



Whitman Today

Friday, March 12, 2021

Touched Beyond Words



Exhibitgoers explore the life work of Gabriel Garcia Márquez at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas.

The following excerpt is from the Winter 2021 edition of *Whitman Magazine*.
[Read the full article online.](#)

On a rainy day in 2007, when [Álvaro Santana-Acuña](#) was studying for his doctorate in sociology at Harvard University, he carried his umbrella through the streets of Cambridge and thought, "It rains here like it does in Macondo."

Macondo is the fictional Colombian town at the center of Gabriel Garcia Márquez's novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude." But Santana-Acuña had never been to Latin America and hadn't read the novel in years. Why did he make that connection?

He held onto that mystifying and meaningful moment for another year, when he began working on an article exploring "this idea that classics are classics because they have the power to enter our lives in the most unexpected ways, and to relate to our life experiences."

More than a decade later, Santana-Acuña—now an assistant professor of sociology at Whitman College—has turned a fleeting thought during a storm into sweeping and award-winning interdisciplinary scholarship.

Q: What factors go into deciding Whitman's Threshold Action Level each week?

A: There is a variety of data that is evaluated, including current COVID-19 cases at Whitman and in Walla Walla County, availability of personal protective equipment and test turnaround time. The specific items are listed on lines 11–22 of the [Threshold Action Levels document](#), which is shared in the weekly email update and in our online COVID-19 Dashboard. Additional items, such as community compliance with social distancing protocols or the presence of new variants of COVID-19, may also be considered as necessary.

Announcements

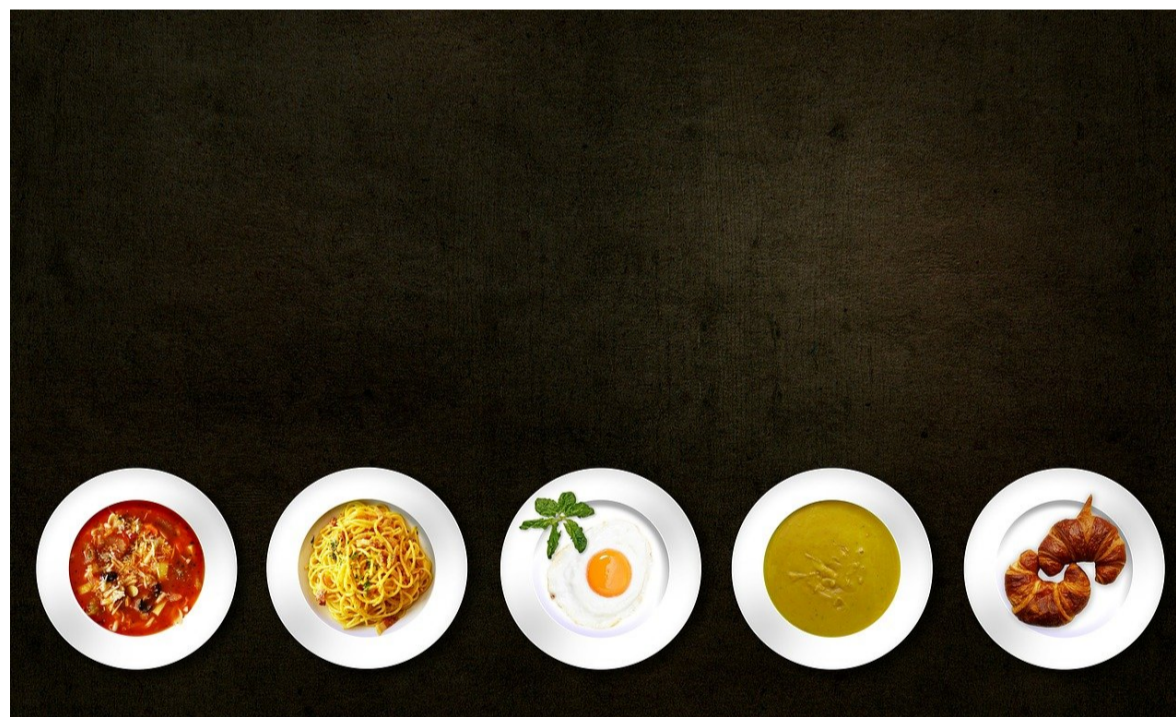
Whitman Food Pantry

Located in the Glover Alston Center (GAC), the [Whitman Food Pantry](#) is available seven days a week, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., including holidays and during college closures.

If you are experiencing food insecurity, head over to the GAC and use your Whitman ID to gain swipe access to the building. Canned and nonperishable items are located on the second floor. Freezer items are available in the kitchen. Please make sure to observe COVID-19 policies when in the GAC:

- Grab and go: Please take the items you need and then depart the building.
- Do not hang out in the GAC individually or with others.
- The kitchen is currently not available for use. You may take items out of the freezer but do not cook at the GAC.

Question of the Week: Answer Edition



Now that we're all able to get food from Cleveland Commons and Jewett Cafe, we asked for your Bon App recommendations. Phad Thai got the most mentions, but the build-your-own-burrito-bowl got the most exclamation marks. [Check out all the suggestions](#) before placing your next order!

Happening This Weekend

TODAY

noon

[Summer 2021 Whitman Internship Grant Info Session](#)

Learn more about the Whitman Internship Grant program, including the new requirements and application process and benefits of the program.

1 p.m.

[Nature Illustration Walk](#)

Take a walk to some beautiful places near campus and work on some outdoor art skills!

3:30 p.m.

[Off-Campus Studies First Step Meeting](#)

Interested in studying abroad? Attend a this informational meeting to learn about options and next steps.

5:30 p.m.

[Hollywood Murder Mystery](#)

Join WEB for a 1970s-themed murder mystery. Whoever solves the mystery and one lucky best dressed person will win prizes!

SATURDAY

1 p.m.

[Biking and Ecology](#)

Ride a few miles away from campus along Mill Creek while stopping frequently to talk about the plants and animals of the area.

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](#).

