



Whitman Today

Friday, September 10, 2021

2020-2021

Presidential Search

An update from [Presidential Search](#) Chair Danielle Garbe Reser '97.

Walla Walla and the Whitman campus are once again abuzz with students, and even as we adjust to COVID-19 realities, it is exciting to have this academic year underway and the community back and engaged on campus. Similarly, our search committee is abuzz and proceeding as planned as we head into our work this fall.

Over the summer, we gathered feedback via our virtual listening sessions and the online survey to inform the prospectus we used to advertise the search and recruit candidates. In my last email update, which took place during our local wheat harvest, I shared how our recruitment phase was the time to "harvest" candidates and encourage as many as possible to apply. I can now report that we are in the "winnowing" phase. As we sort the proverbial wheat from the chaff, we are deeply impressed by the high quality of the candidates we have encountered through this process.

We've begun conversations with a number of candidates and have left these interactions feeling energized and optimistic about the possibilities ahead for the college. We are hearing from candidates in return that they admire and are strongly attracted to the quality of Whitman's students, faculty and staff as represented through Whitman's remarkable outcomes and accomplishments. We have much to be proud of and to share with candidates about our liberal arts mission, our location and our aspirations for continued academic excellence and distinction.

As chair, I am also proud to note that our search committee members are listening to each other, learning from each other, and embracing the common goal of finding the best person to become Whitman's next president. This is a true team effort, and I am honored to lead such a diverse and talented committee. I thank the committee members for their continued commitment and service to the college.

We are all excited about what lies ahead and are proud to represent our college in this important process.



ACADEMIC THEME 2021-2022 CLIMATE RECKONINGS, CLIMATE JUSTICE

Why Climate Action Is Needed Now: Envisioning a More Just Future

Climate change is affecting life on Earth in multiple ways that are widespread and intensifying. Climate change disproportionately affects the oppressed, who are also often the least responsible for emitting greenhouse gases. Immediate large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are needed to build a healthy future for us all. Clean energy is within reach, and environmental justice calls for solutions that respect all peoples and allow all of us to flourish.

The campus community is invited to join the first Academic Theme event of the year: a lecture from Cecilia Blitz, chair of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 16, in Maxey Auditorium. Blitz studies the role of sea ice in the climate system and high-latitude climate and climate change. She is the principal investigator on the Sea Ice Prediction Network and her team created and runs the SIPN Predictability Portal. In addition, she is involved in global coupled climate modeling. Blitz is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society.

Announcements

You Are Welcome Here: New LGBTQIA+ Counseling Group

[You Are Welcome Here \(YAWH\)](#) is a counseling group for LGBTQIA+ students at Whitman to connect on mental health and wellness topics. Facilitated by Counseling Center staff Nick Duran Fair, MS, MFA, LMFTA, the group will co-create a safe space for students to be themselves and explore their identity. Each week will be an opportunity to connect and be part of a community. LGBTQIA+ identifying Black, Indigenous, and students of color are encouraged to attend and anticipate equality and respect. Privacy is essential, and all participants will be asked to uphold confidentiality. Come to have your voice heard, gain new insight, develop self-care practices, learn tools for coping, and experience a sense of belonging.

Mondays, 12-1 p.m. in Reid G02. No need to register; just show up. Please email duranna@whitman.edu for accommodation requests.

Daily COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Case on Campus

Positive COVID-19 cases in our campus community are noted in *Whitman Today* in compliance with state regulations. We also update the data in our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) on a weekly basis.

In accordance with new Washington state Labor & Industries employer requirements, we are notifying the campus community that in the past 24 hours, three people with Whitman access were confirmed positive for COVID-19. These people are now in isolation for 10 days in accordance with our campus and CDC guidelines. Though the likelihood of transmission is low due to our [campus COVID-19 protocols](#), it is possible that others may have been exposed to COVID-19. There is nothing you need to do at this time aside from following our campus COVID-19 protocols. Anyone identified through the contact tracing process as a close contact (within 6 ft. for at least 15 minutes over 24 hours) will be personally notified.

Happening This Weekend

TODAY

noon

[Staff and Faculty Development Workshop: Whitman CARE Team](#)

Spend time with members of Whitman's Coordination Assessment Response Education (CARE) Team to learn how this group works with faculty and staff across campus to assess reported student behaviors of concern and provide resources and support to students.

1:30-3:30 p.m.

[BIPOC Outdoor Club Open Kayak Event](#)

Whitman BIPOC Outdoor Club will be hosting open kayak day at the Harvey Pool. No experience necessary. Show up to have some fun kayaking with your friends!

4 p.m.

["An Ugly Truth" Book Discussion and Signing](#)

New York Times reporter and author Cecilia Kang '94 will deliver a campus talk on her bestseller "An Ugly Truth: Inside Facebook's Battle for Domination." Ms. Kang will be signing copies of her book, which will be available for sale on-site and in the Whitman Bookstore.

4 p.m.

[Whitman Video Games Club 1st Meeting!](#)

Come join the fun in Reid G02.

4 p.m.

[Academic Planning Party](#)

Do you know how you are going to set up your weekly routines to fit in everything you need and want to do? Bring your syllabi and a planner and come join some of the Peer Academic Coaches in the Reid Basement for a planning party.

7 p.m.

[Whitman College Women's Soccer vs Eastern Oregon University](#)

Whitman Events Calendar

Have an event you'd like to share with campus? Submit the information to the [Events Calendar](#).

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday through 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. 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](#).



WHITMAN COLLEGE