



Whitman Today

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Whitties Support Young Learners



Late last month, 19 Whitman College America Reads/America Counts (ARAC) tutors gathered at the Walla Walla School District Board Room for a warm welcome by expert educators. This training offered two hours of solid instruction to prepare interns for their weekly work in local elementary schools, where they will provide fundamental support in both reading and math. Through individual sessions or small group learning pods, interns will work with students who teachers identify as needing extra support.

"We are excited to have our passionate and dedicated America Reads America Counts (ARAC) Whitman work study students back in our buildings. The instructional and relational qualities ARAC brings into our classrooms are essential to the academic success of many of our students," says Brent Cummings, director of accelerated learning and support for Walla Walla Public Schools. "More than ever, our students are looking for caring and compassionate adults to connect to their academic and social-emotional skill development. Through collaborative effort, our Whitman partnership will continue to provide the community-based learning support that our students need."

Sophomore Aldo Feria, who attended Walla Walla's Edison Elementary School, looks forward to giving back to the school's young learners. "I know it can be tough for some students to make friends and connections so my ultimate goal working with ARAC is to not only be a mentor or a teacher, but a friend to each and every student. Building a strong and healthy relationship with our students should be our number one priority, which helps to reassure the student that they aren't alone and that we're there to help them in every way possible."

Noteworthy

Santana-Acuña Discusses Recent Facebook Outage

Associate Professor of Sociology Álvaro Santana-Acuña was quoted in a piece published in [El Mundo](#) about the social implications of Facebook's outage. Santana-Acuña, who is working on a project on the politics of data, teaches the course Sociology of Big Data: Algorithms, Robots, and Digital Societies.

Yuan Article Published in Roundtable on Markets and Morality

Xiaobo Yuan, assistant professor of anthropology and religion, has published an article, "[Infernal Affect: Christianity, Urbanization, and Economic Uncertainty in China](#)," as part of a roundtable on Living Neoliberalism: Negotiating Markets and Morality Outside the West, which appears in the latest [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#). The articles in the roundtable explore the intertwinement of morality, religiosity, market governance, and financial cultures, through empirical studies that de-center the West as the starting point for understanding neoliberal capitalism. Yuan's piece examines Christian discourses that frame "real estate fever" in Chinese cities as "demonic," and explores how religious communities seek alternatives to neoliberal desires.

[Submit a Noteworthy Announcement](#)

Announcements

October is Resiliency Month

[The Community Resilience Initiative](#) is a local nonprofit community partner that seeks to inspire healthier communities with science-based insights in order to promote and cultivate resilience. They have created a month-long calendar full of free activities, workshops about health and ideas for promoting wellness. [Check it out here](#). If you're in Walla Walla for October Break, this can help you get out into the community!

FDA Gives Approval to New Home COVID-19 Test

Earlier this week, the [FDA granted emergency use authorization](#) to the ACON Laboratories Flowflex COVID-19 Home Test. The Flowflex test is widely used in Europe, and according to the FDA, "should significantly increase the availability of rapid, at-home tests and is expected to double rapid at-home testing capacity in the U.S. over the next several weeks." The FDA's full [list of authorized home COVID-19 tests](#) is available online.

If you do use a home COVID-19 test and receive a positive result, please remember to notify both Walla Walla County Department of Community Health and the appropriate contact at Whitman (Human Resources for employees, Welty Student Health Center for students).

Happening Today

- 11 a.m. [Outdoor Writing and Contemplation](#)
Wind down the week with a walk to a local park and time to do a guided or solo meditation.
- 6 p.m. [Decades Dance](#)
Come by the Wellness House dressed up as your favorite decade for some awesome snacks and amazing music!

[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.

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