



# Whitman Today

Monday, August 16, 2021

## Grants Corner: Recent Faculty/Staff Grant Awards



Several faculty and staff members received grant awards during the summer months:

Ben Murphy, college archivist, and his colleagues in the Whitman College and NW Archives (WNCA) received two grants from the Washington State Library, both focusing on diversifying the voices available within the WNCA. The first grant will support Whitman's participation in [The Listeners Project Queremos Escuchar](#), a bilingual community interviewing and story collecting project created in collaboration with the Walla Walla Immigrants' Rights Coalition and the Walla Walla Public Library. With these funds, the Archives will hire students to help solicit, record and archive English and Spanish oral history interviews with members of the local community. The second grant will broaden public access of underrepresented voices from the Archives by enabling student research and presentation of oral history and other archival materials.

William Bares, associate professor of computer science, received a grant from Teach Access, an organization that works to enhance students' understanding of digital accessibility—how to develop new technologies with the needs of people with disabilities in mind. Bares is working with a student this summer to develop and test new course modules for his Fall 2021 Intelligent User Interfaces Course. The modules contain hands-on design and programming activities designed to apply alternative input devices such as motion- and eye-tracking in conjunction with intelligent algorithms. This course will help students understand the importance of engaging with accessible design.

Alissa Cordner, associate professor of sociology, received a grant from the National Science Foundation. This grant continues her long-time research collaboration with her colleagues at Northeastern University on PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), one of the most significant contamination crises of the century. This grant will enable the research team to create a PFAS Governance Database, consisting of in-depth interviews, observations, and analysis of governance documents to investigate the variety of regulatory and non-regulatory (monitoring, funding, remediation) approaches at federal, state, and local levels taken across the United States, including the option of inaction. Cordner will train and supervise student researchers to conduct interviews as part of this project.

## Q: I've been approved for fall campus access. Where do I get the sticker for my Whitman ID card?

A: Please bring your Fall Campus Access Approval email and your Whitman ID card to one of the following locations to have the fall access sticker placed on your WID card:

- WCTS Helpdesk, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.
- Reid Campus Center Post Office, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- All Staff Breakfast, August 18, 8:30 a.m. at Reid Campus Center side lawn
- Staff & Faculty Ice Cream Social, August 20, 3 p.m. at Baker Center side lawn
- Round 1 COVID-19 Testing, August 23-27 and 30 from 8 a.m.—3 p.m. at Cordner Hall

## Announcements

### Regular Office Hours Resume August 23

In preparation for the beginning of the new academic year, we wanted to remind everyone that regular academic and business office schedules will resume on Monday, August 23.

### First-Ever Whitman Language Census

On Wednesday, August 25, Whitman's first-ever language census will be offered to students as they come through Reid Campus Center for the annual student check in. This language census will be conducted by Adeline Rother, senior adjunct assistant professor of general studies and composition, and junior Sueli Gwiazdowski as part of their faculty-student research on the pedagogical value of multilingualism, translation as an accommodation, and support of English Second Language students. The census will be administered through a Google Form that will take roughly five minutes to complete. Rother and Gwiazdowski hope to share the information gathered with the community, in order to show the incredible diversity of languages spoken or studied at Whitman.



### Coping With Wildfire Smoke

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. If you must go outside during periods of unhealthy air quality, wear an N95 or KN95 mask; cloth face masks do not prevent smoke particle inhalation. Indoors, keep windows closed, and use HVAC air filters of a MERV 13 or higher rating and portable air purifiers with HEPA filters.

## Upcoming Events

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

8:30–10 a.m. **COVID-19 Testing**  
*Any employee or student who has campus access approval through a vaccination exemption must be tested weekly. Testing will take place at Welty Student Health Center.*

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

8:30 a.m. **All Staff Breakfast**  
*A gathering for all staff on the Reid Campus Center side lawn, including introductions of new staff and presentation of the Janice Abrahams Award. *Note:* We will continue to monitor air quality and will modify this event as necessary.*

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

2 p.m. **Whitman College Men's Soccer vs Eastern Oregon University**  
*At the Whitman Athletic Fields.*

3 p.m. **Staff and Faculty Ice Cream Social**  
*A end-of-summer social for all staff and faculty on the side lawn of Baker Center. *Note:* We will continue to monitor air quality and will modify this event as necessary.*

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

7 p.m. **Whitman College Women's Soccer vs Columbia Basin (Exhibition)**  
*At the Whitman Athletic Fields.*

### Whitman Events Calendar

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

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday and Thursday 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. 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](#).

