

The Whitworthian

THE VOICE OF WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SINCE 1905

Vol. 112 Issue 8

May 2022

Spokane, WA



www.thewhitworthian.news

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The Whitworthian has served as the main source of news and sports coverage for the Whitworth community since 1905. The Whitworthian is an organization composed entirely of students which produces The Whitworthian monthly newspaper and thewhitworthian.news.

OUR MISSION

The Whitworthian staff is dedicated to presenting accurate and relevant information in an innovative manner. Our goal is to be accountable while informing, entertaining and providing a forum for expressing the interests of the Whitworth community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Limit to 250 words.

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COVER:

A members of the Whitworth Polynesian club performs at the 50th Polynesian Lu'au night, Saturday, April. 23, 2022, in Spokane Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

Editors' Note

It is time for a change. We have done a lot of reflecting in light of our current political climate, the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing tragedy of racial violence in this country – particularly directed toward the Black community – that has been brought to light over the past year or so. We recognize that, in the past, we have chosen the path of comfort and convenience. We assigned, interviewed, wrote, edited and published according to our usual practices and our normal routines. This is unacceptable. The idea that journalists cannot take a stand against injustice without undermining their objectivity is a lie that not only keeps us from doing what is right but from doing what our job requires of us, to elevate the voices of every person in this community, especially those who are so often pushed to the margins. We condemn the idea that good journalism must assume an air of false neutrality in situations in which we have a moral imperative to pick a side. The press is on the side of the oppressed. We exist for them – to give them a voice, to give them a chance of being heard. As such, we have a responsibility to make it clear what this newsroom stands for. We are committed to actively fighting the systems that oppress BIPOC, women, the LGBTQ+ community, indigenous people, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. We are committed to including all people in our coverage, especially those that have historically been underrepresented by the work we have done. We are committed to using diverse, equitable and inclusive practices in our work. We are committed to honoring the input of those who tell us where we have fallen short and where we can do better. We know that accountability is the only way forward. We are committed to using our work to make Whitworth a place where all people feel heard, seen, and valued.

This is the consensus of the editorial board.

How we make our way forward: 2021-2022 in review

Sure, we are looking forward to a time without a pandemic, without systemic oppression, without divisiveness. But it didn't feel like we were quite at the point of moving on.

2021-2022 has been a year of recovery here at Whitworth. For a while, recovery didn't feel like moving forward. It felt like scrambling to pick up the pieces of what used to be before all the madness of 2020.

For the first time in almost two full years, we found some semblance of community that wasn't all virtual events and Zoom calls. We returned to club fairs, spring break and Spikeball in the loop. Pretty soon we'll be in hammocks and cramming for finals—this year as a large community.

In earlier editorials, we've discussed how our notion of normal might never be the same tomorrow as it is today. We are constantly evolving, which for college students, can prove extremely difficult to keep up with. And yet, we have kept up with many changes throughout our lives. We've lived through the popular adoption of personal computers and cell phones. Our generation even bridges the gap between those that grew up with social media and those that didn't.

The events of the past two years have forever changed what this year has been and what the

future will be. And so, as a final salutation to the school year, we want to take this opportunity to look back as a way forward.

2022 Whitworth has a new president, a new vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and new deans of both the College of Arts & Sciences and “Pretty soon we'll be in hammocks and cramming for finals—this year as a large community.”

Continuing Studies & Graduate Admissions.

2022 Whitworth will also soon be missing several faculty and staff staples of our campus as they retire or venture off to new opportunities. And as always, another class is graduating.

Over the course of this past academic year, even Whitworth's landscape has changed. 2022 marks the opening of Dornsife Health Sciences Building, a new building expanding Whitworth's educational reach. We've also seen the loss of several trees on our campus due to windstorms and new buildings this year.

2022 Whitworth is still healing. Clubs are re-forming, in-person events are in full swing, and student lounges are once again a place for students to learn in community.

This year, we've taken deep

dives into ASWU giving funding back to the clubs that had it taken away to fund other initiatives like bus passes for students. We've examined how the athletics department is supporting both student athlete mental health and gender equity in sports.

Even with all these steps toward a brighter future for Whitworth, there is still progress to be made. We have challenged the university in past editorials to provide transparency in their hiring decisions, specifically of leaders who will be making an immeasurable impact on student life for years to come. And we continue to call for more diverse hiring, allowing the university to capitalize on its promises of diversity, equity, and inclusion for students.

“Even with all of these steps being made toward a brighter future for Whitworth, there is still progress to be made.”

As we let go of 2021-2022, we too, The Whitworthian, are entering into a new season. The newspaper has had an unprecedented season of board stability over the course of the past two years, but we too must change eventually.

We strive to have new ideas, new energy, new passion infused every year and soon, it will be a completely new board writing these editorials.

But we will always have our community. It may shrink, grow and change over the years, but we will still be together behind the pinecone curtain.

Change is inevitable. How you embrace it defines what it means.

Nathan McMasters

"The mountains are calling and I must go."

CONGRATULATIONS
KATHERINE GRAF!
Your brilliance, faith & diligence have triumphed and will carry you forward.
So much Love,
Mama,
Alexander & Morgan

Jed!
We could not be more proud! Off to new adventures!
Dad, Mom, & Jenna

Congratulations,
Mere-Mere!
We are so proud of the woman you've become!
Mom and Dad.
Now... Sashay away.

Joshua Thynes,
congratulations on graduating! This is the first of many great accomplishments to come!
Love you, Mom & Dad

We are so proud of you Luke! Syracuse bound - Newhouse School of Public Communications!
Love Mom, Dad, Logan, Rocky

Likoodzí!
Congratulations! We're so proud of you & wish you the best.
Ixixán Gooshdeihéen
Ricardo Worl.

James Holtz!
We are so proud of you!
CONGRATULATIONS!!
We love you...MORE!!!
Mom, Dad & Family

Madison Duneman,
Congratulations! We are over the moon proud of all that you have accomplished!
Love, Mom and Dad

We are so proud of you,
Xiang Yu Vincent Gao!
You are amazing!
Congratulations on your graduation!
-Darrin and Phoenix

Tera, you have overcome so much and we are so proud of you!
Mom, Dad (from heaven), Casey

Congratulations Hunter! We are so proud of you and look forward to the next chapter.
Love, Mom, Dad & Ethan

You deserve to see your dreams come true Noah...with love and pride today and always.
-John and Tiffany

Congratulations,
Parker Shaw!
We are excited to see where you go from here!
Love, Dad & Mom

We are extremely proud of you, Rebekah!
You'll be an amazing teacher.
Love, Dad, Mom, Stephanie, and Alison

We see a little silhouetto of a grad,
Carolyn, Carolyn,
you did the Fandango!

Kaitlyn Nicole,
we are beyond proud of you and your hard work! You are such a blessing!
-Don and Tami

Congratulations Simon!
You have grown, given to your community, and are greatly loved.
Love, Mom, Dad, Nicholas, Willow and Donovan

To our son,
Mr. Ocfemia:
We are so proud of you!
We're glad you're done :)
Love,
Dad, Mom, & Ates.

Joy, you amaze us!
Congratulations on your tremendous accomplishment.
We love you!
Merm, Dad, Moira, and Maddy

Jaxsen, way to hit the ball out of the park... athletically & academically these past 4 years!
-Dad, Mom, Kaylee & Karsten

Graduation day ... and you made it with grace and style!
Congratulations Alyssa!
- Randy and Christine

Bekah, we are so happy for you! Remember throughout life that both joys and bumps build wisdom!
Mom and Dad

Shayna Lee, Whitworth grad!
You are rad. Just like dad and granny too!
Pirates forever. Proud of you!
Love PAL

“Well, that was traumatic.”

How the casual usage of trauma might lead to social change

Nicole Harris | Opinions Editor

Trauma dumping. Trauma bonding. Trauma response. Trauma narrative. Trauma-informed therapy, teaching, performance and leadership.

At a certain point, it's hard to deny that we've taken “trauma” too far into pop culture.

We now have TikTok influencers devoted to trauma therapy, dozens of self-help books with “trauma” in the title and many more forms of media utilizing “trauma narrative” as a plot device.

The term “trauma” comes from the Greeks. Originally used to describe severe physical wounds, the term has shifted in its usage over the past hundred years

and has only recently begun to be used in psychology. Since its brief mention in the 1952 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), in which it was only used in relation to brain injuries and/or electric shocks, the definition of trauma has expanded in its application to describe psychological injury.

In the 1980s, the DSM-III officially recognized post-traumatic stress disorder for the first time. Since then, officially diagnosing trauma has continued to be difficult. The definition of trauma has often been either too loose or too constricting. According to a 2020 study pub-

lished in *Neuroscience Insights*, PTSD often mimics other disorders, leading to misdiagnoses that can potentially inflict harm on patients seeking treatment. In recent years, pop culture has shifted the way we see trauma. We've started to use trauma to describe minor inconveniences, using the term more loosely and even humorously. For example, we might describe being late to a class or not getting a favorite parking spot as “traumatic.”

Although appropriating the term “trauma” in this way brings to light just how prominent trauma is in people's lives, it can decrease the amount of compassion when someone discloses something that is truly traumatizing to them. The shock value wears off.

“The Body Keeps the Score- Brain, mind and Body in the Haaling of Trauma” Book by Bessel Van Der Kolk Apr. 27, 2022 | Photo By Ben Gallaway/The Whitworthian



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ance.” Developed by professor of psychiatry at the ULCA School of Medicine Daniel Siegel, MD, the window of tolerance refers to the ideal emotional zone one needs in order to best function - essentially, the balance between hyperarousal and hypoarousal. According to PsychCentral, windows of tolerance can be narrowed by many things, including PTSD and adverse childhood experiences.

Since the 1980s, PTSD has only continued to grow in its diagnosis frequency. Most research surrounding PTSD began with military veterans before eventually expanding outward to include civilians. The popular use of the term “trauma” has only increased since the 2017 introduction of the #MeToo movement.

With this comes the introduction of new terms, like trauma bonding.

According to Very Well Mind, trauma bonding is experienced between an abuser and the abused, much like Stockholm syndrome. Essentially, a bond is created in a short amount of time through a combination of abuse and positive reinforcement. A victim might feel unsafe at times, while at other times being overwhelmed with apologies and expressions of love.

The term “trauma bonding” has expanded the ways in which men-

tal health professionals discuss abusive relationships, both romantic and not. Before the invention of this term, the only way to describe the deep bond between people in these types of relationships was Stockholm syndrome.

Just as narcissism personality disorder has been co-opted by social media, so has trauma bonding.

What is actually being described by a lot of media is not exactly trauma bonding, but rather attachments secured by shared or similar traumas. Though not a bond created by distinct cyclical responses, this type of bonding through shared experiences has been shown to be effective.

According to a 2016 study published in *Occupational Medicine*, there is a link between military unit cohesion and traumatic exposure. In this case, the trauma experienced by the group is the same, but this kind of bonding can also occur through the retelling of one's individually traumatic experiences.

This type of bonding allows people to be honest about their traumatic backgrounds—it is an act of vulnerability with a new partner.

“It actually warms my heart and I would hope then that it's not only the bad things that people are bonding over... but that [this bond] can also move into a celebration of each other's whole personhood,” said Baird.

Of course, this type of vulnerability could easily be warped (either by the expectation of ready-made vulnerability or by the shared traumatic experience being the only foundation for the relationship), but at its core, it

could be a beautiful way to enter a new relationship, baggage and all.

This misapplication of “trauma bonding” could have negative effects for some, but at its core, it offers language to people who feel unseen in some way as they attempt to describe their own deeply personal experiences.

It's not that trauma is all that uncommon either.

According to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) study, nearly 61% of adults experience at least 1 traumatic event in their lifetime. About 1 in 6 adults

traumas, can be extremely helpful in regulating and healing.

This is also why trigger warnings can be so important for those struggling with PTSD. But even these might not be a perfect solution. “It costs me nothing to give students a heads up about some content that might be in a play we're reading,” said Kiener.

What this looks like in Baird's Psychological Trauma and Resilience course at Whitworth is a trusting and open environment. Baird prefaces his course with what he calls “informed consent,” in which he describes the nature of the course, the types of concepts with which the students might come into contact and the ways they might respond to them.

He invites them to walk out when they need or to mentally check out of class discussions. He makes it a rule not

popular among average Americans, with some celebrities, including Phoebe Bridgers, promoting the book, according to Penguin Books' website.

Its graphic details about trauma's effects on the body have provided a window into what the connection between the body and trauma can look like, while being admittedly triggering at times.

According to Baird, having more information at one's disposal is better. So being self-aware, particularly to how the body responds to specific stimuli or

“Nearly 61% of adults experience at least 1 traumatic event in their lifetime.”

to call on students who do not raise their hands so that no student is put on the spot.

What he's found is that while students do take him up on his invitations, many are willing participants. “We can do hard things - we really can - when we have the autonomy and the choice to do it or not do it,” said Baird.

Kiener said, “I worry about the person that's sitting across the desk for me or sitting in the Zoom call with me. And I always want to err on the side of taking them seriously about what is going on for them.”

With trauma as prevalent as it is, I think that is the right move to make.

Van der Kolk was right when he wrote, “We are on the verge of becoming a trauma-conscious society” back in 2014. What I'm not sure he accounted for was the eventual slippage in the language surrounding trauma.

This slippage is natural. As we continue to expand our usage of a term and apply it in different contexts, we still need to be wary of the real effects language can have on those dealing with PTSD.

Still, when we speak openly about the experiences that have shaped us, disrupted us and traumatized us, we open ourselves up to the possibility of integrating that traumatized version of ourselves into our full person. We invite healing and self-compassion. Of course, there is always a time and place for testimony, but having language available to us is a great first step toward a future without trauma.

“Estamos aquí:” The proverb for students in the Central American Study & Service Program

Janeth Beltrán Apodaca | Staff Writer

Going into the third month of the Central American Study & Service Program (CASP), faculty and students repeat the phrase *estamos aquí*, which translates in English to *We Are Here*, as a reminder to being able to do the program after being canceled last year due to COVID-19.

Founded by Dr. Ron Frase, CASP has been an ongoing program at Whitworth University for a total of 47 years. The faculty leaders this year include Josh Leim and Kim Hernandez. With Hernandez serving as the program director for the last 15 years. Together, they have made it their mission to continue the late Dr. Ron Frases’ legacy following his passing in December.

The program is a 21 credit Jan term and Spring term program and features an academic study abroad experience different from anything students have experienced in the past. Including the opportunities to study, work and serve while staying with host families, students live a true immersion experience supported by courses designed to strengthen their insights and relationships as they live and learn in Central America.

Maggie Bick, a third-year international studies and music double major says that grow-

ing up, she would hear stories about her mom’s study abroad experiences and wanted to experience something similar.

“College is a unique time where you’re not necessarily locked into jobs for as many years. So there is a lot to explore and figure out what you like, what your needs are, and learn more about the world,” said Bick. “My best experience has been teaching piano and music theory on Sundays,” she said.

Another student, like second-year health science and Spanish double major Riley Flanagan, says that “studying abroad, in and of itself was always something I’ve thought about and wanted to do before even coming to University.” Being able to speak Spanish and be bilingual is important to him, “because, going into the healthcare field, I feel like that’d be a very useful skill

“we have felt much safer here in Guatemala and Costa Rica than many of us have felt in Spokane and in our own communities.”

to have and to open up different job opportunities in grad school applications,” said Flanagan.

After cautious planning around COVID-19, the program was finally able to return to their normal operations af-

ter being postponed for a year due to COVID. Still, preparing ahead of time was important to “put their minds at ease in terms of safety,” said Hernandez.

“I think that really the only fear that the majority have had and that I had was that the trip would get canceled... As for being on the trip, it hasn’t been too debilitating,” said Flanagan.

“Ironically, we have felt much safer here in Guatemala and Costa Rica than many of us have felt in Spokane and in our own communities,” said Hernandez.

Students were given a number of at home tests they can use in case they begin to have COVID like symptoms. And to be respectful of their hosts families, they make sure to test negative prior to enter-

ing host homes for the first time.

Though in case a positive case does come up, students have two options. The first one is to stay at Casa Adobe, a ministry community where their faculty leader is located, or going into quarantine

at a hotel room that is covered by the programs travel insurance.

“The good thing about that [staying at the ministry] is that my TA and I are both living here

“faculty and students repeat the phrase *estamos aquí*, which translates in English to *We Are Here*.”

as well, and so we will be able to be here, you know, checking on them and making their meals,” said Hernandez.

This year, they have a cohort of 17 students in addition to the two faculty leaders, and there has been zero COVID-19 cases reported so far.

Part of the program, and usually what students find to be the most challenging is being fully emerged in the completely different cultures of. Costa Rica and Guatemala, as other countries in North and South America tend to be more collectivistic in comparison to the United States.

To prepare for this shift, students registered for CASP are required to take a one credit GE 303 Prep Course the fall semester prior to the trip designed to equip and prepare them for CASP.

According to Simply Psychology, “Individualism and collectivism are so deeply ingrained in a culture that they mold our very self-conceptions and iden-

ties. For example, collectivism was a powerful predictor of mask use during the COVID-19 pandemic, both among individuals and cultures,” a finding confirmed by several studies.

This is something that various trip members have experienced themselves. “There’s a much better sense of collectivism [here], like we’re all in this together,” said Bick.

Apart from finding commonalities regarding lived experiences of the pandemic, the most common theme between the students seems to be taking in the cultural value of family and hard work.

“I feel like they [residents] take their jobs really serious. They work with pride,” said Dante Stokes, a second-year majoring in data science.

“I would say within my host family, I’ve just learned the importance of family over anything else. Not only like biological family, but family they have chosen as well,” said Bick.

Though obstacles such as language barriers, isolation due to COVID, and adapting to drastic cultural differences still come up, living and learning in Central America is a uniquely challenging experience for students. Aside from the uniqueness of studying abroad during a pandemic, this year also marks the first time in the program’s history that a faculty leader has staved

“There’s a much better sense of collectivism [here], like we’re all in this together.”



CASP students gather in a classroom for a theology class with Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst, a prominent theologian in Latin America. Photo provided by Elena De La Paz.

throughout the entirety of CASP.

Hernandez has had the chance to be there for her students and see what changes can be made to improve the program.

“It was definitely a peace of mind that I was going to be able to be here and that we were following all of the strategies so that we can make sure that things contin-

ue to go well,” said Hernandez. “I could not have done this trip without someone like Kim,” said Bick.

Jessica Angelina,
you did it!
We’re so proud of you!
CONGRATULATIONS!
Mom Pat & Dad Wilson

Isaac Sato,
we love you for who
you are, and your
accomplishments.
America First!

Zach Perry!
We are so proud of you!
Love Mom, Dad, Ty &
Lauryn.

Congratulations, Ibu!
You have reached one
of many milestones and
we are all so proud of
you and love you.
Mom, Dad, Brother,
Stepdad

Second Chances: Whitworth Athletes Use Extra Eligibility

Katelyn McLean | Sports Editor

It is hard to quantify the profound effect of COVID-19 on the sports world. Some sports seasons were cut short—some of them didn't have a chance to start. During the exciting winter and spring season where people live to watch sports on TV or in person—there weren't any. And even when they resumed, there were no fans in stadiums. Athletes, both collegiate and professional, had to redefine who they were outside of the intensity and preparation needed for competition.

Now that most, if not all

NCAA teams are back to playing full seasons, competing at home with fans cheering them on and getting back to traveling and playing in conference and national tournaments, the athletes whose final year—their chance to leave a legacy—was derailed are largely forgotten.

The NCAA tried to restore the athletics experience for those athletes that missed seasons by giving all Division Three athletes an extra year of eligibility to replace the season that was shortened or cancelled due to

COVID—if they choose to use it. Division One and Two athletes only get the extra year if they played in a fall or spring season that was cancelled or suspended, but all Division Three athletes are guaranteed an extra year of eligibility.

Whitworth, competing in Division Three, has fifteen students that are currently using or have used their extra year of eligibility given to them by the NCAA, according to athletic director Tim Demant and sports information director Steve Flegel.

#23 Jordan Lester lays up the ball at a home game vs the Loggers last November at Whitworth University, Spokane, Wash. Nov. 7 2021. | Mario Gonzales/The Whitworthian



One of those athletes is men's basketball player Jordan Lester, who chose to capitalize on his additional year of eligibility given by the NCAA and ended up riding with the team through an incredibly successful season with an NWC championship and NCAA tournament appearance. However, after graduating as a seventh-year senior, his situation was unique.

Lester was sidelined by injuries during most of his basketball career, missing most of the season due to injury or illness four times in his seven NCAA seasons. Lester was granted what is colloquially referred to as a medical redshirt twice in that career. A redshirt allows an athlete to not compete and postpone their year of eligibility to the next season, according to NCAA.org.

The official term used by the NCAA is medical hardship waiver, and to be eligible, an athlete must have suffered a season-ending injury in the first half of the season and cannot have played more than 30% of the season, according to athleticscholarships.net. In addition to his two medical redshirts, Lester was then granted a seventh year of eligibility due to the NCAA's COVID rule.

"[Using that extra year] was something that took a little bit of time to think about

because I was already in my sixth year," Lester said.

With the COVID eligibility year, the NCAA gave athletes who had already graduated the option to come back and take classes that apply directly to their degree or career to retain their athletic eligibility, according to Lester.

This worked out well for him, because in six years, he had earned both his undergraduate degree and a master's in business. Lester was able to take internship credits that applied to his business degrees and still have a chance to play basketball.

"I definitely felt like the grandpa of the team," Lester joked.

His seventh season was different than his first several because he wasn't nearly as involved in campus life with his teammates because he is now much older. However, his mindset of remaining motivated to work through his injuries to play the sport he loves remained the same.

Swimmer Ryan Grady also was in a unique situation with NCAA eligibility after taking a gap year to train in hopes of qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics (which were

"It's really tough to see four years of hard work and not get to finish on a high note."

originally supposed to take place in 2020 and were postponed a year due to COVID) in Speed Canoe

with his brother. His gap year was the 2019-2020 school year.

"When COVID shut everything down, I decided to take the extra year of eligibility," Grady said.

Taking a gap year pauses an



Ryan Grady (Senior) Competes in the breaststroke at a home meet last November at Whitworth University, Spokane, Wash. Oct. 17 2021 | Mario Gonzales/The Whitworthian

athlete's athletic eligibility, so Grady came back with two years of eligibility remaining.

However, Grady thinks that the challenges of the 2020-2021 season deterred a lot of athletes from capitalizing on their last year of eligibility.

During the 2020-2021 season, Whitworth swim competed

in virtual meets, with each team swimming in their own pool and the scores being

compared in real time.

"It was hard to do virtual sports, you're still training 20 hours a week with no conference or anything. It's really tough to see four years of hard work and not get to

finish on a high note," Grady said.

He had his degree to finish after the gap year and made the decision to swim as well because he still had goals and dreams in the sport that he wanted to pursue.

In his final year, Grady set a Whitworth record in the 200 Breaststroke at the Northwest Conference Championships and finished in fourth place at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships.

He decided that his motivation would be his teammates who lost their senior season and chose to forfeit the COVID eligibility year.

"I quickly realized the class I came in with—it is kind of unfair. I get to have my senior year and this kind of finality, and they don't," Grady said. "You want to do sports and work for some-

thing bigger than yourself and I felt like I tried to, to the best of my ability, to push myself to swim for my friends, my girlfriend, the people that didn't get to."

Grady does have another year of eligibility remaining if he were to choose to use it but is ready to close his Whitworth career.

The extra year of eligibility gives athletes the chance to reclaim their last year of the season and go out the way they wanted to. Both Lester and Grady got a second chance to finish their senior seasons with success and not only the ability to compete in and travel to conference championships again, but to succeed.

Whitworth's next DEI vice president: A search for an advocate and bridge-builder

Aleja LeVert | Staff Writer

Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) has been advertised as a priority of many higher education institutions as it shows their commitment to building a community of respect and understanding. Whitworth being a private, Christian, liberal arts university, with a predominately white student body, makes the implementation of DEI that much more indispensable.

In the Seeley G. Mudd Chapel, over the week of April 11, 2022 to April 14, 2022, the university held Q&A forums for DEI vice president candidates Allen Sutton, Vange Ocasio Hochheimer, Stephany Baker and Brandy Bryson.

Each candidate came prepared to answer the question: If you were to become the next vice president for DEI at Whitworth University, what can we expect from you in terms of substantial priorities, initiatives and advances in the DEI arena over the next five years? Whitworth students, faculty and staff listened to their responses then engaged in the discussions that followed.

The role of DEI vice president are not small shoes to fill. On July 1, 2022, they will take office and serve as a member of the president's cabinet. According to the DEI vice president job description, they will take leadership



Stephany Baker, speaks to the students and faculty of Whitworth to show her reasons to become the next Vice President for diversity, equity & inclusion here at Whitworth University, Wednesday, April. 13, 2022, in Spokane, Wash. | Hannah

Loesch/The Whitworthian

over the development and implementation of DEI in a way that supports Whitworth's Christian mission and creates an environment built on inclusive excellence. "DEI is relational work," said Ayaka Dohi, the Director of Student DEI. She hopes the vice president will be a "bridge builder" across campus so that Whitworth will have a better understanding of why DEI matters and that "our student body is more interculturally competent, responsive and respectful."

The candidates all come from various backgrounds and work experiences, and each proposed four different approaches to ef-

fective DEI administration.

For example, Baker's plan focused on blending DEI and Christianity, saying "doing diversity is doing like Jesus Christ." Meanwhile, Hochheimer found importance in having "proximity to justice," meaning, "you have to be connected to the human experiences people are having."

Along with the differing strategies of the candidates, the Whitworth community had their own initiatives they wish to see fulfilled.

Whitworth student and member of the nomination committee, Feven Christiansen said, "What I would really love to see the VP do is make sure that the univer-

sity stands firm... That they care more about the students than they do about appeasing everybody."

The safety and protection of BI-POC and LGBTQ+ faculty and students were a high priority for Christiansen. "If this campus is a Christ-centered campus that is loving of everybody, [it's important] that it loves everybody in it."

According to the Whitworth website, Black, Indigenous and people of color make up 31 percent of undergraduate students. "If that is our student population, we have an obligation to make sure that our university climate and classrooms are able to respond to the cultural gifts and needs

of those students," Dohi said.

Interviewees and Q&A forum attendees alike expressed that DEI goes beyond race and ethnicity as it includes students with disabilities, neurodivergent students, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants and first-generation college students. People of color may only amount to 31 percent of the campus population, but that number escalates when all marginalized groups are brought into the picture.

Educational Support Service Manager, Katie McCray said there tends to be a lot of focus on the diversity aspect of DEI, so it's important to remember what it means to be equitable, inclusive and accessible. She said, "it starts with identifying barriers" and "practicing accessibility."

Minoritized groups experience the consequences of poor DEI firsthand, making their voices and needs the priority in this conversation. "They [the new DEI vice president] should be

very intentional about getting every voice represented. . .so that they really know what their entire community is going through," McCray said.

Understanding and acting upon the needs of everyone in the Whitworth community was a high priority for the search committee while looking for the next DEI vice president. Serving as the student repre-

sentative on the DEI vice president search committee, Jessica Lopez-Ramirez said, "We cannot understand the actions of others if we do not understand their values and background." Lopez-Ramirez found it important that the new vice president is a supporter of the different cultural clubs and events Whitworth has because they provide a way for students to engage in and learn about different cultures.

Whether it's through clubs, events or a course's curriculum, the implementation of DEI in higher education is challenging and continuously debated because it creates a big change to America's education system.

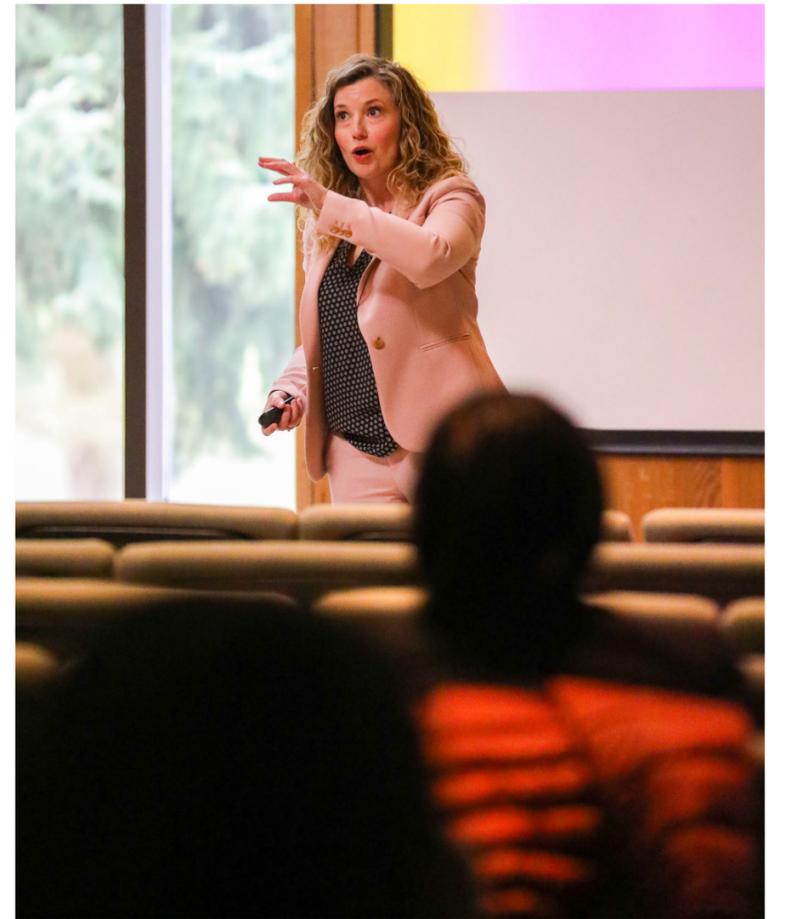
A report by the University of Michigan said the notion of diversity in higher education in America began in the 1960s, ignited by the civil rights movement. Student activism took off and by 1971 multicultural education had found its way into institutions and programs. Not every-

one agreed with these changes which led to pushback and a loss of funding.

"Contextually, American higher education was initially meant to

serve economically privileged white folks," Dohi said. "Just the very nature of higher education has not transformed to be able to meet the changing demographics of our nation."

With the awareness of the his-



Brandy Bryson, speaks to the students and faculty to show her reasons to become the next Vice President for diversity, equity & inclusion here at Whitworth University, Thursday, April. 14, 2022, in Spokane, Wash. | Hannah

Loesch/The Whitworthian

tory of higher education, it's clear that the students, faculty and staff of minoritized groups want to be able to entrust the selected candidate to serve, provide for and represent them to the best of their abilities. "Diversity, equity and inclusion means that students do not need to advocate for themselves to get their basic needs met," Christiansen said. Not only is the Whitworth community looking for a leader,

but they want someone who will advocate for minoritized student groups, build relationships and be reliable, as it will be a team effort to successfully enact future DEI initiatives at Whitworth University.

Title IX at 50: Still an Unclaimed All-Sports Trophy

Filip Timotija | Staff Writer

June 23, 2022 will be the 50th anniversary of Title IX becoming United States law and pioneering the gender-equality battle in sports. Before its arrival, women were not taken seriously in sports, and they did not receive equal support to their male counterparts.

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that officially states: “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Title IX has made an impact on colleges and universities that have embraced it.

“I think we can say that has played a part in volleyball because I can only speak on volleyball specifically,” women’s volleyball head coach Kati Bodecker said. “I think there’s been a much bigger interest in young women wanting to play the sport of volleyball since I’ve been here in this short period of time - less than a decade. The number of young females that are participating seems to be higher. I don’t have that data to back me up, but just looking as an observer it seems like there’s more teams - more girls that are trying to pursue it.”

Despite the outline of the law, many colleges and universities



Geroge Fox’s Hayley Hensley (16) watches teammate Gabriella Muziquiz (10), as she attempts to stop Whitworth’s Liliann Penfield (20) from scoring during NCAA Division III Lacrosse game. Saturday, April. 23, 2022, in Spokane Wash. | Mario Gonzalez/The Whitworthian

are not complying with Title IX. Last year’s Division I basketball tournaments forced the NCAA to perform external reviews and brainstorm possibilities for addressing the inequality.

Helen Higgs, associate professor and former women’s basketball coach at Whitworth University, said that she was the first generation of children of Title IX having graduated high school in 1980. Upon arriving at the University of Oregon which already had Title IX lawsuits, Higgs felt the effects of the law without knowing that the law existed.

There was some pushback from men’s sports because the university was taking away funding from men’s sports and putting it towards women’s sports.

“I had a teammate who really understood [Title IX] and so when we kind of got pushed back at different scenarios and she would say ‘don’t be mad at women’s sports, the university made choices not to take away overnight hotels for home games for men’s basketball and football, right?’ I mean, they’re playing at home, why aren’t they staying in their apartments? They could have tak-

en some of that money instead of taking money from some of the less profitable sports,” Higgs said.

When looking at the Equity in Athletics Data Analysis it is important to be aware of the ways salaries, revenues and expenses are distributed across Whitworth’s athletics department and how it compares to its conference rivals such as Linfield University, Pacific Lutheran University and Whitman College. Data on the website was compiled for the 2020-2021 school year.

Head coaches’ salaries for both men’s and women’s teams are

roughly similar at Whitworth with men’s coaches earning \$42,467 and women’s coaches getting \$39,494. The same disparity was found at the other three schools. The gap comes from the women’s team coaches being newer to their respective programs, which is why the salaries are lower.

“I am so grateful for our leadership and our administration because while I very much understand there’s a gap, I would say that gap was probably much larger when I started,” Bodecker said. “I really believe that our administration here internally in the athletic department and university-wide, really do have that as a priority. I think they want to close that gap. I think they very much value our women’s programs and the influence and power that our women faculty members have here at Whitworth.”

The total head coaches’ salaries for men’s teams at Whitworth was \$339,736 while the total head coaches’ salaries for women’s teams were \$355,446. It is crucial to point out that in terms of expenses by a team, more money was spent on the women’s tennis team at \$2,009 per participant than on the men’s team, which was \$1,753 per participant considering that the men’s team played one less tournament.

“Since coming to a school like Whitworth, they really have valued men’s and women’s sports.”

Higgs said. “You don’t win an all-sports trophy if you don’t value both men’s and women’s sports. It was easy to tell women that they were going to be treated equitably. I would say the one thing where you don’t see it is maybe in the fans that come to the games, but that’s not necessarily a Title IX issue, that’s just kind of getting people on board to understand the differences of the different sports.”

The expansion of social media platforms has drastically accelerated the process of cultural legitimacy. Out of the top five highest valued Name, Image and Likeness deals from the men’s and women’s NCAA basketball Final Four, four of them belong to female basketball players.

“There was just so much promotion of it and outcry over that,” Higgs said. “[Fans] became more aware of the Final Four, and the NCAA Tournament in general. So, they started to watch and so I think some of it was from that and then the cross-promotion definitely helped. There’s more cross-pollination. I think social media has been a big part of that, actually, because then people follow them and then they recognize the person who is playing because they are posting on social media.”

Even with social media being the dominant enforcer in women’s sports, there are still numerous steps to take to have an equal playing field

for men’s and women’s sports. “We need to keep improving on the commentary and the stories on the women’s side being similar to what the men’s side is,” Higgs said. “Understanding the differences, but there are some things in the women’s games - how they interact and play together and how women’s coaches interact differently because they’ve had to build together whereas the men’s is kind of established, so sometimes it comes across as more of us and them than the women’s game does.”

Higgs also noted that the women’s game should be promoted and advertised more, and that people must know that they will have to put in extra work for the women’s side and be willing to go the extra mile.

Bodecker suggested bringing in more women’s coaches along with hoping that young women in high school, junior high and college will see the influence and the power of sports which would make them want to continue and pursue it as a career and use their influence in a really positive way.

“I think that helps start to close the gap when you have strong powerful females in leadership positions, and they can lead by example and carve this path while testifying that it can be done,” Bodecker said. “And so, I think that’s where it starts, but also because

males very much can be empowering women and helping them create many cool opportunities. So, I think with just continuing to elevate, bring recognition and light to female programs.”

There is hope that the younger generations of sports fans can push for better implementation of Title IX, but that will only come from having more knowledge about women’s sports.

“I have two boys who are super into sports but specifically basketball and now that the WNBA is going through their draft, there has been a lot of talk happening on ESPN,” Bodecker said. “Just the other day my sons were talking about all of the top WNBA draft picks - they knew all

of their names - knew where they went to college - knew what position they were and they were kind of arguing back and forth about who was the better player and why. So, I just sat back and listened to them and I thought ‘wow, this is really, really cool.’ And so maybe some of it’s my influence, but I do think it’s marketing and media and there really has been a really good shift in those conversations.”

It is fantastic to see the progress that has been made with the influence of social media, but we should all wonder what the next anniversary of Title IX could look like if women’s sports were seen as an exciting option instead of being portrayed as an assigned burden.

“I think that helps start to close the gap when you have strong powerful females in leadership positions.”

“My sons were talking about all of the top WNBA draft picks - they knew all of their names.”



Photo by Hannah Loesch