

The Whitworthian

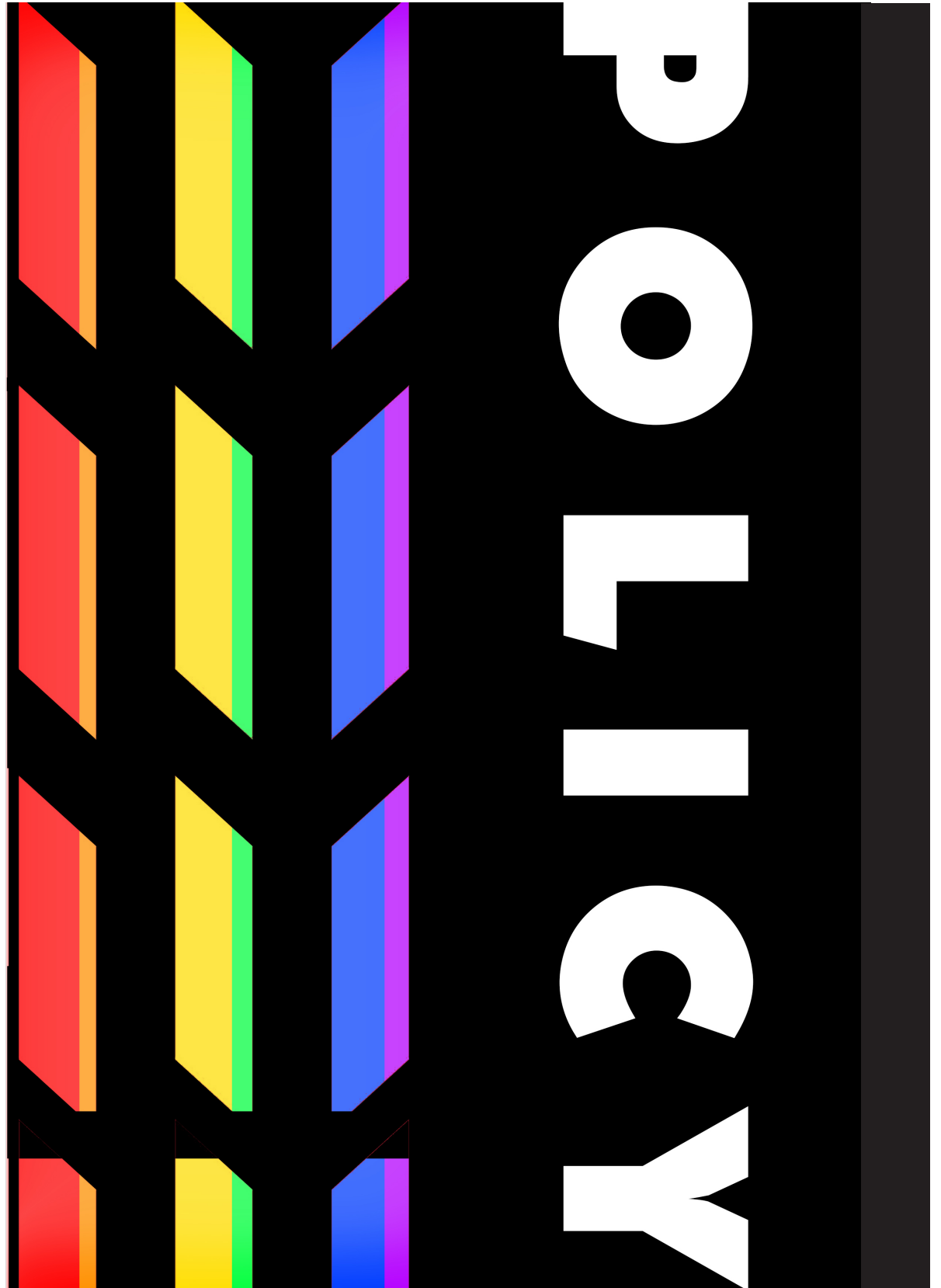
Vol. 113 Issue 6

April 2023

Spokane, WA



FIRING



The Voice of Whitworth University Students since 1905.

WHAT WE DO

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.

OPINIONS POLICY

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.

CONTACT US

The Whitworthian
c/o Whitworth University
300 W. Hawthorne Rd.
Spokane, WA 99251
509.777.3248
www.thewhitworthian.news

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.

Spring 2023 STAFF
Editor-in-Chief: Emma Maple
Editor-in-Chief Emeritus: Kyle Evers
Advertising Manager: Amelia Hewson
Arts & Culture Editor: Samantha Holm
Copy Chief: Taylor Jones
Design Editor: Westley Hackler
News Editor: Annaclare Spletstoeszer
Opinions Editor: Grace Uppendahl
Photo Editor: Ben Gallaway
Sports Editor: Filip Timotija
Adviser: Dr. Erica Salkin
Photo Adviser: Young Kwak
Printed by: Coeur d'Alene Press

COVER:

Graphic by Ben Gallaway/
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.

Mil-
So proud of all you have
done and so excited for
all you will do!
Love Mom & Dad

Congratulations our
Grandson,
Matthew Fiesta!
We are very proud of you!
We Love You!
Papa Epi & Mama Remy

The future may hold
many things, but
anywhere you go will be
lucky to have you, Mil!
Love Hugh

Congratulations
Matthew Fiesta on your
achievement!
Sorry we couldn't be
there. Love & Aloha from
your Villegas Cousins in
Hawaii!

Congratulations
Matty! We're so proud of
you! God Bless! We love
you! Aloha, Uncle, Aunty,
Ayvah, Abbiny, Ayden and
Anaiyus!

Congratulations Graduate!
MATTHEW FIESTA
From Waipahu, Hawaii
BA: Kinesiology
(Cum Laude)
Whitworth Football
"Go Bucks!"
Love, Mom & Dad

We love you Mil and are
so proud! You may be the
smartest Hewson yet!
-Love Lex

Olivia
We are so proud of all that
You have accomplished
Jeff and Brenda

Congratulations
Ashley Short!
We are so proud of all
you have accomplished.
We love you,
Mom and Dad

So proud of you Elsa!
"Never be afraid to trust an
unknown future to a known
God." -Corrie Ten Boom

Love,
Mama

Brenden, your hard work
and talent amaze us daily!
We are incredibly proud!
Congrats!
-Love, Mom, Dad,
Kyleigh, & Kam

Dear Elsa,
You Amaze Me!!
Can't wait to see what
your future brings.
Congratulations!
Love, Xochi

Board of Trustees Leaves, No Vote Taken on Hiring Policy

Grace Uppendahl | Opinions Editor

Despite the recent activity occurring on Whitworth's campus regarding the university's hiring policy, the Board of Trustees ended their April meetings with no vote taken regarding whether to change the hiring policy's current language, according to Board of Trustee President Brian Kirkpatrick.

"We had not planned nor anticipated taking a vote at our April meetings, but are continuing our discussions on this important question," Kirkpatrick said.

Whitworth's hiring policy states, "Whitworth complies with all federal, state and local nondiscrimination laws that are applicable to religious nonprofit institutions and does not engage in unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability."

Whitworth does not include LGBTQ+ as a protected class. This allows sexual expression and gender identity to be used as a factor in the decision-making process of staff and faculty member's careers at Whitworth.

This has recently become a point of contention at Whitworth, with many individuals believing that LGBTQ+ should be added to the language of the hiring policy, and others believing that it should not. By April 2, 2023, there were two petitions circulating campus;

one supporting the current hiring policy, and one supporting changing the hiring policy.

Both petitions were titled To the Whitworth Board of Trustees. The first petition that circulated around campus supported the current hiring policy and asked Whitworth not to change it. There was no listed author of the petition, and it was signed by mainly alumni and current and previous faculty members.

This petition asked the Board of Trustees to address five questions before making a decision about the hiring policy. These questions expressed concerns regarding the potential impact on the university's relationship with the global church, the necessity of commitment to biblical countercultural witness, how a change would tie into Whitworth's mission in honoring and following God, the practical implications of affirming the LGBTQ+ lifestyles and the potential effects a change would have on other campus policies.

This petition was signed by 238 people.

This second petition was written in

response to the first petition and was run by a small group of students, Annaclare Spletstoeszer, Cienna Dumaoal and Urvashi Lalwani.

This petition responded to the five questions raised by the first petition and said the global church has not come to a consensus on this issue, affirming is countercultural, five main Christian denominations are affirming of the LGBTQIA+ lifestyle, the implications in affirming this lifestyle will make those who identify as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community safer and are seeking justice and equality.

As of April 20, 2023, 1,635 students, faculty, staff and community members have signed this petition.

Both petitions have sparked

activity among students on campus including letters to the editor, chalk messages, posters and more. Much of this activity occurred during April 12-14, the days during which the Board of Trustees had their biannual meetings on campus at Whitworth University.

Editor's note: Some Whitworthian editors and staff writers have become actively involved in efforts to advocate to the Board of Trustees on this issue. Per Whitworthian policy, these students are not allowed to participate in any aspect of coverage, including reporting, editing or publishing.



Signal Safe Space chalk, Thursday, April 13, 2023, in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

2023 First-Year Student Enrollment Projections

Emma Maple | Editor-in-chief



Students cheer on the Whitworth volleyball team at their home game at Whitworth University Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2021 in Spokane, Wash. | Mario Gonzalez/ The Whitworthian

At the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, Whitworth University was faced with a challenge. The university saw an incoming class of 453 first-year students. This was 147 students short of their target goal of 600 students, resulting in a massive loss of revenue and cost-saving measures across the board.

This year, based upon projections, the administration is hopeful that they will see more students and greater revenue than they did in 2022. The university's goal is that 525 first-year students will enroll at Whitworth for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The admissions staff are projecting that to be the case based on data they have collected and specific factors they can influence.

According to data shared by Greg Orwig, vice president for Admissions & Student Financial Services, Whitworth has experienced growth in two categories this admissions cycle: active admits and high yielding admits.

"A number of important factors that our admissions and financial aid team have some ability to influence are trending higher this year than the past two years and provide for cautious optimism," Orwig said.

At this same time last year, Whitworth had around 2,996 active admits. This year, they have around 3,395 active admits, which is 399 more active admits than last year. Active admits are students who have been admitted to Whitworth and have not

withdrawn their application or indicated they are no longer considering Whitworth.

Whitworth has also seen growth in the number of students admitted from high yielding admit categories, which are sub-groups of the overall admit pool that usually yield students at much higher rates than the general admit pool. There are four categories of high yielding admits: campus visitors, Spokane residents, athletic recruits

and students who receive the Whitworth Bound scholarship. Across the four high yielding categories, this year has seen 269 more students admitted who are in at least one of these categories.

These high yielding categories usually see around 35% of admitted students enroll at Whitworth. Comparatively, the general pool of active admits usually results in a 17% yield.

With these factors in consideration, the projected enrollment for Whitworth is currently 551 students if they have a yield rate of 13.5% for their active admits (i.e., 13.5% of actively admitted students enroll at Whitworth). The 13.5% projection is an aggregate of the 2021 yield, which was

14.8%, and the 2022 yield, which was 12.1%. Due to the growth in the high-yielding populations of admits, Whitworth is hopeful that the 2023 yield rate will in fact be higher than the 2022 yield rate.

Orwig said that the data projections are representations of what the admissions and financial team has "some ability to influence or control." However, he acknowledged that other factors often "have a significant impact on our [Whitworth's] enrollment results," and these factors are often outside of the university's ability to control. Some of these factors include the overall economy, the draw of competitor colleges and more.

Only time will tell the number of first-year students that Whitworth University will enroll for the 2023 -2024 academic year.

Opportunities Opened by the Closure of Warren

Caleb McGeever and Ruby Brady | Staff Writers

Due to low finances and student enrollment, Whitworth University has decided to close Warren Hall. Instead, Whitworth will reopen previously empty floors in other residence halls and Stewart Hall at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Some campus personnel say they're hopeful that the relocation of students to Stewart Hall will have a positive effect on Residence Life and Housing.

Chris Eichorst, the assistant vice president of Whitworth's Facilities Services and Campus Security talked about the importance of closing Warren Hall and the benefits it will bring to Whitworth.

"We could save over \$70,000 closing it down, for sure. I don't think we would realize that type of savings if we just closed down a few wings in our different dorms and things like that," Eichorst said.

The \$70,000 would normally be spent on a list of upkeep expenses such as maintenance, electricity, plumbing, gas and more. Eichorst estimated that each student has an average of five devices plugged in at all times, driving up electricity expenses. By placing students into more populated residence halls rather than spreading them out across less populated ones, facilities can use their expenses as effectively as possible. Eichorst also mentioned the money the university will save by hiring less Resident Assistants (RA).

Warren, being the biggest resident hall, needs more RAs. Closing this hall will create

less RA jobs in the future.

By closing Warren Hall, Eichorst hopes to complete some renovations in Warren, if possible. He said, "There will probably be some services as far as cleaning. We'll probably go through it and see if it needs to be painted or updated or anything like that." However, Eichorst explained that he may not be able to complete all the renovations he wants to make due to a lack of funding. He commented that due to low enrollment, funding is tight at Whitworth as a whole.

Despite its benefits, the closure of Warren was received with some disappointment. Jade Faletoi, the current area coordinator for Duvall Hall and Arend Hall, said, "Yeah, it was sad that we couldn't rehire the 10 [Warren RAs]. We usually try to hire as many as we can because we know the potential of our students and we see how much their leadership affects our campus."

The RA role is an important part of residence life at Whitworth. With multiple RAs appointed to every on-campus housing unit, their presence can be a meaningful and important part of each student's experience. Faletoi emphasized the importance of the four learning outcomes that RAs aim to achieve with their residents.

All RAs undergo comprehensive training that prepares them to help residents achieve these learning goals. This includes DEI, mental health and emergency responses. RAs are also tasked with understanding and noticing Big Three

violations. Whitworth's Big Three, which are the three main rules of campus, are no disruptive behavior, no drugs or alcohol and no cohabitation. RAs are also mandatory reporters to support and guide students through the transitional period into adulthood.

According to Whitworth's website, Residence Life and Housing is meant to provide activities

that promote respect for differences, meaningful relationships, critical thinking and empowerment of independence. Every residence hall goes about completing these goals differently, resulting in different cultures in each building. Therefore, the closure of Warren could represent the growth of a new culture in Stewart.

Faletoi talked about other goals that the area coordinator team sets for their RAs to help create an even better community.

Faletoi said that Residence Life and Housing's two goals for this year were "for each resident to have two meaningful friendships" and be able to identify something they're passionate about. Next year, the area coordinator team will set similar goals to make sure every student has the opportunity to be a connected and a supported part of the Whitworth community.

Each building has a unique

design with many different community cultures. Faletoi touched on how she places RAs in residence halls by matching their personalities to the challenges each community may have.

Each residence hall has different needs based on the layout and the type of residents that are drawn to each building.

For example, Faletoi talks about the needs in Duvall, "We have pods, so I'm looking for some folks who can definitely feel comfortable moving through a pod and having, essentially like, a living room and getting past that living room into people's actual spaces."

This is not the same for other residence halls. The range of needs is based on the layout of the building. In more traditional residence halls, "[RAs] really just have to get through that one door," Faletoi said.

Due to these different challenges and needs, personality is taken into consideration when creating RA teams. Faletoi said, "So, for Duvall I might be looking for somebody who is more confident in who they are as themselves and they're more willing to just be in people's faces and still feel like they can be themselves." This personality is not always desired in other residence halls. In traditional residence

"We usually try to hire as many as we can because we know the potential of our students and we see how much their leadership affects our campus."

halls, like Arend, Faletoi explained that they need RAs who are able to see who their residents are. This would lead to RAs encouraging students to be themselves in shared spaces as well as private, fully supporting residents as they transition into who they are.

With the culture of residence halls in mind, Faletoi explained that the closure of Warren will actually benefit students living on campus. She said, "It doesn't matter to us how many students are on campus; we know that each one of them is going to come out learning our three outcomes. Enrollment usually changes our building makeup... and it pushes more of our student population together."

Faletoi concluded with a statement comparing the ability of RAs to connect to people in different residence hall layouts, "It is hard to feel more connected when everybody is doing their own thing, more spaced out. It's hard to get to the point that you normally would get with the dorms full. So, we chose to have full buildings and closing one of the largest."

Returning RA
Raechelle
P i d o n e

also talked about her excitement about the new shape of Residence Life and Housing. Pidone also agrees with condensing the on-campus student population to full residence halls. She believes that this will create more opportunities for engagement.

Next school year, Pidone's RA assignment will shift from Baldwin-Jenkins to Oliver Hall. Pidone said, "Oliver... typically tends to be a bit more quiet and reserved."

The excitement around the future goals of Residence Life and Housing is exemplified in current RAs. Pidone said, "We're definitely making progress towards

DEI work, so that's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion." She talked about a meeting where RAs were asked how residence life could be improved, "One of the RAs said something about having more spaces for our queer and non-binary students. And something that I said was just actually having more diverse spaces in general, just for not only those groups, but also our BIPOC community."

There are many RAs that are fully embracing the 2023-2024 Residence Life and Housing changes in hopes that they will help create a tighter community for residents. Whitworth's

Residence Life and Housing staff are working to make sure students can thrive in their new community.

RAs are ready for the change and excited to see what will come. The real question going into the new school year is how residents will react in a changed environment of residence life. The closing of Warren does not only save \$70,000, but it also creates more opportunities for engagement.



Warren Hall, Thursday, April 13, 2023, in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

Dawson Gilbert
"May God's face shine
upon you and give you
peace. Be blessed and be
a blessing in the world."

Congratulations
Gabe and Alexa!
We hope you're both as
proud of yourselves
as we are!
Love, Mom & Dad Cach

Congratulations on your
Graduation Emily! We are
so proud of you! We love
you so much!
Love, Mom and Madison

Congratulations!!
We're so proud of you,
Adam!
Numbers 6:24-26
Love, Mom & Dad

Caden,
Congratulations on your
outstanding achievement!
We pray you achieve your
dreams and God keep
Blessing you.
Love, Mom and Dad

Kaitlyn:
Congratulations, on a job
well done! We love you!!
—Dad, Mom, Benjamin
and Piper

Congratulations
Emyrsen!
We love you!
Acts 4:29-31
Love-Mom, Dad, Rylee,
Halle and Jack

Nicholas, we are so
proud of you for all your
hard work in your
academics and athletics!
Love,
Dad & Mom

Congratulations Hana !
You did an amazing job
and we are so very proud
of you !
With Love
Mom and Dad

Funny, beautiful and
now a college grad!
Congrats Paige!
We couldn't be
more proud.
Mom and Dad

Leaving the cold for
the sun, we are so
proud of you Lexi!
Andy, Rachel, Nathan,
Natalie, Buster, Izzy,
Nola & Tia

Megan you made it! We
are so proud of you and
what you have
accomplished.
Love Mom and Dad

Meagan - We're so proud
of all you've
accomplished and
joyfully celebrate you.
Well done -
Congratulations!
Love, Mom & Dad

Amazing work, Jacobi!
We love you big as
the sky! xoxo
Love,
Jiggly Biggles

Football, Track, outdoor
rec, school spirit, platoon,
Spain, aquatics, bible
studies and successful
student. Great 4 years
Nathan!
Love Mom & Dad Dykstra

You're so amazing Joelle!
Congrats on all your
success with school
and volleyball!
Love,
Soon-to-be Dad and Mom!

Super fun, Nathan,
watching you travel the
paths of learning,
achievements, and
adventures.
Wishing you happy trails
ahead.
Love G'pa and G'ma Totten

You've done it LyRissa!
We are so proud of you!
We love you so much...
Love always
Mom & Dad

Congratulations!
Sarah, Beth and Brianna
We are so proud of you.
The Quinn Family

Your character shines
through in all you do!
Well done, Colt!
Love- Mom & Ty

Congrats, graduates!

“I Deserved to Get Justice”

Whitworth students speak out about the Title IX process

Samantha Holm | Arts and Culture Editor

Content warning: This article mentions sexual violence.

Sexual assault on college campuses is uncomfortably common. In a 2019 study, the Association of American Universities (AAU) found that 13% of the 181,752 college student participants reported experiencing non-consensual sexual contact by physical force or inability to consent.

Survivors of sexual assault have specific rights under Title IX, a statute that shields people from sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs or activities. Despite its short definition, Title IX's scope is massive, encompassing issues like recruitment, admissions, financial assistance, athletics, treatment of LGBTQIA+ students and much more. After Title IX expanded its protections to include sexual assault and harassment in schools. In 1992, it served as a powerful force in stopping sexual violence and harassment in schools.

THE NEW TITLE IX RULE

In August 2020, the Department of Education, at the behest of the Trump administration, made amendments to Title IX. These changes narrowed the definition of sexual harassment to only severe instances, mandated that colleges dismiss complaints of sexual misconduct occurring off-campus and more.

On March 8, 2021, the Biden administration issued an executive order directing the Department of

Education to review Title IX. On June 23, 2022, the Department of Education released newly proposed Title IX rules that would replace harmful rules put in place by the Trump administration. In May 2023, the Department of Education “plans to issue a final rule amending its regulations” to Title IX, according to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

However, the 2020 Title IX rules are still in effect. “There’s a lot of little things that the new Title IX rules from 2020 did to skew things in favor of the respondent [the party accused of sexual misconduct],” said Kristina Poffenroth, a victim advocate from Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW). LCSNW is a Spokane-based organization that offers advocacy and education for victims of sexual violence, among other services.

The new Title IX rules set a precedent for how sexual harassment is dealt with at every college or university that receives federal funding, including through federal financial aid. This includes Whitworth University. In that respect, Poffenroth described Title IX as a “big picture issue.”

Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students, Rhosetta Rhodes also serves as Whitworth's Title IX coordinator. “The Title IX process is very prescriptive. The regulations mandate certain actions that aren’t always pleasing

or acceptable to students,” she said. “The Title IX team is doing the best it can to mitigate the negative impacts on students.”

Students at Whitworth have complained about aspects of Title IX that are a byproduct of the 2020 amendments. Some say they feel aggrieved by the university's handling of their Title IX cases. Last year, this discontentment fueled the creation of a Title IX Student Group on-campus, as well as the Instagram account @whitreform, now inactive, which invited students to anonymously share their experiences with the Title IX process.

Around this same time, posters started cropping up around campus informing students how they can contact Rhodes and Tim Caldwell, Whitworth's primary Title IX coordinators.

This year, the discourse surrounding Title IX issues on-campus has largely faded. Until now.

STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

On March 21, 2021, Whitworth student Grace Anderson was sexually assaulted in her dorm by her partner. At the time, she didn't recognize this experience as assault.

“There was a huge emotional disconnect,” she said. “[I thought] ‘my boyfriend could not rape me.’”

However, the interaction soon started taking its toll. She said she started experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, which worsened after she and her partner separated

a few weeks later. “When I was at school, I was having a lot of emotional consequences,” she said. “Just not being able to get out of bed, breaking into tears all the time. Just really fragile.”

During the summer, Anderson said she sought advice from a therapist and learned what she had experienced then, and many other times within her relationship, had been assault. After consulting close peers, she asked a mandatory reporter and friend to report her ex-partner to Whitworth.

After her friend filed the initial report on Sept. 25, 2021, Anderson's Title IX investigation portfolio, which she provided as a resource for “The Whitworthian,” indicates that she waited two weeks to hear from the Title IX team. Once they contacted her via email, she requested to pursue a formal complaint against her ex-partner, an investigation process that could take up to 60 days and would involve rehashing her story in interviews, attending a hearing and, mostly, waiting.

According to the educational organization Know Your IX, if a complainant (the individual reporting assault) does not wish to pursue a formal complaint, they have the right to file a confidential report to obtain supportive measures, such as extensions on schoolwork or counseling.

On Oct. 11, 2021, the Title IX team informed Anderson that they would start an investigation

immediately and appointed her an advisor. Advisors are unbiased members usually from an institution's faculty or administration. One advisor is appointed to both the complainant and respondent to help them nav-

“They could have done better educating me about what the process would look like.”

igate the Title IX process.

At this point, Anderson requested a No Contact Directive, an administrative supportive measure that ensures one party (usually the respondent) can't contact the other party (usually the complainant) during an investigation. Anderson described sparse communication between herself and the Title IX team regarding this request. To her knowledge, this No Contact Directive was never processed or implemented.

The investigation proceeded forward with interviews and back-and-forth emails; a process Anderson described as “excruciating.” After the Title IX team compiled Anderson's investigation portfolio, the hearing phase began in January 2022, with the first hearing taking place on March 1.

For a hearing, Title IX coordinators appoint an unbiased administrator as a hearing officer. According to Whitworth's Title IX and Sexual Assault Policy, a hearing allows each party to address

the hearing officer directly, submit evidence, call witnesses, raise objections and provide closing arguments. Afterward, the hearing officer evaluates the evidence, determines if a violation alleged in the formal complaint occurred and issues a written decision if the respondent is found responsible.

On March 21, 2022, a year after Anderson was assaulted, the hearing officer found Anderson's ex-partner responsible and recommended his expulsion from campus. Anderson described that moment as the first time she felt “actual peace” since the investigation started 161 days ago.

After the verdict was delivered, Anderson left for spring break early due to a family emergency. She returned to campus on April 3, and “he was the first person I saw on Whitworth's campus,” she said.

On March 28, her ex-partner filed an appeal, which was his right and that of any respondent found responsible. The Title IX team did not notify Anderson of this before she returned to campus.

They informed her it would take 21 days for Whitworth to process the appeal, and in the interim, her ex-partner would reside on campus.

The Title IX team rejected her ex-partner's appeal on April 10, but Anderson decided to take a leave of hardship due to her declining mental health. Whitworth refunded her tuition and gave her W grades in her classes with the promise that she could retake them in the future.

“Everything worked out, kind of, in the end because I got the verdict that I knew was right, but the

university could have done so much more,” she said. “They could have done better educating me about what the process would look like.”

Though Anderson received some resolution for her case, other students have not been as lucky.

During the month of October 2021, Whitworth student Stephanie Sfeir was sexually assaulted in her dorm room.

“I didn't say anything about it because I was really close to the person who did it,” she said. “I didn't want to believe something bad had happened.”

Sfeir said she learned this person wanted to be a Resident Assistant (RA) and had sexually assaulted another Whitworth student. On May 15, 2021, she decided to report him to her Area Coordinator (AC). “I thought everything was going to be handled well,” she said.

Shortly after her AC filed a report, Sfeir said she met with the Title IX coordinator. In that meeting, she was told she would have to pursue a criminal investigation. In Sfeir's mind, there were “drawbacks”

to that **“I was just honestly broken down at the end.”**

At that point, Sfeir said she decided to dismiss her complaint. Though the Title IX process lasted just around a month, Sfeir said she experienced many negative emotional consequences. “I was just honestly broken down at the end,” she said. “I just didn't want to deal with it anymore.”

The emotional exhaustion of the Title IX process dissuades many from reporting sexual assault. The same AAU study

found 15.9% of participants didn't report an instance of sexual violence to their university because “it would be too emotionally difficult to seek assistance.”

This was the case for Whitworth student Cienna Dumaoal, who shared that she was sexually assaulted by her partner in his dorm room on Oct. 11, 2019. Much like Anderson's case, Dumaoal said it took time to realize that what had happened to her was not consensual.

Two months later, Dumaoal said she confided in friends and family. After careful consideration, she felt “ready” to come forward at the institutional level. She explained how a friend set up a meeting for her with a professor who “had worked extensively with Title IX cases.”

Dumaoal met with the professor in January 2020. During the meeting, Dumaoal said the professor warned her that it was unlikely that the Title IX process would achieve the outcome she wanted. “She thought I deserved

to be able to move on with my life, as opposed to reliving this horrible thing that had happened to me over and over again,” she said.

After that conversation, Dumaoal decided not to go forward with the Title IX process, a decision she wrestles with “all the time.”

She added, “I deserved to get justice, and so does everyone who experiences sexual assault, who experiences rape, but it's not always how it goes.”

Continued on page 15

Nursing Partnership Shifts, School of Health Sciences Added

Candice Stilwell | Staff Writer

Whitworth's academic programs are undergoing two substantial changes that will directly affect many students in the Whitworth community. These changes include the addition of the School of Health Sciences and the dissolution of the consortium that existed between Washington State University (WSU), Eastern Washington University (EWU) and Whitworth.

Nursing Leaves Whitworth
The 50-year-old consortium between EWU, WSU and Whitworth dissolved this year after EWU created their own nursing program. In its place, a new partnership between WSU and Whitworth was created.

Other changes between the programs emerged around the same time. Last year, WSU decided they would no longer print diplomas that represent both WSU and Whitworth students. This was due to their desire to standardize all diplomas for the program.

At the same time, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, which accredits WSU and Whitworth, made the decision that classes taken by Whitworth students at WSU's college of nursing could not be listed on both the WSU and Whitworth transcripts.

This means that starting in 2024, nursing students who started at Whitworth will no longer graduate with both a WSU nursing degree and a Whitworth



Health-science themed art hanging up in the Robinson Science Building at Whitworth University, Spokane, Wash., Wednesday, April 19, 2023 | Photo by Timara Doyle/ The Whitworthian.

diploma. Instead, they will only receive their WSU nursing degree.

In the past, Whitworth nursing students have spent their first two years on Whitworth's campus taking pre-requisite classes. Then, during their third and fourth years, they were automatically dual enrolled in Whitworth and WSU simultaneously. This allowed them to receive credits from both schools which would be reflected in transcripts they received from both schools. During those years, they were still considered Whitworth students and could take one class per semester at Whitworth and pursue minors. Students would then graduate from both schools and get to walk during both graduations.

The new programmatic structure won't change student's ability to become nurses, but it means they will not be automatically dual-enrolled, and they will no longer receive a diploma from both WSU and Whitworth University upon graduation.

However, Whitworth still plans to provide Whitworth students the option to be dual enrolled through paying an optional one credit fee. For this year, the anticipated cost of the fee is \$563. Once they pay the fee, they will then take four nursing seminar courses over the course of their final two years in college. These courses will allow students to receive a Certificate of Vocational Development in Nursing from Whitworth,

according to Ediger. This will reflect their completion of Whitworth's curriculum but doesn't allow them to practice nursing in and of itself.

If students do not choose to be dual enrolled, the changes will have more impact beyond just degrees received. Nursing students in their third and fourth years will not be able to use Whitworth facilities, will not be allowed to hold any student jobs at Whitworth, will not be able to take classes at Whitworth and will no longer be able to walk during Whitworth's graduation.

Past access to this was provided through a mandatory dual-enrollment fee that every Whitworth nursing student paid. This gave them access to the gym, sporting events, the library, on or

off campus housing, and more

If students choose to pursue the Certificate of Vocational Development in Nursing and pay the one-credit fee, they will have access to the U-rec, library, computer labs, Whitworth sponsored events, participation in ASWU activities and clubs, participation in commencement activities, eligibility to live in Whitworth housing, eligibility to be employed on campus and eligibility to take up to one additional 3-credit course at Whitworth with no additional charge.

However, third- and fourth-year nursing students will not be able to participate in intercollegiate athletics. Whitworth University has not yet determined if involvement in student government and eligibility to vote in elections will be accessible to these students.

Third-year Anna Lorenz, a nursing major, said, "It's going to be a greater fee, but we could still have access to all of the student life parts of Whitworth, if we want."

Lorenz said she puts most of the blame on the accreditors for this change. "I'm not frustrated with our nursing advisors or anything, it's really out of their hands," she said. Lorenz said she appreciated that once Ediger discovered the change was occurring, he met with current nursing students over Zoom to make sure their voices were heard regarding what they wanted to

have happen during this change.

Despite the creation of the Certificate of Vocational Development in Nursing, which will help nursing students retain many of the Whitworth benefits they may have lost, they will still not be able to take classes at Whitworth and have them reflected in their WSU diplomas. This means they will no longer be able to get minors at Whitworth.

Before the change in programs, Lorenz was working towards a theology minor. Now everything she's done for that will no longer be reflected on her diploma when she graduates from WSU.

These changes are in effect immediately, meaning that third-year students are losing any uncompleted minors, despite having already put in a lot of work towards them.

"I think the seniors this year who are in their last semesters won't be affected at all [by this

"If students do not choose to be dual enrolled, the changes will have more impact beyond just degrees received."

change], but for us juniors, that kind of sucks because [we've] been working towards things, [and we] don't get it," Lorenz said.

For students like Anneka Siems, a junior nursing student who can pay the optional fee, this change isn't a huge problem. However, Siems said that may not be financially accessible for everyone. She said it could be especially problematic for students who are relying on on-campus jobs but are now having to choose

between paying the fee to keep the on-campus job or quitting the job.

The separation between programs won't change Seims or other nursing student's long-term futures. Students can still get their degrees and practice nursing. "It won't necessarily change our futures in like a broad, intense way," Seims said. "It's more subtle changes... how much we have to pay and what the piece of paper says."

School of Health Sciences comes to Whitworth

Whitworth University is constantly growing and changing in many ways – including the programs of education that exist within the university. The most recent addition is the School of Health Sciences which was added this year.

This new program will join the School of Business, the School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. Ediger said these programs "are generally created around a topic or discipline."

Ediger said the formation of this new program also brings an adjustment to curriculum, which is currently in the works. "We're looking at our existing programs and asking 'Is this working? Is this reflecting the needs of our students and the needs of our community?'"

Over the next year, the School of Health Sciences plans to make changes to the community health major and the undergraduate health sciences degree. These changes will involve "refining classes, changing classes

[and] adding a couple classes."

"We're always evaluating 'is what we're doing the best to serve our students and their needs and the needs of the community?'" Ediger said.

This new program has been in the works since 2018 and was finalized 2023. The addition was publicized on Whitworth's website on March 2nd.

"[Creating this School] was a decision to invest in these programs, knowing that it was a very long on-ramp and that we would incur additional costs

until the new programs could pay for themselves," Ediger said.

Ediger is financially hopeful for the School of Health Sciences, hoping the programs will not only pay for themselves, but potentially also create additional revenue that can be reinvested in the institution.

"There is no question, we intend for these programs to make significant revenue - over a million dollars a year," he said.

This program will have more than financial benefits, according to Ediger. It will also benefit students within the school and can serve to recruit students to Whitworth.

"It's good for us. It's good for the community. It'll be great for our students. That's pretty exciting!"

"It's good for us. It's good for the community. It'll be great for our students."

How Whitworth Health and Counseling Services are Adapting to Serve Students

Britney Botez | Staff Writer

The Whitworth Health and Counseling Services, located in Schumacher Hall, provides invaluable resources to on-campus and off-campus students. This allows students to rely on Whitworth for immediate physical and mental health needs without the hassle of having to commute to clinics outside of campus.

Through Whitworth's Health and Counseling Services, students can access treatment focused on physical health including immunizations, infectious disease treatment for conditions such as COVID-19, influenza and Monkey Pox, as well as STI testing and treatment.

While Health and Counseling Services offers mental health screenings for conditions such as anxiety and depression, students with long-term mental health needs are often referred to the Counseling Center. Counseling Services provide students with up to 10 free individual therapy sessions with a counselor per academic year; as well as, group counseling, referrals to off-campus resources for substance abuse treatment and "let's talk," a drop-in virtual therapy session which students can access daily during pre-determined time slots.

Although Whitworth's Health and Counseling Services are available to all Whitworth students, there are some concerns over the

accessibility of these services. Both centers have a limited number of practitioners and not all students are aware of all services available to them or how to access them.

Whitworth's Health and Counseling Services are trying to spread awareness to Whitworth students about all the services they provide. Senior Whitworth Student Samuel Rontale said, "Health Services also works with H.E.A.T. which puts on a number of great events every year that I've been to... and can help students understand more about healthcare."

H.E.A.T. is the Health Education Activism Team, which is run by student leaders trained through Health Services in order to educate and inform students on physical, mental and sexual health, as well as substance abuse. This health advocacy group is a way for Health and Counseling Services to reach students who may not physically visit the Health Center in Schumacher Hall, but can still benefit from essential health and wellness information.

Aside from the healthcare and wellness advocacy provided to students through H.E.A.T, Health Services are still finding innovative ways to serve as many students with varying health needs as possible. Director of Health Services, Dr. Kristiana Holmes said, "This year we have added the treatment of ADD/ADHD to

our service line. This is an important step and has been successful."

The Health Center serves as a resource for dispensing over the counter and pharmaceutical drugs to students in need. This means that they are affected by any shortages in essential medicine, such as insulin. This also affects psychiatric drugs used for treatment of depression, anxiety and learning disorders, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and attention deficit disorder (ADD).

Health Services are constantly adapting to make essential treatment and medications, such as prescriptions for ADD/ADHD,

available to students. Holmes said, "Students do have access to ADD/ADHD treatment, including prescription medication, through Health Services [HS]. HS has a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner on staff who is able to work with students currently diagnosed with ADD/ADHD." This allows the nurses from Health Services to prescribe medications for those who suffer from ADD and ADHD.

"We have been so thankful for the addition this year," Holmes said. The Health Center also offers COVID-19 testing and care for those who test positive. Sophomore Whitworth student Johanna



Schumacher Hall, Thursday, March 23, 2023, in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

Caudron said, “They helped me out a lot when I had COVID-19, when there were no testing centers or COVID-19 tests anywhere in stores, and they would call and check on me.”

Whitworth’s Health and Counseling Services keep growing to be able to provide

and support the Whitworth community. Rontale said, “I’ve gone to Health Services for many things, flu shots and all that, but I also needed TB testing... and they were also able to provide me with that.”

Director of the Counseling Center, Molly DeWalt explained some of the recent innovations which have made counseling accessible to more students, “There’s five groups this year and four of them have flown so that’s a miracle.” The Counseling Center has created an immigration learning circle, health relationships group, a grief group and an LGBTQIA+ affinity group to provide more resources for students.

DeWalt also commented on how virtual counseling has been utilized to serve more students, “Let’s Talk’ was a big deal that we started before the pandemic, [it] has become really helpful because it gives students access to a Whitworth Counselor... even when we do have our wait-list, which typically happens in October and again in March,

“They helped me out a lot when I had COVID-19, when there were no testing centers or COVID-19 tests anywhere in stores, and they would call and check on me.”

but we don’t have one currently.”

Rontale said, “I have utilized counseling multiple times throughout my time here at Whitworth, and they’ve always been very friendly and helpful and were quick to answer the phone and respond back to me when I needed to schedule appointments.”

Sophomore Whitworth student Chris Byrd also shared his experience at the Counseling Center, “My experience has been pretty good ... it only took me a week to get going with my counseling sessions there.”

Landon Crecelius, director of Student Success also spoke to the importance of providing these services on campus for students. “We are trying to understand them academically and also trying to get a holistic view to understand a student and what they’re going through, whether that’s with their health, or academics, or their family life or past challenges.”

Health and Counseling Services offered at Whitworth provide students with a wide range of essential physical and mental health resources which can immediately assist students with required immunizations or testing, physical illnesses and injuries and offer ongoing counseling services throughout every academic year, both in an individual or group setting.

As regional and global communities deal with major healthcare concerns, such as pandemics and medicine and healthcare staffing shortages, Whitworth Health and Counseling Services are continuing to advocate for students’ access to these essential resources here on campus.

process and provide information.”

She explained that Gonzaga hired her as a campus advocate in direct response to student protests regarding the university’s Title IX policies.

In the future, a partnership like Gonzaga and LCSNW’s could be possible for Whitworth. “I’ve known about the organization for some time,” Rhodes said. “One of their members attended a Whitworth Title IX meeting and I thought having an office on campus would be helpful to our students.”

Help is available for students who have experienced sexual assault and need support and information about their options:

Whitworth’s potential LCSNW representative, Hannah Langbehn, volunteered to share her information with Whitworth students. If you would like to share your experiences with Title IX, email hlangbehn@lcsnw.org.

Along with LCSNW, the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) offers free services for survivors, such as safety planning, trauma-processing therapy and legal support. To learn more about the YWCA’s supportive measures, visit their website. Their 24-hour helpline is 509-236-2255.

To learn more about LCSNW’s supportive measures, visit their website. Their 24-hour sexual assault support line is 509-624-7273.



continued from page 11

THE RESPONSE

Only time will tell how much the revised Title IX rules will aid survivors in achieving justice. However, Poffenroth says changes at an institutional level are possible.

For the past three years, Poffenroth has served as Gonzaga University’s Campus Advocate. She is funded by the university to work with complainants. She has a personal cellphone dedicated to Title IX complaints that Gonzaga students can call at any time. She also has an office on campus, making her accessible to students.

“I will support someone,” she said. “I will teach them about the



On Monday, April 10, 2023, Whitworth students gather to make posters asking that the Board of Trustees change Whitworth's hiring policy at the Spokane Print and Publishing Center in Spokane, Wash. | Photo provided with permission by Emma Moore/The Whitworthian

Nearest to
Whitworth

8701 N Division and 11921 N Division
(indoor seating)



Dutch Bros Spokane

Text DBSPOKANE to 27047 For
Exclusive Deals & Promos!

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.