



# Whitman Today

Thursday, March 25, 2021

## Conversation with US Sen. Patty Murray on COVID-19, Racism and Inequality

The Race, Violence and Health Academic Theme Committee is pleased to invite you to a [conversation with Washington State Sen. Patty Murray](#) from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31.

The conversation on a report issued by Sen. Murray's office on the racial impacts of COVID-19 will be led by three Whitman students: junior Jasmine Razeghi, junior Salma Anguiano and senior Zidane Galant-LaPorte.

[Read the report.](#)

[Register for the event.](#)



## Q: Now that the CDC has recommended only 3 ft. of space between classroom desks, will Whitman modify our classroom arrangements?

A: No. The new CDC recommendation on classroom social distancing only applies to elementary schools and some middle and high schools that meet specific masking and community transmission criteria. Colleges and universities must continue to maintain 6 ft. between all desks, chairs and other furniture for safe social distancing.

## Announcements

### Correction: Gaytan Exhibit Location

Yesterday we announced the showing of local artist Joel Gaytan's "B Sides from el barrio: Vistas de Walla Walla" exhibition with an incorrect location. The correct location for this exhibition is Stevens Gallery in Reid Campus Center. We apologize for this error.

## apply today Community Engaged Summer Research Program 2021

### Apply Now for Community Engaged Summer Research Program

The Community Engaged Learning and Research Initiative (CELR) Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2021 Community Engaged Summer Research Program (CESRP). The program supports community-centered research projects that thoughtfully engage with pressing issues in the Walla Walla Valley through reciprocal and co-creative partnerships with on- and off-campus community members. The application deadline is 10 a.m. on April 16 and the program will run from June 1-July 29. [Review the informational poster](#) for more details.

Do you have questions about the CESRP? Kelsey Martin, community learning specialist, can help. Attend an information session at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31 or 12 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14. The Zoom link for both sessions is available [here](#).

Ready to apply? [Get a copy of the application.](#)

For more information contact Martin at [martinka@whitman.edu](mailto:martinka@whitman.edu).

## Noteworthy

### Office of Religious and Spiritual Life Receives Interfaith Youth Grant

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life received the Racial Equity & Interfaith Cooperation Award, part of the [Interfaith Youth Core's "We Are Each Other's" campaign](#) to support acts of interfaith cooperation, anti-racism and community service. The grant will be used in support of the labyrinth and a specific event planned for this semester, which will focus the usage of the labyrinth to raise awareness of immigrant rights.

### Machonkin Awarded Murdock Research Grant

Tim Machonkin, associate professor of chemistry, was awarded a research grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. The project will investigate the structure and activity of a key enzyme that could be helpful in breaking down organic compounds that are persistent environmental pollutants. Machonkin is Whitman's first recipient of the Murdock BRIDGE grant, a new program that supports faculty members with established research programs that had previously been federally funded; this grant will serve as a bridge toward future federal funding. The three-year grant will support research experiences for five students.

### Hendricks Awarded Two Research Grants

Mark Hendricks, assistant professor of chemistry, has recently been awarded two grants to support his research into the synthesis of nanocrystalline materials. Both projects are interdisciplinary, introducing students to organic and inorganic chemistry, physical chemistry, and materials chemistry. One grant, from the American Chemical Society's Petroleum Research Fund, will investigate the factors governing the control of crystalline phases during nanocrystal synthesis. The second grant, from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, will test novel approaches to developing semiconducting nanocrystals. Together, these grants will support eleven student research positions over three years.

### Jackson Interviewed for Feminism and Legal Theory Project

Associate Professor of Politics Jack Jackson sat for an [interview with the Feminism and Legal Theory Project at the Emory University School of Law](#). Jackson was a visiting fellow at the Emory School of Law on a recent sabbatical. The scholarly projects discussed in the interview form the basis for two classes at Whitman: Feminist & Queer Legal Theory (Politics 333) and Debt, Law, Politics (Politics 323).

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

## Happening Today

4 p.m.

### [Craft Your Future: Excel Formulas and Functions](#)

Join Rich Hinz from WCTS for the second of three workshops on the most common spreadsheet platform, Microsoft Excel. Take your knowledge a step further by learning on to build functions and formulas into your spreadsheet to easily build simple and complex calculations.

7 p.m.

### [The GROW Event](#)

Calling all plant lovers! Please join the Whitman Events Board (WEB) for a virtual event to learn how to plant your new seeds, troubleshoot plant issues and get a sneak peak of another upcoming plant event in a few weeks. There will also be an opportunity to win specialty plants and Whittie merch for the [grow competition](#); more info at the event!

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

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

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

