



Whitman Today

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

“Dear White People” and Halloween Harm



From John Johnson, vice president for diversity and inclusion.

The film “[Dear White People](#),” written and directed by Justin Simien and released in 2014, is about the experiences of students of color at an Ivy League college. It was praised by critics and fared well in the box office for a modestly released independent film, earning \$4.4 million against a \$1.3 million budget. Rotten Tomatoes describes the film as a “welcome new voice to cinema’s oft-neglected discussion of race, tackling its timely themes with intelligence, honesty, and gratifyingly sharp wit.” The film would go on to spawn a Netflix series of the same name that ran for four seasons, with the final season released just over a month ago.

I can recall how tattered I felt after seeing the film in the theater some seven years ago. The film focuses on the trauma and institutional fallout surrounding a college party in which students don costumes that appropriate and mock the culture of others. While the film is a satire, I am all too familiar with the real pain people feel when others use their culture as a costume.

[Read more.](#)

Student Flu Shots Now Available on Campus

Welty Student Health Center has received a limited number of doses of the flu vaccine, which are now available to all students for no cost. Students may get a free flu shot at Welty Student Health Center any weekday from 1–4:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary and you should enter through the health center’s front door. Please print and complete the [Influenza Vaccine Consent Form](#) and review the [flu vaccine information sheet](#) prior to coming to expedite the process.

Staff and Faculty

We are currently prioritizing our limited supply of flu vaccines for students. Should student demand decrease, we will set up an on-campus clinic for employees with the remaining available doses. Whitman’s employee health insurance plan covers the cost of obtaining the flu vaccine at local pharmacies including Safeway, Albertsons and Walgreens as well as at your primary care physician.

Announcements

New Whitman ID Cards Temporarily Unavailable

Whitman’s ID-printing machines are currently out of order and have been sent for repairs, so Security is currently unable to print new ID cards. A replacement machine has been requested for temporary use and we will update the Whitman community when it is installed and ID printing can resume.



Nominate a Possible 2022 Commencement Speaker

While we don’t know what the spring will bring, we hope we will be able to gather in person with the graduates, their families and friends, and the faculty and staff for a traditional commencement ceremony. However the ceremony might be structured, we are looking for a dynamic speaker to celebrate and send off the Class of 2022 to the next phase of their journey. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to submit names of candidates they know personally for consideration by Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, through the [online nomination form](#).

Happening Today

- noon [Self Management and SMART Recovery Training](#)
Learn to resolve problems related to substance use addiction and recovery. Participants find and develop the power within themselves to change and lead fulfilling and balanced lives guided by the science-based and sensitive 4 Point-Program.
- 3–8 p.m. [Zooming Around the World in 2 Days](#)
Get an overview of several different off-campus studies options. Check out the schedule for the times to learn about specific programs.
- 7 p.m. [Adapting to Climate Change: Markets and the Management of an Uncertain Future](#)
Matt Kahn, professor of economics at the University of Southern California, will present a lecture considering how individual economic choices in response to climate change will transform the larger economy.

[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. 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](#).

