Amid a global pandemic, Steve McConnell '85, a software engineer and data scientist, was frustrated with his inability to understand what was going on. He encountered what he saw as biased and unreliable data. “All of the reporting seemed to be based on the spin first and facts second—or not at all. I couldn’t understand what was happening, so I started to look at primary data,” McConnell said. That’s a lifelong habit he credits to his Whitman education and the importance his professors and courses placed on primary sources.

Read more about the development of his COVID-19 data center.

Announcements

Help us recognize alumni volunteers!

Does your department use volunteers to help out with events, network with students, or teach a thing or two? Please let us know when your department works with alumni (in any capacity) so we can acknowledge those alumni who continue to give their time to the Whitman community. To report your volunteers’ good works, please complete this form.

Register now for Harper Joy Theater Intensive Workshop

Registration is now open for a two-weekend intensive, guest artist Gleason Bauer will lead Whitman students through the philosophy and methodology of Moment Work. Using “Concord Floral,” the play by Jordan Tannahill, participants will explore how this script and any narrative presentation might be explored and enhanced by Virtual Moment Work. Sessions are 5-9 p.m. on Oct. 3, 4, 10 and 11.

Whitman Votes: A brief look at voting history

The United States has a long history of not granting the right to vote to all its citizens. Since the founding of this nation, the words from the United States Constitution “all men are created equal” were disingenuous, as these words did not pass the recognition of equality to non-white men. For the first 150 years of this nation, only white-landowning-men could vote. After a decades-long fight the women’s surage movement won the right to vote for white women. It wasn’t until after another 50 years of fighting, activism and sacrifice that Black people were successful in fighting for their right to vote.

However, racist restrictions were imposed upon them to exercize this right. Black people were required to take written and oral exams, to bring documentation, pay a tax, would often still be turned away at the voting booths, and would face rampant voter intimidation.

Even today, there are still several populations of disenfranchised people who pay taxes but do not have the right to vote, especially non-white folks.

How democratic is our republic when a large portion of our fellow citizens and neighbors go unrepresented in our elections?

It is an individual and collective responsibility to be part of the fight to make our country more democratic. We must listen, act, give our time and resources, and at the minimum vote and help others do the same.

Question of the week: Answer edition

On Monday, we asked how you are feeling one month into the fall semester, and it’s clear that no matter how brave a face we try to put forward, the vast majority of us are struggling.

But none of us are alone in this difficult time, and the Whitman community continues to develop the relationships and resources that will create in us deeper resiliency, courage and hope.

Happening this weekend

Today

Self-care Resources

Academic Resources

Employee Resources

Question of the week: Answer edition

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