senior project. Pava credits professors like Tony Barnstone, David Paddy, and Steven Gothold for teaching him how to write and think critically, take feedback, and be a successful artistic collaborator.

His Whittier education, along with the lessons he's learned in numerous writers rooms, have led Pava to his growing career as a Hollywood screenwriter. Pava brings his talent for looking at projects from a unique perspective and tapping into his imagination to find worlds and characters nobody else is considering.

"Hollywood is filled with thousands of writers, and the trick is being the one they have to hire, because what you can bring to the table is something nobody else can," said Pava.



WHY I WRITE

Professor of English **Tony Barnstone** is a prolific poet, author, essayist, and literary translator. His most recent book, *Pulp Sonnets*, is a collection of graphic stories in linked sonnets, based on classic pulp fiction and illustrated by Iranian artist Amin Mansouri.

“My father is a writer with more than 80 books published; my mother is an artist working largely with the painterly batik and pastels; and my uncle was an architect. So, I grew up in a house designed by my uncle, with my mother's paintings on the wall, and my father's books on the shelves.

I think that a lot of people never have permission to go into the arts and I really did from early on. We used to go to Vermont when I was young and we would live in the Green Mountains and while there we had no television, and for many years no phone. Every week we would go to the public library and bring home 30 or 40 books, read them all, and take them back again. Writing was our childhood game, so in a way you might say that I've never grown up because I'm still playing my childish games.”



CHARLES BOCK

FROM POET TO ACCLAIMED AUTHOR



CHARLES BOCK '91 likes the idea that fiction is a lie more real than the truth.

Both of Bock's novels thus far—*Beautiful Children* (2008) and *Alice & Oliver* (2016)—have some origin in reality before he spins them into the world of fiction.

In *Beautiful Children*, Bock tells the story of teenage runaways in Las Vegas—where he grew up—to offer a glimpse into a microcosm of modern America. The *New York Times* selected the widely acclaimed novel as a Notable Book of the Year for 2008 and the American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded it the 2009 Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction.

Alice & Oliver, meanwhile, follows a couple's emotional journey in the wake of a cancer diagnosis. Bock's late first wife died of leukemia in 2011, and while *Alice & Oliver* does have a "more autobiographical bent," he said, there are "a lot of changes. I used real events as a starting point and tried to build fictional characters and worlds from their base."

Using fiction to distance *Alive & Oliver* from his own story, Bock was able to focus on the book's structure and arc and make it work as a novel, according to a *New York Times* profile on him. He told the newspaper that he could not "spend years writing it and keep to the truth," but he could "keep to a larger truth."

DISCOVERING HIS PASSION

The result is raw and haunting, NPR said in its review, which notes Bock's elegance as a writer. It was at Whittier that he discovered that he could turn his words into a living.

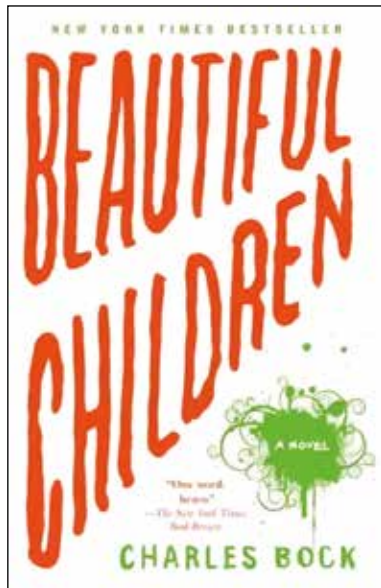
"When I look back on the liberal arts part of Whittier College, it's obvious how lucky I was at the time, because I was exposed to a tremendous education," said Bock, who majored through the Whittier Scholars Program.

He remembers Wendy Furman-Adams' contagious passion for poetry that made him want to get to her class. He remembers his American literature class and falling in love with Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*. And he remembers how the roundtable discussions in his Whittier Scholars Program course, "really helped me learn how to think," he said.

The *Quaker Campus* also stands out in his memory as a transformative experience. In the walls of the newspaper office, he learned how to write and discovered his sense for discipline and craft.

Bock went on to earn a Master's of fine arts in fiction and literature at Bennington College. He now lives in New York, where he teaches fiction at the Gotham Writers Workshop.

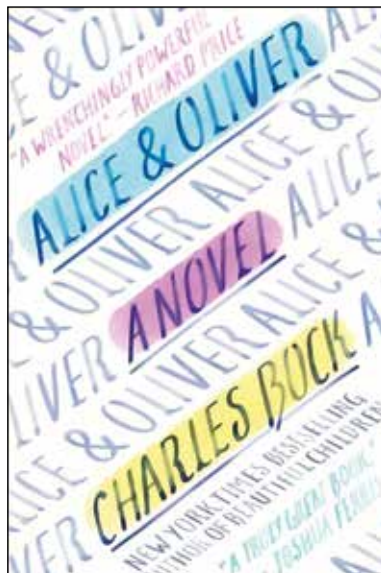
"When I look back on the liberal arts part of Whittier College, it's obvious how lucky I was at the time, because I was exposed to a tremendous education."



SEE



More information
about Charles
Bock's books at
charlesbock.net.



CREATIVE WRITING AND SOCIETY

Assistant Professor of English **Michelle Chihara** teaches contemporary American literature, ChicanX literature, and creative and non-fiction writing. Her research analyzes contemporary American culture and economics. She is section editor of *Economics & Finance* at the Los Angeles Review of Books and has published fiction and nonfiction in a variety of publications including *n+1*, *The Santa Monica Review*, *Mother Jones*, and *Bloomberg.com*, among others..

“Writing is everything. Joan Didion famously said, ‘We tell ourselves stories in order to live.’ Some people interpret that as meaning we lie to ourselves in order to live. I think she meant we live through narrative. That’s how we understand ourselves, our world, and our memories. The stories we tell ourselves come in different forms of narrative. I don’t think you can understand the way story works in your life until you try crafting your own on a blank page.

The liberal arts include the study of culture and participation in culture, and the great discourse that is literature over the course of generations. Trying to write your story is a crucial part of that great conversation.”



KELISSA

CREATING HARMONY

SINGER-SONGWRITER KELISSA MCDONALD '14 has been making music all her life. Most recently, she's been associated with a new generation of Jamaican artists who are bringing about a new wave of roots reggae music and she was recently featured in *Vogue* magazine as one of the "artists to watch" from Jamaica.

"I was living music before I was born," said Kelissa (as she is known professionally). "It welcomed me into the world and it brings me home wherever I am."

BORN TO PERFORM

Kelissa's music has been described as "soulful and poetic" with a world beat. Since 2011, she has been featured on several major Jamaican concerts including Rebel Salute, Sumfest, and the Irie FM road tour, where she appeared in multiple cities. She also served as a musical ambassador for the Bob Marley 71st birthday celebrations and performed at the 20th anniversary of the Smile Jamaica concert. Off the island, Kelissa has performed on several tours across the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom.



ON BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN

Teresa LeVelle is Associate Professor of Music and has performed throughout the United States and internationally. She is currently working on composing an opera, *aLtered sTates*, that focuses on mental illness and its impact on families.

“Over and over, the number one advice I give to students is that you have to work harder than me. A lot of people have this misconception that music is really easy, but music is really tough.

I tell students to be as diverse as possible because diversity is what the market place is looking for. It's great if you want to be a concert pianist but maybe you should think about taking organ lessons as well. And maybe have a strong background in music history or music theory to help expand your knowledge because the more you know the more powerful you are in the marketplace.

There are so many career options for someone with a music degree. You can write music or do production for video games; you can compose music for documentaries; or you can be a music teacher. There's such a wide variety of careers in music that you're not limited to one thing. The beauty of being at a liberal arts school is that we're able to see those different interests you have and put them together to give you the step in the right direction when you graduate.”



MCDONALD

PURSuing MULTIPLE PASSIONS



"I was living music before I was born. It welcomed me into the world and it brings me home wherever I am."

Kelissa's newest release, *Spellbound*, showcases her unique background and international experience and includes powerful and moving acoustic ballads, dub versions of original songs, as well as captivating visuals and insightful messages about wisdom, self-awareness, self-love, and womanhood. *Spellbound* is a co-production between her label, Anbessa Music, and Natural High Music.

Raised in the hills of St. Andrew, Jamaica, by parents who were lead vocalists in the reggae band *Chakula*, Kelissa was highly influenced by Rastafari and reggae music. She began performing as a child, learning a number of instruments and writing songs with her sisters and brother. She has traveled extensively through Africa and spent a semester abroad at University of Ghana where she had hands-on instruction in traditional drumming, xylophone, and dance. While there, she also taught herself to play the guitar.

MUSIC AS HER DRIVING FORCE

Kelissa majored in art and music through the Whittier Scholars Program. A busy and engaged student, she was a member of the choir, the Brazilian and world percussion ensembles, the Poet soccer team, and as a means to express her love of dance, co-founded the Black Arts and Cultural Dance group on campus. Along the way, Kelissa gained hands-on experience in music production including live and studio recording. During her senior year, Kelissa performed at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

"Music has always been a mediator between my current reality and where I was before, and paves a path for where I go next," said Kelissa.

Kelissa currently resides in Jamaica and while engaging in several entrepreneurial business ventures, she continues to make music her central purpose.



ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE

DR. CAREN ROSALES GRISHAM '77 was recently appointed to the Los Angeles County Commission for Women by newly elected Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. Grisham will serve a two-year commitment on the board to represent the special interests and concerns of women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, and social circumstances. Grisham will advise on matters involving the needs of women relating to discrimination and prejudice on account of sex, marital status, or sexual preferences.

"I am extremely honored to be chosen to represent the 4th District by Supervisor Hahn," said Grisham. "I am currently President of Soroptimist International of Whittier, which helps women and girls locally and globally through scholarships and mentoring programs designed to empower and educate."

CLASS NOTES

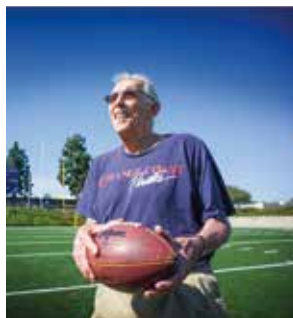
'34



In March, **Pauline (Bolt) Cook** celebrated her 104th birthday. She's the oldest living Poet and keeps active playing bridge three times a week.

'50

Wallace "Wally" Kincaid was posthumously inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2017. Kincaid is considered one of the key innovators of how baseball is played at the collegiate level. → Orange Coast College's (OCC) football field was recently re-christened after legendary head coach **Dick Tucker**. A public ceremony was



held in September. Tucker coached OCC for 23 seasons and served as the school's athletic director for 10 years before retiring in 1995. Along the way he guided the team to two national titles as well as four conference championships and six postseason/bowl appearances.

'51

Bruce Mitchell and his son Jeffrey Bruce Mitchell co-authored a book titled *Lost in the Shelikof: An Alaskan Family's Struggle to Survive*.

'56

Pamela Brink, John W. Brink, and Robert A. Brink '60 co-authored a memoir, *Only By the Grace of God*, about their experience as prisoners of war in the Philippines during World War II.

'61

Class Agent → **Marian L. Goodson**

To learn more about how to support the Class of 1961 Endowed Scholarship contact Marian Goodson, G4goodson@aol.com.

'62

Class Agent → **Mrs. Janice M. (Letts) Gordon**

Members of the Class of 1962 are gearing up for a 55th reunion celebration during Whittier Weekend (October 27-29, 2017). Save the date and look for more information at whittier.edu/WhittierWeekend.

'64

Class Agent → **Kathy Dobrzycki**



Last summer, **Dori Rodi-Shryock** (left) and **Frank Olson** (far right) visited **Susan (Perry) and Craig Elliot '66** at their cabin on Payette Lake in beautiful McCall, Idaho. After all these years they are all still connected thanks to Whittier College. In the fall, Rodi-Shryock and Olson visited with **Marcia (Keifer) and Dave Franzen '62** in Seattle, Wash. Along with the Elliots the group boarded a cruise ship and sailed down the California coast to San Diego.

'67

Class Agent → **Ann "Hansen" Burge**

The Golden Anniversary celebration will take place October 28, 2017. This class has a full and active reunion committee and they hope to see you during Whittier Weekend! Connect with former classmates on facebook.com/groups/WCClassof1967. → Retired teacher **Sharon Moorhead Snell** has been keeping busy with substitute teaching, volunteering at a local school, and getting elected to a term as a school board member. She is a deacon and a docent at the historic First Presbyterian Church of Virginia City, Nevada.

KEEPING THE PEACE

GENE MOSCOVITCH '68 was elected President of the International Academy of Mediators (IAM)—one of the highest honors in the field of mediation. Moscovitch considers this a capstone to his long career. IAM is considered the pre-eminent worldwide organization in commercial mediation, with 187 members from five continents, and operates on an invite-only basis. Moscovitch was first invited to the International Academy of Mediators in 2002 and has been on the Board of Governors for eight years. After 25 years as a trial lawyer, Moscovitch became a full time mediator 18 years ago.





CLASS OF 1966 AND 1976 REUNION GIFTS

Reunion class gifts are a long-standing tradition at Whittier College. This past Whittier Weekend, the classes of 1976 and 1966 embarked on ambitious and impressive projects, both of which will benefit Whittier students for decades to come.

The class of 1966 received permanent recognition outside a 2nd floor classroom in the Science & Learning Center with beautiful views of the Upper Quad. The Class of 1966 Classroom was dedicated for the generous contributions of alumni who were celebrating their 50th reunion and who felt it was important to support Whittier students by investing in the College's re-imagined science facility. Referencing Lewis Carroll in *Alice Through the Looking Glass*—"It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards"—Geoff Shepard '66 explained the committee's decision to pick this project as wanting "to give something that's both permanent and forward looking."

To celebrate their 40th reunion, the Class of 1976 reunion committee led an outstanding effort to establish the Class of 1976 Endowed Scholarship. They're leaving behind a permanent legacy in honor of their class that will forever support deserving young Poets.

'69

The State Association of County Retirement Systems has awarded Tracy, Calif. resident **Ray McCray** the association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Since 1990, McCray has served on the nine-member board of the San Joaquin County Employees Retirement Association and as the City of Tracy's elected treasurer for 22 years.

'71



Dr. Patrick Turley was awarded the prestigious Award of Merit at the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists in Seattle, Wash. The award recognizes members who have "demonstrated

outstanding leadership and professional qualities" and "given unselfishly of his time and talent." Turley is a professor emeritus and former chairman of the orthodontic department at UCLA. He is currently in private practice in the Los Angeles area.

'72



Martin Simonoff was sworn in for an unprecedented sixth consecutive term on the Brea City Council (Calif.). Simonoff's professional experience includes a career in law enforcement. He retired in 1991 as a police captain with the

City of Huntington Park. He has served as Mayor four times, in 1999, 2002, 2007 and 2015. → **Norman Kanold** and his wife are enjoying retirement together and learning how to travel. → Retired teacher **Meredith (Riddle) Oppenlander** is the author of several books including: *In the Henhouse*, *Snack Mix*, *Howard the Hippo* and *the Great Mountain Adventure*, *Howard the Hippo Meets a Friend*, and *Howard the Hippo and the Puzzle Contest*. Her new book will be out in early summer.

'75

On July 1, 2016, the **Honorable David L. Piper** was named Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court in the Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota, the largest trial court in Minnesota which serves Hennepin County.



ALUMNA DOCUMENTARY ON PBS

Producer and writer **THERESA COVELLO HOILES'S '92** most recent documentary project aired on KPBS-San Diego and on PBS online. The six-part series, *Re'flect*, addresses successful aging by highlighting six older adults "living life by their terms." Hoiles co-created, wrote, and produced the documentary. For over 10 years, Hoiles has worked in various aspects of the entertainment, internet and advertising fields. And, she is the co-author of a non-fiction book, *Love, Luck and Lore*.

WHITTIER COLLEGE TRUSTEE CHOSEN TO LEAD POMONA FAIRPLEX

MIGUEL SANTANA '91 is the new president and chief executive officer of the Los Angeles County Fair Association (LACFA), the private non-profit that manages the Fairplex in Pomona.

Dubbed "LA's Mr. Fix-It" by *Los Angeles* magazine, Santana brings decades of management expertise and his dedication to public service to the Fairplex, home to the popular L.A. County Fair and hundreds of year-round events.

In a statement, Santana said he sees his selection as an opportunity to guide the development and management of one of L.A. County's largest public assets. "This is 500 acres of pure potential. My hope is that by forging even closer ties with nearby communities, local educational institutions and county, federal, state and local public officials, we will transform the mission of Fairplex into a lifestyle—one that creates a 21st century sustainable community and economic engine grounded in its agricultural roots, from the micro-sourcing of our food and craftsmanship to culinary entrepreneurship.

In June, Santana joined the Whittier College Board of Trustees.



'78

Jocelyn Smith poses with *The Rock* in the Altstadt of Zurich, Switzerland.

'79/'80

Class Agent → Miss Marina Muñoz



Headed by Hall of Famers **Mike Brown '79** and **Frank Mendoza '80**, the Hugh Mendez Memorial Golf Tournament raised over \$20,000 for the Hugh Mendez Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Beginning in 1970, Mendez dedicated 18 years of service to Whittier College Athletics. Mendez was the first African-American head football coach at a four-year California college. During his career, he coached nine Hall of Famers, three All-American football players, and two NFL coaches.

'84

Class Agent → Mr. Len W. McLaughlin

Teresa L. Gutierrez M.A. has been happily employed since 1984 as a medical speech language pathologist and is currently the senior therapist at Beverly Hospital in Montebello, Calif.

'86



BACK IN TIME. Members of the class of 1986 danced the night away during Whittier Weekend.

'87

Educator **David Schuessler** lives in Idaho Springs, Colo. with his wife and two boys. Schuessler has been the athletic director at Clear Creek High School for 11 years.

'88

Julie Rytand married Anthony Martwick on October 8, 2016 in Bainbridge Island, Wash.



'89

Jeff Curley is now an assistant professor in the athletic training education program at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Washington State and Oregon alumni have a big reason to rejoice, because the first Pacific Northwest Scholar will be named this coming academic year.

A group of more than 80 donors collectively raised more than \$53,000 for an endowed scholarship that will forever provide financial support specifically for Whittier College students hailing from the Pacific Northwest. In any given year Whittier boasts about 25-30 students from this region, and scholarship support is always needed. Furthermore, this fund will also increase the College's recruiting power in this part of the country.

The initial seed money for the endowment came from event proceeds from alumni gatherings held years ago at Seattle Mariners games, which were graciously hosted by **RAYMOND "BUCK" FERGUSON '67** who is part of the team's ownership group and now also one of the College's trustees. The Pacific Northwest Alumni Committee decided to direct the initial monies to kick start a scholarship effort, and since that time the fund has continued to grow through generous contributions from individuals. The group's campaign efforts over the years were enthusiastically led by **CHRIS EVANS '68**, **DENNIS WELCH '68**, and **KRIS (MACHENHEIMER) '68** and **ED DOBBYN '69**.



'90

Class Agent → **Kevin Marshall**

Lori (Hoyt) Budd and her husband, Michael, own a boutique winery in Paso Robles, Calif. Their inaugural vintage (2013) won Silver Medals in the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and the Monterey International Wine Competition. Their current vintage (2014) also won a silver medal in this year's competition and is included in the May edition of *Wine Enthusiast*. → **Kevin Marshall** was blessed with daughter Rachel Olivia, born July 6, 2015, and son Shane Elijah, born January 3, 2017.



'92

Floyd Cheung has been promoted to full professor of English language and literature at Smith College.

'95

Class Agent → **Mrs. Christine (Volden) Pereira**

Carey (Baker) Halio has been promoted to partner at Goldman Sachs, continuing her successful career in the financial industry. Halio was among 83 others promoted to the position at the global company, a list that includes the largest-ever percentage of women.



MARY BRANCA RETIRES AS WHITTIER SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

After serving more than 30 years in education, East Whittier City School District Superintendent **MARY BRANCA '92** will retire at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year. Branca completed her master's degree and administrative credential at Whittier College. Her career began as a substitute teacher and she later served as a teacher, learning specialist, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent of personnel services, co-superintendent, and finally, superintendent.

'91

In West Maui, Hawaii, State Tenth House District Rep. **Angus McKelvey** (D) won his seventh straight election. McKelvey earned his political science degree at Whittier, then a J.D. from Concord School of Law. In the state legislature, McKelvey chairs the economic revitalization, business & military affairs committee, and serves as vice-chair of the consumer protection and commerce panel.

ATTENTION POET THESPIANS

If your Whittier College dramatic experience was between 1988 and 2017 you may now order photo reprints or digital products online. You may view these 28 years of dramatic experiences at:

sbp.photorelect.com



ANDREA BARBER GETS READY FOR MORE FULLER HOUSE

Actor **ANDREA BARBER '99** is heading toward season three of her popular sitcom *Fuller House*, currently on Netflix. The show has been met with enthusiasm from new and old fans alike. In early 2017 the *Fuller House* team received a People's Choice Award and a Kid's Choice Award, adding to their 2016 Teen's Choice Award.

After a long hiatus, Barber reprised the role of the iconic Kimmy Gibbler for the new series. As an adult, Kimmy is now facing the challenges of raising a teen daughter.

'96



I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU. Members of the Class of 1996 came together during Whittier Weekend.

'97

Class Agent → **Michelle (Taufest) Steinback**

Andy Huffadeer has been teaching math and science for several years, while **Yvonne Huffadeer '96** is currently managing an educational grant through UC Berkley and CSU, Dominguez Hills called Youth Gratitude Project.

'98

Michael Dobrzycki was on campus in the spring, as part of a career panel for the art department. Dobrzycki is the senior graphic designer for the Creative Studio of Walt Disney Imagineering–Anaheim. He is currently art director on a Storybook Land update and for the introduction of *Star Wars: Season of the Force* at Disneyland. In addition to his work at Disney, Dobrzycki is an accomplished painter, carpenter, puppet maker, and sketch artist whose work has been featured in more than a dozen children's books and small press publications over the last few years. He periodically teaches as an adjunct professor at Whittier College.

'99

Julie Janes is currently working in San Francisco as a scientist at a biotech start-up, researching treatment options for Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.

'02

Class Agent → **Mrs. Sarah C.H. Gerfen**

Assistant Professor of English at Kalamazoo College **Ryan Fong** gave a lecture, "Feeling Imperial: Figuring the Sea in *Dombey and Son*," at Whittier College in April.

'03



Amy Stice, along with co-founder Liz Legg, launched a service for the elderly called Arrive based in Oakland, Calif. The service helps users—most of whom do not use smartphones—access ride-sharing apps like Uber and Lyft. A user can simply dial into a call center to request a ride. Stice came up with the idea after talking with her grandmother who relied on her children and grandchildren to get around.



MARY DAVIS FELLOWSHIPS

The Mary Davis Fellowship in Public Service will continue for another three years thanks to the generous support of Mary Davis, a friend of the College. Davis's parents, Morris and Audrey Richardson, attended Whittier in the early 1930s.

Annually, select students will receive funding to pursue internships or field research related to economic development and the general improvement of the human condition. Overseen by a faculty mentor, this fellowship is directed at women who have a career interest in public service.

The inaugural cohort of this fellowship was made up of **Kelcey Negus '17**, **Sofia Duenas '17**, **Lauren Galantai '17**, **Laniesha Ross '16**, **Sophia Genovese '15**, and **Jessica Marroquin '16**.

(Pictured at left: Jessica Marroquin and Mary Davis.)

INSTITUTE FOR BASEBALL STUDIES RECEIVES NEW ART PIECES

The Institute for Baseball Studies recently received several art pieces related to the Carmelita Chorizeros, one of East L.A.'s former semi-professional baseball teams. One of the art pieces donated—an iconic sign that hung adjacent to the 710 freeway in Los Angeles—has an unexpected Whittier connection.



Alumna **LINDA PENA MANZO '70** and her husband **RICHARD MANZO '70** were in attendance during the dedication ceremony. It turns out that Linda's father was a salesman for Carmelita Chorizo, the team's company sponsor, and when she was in the fourth grade, he asked her to draw a pig wearing a baseball cap holding a bat. Linda worked all evening adjusting sketches with her father making suggestions so that he could use the image when he met with clients. That image became the prototype for the professionally drawn pig that became the company's well-known logo.

During their time at Whittier College, Linda and Richard were appointed by Martin Ortiz as president and vice president, respectively, for the founding of the Mexican-American Club.

You can see all the art pieces at the Institute for Baseball Studies, which is open to the public on Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m., and on other days by appointment.

'10

Ellie Maas hiked the entirety of the Pacific Crest Trail, 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada, in the 2016 season! "It was a pretty amazing experience and quite an adventure!"



'15

Benay Weintraub recently accepted a new position as a compliance coordinator at Western New Mexico University.

**SUBMIT A CLASS
NOTE AND WE'LL
SHARE IT IN *THE ROCK***

CONTACT THE ALUMNI OFFICE

→ therock@whittier.edu

→ 562.907.4222

KEEPING THEM HONEST

Political correspondent **FRANCIS MAXWELL '14** has been gaining attention lately for his in-depth political analysis and addressing timely topics on The Young Turks network (TYT). Dubbed the "biggest news show on the internet," the internet-based channel claims more than nine million subscribers. One of Maxwell's most watched videos, which has more than 11,000 views, takes on conservative political commentator Tomi Lahren.

"I write and produce all my own video segments, looking at topics, or debunking arguments that are fallacious or outlandish just for the sake of being so," explained Maxwell in a recent interview with *The Tab*.

A native of Scotland, Maxwell came to Whittier to study sociology and political science, while playing soccer for the Poets. He originally joined TYT network as a sports reporter. He can be found on [facebook.com/theyoungturks](https://www.facebook.com/theyoungturks) as well as the *Huffington Post*.



IN MEMORIAM

Esther Adams McElroy '32, July 7, 2016
Wayne F. Schooley, Jr. '42, June 7, 2016
John Mele '43, March 2017
Carol I. Saunders '45, December 21, 2016
Phyllis W. Rothe '46, April 24, 2016
Roberta C. Brown '47, August 16, 2016
Mildred C. Brundage '47, February 8, 2016
Dorothy V. Cauffman '48, November 11, 2016
Marion E. Silva '48, March 11, 2017
Col. Robert S. Buchanan '49, unknown
Donald W. Baudrand '50, April 14, 2016
John D. Eversoll '50, January 2, 2017
Gloria P. Larkin-Cato '50, January 5, 2017
Helen L. Nordhoff '50, March 2, 2017
Gwendolyn E. Schlange '50, November 21, 2016
Nelle G. Slater '50, June 27, 2016
Ruth M. Taylor '50, September 11, 2016
Beverly R. Ludwig '51, January 16, 2016
William M. Luman '51, October 29, 2015
Frederick J. McClung Jr. '51, March 15, 2014
F. Warren Axe, Jr. '52, September 4, 2016
LaDonna C. Bon '52, November 13, 2016
Bryon K. McMillan '52, October 4, 2016
Ernestine (Llopis) Eckersall '53, June 16, 2016
Haroldine Moseman '53, September 28, 2016
Nancy S. Salzman '54, February 18, 2013
Harriet Yvonne Hill '56, November 16, 2016
William M. Story, Jr. '56, July 7, 2016
James W. Glass '57, October 14, 2016
Donald H. Nichols '57, unknown
Carol M. Skare '57, December 1, 2016
Frieda I. Skinner '58, March 9, 2016
Edward "Sandy" Thomas, Jr. '59, November 1, 2016
Martha Jane Otto Hopps '59, December 29, 2016
Bruce P. McClelland '59, March 4, 2016
D. David Bolick, II '60, August 29, 2016
David E. Fenton '60, November 14, 2016
Tova S. Griffin '60, July 20, 2016
Edward B. White '60, September 12, 2016
Donald Ray Culton '62, April 2, 2015
Nancy J. Edwards '63, January 2017
Wallin W. King, Jr. '64, May 10, 2011
Shirley M. Bishel '65, September 10, 2016
Joanne M. Magruder '65, October 25, 2016
Steven J. Brewer '67, March 14, 2017
Judith Ann Bel '70, January 16, 2017
Karen L. Natkin '70, May 12, 2014
Albert W. Wilson, Jr. '70, February 18, 2016
Roy A. Nilsson '72, September 21, 2015
Hyo (Paik) Buck '76 March 3, 2017
Kathleen Tiernan Markham WLS '76, January 3, 2017
Craig T. Kingsbury '77 November 2016
Richard H. Solomon L.H.D. '11, March 13, 2017



WHITTIER COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN

James M. Brown '71

SECRETARY

Barry Blechman P '14

TREASURER

James E. Mitchell '62

Albert Anderson '66
 Fred D. Anderson '66
 Christopher G. Caldwell P '13, '15
 Vincent J. Daigneault '85
 Peter E. Feinberg '82
 Raymond "Buck" Ferguson '67
 Jennifer L. (Landford) Fuller '82 P '17
 Richard I. Gilchrist '68 P '06 '07
 Barbara (Ondrasik) Groce '57
 Carey (Baker) Halio '95
 Helen Newton Hartung P '13
 Yukiyasu Hayashi P '10
 Kathleen L. Kane '71
 Jascha Kaykas-Wolff '98
 Edwin Keh '79, P '11, '15
 May Kay Koong L.H.D. '14
 Richard Lichtenstein P '16
 Alan H. Lund '71
 James E. Mitchell '62
 James R. Parks
 Janet L. Roberts '64
 Richard S. Ruben
 Marvin J. Suomi
 Steven Weston '83
 Kate K. Wiley P '11
 Robert Zemsky '62

TRUSTEES PRO TEM

Gerard P. Forster '87, P '08
 Miguel Santana '91
 Darrell Walker '76
 Kenya L. Williams WLS '10
 Richard Zapanta P '13

TRUSTEES EMERITI

Richard H. Deihl '49, D.B.A. '84
 Alfred J. Gobar '53, M.A. '55, Ph.D.,
 L.H.D. '05, P '88, '96
 Willard V. Harris, Jr. '55, L.H.D. '02,
 P '80, '87
 Donald J. Herrema '74
 Caroline (Patterson) Ireland '43
 Sharon (Ettinger) McLaughlin
 P '85, '88, '90
 R. Chandler Myers, LL.D. '88
 Anthony R. Pierno '54, L.H.D. '00, P '84
 Ruth B. Shannon, L.H.D. '92
 Elden L. Smith '62
 Donald E. Wood, L.H.D. '98

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Eugene S. Mills, Ph.D., LL.D., L.H.D.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Sharon D. Herzberger
President
 Robert J. Coleman
*Special Assistant to the President and
 Executive Director of Athletics*
 Judith Daar
Interim Dean of Whittier Law School
 Steve Delgado
Vice President for Advancement
 James Dunkelman
Vice President for Finance and Administration
 Darrin S. Good
*Vice President for Academic Affairs
 and Dean of Faculty*
 Kieron Miller
Vice President for Enrollment
 Joel Pérez
Vice President and Dean of Students

JOCELYN LOPEZ '17

EXIT STAGE LEFT A WELL-ROUNDED THESPIAN

HOMETOWN: Eagle Rock—Los Angeles, CA

MAJOR: Theatre and Communication Arts; Sociology, minor

STATS: P.O.W.E.R; Sachsen Society; Alpha Psi Omega-Pi Mu Cast; theatre department properties master; actor in six Whittier College productions; Alpha Kappa Delta, sociology honors society

INTERNSHIPS/AWARDS: Center Theatre Group Education and Community Partnerships intern, Irene Ryan Nominee (*Angels in America* and *The Good Person of Sichuan*), Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 8 Arts Administration fellow, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust-Park Equity Leadership Academy Summer 2016

MOST UNUSUAL THING I DID AT WHITTIER: Took Professor Jeff Gunn's class, Sociology of Punk Rock. For my final project I created a children's book about a Latina punk rocker called "Chingona."

UNUSUAL LESSON LEARNED AT WHITTIER: I had to unlearn much of what I was taught in elementary and high school because the curriculum never discussed how powerful and monumental people of color were in leading social and civil rights movements.

WHAT WHITTIER COLLEGE MEANS TO ME: Home.

BEST THING ABOUT THEATRE: I have learned more about life, the world, and what it means to be human through theatre than I have with any other subject.

BEST THING ABOUT BEING A SACHSEN: I love that we value individuality and that no one person is alike, making us a diverse group on campus.

INTERNSHIP WITH CENTER THEATRE GROUP: My supervisor Traci Kwon was incredible and helped me throughout the entire internship. It's important for young people of color to have mentors who they can relate to and see other people of color being represented in the fields they aspire to go into.

ULTIMATE CAREER GOAL: I want to be able to do everything or at least make an honest attempt at what I set my eyes on. The "dream" goal would be to continue studying acting, win an Oscar, Tony, and Emmy award and open up my own theatre for low-income communities of color. My realistic goal—I want to work in arts education and with theatre companies to implement and sustain arts education programs for low income youth of color. Theatre has opened so many doors for me and was my creative outlet, I want every young person to have this creative option.





Whittier College
P.O. Box 634
Whittier, CA 90608

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 133
Whittier

THANK YOU

TO OUR WHITTIER FUND SUPPORTERS



Each year your Whittier Fund gift enables us to offer the most essential components of the Poet experience.

- > Every student, faculty member, academic program, and athletic team benefits from your annual gift to the Whittier Fund. It is the highest funding priority for Whittier College.
- > Your gift helps fund scholarships, support our faculty, strengthen our academic and athletic programs, and provide resources for library and information technologies that prepare our students for the 21st century.

ALL WHITTIER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS—BOTH BIG AND SMALL—GO TO WORK RIGHT AWAY. PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY. >

[WHITTIER.EDU/GIVEONLINE](https://whittier.edu/giveonline)