**Senator Patty Murray and Whitman Students Discuss Health Equity**

In a special virtual event for the Whitman community, Washington State Senator Patty Murray took part in a panel discussion. The discussion centered on a report authored by Murray’s office titled "COVID-19 & Achieving Health Equity: Congressional Action Is Necessary to Address Racism And Inequities in The U.S. Health Care System." The senator shared her expertise with three Whitman College student leaders, who have been key to this project: Zidane Galant-LaPorte, a senior Chinese and politics double major; Salma Anguiano, a junior Chinese and sociology major; and Jasmine Razeghi, also a junior Chinese and politics double major.

The discussion prompted a question posed by the student leaders: "Will getting the COVID vaccine affect my results in Whitman’s pooled surveillance testing?" To which Senator Murray responded, "This is the type of test we use for our campus COVID testing, so if you are randomly selected for surveillance testing you can take the test without worrying about receiving a false positive result." The senator added that during the testing process, "those who are not a part of a study group and who have received the vaccine will receive a positive result, regardless of whether or not they have received the vaccine," she said. "This is because multiple people receive the same vaccine during the testing process, and everyone will receive a positive result regardless of whether or not they have received the vaccine."

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**Announcements**

**Campus Closed and No Classes Tomorrow**

Tomorrow, April 6, is the start of Spring Break, and there are no classes for faculty and students. Additionally, campus offices, including Penrose Library, will be closed in recognition of the work done by Whitman staff members.

**Apply Now for the David Nord Award**

The Intercultural Center is proud to be accepting applications for the David Nord Award. The Nord Award is presented annually to support CAS faculty-focused projects on campus that engage the Whitman community to engage critical issues through a variety of creative and scholarly mediums. Recipients will receive a cash award along with financial project support. For more information visit the David Nord Award page.

**Noteworthy**

**Henry Leads Local Anti-Nuclear Weapon Effort**


**RALSTON PUBLISHES OP-ED ON PREVENTING JURY BIAS**

Jason Ralston, assistant professor of economics, with Charles North, associate professor of economics at Baylor University, published an op-ed in Arkansas Business analyzing the potential effect of a new law in Arkansas permitting jurors to donate their jury pay. Citing research they published in 2019 on a similar practice in Texas, Ralston and North discuss the possibility that the process may create juror bias and propose a simple solution.

**Submit News of a Personal or Professional Achievement**

Submit news of a personal or professional achievement. Submissions are welcome if submitted in a way that is in line with the Whitman Values." Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submittals is noon for the following day’s newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date.

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**Happening Today**

- **COVID-19 Testing**
  - 9 a.m.-10 a.m.
  - Cadet Hall for those in this week’s random sample surveillance testing.

**Virtual Career Trek: Jubilant HollisterStier**

Join a diverse panel of company employees on a virtual professional platform.

- **Virtual Career Trek: Jubilant HollisterStier**
  - 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
  - XX/YY

**Academic Majors Fair**

Three Whitman college student leaders served as hosts and panel members: Zidane Galant-LaPorte, a senior Chinese and politics double major; Salma Anguiano, a junior Chinese and sociology major; and Jasmine Razeghi, also a junior Chinese and politics double major.

**Arnold Visiting Professor of Classics Lecture**

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Previous issues of Whitman Today are archived on our website.