

The Whitworthian

THE VOICE OF WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SINCE 1905

Vol. 113 Issue 4

December 2022

Spokane, WA



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The Whitworthian

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

The print edition of The Whitworthian is published monthly, except during January and student vacations. The content is generated entirely by students. The college administration does not review the newspaper's content. Opinions and ideas expressed in The Whitworthian are those of the individual artists, writers and student editors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Associated Students of Whitworth University (ASWU), the university, its administration, faculty/staff or advertisers. The Whitworthian is paid for through advertising and subscription revenue and in part by student activity fees as budgeted by ASWU.

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Columns, editorial cartoons and reviews are the opinions of their individual creators and not necessarily the opinion of The Whitworthian, its editors or its staff.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Whitworthian is a public forum that believes in freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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CORRECTIONS

If you have a comment or question about the fairness or accuracy of a story, send an email to kevers23@my.whitworth.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Whitworthian welcomes reader responses to articles or issues of interest to the Whitworth community. Send letters to kevers23@my.whitworth.edu.
Limit to 250 words.

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COVER :

A Whitworth swim team competitor pushes forward in november swim meet at Whitworth University, Spokane Wash. | Timara Doyle/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.

One Last Thank You From the Editor-in-Chief

Kyle Evers | Editor-In-Chief

Three years, 19 editions. Some days, it feels like a lot. The truth is it barely scratches the surface. Three different Editorial Boards, countless new staff writers and photographers every year. And, for the final time, me as Editor-in-Chief. I've contemplated for a while how I wanted to go about forming this final note from the Editor-in-Chief and despite some part of me desperately wishing to go all out with flowery and abundant prose, the best things are often the simplest.

To Rachel and Annaclare, thank you. Your unwavering commitment to the news section has not only created a culture of excellence but created a section that pursues knowledge and truth while bringing to the community stories that hold the university and each of us accountable to one another. News is the foundation upon which the newspaper rests and you both have created a foundation upon which The Whitworthian will sit for years to come. We look to the news section for its standard of consistency and fairness. You are our even keel. The newspaper only goes as far as the news section takes us. And I will be forever grateful for your leadership, your knowledge and your zeal for finding the truth.

To Esther and Sami, thank you. You are the heart and soul of The Whitworthian. Who are we if not the people whose stories we tell. Through Arts and Culture, you remind us all of the importance that our humanity plays in the stories we tell. You have made us laugh. You have made us cry. Most importantly you have made us remember that our core mission is

first and foremost about people. Each story we write is only such because of the students and faculty involved. You have made their voices heard as they struggle with what it means to be human. If news is the foundational framework of the newspaper, then Arts and Culture is the wall color and personality that brings the newspaper to life. Without you, the newspaper lacks our zest for life.

To Luke, Kaitlyn and Filip, thank you. Of all the sections, you have the greatest number of countless hours spent running all over the place, following so many teams and people that I cannot describe how much your work means to the newspaper. Each year there are hundreds of games and hundreds of athletes that have to be covered. You have done all of this and so much more. You all have shown that there is so much more beyond the box scores and the trophies. At the very heart of sports is hope. And I would be remiss if I failed to shine a light on the work that you have done Kaitlyn to promote women in the world of sports journalism. You are a fighter and an advocate and I cannot thank you enough for the bar that you and Luke and Filip have set.

To Nicole and Grace, thank you. Opinions is the fueling fire that burns within the newspaper. You have taken this vital section from simple rants to complex and nuanced pieces engineered to make people stop and think. You have brought well-reasoned arguments, critical thinking and above all a sense of humor to the section and to the newspaper. You are the check against our often-felt cyn-

icism and sometimes the source of it. We too are people and more importantly that as people, we all have a voice that deserves to be heard. The newspaper is more than just telling stories. It is about giving a voice to the voiceless and you have done just that.

To Ben, Amelia and Mayra thank you. Photos, ads and social media. The lifeblood of the newspaper. You all have contributed countless hours behind the scenes and on the front page to ensure that the newspaper stands out in a crowd. Ben, the amazing work of you and your staff captures the most intense and intimate moments of the stories we tell forever memorializing the humanity of the stories we tell. Mayra, your continued expertise has brought the newspaper to the screens of hundreds, further spreading people's stories. Amelia, your never-ending determination to bring in more partners for the newspaper is what keeps us running and I cannot thank any of you enough for what you do.

To Ellie and Bekah, thank you. You have made The Whitworthian what it is today. The consistent look and design is all because of you. Without you there is no rhyme or reason as to why the paper looks the way it does. The hours spent arranging layouts, fixing colors and even adding space fillers to make a spread more complete. You have brought innovative ideas and change that has made us all better, while bringing us forward into the modern era of student journalism.

To Cienna and Taylor, thank you. You both have the hardest and some would argue the most important job of us all. You keep the oxford

commas at bay and you make sure that the stories we tell are both coherent and clear. More importantly, you both are my sounding board and better half. You are the flexible, cheerful rays of encouragement to my rigid structuralism. You are the glue that holds us all together throughout rain or shine.

And finally, to Erica, thank you. While you stay behind the scenes, you mean just as much to this paper as anyone else. It is your constant stable presence that keeps us all on the straight and narrow. It is because of you that this paper has been revitalized into the thriving community that it is now. We started this journey together all those years ago and now, you get to see how my time here ends and how the paper continues to grow.

The truth is, none of what has been accomplished this past three years can be attributed solely to me. The stories that I have had the privilege to experience are all because of the editors and the staff. I simply sit in a dusty old office and keep the ship going in a straight line. The truth is, I have been blessed beyond measure, to have been surrounded by men and women who care so deeply about the community in which they live, that they make myself and one another better because of their work.

The truth is, all I can say is thank you and I will miss you all so very much.

"We are not now that strength which in old days/Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;/ One equal temper of heroic hearts,/ Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will/To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield." Tennyson

2022 Midterm Election Brings Light to Civic Duty

Grace Uppendahl | Opinions Editor

A record-breaking amount of young people voted in the midterm election, with CNN exit polls reporting Gen Z making up 12 percent of voters nationwide. This means roughly one in every eight votes came from people between the ages of 18-29.

The amount of Gen Z voters was not the only unanticipated outcome of the election. 63 percent of Gen Z voted Democrat, creating a blue wall to the anticipated red wave.

However, elections weren't always treated with such party politics. Aaron Hitefield, a political science professor who specializes in American political institutions said, "Since the 1990s, we've seen this increasing trend where elections now are being determined by national politics, national party affiliation and also the presidency."

He added, "Nationalization played a very significant role in the election. Whether it's voter turnout, whether it's voter decision making, whether it's campaign finance, it had a pretty significant role."

The amount of Gen Z voters is important to recognize, especially since the midterms are meant to reflect on the current administration in power. "In all reality, the President's policies, platforms, everything relating to that is on the ballot. So, people are evaluating Republicans or Democrats based off of their support for



Photo by Ben Gallaway/ The Whitworthian

Biden, their support for national party politics," Hitefield said.

The outcome of this past election, an election whose goal is to invite citizens to respond to the administration in power, is extremely important to note. It could suggest that Gen Z may go on to influence more elections.

Voters, age ranging between 18-29, have gone through quite a bit in their lifetime. The 2008 recession, COVID-19 pandemic and many other generation defining

circumstances and events. From there, a passion for political activism ignited within this generation, showing no signs of extinguishing.

Hitefield said, "Once you get young voters to actually turnout, especially the younger age, and be politically active, they're more likely to remain politically active, moving more into adulthood."

If Gen Z is making voting a habit, as well as making a noticeable impact on elections, we can only assume that this will continue. But

the only way to keep impacting elections is to help younger generations increase civic knowledge.

Knowing the 'need to vote' and 'how to vote' are two very different things, but have very similar impacts on voters, especially Gen Zers. A lot of Gen Z individuals are still very young, and many don't have access to becoming more politically knowledgeable.

Hitefield said, "I think there definitely needs to be more education, explaining not only why you

need to vote and who the options are, [but] what they stand for.”

The tools to being civically active and informed are a lot harder to access, especially considering the age group of voters who impacted this election. The education system in America often falls short in its ability to equip the younger generation to engage with politics and civic policy.

Bert Emerson, an English professor specializing in cultures of democracies, said, “I think we need to reinvest in civic education, not just in college campuses, but throughout our educational systems.”

As a student myself, I have never had the opportunity in

“I think there definitely needs to be more education, explaining not only why you need to vote and who the options are, [but] what they stand for.”

my fifteen years of public education to learn how to vote. This is simply unacceptable, especially when we should be teaching the up-and-coming generations how to survive in a world that is severely different than we have ever come across.

The last generation that defined elections were the baby boomers, but they were living in a different society. The difference between Baby Boomers and Gen Z is much more than a change in society.

Emerson said, “I’d say the distinction that the Boomers had from Gen Z, is that the Boomers were in an older stage of life than Gen Z is now. They were enjoying the benefits of cheaper college education and housing, prices and cost of living that gave them more economic power than I think Gen Z has at the moment.”

Gen Z is living in a time of major inflation in the wake of a two-year pandemic lockdown, and yet, are still creating headlines and political standpoints that arguably could define this generation.

“It’ll be interesting to see where Gen Z is going to find a foothold in traditional economic situations like home owning and college, you know, avoiding debt and things like that,” Emerson said.

Gen Z has been given the short end of the stick, but there is a way we can help shift this generation to be civically knowledgeable. It can start here at Whitworth.

There are many different ways that we can help students learn

how and why to vote and to educate them on who is running. But, more importantly, we need to make the act of voting more accessible for students.

“Once you get young voters to actually turnout, especially the younger age, and be politically active, they’re more likely to remain politically active, moving more into adulthood.” - Aaron Hitefield

Hitefield says, “I think most college campuses, especially residential, need to have ballot drop boxes and they need to be able to have as much access as possible.”

Ballot drop boxes are just one step in the right direction, but that’s only helpful to those who have their ballots. A lot of people have mail-in ballots, meaning that those students who live on campus will have their ballots delivered to their home address.

My mail-in ballot didn’t come to school, it went to my mailing address which is at my parents’ house on the west side of the state. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity and the ability to go home and get my ballot. But, for students who live farther away and don’t have the ability or opportunity to go home and pick up their ballots, voting is almost a lost cause.

There are other options to vote, but they are not well known. Hitefield said, “I know that, for a fact, downtown at the election office you can vote in person.” This is important information that students need access to. However, when they needed this information, it wasn’t available.

Whitworth needs to make

voting more accessible to students. In a time where elections are important to people and our country, it is important to make students’ voices heard.

By having drop off ballot boxes, or even something as simple as a seminar teaching students about who is running and what the candidates are promoting in their campaigns. Whitworth should teach students the importance of voting, and most importantly how to vote.

Gen Z has a lot of potential and is already making huge differences in elections. They deserve to receive education to be more civically knowledgeable.

Gen Z has a bright future. Emerson said, “I have hope that because Gen Z has been brought up in these eras of tougher times, that they are learning how to navigate the world with greater care and attention to other people around them.”

The Future of the Weyerhaeuser Center

Madalyn Bookout | Staff Writer

David Henreckson officially began his role as director of the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning on July 1, after the retirement of Dale Soden, former director and history professor.

According to the Whitworth website, the Weyerhaeuser Center sponsors reading groups, summer seminars, workshops and public lectures from nationally known speakers.

The Weyerhaeuser Center helps professors think about how they can integrate faith and learning in the classroom, said Gregor Thuswaldner, provost and vice president at Whitworth.

Henreckson stood out in the hiring process because of his academic training, broad interests, intellectual curiosity, social and emotional intelligence and ability

“[He] is very creative, and I have been very impressed with the ideas and initiatives he’s already brought to Whitworth and the speakers he has invited for this year.”

to interact with diverse groups of people, said Thuswaldner.

“[He] is very creative, and I have been very impressed with the ideas and initiatives he’s already brought to Whitworth and the speakers he has invited for this year,” said Thuswaldner.

Unlike Soden, Henreckson’s main role will be the director of the Weyerhaeuser Center. An individual director position was provided so the new director would be able to dedicate more time to growing the Weyerhaeuser Center and its impact, instead of working as both a director and a professor, said Thuswaldner.

Thuswaldner expects Henreckson to “bring the Weyerhaeuser Center to the next level and really make it a national entity, a place... that is known, especially among Christian universities.”

Thuswaldner envisions Whitworth becoming a place where professors and administrators from other Christian colleges can gather and discuss what it means to be a Christian university in the 21st Century.

“I’m very excited that Hendreckson is our new director, and I look forward to seeing the way our center [can] grow over the years and really make an impact on our campus community [and] well beyond our campus,” said Thuswaldner.

Henreckson has experience teaching courses on

theology, ethics and philosophy. In the spring, he will be teaching “Philosophy in the Real World,” a course centered around the theme of love and friendship.

“Thuswaldner expects Henreckson to ‘Bring the Weyerhaeuser Center to the next level and really make it a national entity, a place.... that is known, especially among Christian universities.’”

Henreckson hopes the Weyerhaeuser Center can foster the development of students and be a space where formative questions can be addressed.

“[College is] a special place where [students] have the luxury of thinking through questions that can animate the rest of [their] life,” said Hendreckson.

One concept that frames the work Henreckson wants to do in the Weyerhaeuser Center is ethnonationalism. Ethnonationalism is the idea that humans naturally congregate around those they are like in appearance and actions.

Henreckson wants to challenge others to reflect on

how ethnonationalism can become problematic.

To accomplish this, Henreckson is interested in running programs and hosting conversations on campus for students and faculty to consider what it means to live well, to love our neighbors and to love those who we view as strangers or enemies.

“I don’t want us to forget about the moral and the spiritual dimensions of what it means to be a flourishing human being,” said Henreckson.

He wants the Weyerhaeuser Center to be a place where students, faculty and staff can attend not only their habits of mind but also their habits of thought. He hopes individuals can practice training their emotions and habits to become people of character, responsible citizens and neighbors.

In the past, the Weyerhaeuser Center has focused on the integration of faith and learning

“I don’t want us to forget about the moral and the spiritual dimensions of what it means to be a flourishing human being.”

among faculty. However, the Weyerhaeuser Center also offers many opportunities for students. Students can attend the



Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University Spokane, Wash., Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022 | Photo by Ben Gallaway The Whitworthian

Weyerhaeuser Speaker Series, which brings in different people such as scholars, artists, political activists and practitioners, said Henreckson.

The 2023 Spring Speaker Series topics include “Identity Politics and Anti-Racism: What’s Christian About It?” by Jonathan Tran, a professor from Baylor University; “Christian Witness in an age of polarization” by John Inazu, a legal expert from Washington University and “The Man I saw Them Kill: Christianity and Death Row”

by Elizabeth Bruenig, Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist.

“Hendreckson said he wants [the center] to ‘...be asking these really big fundamental questions about what it means to lead [and] to live a meaningful life.’”

To engage students in the speaker series, Henreckson is working with multiple professors who are teaching on topics that connect with a visiting speaker. For Elizabeth Burnings’ visit, the Weyerhaeuser Center is partnering with the department of history.

Hendreckson said he wants to “create a culture in which students know that, if you go to a Weyerhaeuser Center talk or event, they’re going to be asking these really big fundamental questions about what it means to lead [and] to live a meaningful life.”

The Weyerhaeuser Center

also supports the Weyerhaeuser Younger Scholars Program, which provides funding for students to partner with a faculty mentor and work on an advanced project or independent study.

“The bread and butter of that program, I think, is just encouraging faculty and students.... to get together over a meal or some caffeine, and talk about their scholarship and their research,” said Henreckson.

For more information about the Weyerhaeuser Center, visit Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith & Learning .

Coming back together in meaningful ways: A conversation with Student DEI Director Ayaka Dohi

Candice Stilwell | Staff Writer

A new initiative, the Belonging Initiative, has been launched to monitor and improve the mental and social health of students at Whitworth University.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) office started the Belonging Initiative this year to “serve as a motivator and a qualifier to student engagement and sense of community for college students” according to Ayaka Dohi, director of DEI.

In light of the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, social connections have been very different. Dohi says because of this, we need to intentionally “shift from being away from one another to coming back together, in meaningful ways.”

This is reflective of the large-scale trend in mental health for college students. A nationwide look on this issue by Boston University revealed that of 33,000 students reviewed in the study, half of them screened positive for anxiety or depression. Other reports show similar results; BBC reports a recent study that showed “Almost 1 in 4 students are lonely most or all of the time. That is four times worse than the one in 20 adults who said they were similarly lonely in the most recent

data for the general population.” Dohi said the Belonging Initiative began in the spring of 2022 when the DEI office “hosted a small ‘sense of belonging’ retreat where we welcomed students from different identities, but all shared a similar need or desire: a search for belonging.”

After the retreat, people came together to create the Belonging Initiative. Dohi said, “Our Vice President for Student Life, Rhosetta Rhodes was already in conversation and ideation around the power of belonging. This was exciting because campus leaders

“At one point, we were newcomers to a place such as Whitworth. We all experience a transition into belonging.”

across the university were [also] already engaged in this value of belonging. Thus, the Belonging Initiative was created.”

Dohi said that belonging is something everyone needs, because “at one point, we were newcomers to a place such as Whitworth. We all experience a transition into belonging.”

This experience of transition and the need for belonging is a worldwide experience. The American Psychological Association did a study involving eight different countries (19 colleges, 14,000

students) and found that one third of the first-year students studied struggled with 1 of 6 common mental health disorders like major depressive disorder (MDD), general anxiety disorder

“No Matter your identity or lived experience, we are all searching for belonging.”

der (GAD) and panic disorder.

The Belonging Initiative is aimed at helping people with transition. “Belonging exists in all basic needs’ frameworks” Dohi said. “In fact, a sense of belonging is not only tied to academic success, but it also has a direct relation to overall well-being. When we feel like we belong, we are a better community for it.”

The Belonging Initiative has coordinated a few events since the beginning of this year to build community and allow students to connect with one another in different settings. Dohi said, “I am facilitating programs and events that aim at cultivating a culture of belonging for our student community.”

The Belonging Initiative is also attempting to gain insight into how students feel connected to places by sending out email surveys to Whitworth students. “If we are to

truly transform a culture around belonging, we need to understand what is making an impact. A meaningful takeaway from this program before belonging became an official initiative this year, was that no matter your identity or lived experience, we are all searching for belonging,” Dohi said.

The goal of this Belonging Initiative is to “expand our sense of ‘we’ over an ‘us vs. them’ culture,” Dohi said. “No matter your identity or lived experience, we are all searching for belonging.” According to the World Economic Forum “Campuses that show dedication to student wellbeing can help increase academic performance, retention and graduation rates. University students who have a greater sense of wellbeing and belonging, [emphasis added] tend to have higher motivation, increased self-confidence, higher levels of engagement and achievement. So too, they show better cultural awareness, enhanced critical thinking, higher levels of community service, and are more likely to be sympathetic citizens.”

Basketball Snapshot



Whitworth Mens Basketball faces off against Sul Ross State University at the Whitworth University Fieldhouse. Nov. 17th 2022 Spokane Wash. | Photos by Ben Gallaway

Meet Mary Miller, Whitworth's new Criminology Professor

Grace Berryhill | Staff Writer

Mary Miller grew up in Gig Harbor, a town an hour southwest of Seattle. She misses the striking shoreline scenery of the Key Peninsula, but happily bid adieu to the traffic of western Washington.

She started college at Tacoma Community College after taking a year off from school to work. Similarly to many young adults her age, Miller didn't exactly know what she wanted to do for a professional career. Miller thought community college seemed like the right choice to save money while still getting a college education.

Her first experiences in the workforce included a retail clerk at Target, an in-home healthcare worker for an elderly couple and a UPS driver.

"I stocked shelves at 4:30 in the morning. Yeah, it was really fun," Miller quipped.

During her time as a UPS driver, Miller felt like there was more in store for her life. "I didn't know [what] I wanted to be, so I got in it for the money," she said. "Then at some point, I [thought] I'm not making any difference in anyone's lives. I'm just delivering boxes to people who asked me what's inside and I respond, 'I have no idea, you ordered it.'"

It wasn't until she began her education at Washington State University that she became taken with a fervent interest

in criminal justice.

During one of her undergraduate courses, Miller watched the chilling documentary "Every F***ing Day of My Life" by Tommy Davis. Davis tells the heartbreaking tale of Wendy Maldonado, a woman who suffered systematic emotional and physical abuse at the hands of her husband. In a desperate attempt to protect herself, Maldonado kills her husband and is handed a lengthy prison sentence for the crime.

The story transformed Miller's opinion of the justice system, leading her to ask many painful questions. "Why is this woman who's been horribly beaten for the last 18 years of her life going to now spend ten more years in prison? She's already been in prison in her own home," she said. "Our system is so broken that we now are incarcerating her for ten more."

From there, Miller's interest

in criminal justice took off. "For me, that just sparked this passion about intimate partner violence. I

thought, 'we have to do something about this,'" she said. "I just think that our criminal justice system is



Mary Miller with her mini goldendoodle Ted. Photo provided Mary Miller.

such a reflection of our society.”

She added, “There was just something so powerful that these are real people that we put through this system. We are humans and they’re humans and our system is flawed because it was created by humans.”

Miller ended up going back to school and received her masters and Ph.D. in criminal justice at Washington State University.

Miller descends from a long line of teachers, but she didn’t realize until later on in her educational career that she wanted to teach others about criminal justice. Her goal is to inform the youth about the strengths and weaknesses of the criminal justice system in the hopes of achieving widespread change within a deeply broken system.

Miller appreciates Whitworth for its combination of education and religion in general. She is excited about the fact that students can discover new topics and opinions,

whether it’s a skill as simple as APA formatting or an idea so fundamental like institutional racism in the criminal justice system.

“There are a lot of students who are not religious or are of other types of religion. I think

inclusivity is really important,” she said. “What drew me here is just the fact that we are so encouraged

“You might intersect with the criminal justice system, and hopefully it’s not in a more serious way, but wouldn’t it be nice to know more about it?”

to spend our time teaching and working with students and mentoring [them].”

In the spring, Miller will offer the courses “Courts and Corrections,” “Drugs and Society” and “Deviance, Crime and Criminal Justice,” which aim to provide students with tangible steps to improve society, and question the very foundations upon which this nation is built.

“I don’t want you working on my classes 40 hours a week, because then you’re not saving time to hang out with friends, to work out or meal prep.”

Miller has many hopes for those who decide to take her classes. “I’m hopefully expanding minds of young adults who are now thinking about aspects differently, crimes differently and about law differently, [as well as] thinking about the criminal justice system as a whole and what’s broken and what’s fixable and how we go about doing that.”

Now, as a Whitworth University professor, Miller wants to spark change in the lives of her students, which will hopefully

be seen in the years to come.

“That would be amazing to have one student go out and change the world...whatever that looks like, and hopefully some of that will be criminal justice system related because we need it,” she said. “We need reform.”

“There are a lot of students who are not religious or are of other types of religion. I think inclusivity is really important.”

At any point, at any time, our lives could intersect with the criminal justice system. It could be something as simple as getting into an accident or a speeding ticket or a more serious incident.

Miller emphasizes this point, saying, “You might intersect with the criminal justice system, and hopefully it’s not in a more serious way, but wouldn’t it be nice to know more about it?”

As a professor, Miller says her goal is to continue improving every day. She wants to use all of the experience and feedback given by students to become an efficient educator for a relevant topic of discussion in modern times.

Miller seeks to live out this mission by showing grace and compassion to her students, especially in regards to mental health.

When it comes to her classes, she said, “I don’t want you

working on my classes 40 hours a week, because then you’re not saving any time to hang out with friends, to work out or meal prep.”

For mental health upkeep, Miller is a proponent of creative exploration. “Maybe that’s working out, writing or art. Maybe that’s making movies,” she said. “Whatever that is, and doing it on a regular basis so that the rest of life, the parts that are harder, don’t overwhelm.”

A Look Into the Lives of Two of Whitworth's First-Generation Students

Hannah Rainford | Staff Writer

“As a first-gen student, a lot of us think, ‘this is my way out. . . my way out of the bad,” said first-generation Whitworth student Renne Tiumalu, a senior. She added, “The amount of sacrifices I have witnessed my parents do is something I just want to repay them for. Coming to college is the only way I thought of [to repay them].”

A first-generation college student is one whose parent(s) did not complete a 4-year college or university degree, regardless of other family members' level of education. In the academic year 2015-2016, 56% of undergraduate students nationwide were first generation, half of which were the first child in their family to attend

“Along with these stresses comes the fear of one's struggle becoming apparent and looked down upon, or even a general sense of alienation among university peers who are not navigating the same struggles.”

college. According to the Whitworth website, in the fall 2021 semester, 661, or 33 percent, of traditional undergraduate students self-reported as first-generation students.

Despite comprising a large percentage of all college students in the U.S., first-generation students sometimes lack resources that cater to their unique experiences and challenges. This makes financial, directional and transitional resources difficult to obtain. “There is so much confusion. As a first-gen student, we are obviously less knowledgeable about how we can receive resources,” Tiumalu said. “I honestly didn't know how to navigate my financial situation until my sophomore year here. Thankfully, I had many things covered before, but I was so lost.”



Whitworth First Generation Students pictured with SDEI Director Ayaka Dohi and BUCS Bridge Coordinator Whit Jester at the National First-Generation Celebration Day in the Hixson Union Building at Whitworth University Nov. 8, 2022, Spokane, Wash. | Oludolapo Adegbesan / The Whitworthian

First-generation Whitworth senior Susan Nguyen expanded upon this idea, saying, “Like other first-generation students, I got to have an opportunity that [other] generations in my family did not; I was given opportunities to push me further in my career, but also as an individual, which allowed for plenty of self-growth,” she said.

There is a process of transitioning from childhood to college, which is especially difficult for those who are learning this transition alone without the guidance of parents familiar with the system.

Tiumalu is familiar with this

feeling, saying, “We go through another level of anxiety. You are the first in your family, so there is this expectation you feel that if you someday fail, you've failed your family, and that's one of the things that I keep in mind every day at Whitworth. But honestly, it is one of my biggest motivations,” she said.

Nguyen had a similar experience navigating the complex college education system. “I had to utilize my resources in every way. With a family who has never experienced higher education, I was left to navigate the education system myself,”

she said. “Although it was difficult, it taught me to take a step out of my comfort zone and reach out to the resources that are there for me.”

Along with these stresses comes the fear of one’s struggle becoming apparent and looked down upon, or even a general sense of alienation among university peers who are not navigating the same challenges.

As an Asian American, Nguyen said she had an “identity crisis” coming to Whitworth. “I felt too Asian to be at a predominantly white institution, but also too American to fit into an Asian community,” she said. “I struggled with adapting as a first-generation student in college and the guilt of leaving my family behind to pursue this education.”

Thankfully, during her career at Whitworth, Nguyen found the community she had been desperately missing by joining clubs and familiarizing herself with Whitworth’s culture. “College is definitely a place to find and understand who you are as a being in this world, and I believe Whitworth helped me take that step forward,” she said.

Tiumalu took similar measures to integrate herself into Whitworth’s culture. “I reached out to those that I knew would know the answers. It took me finding the right people in order to get comfortable at Whitworth, but when I did find the resources, I just felt so included and felt like I belonged,” she said.

She added, “I will never regret attending this institution. It has brought me another

family and became [sic.] my home away from home.”

When these first-generation students can access resources and community, it provides them with a support system to navigate university life. However, at least in these instances, aid was sought out as opposed to being readily available.

Whitworth offers BUCS Bridge, a pre-orientation program for first-generation students entering their first year. But recruiting first-generation students is not the problem, it’s retaining them. A study from the University of Business found that first-generation students are 1.3 times more likely than their peers, whose parents experienced higher education, to leave an institution during their first year.

Nguyen explained that emotional turmoil is a primary deterrent for a first-generation student pursuing higher education “Being a first-generation student can be emotionally draining. Being at an institution you are culturally unaccustomed to leaves you with

imposter syndrome,” she said.

Through her own discipline to complete her education, Nguyen utilized available resources to overcome this inner conflict. “I found that being mindful and open about yourself to others at this institution, whether it be an advisor, professor or student, allows for difficult, but optimistic conversations to be had,” she said. “I found that once I was able to share my story, it opened up a new door for relationships and understanding.”

Like Nguyen, Tiumalu sought out Whitworth’s resources. “There has never been a time, where as a first-gen, I felt beneath anyone else,” she said. “I may not have the same resources as many people who attend Whitworth, but I know no one will judge me for it.”

The walk of a first-generation student is fraught with trials and uncertainty, shaping them into individuals that epitomize “an education of the mind and heart” by virtue of their experiences.

“The hardships of home and school weigh heavily and are difficult to navigate, but this is not a

“As an Asian American, Nguyen said she had an ‘identity crisis’ coming into Whitworth. ‘I felt too Asian to be at a predominantly white institution, but also too American to fit into an Asian community,’ she said. ‘I struggled with adapting as a first-generation student in college and the guilt of leaving my family behind to pursue this education.’”

From a Basketball Shoe to a Fashion Statement: Jackson Cash, Jacob Coram and Colton Looney share their journey of running a shoe resell business

Filip Timotija, Taylor Jones and Mariia Yazepova | Sports Editor, Copy Chief and Staff Writer

Whitworth basketball players Jackson Cash, Jacob Coram and Colton Looney created The Shoe Box, @ShoeBox.Resells on Instagram, a resell shoe business which has grown since it was created during COVID-19.

“I’ve always talked about wanting to just start a shoe business with Jackson, and later found out, that Colton wanted to start a business too,” Cash said.

Looney added, “We were trying to brainstorm a name while walking after the basketball practice, and we wanted to come up with something somewhat unique that we haven’t heard of or haven’t seen before. That’s how @ShoeBox.Resells was created.”

Coram explains, “During COVID -19, shoe businesses became a lot more popular... people started a transition from a basketball shoe to a streetwear shoe, and now it’s becoming a fashion statement you wear on the streets. During quarantine, people had nothing to do, so they started buying shoes and selling shoes. We were a little bit late into it, but it’s been really fun. I think we’re all passionate about it...”

According to Statista, the global sneaker market was valued at approximately \$79 billion which allows sneakers to be



Shoes ready for resale by The Shoe Box. | Photo provided by Jackson Cash.

considered big business per Forbes.

Cash, Coram and Looney’s main goal with creating The Shoe Box was to resell shoes for people to buy at affordable prices. The student athletes buy new shoes at a low price through many different apps; then through Instagram, they sell for profit. Coram stated that Nike is a useful resource for buying affordable shoes.

Their first pair sold was yellow Nike Dunk Low for \$150, Coram explained.

The three basketball players said they were trying to make some money over the summer as a side gig, eventually The Shoe Box turned out to be a lot more profitable than they thought.

The process of reselling can be challenging as Coram stated. “If

there’s a new shoe, it’s somewhat hyped up – people want it for resell or just to wear it. You have to enter raffles and then depending on how many pairs there are, or depending on the odds. Sometimes you don’t get shoes for months, or even years, and then sometimes you hit twice in a row. For example, today, a pair of shoes dropped for the first time and me and Colton both got



Jake Holtz (#23) Blocks a shot at Whitworth's game vs Sul Ross University at the Whitworth University Fieldhouse. Nov. 17th 2022 Spokane Wash. | Photo by Ben Gallaway Whitworthian.

it. Then the resale value for those is pretty high, so if we sell those we will make pretty good profit.”

The three basketball players are always checking different apps, websites and shoe sellers for the best deals. A tragic event that changed the athletic shoe business was Kobe Bryant's death on January 26, 2020. The Shoe Box doesn't currently have any Kobe's available since the prices have increased.

According to Insider, “Pairs on

StockX, a leading resale marketplace, that had previously gone for less than \$200 were being sold for upwards of \$1,000...”

Coram said Kobe's are hard to find since Kobe Bryant's partnership with Nike is currently in the hands of his widowed wife.

The Shoe Box allows the three basketball players to gain real business experience with customers around the Spokane area.

Cash is a sophomore business

major; he applies many tools on campus,” Coram said. from his courses while starting “We want to get people on his own initiative. “We take a lot of tricks from what we learned in class - how to run a business, simple entrepreneurship tricks and more, that really helps us with our own side gig.”

“We take a lot of tricks from what we learned in class-how to run a business, simple entrepreneurship tricks and more, that really helps us with our own side gig.”

Since Cash, Coram and Looney are basketball players, their teammates are their biggest fans. Colton said, “It all started by our basketball team supporting us. They all were supportive - they reposted when we're just trying to start up our Instagram and then continued spreading the word, which then helped us gain some followers at the beginning. Couple of them had bought some shoes off of us in the past, even before reselling. I would say, that they were our first supporters.”

With the support of their teammates and the Whitworth community, the three business owners plan to transition from an Instagram store to an official website.

“Participating in things on campus would definitely be huge for us, especially making connections with students

A variety of models from Nike Dunk's, Jordan's, New Balances and Yeezy's are available in both men's and women's sizes.

Some of recent pairs they have sold were two pairs of Nike Dunka and a pair of Jordan 1's. The “Judge Grey” colorway of the Nike Dunks went for \$200 while “Venice” pair sold for \$180. The Jordan 1 High OG “Rebellionaire” sold for \$250.

The three Whitworth players are excited that @ShoeBox.Resells has 233 followers on Instagram. Coram said, The Shoe Box's best seller is the Nike Dunk Lows; there are many still available on their Instagram. They encourage fellow Whitworth students and athletes to follow their Instagram, especially if they are looking for good deals on shoes.



The Whitworth Cheer team puts on a performance at the 2022 Pirate Mania event in the Whitworth Fieldhouse. Nov. 15, 2022, Spokane, Wash. | Photo by Oludolapo Adegbesan/ The Whitworthian

An advertisement for Dutch Bros Spokane. The background is blue with yellow and white text. On the left, it says 'Nearest to Whitworth' in large yellow letters, followed by '8701 N Division and 11921 N Division (indoor seating)' in white. In the center is a white Dutch Bros cup with a blue windmill logo and whipped cream. On the right, there are Instagram and Facebook icons, followed by 'Dutch Bros Spokane' and 'Text DBSPOKANE to 27047 For Exclusive Deals & Promos!'. At the bottom right, there is small text: 'Terms and conditions at dutchbros.com/terms-of-service. To stop, text STOP to 27047. Consent not required to buy goods/services. Message and data rates may apply.'