

The Whitworthian

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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.

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Limit to 250 words.

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Issac Fields secures the ball after making a flying catch during a NCAA football game at Whitworth University against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, Saturday, Sep. 17th 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.

Welcome back: how to navigate change, controversy and our own wellbeing

Nothing says “welcome back” like controversy.

As has been the case with several recent summers, the summer of 2022 brought radical changes to the socio-political landscape. By this point, many of us are tired of talking about politics. We’re tired of the constant dithering over what is right or wrong, who is right or wrong and why it’s right or wrong. Stress from these events will inevitably be compounded by seasonal depression, which afflicts millions of Americans per year according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

The key aspect of “socio-political landscape” is the “social” detail. As young adults attending an institution of higher learning, we must in some way come to grips with the massive reshaping of social thought this past summer both at a national and community level. From the landmark reversal of *Roe v. Wade* to a constant bombardment of new voting restrictions nationwide, it sometimes seems there is little to be hopeful for. In our own community, the article regarding retired Political Science Professor Kathy Lee’s experiences at Whitworth as a member of the LGBTQ+ community has raised even more questions about Whitworth’s hiring policy.

And these questions are weighty. The events of the past summer are weighty. We must

not take these occurrences lightly as we consider what the implications are for our friends, family and community. If nothing else, we must ask the question, what do all of these things mean for Whitworth? The hiring policy has been subject to intense debate for several years, and many are waiting with tired anticipation for the Board of Trustees’ discussion this fall. With the recent lawsuit against Seattle Pacific University regarding their hiring policy, the narrow ridge that Whitworth supposedly walks on seems even narrower.

Through this rigorous academic debate, it can be easy to feel like you are drowning in the chaos. We as the Editorial Board understand this perhaps better

“If nothing else, we must ask the question, what do all of these things mean for Whitworth?”

than just about anyone. We, too, are facing new challenges this semester. We have new staff members and new editors trying to learn the ropes at a breakneck pace, all while ensuring that we continue to tell your stories well. But, as the gray days of winter draw nearer, it is important to

remember that we all need to maintain our own mental and physical wellbeing.

It is easy to trudge along, claiming everything is fine. It is so much harder to admit that being a well-rounded student is just as much about staying grounded and healthy as it is grinding out arduous assignments. We must take care not to suffocate under the weight of the world. We are not automatons, incapable of breaking down. We all fall short. And that is okay – we just need to remember that we are not alone.

All of this to say, we college students have ideas that we must grapple with as we begin or continue our lives here behind the “pinecone curtain.” To say that these occurrences have no impact upon our daily lives is failing to pay attention to how connected we really are to these issues. The entire purpose behind higher education is for us to wrestle with our questions and beliefs. At least that’s what they say in Core 150 -- though they prefer the term “worldview.”

College is hard. And major events that occurred over the summer only serve to make it harder. Yet it is important to recognize that we are all still human. And so, some days the tough questions don’t have to be answered, the data does not have to be analyzed. We must remember that our own well-being is

more important than whether we immediately get that last set of worldview papers finished or not.

“The entire purpose behind higher education is for us to wrestle without questions and beliefs.”

The Editorial Board are right there with you. We, too, have been wrestling with tough questions and even tougher decisions. Yet our commitment to you remains the same. We ask tough questions because someone must ask them. We hold institutions, including our own, accountable. We provide you with information about topics ranging from enrollment rates, ASWU budget cuts and the SDEI vice president search so that you can be an informed member of the Whitworth community.

This is the consensus of the editorial board.

Low Enrollment: It isn't just about the students

Grace Uppendahl | Opinions Editor

As the students have finally gotten the first month of classes under their belts, they are starting to settle into the hard work that is expected of them this semester. First year students are starting to get over the initial shock of college and are coming to terms with the amount of homework that is needed to succeed in college.

However, students are not the only ones experiencing an increase in workload; staff and faculty are also struggling to keep up with their increasing workload.

This academic year, Whitworth invited a smaller class of first year students to campus compared to years prior.

Many students have already caught wind of this, primarily due to the closure of an entire residence hall and several top floors of others. But this smaller class invites more of an impact than just a few floors in residence halls across campus being closed.

Like most private universities, Whitworth is primarily tuition based. When there is a smaller class coming into Whitworth, there is less money in the budget for resources. "When there are fewer students, we have

"Students are not the only ones experiencing an increase in workload; staff and faculty are also struggling to keep up with their increasing workload."



Stewart hall at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA, Thursday, Sept 30 2022 | Photo by Juan Rodriguez, The Whitworthian

less funding coming in, which means we can't spend as much on faculty staff and programs and tutors and other things that, of course, we want to do," Greg Orwig, vice president of admissions and student financial services, said.

When a university welcomes a smaller class, it doesn't just affect the first year that class is here. It is

a four-year investment of a lower income in tuition. "We're looking at this a little bit longer term, financial challenge that we need to solve and we are in the process of identifying \$8.8 million of budget cuts," Orwig said.

With a loss of revenue that high, it is bound to impact students. However, Orwig and other staff and faculty members are trying their best to come up with strategic solutions that don't directly impact student experience.

Yet, such a financial impact does affect student life, especially for those that live on campus. Every department on campus has

experienced budget cuts. Orwig mentioned that of those positions that need to be cut to manage the

"When a university welcomes a smaller class...it is a four-year investment of a lower income in tuition."

budget, most are those that will not be filled, rather than firing people.

With an increase in work due to the positions that are not being filled, Orwig worries about how this impacts staff and faculty.

Whitworth prides itself on

the people that work and attend the university. As a community, the people that invest time and energy into the campus are dedicated individuals that create a caring community. However, students in particular need to change their narrative.

As a generation, students are more likely to have a one-track mind. Many don't see or think about the direct impact of a smaller class like the one that is starting fall 2022.

Students aren't the only ones with extra homework this early in the semester. Staff and faculty all over Whitworth are having to deal with an increase in work, too.

"It's just not possible for fewer custodians to clean the same amount of campus and more facilities as frequently," Orwig said. This is just one example of the impact made on staff and faculty at Whitworth.

Vicki Daggy, the technical support supervisor said, "Anytime the university goes through periods of decreased income, it impacts the budget and that means people because we are the biggest expense."

Whitworth is trying its hardest to keep departments with no less than the bare minimum of people needed. However, not filling positions rather than firing people is still impacting the Whitworth community.

"I would say that this most recent round of employee layoffs has been particularly difficult because in many areas, we were already very lean. So, it's hard to cut when you don't have much to cut," Daggy said.

Daggy, having "been here long enough to have seen and gone through a few of these" said that this is the leanest they have ever been.

Working in a department that specializes in technology provides its own obstacles as well. Technology is constantly growing, which means that technical difficulties across campus are as well.

With less people in the department to handle these things, the workload for those still working in the

"It's hard to cut when you don't have much to cut."

department grows exponentially.

University employees are becoming close to overrun with work, but students aren't noticing it. This could be done by the university trying to lessen the impact on student experience as much as possible. However, I think we need to expand this problem to show the students that are enrolled in this university.

As a society, we have a one-track mind. We focus mainly on what affects us and ignore the things that don't. And most of



Stewart hall at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA, Thursday, Sept 30 2022 |

Photo by Juan Rodriguez, The Whitworthian
the time, we are oblivious to the things that indirectly impact us.

Students need to know the impact this has on the staff and faculty employed at this university. Expanding the narrative that low enrollment doesn't have a huge impact on students can create a tighter knit community.

Seeing that your professors, custodians and tech specialists are also going through an intense workload can help students understand how intertwined Whitworth truly is.

With a loss of funds as big as \$8.8 million, student experience is bound to be impacted. However, by telling students what the impact truly is and changing the narrative to include staff and faculty, we can create a better, closer community.

Students know that there is a small incoming class, they have seen the impacts on their day-to-day

lives already. But that is all they see; showing students the direct impact on the staff is important.

It is about time we let students know the true impacts of low enrollment and help them see that they aren't the only ones impacted by something that they see as miniscule.

\$37,500 Worth of ASWU Budget Cuts: Student enrollment drop leads ASWU to revisit their 2022-2023 budget

Annaclare Splettstoeszer | News Editor

On Sept. 28, the Associated Students of Whitworth University (ASWU) voted to officially approve \$37,500 worth of cuts in their overall operating budget for the 2022-2023 school year due to low student enrollment.

The cuts were the result of an unanticipated budget shortfall and were distributed across many different areas of the budget. ASWU proposed their budget for the current school year twice: first in the spring, and then proposed changes this fall when there was a budget shortfall. Notably, student clubs' budgets remain unchanged from those originally approved in the spring of 2022, prior to the shortfall.

"Because of COVID, in the 2020-2021 school year there was budget decreases because of lower enrollment, retention, etc." said Christian Aguilar, the Vice President of ASWU and a member of the four-person executive team tasked with overseeing these budget changes. "So, we already had to make some reductions for the 2021-2022 school year."

In the spring, when they were forming the budget for this year, the ASWU team tried to be "conservative, and try to give some people some more money than they received the year prior," said Aguilar. At the same time, the

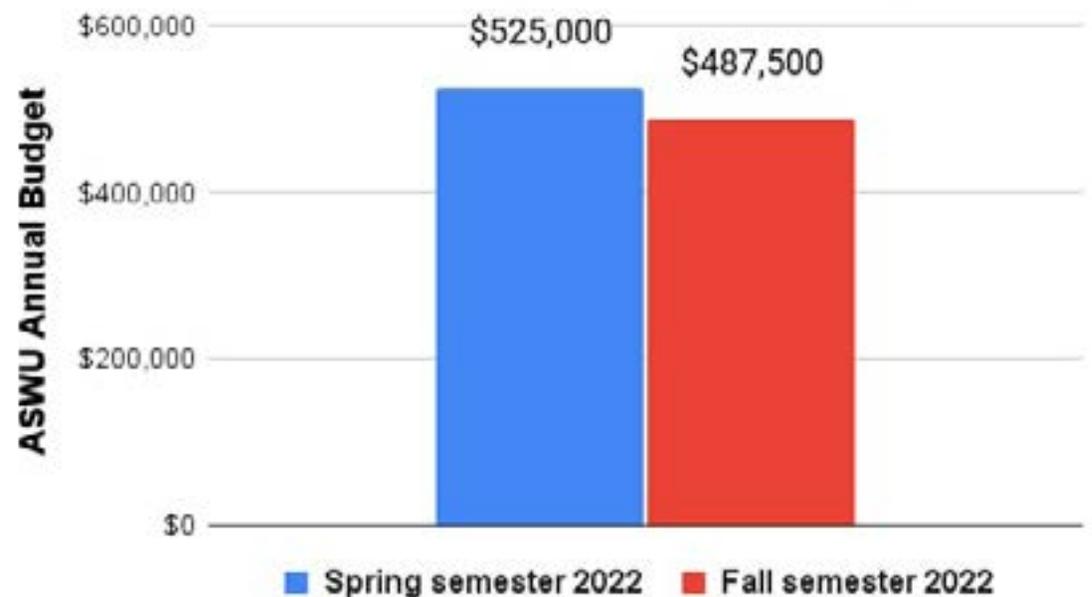
budget had to consider inflation and rising minimum wage in the state of Washington.

"I would say that for some areas of the budget, 'budget cuts' are not the best way of describing it," said Aguilar. When the official number of students was counted on the tenth day of fall classes, enrollment had not bounced back to pre-pandemic levels, but has instead continued to decline.

As a result, some campus groups supported by ASWU, mainly the UREC and the Intramurals programs, saw their budgets remain about the same as in years prior.

Aguilar said, "In no way is any of our budget decisions for these campus groups reflective of how much we care about them, how much we value them or whether or not we think they're doing a good job."

Fall semester 2022 vs. Spring semester 2022 budgets



Graphic by Annaclare Splettstoeszer | The Whitworthian

Higher education enrollment numbers have been dropping over the last few years, according to a report by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (NSCRC) published in May of 2022, as high school students, their families and colleges and universities have grappled with the effects of the pandemic. This fall, undergraduate programs and graduate programs all around the country, including Whitworth, are seeing lower enrollment numbers than expected, forcing them to change their budgets on the fly.

ASWU funds nearly all student clubs, many on-campus activities

and all student media—including The Whitworthian-- through its budget amassed by a \$135 ASWU fee charged to each student at the beginning of their fall and spring semesters. The budget for how much each area of campus receives is decided upon in the spring of the year prior.

However, this past spring's estimates for how many students would be enrolled in the fall were off. The number of students enrolled at Whitworth this semester is 150 students lower than expected, going from a projected 2100 total students to only 1950 total students.

Michael Stavridis, Financial Director for ASWU and member of the Executive Committee, said that while developing the budget cuts, they looked for “equality... amongst the budget.” The cuts, accordingly, were pulled in relatively equal measure from four key areas of funding: ASWU’s operating budget, student media, various campus groups and requisitions.

ASWU cut their own operating budget in two areas: salaries for various ASWU members and discretionary “ASWU budgets.” Discretionary “ASWU budgets” are budgets attached to various positions within ASWU that are used for funding events like Bingo Night, Springfest, cultural events, talent shows and more. These budgets also cover any other expenses ASWU members might encounter while serving in their positions.

The cuts made in student media only affected salaries for students who work in paid positions in student yearbook, newspaper or radio.

The campus groups are various organizations on campus that ASWU provides with financial support in some measure, including the Health Education Action Team (HEAT), Chapel programs, the UREC Outdoor Recreation program, the Intramurals program and Jazz Band. Each group received some sort of adjustment from the proposed spring budget, with the largest being experienced by the Outdoor Recreation and Intramurals programs.

Outdoor Recreation’s budget went from \$20,000 under the proposed spring budget to \$16,000 under the approved fall budget. The

Intramurals program went from \$16,000 to \$13,000. While ASWU Executives had hoped to increase funding to pre-pandemic level for these two programs, they were unable to due to the low enrollment.

The requisitions budget, the last category to shrink, was simply an adjustment to the amount of money that clubs, campus groups and ASWU Senators and Coordinators can request from the ASWU Finance Committee to supplement their budgets. ASWU Executive salaries were also included in the proposed budget cuts.

“Something that we as an exec (sic.) team talked about is if other people are going to take cuts and are going to be feeling it, we should be feeling it too,” said Aguilar. While in the past Executives were salaried for 20 hours a week, after the past several years of cuts, they are down to 16 hours a week.

As mentioned, student club budget amounts were not changed from the spring proposed budget and the newly approved fall budget cuts. “Clubs make up a total of \$18,761 of those dollars [in the overall budget], and we didn’t touch that at all [this fall],” said Stavridis.

“Last year, during the budget committee meetings, the clubs were already cut quite a bit

The \$37,500 cuts broken down by category



Graphic by Annaclare Spletstoeszer | The Whitworthian

because, as I said..., we were trying to be very conservative with our budget at the time. Obviously, we had not predicted that it [enrollment] was going to be as bad as it is right now,” said Stavridis.

“We didn’t feel that getting rid of clubs or touching the clubs’ budgets right now would allow for them to provide what they need to provide to the students fully,” said Stavridis.

All these changes to the budget were proposed at the ASWU Assembly meeting on Sept. 21. After some discussion and a week-long break to discuss the changes with their constituents, ASWU’s voting members approved the budget cuts at the Sept. 28 ASWU Assembly meeting.

All Whitworth undergraduate students are members of ASWU and are free to attend the weekly ASWU Assembly meetings held weekly on Wednesdays

at 5pm in the ASWU Chambers.

Georgia Goff, ASWU President, said, “They [students] are always welcome into these meetings and into these spaces. But not everyone takes that opportunity... So the biggest thing I would just say is to encourage students to come and talk to us ... because we’re more than happy to share.”

Take Two: Searching for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vice President

Samantha Holm | Arts and Culture Editor

In 2018, Whitworth's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office put forth a Diversity Action Plan, which sought to increase university-wide DEI initiatives. These goals included implementing intercultural competency training for faculty and students, as well as recruiting and retaining individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic populations (UREP).

Since setting these goals, the DEI Office has instated a series of workshops for faculty and staff focused primarily on race and active anti-racism. On the student side, DEI holds training for resident assistants and area coordinators, and continues to host speaker series for students' intercultural competency, such as "Democracy in America: Our Common Purpose at Whitworth and Beyond." DEI continues to recruit UREP students with BUCS Bridge, an intensive pre-orientation program specifically designed to support UREP and first-generation students.

Tremendous progress has been made, and the DEI Office has no plans to slow down. However, forecasting future university-wide DEI initiatives will be a struggle without a permanent vice president.

Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office (SDEI) Director Ayaka Dohi shared that though Dr. Roberta Wilburn's leadership



The International Student Center, Whitworth University, Monday, 26th of September, 2022.

as interim vice president has been invaluable, "in terms of capacity, sustainability [and] long-term vision, that's pretty limited with an interim position."

Now that concerns surrounding Whitworth's retention rates and LGBTQ+ hiring policies have been pushed to the forefront of campus discourse, there is pressure to find a permanent vice president.

ASWU Cultural Events Coordinator Jessica Lopez-Ramirez served as a member of last

year's search committee, offering a valuable student perspective to the proceedings. As Lopez-Ramirez

"We recruit BIPOC students, but their retention rate is something that we definitely need to work on"

partakes in the second iteration of the vice president search, she plans to voice her concerns as a student representative. "We recruit BIPOC students, but their retention rate is something that we definitely need to work on," she said. "That's been my main focus when it comes to the search committee."

These issues fall under the authority of the DEI Vice President (DEI VP) for a couple reasons.

Dohi explained that university-wide DEI efforts are led by the

DEI Office under the VP's guidance, while student concerns are addressed by her office, SDEI. Though the two offices regularly collaborate to address retention, recruitment and enrollment

“Students know it’s more than just talk.”

management, institutional policymaking is DEI’s responsibility.

This is because the DEI VP is a member of the president’s cabinet and university council, and therefore, plays a vital role in advocating for intercultural competency and diversity-related issues to the president and other key university leaders. The DEI VP also works with human resources to guarantee fair hiring practices.

This is not to say that DEI efforts have stagnated.

As Interim VP, Wilburn, who took office on Aug. 1, 2021, has pushed several DEI initiatives through the Diversity Cabinet, which is a committee of faculty, administrators, staff and students that create, facilitate and monitor DEI efforts. Such initiatives have included holding workshops for faculty and staff’s professional development, refining the bias reporting process and creating affinity groups for staff and faculty of color.

“I think we’re actually putting some work toward the things that we have said we offer,” Dohi said. “We’re doing the things that need to be done, so that processes are improved. Students

know it’s more than just talk.”

With a clear need for a permanent VP established, the university is gearing its focus for the search ahead, which is set to resume after Thanksgiving Break.

Though the timeline has yet to be established for the second search, it will operate similarly to the first. Last year, Whitworth brought four final candidates to campus for Q&A forums during the week of April 11-April 14, 2022. The end goal was to narrow down the group to the most promising of the candidates and have one take office by July 1, 2022.

Unfortunately, though last year’s search yielded some promising candidates, no one was hired for reasons that remain unclear.

An article from Inside Higher Ed found that college dean searches also fail when there is a procedural error in the search, which may lead to the search’s cancellation to prevent a tainted process. The post goes on to say that procedural errors could be a result of a confidentiality breach. This can also come down to less sinister reasons, including the “winning” candidate taking another job or being unwilling to move to the city where the university is located. Sometimes, the committee may fall into the trap of looking for the perfect candidate, who may have been a good choice, but did not fit the exact mold.

The primary qualities DEI Office is looking for within their VP is an individual who can collaborate with key stakeholders and strategically implement practices and policies that create intercultural

understanding and competence within students and faculty. More importantly, this individual must promote a campus culture of respect, inclusion and equity from a Christ-centered perspective.

“I’m reminded that when students don’t feel like they belong, it happens both in and outside of the classroom. . . in the residence halls. . . in their workplaces. . . in the classroom.

Those are all in the Vice President’s scope,” Dohi said. “We [SDEI] work alongside on the student side, but there are so many other components where DEI requires infusion and a critical lens on if we are actually embodying those Whitworth DEI values that we talk about so much.”

Lopez-Ramirez added, “I’m very hopeful that this person, either an internal candidate or outside candidate, brings a new perspective of the things that we have been doing.”

In her experience as a member of last year’s search committee, Lopez-Ramirez recalled that President McQuilkin began each meeting with a prayer, asking for guidance on hiring the best candidate. This demonstrates the university’s commitment to Christ-centeredness and bringing



Brandy Bryson, speaks at the Beekma Family Theology Center Chapel Sanctuary to show her qualifications as the next Vice President for diversity, equity & inclusion here at Whitworth University, Thursday, April. 14, 2022, in Spokane, Wash. | Hannah Loesch

in a candidate who reflects this mission. The search committee also spoke with the four candidates one-on-one to get a sense of how they interacted with students.

“I hope whoever we decide on is good for our university, for the students’ sake and institution-wise,” Lopez-Ramirez said. “I’m very optimistic and hopeful.”

Swimming to end Trafficking: Pirate Swimmers visit Thailand with Paladin Rescue Alliance

Filip Timotija | Sports Editor

Back in August, several members of the Whitworth University swim team, led by Head Coach Steve Schadt and Assistant Coach Christine Mabile, traveled to Thailand in collaboration with Paladin Rescue Alliance, a Christian non-profit organization based in Colorado committed to ending human trafficking in Southeast Asia, in hopes of teaching kids how to swim, speak English and help prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking.

The Pirates swim team

visited multiple places in Thailand during the 16-day trip. The Whitworth swim group mostly resided in the city of Chiang Mai while also working with students from the Northern Thailand village of Mae Sariang.

The Whitworth Pirates spent seven days teaching local Thai kids. The first activity that the Pirates dove into was teaching English. The objective was to teach them numbers, occupations, fruit, vegetables and social studies. The other group of kids that were not in the classroom were in the

pool, learning how to swim. On the last day of working with the kids, the Thai community organized “sports day,” where the ultimate prize was crates of drinking yogurt, which for the Pirates was a new concept.

The biggest emphasis of the trip to Thailand was teaching swim lessons. Since drowning is the leading cause of death of people under age 25 in Thailand, it was imperative to prepare over 600 middle school and high school students on basic survival water

skills. Some of the skills that the kids developed were floating and cognitive reasoning to

“It was not only learning for the students, but it was also learning for us that were involved in it and learning about it ourselves...”

escape dangerous water situations.

After a week of intensive training, educating and accompanying the locals, the Whitworth student athletes spent the remainder of their time exploring Chaing Mai. With the help of Paladin who pre-planned some activities, the Pirates got to visit multiple temples, an elephant sanctuary and go bamboo rafting.

“The first day that we were there, they gave us some worksheets and markers and other things and said, teach.” Carly Hoff said. Hoff, as a senior education major, felt prepared for teaching the Thai students and said it was “the coolest experience by far.” An unexpected challenge for Hoff was trying to communicate with the students due to the language barrier.

As a future teacher, Hoff learned how to quickly adapt to new classroom settings. “I’ll



Brandt Hodgson/The Whitworthian.

have that experience in a different country where you can't really ask questions and you just kind of go with it," Hoff said.

Hoff will be student teaching this year; she said her experience in Thailand, "will prepare me for next semester."

For sophomore Zachary Washburn, the core mission of the trip, besides helping locals acquire new skills, was to show the students, faculty and staff the meaning of selflessly serving through the values of Jesus Christ.

"It was not only learning for the students, but it was also learning for us that were involved in it and learning about it ourselves," Washburn said. "Just to be there and serve. I think it's a great way to live your life. It's a selfless act."

The adventure allowed the swim team to bond together by going through similar experiences as foreigners and coming up with inside jokes that uplift comradery and chemistry.

"You get to learn more [about your team] on a personal level than on a professional level at school," Washburn said.

As an engineering major, Washburn did not get to directly apply his technical skills from his major, but still managed to grow in other areas and connect them to his future profession.

Washburn struggled in Thailand due to the language barrier; he compared this challenge in Thailand to the difficulties he faces when discussing his major with peers, many who are unfamiliar with the vernacular associated with engineering.



Whitworth vs. Willamette Swim Meet. Megan E. Thompson Aquatic Center. Saturday Nov 20th in Spokane, Washington. Brandt Hodgson/The Whitworthian.

"We're saying things that are super complicated and somebody else that is maybe not an engineer will maybe not understand," Washburn. "it's kind of that disconnect between how one brain works to the next. That patience definitely comes in because explaining it once may not be enough - explaining it twice even may not be enough and so trying to figure out different ways to explain something, using not only just verbal cues as well as like physical cues, like showing them how to do it."

In Washburn's eyes, the trip was characterized by hard work. That dedication and persistence eventually paid off because to him, it brought a heartwarming experience.

When the Whitworth swimmers

were driving away from the school on the last day, all of the kids were waving and running alongside the van. That final sequence of events made everybody cry.

"We were all crying and they were all crying when we left," Hoff said. "All the students and even the teachers too were crying - that is why making those connections was one of the biggest parts of this trip."

When reflecting on the entire trip, Hoff hoped that the Whitworth team made the children they met feel loved.

"I hope that we can encourage people to go and do the same thing we did," Hoff said. "I know we're going to try and go almost every year or every other year from here on out."

Both Hoff and Washburn agree that even with an emotional ending, collaborating with Paladin Rescue Alliance was an amazing opportunity and that it should be a more widespread initiative because it was "incredible to see so many organizations come together for a greater cause," Hoff said.



Krista Brand art gallery at the LEID Art Building at Whitworth University, Wednesday, sept.21, 2022, in Spokane, Wash. | Mario Gonzalez/The Whitworthian"

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