

Minding our money

The interoffice e-mail requests began arriving this fall:

Does anyone have a desk blotter that isn't being used?

I wonder if anyone has an extra stapler that they are willing to part with—nothing fancy required.


We wonder if someone out there might have a small coat rack that is not being used to donate to Park Hall.

Short and sweet, the messages were full of thought about taking personal responsibility for helping to support the college's overall efforts to contain costs during the country's economic turbulence.

It's clear that we're all concerned about the economy. Certainly, Wheaton can afford to buy desk blotters and staplers. And our coats are not lying around on the floor. The college's financial situation remains strong. But everyone is taking to heart President Ronald A. Crutcher's call to scrutinize all nonessential spending for cost-saving potential to maintain the college's financial health and to ensure our students' access to a Wheaton education. Every penny counts. Hence, the e-mail requests.

In this new economy, all of us have to adjust our thinking, as well as our wallets. We have to be more mindful and consider "needs" versus "wants" so that we can continue to focus on the bottom line and spend our money on what is most valuable in our lives, including being able to provide and support the best liberal arts education for our students.

In this *Quarterly's* cover story, Mary Howard '85 asks our alums in the financial industry to help us figure out what mindful steps we should be taking right now. We also profile Amy Whitcomb Slemmer '86, who works to ensure health coverage for all Massachusetts residents, and we take a look at the work of Professor of Chemistry Christopher Kalberg, who is employing green chemistry in molecule research in a way that ultimately could lead to less expensive methods for producing pharmaceuticals.

On a lighter note, Hannah Benoit brings us up close and personal with dancer Kurt Adametz '08 as he returns to campus to choreograph a piece for students, reminding us that we still have plenty of joy in our lives despite our concerns. 

▶ LETTERS

Story stirs fond memories

Thank you for the article about Bojan Jennings, professor emerita of chemistry. The closest I ever got to chemistry was working in the science library. (I was an English major.) It reminded me of Rex, the large and very smelly golden retriever who was, I think, Jennings's dog. He was a campus mascot who slept on the steps of the science building and monitored the rest of the campus. Dog lover that I am, I several times lured Rex into my room in Cragin so I could pretend he was "my dog." My roommate did not appreciate Rex's dirty paws and odor and so out he went. He was a wonderful dog and helped make happy Wheaton memories.

Sally Chrystal Durand '64

pointing, and she would say, sternly and very forcefully, "WHAT'S IN THAT?" It would behoove you to know the answer, quickly, and correct the problem immediately. Then, just when you felt she was cross with you, she would invite the class for tea in her office! What a wonderful lady!

Peggy Cary Smith '48

Noteworthy section and article

I want to compliment you on your class notes section, which is excellent. I particularly find the mentions of mini-reunions so refreshing. Also, I read with great interest the article on "Twisted Sisters" in the winter *Quarterly* and was moved just to see the picture of the sculpture. I can't justify a trip to see it, but if I were within a hundred miles, I would pay a visit. What power the photo had. I was sorry to hear that the life of the work is so short, but that made sense when I thought about it. In several cultures art is made and either cast aside soon or allowed to decay. That is a different tradition than I was taught but seems valid, as all art decays over the years, and even stone sculpture survives only in part with time.

Ronald Palosaari

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Magazine team wins awards

We are pleased to announce that the *Wheaton Quarterly* magazine has won two silver awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), sponsor of the CASE District I Communication Awards. The *Quarterly* won silver awards for Best Overall Magazine and Best Design. The awards recognize outstanding achievement in higher education, independent school and nonprofit communications. CASE is the professional organization for advancement professionals who work at all levels in alumni relations, communications and development. District I includes the northeastern United States and eastern Canada.



Many sides to Jennings, all good

I had a qualitative analysis class with Dr. Bojan Jennings. She was a real stickler for detail, and rightly so. Half of the class hours were spent in the laboratory, with Dr. J. overseeing our work and where the rule, never to be broken, was that no flask or container of any sort was to be on the bench without its label. Dr. J. would walk about taking stock, and if she found such an item, her arm would come down, forefinger



Correction: In the winter issue of the *Quarterly* we ran a photo of women's soccer player Jenna Rabesa '08 instead of the one we meant to run of Melida Alvarez '11. Here is Alvarez.