



Whitman Today

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Whitman Teaches the Movement and Wa-Hi collaborate for Black History Month virtual event



The following excerpt is from a [March 4 article by Tejashree Jadhav '24](#) in the *Whitman Wire*.

Whitman Teaches the Movement (WTTM) collaborated with Walla Walla High School (Wa-Hi) to facilitate conversations about Black history during the final week of Black History Month. On Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m., WTTM held a Zoom event focused on the speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer, an African American civil rights activist in the 1960s.

The event started with a foreword by Kaitlynn Jensen, a sophomore politics major and one of the program leaders of WTTM. She welcomed everyone and shared that the main purpose of WTTM is to initiate conversations about Hard History—difficult-to-talk-about material like slavery and Indigenous issues often skipped over in school curriculums.

Event leaders then played a recording of the testimony Fannie Lou Hamer gave in 1964. Hamer, in this testimony, spoke about the gruesome violence African Americans faced in Mississippi and advocated the importance of Black voting rights. Students tuned in keenly and for some, this was their first time hearing Hamer.

"Learning about the whole testimony was new to me," Sadie Robinson, a senior at Wa-Hi said in an email to *The Wire*. "I had heard Fannie Lou Hamer's name before, but never truly learned about her in school, or on my own."

Robinson is the leader of Girls' League, the club that invited WTTM for the discussion.

Q: Why was I picked for COVID-19 surveillance testing two (or more) weeks in a row?

A: We are currently testing about one-third of the Whitman community every week. Being tested one week does not remove you from the list of people who may be tested the next week. Therefore, the likelihood is high that you may be randomly selected for a COVID-19 test multiple times over the semester, sometimes even several weeks in a row.

Announcements

Get Well Ssssssoon

Many of you may recognize Candy the corn snake. One of the the biology lab's resident reptiles, Candy is a great ambassador introducing many people at Whitman and in Walla Walla to the wonders of her species.

This spring, Candy developed a serious infection that has spread to her bones. Today she will have an affected portion of her tail amputated at the Washington State University animal hospital.

Please join us in wishing Candy a speedy recovery and return to Walla Walla!



Noteworthy

Jensen Named Newman Civic Fellow

Politics major Kaitlynn Jensen '23 has received the prestigious [Newman Civic Fellowship](#) from Campus Compact, a Boston-based nonprofit working to advance the public purposes of higher education. She joins just 212 college students from across the country to form the 2021-2022 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows.

Simon Releases Pandemic-Inspired EP

Written in the shadow of the stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, [Social Distancing: Four Songs of the Pandemic](#) by the Michael Simon Project was released March 5. The four-song EP, produced by Michael Simon '02, senior adjunct assistant professor of music, and featuring songs by Simon, Eric Stepanian and Trevor Larkin, was recorded entirely remotely by the members of the band during the spring and summer of 2020. By working in a virtual manner, geographic space ceased to be a limitation, allowing for collaborations with musicians around the country. Sean Slade (Radiohead, Hole, Warren Zevon) served as an adviser on the project.

This project was also Simon's thesis for a MM in Music Production from Berklee College of Music, a degree earned with distinction this past September. *Social Distancing: Four Songs of the Pandemic* by the Michael Simon Project is available at [Bandcamp](#) and is streaming on all major platforms.

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

Happening Today

- noon [Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Virtual Career Trek](#)
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is located in Richland, Washington where breaking research in fields like biology, chemistry, earth and coastal sciences and computational research is conducted.
- 4 p.m. [Crafting Your Future: Intro to Excel Spreadsheets](#)
Join Rich Hinz, from WCTS, for this first of three workshops and learn how to start a spreadsheet, navigate through it and format the content.
- 4 p.m. [Artist Conversation with Erik Reel](#)
The Sheehan Gallery is excited to welcome artist and alum Erik Reel for a conversation about his time at Whitman, his unique and multifaceted career path and his life and collaborations in the art world.
- 7:30 p.m. [Life and Death in Medieval Polis, Cyprus](#)
Webinar with Brenda Baker, associate professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University, core faculty member of the Center for Bioarchaeological Research and curator of the ancient Nubian collections housed at ASU.

[Whitman Events Calendar](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to 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. 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](#).

