

# There's something in the air...

Lately, every time you turn around there's another student group doing good on campus and in the community. I know, I know; that's not so unusual, but this year it seems like there's something in the air, some force pulling people together outside the classroom to improve the lives of others. A handful of examples:

- The residents of **Emerson House** have been busy raising money for local and international organizations, especially those focused on assisting women and children; read more about their work on page 5.
- **JR Wallace '07** and the Ed Council raised almost \$1,300 to help people in hurricane-ravaged areas of Haiti, Jamaica and Grenada, promoting "awareness that brings the world to Wheaton."
- Wheaton's productions of **The Vagina Monologues** in February raised \$4,000 for New Hope, a regional domestic violence prevention program and a member of the Wheaton Partnership.
- **Wheaton Athletic Mentors (WAM)** hosted a dry weekend on campus—The Big Event—to educate students about alcohol and its abuse as well as raise funds for New Hope. Students not only stayed alcohol-free for the weekend, but they also attended performances, rode a mechanical bull, played air volleyball, and tried a little pedestal jousting. WAM was able to send \$2,000 to New Hope.


The spring semester is shaping up to be just as active. For starters, a group of students will travel to Sacramento, Calif., on spring break to build a house for Habitat for Humanity.



Students duke it out for fun and philanthropy at the Wheaton Athletic Mentors' "The Big Event" in February.

**Student activism, redux:** In the winter 2005 *Quarterly* magazine, I chose to include a photo and short caption of an event on campus: 1,000-plus wooden crosses planted in the Dimple by the Wheaton Nonviolent Coordinating Committee both to remember the soldiers who've died in Iraq and to call attention to the rising human toll of the war. The scale of the project and the tone of the message (and the messengers) were hard to ignore. To me, there was no question that *Quarterly* readers would want to know about this event.

Although response to the photo by Associate Director of Communications Hannah Benoit was overwhelmingly positive, two alumnae/i wrote me to voice their views. One, self-identified as a member of the military, called the photo "offensive." Another believed the photo and the "Between the Lines" column in that issue were evidence of liberal bias in the pages of the *Quarterly*. Their criticisms—legitimate, sincere and well reasoned—didn't bother me as much as their reluctance to publish the letters in the magazine.

I like to think that the *Quarterly* is a forum for a wide range of information—including opinion and criticism. But is it? Is it not an inviting place for criticism as well as praise? Or are we as a community less inclined to be critical of each other publicly? I hope not. I'll be the first to admit that praise is great, but it's the criticism that helps me understand different points of view. As Lily Gomez '79 says on page 47, "You learn most about yourself when you hit an obstacle." Your letters not only teach me, but they teach everyone who reads them. Keep 'em coming. 

## LETTERS

I have been reading alumni magazines for many decades now, and never have been excited by the content, layout and photography until I received the Winter 2005 issue!

Nicki Pardo's cover is an enticing and exciting photo—very well cropped. The design of Zephorene Stickney's story fits the text, and I was very interested to read about Wheaton graduates making an impact on society in the story about Barbara Richardson.

All in all it was a triumphant issue in every possible way. Congratulations!

—Judy Alper Smith '57

I just read the winter 2005 issue of the *Wheaton Quarterly*, and I am very impressed with the high quality of the articles. Congratulations!

As a music therapist with 25 years of experience working with people who suffer from autism, I was particularly interested in the article about Professor Grace Baron's teaching and investigation regarding autism. In 1998 I donated my book, *I Dreamed I Was Normal: A Music Therapist's Journey into the Realms of Autism*, to the Wheaton library, and I thought she might like to take a look at it.

—Virginia D. Clarkson '70

Let me offer kudos to editor Jayne M. Iafrate and her clever staff. The summer 2004 issue of the magazine stunned me with the cover photo of President Ronald Crutcher, who must be the handsomest college president on this planet!

The winter 2005 issue just now arrived, and it entices me with colorful photographs of more beautiful people and animals and landmarks. Thank you, Jayne et al., for those eye-catching pages and a jolly good read.

—Mary Pickering Hammer Heron '35

### Correction

In the winter 2005 *Quarterly* "Field Report" junior Jeff Selesnick was misidentified as a senior.

**Letters to the editor:** The *Quarterly* welcomes letters to the editor on topics you've read in these pages or on other topics concerning the Wheaton community. Please address your letters to:  
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