

# The Whitworthian

THE VOICE OF WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SINCE 1905

Vol. 113 Issue 5

March 2023

Spokane, WA



[www.thewhitworthian.news](http://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

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.

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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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Sullivan Menard (left) and Michael Smith (right) celebrate with the trophy after the Northwest Conference men's basketball title game, Whitman University, Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 in Walla Walla, 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.*

## This Maple is Turning Over a New Leaf

Emma Maple | Editor-in-Chief

As a freshman, I trudged alone across the Loop and into Weyerhaeuser. I nervously entered a large room full of faces adorned with COVID masks, grabbed a seat next to another freshman and waited for the class to start. A student got up and gave a quick rundown of what the class was about before telling us to choose one of the four newspaper sections. I chose Opinions.

That night, freshman me had no clue joining the class would lead me to where I am now, stepping into the role of editor-in-chief of "The Whitworthian." Freshman me had no clue the student who was speaking would teach me everything I know about being editor-in-chief. Freshman me had no clue the student I sat next to would be working with me two years later as "The Whitworthian's" arts and culture editor.

At first, I joined the newspaper as a side hobby. I'd always loved telling stories as a kid. When I was nine, I bought a thrift store typewriter and began frantically writing articles about my family on a template printed from Google. I soon enlisted my cousins as reporters for the growing "Maple News" and sold copies to my relatives for 25 cents apiece.

As I got older, the joy of journalism faded from my mind. My passion turned to law, which I viewed as the prime place to highlight instances of discrimination and fight for equal rights. I decided my route in life was to be a civil rights lawyer.

Then I came to Whitworth, where through a mix of random chance and fate I came across a class titled COM 249: "The Whitworthian." The description read "Staff work on the university newspaper." I signed up.

I started out in the opinions section. Nicole Harris, the opinions editor at the time, was influential in helping me find my voice to tell stories – and understand which stories weren't mine to tell. I will always be grateful for her guidance.

I then went on to write for arts and culture, news and sports (I quickly figured out sports was not my forte). Every section editor taught me something valuable about leadership, journalism and existence. And through these experiences, I fell in love with journalism again and decided that the life of a journalist was in my future.

"The Whitworthian" helped shape who I am and who I want to be – but it's not alone in doing that. I've also been influenced by the Whitworth Forensics team and the Ethics Bowl team. I've participated in two Summer Fellowship programs – one at an outdoor adventure camp and one at the Family Promise of Spokane. I completed a semester away with the American Studies Program in Washington, DC, and a Jan Term trip "Backpacking with the Saints" in Arizona's Paria Canyon. I became involved with many different aspects of campus -- sometimes too many, according to my advisors. And in all of these, I gained a deeper respect for the community and the people of Whitworth.

All these different experiences and more have led me to be the person I am today. And all these different experiences will influence my role as editor-in-chief.

There were a lot of things about life that I was unaware of when I joined "The Whitworthian" in the fall of '20. I was completely oblivious to the struggles the paper was going

through. It faced the confines of the pandemic, a new advisor, a new editor-in-chief and a brand new editorial board. But to me, a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed freshman, the newspaper was perfect. The student leaders were the ideal role models. I wanted to be able to write with the clarity they could, tackle the important issues like they did and follow their leadership model on how to make tough decisions as a college journalist in the era of COVID-19.

Now that I'm an "older and wiser" junior, I know things are never perfect. There is always opportunity for change and growth. My mentor in this role and our EIC emeritus, Kyle Evers, did a wonderful job stabilizing "The Whitworthian" in a face of uncertainty. Now it's my turn to shake things up. Here are a few of my commitments. First, you can expect a new face of "The Whitworthian." I hope to bring in fresh ideas and a platform for creativity, to try out new things. The print edition you're reading now is just the first step.

Second, you can expect to see the newspaper staff finding new ways to engage with the community. We will be tabling in the HUB more often, using social media to show you behind-the-scenes processes of how a paper is run and asking for your input on what is going on in the community.

Third, you can expect us to search for and highlight a variety of voices on campus. Whether you are staff, student, faculty or just walking through – your voice will be represented. And if you feel like there's an important issue we're missing, tell us. You are who we want to hear from,

whether you feel like you belong on Whitworth's campus or not.

Keep an eye out for us. When you see something that you like, let us know. When you see something you hate, let us know.

Our responsibility to the community has never changed and our commitment will never waver. We are here to tell your stories and to do so in a way that highlights both who we are and who we can be as a community. I am excited to lead "The Whitworthian" in this new chapter, and I cannot wait for you to see what we have in store



# Behind the Scenes: Leadership lessons from Jason Chapman

Rachel Ayres | Guest Columnist



Assistant Dean for Student Life, Jason Chapman, Whitworth University, Saturday, Mar. 11, 2023 in Spokane, Wash. Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

With a few months of post-grad life now in the bag, I have come to an interesting realization. The impact that “real adults” had on me while at Whitworth outweighs the impact of my college peers. (While technically college students are real adults, we all know that faculty and staff

are just a little ahead of us in the adulting world). For me, one of those impactful friendships I had with a “real adult” at Whitworth was with Jason Chapman, assistant dean of student life. Jason started at Whitworth in the fall of 2018. With a resume full of student life

experience, he was a prefect addition to the Whitworth community. The energy he infused into student activities, the systems and processes he created and refined, the student leaders he encouraged and the overall student experience that he developed are just a few of the areas that he impacted. As

Jason heads on to new opportunities, he is leaving Whitworth University better than he found it. The two years I worked closely with Jason through the Associated Students of Whitworth University (ASWU) gave me plenty of opportunities to learn from him. Because of Jason, I know way too

many facts about his home state Texas, where to get decent BBQ in Spokane and how to clear a room of college kids quickly (play “Closing Time” by Semisonic). I have seen innumerable photos of his beloved dog Chewie. I know how to load up a golf kart to max capacity and fly down the Hello Walk with not too much falling off. I know that inflated costumes are great ways to get the attention of sleepy students walking out of Core lectures.

Jason modeled for me what it was to be a leader. He taught me, and so many other students, to not take yourself too seriously, make a decision and own it. Don’t waste time overthinking, get creative, don’t just do something because that is how it was always done, be the first one to arrive and the last to leave and how to bring people together. He believed in me when I didn’t believe in me. He treated me like an adult, even when I wasn’t quite acting like one.

Thank you, Jason. Thank you for the late nights corralling college students and the early morning meetings, for the ungodly number of emails and for the never ending Costco runs. Thank you for welcoming teams of students into your backyard. Thank you for giving wise advice when asked. Thank you for giving students – me included – opportunities to mess up, and then helping us learn from our mistakes. Thank you for supporting me as a

student and now as a “real adult.” Thank you for being there for so many students. Your presence and wisdom changed lives.

We will never know how much behind the scenes work Jason did to create some of the meaningful experiences Whitworth students have had in the past five years. Frankly, we will never know just how much the faculty and staff

“Now with Jason leaving, student activities and ASWU will enter into a season of transition.”

across campus pour into students behind the scenes. They could work anywhere and yet they choose to invest in a little university tucked amid pine trees. They sacrifice their time and resources. They try new ideas, watch them fizzle out and yet still try other ways to engage students.

Thank you, faculty and staff, for the sacrifices you make as you pour knowledge into students. The conversations over coffee mattered more than you will ever know. The seeds of hope and encouragement you are prayerfully planting now into students will grow in exceedingly abundant ways. Whitworth

students, I challenge you. Take a second out of your busy days of homework and intramurals and thank a faculty or staff member.

Thank Jason for his dedication to creating a better student experience. Thank a Sodexo team member for their faithful commitment, the coffee shop ladies for brightening your day, the grounds crew, your professors, the registrar and financial aid staff, your coaches, your residence hall janitor – tell them thank you.

Another challenge: if you are longing for deeper relationships with faculty and staff, pray about it and then do something. Take advantage of these bright minds and the fascinating life experiences all around you.

Now with Jason leaving, student activities and ASWU will enter into a season of transition. Whitworth constantly is adapting, and at an increasing rate in the last few years (the words “flex” and “pivot” should be formally banned). Give each other grace.

Also remember (and now I am really getting on my soapbox) that student government and student activities are for YOU. You literally pay for them. If you want to

“It is easy to be picky, frustrated and uninterested. Community is hard. I challenge you to lean in, to try something new.”

see something change, speak up (kindly of course). There is a place where your voice can be heard. Get out of your room and engage in the activities – you will only be a student

at Whitworth once. Ask questions and care about what is going on. Remember, what you give is what you get.

It is easy to be picky, frustrated and uninterested. Community is hard. I challenge you to lean in, to try something new. There are so many programs and opportunities offered by Whitworth, just try one out and see how it goes. The worst that could happen really isn’t that bad. And who knows, maybe you will make a new friend, get to know a faculty or staff member more, or even grow as a leader.

I wouldn’t be who I am today without Jason, without any of the “real adults” who so lovingly poured into me during four of my most foundational years yet. The leaders I followed equipped me and gave me confidence to lead others myself. Watch those around you lead, learn from them, then step out in your own unique way and lead with your very own mind and heart.

- Rachel Ayres ‘22



# Where Do We Go From Here: A Christian university responds to the death of Tyre Nichols

Isaac Price and Emma Maple | Staff Writer & Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, Jan. 30, Whitworth students, staff and faculty opened their emails to find this headline sitting in their inbox: “Important Announcement: Mourning the Death of Tyre Nichols.”

The email was in response to the brutal beating of Nichols in Memphis on Jan. 7 by five

police officers and his subsequent death by wounds three days later.

Whitworth’s announcement acknowledged this as an atrocity, saying the killing was “tragic and senseless.”

They tied it in to larger events happening around the U.S., saying that “the systemic and cultural forces that have contributed to this kind of violence are still present in our society...[it] is a reminder that racist and prejudicial stereotypes affect us all.”

The email then urged Whitworthians to remember the history of our society and challenge their own narratives and

stereotypes, especially leading up to Black History Month. The first paragraph ends by saying “Nichols... did not deserve to die. May God fill us with His love so that with His help we may bring justice and healing to our broken world.”

This email was addressed to the community by Joshue Orozco,

who has recently been moved from Interim to permanent Chief Diversity Officer and VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

Orozco says the tragedy of Tyre Nichols should be a call to action for Whitworth’s community. “I think about what lessons [there are] for our community—what is going on...that might be instructive either about our own community,

how we might be able to grow or about the larger social structure.”

Christian colleges and universities in the U.S. have had a range of responses to societal violence. According to Whitworth Professor of history Aaron Griffith, many Christian universities play it safe when responding

to acts of violence, especially racist violence. They tend to make generalized statements rather than

“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.’”

taking concrete stances. This is calculated, Griffith said, as these universities “are generally not inclined to take up official positions that outline particular policy recommendations that might be deemed controversial to their various constituencies.”

Griffith said historically, this was not always the case. Some of the first Christian colleges were even founded in opposition to the violence of their day, such as Wheaton College in Illinois.

“Opposition to slavery was their official position and a part of their institutional ethos,” said Griffith.

Yet Griffith said other Christian

colleges throughout history have gone in the opposite direction, avoiding any stance on “particular issues of violence.” These institutions still often see student activism on heavy political topics, such as during the Vietnam War.

When it comes to issues of violence that generate a response, police violence is unique for its complexity. Drawing from his research on American criminal justice, Griffith said policing in the US has consistently had a racial target.

“[It] has always disproportionately affected both communities of color and the most economically disadvantaged Americans,” Griffith said.

There have been a variety of movements aimed at reforming policing systems and decreasing

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

the bias in these systems. Griffith said these movements “are often well-intentioned, but do not really reckon with the root problems

of poverty and lack of public investment that historically disadvantaged communities have faced.”

Griffith said a Christian university’s response to unjust acts of police violence must rest on the nature of Jesus himself as an executed criminal.

“We worship an executed God who ultimately triumphs over powers and principalities that rely on violence and fear. That should give us confidence to look for the systems of violence and fear in our own world, and to ask how we might participate in Christ’s redeeming, resurrecting work that challenges such systems,” Griffith said.

Orozco seeks to respond to societal situations in a way that leans both into acknowledgement of the wrong as well as tangible steps forward.

“It’s one thing to see something and say, ‘this is sad and terrible, and we oppose the messages,’ but

if it reveals something about our own community that should be changed, then the next question is, what are we doing to change it,” said Orozco. “Whether they’re institutional in our own community or whether they’re broader social issues that are contributing to these events, the more that we can push against them actively and tangibly, the better the response. What we don’t want is just the words.”

Orozco said these tangible steps might include examining how local police departments interact with Whitworth’s Black community members and other community members of color,



Portrait of Joshue Orozco in the loop at Whitworth university in Spokane Wash. Wednesday, Mar. 8, 2023 | Photo by Juan Rodriguez/The Whitworthian

evaluating whether they feel safe

“Hendereckson 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’”

and pointing them to resources if they feel unsafe. The Diversity Cabinet is also considering looking at the university’s bias and harassment policies and procedures to ensure that community members feel heard, know the resources to turn to and trust that their reports are taken seriously.

“Diversity, equity and inclusion is an ongoing process. It’s always [asking], ‘how do we keep improving?’ so that people are constantly feeling heard, they feel safe and they can participate,” Orozco said.



# Whitworth's Racial Covenant Task Force Aims to Identify 'tangible steps to address our past'

Samantha Holm | Arts and Culture Editor

"The discovery of Whitworth's participation in a racial covenant reveals a moral failure," read an email from President Scott McQuilkin, sent to Whitworth students and faculty on Oct. 6, 2022. "Our promise at Whitworth is to integrate this reality of Whitworth's history into our narrative of the university's story."

Whitworth University has sought to uphold this promise by forming a task force to research and discuss the racial covenant.

Whitworth University sold this property (roughly where Didier's and Rockwood Retirement stand today) in 1942 to build a residential neighborhood called "Whitworth College Homes." The deed to this property included a racial covenant, which stated that no one other than the "White race" is allowed to live on the property unless they were "domestic servants."

"Whenever we recognize we do something wrong, whether that's individually or institutionally, we have some obligation to repent, to try to repair the harm that was caused," said task force and newly appointed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Vice President, Joshue Orozco. "I think restorative work connects with our Christian mission. Certainly, that seems to be the work of God and the work of Christ."

Professor Emeritus of history Dale Soden joins Orozco on



Dornsife Health Sciences Building, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022, in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

the task force, along with DEI Chaplain Stephy Nobles-Beans and the Director of Dornsife Center for Community Engagement, Meredith Devey. Dollar Ganu and "The Whitworthian" reporter Isaac Price are the student members.

Washington State HB 1335, which was written into law on May 12, 2022, formed the Racial Restrictive Covenants Project. This Project comprises research teams at the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University,

who are tasked with examining housing deeds for racist language.

After receiving President McQuilkin's email, Orozco said his "initial reaction was sadness and disappointment."

"I work at Whitworth because I identify with its values and its mission. So, when you find out that that institution fell short so seriously in this racist practice and failed to live into that mission, there's disappointment and sadness," he said.

On Feb. 8 and 9, the task force

held discussion forums, during which members of the task force shared the history of racial zoning and opened the floor for students to voice their reactions.

"Something that I feel, and I think the students also expressed, is this desire to try to have tangible steps to address our past," Orozco said. "We're in the midst right now, trying to figure out what those will look like."

Sophomore Niraj Pandey attended a discussion forum and

expressed a desire for concrete changes but is disheartened by the possibility of reparation. "Anything that could be done by Whitworth would never really be enough," he said. "The only way to repair is to repair the broken communities; they have clearly fallen behind."

Orozco stated that developing a course of action will involve conversations with affected members of the community. He went on to say that many of the task force's members are well-connected to the Spokane community, making this course of action viable, if it is pursued.

"I think what's really important to do is to not presume that we know what is best in terms of how to repair," Orozco said.

History supports Orozco's call for caution. Though the Fourteenth Amendment made racial zoning illegal in 1917, real estate developers built racial covenants into housing deeds to circumvent the law. A 2022 scholarly article by Carol Rose from Northwestern University explains that older urban areas were kept segregated through racial covenants by real estate boards and neighborhood improvement associations (NIAs).

Black people started migrating to mid-south and northern

cities in larger numbers during the 1920s. Real estate developers added racial covenants to property deeds to preserve the "economic value" and "homogeneity" of these neighborhoods.

"If you go back to the 1930s, when Whitworth wasn't directly involved, this notion of homogeneous neighborhoods began to be accepted as the way to deal with the larger urban community," Soden said.

In 1948, the Federal Housing Act made racial covenants illegal once and for all, but this language remains in deeds.

Even if property owners wanted to strike this language from their records, there are significant

technical obstacles standing in the way. One is that recorders of deeds only check for signatures, notarization and other formalities. Another is that racial restrictions are often passed through general phrases, making them difficult to detect.

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**"Anything that could be done by Whitworth would never really be enough."**

A remedy that may take less resources and time would be adding an addendum to the racial covenant, which states that the language no longer applies.

"It's easy for me to say, as a White person, that there's a value in not erasing history," he said. "I think in the best circumstance, it was a reminder of what White people did to perpetuate segregation and racism."

Whichever way it's done, shedding light on racial covenants is imperative. Rose says that "racially restrictive covenants are sometimes cited as one of the factors contributing to the dearth of intergenerational wealth transfer in many minority families."

Whitworth University's Racial Covenant Task Force aims to raise awareness about the ramifications of racial covenants and brainstorm solutions to respond to the racist language within its property deed.

As of now, the task force has not developed any concrete plans to address Whitworth's racial covenant.

"I don't want to communicate something that sets an expectation about what the institution will do," Orozco said. "There are a number of community organizations who do great advocacy work around housing and marginalized communities."

Orozco listed the Carl Maxey Center and Latinos En Spokane as examples. Others include the Northwest Fair Housing Alliance, Transition and House of Charity.

While the task force thinks of its next steps, student input is needed.

If you have thoughts, ideas or concerns regarding Whitworth University's Racial Covenant Task Force, please contact Joshue Orozco [jorozco@whitworth.edu](mailto:jorozco@whitworth.edu).

*In the spirit of promoting transparency in "The Whitworthian's" information-gathering processes, Price has not been interviewed for this story, nor has his input been sought to construct it.*



# Overcoming Adversity

## Whitworth star Olivia Mayer finds redemption from injuries

Filip Timotija | Sports Editor

In the world of sports, injuries are an unfortunate reality. They can be physically and mentally debilitating and often require long periods of rehabilitation. But for Olivia Mayer, a junior Whitworth basketball player, a series of injuries became her defining moment.

As a freshman at Gonzaga Prep in 2016, Mayer averaged 16 points per game on the varsity basketball team. But her sophomore season was cut short when she tore her ACL during a summer tournament in 2017. Mayer spent her entire sophomore season recovering from surgery and undergoing rehabilitation. Through it all, she said she remained determined to make a comeback. In the summer before her junior year, she returned to play club basketball in the summer.

Unfortunately, she suffered yet another setback when she tore her ACL again during her summer Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) season. Once again, she was forced to sit out of playing for her entire junior year. By the time her senior year rolled around, Mayer was ready to play once again. She received a Division 1 offer from Eastern Washington University (EWU) before her senior year season even started.

In the first game of her senior high school year Mayer tore her ACL for a third time. It was

then she decided to quit basketball after the season finished out.

“It was sad, but... I had already had that feeling the past three years, so it was just like, ‘okay,’” Mayer said.

Mayer graduated from Gonzaga Prep in 2020. With the EWU offer no longer available, she enrolled at Washington State University without much thought of playing basketball.

While in college, some of her friends in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity needed a practice player. Mayer voluntarily joined. After numerous practices that proved her body was healthy, Mayer’s itch to get on the basketball floor returned.

“I was just like ‘I need to play again, I’m fine now,’” she said.

WSU’s roster was full for the following year, so Mayer explored the idea of transferring and joining the roster as a walk-on at other programs. She got in touch with EWU’s head coach, who had recruited her in high school. The coach referred Mayer to Whitworth.

The Pirates coaching staff

said they were familiar with Mayer’s basketball upside in high school and decided to give her an opportunity to have a roster spot for the 2021-2022 season, Mayer’s college sophomore year.

During that season, Mayer played all 25 games and was in the starting lineup six times. This was the first time she had played at least 15 games in a season since

her freshman year at Gonzaga Prep.

Playing just over 18 minutes a game, Mayer averaged just under 12 points and six rebounds. The offensive output earned her a Northwest Conference honorable mention. The Pirates finished the 2021-2022 season under head coach Joial Griffith with a 10-15 overall record while going 5-11 in Conference.

In April of 2022, Whitworth selected Kenny Love as the new women’s basketball head coach. In his first year as a head coach,

Love led Whitworth to another 10-15 season while tallying a 7-9 record in Conference play. Mayer said Coach Love helped the players better understand their roles and instilled more confidence. Love expanded Mayer’s role on the team and increased her time on the court.

“It just made it easier to play free and not be so concerned with what the coach is gonna think... not be in your head,” Mayer said.

Mayer capitalized on the larger role she was given. In the 2022 – 2023 season, she led the conference in scoring, rebounding and double-doubles while playing 34 minutes per game. She averaged 17 points and 11 rebounds per game. Her 20 double-doubles ranked her fifth in NCAA Division III, one below the four players who had scored 21. Mayer’s production over the season earned her NWC’s student-athlete of the week three times. In February, she was selected as first team All-Northwest Conference.

“I just wanted to win, so I did everything I could. ” Mayer said. “I just think I was less timid because I had more minutes and so I was able to be more aggressive. The only thing I was worried about was fouls.”

Mayer said her injuries in basketball have led to a mentality shift that impacted the way she approaches

basketball and other aspects of life. “Whenever I play a game, you think it can always be your last, so you are just like, give

over basketball,” Mayer said. “I can only play basketball for a few more years, but my life is much more important.”

“Whenever I play a game, you think it can always be your last, so you are just like, give it 100% because it can always be your last.”

it 100% because it can always be your last,” Mayer said. “I already thought it was my last.”

Outside of playing basketball, Mayer coaches youth basketball players at The Warehouse Athletic Facility in Spokane. She teaches lessons twice a week during school and five days a week during summer.

Mayer said sometimes she encounters struggles while coaching. “I love it and the kids are really fun, but I’m very bad at disciplining them,” Mayer said. “I’m probably the last person to tell [them] what to do. I’m the person that bribes them to get better.”

Mayer is pursuing a biology degree at Whitworth and hopes to go to medical school. Her aim is to achieve academic excellence.

“That was my main goal

Upcoming Whitworth Sporting Events:

On Monday and Tuesday, March 13-14, Women’s Golf will play in the Cal Lutheran Invitational – at 8 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 15, Whitworth Swim team will compete at the NCAA DIII Swimming and Diving Championships in Greensboro, N.C.

Five sporting events are scheduled on Saturday, March 18: Men’s Golf will be at Willamette Valley Cup in Salem, OR. – at 10:30 a.m.

Track & Field will compete in the Sam Adams Classic in Spokane – at 12 p.m.

Softball will play Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA – at 12 p.m.

Men’s Tennis will play University of Idaho in Moscow, ID – at 2 p.m.

Baseball will play Pacific in Spokane – at 3 p.m.

Four sporting events are scheduled on Sunday, March 19:

Women’s Tennis will play Lewis-Clark State in Spokane – at 10 a.m.

Softball will play Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA – at 11 a.m.

Baseball will play Pacific at 12 p.m.

Softball will play Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA – at 1 p.m.



Olivia Mayer (#12), standout player for the Whitworth Women’s Basketball team, poses for a photo in the Whitworth fieldhouse. Thursday Mar. 2 in Spokane, Wash. | Ben Gallaway/The Whitworthian





Students Dance at the Awkward Middle School Dance in the MPR, Friday, Feb. 24, 2023 in Spokane, Wash. | Gracie Anderson/The Whitworthian

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