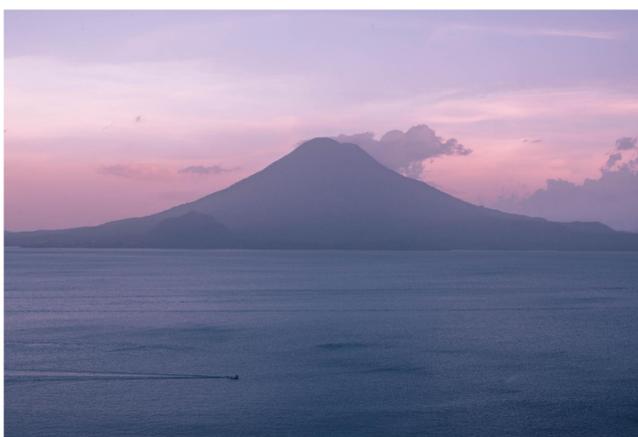




# Whitman Today

Thursday, January 7, 2021

## Whitman Professor and Students Discover Giant Underwater Volcano



A giant volcano may be hidden beneath the waters off the southwestern coast of Alaska.

The discovery is the result of years of research by scientists from across the country including Whitman Geology Professor Kirsten Nicolaysen and her team of student researchers.

"The first big expedition related to the Islands of Four Mountains grew out of conversations at two workshops during my semester sabbatical in fall 2011," said Nicolaysen. "Between 2014 and this year, seven Whitman students completed senior research projects related to this program."

[Read more about this discovery.](#)

## Announcements

### Participate in the Virtual Peace March

The Offices of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at the three Walla Walla colleges invite you to participate in a virtual march to celebrate and honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

To participate, please use [this form](#) to submit an image to include in the Peace March. The image can be a picture of yourself/your family the way you would have joined the march in the past, it can be an image of a sign or poster that you would have brought to the march or any other art form you've created that celebrates the memory and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. The submission deadline is Sunday, Jan. 10.

### Employee Assistance Program: Mindfulness at Work

As a new year begins, consider making time to learn how the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can support you. The EAP has helpful resources on [mindfulness at work](#) and [building resiliency](#), and provides access to [life coaching](#).

As we continue to navigate a global pandemic and face continued stress, don't forget that the EAP offers telehealth phone and video counseling as well as crisis counseling. Counselors are available 24/7 to offer free, confidential help. For assistance:

- call: 800-433-2320
- text: 503-850-7721
- email: [info@cascaedcenters.com](mailto:info@cascaedcenters.com)

To access the EAP, log on to the [member site](#) and create an account.

### Annual Security Report Available

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act (commonly called the Clery Act) is a federal law that requires colleges and universities to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. Whitman's [2020 Annual Security Report](#) is now available on our website.

## Noteworthy

### Christopherson Book Published

Neal Christopherson, director of institutional research, recently published "[Transformative Experiences in College: Connections and Community](#)." The book is based on a five-year longitudinal interview study with Whitman students and focuses on the importance of relationships and community in student learning and development.

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

## Campus and Community Health

### COVID-19 in Walla Walla

Currently there are 382 active cases of [COVID-19 in Walla Walla County](#). Of these, 373 residents are isolating at home and nine in the hospital.

Over the past week, one new case of COVID-19 was confirmed in a Whitman student living in Walla Walla. No cases were confirmed among staff or faculty.

On Wednesday, Jan. 6 Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee announced "[Healthy Washington—Roadmap to Recovery](#)," a COVID-19 phased recovery plan. Beginning Monday, Jan. 11, the state will follow a regional recovery approach with every region beginning in Phase 1.

## Upcoming Events



### Faculty and Staff Town Hall

President Murray, with members of the Cabinet and our consulting epidemiologist, will host an online town hall meeting for faculty and staff today at 4 p.m. They will share more details about the spring semester and answer questions. [Register for the town hall meeting here.](#)

### Students and Families Town Halls

President Murray, with members of the Cabinet and our consulting epidemiologist, will host two online town hall meetings for students and their families. Plan to attend one of these Zoom meetings for more details about the spring semester and an opportunity to ask your questions. The town halls, which can be accessed through the links below, are scheduled for:

- [Monday, Jan. 11 at 4 p.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.](#)

The student and family town hall meetings will be recorded for later viewing and the links will be shared afterward.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday-Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. Whitman Today will publish twice weekly during the winter break, sent on Mondays and Thursdays from Dec. 7-Jan. 10. There will be no issues of Whitman Today from Dec. 24-Jan. 3 while campus offices are closed.

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.



