



Whitman Today

Monday, February 22, 2021

Anderson Hall Update

Upon receiving the results from last week's PCR tests Saturday, which were delayed by severe weather across the country, the COVID Task Force was informed that one student from Anderson Hall did test positive for COVID-19. This student previously tested negative via on-campus rapid antigen testing, and had not had any close contacts since testing positive. The student is now in isolation housing.

Meet Whitman's New SAVA

The trauma of sexual assault takes its toll both physically and emotionally and, for many, it can be difficult to know where to turn for support. Thanks to a partnership with the Walla Walla YWCA, survivors of all genders and sexual orientations in the tri-colleges community have a new resource to help them cope with their experiences: [Sexual Assault Victims Advocate \(SAVA\) Malia Lewis](#).

A survivor of sexual assault herself, Lewis will serve the Whitman College, Walla Walla Community College and Walla Walla University communities as a confidential contact for people who have experienced sexual violence.

[Read more](#) from a recent interview with Lewis.



Q: Will getting COVID vaccine mean that you would have a positive COVID test?

A: [According to the CDC](#), no. Neither the recently authorized and recommended vaccines nor the other COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States can cause you to test positive on [viral tests](#), which are used to see if you have a current infection. This is the type of test we use for our campus COVID testing.

If your body develops an immune response—the goal of vaccination—there is a possibility you may test positive on some [antibody tests](#). Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results. We do not offer antibody testing at Whitman.

Announcements

2021 Reunion Update

The Alumni Relations team, in conjunction with campus partners, has made the decision to postpone the 50th Reunion celebration for the Classes of 1970 and 1971 scheduled for Commencement Weekend. The 50th Reunion has been rescheduled for June 23-26, 2022. This decision does not impact Commencement Weekend; the decision about graduation will be made by the President's Cabinet at a later date.

Reunions originally scheduled for September 2020 and postponed to June 2021 will now take place virtually.

We are disappointed that alumni will not be able to visit campus in the spring, but these decisions were based on what is in the best interest of our alumni, faculty, staff and students.

We hope to welcome alumni back for the 2021 Reunion Weekend scheduled for September 24-26, 2021.

Questions? Contact Nancy Mitchell, Director of Alumni Relations at mitchenl@whitman.edu or call (509) 527-5952.

Question of the Week



Following our campus-wide baseline testing, we began pooled surveillance testing on Jan. 25. In the past four weeks, we have administered more than 3,100 COVID tests through this process. So this week, we want to know: if you are authorized to access campus, how many times have you taken one of our pooled surveillance tests?

0-1 2 3 4

Happening This Week

TODAY

9 a.m.–2 p.m. **COVID-19 Testing**
COVID-19 testing at Cordiner Hall for those in this week's random sample surveillance testing.

4 p.m. **[America's Prisons and the Movement for Racial and Environmental Justice](#)**
Presentation from David Pellow is Professor of Environmental Studies and Director of the Global Environmental Justice Project at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Centering my focus on spaces of incarceration as sites of struggles for environmental justice, this talk explores how re-framing environmental injustice as a form of racist state violence can offer new pathways toward transformative analysis and action.

4 p.m. **[Open Office Hours for Students with Dean Kazi Joshua](#)**
"The People's Dean" is holding drop-in office hours with 15-minute sessions from 4–5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the semester.

TUESDAY

9 a.m.–2 p.m. **COVID-19 Testing**
COVID-19 testing at Cordiner Hall for those in this week's random sample surveillance testing.

4 p.m. **[Why are Toxic Chemicals Everywhere? Learning from Science and Advocacy](#)**
Professor of Advocacy Alissa Corder will highlight the Whitman student researchers working with her in the study of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and talk about the PFAS Project Lab, studying social, scientific and political factors.

4 p.m. **[Pres. Murray Open Office Hours for Students](#)**
President Murray invites students to join her for office hours on Zoom. Please sign into Zoom with your Whitman SSO credentials and use the meeting passcode 485182.

4:30 p.m. **[Finding Your First Opportunity at a Museum](#)**
Join the Sheehan Gallery and Student Engagement Center to hear from a panel of museum professionals to learn how you can prepare for a future in museum studies. During this interactive panel, you will hear from three professionals about how the field is changing, learn which skills you should develop, and gain insights to career trajectories.

WEDNESDAY

4 p.m. **[Open Office Hours for Students with Dean Kazi Joshua](#)**
"The People's Dean" is holding drop-in office hours with 15-minute sessions from 4–5 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the semester.

[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–Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Standard 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.

Previous issues of Whitman Today are [archived on our website](#).



WHITMAN COLLEGE

