

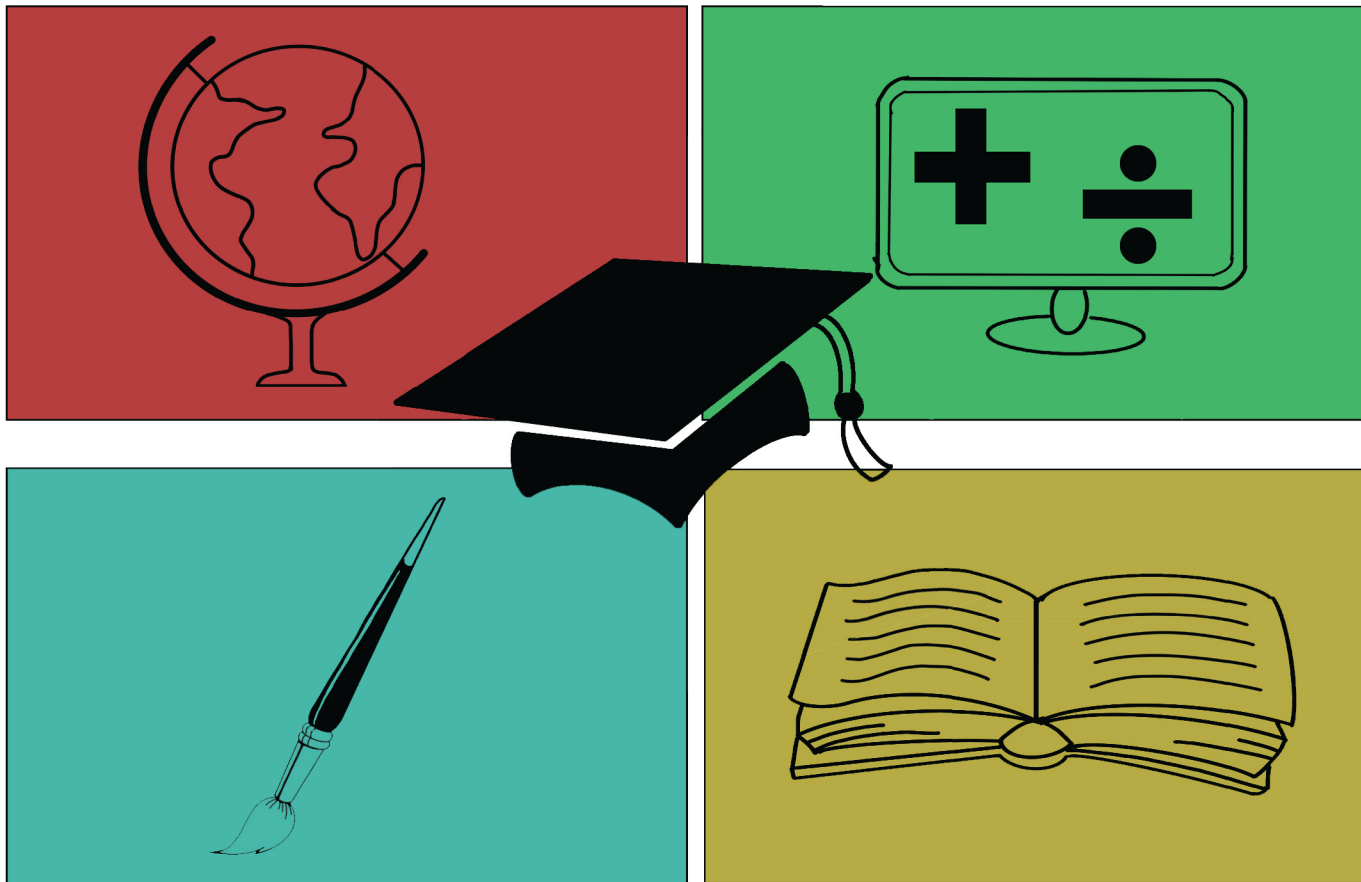
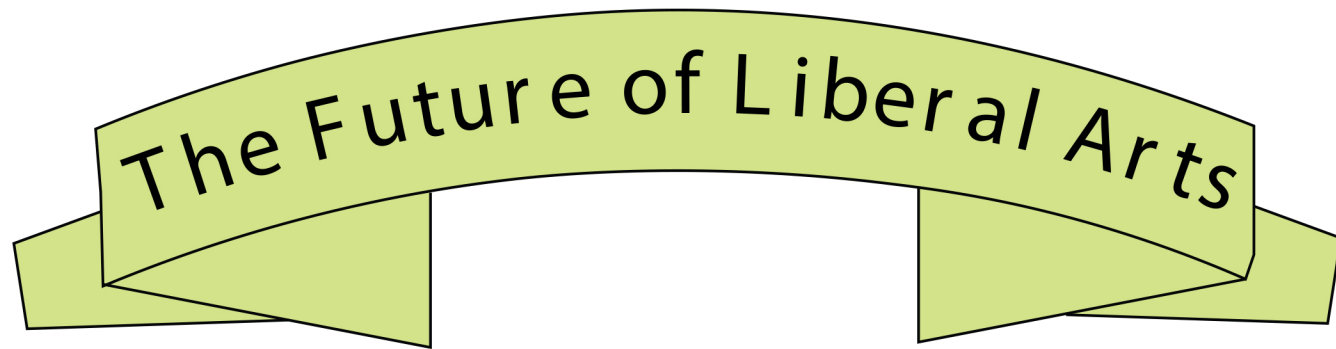
The Whitworthian

THE VOICE OF WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SINCE 1905

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The Whitworthian

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

OUR MISSION

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

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Limit to 250 words.

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Editors' Note

It is time for a change.

We have done a lot of reflecting in light of our current political climate and the ongoing tragedy of racial violence in this country – particularly directed toward the Black community.

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.

Looking into the Future of the Liberal Arts

Whitworth feels as if it is in the middle of a period of transition. With the pandemic largely behind us, alongside all higher education, we face a future of a demographic cliff and budgetary uncertainty. Whitworth, like all small liberal arts institutions, must ask itself how it will balance its mission with its response to new realities.

Over the past few years, Whitworth has seen incoming classes that are smaller than ever. While the incoming class of 2023-2024 is the largest one since 2020 (thanks, first-years!), first-year enrollment is still not back to its pre-pandemic levels. Also, the 2022 class graduated as one of the largest classes, leaving even fewer students currently attending Whitworth.

For a tuition-dependent

institution, having too few students is never a good thing. Already, Whitworth is seeing the impacts of small student classes stretching across all aspects of the University. Departments are trimming their excess, looking at which classes must stay and which classes we must regretfully say goodbye to. The University is cutting down on extra costs, trying to make sure every penny spent is a necessity. Recruitment efforts are ramping up as Whitworth tries to not only deal with the present, but also look toward a sustainable future.

However, it does not appear that all departments have been equally affected. While some departments are experiencing higher workloads, empty positions begging to be

filled, and a lack of student interest, other departments are thriving and ready to grow.

We examined the four main categories within the College of Arts and Sciences: fine arts, social sciences, humanities and STEM. The aim was to explore what trends exist within these categories, to get a better understanding of Whitworth's liberal arts landscape. These articles are meant to be both stand-alone, examining the disciplines on their own, independent of outside comparison, and read as part of a series. It is easy to get stuck in your own field, looking at the struggles your departments may be facing and wondering when things will improve. However, when you zoom out and look at the bigger picture, you will notice that

trends do not exist on their own. These pressures, struggles and hardships are a shared experience.

It is unknown how long these trends will be pertinent. Hopefully, the pressures that some disciplines are facing will disappear with time. The end of the COVID-19 pandemic is a signal of our ability to go back to the "good old days."

But then again, perhaps not. The value of a liberal arts education seems to be declining across America, according to the Wall Street Journal in March this year. They point out that there seems to be an increasing number of job opportunities that require degrees that are not in the liberal arts/ humanities fields. And while some may argue that the skills gained from a liberal arts education can be applicable to all future jobs, it remains to be seen if the professional world agrees.

So, what is the future of liberal arts? Right now, it is uncertain. Perhaps the world will right itself and liberal arts colleges can continue on their merry little way. Or perhaps liberal arts institutions will need to do some soul searching and self-reinventing to stay viable in the current higher education market.

Only time will tell. *This is the consensus of the editorial board.*

Lindaman Hall, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022,
in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The
Whitworthian



The Future of the Liberal Arts

John Pell | Guest Columnist, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for Whitworth University

In our current moment of increased political polarization and collective anxiety around artificial intelligence (AI), there is growing doubt that a college education, especially a liberal arts education, can deliver on its promise to serve the public good. What is the future of liberal arts in a moment like this?

Ironically, AI may be just the thing the liberal arts need to remind our culture of its significance to human flourishing and the public good. In a recent tongue-in-cheek post on X (formerly known as Twitter) a Stanford Ph.D. student wrote, “The hottest new programming language is English.” The student’s comments highlight how AI is changing our understanding of “technical skills.” We are moving into a future where AI will help develop applications, images and the like with colloquial inputs from designers rather than specialized coding languages that have been essential to the technological world for the past 30 years.

During that same period, there has been a steady decline in the number of college students majoring in traditional liberal arts fields—history, English, theology, art, theatre, philosophy and music. This decline stems, at least in part, from the concern that employment prospects for graduates with liberal arts degrees are bleak. We all know the joke, “If you get a liberal arts degree, someday you just might be barista of the month.”

The idea that students who

graduate with degrees in the humanities and arts have fewer job prospects has never proven true. A recent study from Forbes highlighted that 11% of all management positions are filled by those with degrees in the humanities and arts.

The decline in students studying the humanities is more likely a function of cultural narratives suggesting that gainful employment demands the technical skills associated with studying in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. Yet, recent advances in AI, specifically the ability to program without proficiency in specialized

“The liberal arts ask us to consider the world from multiple perspectives, to develop awe and wonder about the natural world, and to explore art so that we encounter those with whom we differ.”

programming languages, provide opportunities to reassess the value of liberal arts and the skills developed through study in those fields.

Questions central to the study of liberal arts include things such as, what is beauty? What do we mean when we speak of history repeating itself? What role do humans play in the stewardship of creation? Can I know God? Yet the answers to these types of questions are quite difficult for

machines to answer well because the most significant answers — the answers capable of transforming a person — account for the nuances, contradictions and complexities of the human condition. As they are, algorithms struggle with such uncertainty. What we experience as curiosity, AI renders unclear. To quote my Alexa, “Sorry, I don’t have an answer for that.”

This is not, however, a Luddite’s love poem. Liberal arts do not stand in opposition to technological advancement and human flourishing; rather, the study of literature, theology, philosophy, history and art helps us develop

empathy and temper our hubris, allowing the work of innovation and discovery to serve justice and the public good rather than being held hostage by market forces. Technological

advances are the outcome of human curiosity. The very idea that one could put words on a stable medium—pen to paper—is a feat of scientific ingenuity. The act of rendering emotion through melody and harmony or sharing stories that communicate shared values and beliefs are essential technologies of every human culture.

At their core, the liberal arts are about character formation. The liberal arts ask us to consider the

world from multiple perspectives, to develop awe and wonder about the natural world, and to explore art so that we encounter those with whom we differ. When we consider the world and others from multiple perspectives, we are changed. When we are confronted with challenges, differences, pain and even sorrow, we can employ methods and tools from a range of disciplines to make sense of those experiences. Moreover, we can offer comfort and wisdom to those around us in similar situations. The habits of mind fostered through the liberal arts increase our resilience and allow us to find beauty and meaning in pain, muster courage when all seems lost and hear God in the stillness. Studying in the liberal arts provides us with opportunities to develop these essential “tools for living.”

We know that most Whitworth students find themselves pulled toward STEM fields and professional programs; however, given Whitworth’s mission to ground our curriculum in the Christian liberal arts, every student explores disciplines beyond their major. Whether a student takes French literature or a Spanish language course or writes their very first poem in a creative writing class, our Shared Curriculum allows every student to fill their “intellectual toolkit” with the skills that define liberal arts study: clear and elegant communication, critical thinking, information literacy, art appreciation and the ability to empathize



Whitworth University sign, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Spokane, Wash. | Caleb Flegel/The Whitworthian

with diverse others. These are not simply quaint addendums to more practical courses of study; rather, these habits of the mind shape the framework through which we understand every degree program.

In a place like Whitworth, you do not study engineering and check off your liberal arts general education requirements.

In this place amongst the pines, you study engineering in the context of liberal arts.

“11% of all management positions are filled by those with degrees in the humanities and arts.”

Every program, from health science to biochemistry, environmental studies to communications, holds to our commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education that supports

their development as thinkers and citizens. We do not remain committed to this mission because “it is good for you.” There are lots of things that are good for us. Rather, we

believe an education grounded in the Christian liberal arts is how Whitworth best prepares graduates to serve and lead their communities. We believe the Christian liberal arts create spaces where students can pursue degrees in environmental science that take Christian commitments to creation care seriously, or students find themselves in a computer science course that considers how modern technologies can serve the oppressed and marginalized.

We do not hold fast to our Christian liberal arts mission

because it is a nice addition to a more “practical” field of study, although it is. We hold fast to this mission because we believe the skills developed through a liberal arts curriculum animate all fields, all professions and all careers. So, what is the future of liberal arts?

The future is here and now, in every course and every major. Just head into your next class with curiosity, and if you have an 8:00 a.m., a cup of coffee.

Humanities Departments Balance Hope and Loss in the Face of Changes

Caleb McGever | Associate Editor

Whitworth University's humanities departments, which consist of English, history, languages, philosophy and theology, are experiencing staffing losses and curriculum changes due to budget cuts. They intend to address these challenges by focusing on their strengths and integrating more cross-disciplinary learning in classes.

ENGLISH

After losing four professors in the past four years, the English department hired Dr. Peter Moe in the fall of 2023 as associate professor of English and full-time director of the writing program.

"We did lose some really cool people and our hearts are with the students in missing those people ... we've tightened our ranks; [we're] much smaller than we used to be," said Dr. Jessica Clements, associate professor of English.

A new shared curriculum, which is in the works at Whitworth, could change the way writing skills are integrated across the curriculum, according to Clements.

Final decisions regarding the shared curriculum have not been announced as of this article's writing.

PHILOSOPHY

Nancy Casady, program coordinator for communication studies, forensics and philosophy, said the philosophy department is working on managing a full courseload with very few professors left to teach.

After losing Joshue Orozco when he became Whitworth's Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the philosophy department decided not to rehire someone in his place for now. This has left the department with

two full-time faculty professors, one of which, Dr/ Nate King, is currently on sabbatical. Rebecca Korf was hired as an adjunct for the time being.

The department is working to

"[hone] in on the courses that are really at the heart of each program," said Casady, since the loss of faculty may result in fewer courses being offered.

HISTORY

The history department is currently staffed by Dr. Corliss Slack, Dr. Elise Leal, Dr. Aaron Griffith and Dr. Anthony Clark.

Slack, chair of the history department and professor of history, highlighted the new history lounge for students. "Comfy places to rest, chat or read, along with tables for schoolwork are available." The lounge was funded "thanks to generous donors" and is now available for student use.

"We did lose some really cool people and our hearts are with the students in missing those people ... we've tightened our ranks; [we're] much smaller than we used to be."

THEOLOGY

Starting this academic year, the theology department is now only requiring 33 credits to major in theology as opposed to the previous 45 credits. Courses like Christian Spirituality and Biblical

Interpretation are no longer required for the major and are now being offered on a rotating basis instead of yearly. Additionally, the History of Christianity course that used to be offered in two parts will now be offered as one condensed class.

Dr. Haley Jacob, head of the theology department, said the

purpose of the curriculum change was to "create a flexible major." She said the new major requirements are intended to make it work well as a double major.

LANGUAGES

Whitworth's language department is facing possible large staffing changes, including the loss of most of the part-time faculty.

Dr. Katherine Karr-Cornejo, Spanish professor and chair of the languages department, said the staffing change announcements have felt "disconcerting." In August, it was communicated that the lecturers and adjunct faculty contracts would be extended through the full 2023-24 academic year.

Once the cuts go into effect, there will only be seven full-time faculty members remaining in the language department.

"We will go from a department that has been able to offer regularly Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese and [occasionally] Swahili ... In the future, [the] only [courses] that we are sure of [being able to offer are] Spanish and French," said Karr-Cornejo.

Some of their remaining programs will undergo changes as well. This academic year, the French major is changing to a French and Francophone studies major. The program will now only offer first year French language classes and will now focus instead on French and Francophone culture, with most of its classes taught in English.

The changes are "scary," said

"In the future, [the] only [courses] that we are sure of [being able to offer are] Spanish and French."

Karr-Cornejo. "But I have faith that we will find a path forward that balances the pragmatic financial needs with the full flourishing of faculty, staff and students."

STEM May be Growing too Fast for Faculty to Keep Pace

Grace Uppendahl | Associate Editor

Whitworth University's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) departments are not facing the same staffing challenges that some other departments are. Rather, they are predicting a growth in student interest in STEM in the next ten years.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, by 2013, the number of students majoring in STEM majors is predicted to increase by 11%. To prepare for this, STEM has begun developing new opportunities for future students. However, their progress is stunted by concerns about having enough faculty and staff to address future growth.

Dr. Aaron Putzke, chair of the biology department, said Whitworth currently has enough STEM professors to meet the student demand. However, he predicts that in a few years, student interest will grow too large, and more faculty will be needed.

"We have a full [biology] department, but we're kind of bursting at the seams. We're not that far from need[ing] some more help," said Putzke.

Dr. Kamesh Sankaran, chair of the engineering and physics department, said one of the ways the department is preparing for the future is through plans to build a new engineering building. Sankaran is waiting for the rest of the funding but hopes they will break ground this academic year.

The STEM departments are also thinking of offering more tracks to help cater to student interest. Putzke is working with Dr. Alisha Epps in psychology, planning to propose a neuroscience major.

If approved, Putzke wants to do more with it than just neuroscience. This track would also include classes from the human-

courses are already being taught.

The management of how the STEM program is run is also changing. Post-COVID learning has different challenges than pre-COVID learning, and some professors have adopted new teaching styles as a result.

"We learned we [the STEM departments] can't just go back

students to learn asynchronously. This also allows students to bring questions about the content into class. These videos were offered since the pandemic and are anticipated to be shown in the coming years.

The culture of STEM departments has also seen some recent changes. Sankaran said that "economic anxiety" has been running through the STEM departments. This means that students often feel a heavy need to get a return on their schooling investment and see immediate high-paying salaries when they graduate from their undergraduate program. Sankaran said this sometimes results in a lack of student interest in what they are learning.

"We got a lot of students who don't really care about the subject. They're in it because they were told that you can make good money going into it," said Sankaran.

While other departments on campus are struggling to deal with heavier workloads and a lack of sufficient faculty, the STEM departments are starting to look past this academic year and into the coming decade.

Putzke said, "The more that we can kind of think five and 10 years down the road instead of just next year, the better we're going to be prepared."



Rendering of proposed Whitworth engineering building, courtesy of Whitworth University.

ities department. He said this would give students who are going into neuroscience a much better balance of needed information. "Because we're Whitworth, we like things a little broader," he said.

The classes that will make up this major are already offered; it has just never been packaged this way before. Although this would be a new major, Putzke said they do not anticipate needing to bring in new faculty since the

to who we were before the pandemic. We need to continue to lean into students [who] are learning [in] different ways," said Putzke.

The biology department has already offered some online content for students who struggle learning in class. This allows

"We're kind of bursting at the seams. We're not that far from need[ing] some more help."

Putzke.

Social Science Faculty Experience Heavy Workloads Due to Budget Cuts

Grace Uppendahl | Associate Editor



Lindaman Center at Whitworth University in Spokane Wash., Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. | Abraham Santiago/
The Whitworthian

The social science departments, encompassing psychology, sociology, communication and political science, have all been facing heavier workloads in light of Whitworth University's recent budget cuts. While some of the departments have been able to offset these workloads by hiring adjuncts, other departments are not as lucky.

COMMUNICATION

Dr. Kevin Grieves, chair of the communication department, said that the department is "down from where we should be" in terms of faculty.

Communication professors Jim McPherson and Dr. Ron Pyle retired from teaching in 2017 and 2021, respectively. This left two full-time professor positions open in the communication department, and those spots have still not been filled. "Because of the financial situation

of the university, we've not been approved to do a search to replace those positions," said Grieves.

The loss of two full-time professors has placed heavier workloads on the remaining professors. This is heightened by the shared curriculum oral and written communication requirements. Many of the classes that contain both oral and written communication requirements are taught by the communication department. This makes it more likely for a non-major student to take a communication class, increasing the number of students that communication professors regularly have to teach. Student interest in communication tracks has also been

"Because of the financial situation of the university, we've not been approved to do a search to replace these positions."

the field itself is growing.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

The political science department is also experiencing staffing issues, although they have been able to offset some of the workload through the hiring of adjuncts.

After political science professor Patrick Van Inwegen passed away

in 2019 and international relations professor Dr. Bi Zhao left in Spring of 2023, their positions have not been filled.

Political science professor and chair of the political science department Dr. Megan Hershey said that there is a current search for a new international relations

fluctuating in the past years. Many new students are focusing on the strategic communication track, while the speech track is seeing "less interest," said Grieves.

Grieves said the increased interest in strategic communication may be directly correlated to the fact that

scholar, and the position will hopefully be filled by spring.

To share the workload over the fall semester, the political science department is bringing in adjuncts to teach courses. "We have a great slate of people who we bring in on occasion," said Hershey.

PSYCHOLOGY

Due to budget cuts, psychology professor Amy Morrison said the psychology department has recently lost a few adjuncts. However, they were able to get a new lecturer, Joelle Czirr, who "moved up from being an instructor," said Morrison.

Despite loss in faculty, "the department continues to offer the main courses needed for the major," said Morrison.

The psychology department currently has 161 majors and 66 minors, and "the interest in psychology is growing every year," said Morrison.

This growing interest in psychology may be reflective of the growth in the job market. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Overall employment of psychologists is projected to grow six percent from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations."

**The Whitworthian regrets it was unable to connect with the sociology department in time for this article.*

Whitworth's Fine Arts Departments Face Changes

Caleb McGever | Associate Editor

Whitworth's fine arts departments, consisting of music, theater and art, each face unique challenges and excitements for the upcoming year. Themes running throughout each fine art department are a focus on integrating their artists into the community during the 2023–24 academic year and balancing recent staffing changes.

MUSIC

Since the 2021–22 academic year, the music department has gained four new faculty members.

The department gained Dr. Xiaosha Lin as director of choral activities, Jared Hall as the director of the jazz program and Dr. Joshua Chism as the associate director of choral activities. At the beginning of this academic year, Priscila Navarro was added as the new keyboard studies department share leader.

Melissa Halverson, program

coordinator for the music department, was excited for the new staff. "I think that new ideas [are] helping to change the way we interact with the community."

The hires of the past few years have brought a "new infusion of energy," she said.

Halverson said that the new energy might help the department gain some new technology, including programs that help with recording, producing music and songwriting.

This year, the music department started a Community Choral in their effort to connect with the Spokane community.

This is bringing together over 120 Whitworth students, staff and members of the Spokane community. The program was started to connect the Whitworth

music program with community members, according to Halverson.

THEATER

The Theater department has introduced Chris Hansen as a new lecturer this academic year. He is currently their only lecturer, and the department is searching for a new assistant or associate professor.

The department has planned

"We have found, in creative ways, how to insert that curriculum into already required courses. It'll just look a little different."

two mainstage productions for the Cowles Auditorium, one of which is their production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, which will be performed at the Cowles Auditorium on October 13 – 15 and 20 – 22.

"Our curriculum has changed a lot", said Dr. Erika Salkin*, interim chair of the Department of Theater and Dance. Instead of offering several specialized tracks, the department now only offers one general track.

Salkin said that the reason was to give students more "flexibility in their course selection" while still providing them with a strong academic foundation.

ART

The Art and Design department is facing proposed changes to their curriculum, although official changes are not set in stone, according to Katie Creyts, current chair of the art department and professor of art.

"We're going to have to cut

down our curriculum [due to budget cuts]," said Creyts.

There could be a few courses that the department might cease to offer. For example, the department might remove their 2-D Design class. Skills previously taught in that course would be integrated into other existing courses such as Drawing 1, Adobe Suite and Painting, so that students will not miss skills even though the curriculum may change.

Creyts said that none of the material taken out will be lost. "We have found, in creative ways, how to insert that curriculum into already required courses. It'll just look a little different."

Creyts cited budget cuts as a reason for the shrinkage but ensured that her department would be able to maintain quality education. "We understand that what is happening with the budget cuts are in an effort to save faculty, not to diminish the education that we're providing," she said.

**Dr. Erica Salkin is the faculty adviser for the Whitworthian, but was interviewed for this story because of her relevant role in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Dr. Salkin does not review stories prior to publication or posting.*



Dr. Lin explains singing concepts during the Choir Retreat in the Beeksmas Family Theology Center at Whitworth University, Saturday, Sep.30, 2023, in Spokane, Wash. | Madison Stoeckler/The Whitworthian

Student-Athletes Balance Athletic Life with Academic Life

Mariia Yazepova | Associate Editor



The Whitworth volleyball team forms a huddle, Friday, Sep. 15, 2023, at a Whitworth University volleyball game against Willamette University in Spokane, Wash. | Ben Gallaway/The Whitworthian

“You, as a coach, take 20 hours of athlete’s time. For them, it’s like having a part-time job,” said Rod Sandberg, head Whitworth football coach.

In Division III schools, about one in four students on campus are also student-athletes, according to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). These students juggle both a full-time courseload while being part-time athletes and “active members on campus,” according to the NCAA.

“Our student-athletes really have to manage their time well

in order to balance being a student and being an athlete,” said Damion Jablonski, head coach of Whitworth’s men’s basketball team.

Most of Whitworth’s student-athletes are majoring in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), humanities or business. “We have had a handful of [social sciences majors] over the years...but I can’t really think of a trend. Sprinkled on for sure but definitely not a ton of them. We had one graphic designer in the last decade, but

otherwise I can’t think of any other student-athletes on our team that would be classified as fine arts majors,” said Jablonski.

Between the students who major in STEM, business or humanities and also participate in college athletics, there are slight differences between how they experience balancing the needs of their major with the needs of their sport.

ATHLETES IN STEM

Martha Gady, a faculty athletics representative, said being a STEM major while in season may affect student-athletes differently based

on the sport they play.

The number of games a sport has can have a significant impact on a student missing class, said Gady. “[Football] doesn’t miss that much compared to basketball or baseball or softball,” says Sandberg. “We only play 10 games, while those sports play 40.”

Sports with more games played often means the students miss more class days, which can make it more difficult to stay on top of class material.

The day of the week that games are played can also impact class

schedules. Gady said that volleyball and basketball often play games on Friday night, meaning that when the team travels, they would have to leave on Thursday afternoons. For student-athletes in STEM, this means they may have to miss a lab during game day weekends. This “becomes a challenge,” said Gady.

While classes and scheduled games may conflict for STEM students, Jablonski said that classes and athletic practice are often compatible.

“Most of our varsity athletic squads will be able to practice in the 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. time frame,” Jablonski said. “Other than a few labs, we haven’t had a ton of conflict [with] the practice schedule.”

HUMANITIES-ORIENTED

Student-athletes who major in humanities do not seem to have any unique barriers to balancing their majors with their sports schedules. Gady said that it is much more important for a student-athlete to care about and be good at the subject they are majoring in, rather than trying to pick a specific major while being a student-athlete.

“If you had a math major that doesn’t like to write and is a swimmer, they may not do as well in humanities because their strength is in math,” Gady said. “But if you had someone who was really into literature and who was also a swimmer, they may end up doing

better in humanities. I think it just depends on the person.”

Jablonski said while majoring in humanities might not impact student-athletes’ ability to balance their identities, there may be some differences in terms of life plans. “If I was to make generalizations, the only difference comes down to the non-STEM taking more time to sort out what it is that they want to do with their degree and what is their academic plan,” he said.

BUSINESS-MINDED

“I would say, in my 13th year here, business has been by far the most popular major among our athletes,” says Jablonski. “We’ve had a good mix overall, but it has probably been a little bit heavier on the business side.”

Gady said that there are more male basketball players majoring in business than any other major.

Gady said she is not sure whether more student-athletes tend to choose business majors because a larger population of the general student body tends to major in business – the bigger the department, the more students you see pursuing that specific path – or if there is some other reason for business majors and student-athleticism being correlated.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Whether a student is successful or not is independent of their sport or their major, said Sandberg. The main factor that leads to success is time management.

“Are you managing the time

that you have well? What are you making a priority?” he said. “Those that don’t do well simply don’t care. If you’re going to school and you care, and you try, you’re going to be successful - professors will meet you halfway.”

“I have 120 guys on the [football] team, and they have a variety of majors. I have engineering, business, health sciences, psychology, communications, you name it - we have them all,” said Sandberg. “I think academic [performance] doesn’t have anything to do with the major. Are you motivated? Are you going to try? That is what matters.”

Student-athletes seem to be balancing these demands well. According to Gady, “Overall, the GPA for athletes is higher than the GPA for all other students [at Whitworth]. Our athletes often get the scholar athlete awards for the Northwest conference or even nationally.”

While student-athletes often have success managing their sport and academics on-season, sometimes it gets more difficult to keep up academics during the off-season, Gady said. This is because the athletes struggle without their solid in-season routine. She said there is “interesting research that shows that athletes do better academically when they are in-season because they must stay on track with their work. And when they’re not in season, they are not quite as regimented as they would be otherwise.”

Upcoming Sports Games

October 14; Swim vs Alumni Meet, Spokane, Wash. 11 a.m.

October 14; Women Soccer vs Pacific Lutheran, Spokane, Wash. 12 p.m.

October 14; Football vs Puget Sound, Spokane, Wash. 1 p.m.

October 14; Men Soccer vs Pacific Lutheran, Spokane, Wash. 2:30 p.m.

October 15; Women Soccer vs Puget Sound, Spokane, Wash. 12 p.m.

October 15; Men Soccer vs Puget Sound, Spokane, Wash. 2:30 p.m.

October 20; Volleyball vs Pacific (Ore.), Spokane, Wash. 7 p.m.

October 21; FB vs Pacific (Ore.), Spokane, Wash. 1 p.m.

October 27; Swim vs Southwestern Oregon CC, Spokane, Wash. 6 pm.

October 28; Men’s Basketball vs Whitworth Alumni, Spokane, Wash. TBA

October 28; Swim vs Southwestern Oregon CC, Spokane, Wash. 10 a.m.

October 28; Cross Country Northwest Conference Championships, Spokane, Wash. Women, 10 a.m., Men, 11 a.m.

October Horoscopes

By Grace Uppendahl | Associate Editor

Disclaimer: These horoscopes are satirical works and are not written by a professional.

Aries (March 21 – April 19):

October will be a rough month. Make sure to take care of yourself and, even though it is tempting, do not take out your feelings on others (they are sensitive).

Taurus (April 20 – May 20):

This month will help you foster your knowledge and teach you how to use it productively. You will find serenity in the cold, and if that does not work, maybe try out the relaxation center.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20):

Your curiosity has been at a damaging low lately. Prepare more time to be curious and to take care of yourself. Your friends can only put up with your mood swings for so long.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22):

Do not let your emotions drag you down. Embrace them and let the sadness ride its course. However, do not do so when you are in class. It's awkward for everyone....

Leo (July 23 – August 22):

Recently, you have been lacking that dramatic flair you love so much. Let your dramatic and passionate side out for everyone to see and enjoy.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22):

You are tired and starting to get burnt out. Take a break and do something for yourself. The world will not stop if you miss one assignment to get some sleep.

Libra (September 23 – October 22):

The last month has been hard on you. You have been trying to mediate everyone's conflicts. Looking forward, remember to put yourself first.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21):

You are feeling on top of the world. Your thirst for knowledge is being fed at the right rate and you are ready for the emotional rollercoaster of your birthday.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21):

You are running on fumes, girl. You do you, but you do not want to burn yourself out right before the winter. Have your friends take you on an adventure, you need it for your soul.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19):

Yes, you may be tired and burnt out, but we know that you need that extra bit of pressure to perform to your highest ability. Make sure to tap into your emotional side this month.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18):

The shameless hope you have for the world is continuing to grow. In the coming months, remember that you are here for a reason and that you know what you need.

Pisces (February 29 – March 20):

It is time for you to step out into the world and make a mistake. Everything will be fine; taking a risk is good for the soul. If you cannot take the risk yourself, go find a Scorpio.



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print edition!

Send us an
anonymous tip!

