



Whitman Today

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Fall 2020 Convocation



WHITMAN COLLEGE



Cross-Currents

By Professor Brian Dott

In [this traditional faculty speech to incoming first-years](#), Professor of History Brian Dott encourages students to take active roles in the directions of their educations. He also addresses important issues connected with this year's academic theme of "Race, Violence and Health," while bringing in some motivating examples from Chinese history.

Teaching Hack of the Week

Brought to you by the Center for Teaching and Learning

Here's a pressing question that many colleagues are asking: "What are your plans for uploading and storing recorded synchronous videos?!" Once again, there's a lot out there! Take a look at the following:

YouTube

- **Pros:** allows you to easily add timestamps and captions to your videos and control privacy options. Albert Schueller has created a [how-to guide](#).
- **Cons:** may not be available to students in China; ask your students in China if they are able to access YouTube.

GoogleDrive

- **Pros:** easy to use, lots of available space; access permissions to folders containing videos can be customized.
- **Cons:** not available to students in China.

Canvas

- **Pros:** available in any country, including China; one place, one course-site. WCTS provides useful how-to's on [preparing and uploading videos into Canvas](#).
- **Cons:** video files need to be under 500MB each. (But there's good news: class periods up to an hour and 20 minutes tend to be below the threshold.)

Please also check out the [Academic Information Technology Advisory Group's FAQ: Student Technology Survey](#).

Noteworthy

Cordner Wins International Society of Exposure Science Award
Alissa Cordner, professor of sociology, was the lead author of a paper on drinking water contamination which won the [International Society of Exposure Science \(ISES\) 2020 Award for Best JESEE](#). This award is given to an ISES member for authorship of work published in the prior print volume year of the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology (JESEE) that exemplifies innovative and creative research and scholarship.

Blavascunas Publishes Book on Belarusian Forest
Eunice Blavascunas, professor of anthropology and environmental studies, has published "[Foresters, Borders, and Bark Beetles: The Future of Europe's Last Primeval Forest](#)." This ethnographic work provides an intimate account of the Bialowieza Forest on the Polish/Belarusian border to untangle complex forest conflicts between protection and use. Blavascunas looks at which pasts are celebrated, which fester and which are altered in the tumultuous decades following the collapse of communism.

Jackson Book Featured in The American Prospect
Jack Jackson, associate professor of politics, had his new book featured in [The American Prospect](#). In an interview, Jackson discusses his book "[Law Without Future: Anti-Constitutional Politics and the American Right](#)" (University of Pennsylvania Press), and about how authoritarianism seeped into the body politic.

Happening Today and Tomorrow

TODAY

2 p.m.

[Everbridge Info Session](#)

Have questions about Everbridge, the technology behind Whitman's daily wellness check and contact tracing efforts? Join Linc Nesheim, information security officer, for an [information and Q&A session](#).

TOMORROW

4 p.m.

[Community Fellows Fair 2020-21](#)

Juniors and seniors are invited to join the Student Engagement Center for an excellent opportunity to learn about local Walla Walla community partners and to get face time with recruiters. Register in advance for 1:1 and group sessions.

[More Upcoming Events](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to whitmantoday@whitman.edu.

Getting to Know...

ZIDANE GALANT-LAPORTE '21
(she/hers)

Major: sociology

Extracurricular activities: community engagement office in the SEC; Community Fellow; course assistant for a sociology class; research assistant for a project focusing on COVID-19 impacts on Washingtonians

[This summer Galant-LaPorte worked with Break Away](#), an organization dedicated to creating a society of compassionate and community-oriented people through alternative breaks. Due to the pandemic, what was going to be a summer of road trips around the country (Georgia, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Virginia) executing the organization's signature Alternative Break Citizenship schools (ABCs) was adapted to remote working from her childhood bedroom to pull off two, three-day virtual conferences along the nine person staff, based in the Midwest and East Coast.



"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. 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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