



Whitman Today

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Hispanic Heritage Month



By Dr. John Johnson, vice president for diversity and inclusion.

Today marks the beginning of [Hispanic Heritage Month](#). At first glance, this may generate positive thoughts of diversity and inclusion. We may think that Hispanic Heritage Month is similar to other heritage month celebrations (Black History Month, Women's History Month, Pride Month, etc.), as an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the valuable contributions made by one of the many communities that comprise our nation. In part, that is precisely what Hispanic Heritage Month is, an opportunity to reflect, affirm and bring those too often relegated to the margins to the center, even if just for four weeks.

Hispanic Heritage Month also provides us with an opportunity to interrogate and expand our understanding of pan-ethnic super-category classifications like "Hispanic". The common application to Whitman asks prospective students to indicate if they are "Hispanic/Latinx" in a manner similar to the U.S. Census. Like the Census, individuals are asked if they identify as "Hispanic" and then are asked to select from a predetermined list of pan-ethnic racial categories (White, Asian, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander). The U.S. began collecting data on race starting with the first census in 1790. Data on "Hispanic" or Latino origin was collected for the first time in 1970, more than 150 years after the first decennial [census](#), and respondents to the census were able to select more than one race for the race category for the first time in 2000.

[Read more.](#)

Campus-Wide Emergency Preparedness Training Today

All members of the Whitman community should participate in one of this year's [campus-wide emergency preparedness training sessions](#). Presented by Mark Bagby of Emergency Planning Solutions, each session will cover important information to help students, staff and faculty prepare for and respond to emergencies. Members of the Emergency Operations Committee will hold a Q&A at the end of each presentation.

The material presented at each session will be identical, so you only need to attend one. Sessions will take place today at 10 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. via [Zoom](#).

Announcements



Show Your Support for Blues Athletics

As the fall athletic season swings into action, you can pick up Blues-branded shirts, hats, mugs and more in the [Whitman Athletics online store](#). From now through the end of the month, you can get 15% off any order of \$85 or more.

Holding Events on Campus

Are you, your department or your club/organization holding an event on Whitman's campus that is open to the public? If so, make sure to review the Visitor/Event Access to Whitman Campus Facilities document, which details what you need to do to run your event in accordance with our vaccination requirement.

[Visitor/Event Access Guidelines](#)

Happening Today

- 4 p.m. [RSL Presents: Big Tent Gatherings—Islam](#)
Meet others who share your traditions and worldview, and come find out more about traditions and practices that interest you. Also, make your own ice cream sundae!
- 4 p.m. [Schwauditions!](#)
Schwa is Whitman's mixed-voice (SATB) a cappella group. They do a lot of doo-wopping, super suave dancing, hanging out, baking cookies and Schwa-related wordplay. If any of those things sound fun to you, come audition!
- multiple times [Campus Emergency Preparedness Training Sessions](#)
Important information to help students, staff and faculty prepare for and respond to emergencies. Members of the Emergency Operations Committee will hold a Q&A at the end of each presentation.

[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](#).



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