

THE JOHNSONIAN



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Winthrop's tennis impact is deeper than a sport



Photo courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

The board of trustees voted unanimously in June to cut the men's and women's tennis teams.

Winthrop community members worked together to try and save the tennis programs to continue its impact

Savannah Scott

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"Save Winthrop Tennis" was created by Winthrop community members to reinstate the men's and women's program to continue its legacy and the impact it had on them.

The organization was created in June due to the board of trustees voting to eliminate the teams.

"My players are very passionate about Winthrop and they don't want to leave," Vivian Segnini, former head women's tennis coach, said. "[We were] raising money because that was the main reason why they cut the program."

The group of alumni, coaches and community members worked together to raise money and create a plan to ensure the program could be self sustained for three years.

"The amount of money and what we are doing is we are developing a three year financial restructuring plan," Clayton Almeida, a Winthrop tennis alumnus, said, adding that the group was told part of the elimination was the cost of renovating the

tennis courts.

"By fixing the courts it can create revenue by hosting tournaments, doing summer programs and running the program properly. We decided to do it for three years because a lot of the players are now sophomores and we wanted to give these players a chance to graduate and play and stay there," Almeida said.

"Save Winthrop Tennis" obtained the money to reinstate the teams through pledges, donations and community help. The organization raised \$800,000 as of Aug. 19.

"We are hoping to raise enough money that by the time year four comes in there is some money left that Winthrop can use," Almeida said.

Interim Winthrop President George Hynd announced that he is supporting the final decision the board of trustees made regarding the elimination of the university's tennis teams in a letter on Wednesday.

"When you go into a budget cut scenario things are fluid so they change. For us there was a long period of time where we thought we never were going to be heavily hit by immediate or long term COVID im-

pacts," Hank Harrawood, deputy athletics director, said. "Discontinuing a sport is... a measure of last resort. This was something kinda unavoidable from a fiscal standpoint."

Harrawood said that when the decision to cut tennis was also the least impactful on student athletes due to a smaller number of players.

"It is a shock. No one ever thinks or intends for this to happen. This is not something you take lightly," Harrawood said. "Tennis has had unbelievable success; we had two unbelievable coaches. Our tennis programs have made contributions to the community and we will always honor that."

The tennis program also left a lasting impact on its players.

"I came not being able to speak English and after two years I was already the team captain. As a senior, [I was the] president of the student athlete advisory committee. I served as an international ambassador," Gabriel Dias, a Winthrop tennis alumnus, said. "All of that was possible because I had the chance to play tennis at Winthrop. To think that future student athletes would not have the chance to have the same oppor-

tunities that I have had is extremely heartbreaking."

"One of the reasons why Winthrop is such a special place is because it's a very diverse university. One important factor that the men and women's team bring to the university is diversity," Dias said. "We have about 18 student athletes and all of them are international students."

Women's tennis has won 21 Big South Conference Championship titles and men's tennis have won nine regular season championships and seven tournament titles.

"We did put a lot of effort in and the team has won quite a bit for the university. I wish they gave us a little bit of an opportunity in the fall to save for the program but I have nothing against the university," Abhimanyu Vannemreddy, a sophomore finance major, said. "That's the most difficult thing right now is to practice and find people to practice with. It is a bigger challenge we have no other option at the moment."

Vannemreddy added that many of his teammates including himself will be looking at transferring eventually to a different university to continue their tennis careers.

Kaetrena Davis Kendrick and the 21st century

The new Dean of Dacus Library and Pettus Archives wants to create a library where students are welcome and "gladly received"

Anna Sharpe

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Libraries are a fixture of college campuses. They are places to study, to gather with friends, to learn. But according to the newest Dean of the Dacus Library and Pettus Archives, libraries are more than physical spaces.

Kaetrena Davis Kendrick took over in July 2020, following the retirement of Mark Herring. Kendrick, who graduated from Winthrop in 1995, wants to create a "vision for a 21st century library."

"A 21st century library revolves around the things people perceive of when they think about libraries. I also reimagine libraries as a place where people are gladly received. So my goal is to make sure people feel welcome in our space," Kendrick said. "We are a place that you can come and have a sense of comfort."

Kendrick began studying business at Winthrop College in 1991, but quickly changed course once she realized it was more than "addition and subtraction." During her time here, Winthrop College became Winthrop University. She graduated

from Winthrop University with her Bachelor of Arts in English in 1995.

Kendrick, who is from Richland County, knew she wanted to attend Winthrop because it was far enough away from home that she could be independent, but close enough that she could easily go back home if she needed to. She also liked the proximity to Charlotte, North Carolina and that she would be part of a smaller student body compared to other colleges.

"I didn't want to be a number and I didn't want to be in these huge rooms where they didn't know who I am," Kendrick said.

Kendrick was engaged in many areas of student life, including pledging Delta Sigma Theta and writing for The Johnsonian.

The Winthrop alumna-turned-dean also worked at Dacus for three years while she was at Winthrop. However, she did not start working in libraries as an actual librarian until 2004, after earning her Master of Science in Library Services from Clark Atlanta University.

"I started working in libraries as a librarian at that point, but I had always been working in libraries. When I decided to do what I really

liked, that's what I decided to do, to get this master's. I started in public libraries but I always knew I wanted to be in academic libraries," Kendrick said.

Libraries are more than just buildings, Kendrick said. She wants students to see that even if the library is not physically accessible, the services offered are still of great value.

"[Libraries] are concepts and a lot of the things we will be doing are not necessarily tied to the library as a building to let people know that the work we do is outside of the building," she said. "The things that libraries, workers and employees do, are not necessarily tied to a building. That's why you're able to get the services that you have during this time."

"Part of my vision is to help people understand that libraries are accessible and open even if the doors on the building are locked," she said.

Kendrick encourages students to reach out to her and the library staff to voice their needs. She said the library is just as important as any other student organization on campus.

"I really want to hear from



Photo courtesy to Winthrop University

students because the library is your space. The archive is your space. I perceive these spaces as just as important as deciding what sorority you're going to join, if you're going to play intramural games, if you're going to join the Ebonites this semester, if you're going to write for The Johnsonian, if you're considering what student activities and what campus activities you want to engage in," she said.

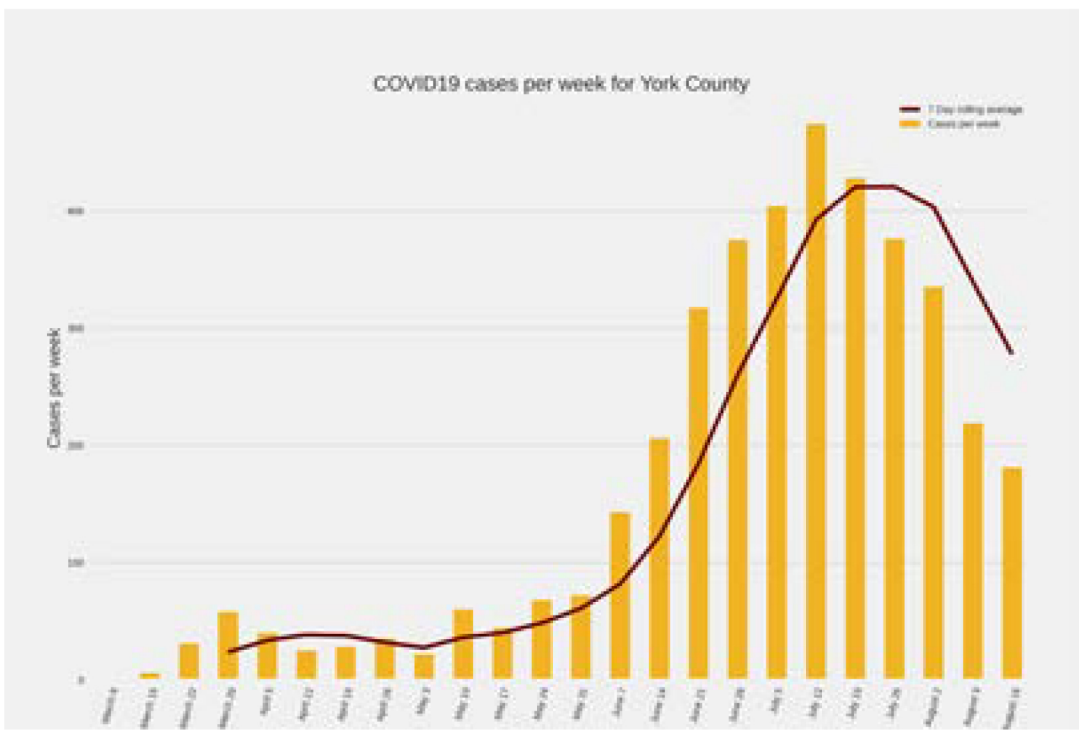
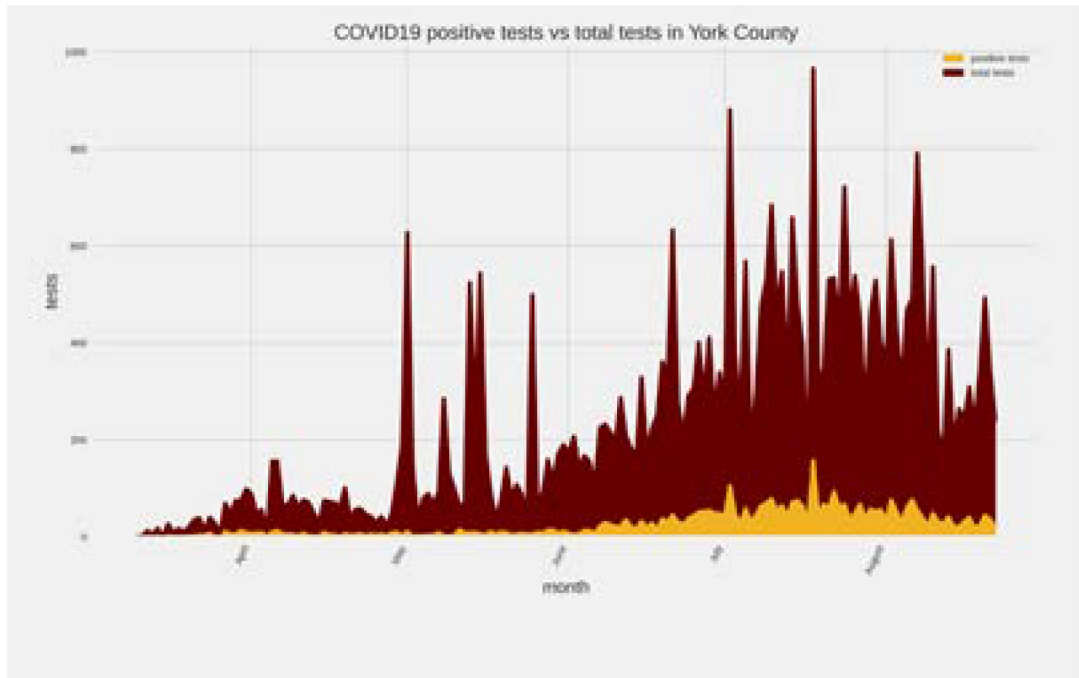
"The library, people who work in the library, we're just managing the space for you. You tell me what you want in the library. I'm really here to advocate for the students, faculty and staff," Kendrick said. "Please tell me what you want so we can advocate for you to get it...I need your help to make the space what you want it to be."





COVID-19 data

During the pandemic, The Johnsonian wants to keep you up to date with the number of positive cases in the York County area. Each week we will have weekly data charts informing you of what is new.



Philip Nelson/The Johnsonian

Letter from the editor

Students' deserve answers and transparency during the pandemic if it is our responsibility

Savannah Scott
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As the upcoming school year is approaching and students are coming back to campus there are a lot of unknowns, fears and excitement. But most importantly there is a pandemic.

In March, universities across the United States shut their campuses down and switched to online courses abruptly. I remember sitting in my Spanish class and asking my professor questions that she did not know the answer to. I could see the fear of the unknown and uncertainty in her eyes despite her calm demeanor. This was when there were less than a thousand cases in the country. Now the United States is at about 278,000 cases as of Friday.

When Winthrop announced that we were switching to remote learn-

ing in March I had a mixture of feelings. But I distinctly remember sobbing on my mom's shoulder when the news broke. I couldn't finish the school year the way I wanted.

But I also knew that Winthrop made the right decision and truly cared about the community. I was upset but respected and understood why they had to make such a tough decision. This was not about how I felt personally, but for the safety and health of those around me.

Now my feelings towards Winthrop and the way they have handled this pandemic of the upcoming school year have changed.

Interim President George Hynd recently announced the steps that will be taken to inform the Winthrop community when there are positive cases on campus: none.

"We will not be posting a daily count of how many COVID cases have tested positive on campus.

That information will be reported to DHEC and the public health people. If [anyone] tests positive we will immediately do contact tracing," he said in an interview with The Johnsonian. "In other words who have they been in contact with in the past few days and then we will notify those individuals. The one thing that really has become apparent [is] as we move to bringing students back on campus it is very clear they are going to have a responsibility to do everything that we are recommending."

The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill recently shut down due to the number of positive cases on campus. Although this was an unfortunate circumstance the university did report to the community the number of positive case clusters. They did not try to hide the truth from the community even though they may not have specified the

number of cases. I feel that Winthrop should follow suit into doing a similar daily report.

Although, I also understand why the university may be hesitant to report these cases because it may cause panic across campus. This panic may cause many students may feel unsafe and will want to leave which in turn can affect revenue for the university.

However, we should not come back to campus if Winthrop is not being transparent about the number of positive cases on campus. We as students should not be the only ones responsible for how this school year will proceed.

I am asking Winthrop and the Rock Hill community to consider these questions and decisions moving forward. Transparency is the number one form of trust and I have lost that for Winthrop as I am sure some are feeling now.

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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your name, major and year if you are a student; your name and title if you are a professor, or your name and profession if you are a member of the community. Letters, cartoons and columns reflect the opinion of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of The Johnsonian Staff.

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“Flexibility is huge”

Winthrop’s College of Education is preparing for the new school year amidst COVID-19 uncertainties

Bryn Smyth

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Winthrop’s College of Education is bracing for its most challenging semester yet, ensuring that, despite circumstances surrounding COVID-19, its future educators will still gain valuable teaching experience.

Despite all of the challenges involved with making the public school classroom safe for in-person learning, local schools are still making room for Winthrop’s College of Education interns to gain valuable teaching experience this semester.

“We are so grateful our partnership schools are allowing interns this semester,” Bettie Parsons Barger, director of the Rex Institute for Education Renewal and Partnerships, said. “I’m excited for our interns to be in the field. They have worked hard, and they are prepared for the challenge and I think it will be a great year for them, even if it’s not exactly what they had originally anticipated.”

In anticipation for Winthrop interns entering the classroom this semester, the College of Education is working hard to make sure they are aware and prepared to follow any and every precaution that the local schools are taking.

“Each school has a health and safety protocol that I think their district mandated, but schools have their own spin on them and our interns have that information and they will follow all of the health and safety protocols that the schools put in place as they would if they were a full time faculty,” Barger said.

As of now, most local schools

have open doors for future educators to gain field experience, but some Winthrop students will be learning to teach from afar through online instruction.

“We will have a lot of interns who are doing hybrid and virtual field experience,” Barger said. “All of our interns in every program take an educational technology course, so they will be equipped with the tools and the strategies, instructional strategies, to be able to teach in a virtual environment.”

With online instruction comes some anxiety for many students in the education program who feel they are just not cut out for it. Lucy Manley, a sophomore educational studies minor, is enrolled in two classes this semester that involve field experience.

“[Because of COVID-19], I’d probably rather do online, even though I absolutely detest online,” Manley said. “I know that online learning is hard enough for me as a student because it just lacks that structure. So I think that when it comes to online teaching, I’d be apprehensive that I wasn’t providing my students with enough structure, enough clarity, and I also think it presents challenges in the sense that it’s hard to monitor whether or not the children are actually learning.”

It is common for students to be doubtful that virtual teaching is effective, but many would rather struggle through the nuance of online learning than risk spreading COVID-19. Others are making the most of any outcome.

Megan Jensen, a Winthrop graduate school student pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching,



Gabrielle Reid/The Johnsonian

The Withers Building houses many classes for education majors. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, partnership schools with the College of Education will be allowing interns this semester.

is optimistic about entering the classroom this semester, but still has her worries about spreading the coronavirus.

“I think COVID definitely makes it a little bit more nerve wracking just because what if I get sick and can’t come to internship? Or what if I’m exposed and don’t know it and somehow pass it on,” Jensen said.

Students such as Jensen attest that in the early clinical education classes, such as Education 200, Tammy Burnham often says, “One of the top characteristics of an effective teacher is flexibility.”

Flexibility will be vital for students this semester as there will be many unprecedented challenges in both in-person teaching and virtual teaching, but nothing that the College of Education is unprepared for.

“I think flexibility is huge,” Manley said.

“I was thinking the other day about how I feel this is going to change the course of education in general, she said. “I think it definitely speaks to the fact that teachers are superheroes and that they should be, at bare minimum, respected more, if not paid more. I also think during this time it’s going to be super important to be empathetic and compassionate with our students because you just never know what’s going on at home.”

Regardless of whether students in Winthrop’s education department gain field experience this semester through virtual or in-person teaching, the College of Education will be working hard to ensure each student is learning the importance of flexibility and that it will be a skill they implement in their future classrooms to become effective teachers.

Residence Life prepares for a safe stay

Winthrop Residence Life is readying students for living on campus during the pandemic

Sean Miller

staff writer

With move-in week steadily approaching for Winthrop’s new and returning students and with the coronavirus continuing to spread throughout the nation, many are wondering what Residence Life is doing to promote the health and well-being of those living on campus this year.

In an email sent to students on July 15, Interim President George Hynd gave insight into one way that health will be promoted by Residence Life.

“Upon return to campus, each student will receive a health kit that contains a reusable cloth facial covering, along with other items to help you meet Winthrop’s expectations for doing your part in maintaining a healthy campus community,” Hynd wrote.

Jack Hardie, a sophomore

resident assistant, is “proud of residence life for everything they’re trying to do [to promote safety] this semester.”

As an RA, Hardie is already having to become very familiar with the new rules and precautions that Residence Life is putting in place this semester.

“Always be six feet apart. Do not have more than one person in a room unless they’re helping you move in and always wear your mask,” Hardie said. “Any student that’s outside of the room without a mask, they’re not even getting a warning. It’s an automatic write up.”

Hardie explained that the new rules set forward are intended to be temporary and will be scrutinized in the future.

Residence Life has made it clear through email communications and the housing contract addendum that students are equally responsible for remembering to practice the safety precautions outlined by Winthrop and the CDC.

“Lots of disinfectant... hand sanitizer, some paper towels and many masks,” Hardie said regarding how students can be best prepared for on-campus living this semester.

Kat Stemlow, a returning

Winthrop sophomore, believes that personal responsibility will be important this fall for all students.

“I am confident that residence life is doing as much as they can to keep us safe. It’s really up to students to uphold these rules to keep each other safe,” Stemlow said.

“I feel like the university is doing everything they can to make things safe, but there’s still a large risk returning back to campus,” she said. “Our own health is dependent on others cleaning up after themselves, wearing masks and sanitizing.”

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has recently moved to online courses after an outbreak of COVID-19 on their campus — and many other universities across the nation have already experienced similar situations.

For now, Winthrop is still planning to begin on-campus instruction on Sept. 8, with move-in days occurring from Sept. 2-7.

For more information about move-in day and for the latest news about returning to campus this fall, go to <https://www.winthrop.edu/returntolearn/> by scanning this QR code.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian



Move-in week will take place Sept. 2-7 with new rules and precautions put in place to keep students safe.



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Professor keeps job despite investigation, controversial Facebook post

Special education professor will be teaching in the fall semester despite calls to have her terminated

Anna Sharpe
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Incoming professor April Mustian will not have her job offer rescinded by Winthrop University, following an investigation regarding a controversial Facebook post Mustian made in June.

"If you are a White K-12 teacher who teaches Black children, and you are on your FB posting pro-police anti-Black rhetoric, I hope and pray those are posts and beliefs you are willing to stand by in front of the Black families you are supposed to love and serve," Mustian wrote. "I hope those are posts you are willing to stand by when district personnel get screenshots of your ignorance.

"This is a new day, folks. People are getting fired for being racist on social media. Don't think you are above reproach, especially in this day and age when opportunities to unlearn racism and bias are at your fingertips. And, if your first thought is to delete me because of this post,

chances are I already have some screenshots," she wrote.

The post was met with much criticism, including calls on Winthrop to retract her job offer.

Young America's Foundation, a conservative youth advocacy and news site, ran an editorial about Mustian's comments.

"Threatening to dox or attempt to get someone fired simply for supporting brave law enforcement is simply immature and ignorant," author Kara Zupkus wrote.

Following calls to retract her job offer, Winthrop released a statement on Aug. 3 saying that there would be an investigation into Mustian's comments and that the school was working with "internal personnel and legal counsel."

"Please know we are pursuing this matter diligently and cannot allow the University to be swayed into hasty and inappropriate action," Winthrop's statement read.

"In the meantime, we want to be clear that we assertively affirm that Winthrop University respects,

supports, and appreciates all law enforcement officers including those on our campus and those in the local community, our state, and the nation. This high level of regard extends to other first responders as well."

Following this statement, many Winthrop students and alumni were upset at the decision to investigate Mustian.

Two petitions were created in support of Mustian, gathering more than 2,400 signatures.

"Her expression that teachers should care about the livelihood of all their students, particularly African American students, is a statement that has shockingly resulted in anger from many people. Dr. Mustian's statement was not harmful or racist in any way," the petition created by social work major Santasia Myers stated.

Several students and alumni took to social media to voice their disapproval of the situation.

Jalisa Byas, class of 2014, wrote that she was "disappointed in this

response" from the school.

"I valued how diverse the campus was from faculty to student body. I was very active in the Winthrop community and never felt diminished anyway. This response is not reflective of the inclusive university I am proud of. Very disappointed," Byas wrote.

Others were upset with the way the statement voiced support of members of law enforcement but failed to offer support of Black students, faculty and staff.

"I think you forgot to mention your respect, support, and appreciation for your black scholars, faculty and staff. This statement does not reflect the diversity and inclusion that Winthrop actively promotes. Practice what you preach," Courtney McLeod, class of 2018, wrote.

Mustian did not have her position rescinded and will be teaching in the upcoming fall semester. The Johnsonian reached out to Mustian for comment but did not receive a response.

April Mustian
June 26 · 🌐

If you are a White K-12 teacher who teaches Black children, and you are on your FB posting pro-police anti-Black rhetoric, I hope and pray those are posts and beliefs you are willing to stand by in front of the Black families you are supposed to also love and serve. I hope those are posts you are willing to stand by when district personnel get screenshots of your ignorance.

This is a new day, folks. People are getting fired for being racist on social media. Don't think you are above reproach, especially in this day and age when opportunities to unlearn racism and bias are at your fingertips.

And, if your first thought is to delete me because of this post, chances are I already have some screenshots. 📸

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10 Comments · 13 Shares

Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

They want you to vote

Winthrop University's Department of Social Work is promoting the importance of voting in November

Mari Pressley
staff writer

Winthrop's Department of Social Work department is encouraging all students, especially social work students, to vote.

ZaDonna Slay, the Master of Social Work Admissions Coordinator for the Department of Social Work, believes it is essential that social work students at Winthrop exercise their right to vote.

"As we learn through our profession and through the work that we do with policy, all politics are local," Slay said, "and so for social work students ... to be able to truly understand the programs and services that they will use with their clients, how they are funded, how they are supported, how they are implemented, how they are even developed — all of that begins with who we have in office.

"[G]etting students to really understand how to hold elected officials accountable really helps inform the work that we do as a profession," she said.

Wendy Sellers, an associate professor of social work, believes that voting is for all students, but it carries an even higher level of importance for social work students.

"I think helping my students understand the importance of voting can then potentially expand into their role as future social workers, helping in vulnerable or at risk populations and helping individuals in those communities have accessibility to voting so that it doesn't just stop with the students, but it also makes a difference in their work," Sellers said.

"[W]e need social workers who have that activism and may be interested in willing to serve as elected officials," Sellers said. "Even

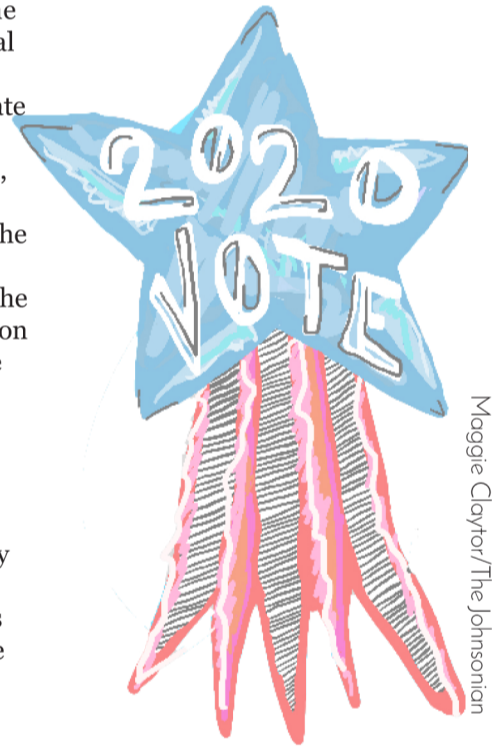
President Barack Obama started out as a community organizer ... community organizing is one of the fundamental pieces of macro social work."

Hannah Buckner, undergraduate social work major and president of the Winthrop Social Work Club, believes that all of her social work professors "would really harp on the fact that we are change agents."

As Election Day draws closer, the social work department's promotion of the importance of voting can be relevant to all Winthrop students.

"Every vote counts ... just because you are one person in a small population of people, your one opinion on something can change something so it can be very impactful," Buckner said. "Your one vote can change who becomes a leader, your one vote can change if a bill is passed, or your one vote can change if something that

you strongly believe in actually happens."



Maggie Clayton/The Johnsonian

Remembering Elaine Baker

Elaine Baker, longtime spokeswoman for the Rock Hill School District, passed away in June

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Elaine Thomasson Baker, Winthrop alumna and longtime Director of Information Services and spokeswoman for the Rock Hill School District, passed away earlier this summer at Piedmont Medical Center after a long-fought battle with cancer.

Baker graduated from Rock Hill High School in 1964 and went on to attend Winthrop College, where she earned an Associates of Science Degree in Secretarial Science, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education, a Master of Science Degree in Business Education and an Education Specialist's Degree in Public School Administration.

Baker began working in the Rock Hill School District in 1966 as a member of the office personnel staff. She later briefly worked as a teacher at the Career Development Center, where she taught English and

business courses.

In 1974, soon after she began teaching, Baker was approached by the school board and offered a position as Rock Hill's first Director of Information Services, which would be responsible for orating and providing information for the Rock Hill community on school district matters.

Baker remained in the position for 41 years, retiring in 2015. During her 41 year tenure as the Director of Information Services, Baker established programs such as the Rock Hill Teacher Forum and Rock Hill Teacher of the Year Award.

"We're a school system that promotes the whole child," Baker said during a WRHI radio interview in July 2015, in regards to what is the most important message she wanted Rock Hill students and parents to see during her tenure. "A lot of times you only hear about a school's academics. We want students to be successful in whatever areas they can be."

After her 2015 retirement, Mychal

Frost, a 2002 graduate of Rock Hill High School, replaced Baker as the new Director of Marketing and Communications for Rock Hill Schools.

"Mrs. Baker was a tremendous friend and mentor to me," Frost

said. "I'm among those who are forever grateful for her service to this community."



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

Elaine Baker, class of 1964, was the Director of Information Services for the Rock Hill School District for 41 years.

What's the deal with 5G?

Jeb Bartlett
staff writer

Despite the unprecedented outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the continued global rollout of the 5G wireless network looks forward towards a brighter, faster and more connected tomorrow.

By 2024 as many as 24 billion devices are expected to depend on cellular networks, Verizon said, and 5G is the solution.

5G is the fifth and latest generation of wireless cellular infrastructure, which originated in the 1980s with analog voice transmission. 5G launched back in April 2019 and has continued to be implemented globally since then.

The main selling points of the new 5G network are its lower latency, higher stability and capacity in heavy traffic areas, and faster data upload and download speeds.

With more people, businesses and healthcare facilities relying on network coverage, outages such as the ones experienced by California firefighters in 2019 often bring daily life to a grinding halt. However, 5G's promised higher traffic capacity and stability will greatly decrease the chances of significant outages occurring in the future.

Qualcomm's 2017 global Economic Impact Report indicated that by 2035, a 5G network could support up to 22.3 million new jobs and potentially enable up to \$13.2 trillion dollars of goods and services.

A study by Gartner in 2018 also revealed that around 66 percent of organizations intend to deploy 5G technology by 2020. And, as 5G continues to be implemented across the country, many have already experienced the new network.

Joseph Davis, a voice technical expert for Walmart, has worked designing, implementing and supporting phone systems across the country, virtually, since the start of quarantine back in March.

"Using 5G on my cellular device allows me to do approximately 80 percent of my job from my phone," Davis said. "Which means I can do my job from anywhere."

For consumers, 5G will have a new significant impact on their daily lives, from being able to instantly download a 4K movie to streaming anything at any time. 5G will expand cellular and internet coverage around the world, eliminating 'dead-zones' and other places that have little to no coverage.

Just like its predecessors, 5G has faced its share of conspiracy theories, many of which remain unfounded, such as theories associating 5G with COVID-19.



Katelyn Miller/The Johnsonian

Much of the speculation and theorizing around 5G existed before COVID-19 and can be traced back to physicist Bill Curry.

In 2000, Curry published research indicating that wireless frequencies caused brain cancer. This claim, however, was later debunked, as Curry did not take into account the fact that human skin and skull acts as a shield against the frequencies he studied, according to a New York

Times from last year. Additionally, "there were no increases in any brain tumour types," a 2018 BMJ Journals study around brain tumors and cell phone use concluded.

Despite many inaccurate online conspiracy theories, there remains a lot of hype surrounding the faster and sturdier internet that 5G will bring as it continues to be introduced worldwide.



TECH TIP OF THE WEEK

Interested in a sneak peek at iOS 14? The public beta is out now. You can sign up for free on beta.apple.com. This update's biggest addition is widgets, small versions of apps that you can add to your home screen. Just make sure you back up your device first so you do not lose any data.

Psychedelics: a treatment for mental disorders?

Shyanne Hamrick
staff writer

Psychedelics have become a potential pharmacological development in the evolution of treatment for mental disorders. As of 2018, one in five Americans experience mental illness each year and 50 percent of individuals are likely to be diagnosed with a mental illness sometime in their life, according to the CDC.

LSD, psilocybin and MDMA are just a few potential psychedelics which could replace or supplement conventional drugs in treatment-resistant mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, PTSD and alcohol or drug addiction.

"There are huge unmet medical needs in treating anxiety, depression, and addiction," said Patrick Owens, a chemistry professor at Winthrop. "Small-scale testing in recent years – particularly at Johns Hopkins [University] – [has] yielded impressive results in treating these afflictions."

The psychedelics considered in recent testing and studies are referred to as serotonergic psychedelics, or agonists of serotonin receptors. This means that they mimic the structure of serotonin, one of the main neurotransmitters which influence

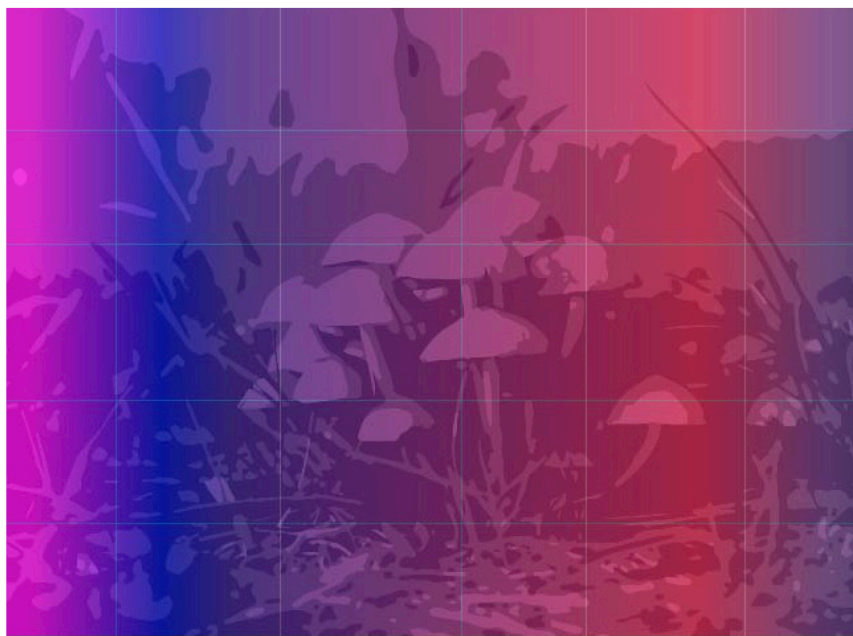
emotions, causing increased response from serotonin neurons.

"Psychedelic substances have molecular structures very similar to serotonin which is also known as 5-Hydroxytryptamine (5-HT). They are thought to be agonists or partial agonists of 5-HT 2A receptors in certain areas of the brain and activate these in such a way as to cause hallucination," Owens said.

By activating serotonin receptors, serotonergic psychedelics show evidence of decreases in depressed mood and anxiety. Many participants in clinical testing and studies have also reported an overall increase in life satisfaction.

"From MRI studies, it appears that psychedelics lower the activity of the brain's default mode network, the part of the brain that controls our conscious thoughts. Other parts of the brain appear to increase in activity. People with anxiety worry about the future, those with depression obsess about the past... and psychedelics may free the brain to think differently," Owens said.

However, psychedelics remain classified as Schedule I drugs by the DEA. Schedule I drugs are unacceptable for medical purposes and are regarded as substances that pose a high risk for addiction. Despite being a potential treatment option for



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

addiction, could the medicinal use of psychedelics lead to substance dependence?

"Unlike stimulants—amphetamines & cocaine— and opioids, Psychedelics are not generally addictive and not particularly lethal. They earned a poor, undeserved reputation in the 1960s and 1970s due to the misbelief in this. This has resulted in little to no medical research being done until the past decade or so," Owens said.

Psychedelics are not unique to the modern world, as the use of psilocybin mushrooms and peyote (mescaline) dates back hundreds of centuries. After the discovery of LSD in 1938, psychedelics were researched with the intent to treat various mental disorders – until they were restricted by the

Controlled Substances Act in the 1970s.

With relatively minimal research and a lack of expansive clinical trials or studies, many professionals regard psychedelics to be a promising, yet evolving development in treating mental disorders. Before psychedelics can be applied in the field of medicine, further research and studies will need to be conducted.

"These are very potent substances that affect individuals differently," said Owens. "Much is still unknown. There are also concerns with human abuse of these [psychedelics] if they become more prevalent. Administration [of psychedelics] needs to be carefully controlled and studied in controlled settings."

SPORTS the Johnsonian

August 26, 2020

Fall Sports Delayed

How Winthrop is dealing with the delay of fall sports

Matthew Shealy
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The Big South Conference announced on August 12 that fall sports would be delayed with the hopes of competing those seasons in the spring. This announcement affects several Winthrop sports teams, including volleyball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, in addition to fall competitions in men's and women's golf and any out-of-season competition in spring sports.

While the Big South's decision may have come as a surprise to some, many coaches and players were less than shocked.

"We kind of felt that this was going to happen," head cross country coach Ben Paxton said.

Paxton, who also coaches track and field at Winthrop, expressed concern that the indoor track and field season, which normally takes place from January into March, might also be in jeopardy.

"Especially when you put 60 teams (for a total of) 2,000 athletes in an 800 square foot building," Paxton said. "I don't foresee that happening."

Paxton said that conversations among the conferences and the NCAA are currently suggesting that the cross country season could replace indoor track and field and occur between January and March, followed by the usual outdoor track and field season.

Perhaps the largest change cross country athletes would need to adjust to if they were to begin competing in January would be the difference in temperature. However, Paxton does not think cold weather would have a negative impact on performance.

"As I told a northern coach who was complaining about possibly

moving to the spring, they said 'You don't know what winters are like up north,' and I said 'You don't know what cross country is like in South Carolina in September.'"

Paxton noted that, for cross country athletes, "it's much easier to put clothes on than to take them off."

Paxton is most worried about the effects of losing cross country this fall on incoming freshmen. "You worry about their feelings because they're going to get robbed of the experience that most everybody had," he said.

Head volleyball coach Chuck Rey pointed out that the lack of competitions during the fall semester could actually be helpful to the freshmen on his team.

"When they first come in freshman year they go right into season and it's hard for them," Rey said. "Now, they're going to have four or five months more to acclimate to the game and to be a college student, which is fantastic."

Rey said the volleyball team has been practicing on a volunteer basis since mid-July, wearing masks and often working in small groups while doing so. He said the team is taking many preventative measures this fall.

"We disinfect the balls – we wipe them down every day – (as well as) the nets and the poles. We've had to buy different masks – ones that have a little bit more of a breathability to them."

Rey said the team has also considered splitting into two practice squads and utilizing an "A" days and "B" day schedule. He said he would coach half the team on "A" days while his assistant coach, Becca Acevedo, would coach the other half on "B" days. This would prevent the entire team from needing to quarantine if one player tested positive and could keep Winthrop from being required to forfeit or reschedule a match once the season begins.



Kaily Paddie/The Johnsonian

In 2019, the Winthrop volleyball team scored 24-5 overall, playing undefeated in conference play and advancing to the NCAA Tournament. One thing Rey wants to make sure of this fall is that his team does not lose sight of that success.

"I don't want this time to go away from us and not remember what it was like to play so well and be able to compete against a really high-level team," he said.

Rey said Winthrop had originally planned to begin the season on the road against Nebraska this fall, with matchups including Georgia and Purdue also on the schedule. He hopes that, despite the season being delayed, Winthrop will still get an opportunity to play against a high-level team again soon.

Of course, the success of Winthrop's programs and their ability

to play later this school year is contingent upon how the coronavirus continues to affect the country, the state of South Carolina, and the Winthrop community.

One way Paxton plans to keep his cross country athletes healthy is by limiting the amount of time they practice.

"Studying this disease, if you break down and get worn down, then you're that much more susceptible to it."

Paxton also said that when his athletes aren't practicing, they need to be making smart decisions, "like not going to parties and not going home."

This would be the responsibility of all students if they wish to remain on campus this fall and continue to play sports later this school year.

West Center changes

New protocols and procedures for Fall 2020

Lily Fremed
staff writer

As Winthrop students anxiously await their return to campus for the Fall 2020 semester, many wonder if they will be able to safely continue their quarantine exercise routines upon arrival. Since the Big South has postponed fall sports until the spring, students may hope that although they cannot enjoy watching sporting events, they can still enjoy a workout themselves.

The West Center, home to an 11,000 square foot weight room & cardio space, a four court gymnasium, a one-eighth mile indoor track, a 25-yard pool and many other amenities, is typically bustling with exercise-attired students and staff during the school year. Due to the current health concerns regarding COVID-19, numerous precautions and changes regarding the accessibility of the West Center should be expected this fall.

Vice President for Student Affairs Shelia Higgs Burkhalter participated in a virtual town hall meeting on July 30, briefing families on various changes around campus. She said the West Center is set to reopen on Sept. 8.

"One-way entrances and exits will be established," Burkhalter said. "Weight rooms and cardio machines will be available for your use, but the track will be closed."

Individual equipment will be spread farther apart to allow for social distancing, according to



Photo Courtesy of Winthrop University

Burkhalter. She also said classrooms and furniture throughout the building will be spaced accordingly to assist with social distancing.

Burkhalter said that the West Center employees, the majority of which are students, will be trained on traditional West Center tasks, as well as new procedures to help keep gym-goers safe.

"Towel service, day-use lockers, sports equipment checkout and the use of the climbing wall will be suspended," Burkhalter said. She also noted that there will be changes to intramurals and sports clubs.

Burkhalter said that until Sept.

8 all group fitness and intramural activities will be online. "We've been doing it all summer and we did it late in the spring, so we know that this will work," she said.

Associate Director of West Center Operations Jason Thornton told The Johnsonian on Aug. 21 that he did not have any "concrete answers" about the West Center's reopening plan since there were still conversations being had with university partners on safety measures.

"Given that the situation with COVID continues to be very fluid, we continue to adjust our plans,"

Thornton said.

Thornton recommended that students watch the virtual "student engagement" town hall meeting from Tuesday, Aug. 25 that can be found at <https://www.winthrop.edu/returntolearn/> for the latest information regarding the West Center's reopening.

The Johnsonian will continue to provide the community with updated information about the West Center as it becomes available.

Esports plays on

Winthrop Esports goes remote, will compete this fall

Matthew Shealy

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After the coronavirus began making headlines in the U.S. this past March, collegiate sports came to a screeching halt. As schools switched to remote learning, conferences canceled spring seasons.

Winthrop saw abrupt ends to baseball, softball, lacrosse and other sports, but the one team that was still able to compete was Winthrop Esports.

Josh Sides, head coach of the esports team, said he was glad the team was able to keep competing, but that it was far from a seamless transition.

“Having all of our players in one place is definitely a big positive when we’re practicing and when we’re playing,” Sides said. “For accountability, for collaboration, making sure we all have good PCs and good network connection and stuff like that - it’s all a lot easier to do when everybody’s in one place.”

Before the disruption of Covid-19, Winthrop Esports were on a roll. The team scored 2-0 in Overwatch competitions, 5-1 in collegiate League of Legends play and 4-0 in the ASU GSV League of Legends Tournament. The Eagles recorded wins over top-ranked programs, including that of Harrisburg University.

“What we did last year as a first-year program was almost unprecedented,” Sides said. “You don’t see first-year programs in

sports really do the kind of things that we did.”

That perfect tournament record earned Winthrop one of four spots in the ASU GSV Finals, which were originally scheduled to be competed live and in person from San Diego in late March. Instead, they were held remotely on April 25 and 26. While Winthrop managed to upset Maryville University in the semi-final match, Harrisburg emerged victorious from the Grand Final.

In June, Winthrop competed remotely in Overwatch, going 1-2 and ultimately facing an upset in the first round of the Overwatch Collegiate Championship.

While competing remotely was not ideal for the Eagles, they find themselves facing a similar situation this fall. Sides said he believes the team will see “about a 50/50 split” between players returning back to campus and players choosing to compete their season remotely.

Jun Choi, a junior and top lane for the League of Legends team, said he will compete from his home in San Diego this semester.

“It was definitely a hard decision to make between staying home or going back to campus since I miss everyone on the esports team,” Choi said. “However, the COVID-19 pandemic ultimately made me take online courses.”

Sides said he is unsure whether those who return to campus will be able to use the lab in Owens Hall. “If we do get to use that space, it’s going to be by the CDC’s guidelines,” he said. “Safe



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

distancing, sanitizing, masks on.”

This season will already look different because of the coronavirus, but some additional change is coming that’s unrelated to the pandemic. According to Sides, Winthrop is adding three new games to its esports program: Valorant and Rocket League this fall and Super Smash Bros. in the spring.

Sides explained that those rosters would be filled by a mixture of freshmen and transfers who hope to cultivate a reputation and “push for championships.” He also said that everyone’s goal for second-year Overwatch and League of Legends players intend to win a National Championship in both games.

“The biggest thing we learned

from last year is that we can beat top teams,” Sides said. “Going into this year we won’t have to think ‘Oh, it’ll be great if we beat Maryville’ or ‘It’ll be great if we beat Harrisburg,’ because we’ve already beaten them. Now it’s just sustaining that and beating them consistently instead of just here and there.”

Winthrop will begin the esports season when the League of Legends team competes in the Harrisburg University Esports Invitational on September 19 and 20. You can follow Winthrop Esports on Twitch at <https://www.twitch.tv/winthropesports> and watch anytime they livestream a match.

Winthrop’s tennis teams elimination addressed in letter by President Hynd

This article originally appeared on The Johnsonian’s website

Savannah Scott

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Interim President George Hynd, in response to the “Save Winthrop Tennis” organization, wrote a letter addressing that the tennis teams will be eliminated on Tuesday.

“I am writing to confirm, with the full backing of the Board of Trustees, that Winthrop has no intention of reinstating the tennis program,” he wrote.

Winthrop’s Board of Trustees voted on the decision to eliminate Winthrop’s men and women tennis teams in June.

In response to this announcement, alumni, coaches and community members worked together to create the cause “Save Winthrop Tennis.” The organization was used to collect sponsors, funds and support from the Winthrop community to ensure the tennis teams were not eliminated.

“We have many challenges ahead and need to focus on making sure we have the resources necessary to meet the needs of our students in these most pressing times,” he also added that he understands the decision is disappointing due to the success of both tennis teams. Hynd wrote that the “Save Winthrop Tennis” organization used information that lacked context or was misleading including the claim that the decision to eliminate the teams was due to budget concerns. “Budget concerns are not an allegation; they are a continuing reality for all universities including Winthrop,” Hynd wrote.

He added that many universities across the United States are also following suit with eliminating their tennis teams, “and have cited many of the same reasons that informed Winthrop’s decision: conference requirements in considering program



Photo Courtesy of Winthrop Athletics

elimination, inadequate facilities for practice and play, limited tuition and other revenue, and substantial international recruiting costs.” “The funds raised by the alumni and friends, mostly through pledges, have used Winthrop’s name without our permission to fundraise for a program that was eliminated because of its inherent and associated costs,” he wrote.

“The major gift of \$500,000 that the group is touting was in the works to help address the state of Memorial Courts before this summer’s decision and had a university matching component that now is financially untenable. The group says they can get the courts fixed this fall for far less than our initial estimates, but they are unaware of state purchasing requirements and realistic timelines for capital projects of this nature.”

“I wanted you to have these facts so you can make informed decisions about how you choose to sup-

port Winthrop and/or the athletics department,” Hynd wrote. “We are all disappointed that the reality of our present circumstance has led us to this unfortunate conclusion.” Julie Busha, a member of the “Save Winthrop Tennis” organization, wrote a letter in response to Hynd’s remarks on Wednesday. Busha wrote that the organization understood the reasoning behind the elimination of the tennis teams but that they felt the teams were cut without enough notice.

“As such, we felt we deserved to have the opportunity to have our self-sustaining plan for reinstatement heard at some point, along with its accompanying fundraising efforts, which now sit at nearly \$800,000,” she wrote.

“Our letter solicitations to prospective donors are, and have always been, fact driven, yet often include positive personal stories of how wonderful our Winthrop experience was for us personally,” she

wrote, adding that donors pledges were only to be used if the teams were reinstated. “We are very aware of state purchasing requirements and timelines as it pertains to the tennis court renovations. However, we wouldn’t have been able to put together a solid budget and proposal had we not gone out to obtain bids ourselves,” she wrote.

Busha added that the organization are not trying to meet with the board of trustees to take the focus off of the circumstance surrounding the pandemic but, “we do feel that our plan for reinstatement and timeline to occur in Fall, 2021 does directly provide solutions to Covid-related challenges, while bringing a net positive operating budget for tennis, beneficial national media, and long-term donors who will be valuable to the University beyond tennis.”

August 26, 2020

Masks: the fashion necessity of 2020

Masks are becoming a fashion trend, leading to a fashionable future for the mask mandate

Allison Reynolds
staff writer

Masks have become a staple item that people cannot leave the house without. Unlike fashion trends of the past, such as bell bottom jeans, leg warmers, and hammer pants, masks have not faded in popularity because they are essential for public health and safety.

In the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, it was impossible to find even disposable masks. Now all types of companies and brands are making masks with different patterns, designs, and materials. Some people are even making masks at home to donate or sell in hopes of making a profit. Now there is an abundance of options to choose from.

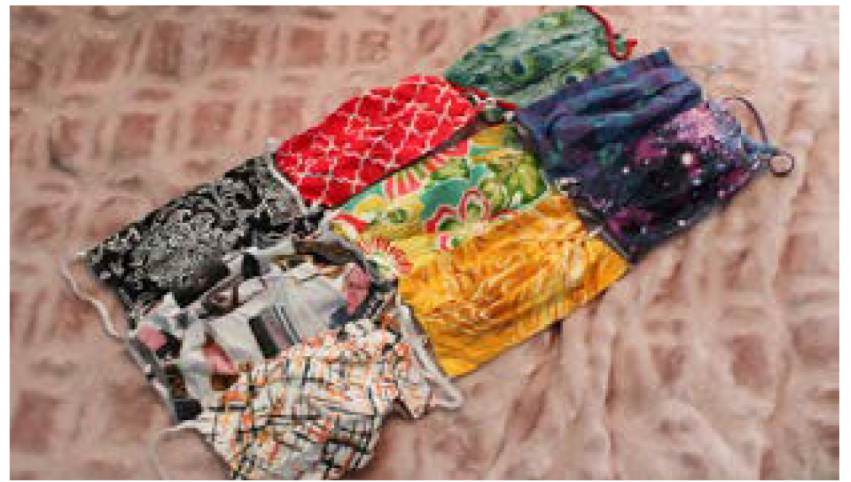
“People will want to wear the masks more if they can match it to their outfit,” Alex Fleming, a senior sociology major at Winthrop University said. “While they are being fashionable, they are also protecting [others.] It’s a win-win situation.”

Even though the United States is just beginning to see masks as

a fashion staple, one country has already had a mask craze: South Korea. According to Politico Magazine, masks became a fashion trend in 2009 thanks to the K-POP group known as Big Bang. While this original trend ended up dying out, COVID-19 brought the mask trend across the world out of necessity.

Many companies are beginning to capitalize off the demand. While there are many sources that supply economically efficient options, some companies are taking a more high-fashion approach, marketing masks that cost as much as some designer purses. According to Insider Incorporated, fashion designers like Collina Strada and Michael Ngo are selling face masks ranging in price from \$100 to \$500.

“People are trying to make masks fashionable because we have to wear them,” Emily Sanchez, a sophomore psychology major at Winthrop University said, adding that \$100 is too high of a price for a mask and that she would not pay over \$10 for one.



Marisa Fields-Williams/The Johnsonian

Masks, though necessary, have also become a way for individuals to express themselves and their personal styles.

When it comes to people paying over \$100 for a mask, Fleming said, “if a person has the money to afford it, good for them.” However, Fleming said that “masks should be affordable for all because, while it has become a fashion trend, it is still for health and safety precautions.”

Just like all fashion trends, mask wearing has evolved over the pandemic. Everyone who wears a mask during this time is protecting people

around them while also making a fashion statement. Some opt for the classic disposable mask, while others take time to choose their favorite pattern for the day. This is a trend that has been created out of necessity for public health, so it likely won’t follow the typical year-long lifespan of trends from the past like legwarmers and crimped hair. If people do not mask up, the mask fashion trend may last longer than that.

Students taking on new skills

Winthrop Students share the hobbies that kept them busy during the pandemic

Aerial Laymon
staff writer

No one ever thought that normalizing the word ‘quarantine’ would be a part of our daily lives, but it has become routine for many students to hear. Luckily for some, being stuck at home can jumpstart their creative side. Over the summer, multiple Winthrop students have decided to start a new hobby or continue one that they may have forgotten about. With this new lifestyle of not being able to connect with people as often, they have begun to fill their time with activities such as creating small businesses, making accessories and painting.

Layla Johnson, a biology major, says that she has “started painting and creating a lot more.” Johnson decided to start painting because she “got bored” while being stuck at home and she wanted to “remember what [she] used to do” when she was younger.

While the painting started off slowly at first, she does “it often” and “maybe once every two weeks.” According to Johnson, her favorite part

about creating the pieces was “how great the final product looked.”

Getting through quarantine while practicing social distancing can be difficult, but when Johnson explained how her skill has helped get her through it she said, “I love it and that it just gives me an outlet, something to do to get my mind off of what is going on in the world.”

Some students picked up hobbies during this time that could lead to starting a business, such as psychology major, Latajah Lambright. Her skills gained during quarantine included “learning how to cook, do nails and also learning new things about [herself].” Lambright said that one of the things that made her decide to develop some of her skills was “money.” She continued to say she works on doing nails about “two to three times a week” and that she cooks “two times a week.”

While she says that these are just things “to keep [her] busy,” she has grown to have a great interest in both. According to her, the best part about doing nails is “shaping them



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

Many people tried their hand at art and baking during their time in quarantine.

and the colors” of the nails.

Another student that will be attending Winthrop has her own unique skill that she decided to bring back into her life. Trinity Key, a music instrumental education major, has “started making earrings” during her time in quarantine. Key said that “I actually used to do it as a kid. I’ve missed doing it but did not have enough time to put effort and actual detail into my work. Now that I have time, I decided to pick it up again.”

Having this kind of hobby “has helped keep [her] busy and do what [she] loves again.” She spends a good amount of time on the earrings to perfect each pair she does. Key said she “likes to make them in bulk,” which is usually about “ten to 15 pairs at a time, so it will take

around an hour to make all of them.” This new passion she has for making earrings makes her want to take her time with every pair she makes. In regards to the best part about making them, Key said, “my favorite part of making them is that I know it’s something I’ve made myself and it’s cool to know that I did it.”

It is a great thing that students can still be able to push themselves to try new things even with this new way of life. Quarantine itself has been the topic of the year, and picking up new skills has given students a chance to take a breather from what is going on in the world. The creative minds of Winthrop students will continue to grow even as the fall semester begins.

A&C student art showcases coming soon

David Botzer
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Winthrop University is home to many talented artists, all of whom come with their own unique style. From painting, to graphic design, to sculpting and everything in between, if the medium exists, Winthrop most likely has a practitioner of it somewhere among their student body.

Unfortunately, it is not always easy to have your work noticed among the sea of other artists. This is especially true now as COVID-19 forces the doors of galleries to close. Inspiration and creative outlets can be hard to find in the midst of what seems to be global chaos. However, art still has the power to tell stories and inspire others. The Johnsonian wants to help Winthrop’s creators share these pieces.

The Johnsonian’s Arts & Culture section has decided to introduce a new platform for artists in the form of seasonal Student Art Showcases. These showcases will give artists an opportunity to have their work published in The Johnsonian and seen by all of the newspaper’s readers.

For each showcase, six art pieces will be chosen, limited to one per artist. These pieces will be on display with the name, class, and major of the artist. There will not be a ranking system to the showcase, but the six will be chosen from all submissions by the section editors of the Arts & Culture section based upon several factors including display of skill, uniqueness, adherence to the theme, and overall visual quality of the submission.

The four themes chosen for this semester and their scheduled showcase dates are Autumn (Sep. 30),

Halloween (Oct. 28), Thanksgiving (Nov. 18), and Happy Holidays (Dec. 2).

In order to submit an art piece for one of the showcases, artists must take a high-quality photo of the art and send it via email to either the Arts & Culture Editor, David Botzer, at botzerd@mytjnow.com or the Assistant Arts & Culture Editor, Chloe Wright, at wrightc@mytjnow.com. Pieces must be submitted no later than midnight on the Wednesday before the intended showcase.

For example, those interested in participating in our first showcase will need to submit their work by midnight on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

The Arts & Culture section is excited to see the works of art that will be produced for the showcases and hopes that the artists who submit their pieces are able to gain bene-

ficial experience from the process. While these showcases are unfortunately only open to artists that produce still, visual artworks, we would love to hear from musicians, poets, writers, actors, dancers and other artists from around the university at the aforementioned emails about the exceptional things you are doing involving your craft and potentially feature you in our recurring Artist Spotlights throughout the year. One of the Arts & Culture section’s main goals this year is to celebrate the incredible artists among the student body of Winthrop University.

The resilience of art

Despite the troubles of the world, Winthrop University's Galleries continue to be a mainstay

David Botzer

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The Winthrop University Galleries are composed of three galleries on campus: the Rutledge and the Elizabeth Dunlap Patrick Gallery in Rutledge Building and the Lewandowski Student Gallery in McLaurin Hall. According to the Winthrop University Galleries Director Karen Derksen, all three galleries “are open physically this year Monday, Wednesday and Friday’s from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.”

Any visitors to the gallery are asked to wear a face covering at all times and practice proper social distancing. The Galleries are taking another precaution by limiting the number of people in the Galleries at any one time to ten and setting them on a designated path, starting at the front of the Rutledge Gallery and leading visitors through all three exhibitions.

The Galleries are aware that not everyone would be comfortable going to a physical gallery or may not even get a chance to with the limited number of guests allowed at one time. To give everyone interested a chance to see the art created by members of the Winthrop University community, the Galleries and their partners in the College of Visual and Performing Arts have worked together to make their current exhibitions available online for viewing by anyone.

Currently, there are two exhibitions available for virtual



Winthrop's art galleries are open in person with the requirement of wearing a face mask.

Gwen Manten/The Johnsonian

viewing. The first is titled “Still in Touch,” which, according to the Winthrop University Galleries website, “showcases the ingenuity of Winthrop’s faculty and students during these weird quarantine times.” This exhibition was created in collaboration with the Union of Student Artists and LOOM Coworking. This exhibition will be open until Sept. 26.

The second is the 2020 BFA Senior Exhibition, titled, “What Was & What Will Be.” According to the exhibition’s web page, it “features the work of 17 graduating B.F.A. seniors from the Department of Fine Arts. Working across a variety of media, these

artists explore themes unique to each of them. Uniting them is their nostalgia for what was and their hope for what will be.”

Both of these exhibitions are also available for in-person viewing along with the MFA Thesis Exhibition, “Dust & Shadow” by Anna Dean. According to the Galleries’ website, Dean’s exhibition “explores the intersection of chaos and order through the use of complex layered imagery and moving parts to create hybrid forms that exist somewhere between two and three dimensions.”

The MFA Thesis and BFA senior exhibitions are open until Aug. 28 and will feature a closing

walk-through on that same date by appointment only. Visitors interested in this walk-through can reserve their spot on the Galleries’ website: winthrop.edu/galleries. On Aug. 27, the Galleries are hosting Dean for a Virtual WUG Artist Talk. This is only the first of many of these artist talks planned for this semester.

Despite the world’s current situation, Winthrop University Galleries continue to give artists a platform to display their work and plans to push through this semester with many more exhibitions planned.

COVID-19: stay connected

Social media has become an essential connection to the world outside your home office

Chloe Wright

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Status update: Still trapped at home, I don’t know what day it is anymore and my cat keeps giving me weird looks.

With people becoming stuck in a seemingly endless cycle of working from home during the pandemic, social media and technology have become increasingly more important as tools for communication and entertainment. While it is fun to scroll through the pages of likes and comments, this constant cycle of internet attention also poses a threat to one’s mental health while they are isolated with their own thoughts day in and day out.

On the other hand, these apps that were originally created for endless scrolling and entertainment are now being utilized as platforms for business and creation while many job fields face a period of redefinition.

Gabriella Gonzalez, a sophomore musical theatre major at Winthrop University, accumulated a following of 29,300 people on her Tik Tok @gabriellam.gonzalez while she was in quarantine. She continues to use this app as a performance outlet as the conventional world of live theatre is still heavily restricted. This platform has exposed her to countless opportunities within the world of musical theatre that she never expected this early in her career. One such opportunity came in the form of an invitation from Tyler Capa, a well known music director who she said she has “obsessed over...for so long,” to perform at a concert at a popular cabaret club in New York.

Gonzalez said that “you don’t think about the connections that you can make over social media,” but now that these platforms are one of the most accessible forms of communication while we are all in isolation, it is becoming increasingly apparent the number of opportunities that you can find

through social media.

As a senior journalism major at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Madeline Pennington looked to social media as a window to what she called the “world outside quarantine” this summer. Beyond personal connections and opportunities, this world on the internet allows for a flourishing of movements and ideas that can spread in minutes.

Pennington worked as an intern at a social media company this summer and was exposed to an influx in content on the internet. She said this job helped her realize the “importance of social media in helping people share stories and use their voices” in many different ways.

While many of these stories help to lift the spirits of readers, not all of them are positive. According to The Daily Tar Heel, UNC-Chapel Hill recently made the decision to transition all classes online and move as many students out of residence halls as possible on Aug. 18 after a week of hybrid classes and 4 COVID “hotspots” appearing within residence halls, apartments and fraternity houses.

As a student at UNC-Chapel

Hill, Pennington said she has witnessed “a culture of self-policing and distrust among students” on social media, as concerned students battle with an administration that they feel is not doing enough in regards to safety on campus. She mentioned an Instagram account called @whereyallgo_in_unc that was recently created, accepting submissions of people breaking social distancing regulations around campus.

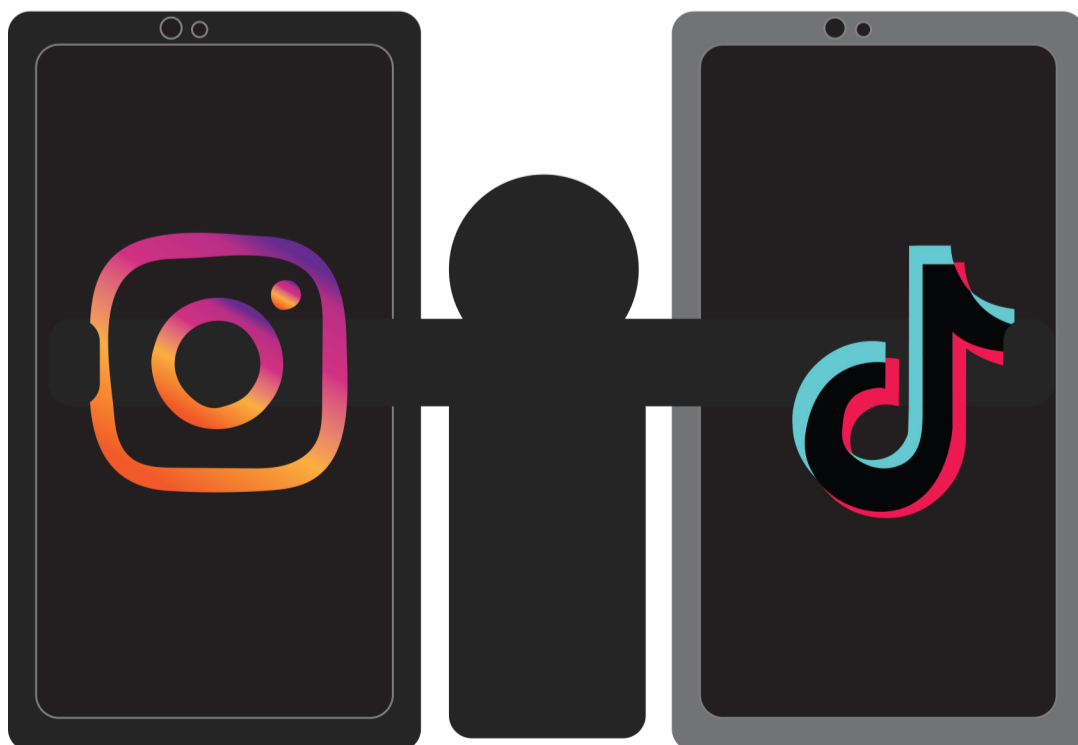
The speed at which someone’s post on social media can go viral or raise awareness is a keen example of a double-edged sword. In one manner, this rapid spread of information helps to inform the public and make individual voices heard. On the other hand, this power can quickly become dangerous if someone uses it maliciously.

It is a lesson that this generation of young adults seems to have had drilled into our heads, but it becomes much harder to ignore when you yourself may become a victim of any form of cyberbullying. Some may believe that these students being displayed on accounts like these are ignoring their personal responsibility and deserve this form of public shaming, but it also brings up the

question how far is too far?

As a creator with a considerably large following, Gonzalez knows this danger personally. She said that “it can be hard to put yourself out there because so many people are just nasty and rude” and when you are stuck at home with just your phone and your own thoughts it can sometimes be even harder to brush those sorts of comments off. She said that she tries to ask herself “am I posting this because I want to or am I posting it because I feel like I have to keep up this image?” she often finds herself taking week-long breaks “to make sure that [I am] doing this for [myself] and not just for other people.”

During this period of uncertainty and seemingly endless isolation, social media provides everyone the opportunity to see and care for others. However, in the end, everyone is responsible for not only what content they create, but also what media they consume. Gonzalez said it is important to “remind yourself that, yes, social media is awesome and it is a great way to connect with other people, but... we have to take care of ourselves first. Period.”



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

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Paying for college during COVID-19

Pros and cons of Hybrid Education

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When it comes to higher education, many students end up paying at least a small amount out of pocket each semester, due to Fafsa only giving a portion of grants and loans, and only being awarded a few (if any) scholarships.

Now that most classes at Winthrop University are offered online, is this a hit to our presently lean student wallets, or a relief? As for summer classes, learning online seemed worth it, at least financially. An email was sent out back in April from the Interim President, George W. Hynd, informing students about fee adjustments and reductions.

“The board’s action provides an additional 12 percent discount for all regular classes offered this summer only,” he stated.

This discount on summer courses helped many students, but what about the fall semester? The board also made the decision not to increase tuition. Although it is a positive feature that housing fees are reduced, given the current hardships for many, and the fact that a good portion of the semester is online, even for the in-person classes, this decision most likely was not the most groundbreaking.

In a time of such uncertainty, one would think the university’s budget consisting of over 100 million dollars might have room to help families in need provide quality education for their teens going off to college. Surely, that amount of money provided for the budget could afford to offer some kind of a discount to young adults who are risking their lives as part-time essential workers, whether it be working as retail sales associates or restaurant servers. However, many of us did catch a slight break, thanks

to the Eagle Retention Grant. This grant provides small amounts of money to be given to juniors and seniors who have exhausted their financial aid and are left with a reasonable balance.

Nevertheless, with tuition prices remaining the same for fall, is this considered a rip off because of the lack of personal attention and in-person lectures? Or, (on a positive note) does this ease stress by not having to worry as much about public speaking and elements included as a part of in-person classes that many students would normally be stressed about? In those cases, perhaps this unique time to go to college might be somewhat of a pass for students.

Although online classes can include more busy work than sitting in lectures, when it comes to classes that require substantial interaction, team strategy, and presentations, switching to online classes could become quite a relief for many. Online classes that require speeches and presentations are now featured via Zoom, Blackboard collaborate, video recording and/or online discussion boards. Although the work is still required, there is a substantial amount of pressure taken off students simply by not being in person. This element could now seem a bit unfair to those who may suffer from anxiety and still had to push through to pass those types of classes in the semesters prior.

It may seem like a pass to be able to trade in the involved and demanding type of work for assignments that do not require classmates to depend on each other through communication, brainstorming on projects, etc. Yet, this difference may not help give the students taking online classes a realistic experience to prepare them for the professional world.



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

Time ticking away on TikTok: President Trump’s Executive Order

What will TikTok users do if the app is banned?

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Many students here at Winthrop would agree that time flies while flipping through TikTok.

Last week, President Trump signed an executive order which threatens to ban the video application. Washington Post reports,

“Trump told reporters at the White House that TikTok would be forced to cease U.S. operations by about Sept. 15 if it wasn’t sold to a U.S. company.” This is a first in American history for a president to possibly prohibit Americans from using something that is a part of free markets.

On Aug. 7, TikTok put a statement out addressing the event, “This Executive Order risks undermining global businesses’ trust in the United States’ commitment to the rule of law, which has served as a magnet for investment and spurred decades of American economic growth,” going on to say, “And it sets a dangerous precedent for the concept of free expression and open markets.” It is no surprise that the president does not show concern for open markets, considering comments he has made in the past, such as referring to it as the “dumb markets” in an interview with Chris Wallace on Fox News

back in 2016.

Is this action within the rights of the president? Why would this even be on a presidential agenda? A recent Winthrop University Alumni, Miranda Adams, gave her thoughts on how she views the situation.

“Trump has a huge problem with China and is using his hatred towards China to dictate decisions in the US.” “I personally don’t think the president should have anything to do with what social media platforms should be and should not be allowed. There are more important things to worry about,” she claimed.

Back in June, numerous TikTok users planned to create empty seats by registering for President Trump’s rally which would be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Because of the sparse crowd, one can imagine that this event turned out to be quite a blow to the President’s ego. Given this information, it is no mystery why the president has now retaliated.

However, where does this leave TikTok users? Consequently, this order has brought even more attention to the video app. Many users are sharing their other social media handles, in case the ban in fact does happen. Videos have gone viral about TikTokers coming back to social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

A senior at Winthrop, Emily Miller shares what she will do if TikTok is banned.

“I don’t know that I’ll go back to any [other] apps specifically, but I’ll probably end up spending more time on Youtube.” When asked about Facebook and Instagram, “I don’t think I’ll end up using them any more than I currently do,” she said. “I like videos for comedy and I feel like that’s what TikTok pro-

vides, so I think I’d use YouTube to fill the void,” with a lighthearted laugh.

So far, there are a couple of American companies that have shown interest in buying TikTok, Oracle Corporation being one of them, according to a report published by Market Watch on Aug. 17. As for now, until a US company emerges, continue creating TikTok videos as if it were your last!

Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

The Future Is Female

*A look into Kamala Harris's Vice Presidential nomination
and what it means for gender equity*



Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Sen. Kamala Harris was named the running mate of Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden on Aug. 11, 2020.

Born to Indian and Jamaican parents, Sen. Harris has made history overnight. According to NPR's article "Could Have Been Our Own": Harris Nomination Hailed As Win For Representation", she has simultaneously become the first woman of color to be nominated for vice president, the first Asian American (regardless of gender) on a major political party's ballot, and the first second-generation immigrant on a political ballot.

For women, regardless of ethnicity, Harris has become a point of inspiration. In the week that she has been Biden's running mate, she has become a huge discussion starter worldwide. With the recent debates on human rights and the Black Lives Matter movement, along with the women's rights marches in 2016, Harris's nomination has solidified to the United States that Americans of color - particularly women - deserve to have representation equal to that of

Caucasian men.

Chia Yang, a junior education major at Winthrop University, believes that Harris's nomination is a step in the right direction.

"Having Kamala Harris as a VP candidate empowers women of color because these women specifically lack representation," Yang said.

Harris is the third woman to ever be nominated for this position in America, following Sarah Palin in 2008 as well as Geraldine Ferraro, Walter Mondale's running mate in 1984. Combining this with the fact that she is the first second-generation American to be nominated shows the United States, and specifically Americans of color, that nothing is impossible.

"Being able to witness this first hand gives me hope for the future. Women and people of color are slowly beginning to have representation." Ryen Cohen, a senior communications major at Winthrop, said. She also added that she finds Biden's choice for a running mate "very empowering."

"It's good to see a woman in her position, especially a black woman. Biden could have picked anybody, but he chose to run with a woman of color," Cohen said. "For me, this is great to witness."

Having Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee for vice president in modern America shows every minority group that not only do they have a voice, but that it is significant at a national decision-making level. For the better part of two centuries, the majority of American decisions have been made by primarily Caucasian men. Having a daughter of immigrants be the next possible vice president is a major step towards living in a more inclusive America.

Kiersten McCoy, an education major, and women's rights activist was disappointed when Sen. Harris dropped out of the presidential race.

"I felt like she would be a phenomenal candidate not only to run our country but to represent women/people of color," she said.

A champion of equity, the PBS article "What does Kamala Harris believe? Where the candidate stands on 9 issues" notes that Sen. Harris supports giving immigrants the resources needed for a fair quality of life during their immigration process and opposing the detention camps that the government currently has in place. Unlike many other Democrats, who call for the Immigrations and Customs

Jamia Johnson/ The Johnsonian

Enforcement to be completely abolished, Harris instead asks for reform, including better oversight of the agency's workers, and insisting on stopping the separation of immigrant children from their families during the deportation process.

Harris also strongly advocates for helping the environment, as evidenced by her 2016 investigation into Exxon Mobil's negative influence on climate change.

"I felt hopeful when I heard of her nomination for the role of VP. Not only for the representation that she will bring to the cabinet during this upcoming term, but also that she will use her time as Vice President as a springboard to run for president in the future," McCoy said.

Kamala Harris set out to change America's government, and she has done that just by being present on the electoral battleground. While her presidential campaign has come to an end, her time as the potential next Vice President is just beginning - America waits with bated breath to see how Harris will continue to shake up the 2020's.

Face Masks: Choice vs. Public Health

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During dramatically trying times such as this, it is no surprise that even a tool as necessary as facial coverings in the midst of a pandemic would also be used to divide the country even more than it already is. The issue of wearing facial coverings has almost automatically played out to be a Democratic vs Republican debate. Although data has shown that facial coverings prevent the virus, there are conspiracy theories and many who believe that the government is simply trying to control citizens.

Most Republicans feel that masks are an infringement upon our freedom as citizens and should not be forced by the government to wear them. In contrast, most Democrats have observed that the science and data serves as proof that wearing face masks is worth it for the nation's public health to prevent more possible cases of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, the face mask debate is nothing new. The history of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 shows stark similarities between



then and now in how people reacted to the idea of wearing a mask for the sake of public health. Interestingly enough, the influenza also happened around election years as well.

For many women suffragists, they fought against the mask mandate because they felt that "covering their mouths at a time when their voices were crucial" was unacceptable, according to the New York Times. The Scranton Republican published an article in 1918 criticizing the 'fascination' of masks.

Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

"Nobody knows why they have such a fascination for them," the article reads. It may have seemed like a mere fascination to those who did not understand the science behind it. One would think that in 2020 with the technology and information available, there would be fewer cases of the Coronavirus, as well as stubborn acts of ignorance. Whether it is 2020 or 1918, it seems as if anything could be twisted into a political issue and in turn divide the country. What this means for college classes, though,

is that facts and data must be taken seriously. Chief of pediatric infectious diseases at UC Davis Children's Hospital, Dean Blumberg explained in an interview with UC Davis.

"A range of new research on face coverings shows that the risk of infection to the wearer is decreased by 65 percent," Blumberg said. This information is important to keep in mind as we head out on campus, even if it is just going to one in-person class this semester. When friends, classmates, family members, or co-workers try to debate and make claims that just don't have factual evidence to back them up, share the data and history about both pandemics in a way that is non-threatening and bipartisan. There will always be some form of politicization happening in the world around us, but if enough people can change the way they engage with others who disagree, perhaps more individuals can see through the polarizing tactics of politics and focus on making the right choices - not just for themselves, but the community.



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