

ALYSSA BECCUE

ALYSSABECCUE.COM/PORTFOLIO

805.807.8842

ALYSSA@BECCUE.COM

THRESHOLD

SUSTAINING STUDENT JOURNEYS

SUMMER 2019

A NEWSLETTER TO BRING YOU CLOSER TO THE STUDENTS YOU SUPPORT

Studying the Bible in Jerusalem

You make travel abroad possible for students from missionary families

The minaret blasts the call to prayer throughout Bethlehem. The Westmont in Jerusalem students crowd inside a tiny shop full of leather bags, figurines, keffiyehs (Palestinian scarves) and other colorful scarves. The shop owner describes life in the West Bank, teaching the group an Arabic word now and then. Another man brings hot tea with mint leaves, a welcome contrast to the chilly Bethlehem air.



Annelise Daley '21 enjoys a boat ride in the Sea of Galilee during her semester at Westmont in Jerusalem this past spring.

Annelise Daley '21 always knew she wanted to study abroad in college; she didn't know how she'd afford it. As the daughter of Wycliffe missionaries, she lived in the Middle East and England before moving to the states and was quite comfortable with travel. When she heard about the Westmont in Jerusalem program, she decided to attend an informational meeting.

How much would a traveling semester raise her tuition? Annelise felt blessed to attend Westmont and knew God could provide for unimaginable opportunities. At the meeting, she learned that the scholarships that allowed Annelise to enroll at Westmont would also allow her to explore the world!

As a first-year student, Annelise intended to study art and business. But an Old Testament class with Professor Sandra Richter quickly grabbed her attention. Annelise's previously separate passions for storytelling, discipleship and biblical history converged and came to life in the class. She switched her major to religious studies to continue learning how the Kingdom of God permeates all areas of interest. She also applied for Westmont in Jerusalem. What better place to study the Bible than where it began?

This past spring, she traveled to the Middle East for a semester in the Holy Land. She describes her experiences in Israel-Palestine as "stunning"—in both senses of the word—encountering beauty alongside shocking situations that left her confused and speechless. The exhilaration of constant travel exhausted everyone, but they grew in community together.

What better place to study the Bible than where it began?

The blended complexity of history, politics, and religion in Israel-Palestine fascinated Annelise. "Saying goodbye was hard—to the people met, the places we'd been, and especially to other," she says. "The trip introduced both the fullness and complexities of Israel-Palestine the people there. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Westmont continues to challenge and encourage Annelise. She marvels that scholarships from generous donors enabled her to experience significant growth of this past semester. She is deeply grateful for the opportunity and look forward to returning to campus this fall.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Transforming Technology

Your gifts allow students to pursue competitive internships

By Laura Joy Phillips '21

About half-past seven, Westmont students trickle in from various corners of Santa Barbara. Arriving by car, bus, bike—and even scooter—we converge at 26 West Anapamu Street in the offices of Westmont Downtown to begin our day at CATLab.

This summer lab for Westmont's Center for Applied Technology involves high-achieving students working closely with staff. Together we build solutions for the college's toughest tech problems, addressing them in a way that distinctly embodies Westmont's values. As a program, we represent a microcosm of the Westmont community built on the foundation of Christian, liberal arts, undergraduate, residential and global.

Guest lectures and faculty-led discussions help us think about creativity, ethics and vocation from a Christian point of view—and to understand how those themes affect our work. Westmont's focus on the liberal arts has challenged us to value different perspectives, to learn from others and to carefully and critically craft our views.

CATLab honors Westmont's commitment to undergraduate education by hiring students rather than established professionals. We get involved in the greater community by pursuing part-time internships with local tech companies or cutting-edge research with Westmont professors.

Zak Landrum '08, senior director of advancement services and the visionary behind CATLab, established the program to create great technology solutions for Westmont. "I seek to establish stronger connections between academic learning and the professional workplace," he says. "CATLab gives students a bridge into the workforce so they can demonstrate their proven skills to an employer."

As an extension of the Westmont mission, CATLab helps students make the transition from learning how to think well in academic spheres to making an impact in the wider world. The college has placed a huge amount of trust in

its students, empowering them to make a real difference in the school uses technology.

"It has been such a privilege to work with people who trust you and give you the opportunity to work on real projects that matter for the school," says Kaylee Yoon, a fellow CATLab programmer. "It's so evident that they care deeply for Westmont students and want to see us succeed."

As we come to work every day, we're thrilled to know we're truly applying our learning and the things we create in our little offices on Anapamu Street will serve our school for years to come.



Student programmers from CATLab. Back Row: Sam Reep '20, James Lopez '22, Emily Peterson '21, Kristen Mohrhoff '21, Dante Poleselli '20, Ethan Bell '22, Ryan Kleinberg '19. Front Row: Kaylee Yoon '19, Nathan Young '21, Jonathan Lee '21, Rebecca Frink '21, Kimberlee Gong '21. Photographer: Clayton Cardinali.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Dante Poleselli: A Team Player

You help students find community at Westmont

By Laura Joy Phillips '21



Dante Poleselli '20 views time as his most valuable resource as he balances his double-major coursework, baseball and internships. Photo Credit: Clayton Cardinali

The little courtyard of the Ocean View apartments comes alive at dinnertime with the sound of laughter and scent of taco meat. Smoke from the grill drifts up to the strands of lightbulbs strung between balconies. While a dozen or so college students sit at picnic tables, chatting and enjoying fresh tacos, Dante Poleselli '20 diligently turns meat on the grill with a pair of tongs.

When he first came to Westmont, Dante looked forward to the independence of setting his own schedule. He received scholarships that allowed him to pursue a double major in business and data analytics and to play baseball, a lifelong pursuit. He knew balancing rigorous coursework with a demanding baseball schedule would require careful planning.

Dante wondered if his natural quietness would make it hard for him to find friends, but the baseball team became his community. "Being on a team where everyone has each other's back is really special," he says. "Few teams possess that quality. We've faced some adversity and also had huge successes. Always knowing my team is going to fight until the last out is an amazing feeling."

In his sophomore year, Dante joined Westmont's Salesforce team, the pilot program for Westmont's Center for Applied Technology (CATLab). Initially chosen because of his stellar programming skills, he brought far more than technical ability. Dante's team mentality, paired with his willingness to help others quickly, established him as a pillar in Westmont's programming community.

"Being on a team where everyone has each other's back is really special. Few teams possess that quality."

This summer Zak Landrum selected Dante as the technical lead for CATLab. Dante uses his baseball experience to guide him in the role. "The whole team needs to be functioning well," he says. "That's my responsibility: to make sure everyone is up to speed and producing the results we want." To accomplish this goal, Dante always makes time to help others. "If I run into a problem, I go to Dante," a fellow programmer says.

In his three years at Westmont, Dante has gone from a quiet, first-year student to an irreplaceable member of multiple communities. Whether he's pitching at a baseball game, coding at CATLab, or grilling some tacos for his friends, Dante gives his all to help others and welcome them as part of his team.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Joy Phillips '21 lived her life in Malaysia before Westmont to study English and religious studies. She is currently at the Westmont library and working for Westmont's CATLab. Whatever she does at college, she hopes to continue writing non-fiction and critical essays.

FROM THE HEART

A Letter from Reed Sheard

Vice President for College Advancement and CIO



At Westmont, we're all about students. And we know you are too. That's why we developed this newsletter to bring you closer to the lives you support through the Westmont Fund. Because of your faithful giving, you open the doors of a Westmont education to the exceptional students who study with us. Thank you.

Your generosity sends students like Annelise Daley '22 abroad to enhance and expand their studies with a global perspective. We've seen time and again how experience with other cultures prepares students to live in a diverse, complex and quickly changing world. You help us prepare graduates to be salt and light in an increasingly global context.

Your gifts make college more affordable for students like Dante Poleselli '20 and free them to pursue competitive internships. Because you help secure their financial footing, they can take on challenges that set them up for future success. Opportunities like the Center for Applied Technology (CATLab) serve as a valuable bridge from the classroom to the workplace.

It's been a privilege to watch the innovation and growth happening this summer at Westmont Downtown. As an incubator project for the Center for Technology, Creativity and Moral Imagination, CATLab harnesses the strengths of students to solve technology challenges for the college. Most of these students rely on your support to make their Westmont education possible. In a real sense, your gifts push innovation and technology solutions forward for Westmont.

We hope you never wonder what Westmont does with your gifts. Each day, your donations go to work on campus to make a difference in the lives of students. You make such a valuable investment in Westmont. You help equip the next generation of leaders with servants' hearts. We think Westmont graduates will bring light to dark places and influence meaningful change in the world. And when they do, we have you to thank.

Faithfully,
Reed Sheard



Dr. Sheard leads CATLab to San Francisco to tour the Salesforce Tower. Left to Right: Zak Landrum, Dante Poleselli, Ethan Bell, Clayton Cardinali, Jonathan Lee, James Lopez, Rebecca Frink, Kristen Mohrhoff, Olivia Huebner, Emily Peterson, Amber Nozzi, Sam Reep, Kimberlee Gong, Ryan Kleinberg, Laura Joy Phillips, Reed Sheard, Kim Sniffley. Photo credit: Emily Nelson

WESTMONT
Greatest Impact
FUND

THANK YOU All of the students featured, including our student writers, receive financial aid, which you help provide through your gifts to the Westmont Fund



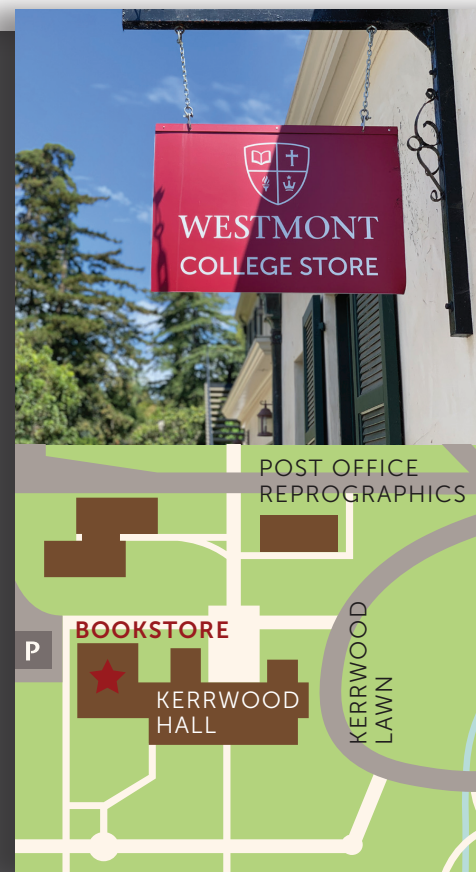
Textbook Orders:

- Order your textbooks online and they will be delivered to your mailbox within 48 hours.
- Competitive Pricing
- Rent your textbooks! If you decide you'd like to purchase them you can pay the difference between the rental and purchase price up to the last day of the semester.

*The mail center is open Sunday, Aug. 25 for textbook retrieval from 2-5 p.m.

We offer the following items:

- Apparel - tees, polos, sweatshirts, short, performance wear
- Electronics - extension cords, flash drives, batteries, phone chargers, ear buds
- Food - snacks, Trader Joe's frozen meals, drinks, caffeine, energy bars
- School Supplies
- Gifts
- Much More!



Visit the Westmont College Store

ENJOY 10% OFF*

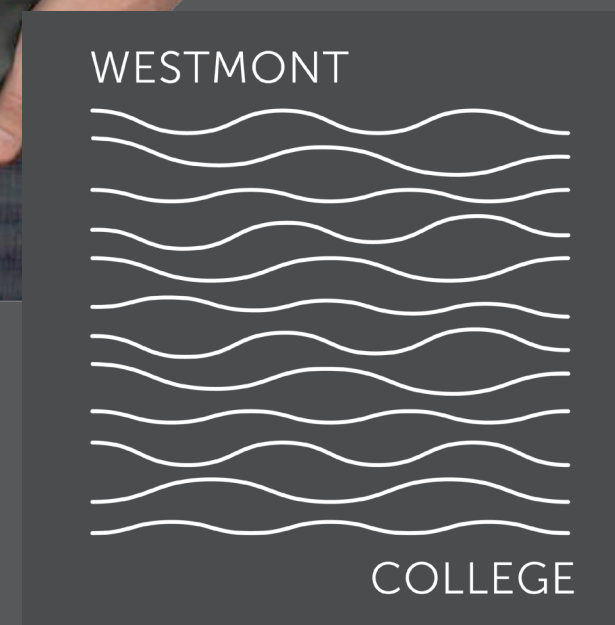
Expires 8/24/2019

We look forward to your visit!

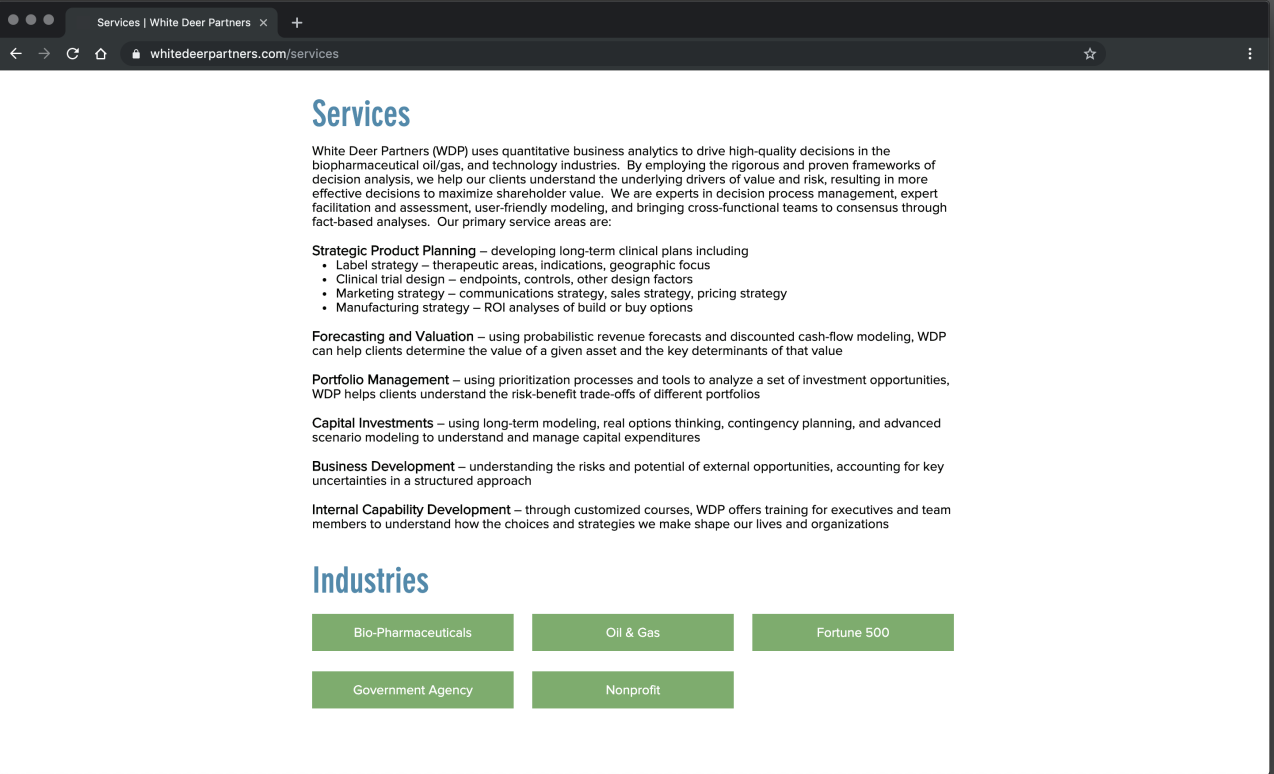
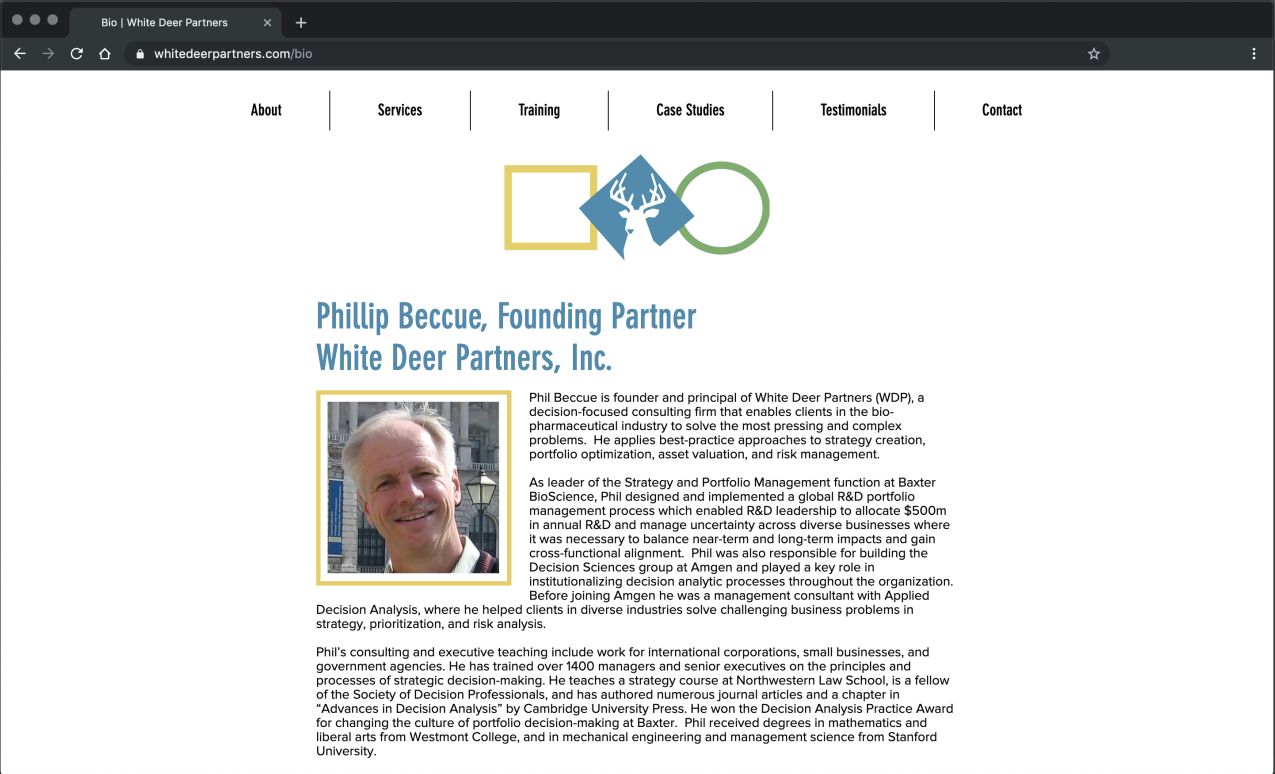
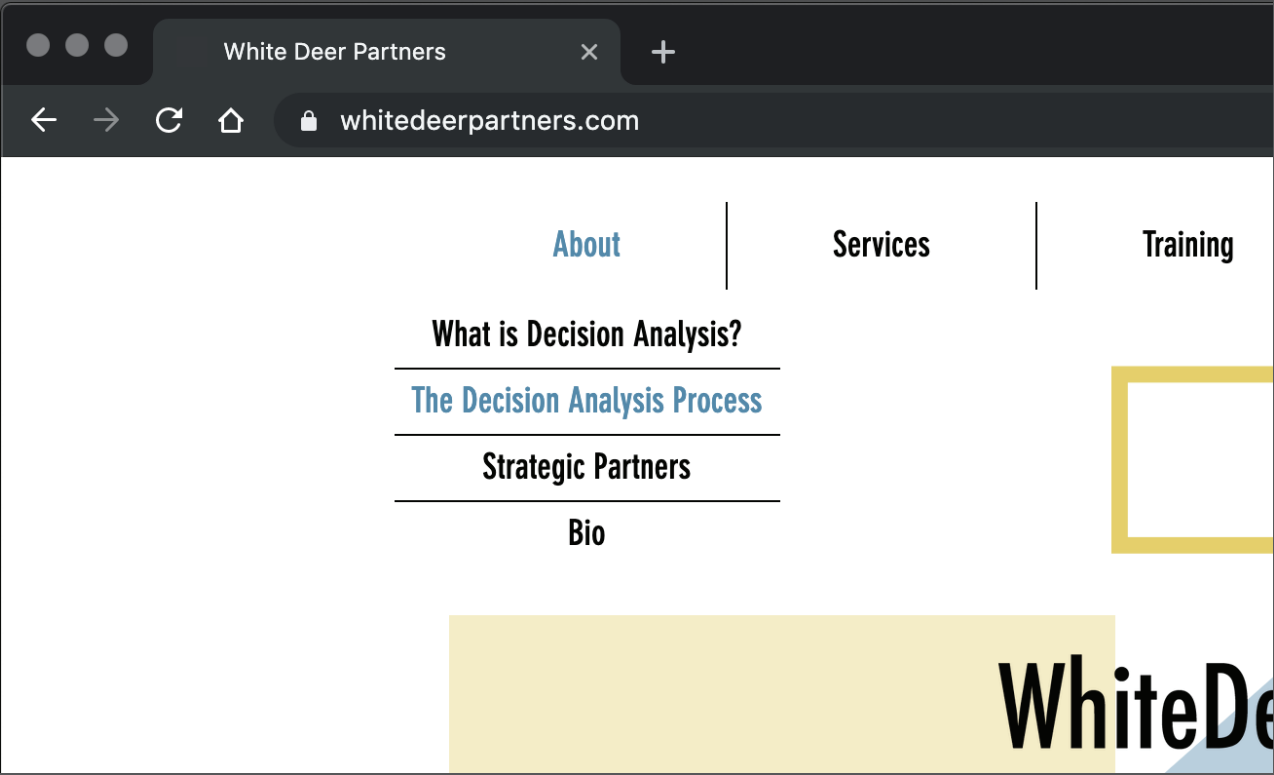
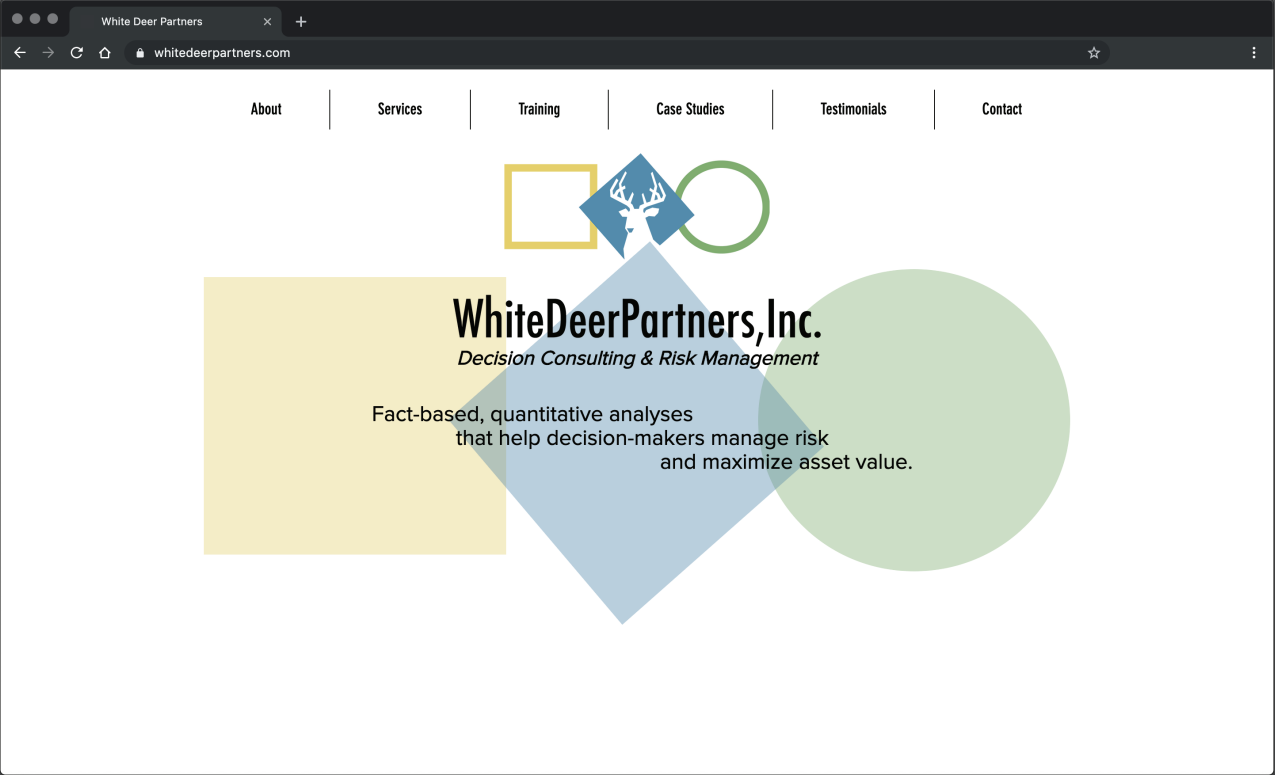
www.westmont.edu/bookstore



*excludes books







WESTMONT COLLEGE PRESENTS

the *Magic* *Flute*

MUSIC BY
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
LIBRETTO BY
EMANUEL SHIKANEDAR

MARCH 1, 3, & 5 | 7:00 PM
THE NEW VIC
33 W. Victoria Street | 805.965.5400

FOR TICKETS:
WWW.NEWVICTHEATER.COM



Poster illustration and design © 2019 Alyssa Becerra



fringe

WESTMONT.EDU/BOXOFFICE

APRIL 11, 12, 13, 14

Poster illustration and design © 2019 Alyssa Becerra



THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

ADAPTED BY
JEFFREY HATCHER

FROM THE ORIGINAL BY
NIKOLAI GOGOL

DIRECTED BY
MITCHELL THOMAS

OCTOBER 18-26

WESTMONT.EDU/BOXOFFICE

Poster Illustration and Design © 2019 Alyssa Beccue



LOVE & INFORMATION

A kaleidoscopic play exploring contemporary issues about knowledge, technology and communication, and our capacity for love.

WRITTEN BY Caryl Churchill
DIRECTED BY Guest Artist
WESTMONT.EDU/BOXOFFICE Nita June

JAN 30 –
FEB 2
in the Black Box



