



Whitman Today

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Speak Up to Stop Anti-Asian Hate



Visual notes from a Hollaback! training for the Houston Coalition Against Hate.

A reflection on the role of the media in perpetuating stereotypes that feed anti-Asian hate from Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion John Johnson:

This past weekend saw the release of the newest contribution to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings." Like other films in the MCU, Shang-Chi serves as an origin story for the titular character. The film, currently the number one movie in the world based on box-office sales, is the [first film in the heralded Marvel franchise to feature an Asian character in the central role](#). There will be no spoilers or reviews of the film provided here, but we want to encourage folks to look deeper into the significance of this film in terms of representation and the embedded messages.

Three years ago, when the film "Crazy Rich Asians" was released, it was celebrated as the first film from a major Hollywood studio with a majority Asian cast since 1993's "The Joy Luck Club." The "Crazy Rich Asians" film, while culturally significant and hugely profitable (grossing more than \$200 million worldwide), was also problematic in a number of ways. [There were concerns](#) about casting choices, assimilation narratives and the perpetuation of Asian stereotypes.

In the time since the release of that film, we have seen a substantial uptick in [anti-Asian rhetoric and violence in the US](#). The organization [Stop AAPI Hate](#) has documented more than 9,000 anti-Asian incidents in the last 15 months. These incidents include verbal harassment, shunning, as well as physical assault. Members of the Whitman community have also experienced harassment in Walla Walla, reporting incidents where they were confident they were targeted based on anti-Asian hate.

Earlier this year, following a tragic mass shooting in Atlanta, [Daniel Dae Kim addressed Congress](#) at a hearing about anti-Asian hate in the United States. In addition to advocating for the passage of important legislation related to hate crimes, the actor also explicitly challenged narratives that Asian Americans are statistically insignificant and critiqued other common stereotypes that contribute to Asian marginalization and exclusion. As we consume and embrace content like "Crazy Rich Asians," "Minari," "The Chair" and "Shang-Chi," we also want to remember the wisdom of activist and author Grace Lee Boggs, who teaches us that "you cannot change any society unless you take responsibility for it, unless you see yourself as belonging to it and responsible for changing it."

The global organization Hollaback!, which trains people to respond to, intervene in and heal from harassment, offers free online training to stop anti-Asian and xenophobic harassment. [Visit their website for more information](#).

The CARE Team

Whitman College's CARE Team—or Coordination Assessment Response Education Team—is a group of staff members who meet regularly to discuss issues relating to the academic, emotional and physical health and safety of our students and campus community. This group works together to assess reported behaviors of concern and provide resources and support to students who may need it.

The CARE Team is an interdisciplinary, cross-campus group of professionals whose mission is to:

- Assess, intervene, and provide timely resources and support for students with need.
- Support students experiencing challenges that might lead to a disruption in their education.
- Encourage a culture of community care.

The CARE Team is a resource for any member of the Whitman community, including staff and faculty, students, parents or community members, to share concerns about behavior or actions that concern you.

[Learn more about the CARE Team](#)

Announcements

2021-22 COMMUNITY FELLOW PROGRAM PARTNERS



Community Fellows Program Now Open to Sophomores

The 2021-22 Community Fellow Program is now open to sophomores!

The [Community Fellow Program](#) funds Whitties to spend the academic year working part-time at a Walla Walla organization addressing the area's social, economic and cultural challenges. Community Fellows meet local community leaders and receive professional mentoring, targeted career development guidance and broad exposure to local organizations in addition to the one where they work.

This year's cohort includes United Way of the Blue Mountains, Blue Zones Project of the WW Valley, City of College Place, TrilogY Recovery Community, Walla Walla Symphony and many more, with a wide range of job positions. [View them all on Handshake](#).

The extended application deadline is 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 12. Contact Mitzy Rodriguez at rodrigmy@whitman.edu with any questions.

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 will also update the data in our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) on a weekly basis following completion of Round 2 of our campus baseline coronavirus testing.

In accordance with new Washington state Labor & Industries employer requirements, we are notifying the campus community that in the past 24 hours, two 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 Today

- noon [Next Steps 2022: So You Want to Go to Graduate School](#)
Join SEC staff to discuss the application process for graduate school, things you need to prepare and how to stand out to admission committees.
- 6 p.m. [Whitman College Women's Soccer vs. Eastern Oregon University](#)
- 7 p.m. [Academic Resource Center Workshop: 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 for a planning party!

[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](#).

