



Whitman Today

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

COVID Policies Post-Vaccine



As members of the Whitman community begin to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and in light of new [CDC recommendations for vaccine recipients](#), the COVID Task Force has received questions about whether policies will change for our vaccinated students, faculty and staff. We do not plan to change COVID protocols outlined in [the community pledge](#) before the end of this academic year.

The rollout of vaccines is an important tool in ending the COVID-19 pandemic. Initial studies show that vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe illnesses and death and are very effective at preventing symptomatic infections. However, scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent the virus from spreading to others. For that reason, because there are still a large number among our population who have not received the vaccine, and because stronger, more contagious variant strains are still circulating, it is important that we continue to wear masks, social distance and keep gatherings small.

As we collectively move towards population vaccination rates that more significantly reduce severe illness outcomes and community transmission, we are looking ahead to the summer and fall to see how we can safely begin to lift some of the COVID protocols that have kept us safe.

Announcements

Contact WCTS for Internet Connection Help

Got internet connection issues? WCTS is here to help!

[Contact the help desk](#) with the following information:

- Your name (first and last)
- Location (including room number, if possible) where the issue was experienced
- When the problem occurred
- Under what circumstances (e.g., moving to a different room, or during video conferencing)
- How this is affecting you and your ability to do your work or task
- What type of device are you talking about? (Mac, Windows, phone, tablet, etc.)

Connectivity issues are more often not due to wireless network issues, but problems involving the device. This is why it is important to contact the help desk and provide as much information as possible about the issue. With more information, the help desk can engage the right personnel to troubleshoot and problem solve in a timely manner.

Noteworthy

Acuff Exhibition and Interview Online

M. Acuff, associate professor of art, exhibited a performance installation, *Torso*, at [Carnation Contemporary](#) in Portland, Oregon. [Acuff was recently interviewed](#) about the exhibit by curator Laurel V. McLaughlin for Art & About Portland. The conversation circles through interacting with objects and audiences, spatial and kinesthetic relationships and learning through collaborations with other departments at Whitman.

Cordner Paper on Wildfire Season Published

Alissa Cordner, associate professor of sociology, recently published "[Staring at the Sun during Wildfire Season: Knowledge, Uncertainty, and Front-Line Resistance in Disaster Preparation](#)" in *Qualitative Sociology*. The paper draws on her ethnographic research with wildland firefighters during the 2017 solar eclipse to understand how disaster preparedness (for the dual events of an extreme wildfire season and the mass pressures on public lands from eclipse tourists) collided with different forms of knowledge and uncertainty to influence both preparation activities and firefighters on-the-ground response.

Forbes Featured in Oddville Press

Daniel Forbes '03, co-director of Sheehan Gallery, is the cover artist for the Winter 2021 issue of Oddville Press, an online magazine that features art, short stories and poetry from around the world. A [retrospective on Forbes' work](#) as well as photos of several pieces are included in the [online magazine](#).

Kirtley Recognized for Organizational Leadership

This week Adam Kirtley, campus interfaith chaplain, completed his term serving as the president of his professional organization, the National Association of College and University Chaplains (NACUC). Kirtley has served in executive leadership for the organization for the last six years, the final two as president. Under his presidency, NACUC merged with a smaller chaplaincy organization that started decades ago in support of Ivy League chaplaincies. The new organization, The Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education ([ACSLHE](#)), officially launched this week at their inaugural annual conference (held virtually).

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

Happening Today

- noon [Vacasa Virtual Career Trek](#)
Join Angie Albertson and Natalia Gutierrez to explore what it means to put innovation, accountability, growth and empathy into action working for the premier international vacation rental management company, Vacasa.
- 4 p.m. [Environmental Injustices in Immigrant Detention: Absences in the National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Process](#)
Dr. Michelle Edwards will discuss how the nation's oldest environmental law plays a role in perpetuating racialized violence.

[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](#).

