



Whitman Today

Friday, September 3, 2021

The Long Road Home



When a cancelled flight stranded 15 international students in Seattle, Whitman College Head Baseball Coach Brian Kitamura and Religion Professor Lauren Osborne introduced them to a great American tradition: the road trip.

Delayed. Delayed. Gate changed. Delayed. Gate changed. Delayed. Flight cancelled ... Dealing with flight drama creates frustration even in the shortest of journeys, but for a group of international students—many of whom had already been traveling for 48 hours or more—the August 14 midnight cancellation of their Seattle to Walla Walla flight seemed, in the words of first-year student Bright Surit, “a catastrophe.”

Traveling from Thailand, Surit had already endured more than 20 hours of flying and one flight delay that left him arriving into Seattle after the Walla Walla flight's original departure time, so the initial delays were actually a blessing for him. However, hearing that the Walla Walla flight was cancelled when he was so hungry, tired, cold and jetlagged, Surit experienced “all the worst feelings accumulated into one place.”

Other students were having similarly frustrating travel experiences. Multiple delays along the way had left Mavie Pham, a first-year from Vietnam, nervous that she was going to miss the connection in Seattle. Angela Eliacy, coming from Afghanistan, had more than 17 hours of flying with a 21-hour layover in Dubai followed by more than five hours getting through customs and immigration at the SeaTac airport.

[Read more.](#)



ACADEMIC THEME 2021-2022
CLIMATE RECKONINGS,
CLIMATE JUSTICE

“Climate Reckonings, Climate Justice” is Whitman’s 2021-2022 Academic Theme

In the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, “Climate change is the defining issue of our time, and we are at a defining moment. We face a direct existential threat.”

To deepen our collective understanding of global climate change and to empower Whitman community members to respond meaningfully to this challenge at scales both small and large, Whitman has adopted the academic theme “Climate Reckonings, Climate Justice” for 2021-2022.

Intended to generate a broad discussion across the Whitman community, the theme will explore the ways our intellectual traditions engage with, and respond to, the threats to our global climate and the uneven impacts of these threats across populations and places. Presentations by prominent leaders, panel discussions, readings, performances and other programming will support us in contending with the notions of adaptation and mitigation, the abstraction of a planet-wide threat, and the specificity of local disaster. We will share outlets for expressing our grief and insights that convert uncertainty into resolve, meaningful change and action.

Co-creating the theme will be a community-wide effort. The Academic Theme Planning Committee invites you to share your ideas through [this online form](#) as we launch into the year ahead.

Announcements

Monday, September 6: Campus Offices Closed

In observation of Labor Day, campus administrative and business offices will be closed on Monday, September 6. Classes will be in session as regularly scheduled. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, September 7.

Apply to Join the Student Life Committee

Student Life is a collaboration of students and faculty who work together to try and better student life on campus. They brainstorm ideas that seem out of the hands of ASWC or other student organizations and need the contribution of faculty and staff as well. Those hired will work closely with the faculty, gain experience in collaboration and creativity, and receive a stipend of \$375 a semester.

They are looking for students from all class years to serve on the Student Life committee. All applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis. [Apply ASAP!](#)

Community Fellow Program Applications Due Monday

Juniors and seniors, the Community Fellow Program application deadline is on Monday, September 6. There are 12 wonderful opportunities to partner with Walla Walla Valley public and nonprofit organizations on community-facing projects that help you gain professional experience, learn more about the Walla Walla Valley's cultural, social and environmental issues and connect you to networks that could give insight on what work you want to pursue! View the fellowships and read all you need to know on [the Community Fellow Program webpage](#).

ICYMI: Move-In Day Highlights Video



The parents are gone and thousands of boxes and bags of belongings have been unpacked, but the glow of new beginnings lingers around campus as the members of the Class of 2025 dive into developing the passions and connections that make them the newest generation of Whitties.

Happening This Weekend

TODAY

- 8 a.m.–3 p.m. [Round 2 Baseline COVID-19 Testing](#)
Second test for anyone whose Round 1 test took place on August 26 or 27.
- 8 a.m.–3 p.m. [2021-22 Fall and Yearlong Whitman Internship Grant Program Information Session](#)
This session will breakdown the Whitman Internship Grant application process including key programming requirements, provide a timeline for applications, share tips and application deadline.

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](#).

