



# Whitman Today

Friday, October 1, 2021

## Who Works Here: Lindsay Szramek



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One of Whitman's newest employees (she started Sept. 13), Szramek was brought into the Student Engagement Center as a point person for students planning to go into STEM careers. Her background is in the geosciences, which she has taught at a number of institutions of higher learning, including at Whitman in 2019 and 2020. Szramek says she has always enjoyed the interaction with students and helping them think about what comes after college and is excited to develop programs and work with students, both STEM and non-STEM, to help make the transition to life after Whitman easier.

A bit about Szramek: She grew up in Oregon before leaving for college and spent more than 20 years in Maine, Alaska, Texas, Wisconsin and Tennessee. She and her dogs are excited to be back so they can get more treats and visits from their grandparents. When not at work or obeying three bossy dogs, she likes to spend time outside, collect rocks, collect fabric and sew things. If you are curious about what you could do in STEM or just want to talk about rocks, feel free to contact her!

## Sustainable Shopping: Plastic Bag Ban Effective Oct. 1



Hauling home handfuls of grocery-filled disposable plastic bags from Safeway or Walmart will soon be a thing of the past in Walla Walla. Washington state's plastic bag ban is effective starting today, which means Walla Walla shoppers who don't use personal reusable bags will be receiving groceries in thicker reusable plastic bags and paper bags made from recycled materials, which can be purchased for 8 cents. The effect on customers won't be immediate, however. Initially, many stores will continue to use disposable bags as they are allowed to use up their stock.

Because Walla Walla does not recycle plastic, this ban will eventually keep a lot of plastic out of the landfill. Plastic originates from fossil fuels, making it a climate and human health issue. By joining eight other states in banning single-use plastic bags, Washington is encouraging a more sustainable way of life for its residents.

## Announcements

### Student Food Pantry at Glover Alston Center Restocked Today

Reminder: The [food pantry](#) is available at the Glover Alston Center and provides supplemental food items. The pantry is being supported by generous donations specifically for students facing food insecurity. The food pantry has been recently relocated to the newly formed Resource Room on the first floor. Access the Resource Room door (student ID required) from the dining room.

The pantry is resupplied regularly. Today, the fridge/freezer in the kitchen will also be restocked with fresh apples, eggs, milk, frozen meats and vegetables. Notice there are two fridges at the GAC, only one of them is dedicated to the food pantry and is marked as such.



### Glean Team Joins BMAC at Moonlight Melons

Last Sunday, the Whitman College Glean Team joined the [Blue Mountain Action Council](#) (BMAC) for an end-of-season gleaning at [Moonlight Meadows](#). The group made quick work of filling two large bins, picking 1,763 pounds of melons and honeydew for distribution at the BMAC Food Pantry.

## Changes to Student COVID-19 Testing

Beginning Monday, October 4, symptomatic and exposure coronavirus testing for students at Welty Student Health Center will take place from 9–11:30 a.m. and 2:30–4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the back door of the health center. No appointment is necessary.

## COVID-19 Case on Campus

In accordance with Washington state Labor & Industries employer requirements, we are notifying the campus community that in the past 24 hours, a person with Whitman access was confirmed positive for COVID-19. This person is now in isolation for 10 days in accordance with our campus and CDC guidelines. Though the likelihood of transmission is low due to our [campus COVID-19 protocols](#), it is possible that others may have been exposed to COVID-19. There is nothing you need to do at this time aside from following our campus COVID-19 protocols. Anyone identified through the contact tracing process as a close contact (within 6 ft. for at least 15 minutes over 24 hours) will be personally notified.

## Happening This Weekend

### TODAY

7 p.m. [Whitman College Women's Volleyball vs Pacific Lutheran University](#)

### SATURDAY

**5th ELEMENT PROJECT**  
**WORKSHOPS IN HIP HOP**

<b>BREAK INTO SUMMER</b> 10.02.2021 REID CAMPUS CENTER 280 BOYER AVE	<b>SIGN UP NOW LEARN</b> BBOYING/BGIRLING GRAFFITI POPPING MUSIC PRODUCTION AND MORE...
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GET INVOLVED: [DEGRASPG@WHITMAN.EDU](mailto:DEGRASPG@WHITMAN.EDU)

all day [5th Element Project: Break Into Summer](#)  
*The Mellon Foundation-funded 5th Element Project presents free workshops in bboying/bgirling, graffiti, music production, popping and more from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at Young Ballroom and the Dance Studio on Boyer Avenue. Join guest artists for a panel discussion on hip hop culture from 2 p.m.–3 p.m., return for Break into Summer, a 2 v. 2 bboy/bgirl crew battle from 4 p.m.–9 p.m., with dance party to follow. Guests from across the United States and Canada will teach, perform and share their knowledge. Email Peter de Grasse at [degraspg@whitman.edu](mailto:degraspg@whitman.edu) to sign up. Learn more about the artists on [Instagram](#).*

10 a.m. [Stand-up Paddleboarding on Jubilee Lake](#)  
*Spend the day stand-up paddleboarding on Jubilee Lake! No previous experience is necessary.*

2:30 p.m. [Whitman College Men's Soccer vs George Fox University](#)

6 p.m. [Whitman College Women's Volleyball vs University of Puget Sound](#)

### SUNDAY

2 p.m. [BIPOC Outdoor Club Climb Event](#)  
*Whitman BIPOC Outdoor Club will be hosting a climbing event at the climbing wall. No previous experience necessary.*

2:30 p.m. [Whitman College Men's Soccer vs Pacific University](#)

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

Have an event you'd like to share with campus? Submit the information to the [Events Calendar](#).

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday through 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. 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](#).



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