



Whitman Today

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Why Have an Academic Theme?



**ACADEMIC THEME 2021-2022
CLIMATE RECKONINGS,
CLIMATE JUSTICE**

Whitman College politics professor Shampa Biswas, who headed the organizing committee for last year's [Race, Violence and Health](#) inaugural academic theme, has published an [opinion piece with Inside Higher Education](#) to share the educational benefits of having a unifying theme for speaker events and academic programming.

Biswas writes, "In a year during which many of us were scattered and isolated across time and space, our attempt helped generate and sustain shared conversations across various disciplines and programs during a historic moment of significant pedagogic import. More important, it made it possible for us to offer a wide-ranging set of events and activities that will, we hope, sustain our work on racial justice for years to come."

In her opinion piece, Biswas focused on two of the academic benefits of establishing an organizing framework. "First, it enabled us to demonstrate the power of a well-rounded liberal arts education to help make sense of some of the most vexing and urgent questions of our time. Second, it connected curricular and co-curricular areas of the college in a shared campus-wide enterprise centered on rigorous academic work."

For the 2021-2022 academic school year, the Whitman campus community continues to come together for meaningful conversations and work centered around a new academic theme: [Climate Justice](#), [Climate Reckonings](#).

Noteworthy

Debate Opens Season with First-Place Finish

Over this last weekend Whitman Debate kicked off their competitive season at the Rice University Classic. Four Whitman partnerships competed in parliamentary debate, with three entries qualifying for elimination rounds. The teams of sophomore Grace Canny and junior Heidi Adolphsen and sophomores Jas Liu and Kasey Moulton debated in the first elimination, with the team of senior Reeve Boyer and junior Ilse Spiropoulos advancing to the quarterfinal round. In addition, Liu placed third in speaker points. Overall, the team tied for first place sweepstakes at the tournament, starting the season with one of their best finishes in recent years.

Martin Published on Black and Indigenous Thought on COVID

Community Learning Specialist Kelsey Martin's article "[Black and Indigenous Thought in Response to the COVID-19 Reality](#)," was published in this month's *Journal of Higher Education and Outreach*. As COVID-19 and racial reckoning impact community-engaged learning, Martin discusses how scholars and practitioners must draw on the knowledge ways produced by Black and Indigenous thinkers for whom the intersection of pandemic and state violence is not new.

Knox Named NWC Men's Golf Student-Athlete of the Week

First year Alexander Knox fired a four-under-par at the PLU Collegiate Invitational to earn the Northwest Conference's first Men's Golf Student of the Week for the 2021-22 season. Knox's effort led the Blues to a third-place finish, second among four-year collegiate schools.

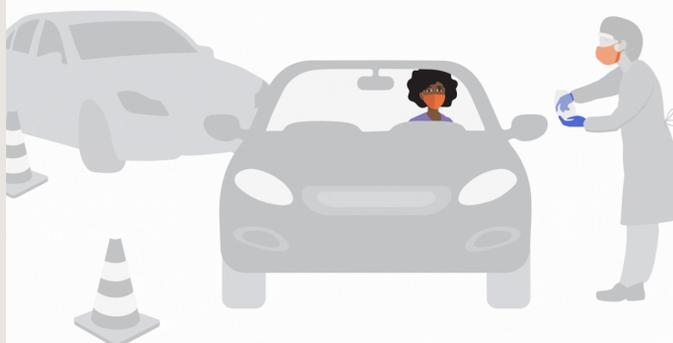
[Submit a Noteworthy Announcement](#)

Announcements

Annual Security Report Now Available

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act is a federal law that requires colleges and universities to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. Whitman's [Annual Security Report 2021](#) is now available to read on our website.

Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing in WW



A new COVID-19 drive-through testing option opened this week at the Providence Southgate Medical Center. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., no appointment is necessary for people with symptoms. Anyone without symptoms needing a test should [make an appointment online](#). The tests are self-administered swabs processed at the University of Washington lab with an expected 24-hour turnaround time for results. More information can be found on [Walla Walla Community Health's COVID-19 website](#).

Happening Today

- 10:15 a.m. [Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day Discussions](#)
Please join students from Indigenous Politics (POL 345-A) today on Zoom for Part 2 of this discussion of the history and politics of Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day.
- 6 p.m. [DISCO Meeting](#)
Monthly meeting for Whitman's Disability and Difference Community (DISCO) in Reid 207.
- 7 p.m. [Swiss Fondue Night](#)
Come to Das Deutsche Haus on Thursday, September 30, for an evening of Fondue (melted cheese and chocolate) and discussions of Swiss history and culture.
- 8 p.m. [Art Night](#)
The Fine Arts House will be showing the movie "Loving Vincent," which is a movie made up entirely of oil paintings! There will also be a bunch of art supplies set out so guests can get creative, watch the movie or both.
- 8 p.m. [Opening Night of "The Revolutionists"](#)
The first play of the season from Harper Joy Theatre is an irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror.

[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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