



Whitman Today

Monday, January 25, 2021

First Day of Classes



President Kathy Murray shares her excitement at seeing the liveliness on campus. And, while we celebrate the first day of classes, she recognizes that we start this semester in a fragile situation that requires all of us to continue masking up, spreading out and limiting our gatherings so that we can keep our community healthy.

Campus and Community Health



Ongoing COVID-19 Testing

Were you chosen for random sampled testing this week? If you received the email **you must get tested today or tomorrow between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

Beginning today, Whitman will conduct weekly COVID-19 testing of a sample of our community (residential students, off-campus students, staff and faculty who are approved to access campus) to identify asymptomatic cases and possible transmission.

Each week, the number of people tested will vary based on the previous week's testing results. This week, 1/3 of the campus population will be tested. Individuals will be randomly selected into the weekly sample and receive an email with further instructions when they are assigned.

This surveillance testing is an essential part of our campus health and safety plan. If you do not take an assigned COVID-19 test during the surveillance process, your access to campus will be revoked.

Q: What were the results from our campus baseline COVID-19 tests?

A: By the end of day each Monday, we update our online COVID-19 Dashboard with the previous week's test results. As we go through the semester, this dashboard will provide the weekly and cumulative data on our community's cases of COVID-19. It also contains links to our Community Pledge, Safe Start Plan and Spring 2021 FAOS - great places to start if you are looking for information about how we are living, working and learning together this semester.

[COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

Announcements

Eco-Takeouts Reusable Container Program Launches Today

Planning to take your meal to go from Cleveland? Of course you are, you don't have a choice right now! But starting today, you do have one choice: you can choose to grab your meal in a sustainable, reusable container.

This week, any student who requests an Eco-Takeout container will get one at no cost. For students placing orders through the mobile app, there will be the option to ask for a reusable container in the notes section. It is expected that students will bring back their used container and exchange it for a fresh one or a token card if they are not getting another right away.

Happening This Week

MONDAY, JAN. 25-FRIDAY, JAN. 29: UNITY WEEK



The Diversity & Inclusion Team is excited for the week ahead!

Join them in kicking off the week with their social media takeover happening today! Follow them on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

This afternoon, tune in to a [musical performance at 5 p.m.](#) featuring Whitman students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Don't forget to RSVP to Tuesday's workshop, [Depolarizing Within](#).

To see the full schedule of events check out the [Unity Week webpage](#).

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

4 p.m. [Reconstructing a family narrative before and after Reconstruction](#)
Join Whitman alumnus Steve Hammond '79 as he shares the Syphax family history of his southern roots in New Orleans. Steve is a 7th generation member of the Syphax family of Washington, DC: a line that moved by force to New Orleans and then by choice to Denver.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29

5 p.m. [Interview with Ed Yong, Science Writer](#)
Ed Yong is a science journalist who reports for The Atlantic. He covers everything that is or was once alive, and has spent most of 2020 focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

5:30 p.m. [Whitman Women's Basketball vs. University of Puget Sound](#)

8 p.m. [Whitman Men's Basketball vs. University of Puget Sound](#)

SATURDAY, JAN. 30

[Whitman Swimming vs. University of Puget Sound](#)

3:30 p.m. [Whitman Women's Basketball vs. University of Puget Sound](#)

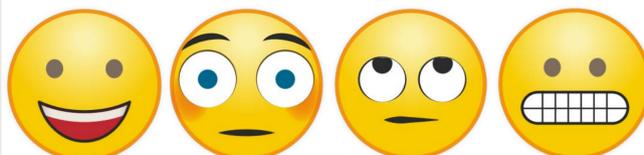
6 p.m. [Whitman Men's Basketball vs. University of Puget Sound](#)

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

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

Question of the Week

This week, it's time for our first-day-of-classes check-in. So, we want to know: how are you feeling?



"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](#).



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