

# Space, the Final Frontier

BY JAYNE M. IAFRATE, EDITOR

With Wheaton's curriculum review completed, faculty, students and staff are running around all over campus, developing new courses and new ways to teach and learn without regard to traditional departmental boundaries. The enthusiasm is infectious. I spend a bit of my time in the English Department, but now all I can think about is Wheaton's space program.

Astronomy? No. Poli Sci? No. I'm talking *real* space, the kind that writers and editors dream about after trimming a 6,000-word story into a 2,000-word space. I'm talking about the wide-open expanses of the prose prairie, where class notes secretaries can write without fences and readers can see more of their story ideas in print. I'm talking about a bigger *Quarterly*.

In May 2002 the *Quarterly* will expand from its current 32 to 36 pages to 56 pages. Not only will the magazine grow in size, but it also will grow in scope, and that's the most exciting part of this story. The last time the *Quarterly* changed this dramatically was during the Eisenhower administration—1958—when it went from a journal to a full-size, 32-page magazine. Today's Wheaton is much changed, and today's *Wheaton Quarterly* must better reflect the college's extraordinary growth and success. After all, you asked for it in last year's readership survey. You asked for more class notes; you got it. You asked for more feature stories; you got it. More campus news—got it. More book reviews—got it. More photos—got it.

The changes we have in mind are designed to revolutionize the way the college communicates with you. As the *Quarterly* grows to bring you all of the news from campus and beyond, *Wheaton Matters* will become an admission-only publication. In addition, we debuted a monthly e-mail newsletter in February that will keep the Wheaton community up to date on events and breaking news. If you didn't receive the e-mail newsletter, we don't have your latest e-mail address (send it to [alumnaei@wheatoncollege.edu](mailto:alumnaei@wheatoncollege.edu)). Finally, we redesigned our alumnae/i Web site to better organize the information most important to you. At [www.wheatoncollege.edu/Alum](http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/Alum), you'll find contact information for clubs and classes, events info, distance education courses and much more.

This is your Wheaton, so take a look at the changes we've made and let us know what you think ([quarterly@wheatoncollege.edu](mailto:quarterly@wheatoncollege.edu) or via snail mail to the *Quarterly*). We know there's a universe of ideas out there, and we want this truly to be *our* space program.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEPT. 11

I JUST FINISHED MY FIRST reading of the recent *Quarterly*. It was excellent! It was helpful to read the stories from Sept. 11, whether they were about the alumnae/i who survived the New York City tragedy, the EMT from Maryland, or the stories from all the alumnae/i who shared how the tragedies had touched them. Thank you for reporting the many different experiences. It is good to know so many of the Wheaton family are safe and so sad to hear we lost three members of the greater Wheaton family. This edition of the *Quarterly* has continued the healing process. Thank you so much.

*Cindy Mason-Jones '86*

I WANT TO TELL YOU HOW IMPRESSED I am with the latest *Quarterly*. I was moved to tears by one of the firsthand reports, but the entire magazine was moving and interesting. I'd say it's a first-class publication! Congratulations.

*Patricia "Peaches" Henning '56*

COEDUCATION, continued

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I WRITE about my feeling toward the coed issue. Thank you for addressing this painful and sensitive subject. I welcomed Jayne Iafrate's article entitled "Beyond Betrayal" in the fall issue of the *Wheaton Quarterly*. I am sorry to report that after reading it, my negative reaction is still strong. I was against it. I am still against it. The whole process of surveys, questionnaires, lectures and polls was a farce. Never did anyone care about the students' or



faculty's feelings. Those responsible for the decision wanted to keep their position and job. The only way to ensure that was by going coed. Instead of closing the school on its basic principles and foundations, the officers decided to change its *raison d'être*. If I had wanted a coed college, I would have chosen one. Wheaton was not the only institution to accept me; and I chose to attend Wheaton for reasons which no longer were to be. I regret my decision. Money—a lot of it—went to the school and I feel robbed. The school failed me. I try to practice the "forgive and forget" concept, but I simply cannot apply it in this case. Maybe this is because I did not have what it took to transfer. Maybe I am holding Wheaton accountable for my weakness. Thank you to those who realize there are still some bitter feelings and resentment toward this grave change and for giving us the opportunity of expression.

*Daphne Mathijssen '90*

WHEN WHEATON WENT COED, it discarded the single important essence of the school I attended and with which I identified, and that decision cannot and will not be reversed. Because reversal will never happen, the school has no choice but to defend itself about that decision. Yet it is the ongoing defense of that issue that makes me continue to feel disenfranchised and irretrievably divorced from the Wheaton College I proudly attended, regardless of how wonderful a coeducational school it has become and continues to be. I wish it well, but will not give it my financial support any more than I would support any other fine school I did not attend.

*Barbara N. Holman '76*

