



Whitman Today

Monday, August 9, 2021

Building Tools for Learning



This summer, rising sophomore Silivan Munguarakarama is interning in his hometown of Lusaka, Zambia, with Edulution (a portmanteau of education and revolution), a company that aims to revolutionize the way students learn in sub-Saharan Africa. Currently operating in Zambia, Namibia and South Africa, Edulution uses technology to help learners master numeracy, literacy and digital skills.

In [his Whitman Internship Grant blog](#), Munguarakarama reflects on the personal significance of his internship: "What really excites me the most is that I am not only learning how to use technology to solve some of sub-Saharan Africa's problems of access to education but I am also applying my knowledge to come up with solutions to problems that real users on the program face. The fact that the code I am writing ends up in a program that is helping a student in a rural school, and not just for a class assignment, is really humbling and pushing me to seek more ways I can contribute to my homeland."

Layers of Protection

As we continue to [learn more about the Delta variant of coronavirus](#), one thing many health officials emphasize is the importance of building layers of protection. Vaccination and masking are two essential elements of keeping ourselves healthy, but other practices provide additional preventative interventions:

- Good cough and sneeze etiquette: Direct your face into your elbow, not your hand. This prevents contamination of your hands and by extension, any surface you may touch.
- Do not touch your face.
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand disinfectant.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well or have symptoms that may be related to COVID-19.
- Pay attention to your environment and practice good social-distancing procedures.

Announcements

Campus Power Outage Tomorrow

On Tuesday, August 10, Pacific Power (PPL) will perform an electrical shutdown for required repairs, which will impact the primary power for five to eight hours to all buildings on the north side of Boyer Avenue. The emergency generators are expected to turn on and supply power for life safety and specific equipment connected to the emergency power. The anticipated schedule is for PPL to turn off at 8 a.m. and turn back on at 4 p.m.

This will not impact COVID-19 testing at Welty Student Health Center for employees and students with campus access by exemption. Testing will take place from 8:30 to 10 a.m. as regularly scheduled.

Insight Into Employee Health Insurance Explanation of Benefits

When you receive healthcare, your provider sends the bill to Premera. When Premera pays the claim, they send you an explanation of benefits (EOB). Don't worry; it's not a bill.

The EOB explains how your benefits were applied to a particular claim, including the following:

- Date of service
- Amount billed and amount paid by your plan
- Amount you owe
- The amount credited toward your deductible

Skip the snail mail, save postage, and be environmentally friendly. Sign up to get your EOBs securely online and you'll receive an email when you have a new EOB to view:

- Log in at premera.com
- Under My Account, select Account Settings to turn on Paperless EOBs

Upcoming Events

TODAY

9–10 a.m.

Farewell Gathering for Josh Jensen

Come by the Cleveland Commons Patio to wish Vice President for Enrollment and Communications Josh Jensen well as he ends his time at Whitman. President Murray will provide brief remarks at 9:15; coffee, tea and pastries will be served.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

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.

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to 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. 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](#).



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