



Whitman Today

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Throwback Thursday



Real talk: life during a pandemic is hard and lonely, and some days it seems like we will never get back to "normal." This student-made video from 2014 throws back to a time when campus was full of people and laughter and dancing in the fountain. Hopefully today it brings you a moment of peace and joy, remembering that no matter where in the world you are right now, you have a place in the Whitman community.

Announcements

Off-Campus Studies/Study Abroad Spring 2021 Update

Whitman recently notified students approved to attend spring 2021 Off-Campus Study (OCS) programs about whether or not their program has been cancelled. Spring 2021 OCS programs were cancelled or approved based on criteria that included U.S. Department of State travel guidance, medical resources in the destination and the program's COVID plan. A small number of OCS programs are still approved for spring 21, assuming conditions in the host country meet safety criteria. OCS anticipates about 15-20 students will study off campus next semester. Any spring OCS student whose program has been approved but who prefers to enroll on campus instead next semester is welcome to remain at Whitman. Anyone with questions should [contact the OCS office](#).

Campus and Community Health



COVID-19 in Walla Walla

Currently there are 400 total cases of [COVID-19 in Walla Walla County](#). Of these, 387 residents are isolating at home and 13 in the hospital. Over the past week, five cases were confirmed in Whitman employees and students living in Walla Walla.

COVID-19 numbers appear weekly on Thursdays in Whitman Today and cases involving members of the Whitman community are updated regularly on the [COVID-19 at Whitman webpage](#).

As a reminder, following confirmation of a COVID-19 case on campus the following steps are taken:

- Anyone who had [close contact](#) with the individual is informed.
- The individual's work space and other places of interaction are sanitized.
- The county health department is notified and takes over the contact tracing process.

Remember, face masks are one of the most effective ways to prevent the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. You should always wear a face covering when you're around people who don't live with you. This includes close friends and family. It may feel awkward to do this around people you know well and trust, but many people get COVID-19 from someone who doesn't have symptoms yet. Even if you're keeping some physical distance, it's still a good idea to wear a face covering.

Noteworthy

Cordner Paper Published in Sociological Perspectives

Alissa Cordner, associate professor of sociology, and co-authors Lauren Richter and Phil Brown published "[Producing Ignorance Through Regulatory Structure: The Case of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\)](#)" in the journal Sociological Perspectives. In this paper, they build on prior research to examine how ignorance can be produced by regulatory systems. They use mixed qualitative methods to show how "chemical regulatory pathways" lead to distinct types of ignorance and knowledge accumulating in different institutional spheres, generally to the detriment of widespread knowledge about risk.

[Submit a Noteworthy Announcement](#)

Happening Today

TODAY

11:30 a.m.

[Medicinal chemistry in action: an example from Hepatitis C research](#)

Dr. Will Watkins (vice president of medicinal chemistry at Gilead Sciences) will give a lecture on the development of groundbreaking treatments for Hepatitis C.

5 p.m.

[Open Mic Night](#)

Join Whitman Events Board for the November Open Mic Night! Come perform a song, poem or any other form of creative expression. [Sign up to perform](#).

[More Upcoming Events](#)

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

Chaplain Chat



We are in the moment just before the drop: what does dance music have to teach us about living in this complicated political season? Interfaith Chaplain Adam Kirtley ruminates on preparing for the challenges ahead of us as a nation.

"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.

