



# Whitman Today

Thursday, February 25, 2021

## Black Life at Whitman: Past, Present, Future



Members of the 1969-70 BSU. Back row left to right: John Mitchell, Ernie Roberts (Fuasi Abdul-Khalid), John Bibb, Floyd Gosset, Valerie Simpson, Harold Thompson, Arthur Mitchell. Front row: Philip Boss and Fred Mitchell.

A [Throwback Thursday](#) post from [Whitman's Instagram](#) recognizes a group of history makers, the members of the first [Black Student Union \(BSU\)](#), pictured in this 1969-70 yearbook photo.

Phil Boss '71, played an instrumental role in founding the BSU. He created a place for the community to gather and have a voice when they needed a space to do so and served as BSU president from 1968-1971.

In the fall of 2020, Boss spoke with Aliyah Fard '22, current vice president of Whitman's BSU, about activism at Whitman from 50 years ago through today on the [WhitmanSoWhite](#) podcast, episode 10: "The 1970 Black Student Union: A Look At 50 Years Of Whitman Activism." He also offered encouragement to current student leaders, who are navigating their roles as activists in the community, telling them, "The work you're doing is not work in vain...It's about planting a seed."

You can hear from more Black alums tomorrow about their experiences and hopes for the future in the final installment of the SEC and Intercultural Center's Black History Month [social media takeover on Instagram](#).

### Q: What metrics does Washington state consider in evaluating which phase a region is in on the Roadmap to Recovery plan?

A: The four key metrics are:

- Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 cases per 100K population
- Trend in 14-day rate of new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100K population
- Average 7-day percent occupancy of ICU staffed beds
- 7-day percent positive of COVID-19 tests

You can view this information for the South Central Region, which Walla Walla is part of, as well as other metrics about health data and economic impact on the [Washington State COVID dashboard website](#).

## Announcements

### What Would You Put in a Time Capsule?

As we all reflect on the past year of pandemic life, the Whitman Magazine staff invites students, faculty and staff to share what items they would place in a time capsule to commemorate this tumultuous time. Perhaps it's a hand-sewn mask or a bottle of DIY hand sanitizer you mixed yourself because it was sold out everywhere. Or maybe it's a sourdough starter you nurtured in quarantine, or a book that gave you comfort when things looked bleak. It could even be the adoption papers for the "pandemic pup" who kept you company during the lockdown. Send a description and/or photo of what you'd include in a time capsule—and why—to Lara Hale, Whitman Magazine editor, at [halel@whitman.edu](mailto:halel@whitman.edu).

## Noteworthy

### Filion Gamers Northwest Conference Student-Athlete Award

For his efforts on Saturday against Pacific Lutheran, Tanner Filion '23 has been named the Northwest Conference's Men's Swimming Student-Athlete of the Week. Filion was stellar in Whitman's season finale win over the Lutes, most notably breaking his own school record with his victory in the 100 backstroke (49.57). Filion also took top honors in three other events to help the men's team to its solid victory. He won the 50 backstroke (23.16), 50 freestyle (21.18) and closed the day anchoring a first-place finish in the 400 free relay with teammates Ian Walsh, Jackson Masson and Michael Chang.

[Submit News of a Person or Professional Achievement](#)

## Happening Today

**BLACK STUDENTS  
BLACK DREAMS  
BLACK FUTURES  
BLACK LIVES  
MATTER**

STARTING  
THURSDAY 2/25 3 PM  
AT THE GLOVER ALSTON CENTER  
(GAC)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
DISPLAY AND FLAG PICK UP**

**BLACK LIVES  
MATTER IN  
OUR SCHOOL**

FREE HAND FLAGS PROVIDED BY  
THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSION FOR THE WHITMAN  
COMMUNITY

**EDUCATORS FOR  
BLACK LIVES**

3 p.m.

**Black History Month Display and Flag Pick Up**  
*Starting at 3 p.m. there will be a Black History Month display at the Glover Alston Center with free hand flags available at the entrance for members of the Whitman Community. The display will remain open, following the building's hours, until the limited flags are all claimed.*

5 p.m.

**Desire, Pleasure & Arousal Workshop**  
*Delta Gamma is hosting alum and sex educator Haley Ireland for a workshop on pleasure, understanding desire, and activating arousal. Topics will also include exploring new sexual experiences and communicating wants and needs. Open to those who identify as female and/or nonbinary.*

[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-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](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.

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

