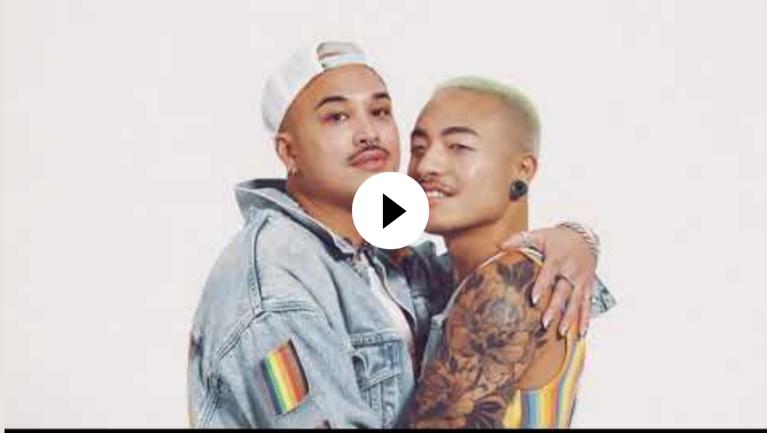




# Whitman Today

Thursday, June 17, 2021

## Life After Whitman: Brendan Dunlap '19



It all began with a blue wig and high heels he wore to a campus screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" during his junior year at Whitman. In a recent New York Times article, "[The Boys in Their Summer Dresses](#)," Brendan Dunlap '19 characterized that stunt as the beginning of a "slow moving, steady journey" to embrace a joyful daily practice of self-expression in clothing.

Today, Dunlap, a substitute teacher in San Francisco, dresses completely for fun, some days favoring jeans and sneakers and others donning a miniskirt and heels. He is currently featured in Levi's 2021 Pride campaign, "All Pronouns. All Love," where he explains: "My experience with style shifted a lot when I finally gave myself permission to explore beyond the confines of gender norms. Now, whether it's feminine or masculine, my style feels like my choice."

## Campus COVID-19 Update

Any employee who has not provided proof of being vaccinated against COVID-19 must take a coronavirus test every week in order to receive a campus access badge valid for seven days. This testing is offered at Welty Student Health Center on Tuesdays from 8:30-10 a.m. This week, 36 employees were tested and there were no positive tests.

Students in Walla Walla who wish to have summer access to campus must provide proof of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and complete the request form in order to receive their access badge.

Current campus vaccination statistics:  
Employees: 85%  
Students (classes of 2022, 2023 and 2024): 63%  
Combined total: 70%

[COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Form](#)

[Student Summer Access Request Form](#)

## Announcements

### Your Feedback Wanted: Campus Communications Survey

In response to the 2020 Inclusion Task Force Action Items, Whitman Communications is exploring ways to improve campus communications. Please take a few minutes to [complete this survey](#) and provide valuable insight as we consider what tools, trainings and tactics could help us build a more informed and connected community.

### Your Ultimate Summer Job Search Resource: SEC Career Staff

Did the summer sneak up on you? No worries! There are incredible statistics in the news about open positions remaining unfilled all over the country for entry-level jobs in multiple industries. Get ready with the help of the Student Engagement Center's career staff. Schedule an appointment via [Handshake](#) to spruce up your resume, get feedback on cover letters and prepare to nail that interview.

## Noteworthy

### Yuan Published on Religion and Education in China

Xiaobo Yuan, assistant professor of anthropology and religion, recently published an article titled, "[Refusing Educational Desire: Negotiating Faith and Precarity at an Underground Chinese Christian School](#)" in the journal *Asian Anthropology*. Based on original ethnographic fieldwork, the article explores illegal religious schools that have been founded by underground Christian churches in China. Focusing on how one particular urban school navigates the risks and uncertainties of its unsanctioned status, the article asks how a religious community can cultivate alternative desires for educational futures in a society that privileges educational success.

### Downing Recognized for Emergency Assistance

Rising junior Simeon Downing is spending his summer playing baseball for the Sherrill Silversmiths in upstate New York. On June 7, he and teammates were taking batting practice when they noticed a nearby garage was on fire. Downing and two others took quick action, finding hoses and helping to prevent the fire spreading. Of Downing and his Silversmiths teammates, Sherrill Police Chief Robert Drake said: "The selfless efforts of these individuals to actively take action and attempt to assist the residents of Sherrill in a time of crisis is greatly appreciated. Their willingness to help and courageous action are a true inspiration." [Read more](#)

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

## Upcoming Events

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

8:30-10 a.m.

### Employee COVID-19 Testing

Any employee who has not submitted proof of COVID-19 vaccination must be tested in order to receive the weekly campus access badge. Testing will take place at Welty Student Health Center.

"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 Daylight 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. By submitting to Whitman Today you also authorize use on Whitman's social media unless otherwise specified.

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

