



# Whitman Today

Friday, September 4, 2020

## Black Life at Whitman: Stories From Across the Years



At noon today, [join this Zoom conversation](#) between current Black students and alumni who graduated at different times in the history of the college. Current officers of the [Black Student Union](#) Aliyah Fard '22 and Hannah Paul '22 will interview Stephen Hammond '79, Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg '01 and Cherokee Washington '17 about their experiences at and since graduating from Whitman. The panel will be an open-form conversation including a discussion of challenges and opportunities, experiences and lessons learned, how all of that shaped the panelists' lives after Whitman and their hopes and dreams for the future of the college.

*This event is the first offering from the working group supporting the [2020-21 academic theme of Race, Violence, and Health](#).*

## Announcements

### Zollman Retiring After 30 Years at Whitman

After more than 30 years at Whitman, Karen Zollman is retiring today. Her work as associate to the provost and dean of the faculty has supported the Whitman community in many important ways. To honor Karen and send her off in these complicated times, a walk-by celebration will take place on the sidewalk on the Boyer Avenue side of Memorial Building today at 4 p.m. Karen will sit while community members parade past her in a socially distanced line to offer thank yous and best wishes. The line will be on the west side walk (Sherwood side) and move toward Lakum Duckum. If you are able to join the celebration, please wear a mask.

## Coping with Coronavirus

### Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19

Late summer and fall frequently see an increase in wildfires through the region, sometimes creating unhealthy air quality in the Walla Walla Valley and other parts of the Pacific Northwest. Both wildfire smoke and COVID-19 impact our respiratory and immune systems and create some similar symptoms, such as dry cough, sore throat and difficulty breathing. If you already have COVID-19, breathing in wildfire smoke may make your symptoms worse. If you don't have COVID-19, it may make you more likely to get it. The Washington State Department of Health offers a list of [recommendations and tips for protecting yourself from wildfire smoke and COVID-19](#) this wildfire season.

## Happening Today

### TODAY

- 10 a.m. [Faculty and Staff Coronavirus Task Force Open Office Hours](#)  
*Join Whitman's Coronavirus Task Force Chair Josh Jensen to ask questions about Whitman's return-to-work and planning for the fall. All faculty and staff are invited to join the [Google Meet](#).*
- 4 p.m. [Faculty and Staff: Let's talk about the Symposium](#)  
*The student leaders of the Power & Privilege Symposium invite faculty and staff to learn about the new goals and objectives and collaborative opportunities.*

[More Upcoming Events](#)

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

## Chaplain Chat



Interfaith Chaplain Adam Kirtley shares a story of lives unexpectedly woven together as he reflects on the tension between acknowledging the difficulties and challenges of these days while looking for opportunities to identify moments of gratitude.

"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.



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