Online COVID Course

How Are You Doing? I'm a Mess, Thanks

Though orientation for new students and families begins today, more than 120 incoming students already have one free Whitman credit for completing the COVID-19: A Liberal Arts Approach to the Study of a Global Pandemic online course. Each student had to watch at least seven of the 20+ lectures, and then participate on discussion boards for each course. They were also asked to keep a journal on what they were learning, and then write a three-page essay reflecting on COVID-19 in a cross-disciplinary way. Faculty and students reflect on the importance of this course, which is now available to the general public, in articles for the Whitman newsroom as well as Inside Higher Ed.

Coronavirus News

Coronavirus Task Force Update: Wearing Face Coverings

A recent study in the Center for Disease Control's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report demonstrates how important face covering play is in preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus in public. At a Missouri hair salon where face masks were required by ordinance, two stylists tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Before their results came back, they saw 139 customers while symptomatic. Of the 100 clients who were interviewed, 98% were also wearing face covering. None of the clients developed symptoms, and of the 67 clients tested all were negative for the virus. However, four household contacts of one stylist tested positive.

Building Reopening Progress

A limited number of employees continue to return to campus as buildings are reopened. Currently, buildings are open only to the employees authorized to work in that building. The purpose of returning employees to campus is to prepare buildings to reopen in the fall and to facilitate working for employees unable to work remotely. Buildings are not reopened for general services like library check-outs, fitness activities, or rental or customer service operations. The buildings scheduled to reopen this week are Baker Ferguson Fitness Center, Sherwood Center, Baker Center, Fouts Center for the Visual Arts, Hall of Music, Penrose House and Penrose Library.

Whitman’s Coronavirus Info Center

Coronavirus in Walla Walla

The Walla Walla County Department of Health reported 73 new coronavirus cases in the past week. Of the total 294 cases confirmed since tracking began in March, 2020, 266 residents are now recovered and 85 are in isolation.

Announcements

Faculty and Staff Coronavirus Open Office Hours

Each Friday at 10 a.m. through July and August, join Whitman’s Coronavirus Task Force Chair Josh Jensen to ask questions about Whitman’s return-to-work process and planning for the fall. All faculty and staff are invited to join the Google Meet.

Happening This Week

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

 Noon Community Engaged Summer Research Program Share-Out

A Zoom presentation celebrating eight different community-engaged research partnerships including students, community partners, faculty and staff.

More Upcoming Events

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

Seen Around Campus

Through support from the Whitman Internship Grant, Christian Moreno '21 is a summer intern at Haser Inc, a non-profit group that works to strengthen other non-profits in Puerto Rico by offering administrative support, strategic planning and proposal development. Christian is a 2020 Whitman Social Innovation Fellow.

*Whitman Today* is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed weekly to Whitman College faculty, students and staff. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time. Previous newsletters can be found on the Whitman Today archive website. To submit items, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu. The deadline for submissions is 12 p.m. Friday for the following week’s newsletter.