

# REUNION

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## FUND

February, 2021

### Class of 1996

#### Reunion Co-Chairs

Kain Evans  
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#### Reunion Committee Members

Claire Zantua Evans  
Meredith Nelson Hamm  
Becky Brokstein Kennedy  
Paea LePendu  
Dan Nguyen-Tan  
Mike Osterman  
Chris Piekarski

#### Reunion Information

##### [whitman.edu/reunions](http://whitman.edu/reunions)

- Schedule of events
- RSVP form
- Accommodation information

##### [give.whitman.edu](http://give.whitman.edu)

- Make a gift

##### Join our Facebook Group

- Whitman College  
Class of 1996



WHITMAN COLLEGE

Office of Annual Giving

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[whitman.edu/reunions](http://whitman.edu/reunions)

Dear Thomas,

I am excited to co-chair our 25<sup>th</sup> class reunion and write letters to all of you because you were all part of making the (still work-in-progress) person I am today.

I arrived at Whitman in the fall of 1992 a kid from a small town that needed community, some semblance of structure and the freedom to make some mistakes. I thought Whitman would give me those things. It gave me much more.

Whitman, for many of us, was a large part of our most formative experiences. Pat Keefe taught me that math wasn't my future. Mary Hanna taught me earnest debate can lead to better outcomes and that passion and enthusiasm can command a room. G. Thomas Edwards taught me that irrational misinterpretation isn't confined to teenagers. Friends, I was told I couldn't use names, taught me that while I could drink 100 shots of beer in 100 minutes it wasn't necessarily a good idea. Frienemies taught me acceptance. I also met a cool girl that has put up with me since that first fall in 1992. My time at Whitman became a critical layer to my development and to my future.

My connection with Whitman has changed over the past 25 years. Today, my oldest child attends Whitman and my wife works there. It is a place and an experience I care deeply about. I can tell you that kids attending today are at an institution that is more diverse (racially and economically), inclusive and engaged with the outside world than the one we attended. Whitman is striving to meet the current needs and challenges of its student, but they need more engagement from their alumni.

COVID has devastated millions of people, families, and businesses. Whitman hasn't escaped that reality; it has been hit hard financially as an institution and students are missing out on unique experiences that make Whitman special. This is where we can help.

For our reunion we've set two fundraising goals: encourage 96 classmates to make a gift and raise \$75,000 dollars in gifts directed to The Whitman Fund (TWF), for our class gift. TWF supports five of the college's top priorities: Greatest Need, Scholarship & Student Aid, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Academic Excellence, and Internships. You can designate your gift to the area that is most meaningful to you, but every gift makes an immediate impact for today's students.

If you have never given or haven't given in a long time, 25 years seems like a good reason. We know this year continues to present unique circumstances, but as a class, our cumulative giving can make a difference for today's students. If you give regularly, consider making it a five-year pledge, the full pledge amount counts toward our reunion class gift. If you are in a position to stretch your giving this year, consider a gift of \$5,000 to create a Whitman Fund Scholarship which will benefit current students. No matter the size of your gift, your participation shows today's students they have the support of the greater alumni community. Join me by making your gift at [give.whitman.edu](http://give.whitman.edu).

Thanks for your consideration,

Kain Evans  
'96 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Co-Chair

P.S. The reunion is scheduled for September 24 – 26, 2021. I sincerely hope that we have the opportunity to see each other face to face in a safe environment.