



Whitman Today

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Across Distance, Across Cultures



Having spent her first semester at Whitman College taking classes from her home in Nairobi, Kenya, it wouldn't have been surprising if Stacy Wamuchii felt apprehensive traveling to a new country and embarking on her in-person college experience for the first time—especially during a pandemic. But when Wamuchii stepped off the plane in Seattle, she wasn't a bit nervous. Clutching tightly to her list of U.S. phone numbers—which included the number of Whitman alumna Kirsten Adams Gable '01—Wamuchii knew there was a strong support network ready to help her at a moment's notice.

"Even when I was traveling, I wasn't really scared about coming to college, because I felt like I already had built a community and I knew where I would get support," says Wamuchii.

Gable and Wamuchii first connected in the summer of 2020 through a program that brought together alumni and first-year students. The program, developed in response to the need to welcome an entire class of Whitties virtually and managed by many student support services on campus, paired alumni and students based on common interests, geographic locations and more. More than 130 first-year students and 70 alumni signed up and were paired.

[Read more.](#)

Employee Campus Access COVID-19 Testing

As a reminder, any employee who has not provided proof of vaccination for COVID-19 must take a test every Tuesday in order to receive a campus access badge valid for seven days. This week, there were no positive tests.

Supervisors, please remember to check that everyone in your office has a valid campus access badge.

Announcements

Whitman Bookstore Final Sale

The Whitman Bookstore is holding its final sale, ending tomorrow, June 4. Everything in the store is 80% off (excluding textbooks). There are still some clothing, gifts, office supplies and art supplies available. This is a great opportunity for administrative offices to stock up. Come by the store and take advantage of these final deals!

Please remember that the bookstore is not open to the public, including family members of employees.

Climbing Wall Summer Hours

The climbing wall is open from 6–9 p.m. Monday through Thursday for students, staff and faculty who are approved for summer campus access. Climbing center capacities for open-climbing reservation times are now 18 climbers per 1.5 hour climbing session. Visit the [climbing center webpage](#) for access instructions and the reservation link.

Print Shop Operations June 7-11

The print shop will be operating with reduced staffing the week of June 7–11. Print production projects may be delayed during this time period. Questions about projects should be directed to Christie Fuller at 509-527-5160 or fullerch@whitman.edu.

Noteworthy



Somoskey Works on Display in Walla Walla

A collection of paintings titled "BEING, SENSING, DWELLING" by Visiting Assistant Professor of Art Emily Somoskey is now on display at the [Foundry, Vineyards in Walla Walla](#). Speaking recently to the [Walla Walla Union-Bulletin](#), Somoskey explained that the large scale mixed media pieces were not painted during the COVID-19 pandemic but can be reframed in light of whatever life has become at the moment.

Pietrantonio Commissioned for Facebook Open Arts Project

Associate Professor of Art Nicole Pietrantonio was commissioned to create a new installation at Facebook's offices in Bellevue, Washington, as part of the [Facebook Open Arts project](#). Pietrantonio was selected by Seattle-based curators Tamar Benzikry and Lele Barnett to create a large-scale work that incorporates colorful accordion books with poetry by her collaborator, Adjunct Assistant Professor Devon Wootten.

[Submit News of a Personal or Professional Achievement](#)

Upcoming Events

TODAY

Presidential Search Committee Listening Sessions

The Presidential Search Committee is holding population-specific listening sessions for the Whitman community today. Faculty: 10 a.m. [Registration Link](#)
Students: 3 p.m. [Registration Link](#)
Open Session for Whitman Community: 4:30 p.m. [Registration Link](#)

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

8:30–10 a.m.

Employee COVID-19 Testing

Any employee who has not submitted proof of COVID-19 vaccination must be tested in order to receive the weekly campus access badge. Testing will take place at Welty Student Health Center.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11 – MONDAY, JUNE 14

all day

North Fork John Day Wilderness Trail Crew Weekend Trip

The Outdoor Program is partnering with the Blue Mountain Land Trust "Blues Crew" and the United States Forest Service to do trail work. This trip is FREE to Whitman students. You must be vaccinated to participate. No experience necessary but you should be prepared for a very physical weekend in a beautiful area.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday and Thursday throughout the summer 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 on Friday for Monday's newsletter and noon Wednesday for Thursday's edition, 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](#).



WHITMAN COLLEGE