

THE JOHNSONIAN



est. 1923

Hero among many, the passing of Chadwick Boseman



Tate Walden/The Johnsonian

“Black Panther” actor, Chadwick Boseman, passed away on Aug. 28

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Chadwick Boseman, an actor and South Carolina native, passed away on Aug. 28.

The 43-year-old had been battling colon cancer since 2016 and was surrounded by his family and wife when he passed, according to an Instagram post his family made.

“A true fighter, Chadwick persevered through it all, and brought you many of the films you have come to love so much,” the post said. “From Marshall to Da 5 Bloods, August Wilson’s Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom and several more, all were filmed during and between countless surgeries and chemotherapy. It was the honor of his career to bring King T’Challa to life in Black Panther.”

“I was so shocked. I think this year has been very hard as it is,” Jason Pressley, a senior mass communication major, said. “I don’t think anybody was really expecting to hear this. He just has such a strong and dominant figure in all his roles. To hear him pass away to something that made him so vulnerable and weak was shocking for everybody.”

In response to Boseman’s death, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster ordered that the Statehouse flags were to be lowered to “honor the life, contributions and memory of a truly extraordinary son of South Carolina,” according to CBS News.

Boseman graduated from Howard University and made several appearances on television shows in the early 2000s. Boseman’s breakthrough role was when he starred as Jackie

Robinson in the movie “42” in 2013. From then on he has starred in several films including “Get Up” and “Black Panther,” according to IMDb.

“He had an impact in the roles he chose. His agent would offer him roles in slave movies... and he would always turn them down because those weren’t movies that showed Black people in a state of being strong,” Pressley said. “I think he was... one of the spearheads of getting Hollywood away from telling those kinds of Black stories.”

In response to his death, an Anderson, South Carolina resident created the petition “Replace the Confederate Monument in Downtown Anderson with a statue of Chadwick Boseman.”

“With Chadwick Boseman’s early passing, it is important that we honor a true local legend [b]

y immortalizing him in stone in front of the courthouse. The Confederate Monument belongs in a museum, but has no right to be displayed there,” the petition creator wrote. “I believe the community should come together to honor someone from Anderson, South Carolina that was able to change the movie industry. He opened many doors for many young black people with his leading roles in movies such as Black Panther or Marshall.”

A private memorial service was held for Boseman in California where friends and family honored the late actor on Sept. 5.

“I hope that his death and more so his life has inspired people to really chase their purpose and make the most of their time here,” Pressley said.

The Department of Social Work promotes online learning

Professor creates project to better learning experience for students

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Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, online learning was on the rise with the increase of students all over the country opting to attend college online to save money and enable starting a career while still in school.

Winthrop University has multiple online programs that enroll students all over the country. Christopher J. Ward, a professor in Winthrop’s Department of Social Work and the Online Program Coordinator, heads up one of Winthrop’s most highly acclaimed online degree programs: The online Master of Social Work program.

“Here in the Department of Social Work, we launched our online MSW program in the Fall of 2018 with about 35 students. We now have 275 graduate students in both a 60-hour, three-year program and in our 39-hour, two-year program, which is an advanced standing option for those students that meet certain requirements and have an undergraduate degree in social work,” Ward said. “We admit students in the Fall, Spring and Summer, which is one reason why we have some pretty rapid growth

there and we’re meeting the need for those potential students that are out there primarily in our region, the southeast, though we have students up and down the east coast, west coast, pacific northwest, and everything in between.”

The goal in providing an online MSW program is to meet the needs of students who have schedules that do not allow for in-person attendance during the day due to various reasons such as careers, family, along with other personal commitments. “For those students who are overwhelmingly working full time in various careers, we’re a main driver for coming back to school. Part-time online is for those who just don’t have the ability to take two years off and come to a campus-based graduate program. It’s very expensive. It’s cost prohibitive for a lot of people, so we offer this alternative to work with them within their lives,” Ward said.

More specifically, in Ward’s embedded measures project, he is organizing multiple tactics to further engage his students so that they graduate from the program as well educated and prepared for their careers as the students who attend the MSW program in person.

“We have the standard [class]

evaluations that you get there at the end of the semester. Here in the Department of Social Work, we have both those standard College of Arts and Science questions then we have some more specific questions for social work, but we’re really wanting to get at some of the more specific nuances that are in each course,” Ward said.

“This embedded measures project looks to help get that really specific, real time sort of feedback to help us in the development process, so we can better serve our students and see if what we’re hoping, which is, the purpose of that activity of that assignment is to help broaden your understanding of your local social service resources,” Ward said.

On top of his idea to create more in-depth course evaluations to allow for student input to promote further improvement in the online courses, Ward and his colleagues have also made an activity to help engage students: “We have an activity in an introductory, graduate level policy course, where we’re wanting students to basically do a scavenger hunt for different social services.”

The Department of Social Work is working hard to provide fruitful virtual learning experiences for students all over the country



Ward

through their online MSW program. Their program “can teach you skills to empower people and communities as a specialized social worker,” according to the Department of Social Work’s page at Winthrop.edu.

“My favorite part of the project is being able to contribute to our commitment to have continual improvement. In regard to me personally, I’m trying to echo and build that over within our online MSW program. I see it as a continual work-in-progress to better serve our students who ultimately are going to better serve the community in all the neat Social Work roles they’re going to do once they graduate and we’ll be graduating our first cohort of online students here in the Fall of this year, December of 2020,” Ward said.

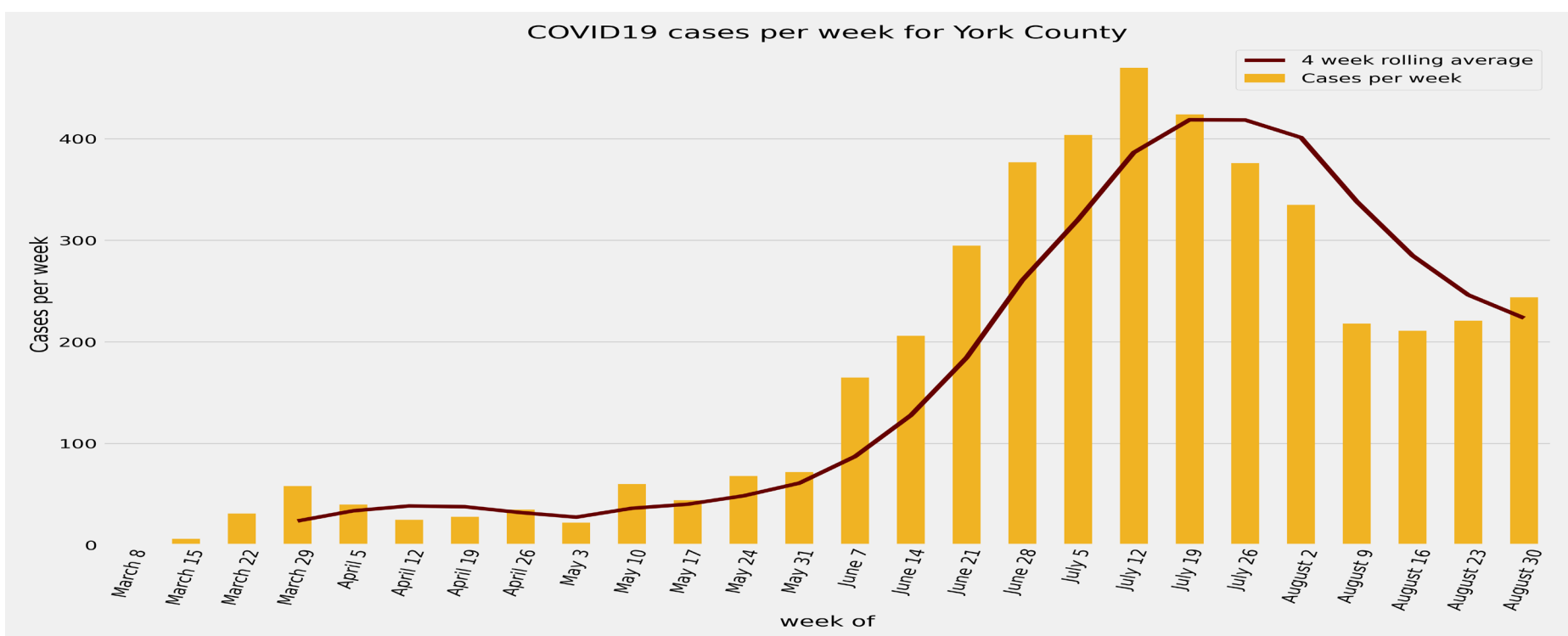
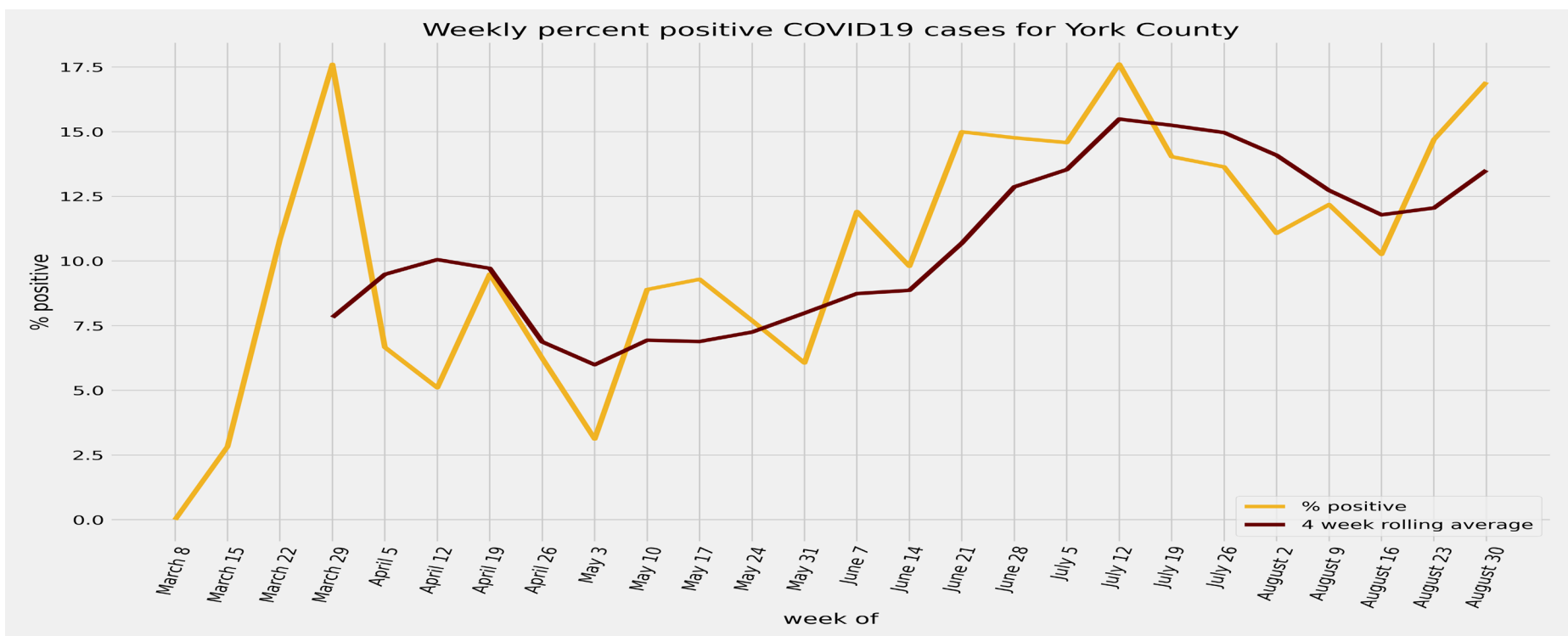
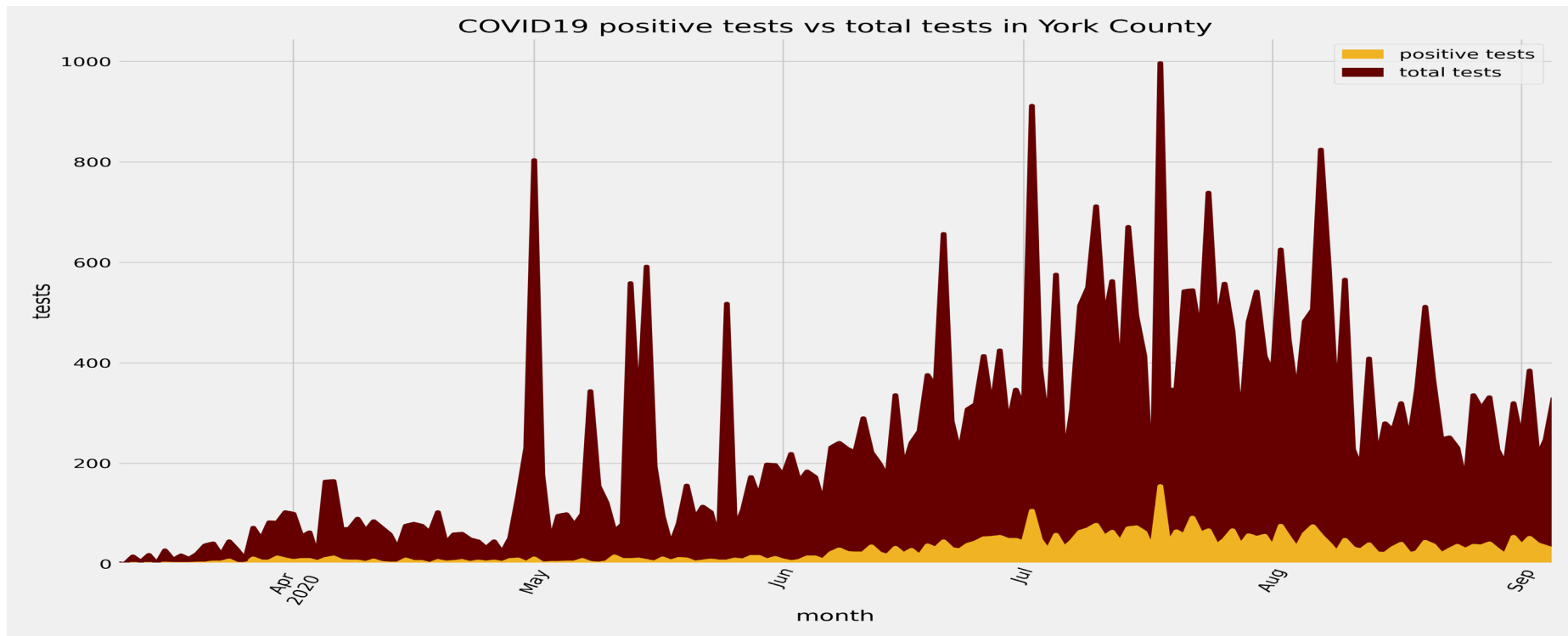
Photo Courtesy to Winthrop University





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

About The Johnsonian

The Johnsonian is the weekly student newspaper of Winthrop University.

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Letters and feedback can be sent to editors@mytjnow.com or by mail at The Johnsonian, 104 Campus Center, Rock Hill, S.C. 29733. Comments submitted online at www.mytjnow.com may be printed as letters and may be shortened for space and edited for clarity. Please include

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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Suicide awareness week at Winthrop

The Counseling Services staff implement National Suicide Prevention Week

Mari Pressley
staff writer

National Suicide Prevention week is coming up on Sept. 6 through Sept. 12. Winthrop University's Health and Counseling Services have come up with a creative way to show students who have battled suicidal thoughts or who are currently battling them that the Winthrop community is here to help.

Students are invited to make a collaborative art piece on campus where they can fill out sticky notes with their reason for hope in the shape of letters spelling out the word "hope." The collection will be on the windows of the Digiorgio Campus Center throughout the course of National Suicide Prevention week. Online students are also invited to participate through the Winthrop counseling services Instagram account.

The theme for this year was inspired by South Carolina's state motto, "While I breathe, I hope," which will be used to help students reflect on their reasons for hope during unprecedented times.

Throughout the year, students not only have access to resources on campus such as short term counseling services, same day counseling, and therapy groups, but there are also fully virtual self help resources through Therapy Assistance Online. "If you're not quite in the place where you want to physically talk to a counselor or join a group yet, part

of what Winthrop has is a whole host of self help resources through TAO that's completely free and anonymous," Outreach Coordinator and Staff Counselor Jess Hudgens said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities have been shut down or moved online. This has left students feeling overwhelmed and alone. According to www.cdc.gov, "Younger adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers and unpaid adult caregivers reported having experienced disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation."

"You aren't alone in your loneliness ... it's an absolutely natural reaction to what we're experiencing right now. That being said, connection is the number one remedy for that isolation and the difficulties that come with that isolation... if that's with your roommate or trusted family members, if that's with regular Zoom calls with your friends, if it's going and seeing each other six feet apart at a park just so you can see each other's faces. Any way to get connection right now is so important," Telecommunications Health Coordinator and Counselor Elizabeth Tate said.

Throughout National Suicide Prevention Week, the counseling and services staff hope to have an impact on all Winthrop students. "Raising awareness that mental health is a real thing. It's something that everybody experiences..we all

experience physical illness. We all experience mental illness to some degree in our lives...we all know what it feels like to feel pain. We've all been there and so, [for one], really let people know you're not alone in this, [and] two, help people who might not understand what it feels like to be depressed or suicidal kind of get a feel of hey, this is real, this is painful, [and] here's

how you can support others. Make it something that is not a shameful thing to talk about, or acknowledge, or own," clinical coordinator and licensed psychologist Gretchen Baldwin said.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, do not hesitate to contact the counseling services staff or one of the phone numbers listed below.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, do not hesitate to contact the counseling services staff or one of the phone numbers listed below.

Winthrop Counseling Services
803-323-2206

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255 (English)
1-888-628-9454 (Spanish)

National Crisis Text Line
Text HELLO to 741741

Trevor Project Lifeline (for LGBTQ+)
1-866-288-7386 or text START to 678678

Trans Lifeline
1-877-565-8860 (English)
1-877-330-6366 (Spanish)

SC Mobile Crisis Response
1-833-364-2274

Return to Learn an informational dud, students feel

Students feel that the Return to Learn website is a tactic to distract from the harsh realities of living and learning on campus during a pandemic

Chase Duncan
staff writer

The return of Winthrop University students to campus and the subsequent resuming of face-to-face instruction heralds a new era of uncertainty for students and faculty alike. To serve as a virtual haven to answer various questions asked by the new wave of campus residents and students, Winthrop University initiated the Return to Learn website, a site dedicated to providing updates and crucial information on how the school would operate amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I believe that during times of uncertainty and unease, our obligation is to provide you as much information as we possibly can to help us all navigate these uncharted waters together," Winthrop Interim President George Hynd wrote in an email delivered to the student body and faculty. "I appreciate your patience as we have worked to prepare this that hope-

fully provides you with the information that you need at this time."

The website contains extensive information on the university's newly enacted COVID-19 policies, with separate sections intended for the various members of the Winthrop community such as students, parents, faculty, and staff. The site also includes a FAQ that answers miscellaneous questions on subjects such as athletics and campus life.

Despite the university's endeavors with the Return to Learn site, the actual number of students aided by this site amidst the early weeks of on-campus instruction are actually not as numerous as Winthrop may have expected.

"I've heard about [the Return to Learn site] here and there, but I've never really used it," junior elementary education major Gini Blake said. "I think being a student during this age of COVID means juggling a lot of responsibilities, and it can easily become overwhelming. A lot of the website's information might be useful, but it can feel like

a chore to read and remember everything."

The Return to Learn had the potential to ease students' anxieties surrounding move-in day, but proved to not be as useful as expected when students were packing and preparing to move on campus.

Students officially began moving onto campus on Sept. 3, but the process was not smooth for everyone. Students were allotted one hour to move all of their belongings into their dorms and were still expected to attend online classes amidst the chaotic move-in process. This left some students with a very limited amount of time to get campus necessities, such as their ID cards, which temporarily blocked them from easy access to their dorms and receiving food from the cafeteria.

The chaos involved with moving on to campus could have been lessened if the Return to Learn site had provided more in-depth information regarding the moving process. Students also felt left in the dust when it came to adjusting to cam-

pus living post move-in day.

"I think a lot of students, especially freshmen, are struggling to adjust not only to living on campus during COVID-19, but [to] living on campus in general," Samantha Faires, a junior sociology major and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority mentor, said. "We've been social distancing for months, we're pretty used to it. I think students would benefit from more communication and patience from the school when it comes to settling into campus life."

Sept. 8 will mark the first official day of in-person instruction, but many students seem hesitant to step back into the classroom setting amidst rising COVID-19 cases across other college campuses. The University of South Carolina recorded 1,026 positive coronavirus cases within the past week, according to information listed on the university's online dashboard.

Time will tell how Winthrop community members will fare as the school moves forward into the possibility of the return to traditional instruction.



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian

The Return to Learn site was intended to be an easily-accessible site for students to go in order to learn information about living and learning on campus during a pandemic.

Winthrop alumna made appearance at DNC

Alumna Vilissa Thompson, LMSW, was featured at the 2020 Democratic National Convention, as well as on multiple other national news platforms

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At the 2020 Democratic National Convention, one of Winthrop University's alumna, Vilissa Thompson, licensed master social worker, was featured as an advocate for people with disabilities.

Thompson graduated from Winthrop with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2008 then graduated with a Master of Social Work in 2012. Since then, Thompson has made great strides in the world of social work, especially regarding people with disabilities, and as a result, she was invited to speak at the virtual 2020 DNC.

Others who were included in the same segment during the DNC each finished a sentence that began with, "This time next year, we will have a president...who cares about the rights and lives of disabled people," Thompson said.

"This year especially I've been more into the spotlight with the work that I do on a national level. I really like having that type of impact with the DNC and engaging with presidential campaigns. All these different angles of disability shift the way in which people understand disability and also the lives of disabled people and kind of shattering those stereotypes and misconceptions along the way, which is always the aim and

it's been pretty cool to be able to actually do that," Thompson said.

On top of speaking up for people with disabilities, Thompson also advocates for Black people with disabilities. "I add an intersectional lens regarding the experience of disabled people of color, especially those of Black disabled women."

Intersectionality is a term used to describe people who fall under more than one category of social standards that society has a history of treating unfairly. Through focusing on advocacy for Black women with disabilities, Thompson is utilizing an intersectional lens.

"I always try to ensure that I have that intersectional lens because disability is a very diverse community, not just with the different disability types that exist, but also with who's a part of the community, so no matter what work I'm doing, I always trying to ensure that an intersectional understanding is there," Thompson said.

Along with her accomplishment at the DNC, Thompson is also the founder of Ramp Your Voice, which is a "self-advocacy and empowerment movement for people with disabilities," as defined on rampyourvoice.com. Using her own experience with disabilities, Thompson is able to lead her organization with both understanding and compassion.

Thompson, who is very open about her own journey with her

disabilities, says, "I identify as a wheelchair user, as a little woman, and as someone who's hard of hearing. Those are my three disability labels."

As a result of leading by example, as well as her skills in the social work field, Thompson has made multiple appearances in news outlets and organizations all over the country.

In a 2016 article featured in The Atlantic about the growing regularity of appearances from people with disabilities on TV, David M. Perry quoted Thompson as saying, "It's a bittersweet celebration to see disability represented... knowing that disabled people of color still... rarely have that same authentic representation by actors on the big and small screens."

In a 2017 article by the New York Times on the brutal mistreatment of a disabled teenager, journalists Mitch Smith and Richard Pérez-Peña, quoted Thompson as saying, "People are ignorant about the extent of violence against disabled people, but what's worse is that there's this kind of misplaced sympathy for the perpetrator, especially when it's a parent or caregiver."

"As an alumna, Vilissa is the embodiment of our motto as a department, which is 'excellence matters.' Excellence matters within the practice of social work in [her] advocacy efforts, both at the state, local, regional and national levels.



Photo courtesy to Vilissa Thompson

Vilissa Thompson, LMSW, finished her undergraduate degree in 2008 and her graduate degree in 2012 at Winthrop University.

We're just very, very proud of her as a department," Christopher J. Ward, a professor and the online coordinator in the Department of Social Work, said.

Winthrop University is proud to have alumni who, like Thompson, actively make a difference in their the community, state and nation.



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Before heading out to workout or grab a bite to eat, get familiar with new COVID safety regulations for each building.

DIGS

Unreserved meeting rooms are closed

Limited seating

Computers on the 2nd floor have been removed

Board games, foosball unavailable

Bring your own equipment for pool and video games

WEST CENTER

NEW HOURS

M-TR 7AM-9PM

F 7AM-7PM

SAT 10AM-7PM

SUN 1PM-8PM

Limited equipment availability

Contact sports not permitted

No guest passes

Raquetball courts closed

DINING

Thomson and Markley's at 50% capacity

Follow marked pathways only

Modified/limited menus

No self-serve beverage stations

NEW HOURS scan QR code



DACUS LIBRARY

NEW HOURS

M-TR 8AM-8PM

F 8AM-5PM

SAT CLOSED

SUN 1PM-8PM

No food or drink

First floor open only

Archives are by appointment only

To Infinity and Beyond: 3D Printed Rockets

Shyanne Hamrick
staff writer

With a vision to build and launch the first 3D printed rocket by 2021, Relativity Space is revolutionizing the aerospace industry.

Relativity Space intends to build this rocket or launch vehicle, Terran 1, from raw material to flight in just 60 days with the Stargate printer, according to their website.

Stargate, the largest metal 3D printer, uses direct energy deposition to manufacture various metal parts of a rocket, such as the fuel tank. Direct energy deposition refers to the additive process in 3D printing, where the material is melted and fused by thermal energy while it is being deposited.

“The printer feeds a metal wire into the deposition area and uses energy (typically a powerful laser) to melt the wire, building up printed parts layer by layer,” Bryce Salmi, a Relativity Space engineer, wrote in an article for IEEE Spectrum.

However, not all components of the rocket will require the usage of Stargate. Parts such as the engine can be constructed using commercial 3D printers.

“To build the engine, we employ commercial 3D printers that use a process called direct metal

laser sintering, in which a laser fuses together particles of metal powder, creating the required structure layer by layer...and we’re going further: We expect commercial printers to become available soon that will allow us to print the injector, igniter, combustion

chamber, and nozzle as a single part,” Salmi said. In conventional manufacturing, most rockets typically require anywhere from 18 months to many years to build and launch. Design changes can take up to one year to complete.

By using this technology to create 3D rockets, the time and labor costs in the aerospace industry could be significantly diminished. In comparison to existing and previous rockets, Relativity Space anticipates the requirement of 100 times fewer parts and 10 times the production speed for Terran 1. “The cost of a rocket is not determined by its raw materials; those are pretty cheap,” Salmi said. “It’s largely driven by the human labor needed to work those materials into usable components and verify that they will function for flight. There are two ways to reduce these labor costs: You can reduce the total number of parts in a rocket so less labor is needed, or you can change manufacturing processes to reduce the need for human minds and hands.”



Photo courtesy to Relativity Space

In addition to reducing labor costs and the number of required parts, the high-precision lasers in the printing of 3D rockets demonstrate potential for eliminating error in rocketry.

“Relativity [Space] approaches the labor challenge head on by leveraging additive manufacturing to print complex components, using a single operation to turn raw material into finished product[s]... Our process also relies on our 3D printers rather than fixed tooling, which enables us to be nimble and inventive,” Salmi

said.

Not only does 3D printing hold potential for satellite launching, but for further space exploration as well.

Not only does 3D printing hold potential for satellite launching, but for further space exploration as well.

“We hope our rockets will eventually fly even farther. Perhaps one day we’ll ship our 3D printers to Mars, so rockets can be constructed on the Red Planet,” Salmi said. “From there, who knows where they’ll go.”



TECH TIP OF THE WEEK

iPhone’s iOS 13 and higher allows users to listen to music in a new way. Audio Sharing allows two different sets of headphones to connect to a device so they can listen to the same music at the same time.



WE ARE HIRING!

Science and Tech Editor

For more information contact Savannah Scott.

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The pros protest

Professional athletes make their voices heard regarding social injustice

Matthew Shealy
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Peaceful protests have been seen all over the nation this summer as Americans plead for social justice, equality and an end to systemic racism. The sports world has been no exception to these demonstrations.

Following the murder of George Floyd, professional athletes took to the streets to make their voices heard. Jaylen Brown of the Boston Celtics attended a protest in Atlanta, Shaq Thompson and several other Carolina Panthers players helped lead a march in Charlotte and countless other professional athletes of various sports leagues joined groups of activists across the country.

NASCAR drivers stood in solidarity with Bubba Wallace, the only Black driver in the Cup Series, before a race in June after a garage door pull-down rope fashioned like a noose was found in his garage stall. Wallace had driven a special “Black Lives Matter” car earlier in the month and also called for NASCAR to ban the display of Confederate flags at all races.

Most recently, following the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, NBA players boycotted their own games, and chose to come together to talk about how they could use their platform to promote real change. From Aug. 26-28, many MLB,

NHL, MLS and WNBA games were postponed, and no NBA games were played.

“For me personally, it’s not surprising,” Justin Gray, assistant men’s basketball coach at Winthrop, said about the NBA walk-out. Gray, who is a former professional athlete himself, said he was proud of the effort shown by the players to light of something other than basketball.

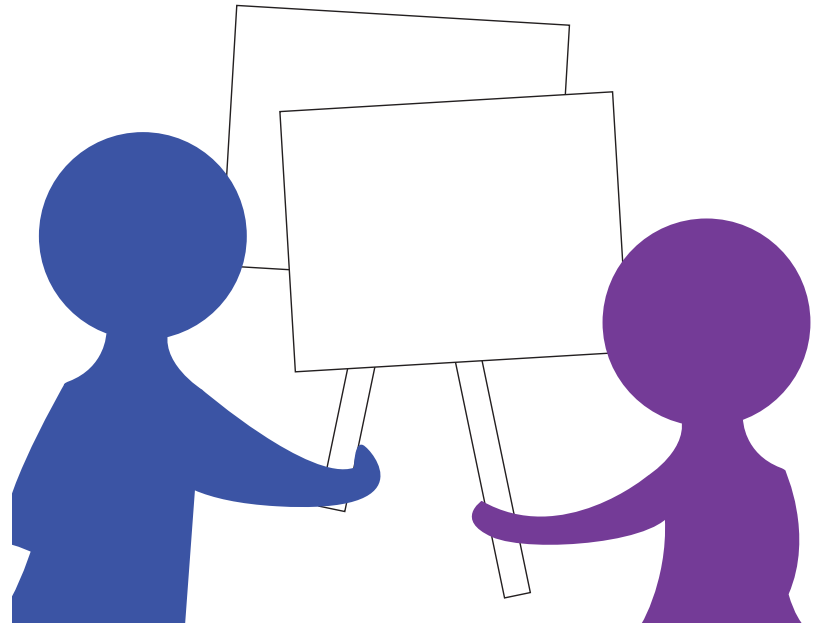
“Nobody’s saying that they had to solve the world’s problems, because look – right now nobody’s really solving those problems,” Gray said. “It’s just about having those conversations and bringing awareness to different issues and different things that are going on, and I think those things are really, really important to do.”

During his time at Wake Forest, Gray played alongside Chris Paul, now a 10x NBA All-Star and the current president of the National Basketball Players Association. Paul helped the players organize and agree on how they would move forward after their decision not to play two weeks ago.

“One thing that comes really, really natural to Chris is being a leader,” Gray said. “On the court, off the court – he tries to do the right thing all the time.”

Gray pointed out that while Paul is the face of the players association, he doesn’t make the final decisions on his own. “He’s just the voice of everyone,” Gray said.

“[He’s] trying to get people



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

to come together and come to a collective agreement. Now that’s probably difficult at times... but that’s a part of being a leader and being able to step up and say, ‘We’re standing for this and until we figure something out, this is what we’re doing.’

“I think that’s all it was, and again, just bringing awareness,” Gray said. “You can tell that every interview that every player has done after games – probably before games – they’re bringing awareness to whatever the cause that they want to talk about is. No matter if it’s Black Lives Matter, if it’s social injustice, [or] if it’s voting.”

One request that the players made before returning to play was that NBA arenas serve as voting sites for the 2020 election. In Charlotte, Spectrum Center will be an early voting center from Oct. 15-31.

Gray also said that Winthrop Athletics is making a push to help educate students about voting. The athletic department is host-

ing a town hall on Sept. 9 to provide students with information on how to vote, as well as the importance of voting in more than just the presidential election.

According to Gray, the Winthrop men’s basketball team has had discussions about what they can do to make a difference.

“We do know that we have a platform, especially being one of the main athletic programs on campus,” he said. “If that’s expressing through slogans on a t-shirt, putting something on the back of your jersey, going out and marching, speaking out about voting – there are things that our team is working on [to give] our student-athletes a voice. Gray said the coaching staff likes to listen and learn from its players and talk about situations that may be difficult to handle or discuss.

“At the end of the day, we want to raise young men that are going to be leaders – not only in their community – but [that] go out and lead the world.”

College football and COVID-19

The decision to play in the fall or spring

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With continued concerns about COVID-19, NCAA conferences are divided on how to have a college football season. Of the 10 NCAA Division I FBS conferences, four have declared they will not play football this fall, including the Big Ten Conference and Pacific-12 Conference.

Dr. Andy Doyle, associate professor of history at Winthrop University, said this split was in large part due to regional, political differences.

“There’s kind of a red state, blue state thing going on that’s been going on in football for years,” he said. “Football is more popular in red states.”

Doyle, who teaches a History of American Football course at Winthrop and is featured in ESPN’s series about SEC football entitled “Saturdays in the South,” said he is not surprised some conferences have chosen not to play this fall.

“The PAC-12 in particular, I just think there was no chance they were going to have football because of the social, political, cultural things,” he said. “The pressure to have it wasn’t huge and the pressure against it was pretty significant.”

Doyle said the governors of California and Washington had been particularly outspoken against the idea of having football

this fall, which affects schools like Washington, Washington State, UC Berkeley and UCLA.

“If you don’t have those four teams in the PAC-12, then you don’t have a PAC-12,” he said.

Doyle said the Big Ten is more divided. While schools like the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are in extremely red states, other universities in the conference like Pennsylvania State and Michigan State are in states led by Democratic governors.

“Getting every Big Ten school was going to be an impossibility, so there’s a whole lot of Ohio State [and] Michigan fans who are seriously [upset],” he said.

Doyle said he believes it may be safer for football to be played this fall than for it not to be.

“I think, honestly, the players might be safer in a very disciplined and regimented environment where they’re getting tested regularly and they’ve got coaches all over their [butt] every single day,” Doyle said. He also said he thinks teammates will help hold each other accountable.

“They don’t want to be the one that brings the virus back,” he said. “They don’t want to be the idiots on the Miami Marlins who went to a strip joint and infected half their team.”

One school that began receiving a lot of attention during the scheduling process was Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish, who operate as an independent football

team with no full-time conference affiliation, will join the ACC temporarily for the 2020 season.

While some fans have speculated that this could be a permanent switch for Notre Dame, Doyle said it will not happen.

“Notre Dame loves [its] independent status,” he said. “Notre Dame doesn’t have to split its television revenue with other conference members, so they make more money than any other college football team off of television. They like that and they’re going to keep that.”

As for football in the spring, Doyle said he doesn’t believe there will be much of a season because players will need to focus on preparing for the NFL Combine. Furthermore, players who get drafted by an NFL team will be expected to play a 17-game regular season in the fall.

That would have players playing over twice as many games as they are used to in a calendar year, which could be physically and mentally exhausting and could put them at a greater risk for injury.

Doyle said smaller schools that don’t have many NFL prospects, like Wofford or Furman, could put together a season in the spring that is not too different from their normal seasons in the fall. However, he said most teams in the Big Ten and PAC-12 would have a “low budget version” of a football season.

Finances are also a big factor

for conferences to consider. Doyle said teams must examine their fixed costs (which include things that have to be paid, like coaches’ salaries) and their variable costs (which includes the actual cost of playing a season) to determine if there would be a greater loss or reward for playing in the spring. Plus, without fans in attendance, schools will be mostly relying on television revenue.

While they don’t make as much as Notre Dame, Doyle said the Big Ten and PAC-12 would be okay since almost 50% of their revenue comes from television anyway. For smaller schools that are usually more dependent on gameday revenues at the stadium, he said it would be a matter of how many television viewers they can draw in the spring.

“What they’re banking on is the public appetite for football,” he said. “There’s no more college football on, [so] now a game between Western Michigan and Bowling Green might actually get some ratings – or at least enough to put a few coins in the coffer.”

While the public appetite to attend a football game may also be pretty big, Doyle said it’s important to remember that schools can’t make the decision to allow fans alone.

“It’s gotta be approved by state governments, and if you’ve got a hard-core lockdown governor, that ain’t gonna happen.”

Bass fishing at Winthrop

The competitive club that's searching for new members

Lily Fremed
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“We didn’t want this to be a burnout club that lasted four years [just] so we could have fun. We wanted this to last longer than that, it’s just harder to do when you don’t find as many kids that are [as] interested and dedicated as we were.”

Entering his second year as president of the Winthrop bass fishing team, Collins Janus is fishing for recruits after graduates and students transferring due to COVID-19 shortened his roster.

“We’ll take anybody. If you said tomorrow ‘I want to learn how to fish,’ we can take that person in tomorrow and be able to help them as much as we can,” Janus said.

“Nobody that does these [competitions] has the ultimate, complete knowledge,” he said. “There are elements you can study for, but then it’s a matter of following what happens when you’re out there.”

Founded in 2016, the bass fishing team is a club sports team at Winthrop, however, not all club members are interested in being competitive.

“At the end of the day it’s a thing to get people involved on campus,” Janus said. “This is actually the first level of fishing I’d ever done competitively. It’s a lot of fun.”

Since Janus oversees all the planning and logistics, he explained that the team is “eligible to compete in everything,” but chooses what events to enter.

The Bassmaster College Series and Fishing League Worldwide (FLW) are the two major organizations that the team follows. “They would be like your equivalent to the NCAA,” Janus said.

Although typically participating in two or three tournaments a season, there are also various smaller ones across the country. Over the last couple of years, the team attended tournaments in Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and even as far as the St. Lawrence River in New York.

“They offer [tournaments] as far west as California, we just haven’t been gutsy enough to make that trip,” Janus said.

The team usually competes in spring semester events, but some events were moved to the fall this year because of COVID-19. When the team is not competing, they search for community outreach opportunities.

“A lot of our community service hours tie into what we do anyways,” Janus said. “[We’re] just trying to get involved locally.”

According to Janus, the team had multiple lake cleanups planned for this past spring, but those had to be postponed. Last December, the team helped with Operation Christmas Child.

Making connections locally is also extremely beneficial when it comes to sponsors. The Winthrop bass fishing team sports long-sleeved jerseys that advertise for a variety of businesses.

“We support the companies that support us,” Janus said. “In turn, they will give us donations,



Gabrielle Reid/The Johnsonian

whether it be money or actual equipment. We have sponsors in the Lake Norman area, even a couple local businesses in Rock Hill.

“The benefit of the people who founded this club was that they were high school anglers. A lot of the sponsors they worked with in high school they had relationships with, so they maintained [them] through college,” he said.

Since the team gains funding from the school and sponsors, there are no required fees for members. Despite these built-in funds, Janus said the team actively looks for other potential sponsors to keep their program

“accessible to any student that wants to be involved,” regardless of skill level.

“I wouldn’t sit here and lie to you and say I’m some really good angler,” he said. “It’s a learning process and every year you try to get better. We’re always trying to grow and evolve each and every year.”

You can follow the bass fishing team on Instagram @wubassfishing or contact the team by email using the address wubassfishing@mailbox.winthrop.edu.

The Rock Shop is open

Winthrop Coliseum has a special new chair

Chase Duncan
staff writer

Located a mile to the east of the primary campus and capable of seating over 6,000 people, the Winthrop Coliseum is the pride and joy of the university’s athletic program. In a typical semester, the stadium would be the battleground for Winthrop’s prestigious basketball and volleyball teams to achieve victory, but special circumstances this semester have made it unknown as to when the teams will take the court for competition.

Despite these setbacks, COVID-19 hasn’t stopped the Winthrop basketball coaches from having some fun with the installment of a barbershop chair inside the stadium.

“The Rock Shop is open,” Head Basketball Coach Pat Kelsey posted on his Twitter account, alongside a cryptic photo of a leather-clad barber chair within what appeared to be a Coliseum office space, its walls adorned with Winthrop Eagle iconography. Fans were chomping at the bit to learn more about the mysterious chair and what exactly its purpose was.

“Well, it’s just something we thought would be really cool to do,” Kelsey said. “Recruiting and providing great experiences for the student-athletes is such an

important thing to do. Being a coach and recruiter, my clientele are 18-20-year-old young men. I’m getting old, but we really try our best to continue to be able to relate to our players.”

Kelsey and his players were Big South Champions in 2020, marking the twelfth time the team has won the conference tournament. With several new incoming players, the barber chair is one way the Eagles are looking to build chemistry as they prepare to make another run for the NCAA Tournament.

The chair was installed during the first week of August inside assistant basketball coach Brian Kloman’s office. Kloman was also the inventor of the idea.

“All of our coaching staff is phenomenal in building relationships with players, and our players have such a comfort level in our coaches offices,” Kelsey said. “Guys just like to come in, sit down, turn on the TV, talk about life.”

“We had always kidded that it was kind of like a barbershop,” he said. “We added the chair to Coach Kloman’s office, and now it continues to be that conversation room, but now it’s also a place where you can get a haircut.”

Kelsey confirmed that the chair was installed for more than just aesthetics in a short video posted on the Winthrop Men’s Basketball social media, in which he performed the first



Photo courtesy to Winthrop Athletics

official haircut of the shop on his son. He said that the service would be open to student-athletes eventually, but he is currently working through the specifics of the operation.

“The NCAA allows certain amenities to be provided to student-athletes through certain funds, and that’s the way schools around the country with similar

services utilize those resources,” Kelsey said. “We’re still working through all those details, but the first step was to get it installed.”

“It’s a great conversation piece. People seem to enjoy talking about it, and the players got a real kick out of it. If anything, right now, it’s just a really unique chair to sit in and hang out in the coach’s office.”

Zoom changing class attire

Students explain what they wear to their Zoom meetings

Aerial Laymon
staff writer

Online Zoom meetings have become the new normal for many people this year. Something that is questioned before they get on their meetings is what they should wear or if they should even try to dress up for the meeting. For some people, it depends on who or what type of Zoom meeting they are attending.

There are many students that dress up according to what kind of Zoom meeting they are in. For example, freshman biology major, Olivia Pohl said she once “had to dress business casual for a CSL interview.”

However, some students do not care what they wear to their Zoom meetings. They do not feel as much pressure as they did when they would show up to a class or meetings in person. Pohl even went on to say “most of us look the same, no one really sticks out or tries to impress everyone in the room with name-brand, designer clothes, which is really comforting. That was a huge dislike for me in high school,” regarding her recent experience with transitioning to Zoom classes.

When it comes to dressing or looking good for classes, lots of students don’t have the motivation to look a certain way for the classes. Pohl said, “some days I wear

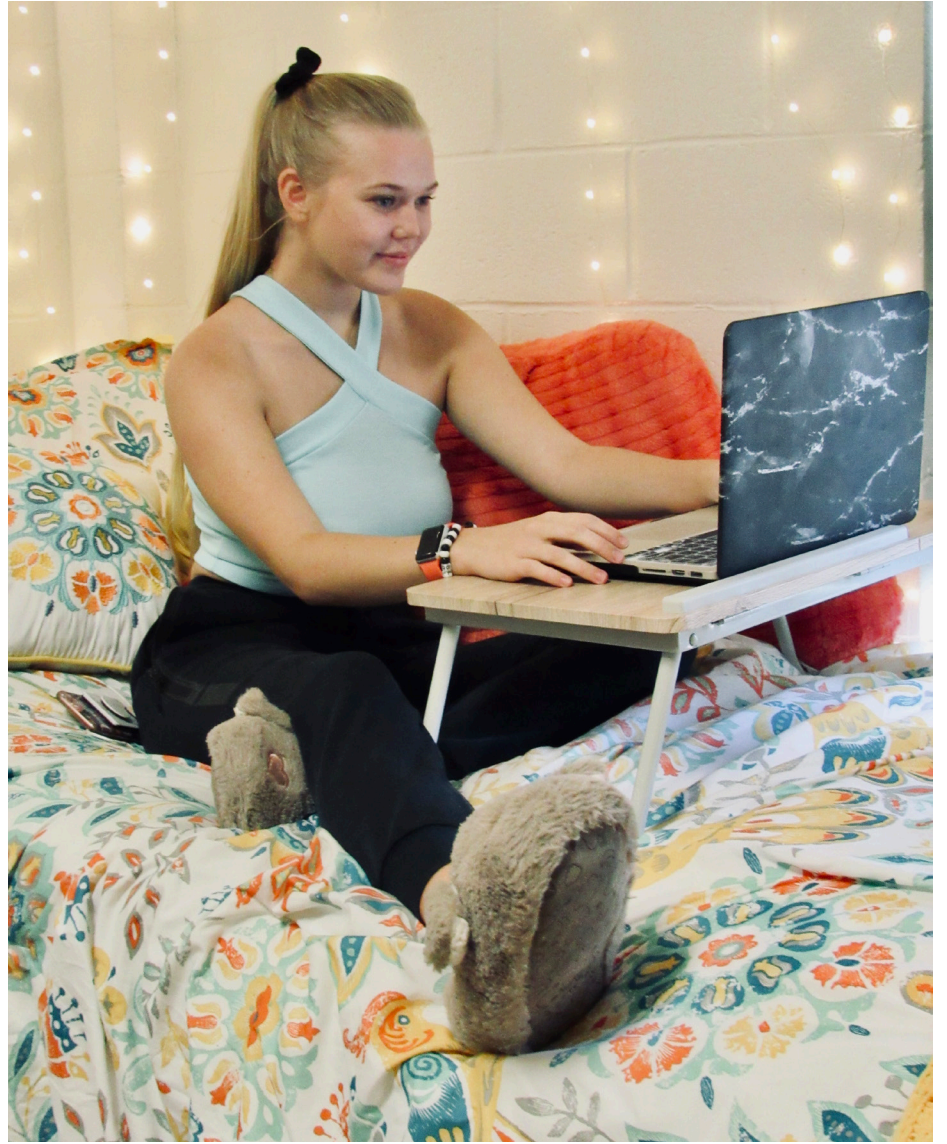
jeans and others I wear my normal pajama pants I went to sleep in.”

While most of the days she dresses casually for her Zoom classes, she occasionally likes to add to her outfit. “Sometimes I like to do my makeup if I’m having a bad morning. It makes me feel pretty and really helps relax me and get me ready and more prepared for the upcoming class.” She said.

According to Emma Crouch, a freshman integrated marketing communications major, her Zoom fashion consists of just a “decent looking shirt and some leggings.” Numerous other students are just like her in making this clothing choice. They do not feel obligated to wear something specific to their classes unless they are told to by an instructor. “I dress different for some meetings, like for class I am more professional.” Crouch said.

Now that students do not have to be physically present they do not have to worry as much about what they wear. Digital information design major, Hateria Goodwin, said, “I do not dress to impress anyone but myself” and that “it truly depends on the day and the occasion.”

For most meetings, people decide to go with whatever they are wearing at the moment or to dress casually. “If my class is early in the morning, I’m probably still in pajamas but by the afternoon I have changed to casual clothing,” Goodwin said.



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

Whether it is still being in their pajamas or dressing up, every student has their own mindset about how they should dress for their Zoom meetings. Most of the time they are dressing to be comfortable during their classes. Zoom allows them to not be judged by what they wear

and to be fun and free with how they dress. Some students may even prefer to learn online just for this reason.

Students in our “new normal”

Eat, sleep, school, repeat. How do we find motivation in our “new normal?”

Chloe Wright
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“One day I sat down to figure out what day it was - without looking at anything - and I couldn’t do it,” Griffin Cordell, a junior sculpture major at Winthrop University said.

Artists and students alike have been feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for six months now. Many restrictions have been put in place since the beginning of March, including strict limitations on social gatherings in many states across the US. These rules not only make it impossible for countless artists, like Cordell, to continue their craft, but for any person to be afforded the opportunity to carry on in their field as they are accustomed. This, severely limits the chances for anyone to make and maintain the strong physical and social connections that most rely on in their daily lives.

“There was a point over the summer where I lost my artistic drive, and it’s not that I lost it, it’s that I stepped out of the environment,” Cordell said, “I wasn’t around anybody.” Students at Winthrop University were not prepared for their spring break to turn into a two month-long affair when classes transitioned to online, at-home learning last spring. This sudden change caused not only a physical shock, but a mental and emotional impact on countless students.

Katie Marcelino, a junior musical theatre major, recalls the first

months of the pandemic.

“It was kind of like a 180 [degree] turn because everything just seemed to be so negative and downhill and... it affected me even more than I think that I realize right now.” She said that the “mental drain” that she experienced from this major life transition carried itself into her physicality. As a performer, she said, she’s used to “constantly moving,” but with the continuation of this odd state of living and the beginning of online learning, she said, “Sometimes I’m like, ‘Am I really doing something?’ I don’t feel it as physically and sometimes that’s a little worrisome.”

In this weird world of online classes, it’s sometimes hard to stay motivated and in the right mind-

set for the new school year. Alexis Doig, a junior accounting major at Winthrop University, said that, in her usual school year work flow, “...when I’m on campus I’m like, ‘work mode,’ and then when I’m at home I can relax, but now... I have to do both at home, so you have to retrain your brain.”

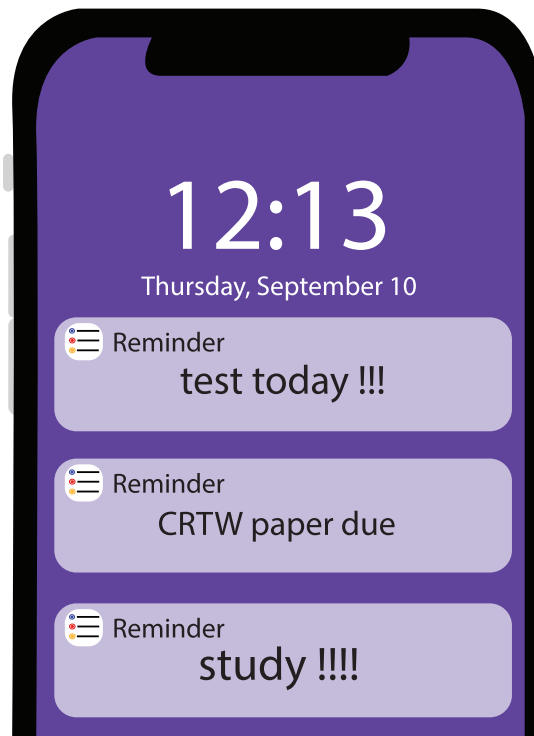
The struggle for many students is defining the line between school and the rest of life when you are seemingly trapped in the same room all day doing both. Marcelino said, “Nothing feels real, I feel like I could float on like a little butterfly and don’t have any responsibility... and I blink and I have an assignment, it’s 9 o’clock and it’s due.”

While it is easy to get lost in the stress of school on top of the state of the world, both Marcelino and

Doig advocated for the idea of “accountability buddies,” to help with not only reminders of assignments and responsibilities, but also the maintenance of those missing social bonds that we lost in March. Other little things, like making checklists and opening the blinds, have helped students like Doig to cope with the ever-changing state of the world. “I try not to beat myself up over the little things,” She said. Taking care of yourself, your health and your mind is one of the most important factors that we must all stay attentive to.

The beginning of this school year brought about many challenges that face both the student body and the university itself, but it also brings about the opportunity to learn and grow from such an unprecedented situation. Cordell relishes in the fact that he was able to return to campus for this semester and said, “Just being around other people making art makes me so excited... I think I’m so relieved that it feels like the engine is going again, even if it’s going really slow.”

Along the same line, Marcelino said, “I feel much better because we are all in the same boat and I feel like we can connect that way... you’re in college in your twenties and you’re trying to figure out all of this craziness at the same time. I think it says a lot about how strong our generation is.”



Lizzy Talbert/The Johnsonian

Arts and culture clubs in the age of COVID-19

Faced with a new semester of uncertainty, Winthrop arts and culture clubs determined to maintain a safe and expressive environment for students

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The long-awaited return of Winthrop students to the campus environment marks the beginning of a new semester for Winthrop student organizations and clubs. In an unfamiliar age of social distancing and virtual instruction, many students crave opportunities to engage with one another and express themselves in a healthy environment. Winthrop arts and culture clubs like Improv This! and Friday Arts Project are adapting to COVID-19 protocol and will continue to operate and ensure that students still have these opportunities.

“Yes we are,” answered an Improv This! social media manager when asked if their club would still be active during the experimental fall semester. “We are doing Zoom meetings until we have in-person classes. When we go to

in-person, we will have six foot markers in the acting studio. We will also have a limit on how many people are allowed to attend.”

Improv This! is a student organization focused on providing enjoyable games and activities based around improv, a theatrical technique where actors aren’t given lines and invent their characters around spontaneous dialogue. The club is designed to be accessible and fun for all majors, regardless of skill level. The club doesn’t have any major events planned yet, but they currently still intend to hold theme nights for some in-person meetings.

Although some clubs will gradually return to in-person gathering, others are choosing to remain active through virtual platforms such as Zoom, like the Friday Arts Project.

“We are continuing to operate this year, although primarily online,” Brandi Fox said the orga-

nization’s social media manager and Winthrop alumni. “While we look forward to again gathering in person, we have found that the change of venue has opened the door to connect out-of-town artists into our community as both participants and guest speakers.”

The staff evaluates health and safety of returning to in-person meetings on a month-to-month basis with consideration of CDC and university guidelines, as well as local and regional mandates. The club is an arts organization dedicated to fostering a helpful and rewarding environment for artists and art appreciators in the Rock Hill community.

“Our club works in conjunction with the local arts nonprofit by the same name to foster and curate conversations to call forth a more fully human community,” Fox said. “Or more simply, we think art can make humanity better so we want to make it and discuss it



Olivia Esselman/The Johnsonian together.”

The organization’s biggest events for the semester include virtual artist talks and film discussions, a special sketchbook giveaway, and a live conversation with author Daniel Nayeri regarding his newest book, *Everything Sad is Coming Untrue*. The organization also manages an art gallery in downtown Rock Hill that is currently open for small viewings.

Despite the unusual and constricting circumstances being faced by the Winthrop community, students and organizations are still inventing new methods to continue experiencing college life to the fullest while also staying safe. Students who are interested in joining these clubs can contact the organizations via email at improvthis@winthrop.edu and fridayartsproject@gmail.com. They can also be found on Instagram @wui-improvthis and @fridayartsproject.

Fresh faces in the College of Visual and Performing

Professors Myles Calvert and Gabrielle Tull join the Winthrop family

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The first day of school can get the nerves going for anyone during a normal semester, especially professors. And when it’s the first day at a new school and the first day of a semester under the COVID umbrella that has shadowed the United States simultaneously, the nerves get even more restless. However hasn’t dampened the excitement of Myles Calvert and Gabrielle Tull, as they join Winthrop University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts this semester.

Calvert, a fine arts professor, received a B.A. in fine arts and art history from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada and an M.A. in printmaking from Camberwell College of Arts, a constituent college of the University of the Arts London in the U.K. He also received a teaching certification from the University of Brighton.

For the last four years, Calvert has been teaching at New York State College of Ceramics, Alfred University, “I was hired on there for a one year visiting assistant professor position, which was fantastic,” Calvert said, “and then they just kept finding more work for me and rolling over the contracts...” While there, he also started teaching part-time at Alfred State College of Technology. He has also previously taught at Ontario College of Art and Design University, the University of Guelph and Hastings College in the United Kingdom.

“I think anyone who’s offered a full-time job and a good job during a pandemic is going to say yes. I think I’m very fortunate to be offered a position during the

kickoff of all the chaos that began,” Calvert said about coming to Winthrop. “It’s also a great opportunity for me to be working with the faculty who I know of and a department chair who is also a printmaker. And it’s a chance for me to work within print and within foundations, which are the two areas in fine art...I’m really interested in. And this was a very specific job for foundations and printmaking...a very logical fit for me.”

While Calvert has only been here a little under a month, he is already enjoying Winthrop. “Everyone who I’ve met so far has been incredibly generous with their time,” he said. “They’ve been accommodating and...helpful, friendly, all of the things that you’d like in a new job and you don’t always get...even during a pandemic entering a new job, it’s been surprising how vocal and supportive people have been.”

While Calvert has already grown to trust the CVPA, he is concerned about “how students and the general population will manage the seriousness of what COVID-19 is.” Despite this, he is confident that the students from the classes he has had thus far in the semester will be “very professional about it.”

Calvert’s main aspiration while he is at Winthrop is to “take printmaking and all the traditional processes...and to infuse them with technology.” Other universities in the world have already begun this integration and Calvert wants to help Winthrop join them.

“[Winthrop has] great facilities here on campus, but we can do more with them,” Calvert said, “What I’ve been doing is taking layout, changing course

descriptions to incorporate newer software and technology and then putting in bids for some higher priced items for down the road...I’d like to put Winthrop on the map for printmaking.”

Calvert is not the only new face in the CVPA, though. Tull, a dance professor, brings with her a B.A. in dance with K-12 licensure, a minor in Spanish and an M.A. in education in divergent learning and practices from Columbia College in South Carolina. She also recently completed a M.F.A. in dance choreography from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

While completing her M.F.A., Tull also taught ballet, contemporary and jazz at Greensboro through their “in-residence program where you’re getting the degree and they also allow you to teach those classes.” Prior to that, Tull was a high school performing arts dance director in Columbia, South Carolina.

Tull chose Winthrop because she “knew that they had a really strong dance program and specifically dance education program because I’m...transferring over to their dance ed supervisor position and I knew from experience working with previous dance ed alum at Winthrop, that I want to continue that program of excellence.”

So far, Tull said that her time at Winthrop has been interesting. “I’m in the dance studio by myself up until now and there’s a lot of technology going on...there’s the computer desktop... your Apple Watch so you can coordinate music and...a wireless mic set.” She also said, “I think this is probably the most I’ve ever had to concentrate on a student because you’re trying to see each individual person to give them feedback...It



Photo courtesy to Winthrop University

takes a lot of work and a lot of effort to make sure that the students are getting what they need.”

When Tull initially agreed to teach at Winthrop, she admitted that she was concerned about the mandatory furloughs. “You’ve got that announcement from the president the first day of class that every faculty and staff...have to take mandatory furlough days. That was a little disheartening at first, but I think the students are positive enough and they are really working hard in these classes... focusing on that and leaving all of the extra political things out the door, so to speak, has been interesting.”

Tull plans to “develop and continue to grow the dance ed program to where we have more students in our MAT programs... which means salary wise, they’re able to already start at a higher salary once they find a school that works for them and fits for them... they’re getting a lot more content and knowledge that they wouldn’t get from the four years.”

She also wants to “make sure the students have a way to connect outside of Winthrop. So, creating more professional opportunities for them beyond.”

Calvert and Tull are officially a part of the Winthrop family and are traveling this bumpy road through COVID-19 with the rest of the university.

September 9, 2020

Hypocrisy in the midst of injustice and becoming numb to it all

A look at the shootings in Kenosha, Wis.

Mary Hicks

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After witnessing brutality against one brother and sister of color after another, eventually, many people become so accustomed to these unjust tragedies that they are too tired to feel the pain.

In Kenosha, Wis, Jacob Blake was shot seven times by a police officer. His sister later told reporters about the numbness she is experiencing after seeing so many mistreated by law enforcement for far too long, “This is nothing new. I’m not sad. I’m not sorry. And I’m tired.” She went on to say, “I am numb. I have been watching police murder people that look like me for years.”

Behind every case of racial injustice, there is also irony. Irony is in the midst of injustice due to the treatment of one group of people compared to another in such a way that is utterly unfair to the point of being almost unbelievable.

The irony behind the two cases of shootings in Kenosha is immense. Just three days after Blake was shot seven times in the back for supposedly carrying a knife when police were brought out on a domestic call, 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse carried a rifle through

the streets of a state he was not even a citizen of, all the while law enforcement reportedly thanked him as he walked by. Rittenhouse allegedly ended the night fatally shooting two protestors and injuring another.

When it comes to Blake, whether or not he was actually holding a knife is unknown, as the case is still under investigation. While it should not be taken lightly if someone is carrying a knife, resolving to shoot before all other options have been taken is unnecessary.

Comedian Trevor Noah weighed in on the issue during his latenight show, *The Daily Show*, on Aug 26. “Think about it, even when wild animals are loose on the streets, they don’t always shoot to kill, they have tranquilizers, they have nets,” Noah said.

In fact, individuals carrying weapons is actually what officers must be prepared to deal with as they go into this line of work. Being a police officer is not merely a career or job, it is a duty, therefore much responsibility is involved in which actions require wisdom and people skills, because this great duty is to protect citizens — not to harm them.

As a part of law enforcement, officers and their friends and family members know there is a high risk of being injured, wounded, or losing your life, but that is part of the

duty: being willing to possibly lay down one’s own life to serve and protect others.

It is tragically ironic that a white boy who is not of legal age to possess a gun can walk through the streets openly carrying a rifle, shooting at protestors, while in the same town and during the same week a black man who was not carrying a gun, is shot by a police officer, not once, not twice but seven times.

Rittenhouse even walked by law enforcement multiple times without being stopped. Still more bizarre, law enforcement in tanks even thanked him and the rest of the people he was allegedly with earlier that night, “we appreciate you guys, we really do,” officers said, according to a report by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

The issue of police brutality against people of color in particular goes way back, of course, and is not isolated to one area of the country. Although Blake was shot by officers in Wisconsin, it does not mean it couldn’t happen here in Rock Hill.

Just because Rittenhouse carried out his acts in Kenosha, does not mean that someone with the same views could not feel inspired to do something similar, or even on a more intense level than what he did.

When discussing police brutal-

ity and racial bias, many people bring up the argument that white people are statistically killed at a higher rate by police than people of color. However, what they fail to acknowledge is that, while that is what the statistic claims, the fact is that the number of white people in America is far greater than people of color. White people make up 76.3 percent, while the black or African American population is only 13.4 percent, according to the United States Census. This fact means that people of color are being brutalized disproportionately.

Not only is the whole situation unjust as it is, there are many who believe Rittenhouse should not be punished for the murders that he carried out. A Christian foundation called ‘Fight Back Foundation’ recently started a fundraiser in support of Rittenhouse, in hopes of setting him free from the charges against him. The organization so far has raised “nearly \$1 million for Kyle Rittenhouse’s legal defense fund,” *Insider* reported.

The irony at hand has now turned into a form of hypocrisy. As most Christians, and many people in general, are aware, the Bible commands, “thou shalt not kill,” (Exodus 20:13, KJV). Does this act of supporting Rittenhouse follow that commandment?

Paperbacks and poverty

Dacus Library is not allowing students to check out textbooks this year - what happens next?

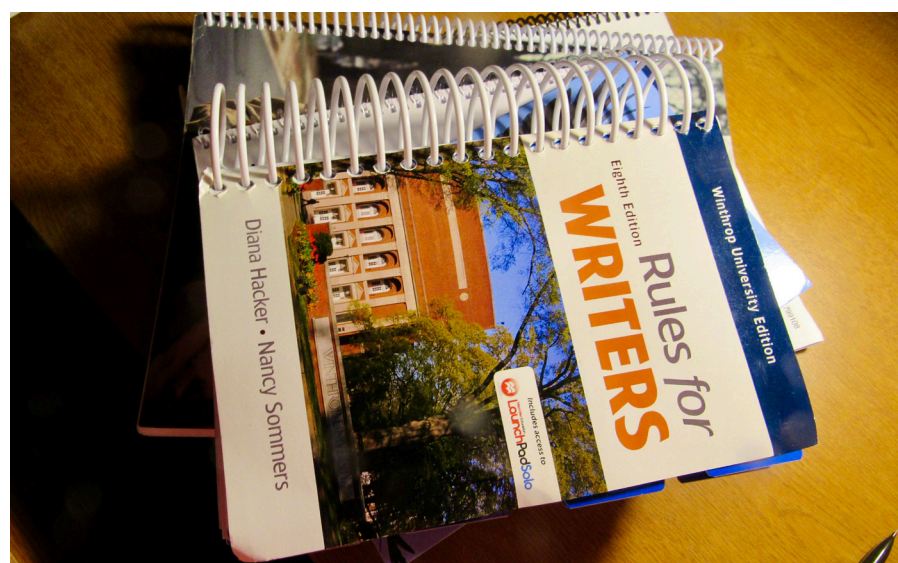
Autumn Hawkins
staff writer

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dacus Library has decided that textbooks will no longer be available for student consumption.

While Dacus gives students online resources for finding digital copies of their required textbooks, not every class has an online version of their reading. Some books are only available digitally through purchase, which is often around the same price of simply buying a printed copy.

Students also are barred from scanning their textbooks into .pdf files, as it would still be contaminating library resources. This puts low-income students at a huge disadvantage for the semester. Textbook prices are often gouged, with campus bookstores charging sometimes twice as much as used bookstores.

For example, buying a new textbook for ENGE 391 (Principles of Teaching English in Middle and secondary Schools) at Thriftbooks is half the price of buying a used copy of the same book at the Winthrop Bookstore. According to a study conducted by Sara Goldrick-Rab, roughly half of college students face some sort of financial struggle. With so many students living in poverty, textbooks become less of a necessity and more of a luxury.



Emma Crouch/The Johnsonian

Dacus was a resource for these students, providing access to textbooks that otherwise may have been financially inaccessible. With the limitations placed on what campuses can and cannot offer their students during this pandemic, accessibility has become a class barrier. Students who can afford to purchase or rent their textbooks from the bookstore are able to view the required materials for class.

The remaining students, who relied on the library and sharing with classmates for textbook access, are now resourceless. With the onset of remote learning, sharing a textbook with a classmate has become more difficult. Bootleg copies of .pdf files are becoming increasingly popular, as physical copies of books could become sources of cross-contamination.

Downloading these pirated

textbooks puts students at risk of installing malware onto their computers, which takes time and money to reverse. Two commodities, it seems, that college students are without. Checking textbooks out from the library has become a necessity for countless students.

Emily O’Regan, a circulation desk assistant, confirms that textbooks will no longer be available for checkout. “This is to help stop the spread,” O’Regan said. “However, there are other ways to get these textbooks if need be.”

So what can be done to give students access to necessary resources? The York County Library System has reopened its doors to the public. While entering the building is not allowed, the library is offering curbside pickup for materials.

Students can check with the library, either online or by phone

and rent materials this way. Receiving a library card is free, but students are required to fill out an application. Not many textbooks are available through the York County Library, but there are some resources available.

Students can also purchase textbooks from classmates. The Winthrop University student body has created multiple Facebook pages dedicated to buying and selling required materials. The online listings posted to these pages are priced much lower than even used bookstores.

Students understand the struggle that their classmates are going through financially, so materials are always listed within a reasonable range. The secondhand textbook market can also be found on posters in common areas (DiGS Student Center, the bulletin boards in Johnson Hall, residential buildings, etc.), as students will create their own sales fliers to spread the word. This provides access to secondhand materials to students who do not have reliable Internet access.

Dacus Library has stopped textbook circulation in order to protect the students of Winthrop from potentially contracting COVID-19. However, taking away this resource has given lower-income students a disadvantage for academic success. Financial struggles are hard enough for students to overcome without throwing a global pandemic into the mix.

Mary Hicks | Opinion Editor

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Back to campus (maybe)

How do students at schools such as UNC and NC State feel about having to return home after already moving in?

Allison Reynolds
staff writer



Jamia Johnson/ The Johnsonian

Imagine having the ability to move back on campus after being gone since spring break.

Packing up your things, driving to your school's campus, moving into your dorm, and eager to start this new chapter of your life. Then after only being there maybe two weeks, you have to move back home and complete the Fall 2020 semester completely online because of students not following the rules and guidelines that the university and state have put in place. Sadly this is the reality for students at colleges like the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and NC State University.

Mira Ward, a sophomore and political science and sports administration major at UNC, was excited to go back to school. Ward said she thought from the beginning that UNC was going to end up switching to remote learning. When asked if people were following the rules, Ward said "no, definitely not."

Ward lives off campus but she feels bad because "a lot of people went through the trouble of moving in all just to have to move back out." Ward feels that even though online classes are harder to focus

in, they are manageable. Ward said that UNC made the safest decision by going to remote learning. "UNC should have been 100 percent remote to begin with."

Seline Pons, a sophomore French language and literature major at NC State, was really excited to go back to campus because the only time she gets to see most of her friends is on campus. Pons knew something like this was going to happen and gave it a month from the time she moved in.

She was right. Pons said that she moved in on July 27 and NC State started kicking people out on Aug. 27. Pons said that apart from the

fraternities and sororities, everyone was following the rules such as wearing a mask and social distancing.

"Everyone knew Greek life was going to mess it up for us," Pons said. Pons also said that she felt dreadful having to go back home. "I love my family but this is not the college experience."

Pons said she is not particularly struggling with the online classes because she took summer classes and she is not taking a lot of credit hours. However, Pons also said, "most of my friends are struggling because they feel like professors are doubling down on them." One

good thing that has come out of this situation, however, is that Pons said that NC State is doing refunds for housing and meal plans.

Dasia Elswick, a design major in her sophomore year at Winthrop University, said that she is excited to go back to campus and she is hopeful that people at Winthrop will follow the rules "because we're so close knit."

"I'm really hopeful that everyone is going to try and protect each other because you don't know how other people are going to experience the virus," Elswick said. She said that while she does not think Winthrop is going to have an issue with parties, if the university has any issues, it will be with wearing masks.

"People might think that because they're outside on Scholars Walk, they don't need to wear it, but Scholars gets crowded," Elswick said. Elswick also said she is having a hard time with remote learning. "I feel like I'm just completing assignments instead of learning." She said.

UNC Chapel Hill and NC State are just two of the many schools that have had to switch to remote learning for the Fall 2020 semester because of COVID-19 related issues on campus. Will Winthrop be the next school to go fully remote?

Fighting loneliness while social distancing

A look into how students - part of Generation Z, "the loneliest generation" - can combat feeling alone during this time

Autumn Hawkins
staff writer



Kaily Paddle/The Johnsonian

Generation Z has been referred to as "the loneliest generation" in studies due to the fact that this generation does not place as much importance on social interaction than previous generations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in person classes were postponed until Sept. 8. After in-person classes resume, social distancing will be implemented in order to help protect students and staff from potential infection. Other classes will remain online to further help lower the number of local cases.

According to a study done by Cigna, one out of five Americans feels overwhelmed by loneliness. More than 60 percent of Generation Z feels this way, according to Cigna's research.

Combating feelings of loneliness is difficult, even without limiting social interaction during a pandemic. Talking to loved ones or trained professionals can help feelings of isolation and depression. Even if quarantine is still in effect, therapy programs such as Talkspace, BetterHelp and 7 Cups are completely online and affordable. Appointments are set up and executed virtually, so students can feel less lonely, even if they are physically alone.

Students can also set up online meetings with their friends via Zoom, Skype or Google Meet. Combining this with the Google Chrome extension Netflix Party, students can get the feeling of a

group movie night while still respecting social distancing.

Self care can also help fight off feeling overwhelmed or alone. By taking time to listen to their minds and bodies, students are validating their feelings. Students need time to themselves to relax and recharge, even if classes are online.

Cigna found that 68 percent of Generation Z feels as though they cannot relate to peers when it comes to emotions. Talking to friends and classmates about mental health struggles builds a sense of community within groups, which is important during this time of isolation and fear. If students became more outspoken about their feelings — especially

during quarantine — then this percentage could decrease considerably.

Students can also find socially distanced volunteer opportunities to encourage a sense of community. Calling retirement homes and hospitals to create a list of needed supplies can help students donate to locals in need, while reassuring healthcare workers that they also have a support system. Writing letters or making cards is a great way for students to reach out to others in their community, while also giving students creative outlets.

If it is allowed within housing rules, students can also foster an animal from a local shelter. This would give an animal in need a

loving home (even if temporarily), while students could benefit from having company. It would also help animal shelters have more room/resources to help even more animals in need.

Even though Generation Z has been labeled as the "loneliest generation," students don't have to succumb to the isolation. The current pandemic has not made feeling connected to others any easier, unfortunately. Students should know that they are not alone, and that they do not have to feel as though they are. Resources are available to those who need help with their mental health, and support systems are just a click or call away.



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