



Whitman Today

Friday, April 30, 2021

Despite the Pandemic, Whitties Study Abroad and Off-Campus This Spring



In the past, as many as 100 Whitties studied abroad in a typical spring semester. While the COVID-19 pandemic has definitely curtailed global travel for safety and health reasons, six Whitman students are currently studying off-campus.

Alejandra Wait and Beth Kutina are studying abroad on the CIEE Monteverde Tropical Ecology and Conservation program in Costa Rica. Christian Wallace-Bailey is abroad on the DIS Stockholm program in Sweden, while Kei Castillo is enrolled in the DIS Copenhagen program in Denmark. Domestically, Elena Kaminskaia is on the SEA Semester program based in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, while Sylvia Adome is off campus with the National Theatre Institute in Connecticut. Read more about some of these students' off-campus experiences by perusing their [blogs on the OCS website](#).

Also noteworthy, three students—Sihan Chen, Gavin Victor and Chloe Young—are completing the IFSA program at Oxford University virtually this semester.

'Student safety and wellbeing is a priority of Whitman, and that includes Off-Campus Studies (OCS). Whitman made the decision to allow these students to study off-campus after reviewing a number of factors including COVID-19 precautions in place on location, government guidance about the safety of the destination, the anticipated quality of the specific OCS experience in light of coronavirus-related restrictions and the host country's medical infrastructure.

Announcements

Whitman Bookstore Sale

In preparation for upcoming operational changes, the Whitman College Bookstore is currently holding a wall-to-wall 50% off sale. Whether you're looking for one more hoodie, your favorite Whitman swag, or a water bottle to keep you hydrated throughout the summer, everything in store is half price (excluding textbooks). This is also a good opportunity for administrative offices to stock up on office supplies or gifts you may need for the future. So come by the store or shop online to take advantage of the great deals!

Communications Focus Group Participants Wanted

Emails? Phone app? Text messaging? How do you want (or not want) to communicate with other members of the Whitman community? One of the Inclusion Action Items underway is implementation of a campus-wide internal communications platform, and Internal Communications Strategist Heidi Pitts is looking for a diverse group of faculty, staff and students to participate in upcoming focus groups that will help inform this process.

If you are interested in participating in a one-hour discussion about possible communications platform features, please [complete this survey](#), which asks some basic questions to help us build out representative focus groups. Everyone chosen to take part in a one-hour session will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card.

Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Interview Today

The interview with the second of three finalists for the position of Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion is happening today. Please refer to the [full schedule](#) for specific session information and Zoom links.

Question of the Week: Answer Edition

This week we asked you for your tips on living more sustainably. [Ideas offered](#) included:

- Walking and biking more
- Recycling plastic bags
- Landscaping practices such as xeriscaping, mulching, planting native wildflowers and not watering concrete
- Eating vegetarian or vegan

One respondent replied, "I try to live by the 'buyerarchy' of needs in evaluating my purchases. By reducing my consumption levels, I'm giving less support to big companies that are major polluters, using fewer natural resources and also finding ways to build community through sharing."



THE BUYERARCHY of NEEDS (with apologies to Maslow)

Happening This Weekend

TODAY

- 2-4 p.m. [Whitman Internship Grant \(WIG\) Application Support Drop-in Hours](#)
Come get some feedback and support in completing the Summer WIG application to ensure your application is as strong as it can be.
- 5 p.m. [Guest Lecturer - Debbie Chinn: Business Side of the Performing Arts](#)
Chinn will discuss her trajectory from college to high-profile positions, insights into the business side of the arts and her experiences on the successes and challenges of building diverse and inclusive organizations.
- 5 p.m. [Maya Lin's Confluence and the Whitman Archives](#)
Join Dana Bronson, associate archivist, and AHVCS Professor Matthew Reynolds for a talk about Confluence in the Classroom, the Whitman College and Northwest Archives, and the new exhibit in Maxey Museum.

SATURDAY



- 1-4 p.m. [Walking Toward Immigrant Rights](#)
This event at the Whitman labyrinth aims to focus our awareness and intention on the experiences of immigrants at the US southern border. Drop by to learn about the immigrant experience, paint rocks and walk the labyrinth as a way to center this issue in our hearts and minds.
- 1 p.m. [WEB Jellyfish Air Plant Giveaway & Tutorial](#)
As a continuation of the GROW Plant Initiative facilitated by the Intercultural Center and WEB, they're having a jellyfish air plant giveaway and a virtual tutorial event where you can learn how to put these plants together.
- 2 p.m. [De-Stress Through Plant Care](#)
Students can receive a very low-maintenance, hard-to-kill plant and learn more about mental health and how plants can help you relieve stress.
- 7:30 p.m. [Virtual Escape Room](#)
Join Student Activities for a virtual escape room set in London.

SUNDAY

- 2-4 p.m. [Whitman Internship Grant \(WIG\) Application Support Drop-in Hours](#)
Come get some feedback and support in completing the Summer WIG application to ensure your application is as strong as it can be.
- 3 p.m. [Chamber Music Spring Concert](#)
Enjoy an afternoon of chamber music with the students of Profs. Amy Dodds and Jackie Wood. The program will close with the premiere of a new work by composer and music faculty member Kristin Vining, in celebration of her 20 years of service to music at Whitman. Kristin's piece, "a sound poem for the sky," is scored for seven pianos (six on stage and one via Zoom from Colorado).

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to whitmantoday@whitman.edu.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday-Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu. Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day's newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs. By submitting to Whitman Today you also authorize use on Whitman's social media unless otherwise specified.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).

